

What's the story behind **ZULU Crew?**

When people join VMR Brisbane they do so for a variety of reasons connected with their interests in water activities.

Some join as Full members with voting rights and plan to involve themselves to their level of comfort in boating, sailing, rescue work, canoeing, diving, fishing and cruising or the social aspect of the Club. Partners of Full members usually become Associate members, though some may choose to hold membership in their own right.

Some choose to join as Associate members and have a less 'in-your-face' connection with the group. And others involve themselves (sometimes almost by accident) in other aspects of the Group's activities. It doesn't matter what type of membership is held, we are all part of the same organization and can be involved as much or as little as we choose.

The Rescue division of VMR Brisbane is most easily recognized by the work they do at the Base, and by the uniforms that their training and input to the core work of the Squadron - on the rescue boats and in the Radio Room - entitles them to wear.

But as in any club, there are a large number of members who work tirelessly 'behind the scenes', carrying out all the support duties and activities that keep such a large and diverse organization such as ours functioning in a relatively smooth and harmonious manner.

It is these people who make up what we have decided to call Zulu Crew. So who can be a part of Zulu Crew? Anyone who contributes time and energy to our Club and who would like to be able to wear our uniform with pride to show they belong and believe.

Sometimes when an Active Crew member reaches the mandatory 'stand down' age or finds that they are physically unable to continue rescue work, or when work and family constraints mean they can't commit to a regular roster of duties, they still want to work - within their comfort zone - for the club. Other members never want to be on Duty Crews but are deeply committed to supporting a partner who is. And still others find a niche within the activities of the club that suits them and involves them in just as much work (or more) as any Active Crew member. These people belong in Zulu Crew!

There are also some members who really deserve to be recognized as part of Zulu Crew but choose to remain in the background, silently working but not wanting to be noticed or acknowledged. That is their choice, but they are no less valued, and are always regarded as members of the crew anyway.

So who are the members of Zulu Crew, and what do the members of Zulu Crew do that makes them deserving of the right to wear our uniform and wear the specially-created epaulettes of AUXILIARY CREW?

There is no Duty Master or rankings. Some of the members have earned certificates and have special skills. But most are simply dedicated workers and supporters of VMR Brisbane.

Let's put them in the spotlight for once! Phil Fitzgerald is the Treasurer of VMRB. He is an extremely busy professional in the financial world, but has taken on the onerous task of keeping our books in the black, and of steering our funds into the most appropriate places for the benefit of our Club. Membership dues are renewed

and our AGM held at Phil's busiest time of the year, but he always manages to survive the frenzy (with the help of his generous staff and supportive family) and has even been seen at Training sessions from time to time. He also gains assistance from one of our hardest-working members, Julie Young, our Membership Liaison Officer who would have been on Zulu Crew if she weren't already an active member of Delta Crew.

Pam Cash holds the role of Publicity Officer and also helps out with administrative duties - when she isn't adding her special sense of style and flair to social and fundraising activities. Pam was previously an active member of Papa Crew, but felt she had more to offer the Club through her other feats of genius. Though how she fits them in her life as business woman, wife, mother, grandmother and general 'busy person' is hard to tell.

Jean Adams has been wearing many hats over the last year or so. She originally joined VMRB as editor of Boat Talk but gradually slipped into the habit of being around when jobs needed to be done. She has organised a couple of Open Days, looks after Hall Hire, has been responsible for the operation of the Bar, and coordinated the Hall refurbishment work last year. Unfortunately though her mind is supposedly still active, her body is letting her down, and she is cutting back on activities this year while she tries to repair the bits that are falling apart. But feeling so at home in VMRB she says she is still around in Zulu Crew as long as the tides come and go.

Peter Leech is a member of Zulu Crew too. He runs a successful Licencing business which operates most weekends and is our Workplace Health and Safety Officer. It is Peter who ensures that everything around the base complies with regulations and is as safe as can be for crews, members & the public. He assists with training and advises us regularly on the latest rules & regulations.

One of the younger members of Zulu Crew is our Fishing & Cruising Director, Charlene Clark. She puts together exciting and varied tours for all who are interested and is keen for more participation from general VMR members and Affiliated Groups. Her partner Shane is Skipper of Tango Crew, and her contribution to the club is valued.

Three more members of Zulu Crew are well-known throughout the Club. Rae Hirn and Jan Young have been members for many years and have seen many changes since the early days when they began participating with husbands Bill and Doug. They are incredible sources of knowledge about the 'behind-the-scenes' tasks, know where everything is kept, how it works and make excellent morning teas, lunches and suppers for busy workers.

Angie Aceto rounds out the list with her efforts at Social BBQs, shopping trips, Purcell's Sausage Sizzles and other functions and outings. With Nino on Charlie Crew Angie has a strong involvement with all aspects of the Club.

There are several other names that *should* be recognized as members of Zulu Crew, but these people try to remain in the background. So we will 'Out' them here in the side-bar, and acknowledge their regular and valuable assistance.

Zulu Crew needs workers, so if you have a skill to offer, or want to help others out, please contact any member and offer to join the team. There's always room for more on board!

Why do we need Zulu Crew?

What does Zulu Crew do?

Who can be a member of Zulu Crew?

Deidre Windham (Funding & Grants Officer) who helps us get the extra money needed to keep us financially viable.

Pat Turner who has been with the Club almost all her adult life. The Goose Club wouldn't be the same without her, and who would look after Nigel's interests if not for Pat?

Jan McCoy organized functions for the Club for many years and we are happy to see her return for this year's gala Fashion Parade.

All the wives and partners who support the Crews as they carry out their regular duties, work at raising funds & working bees, and who slave over hot stoves and kitchen sinks on BBQ nights.

And finally the members who - up till now - have attended functions, donated prizes or money to advance our cause, or simply been there to show the flag. Thank you all!