



TUROSS RESCUE SQUAD INCORPORATED

OFFICIAL OPENING

OF

NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

BY

VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES WILLIS AO

ON SUNDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER 1994

P R O G R A M M E

WELCOME

President Don BURNS

BLESSING

Reverend Terry SADLER

OFFICIAL OPENING

Vice Admiral Sir James WILLIS AO RAN (Retd)

VOTE OF THANKS

Vice President Tony MACKENZIE

INSPECTION OF HEADQUARTERS

AND

REFRESHMENTS

TUROSS RESCUE SQUAD INCORPORATED

OFFICE BEARERS

FOUNDATION PATRON

VICE ADMIRAL SIR JAMES WILLIS AO RAN (RETD)

PRESIDENTS

John PRYCE	1988 - 89
Donald BURNS	1989 -

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Michael TAYLOR	1988 - 89
Tony MACKENZIE	1989 -

SECRETARIES

Peter TURNER	1988 - 89
David HARTLEY	1990 -

TREASURERS

Margaret WATKINS	1988 - 92
David HARTLEY	1992 -

BOAT CAPTAINS

Tony MACKENZIE	1988 - 89
Peter TAYLOR	1989 -

DEPUTY BOAT CAPTAINS

Peter TAYLOR	1988 - 89
Tim KILBORN	1989 - 92

TRAINING OFFICER

Tim KILBORN	1992 -
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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tony BROWN	1988 - 92
Graham MILLS	1988 - 89
Glen SHEARER	1989 - 90
Robert DEDMAN	1989 - 90
Michael TAYLOR	1989 - 90
Susan MILLER	1990 - 94
Marilyn DREDGE	1990 - 92
Harry WATKINS	1990 - 91
Adrian SLABBEKOORN	1991 -
Alfred HEAD	1992 -
Dorothy COLLIN	1992 - 94
Neil ALEXANDER	1993 -
Stephen CORLETT	1994 - 94

TRUSTEES

Warren BUCHAN	1988 -
Keith LENNON	1988 -

HONORARY AUDITOR

Robert L. FULCHER FTMA FTIA ACIS AICM

A BRIEF HISTORY

The idea of forming a rescue squad in Tuross was first put forward at a public meeting of concerned local citizens convened in June 1988 by Mr Peter Turner. It was considered there was a serious gap in local emergency services, there being no police or ambulance located in Tuross, and something had to be done to correct the position.

The Bar where the Tuross River enters the sea is formed by constantly shifting sandbanks generating cross-currents and turbulent waters which have caused numerous accidents over the years. Boats have capsized and sunk, swimmers have got into difficulties in the cross-currents and been carried out to sea and lives have been lost with the only prompt assistance available being from private citizens such as Tony Mackenzie of Mackenzies Boatshed who used his hire boats for many rescues, and local amateur fishermen.

The public meeting considered it inequitable that a situation should be allowed to continue whereby private citizens were called upon to carry out emergency rescue work and place their lives at risk without proper equipment, training and especially insurance cover for if the rescuer suffered injury or loss of or damage to his boat he would have no means of recompense.

A steering committee was elected to develop the proposal to form a rescue squad and to seek affiliation with the N.S.W. Volunteer Rescue Association.

A second public meeting was called in August 1988 when retired Police Superintendent Ken Baret, Director of Operations of the V.R.A. and representing the Executive of that organisation was invited to take the Chair. He gave details of the V.R.A. Constitution, affiliation and incorporation requirements and supervised the election of an inaugural Committee.

St Edmunds College, Canberra, who maintain a Field Studies Hostel in Tuross generously handed over to the fledgling Squad their 3.8 metre inflatable rubber boat and outboard motor on permanent loan. There was no shortage of volunteers with experienced fishermen, boatmen and ex-members of surf clubs forming the nucleus of boat crews with others, including two qualified nursing sisters, in the shore back-up team.

The next requirement was for a base and a disused and derelict shed on the river's edge adjacent to Mackenzies Boatshed was pinpointed. Research revealed it belonged to the Shire Council who agreed to lease it to the Squad at a peppercorn rental. Local building tradesmen and Squad members rallied round and the shed was soon made habitable and a jetty built for launching the boat.

The Tuross Rescue Squad was in business.

From then on fund-raising became a way of life for the members, the initial priority being the acquisition of radio equipment and a siren to alert members when an emergency arose. Later a second boat and motor were purchased as in a dangerous situation a back-up boat is essential. In 1992 a third boat and

motor were purchased as the original St Edmunds boat, now an outright gift to the Squad, was beginning to show its age and was to be relegated to training duties.

With three boats and such valuable radio equipment security became an important issue and it was decided to replace the fifty-year-old timber and iron boatshed with a brick building. Located at the water's edge at the base of a five metre cliff and adjacent to an unlit public reserve often used by itinerants for illegal overnight camping it was a prime target for vandalism. Plans were drawn up and a major fund-raising campaign initiated to cover the construction costs. However some delay ensued due to difficulty in meeting the Council's requirement for a structural engineer's plans and certificate that the proposed building would be able to withstand the impact of flooding - a flood level of 3.2 metres was at one stage quoted. Agreement was finally reached, plans approved and work commenced.

The first step was removal of the old shed and excavation of the site and this was carried out by Peter Hazelton with his excavator on 15th February 1993. Thereafter work progressed as and when members and friends had time available to devote to the project. With very few exceptions, such as excavation and rockblasting where specialised knowledge and equipment was required, all the construction work was carried out by volunteers. The site was levelled and sand-filled to bring the new floor up to the highest flood level recorded in the past ten years and the concrete slab poured under the invaluable guidance of the retired principal of a concreting firm who told us what to do and how to do it. The bricklayers of Tuross volunteered their assistance and in one weekend they came together and the walls were erected.

We were extremely fortunate in having among our members a builder who supervised the construction, a plumber who installed all the plumbing including a sprinkler system for fire protection, an electrician who installed all the wiring and electrical fittings, a bricklayer who is also a competent carpenter, a housepainter who looked after the decoration and a couple of radio experts as well as many others who were able and willing to undertake the less technical tasks. In addition many other tradesmen and friends volunteered their services for which we are profoundly grateful.

While rebuilding was in progress it was essential the Squad be able to maintain its state of readiness for its prime purpose of rescue work and Mackenzies Boatshed and Laings Boatshed, both in close proximity to our Headquarters, offered to store our boats and equipment, thus at no time were we out of action.

Once the building was completed it became necessary to furnish it, especially the training and radio rooms on the upper level, and this was done almost entirely with goods donated for auction - tables, chairs, cupboards, TV and VCR for showing training films, refrigerator, hot water tank and many minor items. This all helped to keep the cost down.

As mentioned, fund-raising to cover the cost of the building became essential. The Squad receives a welcome annual grant from the Shire Council which covers Telecom costs for the landline between the H.Q. and the siren on the water tower and

our various insurance policies while a biennial grant from the State Government goes towards new equipment, thus the building costs had to be covered by our own efforts and public donations. Our bi-annual auctions, raffles, Village Fair and a Buy-a-Brick campaign together with other fund-raising activities and donations from community organisations, clubs and individuals have enabled us to complete the building without recourse to a loan and we sincerely thank all those who have enabled us to achieve this happy result.

Although primarily a close-inshore ocean rescue unit the squad is also available for inland waters rescue and in fact to assist in any emergency when called upon by the Police. As well it is frequently called upon by members of the general public for first aid assistance while awaiting the arrival of an ambulance from Moruya or to help in emergencies which do not warrant the involvement of ambulance or fire brigade.

In conclusion we wish to thank most sincerely all those individuals and organisations who have donated goods and/or building materials to the project, companies who have given us discounts on materials and the tradespeople, most of them in one or two man businesses, who have donated their time and expertise and thus enabled us to complete for less than \$30,000. a building which would have cost two or three times as much if it had been necessary to pay for labour.

Last but far from least we thank the people of Tuross, both permanent and temporary, who have given so willingly and generously to our many appeals for financial support.

TRADESMEN, BUSINESS HOUSES AND FRIENDS WHO HAVE DONATED LABOUR, SERVICES
AND/OR GOODS TO THE BUILDING PROJECT ENTIRELY FREE OF CHARGE

BUILDER	A & L BROWN
BRICKLAYERS	JOHN RYAN NEIL ALEXANDER PETER GARN SHANE GSCHWEND STEVE KENNEDY
CARPENTRY	SKILSHARE BOYS RON WATRINS
CARPET LAYERS	ALAN & PETER CAREY
CONCRETE ADVISER	BERT IPPOLITI
CONCRETING	CRAIG REED ROSS HOLLIS
CONCRETE FOR STEPS	EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
CONCRETE FOR LAUNCHING RAMP	BILL HICKS
CRANE	NAROOMA CRANE HIRE
ELECTRICIANS	GEORGE SHIRLEY PETER HOGAN JOHN BUCKLEY IAN CLARK
ELECTRONICS	PETER EVANS
PLASTERING	ERROL SMART
PAINTER	TIM KILBORN
PAINT SUPPLIES	DULUX
PLANS	GRAHAM BELL
PLUMBER & ROOFER	PETER TAYLOR
RADIO INSTALLATION	BILL WYLKS TONY MACKENZIE BARRIE MACPHERSON
ROLLADOOR INSTALLATION	EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
SECONDARY EXCAVATION & FENCING	TRUNKETABELLA GARDENS
SHRUBS	MICK IVORY
SIGNS	RON HANLON
SHELVING & CUPBOARD	TODD NEWMAN
STORAGE	MACKENZIES BOATSHED LAINGS BOATSHED
TOOLS, LOAN OF	MORUYA HIRE & TILES
WELDING	KEITH JOHNSTON BILL ALLEN

AND VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO TONY & LAUREL MACKENZIE FOR
THE SUPPLY OF ELECTRIC POWER, REFRESHMENTS AND MANY
OTHER KINDNESSES THROUGHOUT THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD.