

## **Marine Rescue Memory Jogger – MR NSW (VHF) Coastal Radio Repeaters.**

This is the second of a series of Memory Joggers about VHF radio coverage and use.

Our previous Memory Jogger discussed the Sydney Marine Radio Bases and their capabilities, this article expands on that and discusses local VHF radio repeater stations, locations and their function.

Repeater stations are provided to facilitate monitoring of vessel movements, safety of vessels and persons. Repeaters are used in situations when direct contact cannot be established directly with radio bases via Ch16.

The MRNSW Sydney area has three VHF repeater stations. Ch 21 (at Kilcare Heights); Ch 22 (at North Head) and Ch 81 (at Beacon Hill), (see Inset map at right).

There are four VHF repeater channels available (VHF 21, 22, 80, 81 & 82) and repeater stations are located along the NSW coast to provide extended radio coverage. Repeater stations in the Sydney area provide continuous VHF radio coverage from Nelson Bay in the North to Eden and the NSW/Victoria Border in the South.

The lower diagram shows the coverage of VHF radio repeater coverage and, save for two small areas North of Sydney, coverage is available for almost the full length of the NSW Coast. MRNSW is in the process of “filling in the gaps” in the radio coverage along the NSW coast, in future years full radio coverage will become a reality for mariners transiting along our coastline.

Knowing the location of the repeater stations allows skippers to plan reporting points on ocean transits up and down the coast. Voyage plans can be made before leaving port, safety reporting locations planned ahead. If unplanned changes occur to your voyage plan, it can easily be adjusted with the nominated reporting locations en route via your VHF radio to advise of any changes in arrival port, or time, etc.

The VHF repeaters are owned and operated by MRNSW and are continuously, (24/7), monitored by the local Marine Rescue NSW Search & Rescue Co-ordination Centres (SARCCs) along the coast, so contact is always available on these channels if the VHF 16 & 67 calling channels do not achieve contact.

Safe and Happy Sailing

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MRNSW - Volunteers serving the safety of the boating community of NSW

