

## **Sydney Marine Rescue talk**

On 27 July, we were treated to an interesting talk by Deputy Unit Commander NSW Marine Rescue, Matthew King. Matthew introduced himself as a fellow sailor who has cruised extensively and is therefore aware of some of the particular challenges for sailors in radio communications.

Matthew introduced Marine Rescue through a short video which highlighted the key services offered through Marine Rescue, which is staffed by volunteers and funded through government grants, license fees and donations. There are 45 coastal units which take over 364,000 radio contacts a year! They support emergency and non urgent calls, offshore tracking, weather and navigation hazards broadcasts, general information and questions as well as radio license training.

In recent times there has been a large investment in communications and the Terrey Hills station is able to cover practically the whole of the NSW coast. Matthew explained that they are able to hand boats in transit effectively to Queensland, Victoria and even Tasmania coastal stations.

After discussing radio communications ability and process in detail, Matthew introduced the Marine Rescue NSW App as a very effective way to log on to when on a day trip. An update due to happen shortly should improve the App for longer trips. Generally, once you have made initial contact with Marine Rescue NSW, you should not need to do more than provide any updated details.

The audience was very involved in the whole session with plenty of questions, and all agreed that it had been a very interesting and useful session.