

Program Supporters



Angel Ring Update

14th May 2006

Spearfisher rescued at Boat Harbour.

A spearfisher who got into difficulties attempting to get out of the water onto the rocks at Boat Harbour was rescued by a ring thrown to him by Nathan Smith, the local custodian of the rings in the area. The spearfisher lost his flippers, mask and snorkel when he was hit by a big wave as he tried to get out onto the rocks. He used the ring to stay afloat as he made his way back to the beach and to safety.

This was the 24th confirmed rescue with an angel ring, and had it not been for Nathan searching the web for information on the program, it may have become one of the many rescues that ANSA NSW never hears about.

Boat Harbour Update

Boat Harbour is situated south of Port Stephens, near Anna Bay on the NSW north coast and Nathan Smith, a local resident, has been the custodian of the 3 angel rings in the area since 19th May 1998. The rings were installed in memory of his brother who lost his life at the very same spot whilst fishing. Nathan's house overlooks the locations, and in his words "we have not lost one ring in 6 years to vandals and only three in 8 years".

Nathan notes that there had been 14 deaths in the area prior to the rings being installed, and since 1998 there has been no fatalities and 4 rescues, "touch wood", he added.

Even though ANSA NSW manages the Angel Ring Program with the help of its affiliated clubs and members, members of the public like Nathan make the job easier. ANSA NSW will travel anywhere in NSW to install the rings and will consider every request. The latest installations on the agenda are 3 in Red Rock, 40km north of Coffs Harbour and 2 at Black Head at Gerroa, south of Kiama. Members of the local communities will supervise these locations, with spare rings being stored in the area and rock fishing safety DVDs and brochures being spread throughout the local tackle shops, caravan parks and local tourist outlets as part of a campaign that aims to raise awareness of rock fishing safety within the communities. The underlying message is enjoy your rock fishing, wear the right gear and if it's too rough, find somewhere safer.

This bulletin is produced by the NSW Branch of the Australian National Sportfishing Association by Stan Konstantaras on behalf of the Angel Ring Project Team.

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website www.ansansw.com.au
email pastelli@netspace.net.au
phone 1800 079 009