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Tweed crew rescues sinking tinny in middle of night

Blainey Woodham | 25th Mar 2014 12:00 PM

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Point Danger Marine Rescue's Mal Owen.

Blainey Woodham

POINT Danger Marine Rescue were called to a sinking tinny that had run into trouble off Brunswick Heads - at 2am on Monday.

Mal Owen, senior skipper and training officer at Point Danger, said he and three other crew crossed the Tweed Bar in what could only describe as more than testing conditions to rescue the 5m boat which had also run out of fuel.

"We crossed the Tweed Bar at 3am in the pitch black with huge waves breaking in the river mouth," Mr Owen said.

Arriving at Brunswick to find the vessel nowhere to be seen, they then located it at Julian Rocks, Byron Bay at 5.30am, 26 nautical miles from home base.

"We arrived just before the Southport Water Police, who said they would tow the vessel to the nearest safe port," Mr Owen said.

"We accessed Brunswick Bar which was far too dangerous so then headed for Tweed which proved to be just as dangerous for towing a boat in."

The Water Police towed the vessel back to Southport while Mr Owen and Crew waited for a safe window to enter the river mouth at Tweed.

"It was a long, testing seven hours in very rough conditions to say the least," Mr Owen said of the night's events.

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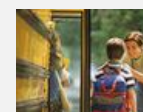
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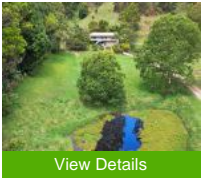
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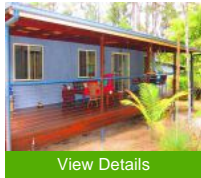
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