

MINUTES

Meeting title	RVAG Meeting No. 84		
Date and time	Tuesday 11 August 2020 – 5:00pm - 7:00pm		
Venue	Microsoft Teams		
Chairperson	David Hunter (DH) TfNSW (Maritime)		
Attendees	Chris De Jong Geoff Duval Glenn Evans Greg Blackburne Mike Jarvin Shane Wilson Hendrik Clasié Dush Sharma Adam Milgate Brianna Coyte Terry Barber Jon Horbury Tony Hystek Adam Smith Carl Webster Murray Clarke Rose Ussia	CDJ GD GE GB MJ SW HC DS AM BC TB JH TH AS CW MC RU	Boat Owner Assoc. Aust. Power Boat Assoc. Marine Rescue NSW Scuba Clubs Assoc. of NSW Advanced Marina Management BIA TfNSW (Maritime) TfNSW (CMS) TfNSW (Maritime) SLS NSW SLS NSW Ski Racing NSW Paddle NSW ABC Boating Australian Sailing NSW Rowing Assoc. TfNSW (Maritime) Secretariat
Apologies	Alex Barrell Evonne McCabe Peter Harvey Phil Dulhunty Cliff Ellmers Malcolm Poole Chris Doolin	AB EM PH PD CE MP CD	TfNSW (Maritime) TfNSW (Maritime) TfNSW (CMS) Seaplane Pilots Association AJSBA RFA NSW (lost connection) TfNSW (Maritime)

	LEAD
<p>MR NSW - Glenn Evans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responding to a lot of vessels that running out fuel up to 20 -30 nautical miles offshore. • Internal training, no external courses due to COVID-19 applying restrictions/rules. • Catamaran overturned in Sydney Harbour on the weekend MR successfully recovered the two people with the help from the water police. • August/September Search and Rescue exercises and search and rescues desktop exercises across NSW have been postponed. • New Deputy Commissioner – interview process stage, next month will be an announcement of new Deputy Commissioner. 	GE
<p>Scuba Clubs NSW – Greg Blackburne:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diving has been fairly quiet due to COVID-19 and the weather. Everything shut down, Clubs have cancelled all scheduled events. Everyone is very mindful of the events in Victoria and anxious that it will happen in NSW. Individuals have been going out diving but not in large groups. 	GB
<p>SRF – Malcom Poole: lost connection</p>	MP
<p>SLS NSW – Brianna Coyte/ Terry Barber:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLS NSW in similar situation as all other organisations due to COVID-19. • Building up towards active patrolling season with flags up due end of September, pending COVID-19 situation. • Terry Barber updated on emergency beacons rescue and cameras. • Business as usual and trying to make best of current climate. 	BC
<p>BIA – Shane Wilson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members are reporting that business is steady in some cases busier than normal. • Prospect of having a small Boat show is less likely due to COVID-19 restrictions. • The Event Industry is on hold at present. It can quickly change and BIA is prepared. • BIA still promoting through social media regarding boating, using #myboatinglife, recently change to #discoverboatingaustralia which falls into line with international campaigns that run in other countries. Keeping social media campaign going, it's intended to keep boating in front of mind for everybody and general promotion for the boating life style, for recreational boating. • During COVID-19 BIA continue to update their members of their responsibilities, via BIA signage, visit controls through the marine card access management systems and BIA have held direct campaigns to marine card holders to remind them of their responsibilities and the importance of following the guidelines. • Discussions between BIA and TfNSW, TfNSW have amended its position on rent relief principles for the Maritime Commercial Marinas. It was an improved result to get the rent relief where it's needed, sub tenants such as the charter vessels and trades. • Late June, BIA made submission to Northern Beaches Council in support of the upgrade to Manly Boatshed in North Harbour. • BIA made a submission early July to the Treasury of Federal Government regarding the potential for unattended negative impacts on the boating industry, following the royal commission into misconduct in the banking, superannuation and financial services industries. • Boat dealers will not be able to sell insurance, major impact on most of BIA dealers in the network. • Preparing feedback on the review of the Marine Estate Management Act. • BIA requested Maritime to send out latest Logbook which was sent to all RVAG members. Any questions please reach out to the BIA. 	SW

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	<p>Ski Racing NSW – Jon Horbury:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult time for sports organisations due to COVID-19. NSW Series Race held on the Hawkesbury was scheduled 16 August, moved to 30 August hoping everything will settle down from a COVID-19 perspective, it's looking unlikely that the race will go ahead. • Membership base quiet and causing frustrations within the camp. • Ran an open day on Sunday 9 August, expected to be a big event. Due to COVID-19 it was scaled back to just CPR training for all members, which they have to do each year, including an online assessment. Great turnout which was good and showed members still keen. Closing of the boarders affecting business/members. <p>Sailing NSW – Carl Webster:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sailing NSW have return to most events, Club events have taken place but the bigger offshore regattas have been postponed or cancelled. The clubs have returned to sailing following COVID-19 guidelines. • Inconsistent messages from TfNSW and the NSW Police regarding COVID-19 restrictions can be frustrating, inconsistent messages have been given to us and clubs and these have made it harder. <p>NSW Rowing – Murray Clarke:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All regattas have been cancelled and clubs have either closed or severely restricted activities. This is an extraordinary period for NSW Rowing. <p>Advanced Marina Management – Mike Jarvin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marina Parks off the NSW Coast and in very deep water. PWC are now boats and boaters have licence and obligation. • We need to address access for emerging technology PWC. • Also Transport Maritime website maps don't show marine parks and therefore we can't get clear picture and need to go to DPIE. • We need to review why PWCs are totally excluded from the Cape Byron Marine Park, particularly in offshore waters. <p>AJSBA – Cliff Ellmers – Apology</p> <p>Paddle NSW – Tony Hystek</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normally busy winter season with racing and managed to get first race out last weekend at Windsor on the Hawkesbury River. 100 people attended, NSW Health visited the event and commended on COVID-19 procedures, great result for Paddle NSW. • Couple of events coming up this weekend (15-16 August), trying to get back into the normal schedule of events coming up to Christmas. • Paddle NSW would like to commend the rapid response from Maritime on early provision of Aquatic Licences. • In the past the Aquatic Licences have been slow in being received which had held up our council or permit use for council facilities. • Please pass on our thanks and appreciation to the people involved at Maritime. • Only issue is the inconsistency regarding lifejackets requirements for a paddle craft, would like more clarification from Maritime and to discuss what exactly those requirements are. TfNSW documentation online and hard copy there is some conflict. 	<p>JH</p> <p>CW</p> <p>MC</p> <p>MJ</p> <p>CE</p> <p>TH</p>
5.	<p>Maritime Reports: Operations & Compliances- Chris Doolin – Apology</p>	CD

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	<p>Industry and Environment - Hendrik Clasie:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry and Environment (I & E) Team have been busy in the response to the Shipping Container incident that occurred early June. • APL England in the media and expect that RVAG members are aware of the situation. Remanence of cargo arriving sporadically, particularly along Southern Sydney and the mid North Coast areas. • Garbage was found as far out as Lord Howe Island, face masks and other items. Costs are being covered by the Ships Owners and Insurers. • Ongoing 12 month plan of monitoring and response with options to extend beyond that if necessary. • AMSA heavily involved in terms of prosecution and orders for the shipping company to undertake a search for other containers that have not been recovered. • I & E are meeting with Industry Commercial Vessels Association regularly on the public health orders and the requirements that refer to the business operators. • Pump out facilities; King Street Wharf 9 has a new pump installed that is available for operators, looking at options to replace the Blackwattle bay pump for commercial operators. • The DPI website https://www.marine.nsw.gov.au/marine-estate-programs/marine-park-management-pilots indicates that a draft management plan for all marine parks is being developed and will be open for public comment for two months in 2020. You can register your details on the same webpage to receive updates. 	HC
	<p>Service Delivery & Education – Chris Carmichael:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mooring Audit Program, monthly report indicates that numbers have been consistent with the previous months. Last month targeted bays included Hawkesbury and Broken Bay, Sydney Harbour and Hunter Inland. 1300 plus audits have been conducted for the month. • COVID-19 related enquiries update since May 2020 have received more than 250 calls from the general public all incident enquiries with the volume slowing down considerably in the past few weeks. Most enquires have been related to boarder closures and interpretation of public health orders. • Boating Handbook re-worded for targeting all age ranges to understand. Anticipate the Handbook will be ready during October 2020. The content has been reviewed and the text conveys concise targeted messages with clear communication. • Currently renegotiating Flare Collections and Disposals contract for 2020/2021. Aiming for increased collections and targeted locations that need to be covered. Last boating season we were able to cover 70 locations and collect more than 11,000 flares. • Boating Education Officers (BEOs), COVID-19 has unsettled the Schools Programs and our representation at major shows that have been cancelled. BEOs have revisited their approach and are currently concentrating on increased boat ramp visits. BEO boat ramp visits have increased by more than 30%, BEOs and customers are reporting positive interactions – with BEOs averaging up to 40 interactions per ramp. BEO's communication skills and local knowledge are recognised as a great asset in answering lifejacket and weather conditions enquiries 	CC
	<p>Communications – Adam Milgate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maritime's quarterly newsletter from TfNSW released last week. Next newsletter will be planned for the start of the new season in October. • Bank Street Marina has reached completion and Sans Souci Marine Centre back of Marina has been renovated. • Comms very is becoming savvy in consultations via Zoom and Teams, also using Livestreams presentations due to COVID-19. All consultations have worked out well. Can be challenging reaching out to people who are not computer savvy, however, we have organised one on one phone meetings. 	AM

	LEAD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent consultation on the Carrington project in Newcastle, successful and great feedback, due to the public sessions, run on Zoom. • Fish Dive Project is continuing, collating reports, organising a campaign. • Safety Campaign which will revolve around safety equipment, will be released next boat season. • Comms heavily involved with the Maritime's COVID-19 website advice pages changes. <p>Operational Policy & Performance – David Hunter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Campaign Program. Focus in the past has been on lifejackets, speed, PWCs and other areas that need safety focus. This boating season Maritime will focus on enhancing boater awareness and making better judgements, not taking risks. Focus will continue to include lifejackets and other risks. Maritime will specifically target risk groups including younger people, the inexperienced and those who do not understand rules/guidelines on the waterways and how dangerous it can be. The Campaign Program will include a 'ready to go at short notice' extreme weather state wide campaign in offshore areas. • There has been an increase in fatalities over the last 12 months. TfNSW determined to continue to drive towards reaching its zero fatalities target. • Maritime is reviewing the RVAG, CVAG, MPAG and RBAG structure, how these groups inter-relate and support the Maritime Advisory Council. • Maritime Advisory Council membership is being renewed. An EOI was recently released requesting new nominations. Process is near to completion, and an announcement will be made in the next couple of months regarding new membership. • Crown Lands function has transferred from DPIE to MIDO within Maritime. Ann Waddington has moved to a new position in MIDO to assist Andrew Mogg with the transfer of the Crown Lands function. • Meeting papers provide an update of the Round Three Boating Now successful projects. • Procurement of Vessel Data Devices (boat counting cameras) is progressing for installation in a small number of waterways where greater boating data is needed. These will count boats and activity types, not collect and retain imagery. • A vessel speed indicator has been installed at Swansea and is on trial. It displays a passing vessel's speed on a digital board, similar to the speed indicators used near road work zones. This is an education tool, an indicator only, and will not be used for compliance enforcement. If the trial is successful these devices could be installed in other waterway areas. • Murray River erosion. A 50 kilometre stretch of the Murray River between South Corowa and Bundalong (Lake Mulwala) has been reported as recording increased erosion of riverbanks, high boat wash from wakeboard vessels has been identified as one of the potential causes. In 2018 a multi-agency committee developed a plan to address the issue which included implementing high-wash boating restrictions in the area. Consultation of the plan with the community and key stakeholders in 2018 raised some concerns. To address these TfNSW engaged a consultant to undertake an analysis to determine the economic impacts on the area if boating restrictions were implemented. TfNSW also engaged an independent party to further investigate the evidence that boat wash was a contributing cause of this erosion. The analysis and investigation reports will be shared when available. During the consultation period the community also proposed a zoned approach to boating restrictions as an option. This approach is under consideration. Consideration of the impacts of COVID restrictions in the area will also be required. 	DH

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6.	<p>CMS Reports – Dush Sharma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boating Now and the release of the 69 grants. Information has been sent out to the RVAG members. Projects to enhance safety and access across our networks. CMS Policy has developed a draft issues paper on End of Life Vessels, RVAG members may have been contacted in relation to stakeholder consultation, or may be involved in the months ahead. The lifespan of the current Maritime Safety Plan concludes at the end of 2021. Plan was launched in 2018 with goals in reducing boating fatalities and serious injuries by 30% over the life of the plan. Commencing process for developing the next plan 2022 through to 2026. Communication will be available shortly on how TfNSW will engage and collaborate with the boating industry and community to collaborate on priorities, objectives and actions. Finished end of 2019/20 financial year with 25 fatalities, significant increase compared to the last financial year. CMS have consolidated their work programs, particularly around boating education and partnerships with Chris Carmichael and Adam Milgate. New projects in progress address key factors such as lifejackets, weather conditions and age of boaters. Campaigns, education materials and media will likely have evolved messages and will be promoted prior to boating season launch in October. 	DS
7.	Other Business	
9.	Meeting Closed at 6:45pm - Next Meeting: 10 November 2020	

Actions arising from previous meeting (20 August 2019)

3.1	<p>Update on RVAG Action Items from 20 August 2019</p> <p>Action Item 1- 20 Aug 2019 – Peter Hunter (Cliff Ellmers) to work with Industry to develop a paper for the next RVAG meeting on PWC licence and Registration costs. Carry over to next meeting</p> <p>Cliff Ellmers; Apology</p>	CE: (On hold pending comment/agreement by CE) Ongoing
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Actions arising from previous meeting (11 Feb 2020)

3.7	<p>Action Item 3 – 11 Feb 2020 - Provide updates from RBAG meetings.</p> <p>CD: <i>Review of RBAGS across the States, 17 in total, Review to cover chair role, role of RBAG, improve regional and local level of boating advisory, stakeholders and Maritime as chair and regulator. More information from 1 July 2020</i></p> <p>Chris will send an update to members, discuss off line.</p>	CD/DH: Ongoing
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New Actions 11 August 2020

1	<p>Action Item 1. 11 Aug: Meet with DPIE (Marine Parks) to discuss PWC use in Byron Marine Park in offshore areas.</p>	DH:
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