Marine Rescue NSW



Nominee's name: Helen Zielke

Current Role: State Radio Operator, Belrose

Helen Zielke serves as a volunteer State Radio Operator and Watch Officer at Marine Rescue NSW's State Communications Centre in Belrose. Since joining in 2013, Helen has dedicated thousands of hours to maintaining marine safety across New South Wales, averaging three overnight shifts per week and often serving as the sole operator through the night.

A highly skilled communicator, Helen coordinates critical responses to emergencies, broadcasts weather and safety updates, and supports boater tracking services. Her leadership as Roster Officer ensures smooth scheduling for over 90 radio operators and 30 trainees, and she is deeply involved in mentoring and training new volunteers.
Helen's impact extends beyond daily duties. She supported RFS communications during the 2019–20 bushfires—service that earned her the NSW Premier's Bushfire Emergency Citation and National Emergency Medal. She continues to grow her contribution, supporting a second Marine Rescue NSW unit and training as a vessel crew member.

Helen is respected for her quiet dedication, compassion, and unwavering reliability. Whether assisting in life-threatening emergencies or helping a father find baby formula on New Year's Eve, Helen exemplifies service above self. Her commitment and care have earned her the admiration of colleagues and the gratitude of her community.