

Navy makes a splash with Chatham students

By Lachie Leeming

lachie.leeming@fairfaxmedia.com.au

STUDENTS from Chatham High School were taken out of their comfort zone and into the pool when Australian Navy crew from the HMAS Albatross visited this week.

Groups of students were put through a range of sea survival drills at the Manning Aquatic Leisure Centre on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with an emphasis on self-discipline, teamwork and leadership.

Chief Petty Officer Boatswain Daniel MacQueen said the "basic training" was an "insight into what we do."

"It shows them some of the basics of survival at sea," he said. Pool activities included survival

strokes and maximising body temperature in the water.

The visit from the Navy members was sparked by Year 9 English teacher at Chatham High, Judi Wood.

With the first unit of English study this year revolving around survival stories and the book *Hatchet*, Judi wanted to add a practical experience for her students to draw from.

Chatham High staff member and former commanding officer of Taree's Naval cadets Deb Shaw had the necessary contacts to quickly turn a HMAS Albatross visit into a reality.

Judi said the students involved "really enjoyed" the survival lessons.

"It takes them out of their comfort zone," she said.



Increasing their chance of survival: Chatham High students and members from HMAS Albatross training at the aquatic leisure centre.

\$19m pitch to minister

By Ainslee Dennis

ainslee.dennis@fairfaxmedia.com.au

IT'S a \$19 million pitch to ensure water security for 36,000 Manning Valley and Great Lakes customers of MidCoast Water.

On Tuesday Member for Myall Lakes Stephen Bromhead will meet with the Minister for Primary Industries, Land and Water, Niall Blair to discuss the pre-election promise of \$19 million for the Myall Lakes electorate.

The recent federal government decision to commit \$9.6 million for the Nabiac Inland Dune

Aquifer Pipeline Project will be up for discussion and MidCoast Water will be looking to Mr Bromhead to ensure the federal budget windfall does not erode the pre-election promise of \$19 million from State government coffers.

MidCoast Water has been working hard on lobbying both levels of government to source additional funding, and acting general manager Brendan Guiney welcomed the federal government announcement.

The \$9.6 million is about a third of what MidCoast Water

needs for the project which is costed at \$32 million.

Mr Bromhead yesterday confirmed that the pre-election promise of \$19 million for a range of country town water supply and sewerage program projects, "includes \$9.6 million for the Nabiac Borefield."

"The federal announcement is for the same thing. So my job next week when I meet with the minister is to make sure the State money will remain there ... and hopefully they will still get their federal money and hopefully they will be able to do more," Mr Bromhead

said. "My job is to talk to my minister to make sure that our money is still coming even though the feds have said they are going to do that. Because the money can also be used for the augmentation of the Bootawana Dam wall."

"The overall cost of the Nabiac borefield project is \$32 million so it would be nice to be able to leave it there - so they get \$18 million out of the \$32 million or alternatively MidCoast Water, if I can make sure that State money stays there, they can use it for the dam wall or maybe Pegleg Creek."

Hunter New

From page 2

HUNTER NEW ENGLAND LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT

MANNING Hospital acting general manager Jodi Nieass provided the following response:

"We do not have a record of this patient presenting to Manning Hospital so we are unable to respond to this specific case," Mrs Nieass said.

"However, patients are not turned away from Manning Hospital.

"Any patient who presents to our emergency department will be triaged, assessed, treated and admitted or discharged as is clinically required. If a patient re-

quires urgent services that are not available at our hospital we will arrange transfer to ensure they receive the care they need."

CENTRAL COAST LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT

A spokesperson for the CCLHD provided the following response:

"Central Coast Local Health District takes all complaints seriously and would welcome the opportunity to speak with Mr Abberton regarding concerns related to his care.

The District can confirm that Mr Abberton presented to Gosford Hospital on 4 April 2012 where the presence of a recurrent complication arising from the re-

cent implantation of a defibrillator was identified.

As the District does not provide cardiothoracic services the medical officer consulted with cardiothoracic doctors at Royal North Shore Hospital where the defibrillator implantation had taken place.

Mr Abberton's health state at the time of his presentation to Gosford Hospital did not warrant emergency admission. It was preferable that, after overnight fasting, Mr Abberton's follow up care be provided by the doctors who had performed the earlier procedures.

Following consultation and clinical assessment, arrangements were made for Mr Abberton to attend Royal North

Shore Hospital the following morning for admission by the cardiothoracic service."

FOOTNOTE:

Mrs Whyte strongly rejects the CCLHD statement in relation to the care provided to her father, Brian Abberton at Gosford Hospital.

"They didn't make any arrangements for us to attend Royal North Shore," Cathy said. "We were told the best option for dad was for him to fast overnight and then turn up at Royal North Shore the next day. It was suggested he fast and try to get there early, between 7am and 8am.

"But we had no appointment, there were no arrangements and it was us who decided that we should go there the next day. If they (Gosford Hospital) had made arrangements, they (Royal

North Shore Hospital) would have been expecting dad to present. They weren't expecting us when we turned up and we had to explain everything again.

"I'm so upset with Gosford Hospital and their response. The whole situation is appalling, if I had not been with dad he would have been unable to get to Royal North Shore Hospital. What if something had happened to him while he was with me when we were travelling?"

"He had a raging temperature and was in extreme pain and they sent him away. He was disoriented. His local GP was agitated when we told him what had happened and that he was sent away without being cared for, he was ropeable."

ON SALE EVERYDAY!
MACUVISION 90 TABLETS



MANNING RIVER PHARMACY

191 Victoria Street, Taree
02 6552 1003



www.manningrivertimes.com.au

Want 25¢ per litre off your fuel*?

Shop Now at **PEP'S** and save \$\$\$!



Expert Advice - Right Price

Your one stop, local shop for

- * Spare parts * Exhaust systems
- * Tow bars * 4WD suspension & accessories

PEP'S AUTO SPACES
30 Victoria St, Taree Ph: 6551 0208

*Special \$150 a store per month & some 25¢/litre at any service station Mon-Fri 7-10pm

the Manning Valley...naturally

EDDELBUTTEL LAW

EST 1999

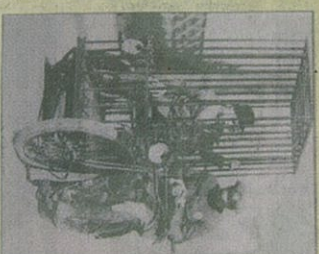
WHEN THINGS DON'T GO TO PLAN.

For all your legal matters.

Mark A Edelbuttel

Solicitor & Notary Public

44 Main St, Cundletown 2430
www.eddelbuttel.com.au
6553 8866



LISTENING TO YOU
SPEAKING FOR YOU

TA1425198