



MARINE RESCUE NSW
Volunteers saving lives on the water

MEDIA RELEASE

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MARINE RESCUE LAKE MACQUARIE'S NEW YEAR WISH COMES EARLY

Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie today announced the start of three new significant long-term funding partnerships to support the introduction of its newest rescue vessel into its fleet.

Unit Commander, Jim Wright said that he was delighted to welcome McDonald Jones as the new Platinum Partner, together with new Gold sponsorship partners Daracon Holdings and Trinity Point Marina in a \$100,000 deal to help fund the acquisition and operation of its newest state-of-the-art rescue vessel known as Lake Macquarie 31 (LM31).

LM31 is an 8.5metre Naiad offshore capable vessel built at a cost of \$680,000 and was welcomed to the unit's fleet in late 2024 from its Yamba-based builder. It has since undergone a rigorous trial and training period for its crew to meet the stringent standards of Marine Rescue NSW.

"Our new Platinum and Gold Partners are all iconic Hunter-based companies, which early in our approaches and discussions, recognised the important life-saving role our 180 volunteers perform not only for our community, but the entire region and the many thousands of visitors to our Lake Macquarie shores and waterways," Jim Wright said.

"Speaking for our unit, I must particularly thank McDonald Jones in leading the discussion from an early stage in the development of our proposals to potential partners and encouraging Daracon and Trinity Point Marina to come aboard," he said.

"McDonald Jones is a household name in our region through our premier sports stadium bearing its name and its other community support projects; while Daracon, which started out in the Hunter 40 years ago is now a diverse nationwide civil construction company employing over 850 staff. It remains a Hunter family-owned and operated business. Equally, Trinity Point Marina is presenting the new exciting, tourism-based face of the Hunter region with an eye for attractive development and service excellence," Jim Wright said.

The Lake Macquarie unit is by far, the busiest of the 46 Marine Rescue NSW units in the State, operating 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

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Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie Values Respect, Integrity, Unity and Professionalism



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Unit Commander Jim said the unit covered Australia's largest saltwater lake, which was two-and-a times the size of Sydney Harbour and an offshore area 30 kilometres out to sea.

"The new LM31, replaces an older catamaran-style hulled vessel, which had limited capacity to respond effectively to offshore rescue situations, joins our other rescue vessel LM30 (Naiad 10 metre) and our two jet ski vessels.

"The announcement of our new Platinum and Gold Partners today is timely because it coincides with the peak boating season when our resources - meaning boats, crews and radio operators - are stretched to the limit providing that around the clock capacity to respond in a timely and effective way to saving lives on the water," he said.

"On Sunday just passed, the new LM31 with its crew and radio operators at Swansea Heads responded to almost 80 boating logons, more than 80 Swansea bridge opening bookings and eight assists, including a capsized dingy with two adults and three children safely recovered from Lake Macquarie waters."

Jim concluded by saying that active community and corporate fundraising support play a vital role in helping the Lake Macquarie unit to sustain its volunteer-based 24-hour, seven days a week capability and capacity to the community.

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