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NSW Police Angel Ring Update

August 2007

ANSA NSW Police Angel Ring Project

The recently funded Recreational Fishing Community Grants Programme (RFCGP) project that will see Angel Rings issued to NSW Police Local Area Commands is nearing completion and final implementation.

Almost 12 months of behind the scenes work has been completed and a rollout of rings is expected in the near future. Back in 2005 Inspector Ralph Deans from Eastern Suburbs Local Area Command initiated a trial project that saw 3 local stations equipped with angel rings as a first response to a call out for a rock fishing rescue. Most calls for help are coordinated via the Police and 000. A further \$34,000 was granted to ANSA NSW to rollout the project state wide.

The Marine Area Command, the Commissioners Inspectorate and ANSA NSW are now finalising the locations, internal procedures, operating manuals and instructional manuals on the angel rings and rock safety issues.

ANSA NSW sees this project as adding an additional rescue tool into the NSW Police response to these rescues. It will be more evident in smaller coastal towns where rescue helicopters and launches may be hours away to assist an angler in the water. Police officers are often first on the scene and having a ring to throw to someone will increase their chances of survival until assistance arrives. The project team realises that there will be limitations such as access and large seas to the successful deployment, but the opportunity to save 'a' life far outweighs these drawbacks.

The work the Marine Area Command, the Commissioners Inspectorate and the pioneering work by Ralph Deans is a credit to the NSW Police Force and their willingness to assist ANSA NSW in its attempt to save the lives of anglers washed in off the rocks



Sergeant Anthony Hill from the Marine Area Command and Sergeant Jason Harrison from the Commissioners Inspectorate with the new Police Angel Ring.

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Bulletin No.14

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.