

Pioneering excellence and regional industry

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN TAREE

REGIONAL NSW has much to offer the business community, with Steber International as a shining example.

As a staunch supporter of regional development, Alan Steber, the managing director of Steber International, has actively advocated for businesses to establish themselves in the area.

"There are only two of the oldest big manufacturers left in the region now, ourselves and Akurbra, and we want to encourage businesses from metropolitan areas to locate to the region to provide jobs for country kids.

"I would like to mentor and support other businesses in moving here."

Safety in manufacturing and boating operations has always been "top of mind" for Alan.

As company trainer, Alan has been responsible for the induction and training of 150 shipwrights (apprentices) with a heavy emphasis on safety in the workplace.

In 2015, Steber joined with

Transport for NSW to start promoting the "Old for New Lifejacket Upgrade" Campaign. A touchscreen display with supporting literature has been installed in the foyer of Steber's Taree factory.

As a member of the Boating Industry Association of NSW Board, Alan was instrumental in setting up the "50 point safety check" for boaters in conjunction with the Marine Industry Mechanical Repairers Association.

A court case at the turn of the century, involving a Steber 11m vessel, the N'Gluka, led to changes to the laws regarding overloading with a new rule of one person per metre length of the boat; limit of a quarter of passengers on flybridge and a life jacket for each person on board.

There were 49 people on the N'Gluka at the time of the incident; five children died, with Steber's cleared at a coroner's inquest as well as criminal and civil cases. Alan supported the NSW MSB at the time, preventing embarrassment to the board.

Alan is the president of Ti-

nonee Rural Fire Service and was recently presented with a long service medal from the RFS. He is also a member of the Australian Standards Committee, Commercial Vessels Group Board and Boating Industry Association Council.

Steber's are sponsors of Marine Rescue Point Danger, Marine Rescue Crowdy-Harrington, Marine Rescue Forster as well as Forster and Black Head surf life-saving clubs.

Alan also supports the Opti sailing boat program for school children as a way of promoting boating and safety on the water, along with a "C crane" for Manning River Disability Sailors.

Alan was also the instigator to bring in a \$7.50 boat rego and licence fee increase to assist the capital equipment purchases for Marine Rescue in NSW. He convinced the government of the day that change was needed to the duplication and "pigheadedness" of the three coastal units - Coast Guard, Volunteer Coastal



Steber International's Alan Steber aboard the Steber 40 on the Manning River in 2021. Picture by Scott Calvin



Member for Lyne Dr David Gillespie and Alan Steber aboard the R/V Ginan in 2021. Picture supplied

Patrol and Volunteer Marine Rescue and to support only one organisation.

For the past five years, Steber International has been on the WorkCover panel

representing the boating industry, and in 2011 resulted in the BIA winning the WorkCover Safety Leadership Award.

In recent times Steber has

built two new Marine Rescue NSW vessels for Port Stephens (May, 2016) and Port Macquarie (July, 2016) and another for Sydney Water Police (May, 2017). This was the 11th Steber vessel for the NSW Police Department.

Alan continues his focus on safety at sea as a member of the AMSA advisory board and actively encourages boat owners to upgrade all safety aspects of their vessels when undergoing factory refits.

Alan has always promoted the safety aspects of a surveyed vessel worldwide and insists on quotes including a full survey, therefore protecting our marine industry and tourism.