



Get it, get it, get it! Get it!

Whale Disentanglement 12 Aug 2018 Portland



Standard Operating Procedures

The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for large whales is based on a technique used historically by whalers known as 'kegging' which made use of barrels as floats attached to their harpoons and was designed to immobilise the whale by tiring it out.



Martin, Matt and Quint pondering what's next



Standard Operating Procedures

The strategy is used today to rescue entangled large whales (when they are swimming, not tethered) because it provides safer access to the whale for the removal of entangling materials.



Standard Operating Procedures

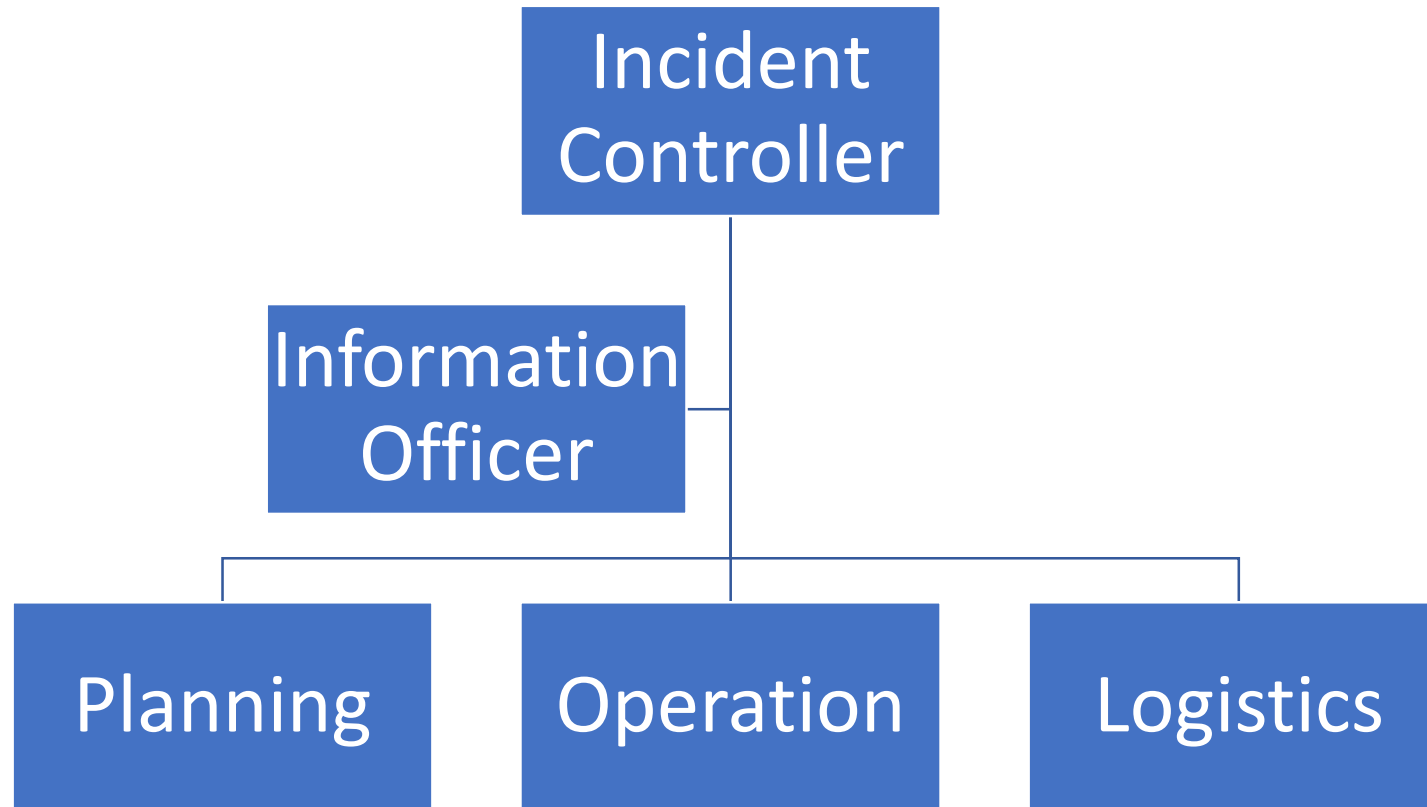
- The large whale disentanglement SOP provides a step by step process which can be modified according to each particular entanglement scenario
- The objective of the procedure is to maintain a safe working distance from the whale

At no stage should rescue personnel enter the water for any reason whatsoever

Large Whale Disentanglement Procedures

- Standard Operating Procedures
 - Step 1 - Attach a telemetry buoy
 - Step 2 - Attach a mainline
 - Step 3 - Load up mainline
 - Step 4 - Move load forward
 - Step 5 – Release
 - Step 6 – Assess
- Braking
- Direct Release

Large Whale Entanglement Incident Management Structure



Vessels



Lines



Grapples

‘Grab’ grapple



Grapple with Throwline: Note end-of-line float and biodegradable trace behind grapple

Shackles



Flying shackle for deployment
of line

Floats & Buoys



A5 and A6 Buoys

End of line float



Blades and Attachments

Hoffman 911 personal knife and
fixed blade

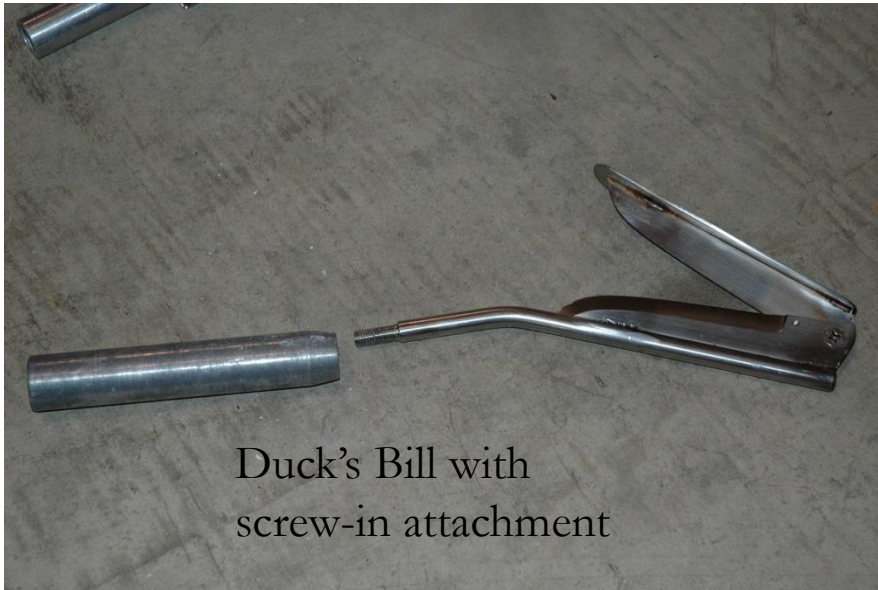


Poles and fixed blade
screw-in attachments



Duck's Bill screw
in fixed blade

Blades and Attachments



Training Tail



Aircraft

Air support is important for whale searching, species identification and monitoring during entanglement incidents.



Report Received 9 Aug 2018

Whale located Bridgewater Bay with other whales

Images provided by whale photographers allowed thorough assessment of entanglement

Boats reached whale just before dark but could not commence SOP





Mary Hartney

10 Aug – Aircraft searched, found 20 whales, but could not locate entangled whale

11 Aug – whale located at Yellow Rock with other whales. Vessels launched but turned back by rough seas



12 Aug – whale located at
Narrawong. Vessels
launched and reached
whale at 2 PM



Conducting the assessment



Walking up to the whale using
the line with motor lifted



Mary Hartney



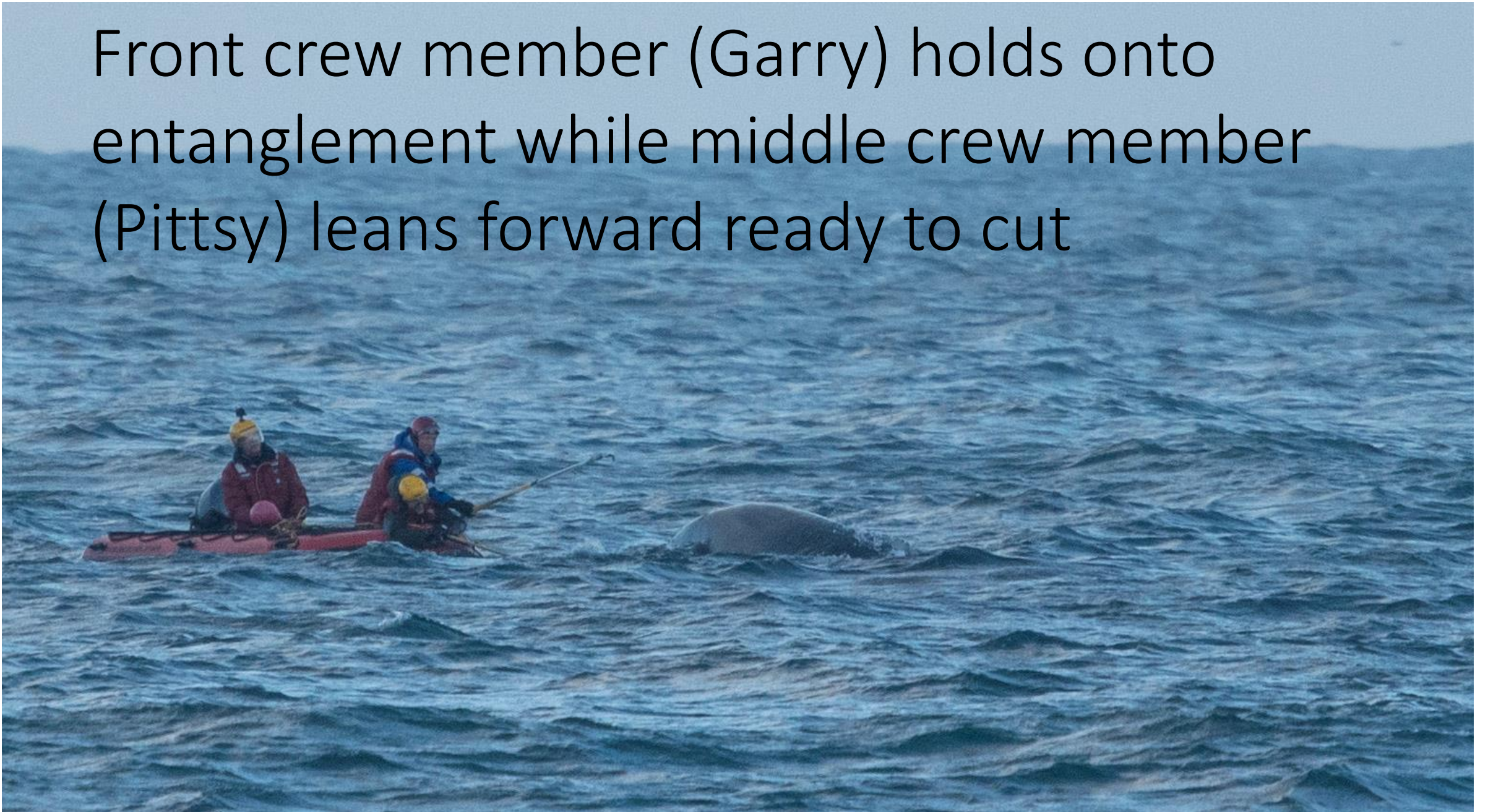
Mary Hartney



Waiting for right moment when
whale lifts tail out of water



Front crew member (Garry) holds onto entanglement while middle crew member (Pittsy) leans forward ready to cut

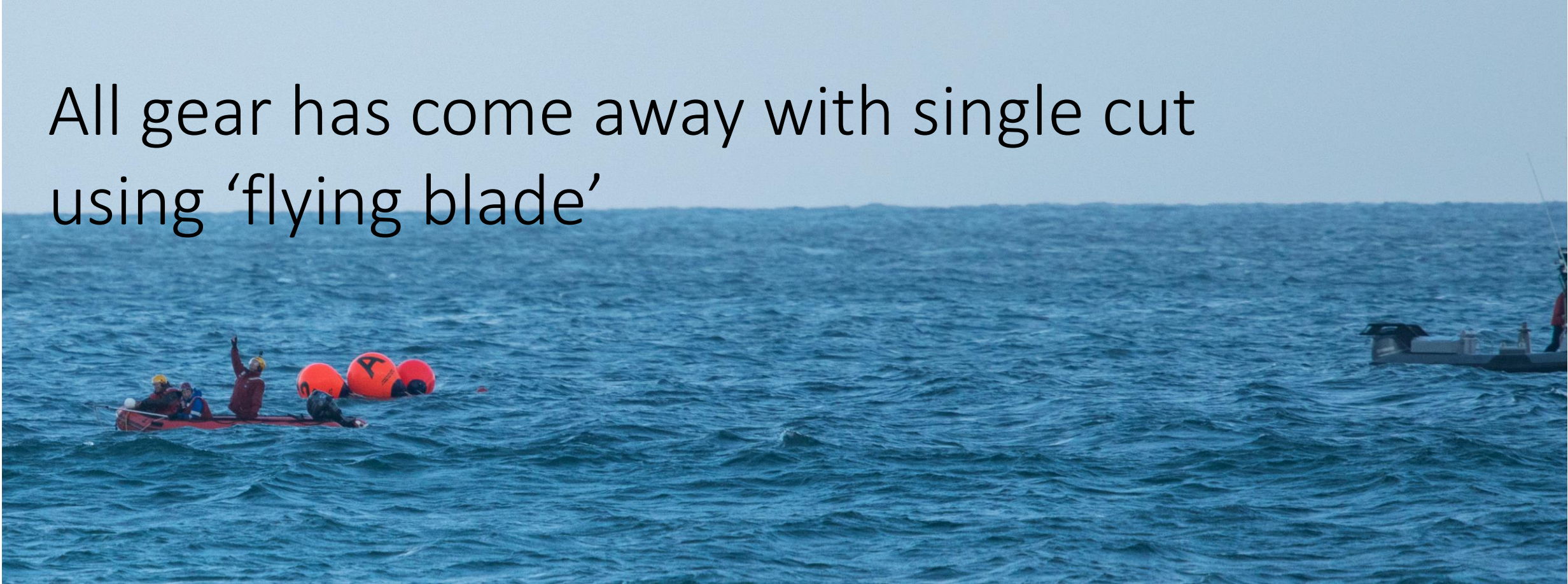


After the cut, Pittsy realises the whale is free, the rest of us still not sure



1700 hrs Ian signals that the whale is
cut free

All gear has come away with single cut
using 'flying blade'









Portland Southern Right Whale entanglement 2018
Image taken 19 days post removal



Mary Hartney

Images courtesy of:
Mary Hartney, John Morrissey, Peter
Corbett, Ian Westhorpe & Mandy Watson

