

A quarterly update for Maritime New Zealand safe boating advisors.

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SBA programme revamp

A steering group has been formed to evaluate the current safe boating advisor (SBA) programme and look at ways to add value for SBAs, regional councils and Maritime New Zealand (MNZ).

Recognising that the energy and enthusiasm of SBAs is not being fully utilised, especially in terms of providing support and assistance to regional council harbourmasters, the group is looking at developing standards and ways to provide ongoing training and development.



The group (made up from some of our more experienced SBAs) comprises Katie McNabb (Marlborough), Jeff Donaldson (Otago), Stuart Birnie (Gulf Harbour), Harvey Gadd (North Shore), Warren Megget (Auckland), Alistair Thomson and Jim Lilley.

The first meeting was on 30 July and they plan to meet again in late October or early November.

What's the vision?

It's all about reducing recreational boating accidents and fatalities. To do that, the vision is to enhance the profile of the SBA programme by raising the bar in terms of professionalism, standards and commitment.

Ultimately, the group wants a well respected, resourced and educated group of professional volunteers that are a key part of the wider programme working alongside other organisations in

the sector, eg Water Safety New Zealand, Coastguard Boating Education Service and Coastguard.

At MNZ we see the SBAs as continuing to support and assist MNZ and regional councils to educate and inform recreational boaters. This is done by working with honorary enforcement officers and through communication, education and distribution of resources, and also communicating local navigation safety bylaw and maritime rule information.

The development of standards and training will ensure the valuable contribution of the SBA is matched by a comprehensive training and supportive infrastructure.

What's the history of SBAs?

SBAs originated from the "launchwarden" scheme introduced by the Marine Division of the Ministry of Transport when the Water Recreation Regulations came into force in 1979.

When these regulations were superseded by Maritime Rules 91 in 2003, the powers held by launchwardens were not carried forward, and a purely advisory role was introduced. Today SBAs have an education and safety awareness function only.

What's next?

A letter has been sent to all harbourmasters informing them of SBA group developments. We'll be in touch with you soon with more information.

If you'd like to discuss the programme, give either Jim Lilley or Alistair a call on freephone: 0508 225522

Publication update

We have numerous publications available for you to distribute in your areas.

We've just re-printed the *Radio Handbook*, the *Safe Boating* DVD has been re-branded with a new sleeve insert listing all the regional contributors and the September issues of *Lookout!* and *Safe Seas Clean Seas* will be available shortly.

You can always check out the latest publications on the website: www.maritimenz.govt.nz

Contact any member of the MNZ recreational boating team for supplies or email recreational.boating@maritimenz.govt.nz.

Dive flag campaign

New Zealand Underwater, supported by MNZ and Water Safety New Zealand are undertaking a summer dive flag awareness campaign. The campaign focus on raising awareness of the need to display the dive flag 'A' and also ensuring the flag displayed is the minimum 600 x 600.



It is proposed that stickers, posters and other material will be made available for distribution in MNZ and regional council safe boating packs, as well as through dive shops, clubs and bottle filling stations.

Policy in the pipeline

The Land Transport Management Amendment Bill was passed in April potentially providing funding from the national land transport fund to be paid for "activities that benefit users of pleasure craft". The aim of this section of the bill is to allow funding of maritime search and rescue, boating safety education and marine safety services.

There is still a lot of work to do clarifying exactly what the funding can and can't be spent on, eg it can't be used to provide boat ramps or marinas but will be able to be used for recreational boating safety and awareness programmes.

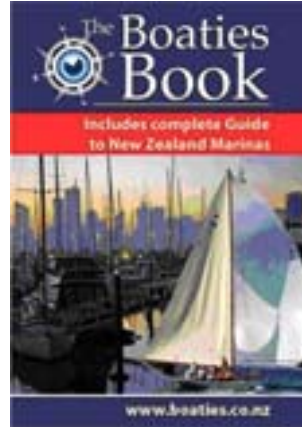
We're not likely to see any of the funding at the earliest the 2009/2010 financial year but will keep you posted on developments.

Boat shows

Let us know if you're keen to help out at these upcoming boat shows:

Mystery Creek:	12-14 September
Dunedin:	26-28 September
Tauranga:	10-12 October

The Boaties Book goes national



The Boaties Book produced by McLaren Brown Publishing is set to go national. Previously this FREE publication focussed on the Auckland Region.

The next issue will contain lots of information about your region with regional council contacts and maps, plus lots more useful reading.

Check out: www.boaties.co.nz

New 5 knot sign



Check out the new 5 knot signs currently being installed in MNZ's areas of responsibility.

Stay in touch

Please remember to keep your contact details up to date. Email:

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