

Program Supporters



NSW Angel Ring Update

23RD DECEMBER 2008

FAR SOUTH COAST ROAD TRIP WRAPS UP 2008

On the 20th of December the Angel Ring Team completed a marathon effort that lasted 19 hours and covered close to 950km, with the driving being intercepted with many pit stops and angel ring installations stretching from Bawley Point to Tathra.

First stop after a 5am start was Merry and Pretty Beaches, 20 km south of Ulladulla where the team met with local anglers and national parks rangers from Murrumurang NP. Four new locations have been selected for the rocks between Pretty and Merry Beach. 1 of these is on Crown Land and Council has already approved this, the other 3 are in the national park. After a site inspection and discussion on what type of assembly we would be using, the local ranger will start on a review of environmental factors and final approval of the locations should be received early in the New Year. Since ANSA NSW has blanket approval from the Director of National Parks and have an assembly in the adjacent Meroo National Park, all parties agreed that the process is simple, but needs to be completed.

With the Angel Ring trailer in tow, the next pit stop at Batemans Bay to buy the 200kg of rapid set concrete that was needed for the Tathra installations. The local hardware store manager approached us on behalf of the local Batemans Bay fishing club and asked how much it would cost to have a few rings placed around the rocks in his local area. After some more discussion he was grateful for our offer to complete an application and install them free of charge if the local club would manage them once installed and get the ball rolling with some maps and photos for us to consider. Late January will see the team back in Batemans Bay for some site surveys.

Finally we were headed to Tathra, where 4 rings have been awaiting installation for a few months. After a few false starts early in December, the crew of three from Sydney were joined by two ANSA members from Canberra who made their own 4 hour trip to assist. All four assemblies were to be set in concrete on the rocks around Tathra. With each installation requiring 40kg of concrete, water, the stainless post, the life ring and tools we were loaded up like mountain goats and spent the next 3 hours getting the Angel Rings installed.

The last and most recently approved location was Tathra Wharf, where a wall mount ring was installed whilst the anglers on the wharf harassed the local salmon population. A spare ring was left with the local café owner and over a coffee we discussed how to stop the vandalism of this highly visible ring. CCTV and anti tampering devices were suggested. All these ideas will be further investigated by us in the next few weeks as we try to work out a cost effective solution.

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The Tathra rings have been driven by the local Tathra Fishing Club and the President of the local club is also the local Police Officer. As we drove out of Tathra, our final pit stop was to leave 4 spare rings with him and also pass on 2 of the new Police Angel Rings and a set of Standard Operating Procedures for the program. Since 2006 we have been working on putting the rings in first response and remote Police cars who respond to an emergency involving a person in the water. With a program being rolled out in local area commands on the South Coast, the team took the opportunity to take the Police rings to the Tathra / Bega region.



A weary team made it back to Sydney around midnight and following a quick check of the emails found that 3 new rings had been approved for Coffs Harbour with the blessing of the local indigenous council, a request for 2 more rings in the Royal National Park had been received and the rangers at Munmorah State Recreational Area were chasing 2 more posts..... 2009 looks like another busy year.

ANSA NSW is always looking for anglers to assist them with the angel ring program. If you would like more info on the project or info on how to join ANSA NSW online and the Angel Ring Team, visit the following:

<http://www.angelrings.com.au/JoinIntro.html>