



Boat Talk

VMR Brisbane's Monthly Newsletter



Above: Our volunteers helping out with the Queensland Water Police's Operation Clearwater (p.3)

Around the Rigging

Welcome to our new Members. We look forward to seeing you around the base. (Waterside Assist members are listed on page 4.)

0

ACTIVE CREW

None this month although we do have lots of volunteers training to become qualified crew.

5

FULL MEMBERS

Daniel Bracefield
Megan Du Plessis
Roy Wright

Michael Clinch
Craig Hulme

December 2021 Crew Roster

Sat 4	Charlie	Sun 5	Sierra
Sat 11	Delta	Sun 12	Tango
Sat 18	Foxtrot	Sun 19	November
Sat 25	Volunteers	Sun 26	Volunteers
Mon 27	Charlie	Tues 28	Papa

January 2022 Crew Roster

Sat 1	Alpha	Sun 2	November
Mon 3	Bravo	Sat 8	Charlie
Sun 9	Papa	Sat 15	Delta
Sun 16	Quebec	Sat 22	Foxtrot
Sun 23	Sierra	Wed 26	Tango
Sat 29	Alpha	Sun 30	November

DATES TO REMEMBER

JINGLE ALL THE BAY

Sandgate Town Centre. 6pm-9pm
Friday, 3rd December

VMR BRIBIE WATER PAGEANT

Saturday, 11th December, from 7 pm,

BEERS AND BARBECUE BY THE BAY

At our base, Sunday, 2nd January, 11 am – 3 pm

AUSTRALIA DAY: BMW SHOW 'N SHINE

At our base, Wednesday, 26th Jan., 11 am-3 pm

Our Carols by the Creek was a great success and lovely that Santa could make it again at this busy time of year for him. We have it on good authority that everyone adhered to the Workplace Elf and Safety requirements! Having the food trucks back was just what we needed after the austere times in the last year or so. Pages 5 and 6 show what a splendid evening it was.

Our Poly Va'a Outriggers have been working hard on their fitness and the 75 km paddle to Moreton Island and back in a day was certainly going to be an achievement. You can read about their triumph on page 4.

Great progress is being made with our new rescue vessel (page 8). So much so that early next year we need to give it a name and VMRB members are invited to submit suggestions to our Secretary.

We have lost quite a character in Keith Nickerson. He has been with us since the beginning of our rescue service and many members will have fond memories of him and his time with us.

Pat Turner has given us another look down memory lane with photos of past SYC Open Days (page 10). Perhaps someone will be able to tell us when these photos were taken.

Editor Deidre

November in Summary

Activations:	19
Fuel Used:	1,127
People Assisted:	3

VMR Brisbane is
proudly supported



Have you liked our VMR Brisbane Facebook Page? Stay up-to-date and follow all the latest VMR Brisbane news, photos and events! [@VMR Brisbane](#)

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President's Report

It was so good to see the grounds around our base packed with people enjoying themselves at the Carols by the Creek sponsored by Jared Cassidy and with support from Stirling Hinchliffe and Anika Wells. Santa was popular and it was a pleasant fund-raiser to help us continue to operate our Rescue Squadron and upkeep of facilities for all Members. Events like these don't just happen, it takes many Volunteers to organise and man them so my sincere thanks to them but particularly to our Secretary David and new Junior Vice President Ryan who sets up all the arrangements.

We welcome our new members to join in the activities we hold as well as making the most of our location on Moreton Bay.

I am pleased to advise that Paul Harris and Garry Wylie are going to share the role of Unit Training Coordinator so training of our volunteers will continue apace.

It was sad to hear of the passing of Keith Nickerson. Keith was one of the founders of Air Sea Rescue, the precursor to VMR Brisbane, and a great supporter of our squadron. Keith's Membership Number with VMR Brisbane is 0002. As I found out, Keith was also an early member of Sandgate Sailing Club which became Sandgate Yacht Club and then Sandgate Yacht Club formed a Power Boat Division of which the Members, including Keith, used their own vessels to provide support and rescue people in Moreton Bay but later it became Air Sea Rescue which then became VMR Brisbane.

You will see on page 4 an invitation to attend a follow up meeting with the QFES Marine Rescue Implementation Group on 19th December at our base in Allpass Parade for the Resource to Risk and Systems Workshops. Just let us know if you will be attending please.

Woody Marine are making great progress with our new rescue vessel. The Sub-Committee have done a very thorough job of thinking through the layout and operation of the vessel and it will be a great asset for VMR Brisbane and Moreton Bay. It should be ready by late February and we invite members to submit a name for it. We are in two minds about whether we should continue to name our main rescue boat Sandgate 1 and would appreciate your suggestions.

Your Management are still working towards rectifying the boat ramp and, because that is a priority, we have had to make some very hard decisions on where and how the new vessel will be stored. Unfortunately, the existing ramp is not viable for launching and retrieving the new rescue vessel without seeing it degrade further or, worse, break completely along with seeing us unable to launch the vessel when required due to tidal constraints. Equally unfortunate is that the generous offer from QCYC for a

discounted berth is not a viable option due to the Seapen required being too wide for the available berths. Management is committed to having the new vessel out of the water as soon as finances and operational constraints allow.

While talking names, there is a survey being undertaken to decide a name for the combined VMR/Coast Guard rescue services. The survey closes on 31st December so you are asked to answer the 6 questions by then. I've suggested Volunteer Coast Marine Guard Rescue..... 🤔 😊

Safe Boating

Thomas Grice, President
VMR Brisbane.

Kedron-Wavell Services Club

There are lucrative Members' Draws, Bingo and Exercise Classes plus you can join in Karaoke every Saturday night. You can check their website for their full list of entertainment, dining options and prize draws at <https://kedron-wavell.com.au/> or phone them on (07) 3359 9122.

There are several venues to dine at - The Kitchen, Gallipoli Lounge, Bean Shack, Red Delta, then there is the Bravo Bar with its boutique beers (and other drinks).

Remember Kedron-Wavell Services Club is a major supporter of VMR Brisbane so we can do them a favour and return the compliment by supporting them while enjoying ourselves.

Mid-Week Crew Message

Our Mid-Week Crew volunteers do anything and everything at our base, not just mowing the lawn. Some of their regular tasks include cleaning of the toilets. So please make it easier for them by following the sign behind Hugh.



Groups of VMRB

Our Association is made up of the following clubs. Please click on the logo to find out more details



Activations

NOVEMBER

14th - November crew started with a navigation training run during the morning, using both Sandgate 1 and Sandgate 2.

The crew on Sandgate 2 had an experience not commonly seen by a VMR crew. About 4 nautical miles east of Scarborough heading towards the Pearl Channel, the crew simulated a person overboard for training purposes. They did this by throwing a foam buoy with a 1m loop of rope attached over the side. The water was relatively clear and calm as there was little wind. As the crew approached to pick up the buoy, about 10m from it, a shark suddenly appeared from below the buoy, nosed up to it, realised it wasn't something for lunch and just as quickly dived away again. The type of shark hasn't been determined but it was more than 2m in length. A good reminder that there are definitely other creatures in the water!

On the return journey, the crew practised towing Sandgate 2 with Sandgate 1, including rafting Sandgate 2 alongside Sandgate 1 and practicing putting a rafted up vessel onto the VMR pontoon.



In the afternoon Sandgate 1 went to Rivergate marina near the Gateway Bridge to refuel, while Sandgate 2 conducted some local knowledge and vessel handling training at the Nudgee Boat Ramp.

There were no calls for assistance but it was another productive day of training.



Kim Hill on Sandgate 2

20th - Assist a grounded 6m sailing boat with 2 POB from the Cabbage Tree Creek leads. Tow to QCYC.



20th - Tow a jetski with 1 POB from Woody Point to Clontarf boat ramp.

ACTIVE CREW ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations and thank you to the following crew members who volunteered more than 5 years ago and who joined in November.

David Massam	2002	19 years
Peter Leech	2002	19 years
Les Pascoe	2004	17 years
Neil Sheppard	2007	14 years
John Lemon	2013	8 years

It was an incredibly quiet month but the few people who were helped really needed us.

Thank you to all the crews who are able to assist with any activations and who are on standby. We really appreciate receiving activation details and photos to help promote VMR Brisbane.

Also we are grateful for the skipper's reports as they add colour to the actual rescue details. Please email any information and/or photos through to editor@vmrbrisbane.com.au and also to social.media@vmrbrisbane.com.au

Operation Clearwater

As you will see from the photo on page 1, Ryan plus Ian, Nathaniel and Colin from Foxtrot Crew met with Water Police at the Shorncliffe public boat ramp to join in Operation Clearwater on 13th November.

Due to strong winds and poor sea conditions, there was minimal public involvement and engagement (talking 5-10 people max, and only one boat launched in 3 hours). The activity was attended by QPOL (Water Police, Sandgate and Boondall stations), MSQ, QLD Wildlife and Fisheries officers, as well as the Coffee Vendor. The activity was a great chance for Inter-Agency networking and discussions. The BBQ didn't make many sales although we did feed the other agencies attending the event as it didn't seem right to be charging these people (especially QPOL as they provided free coffees). Once again, a good chance to fly the VMR flag and build a good rapport with other agencies.

Water Police were happy overall with the event, considering the winds. They are looking to run these events as a permanent fixture into 2022, and we are happy to be involved again. So stay tuned for more on that.

Is this your kayak?

The white tandem kayak on the bottom rack needs to be removed as that place has been allocated to someone else. Please spread the word to find the owner.



Poly Va'a Outriggers Update

As always, the Poly Va'a's are going from strength to strength.

On 30th October, 894 participants competed at this year's **Australian Indoor Rowing Championships** from all round Australia and around the world. It was virtual participation so people didn't have to travel from their home bases.

Competitors came from every state and territory as well as the UK, USA, Egypt, France, South Africa, French Polynesia, Faroe Islands and Canada. The youngest competitor was 11 and the oldest was 85.

All that is needed to virtually compete is a rowing machine, computer and internet connection. Three of Poly Va'a members performed extremely well to gain medals: Phil – silver, Dionne- 3 gold, and Aliti 2 gold.

A huge event conducted on Saturday, 6th November was when 24 paddlers and 12 supporters on the water conducted the 75km **Moreton Crossing**.



"Previously we have done this in 2018 and 2019 but those were two-day weekend events of 35km each way overnighting at the resort. This time we took on the epic challenge to do it all in one day, 75 km from Shorncliffe to Redcliffe, turn right after going under the Redcliffe Jetty then onto the Tangalooma Wrecks, (where we stopped briefly to find our crashed drone on the sand dunes) before heading straight back to Shorncliffe."



It was intriguing to see the replacement crews leap into the water, the paddlers jump out, and the others climb in, minimising the changeover time.

"This was a major event for our Club and for outrigger paddling in Australia and now that we've successfully done it, we intend to invite other Australian Clubs and paddlers to come and join us next year in 2022 for the first ever race of the Moreton Crossing with the ultimate ambition to make it an international in 2023."



"On 13th November we held an excellent **Christmas function** at the Full Moon Hotel which over 70 people attended. The venue was great, food delicious and the company fun and enjoyable. It was especially a nice change from our usual club functions where a few people do a huge amount of work preparing food and organising everything. Great to see Lorna, Jane and Carolyn be able to walk in and walk out with no work. A big thank you to Rosie Devery who organised everything."

Invite to QFES Meeting

We have an upcoming follow up meeting with the QFES Marine Rescue Implementation Group on **19th December** at our base in Allpass Parade for the Resource to Risk and Systems Workshops.

As this will most likely have an impact on all of us at some stage in the future, you are all invited to attend.

If you would like to attend, or are definitely attending, can you please let us know by 10th December?

The proposed agenda would be as follows:

- Starting at 13:00.
- 1 hour – Resource to Risk workshop (with the unit exec/volunteers who attended the initial session)
- 1 hour – Q&A (open to all volunteers to attend)
- 2 hours – Systems Workshop (volunteer attendance encouraged).

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NEW WATERSIDE ASSIST MEMBERS

Troy Beckett	Luke Bellamy	Andrew Callow	Andrew Crain
Chris Darmody	Gary Davies	Jason Enders	Shane Galvin
Patrick Haynes	Stephen Head	Barry Heath	Andrew Knox
Samuel Kosonen	Mark McGuire	David McTaggart	Michri Mendez
Peter Morris	Bradley Mulford	Garry O'Brien	Bill Page
David Phillips	Stuart Thornton	Robert West	

Christmas By The Creek

On 19th November, Cr Jared Cassidy sponsored Christmas by the Creek and the event was supported by Stirling Hinchliffe MP and Anika Wells MP. The Food Trucks were back and there was entertainment for the kids in the form of face painting and a jumping castle as well as the Multitude Community Choir singing carols plus the bar being open. Santa was very popular, arriving on our rescue boat rather than a sleigh.

It was a lovely evening to be outdoors and the crowds certainly appreciated it all. After a couple of lean years socialising, it was wonderful to see everyone having fun.



Carols By The Creek (Cont'd)



Anika demonstrating her RSA skills to Jared and Stirling.



Face painting was popular as was Santa handing out candy canes and glow sticks.



Mid-Week Early Christmas

The Mid-Week Crew invited their partners along for a morning tea as an early celebration and thank you on 3rd November. (A couple of photo bombers in the first photo!)



HMAS Sydney

We are always keen to recognise and celebrate our war heroes and it was on 11th November, 1941, that *Sydney* departed Fremantle for Singapore with the transport *SS Zealandia*. The vessels sailed to Sunda Strait, where the troopship was handed over on 17th November to *HMS Durban*. *Sydney* then turned for home, and was scheduled to arrive in Fremantle late on 20th November. On 19th November, 1941, *Sydney* clashed with the German raider *Kormoran* off the West Australian coast. The *Kormoran* was disguised as the Dutch freighter *Straat Malakka* at the time, luring the technologically superior *Sydney* into range of its guns and torpedoes.

Both ships were critically damaged during the action, and sank in the Indian Ocean. There were no survivors from the 645 men on board *HMAS Sydney*. (318 of *Kormoran*'s 393 crew survived.)

The *Sydney* was not located for 67 years, when in 2008, she was found 2,468 metres below the surface and about 20 kilometres from the wreck of the *Kormoran*. For 80 years the one *Sydney* sailor who made it to a life raft (but still died at sea) was unknown, however he has now been identified (Able Seaman Thomas Welsby Clark from Brisbane) and his tombstone will be engraved next year.



Jingle All The Bay

Jingle All The Bay is proudly presented by the Sandgate Bayside Chamber of Commerce in partnership with local businesses.

From 6pm on 3rd December, the event will transform Sandgate Town Centre into a hype of free festive fun with the iconic Christmas Street Parade as well as:

- hundreds of markets and boutiques open along the street
- Santa Claus and photo opportunity on Bowser Parade
- delicious food stalls, cafes, pubs and bars along the street
- stages of entertainment showcasing live music, dancers and local groups
- kids Workshops and photo booths
- huge amusements including a Train Ride and Animal Farm.

Nino's bright red sleigh substitute will be towing Sandgate 2 in the street parade.

Beers 'n Barbecue By The Bay

Come and join us for some Beers and American Slow Cooked Low and Slow BBQ provided by BBQ Roadshow and the Bar will be open with Tap Beers and other beverages!

Beers from All Inn Brewing Co, Aether Brewing, and Black Hops will be available.



Bring the Picnic Rug or Chairs and enjoy the day. Please note this is a licensed event, and no BYO Alcohol or Glass is permitted.

Australia Day 2022

The BMW Club will be putting on a special mini Show 'n Shine Day at our base on Australia Day 2022. We will have our bar open with a variety of craft beers and other beverages as well so all welcome. Put a date claimer in your phone or diary to remember to come along at 11 am, have a picnic lunch and see the BMW's until about 3 pm.



←Old logo

New logo→



Around Our Base

Sandgate Yacht Club were getting ready to sail, the Poly Va's were out paddling as well as kayakers.



We also have a variety of people and organisations hiring our facilities and a recent one was Secret Wellbeing. Secret Wellbeing is a beauty salon at 3/159 Nathan St, Brighton 4017. Martina has been running Secret Wellbeing for 8 years in the local area. It is a place to relax and receive outstanding pampering luxurious treatments. While this is her day-to-day salon, she also offers women's wellness retreat were she taps into their energy and her own intuition.



Martina takes women on a journey of self-development and self-awareness to find that inner self love. It is for the everyday women to embrace the space and honour themselves. Tel: 0457312345 to find

out about her upcoming events. Gift vouchers are available for someone special this Christmas www.secretwellbeing.com

Xiang Dragonboats

On 21st November, Xiang Dragons attended their first regatta for the season expertly run by Manly Dragons. They reported that it was wonderful to be racing again and having their new members racing too. All in all, it was a fantastic day for great friends, and great laughs.



Welcome Grants

We are extremely grateful to receive grants which help us continue to be available to assist people out on the water. Two we received in the last few months have been instrumental in providing the support we need.

1. Port of Brisbane

We received a grant of \$5,000 from the Port of Brisbane in 2019-2020 as a contribution towards VMRB's vital engine maintenance program that allows us to react quickly and reliably to any calls for help by vessel operators. The money was used during 2020 to undertake maintenance on the two engines of Sandgate 1.

We are very appreciative of the support of the Port of Brisbane.



2. Brisbane City Council

VMRB was successful in 2020 to receive a grant for \$10,000 from the Brisbane City Council under their Lord Mayor's Community Sustainability and Environmental Grants Program to replace the existing old and inefficient Cold Room at our Shorncliffe base with a new and more energy efficient one. A previous Energy Audit had identified that the old cold room was a significant contributor to the Shorncliffe site's energy consumption.



We now have a great new Cold Room which got its first real try out at last Friday's Carols by the Creek.

We are very appreciative of the grant and the support of the Brisbane City Council.

Rescue Boat Service

Michael Fearn-Wannan snapped these photos of Sandgate 1 going in for service at Sandstone Point.



New Vessel Progress

Darren, Damien and Col checked up on our new rescue vessel in mid-November and found it almost at the painting stage.



Depending on completion of the fitout, delivery is due in approximately late February. The boat is going to be antifouled before delivery too.



We have traditionally named our prime rescue boat as Sandgate 1. Discussion at the last Management Meeting touched on whether we should continue with this custom.

We would like Full Members to give this some consideration and forward any suggestions on a new name to [Secretary David](#) by 31st December, 2021.

VALE

KEITH NICKERSON

3.01.1933 - 18.11.2021

We are very sad indeed to hear of the passing of Keith Nickerson. He has been a great supporter of VMRB for a very long time and held Membership No.2 although he was a Life Member.



Starting from humble beginnings in 1965, Keith and Marlene Nickerson opened a 30m² store in Kift Street, Deagon to provide boating parts for local North Brisbane boaties. A year later they took on their first outboard brand, Johnson Outboards, which they continued selling for many years.

Keith is an inaugural founding member of the Boating Industry Association of Queensland and in 1966 was instrumental in the formation of the local Power Boat Club. This is the group that began what is now VMRB.

The progression into selling boats and motors was a logical path as Keith had been sailing (well known for racing Sharpies) and power boating in the local area for a number of years. He had sailed in many Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Races too.

Northside Marine is the business Keith built up from scratch and it now occupies a purpose built 10,000m² dealership in Boondall. It also boasts a 350m² boating parts and accessories division, as well as a modern state-of-the-art service department.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Keith's wife Marlene, his son and daughter and their families including great grandchildren.

Tides Table

Planning to go out on the bay? Before you go, check the tides — hook into the 2022 Queensland Tide Tables now!

Available to download on Maritime Safety Qld's website at www.msq.qld.gov.au/Tides/Tide-Tables

Clem Masters BOATS

Clem Masters asked Brian Hutchison to write the history of 'The Boat Shed' and provided him with some information on boats built by the firm R.C. Masters Boat Builders Pty Ltd at Deagon and Narangba that was wound up in the mid-1970s.

Clem Masters' Boats traverses the working life of a sub-teenage Boy Scout, who on completing an apprenticeship as a Boat Builder became an authority on the design, construction and operation of boats built in wood, revolutionising building from 'art and craft' to engineering process while responding to a lifetime of technological change and moving into the manufacture of large vessels in fibre reinforced plastics laminated in split moulds in 1970, then certificated as a Marine Surveyor.

The book is based on, but extending well beyond, sailing, commercial operation, design and construction of vessels in the Brisbane [Queensland] suburbs of Sandgate, Deagon, Boondall and Shorncliffe spanning Cabbage Tree Creek that flows into Bramble Bay.

The author of *Clem Masters BOATS* is Brian Hutchison and copies of the limited edition and newly published book can be obtained from him.: The 118 page A4 book includes an account of the boat shed established at Deagon in the 1950s and boats Clem designed, built and sailed.

Should you wish, you may buy a copy from 1 Swan Street, Shorncliffe – cost \$30.00. To be sure a book will be held for you or posted to you, contact Brian on telephone 07 3269 4913 or you can Email hutchi@bigpond.net.au for enquiries about **Clem Masters' BOATS**.

There is park in Deagon named after Clem Masters and the sign has detailed information supplied by Brian Hutchison as follows:

Romney Clement (Clem) Masters. Born 13th September 1929 in Palmwoods. Died 23rd May, 2009 at Caboolture. Clem Masters started work as an apprentice boat builder in Townsville, completing his apprenticeship at Bulimba after moving to live in Sandgate in 1947. In 1953, Clem set up his business at 112 Barclay Street, Deagon. This was formalised in 1958 with his wife Audrey as RC Masters (Boat Builders) Pty. Ltd. with the move to 30 Hickson Road, Deagon on the bank of Cabbage Tree Creek. Up to 1974, under Clem's leadership, 12 apprentices were trained. Together with local employees, they built 87 commercial and pleasure boats from wood and later from fibre reinforced plastic as well as maintaining Bramble Bay's largest commercial fishing boat. A committed sailor, Clem sailed in the major Australian Pacific Ocean Races and won the Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race in 1974. Clem, Audrey and their daughter, Laura, were supporters of Queensland Cruising Yacht Club (QCYC). In 1973 when they moved from their family home next door to Clem's boatyard, it was made available for the QCYC's use until Club facilities were built at Shorncliffe. Clem Masters sailed out of many ports and left incredibly marked charts. Boat and yacht designs and plans, innovative building processes, yacht club honour rolls and trophies attest to his achievements.

Memory Lane: SYC Open Days

Pat Turner has given us some of her father Jim Cook's photos of some Open Days. We don't know when these were taken but probably back in the early 1970's. Look at the size of the palm trees in the first photos to give you an idea! Some of our long-term members might be able to recognise some of the boats.



Below is Life Member Bill Hirn with Ray Broad.



Marine Rescue/Coast Guard

The Blue Water Review was the start of an investigation into the mechanics of the unification of Volunteer Marine Rescue and Australian Volunteer Coast Guard. This is now the responsibility of the Queensland Marine Rescue Volunteers (QFES). You can join the QFES Facebook page to keep up-to-date. (The Queensland Marine Rescue Volunteers Facebook Group is a closed forum for marine rescue volunteers, and QFES staff.) <https://www.qfes>

They have now issued a request for volunteers in VMR and AVCGA to complete a short survey on the future marine rescue name (*only 6 questions*). This can be completed on-line or a hard copy posted to them. Survey closes 31st December, 2021.

Why a single integrated marine rescue service in Queensland?

The Queensland Government announced \$35.38 million in October 2020 to establish and support the transition to a single, integrated marine rescue service and for vessel replacement following the Blue Water Review.

The Review (released in 2019) acknowledged the issues affecting service delivery of volunteer marine search and rescue capability in Queensland. The Blue Water Review Working Group (BWRWG) was formed and met 10 times during 2019, consulting the sector widely. BWRWG recommended the formation of a single integrated marine rescue service to the Queensland Government for consideration. This was considered by the Queensland Government in 2020 and announced as an Government Election Commitment at State Election in October 2020.

How will a single integrated service benefit Queensland?

- An integrated volunteer marine rescue service will deliver a seamless statewide marine rescue service, for both volunteers, the boating public and local communities.
- It will enable enhanced integration with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), Queensland Police Service (QPS) and Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS).

How will it benefit marine rescue volunteers?

- It will provide better protection and increased support for volunteers and reduce administrative workloads and reduce fundraising reliance for operating costs.
- Increased support from Government and consistency in capabilities such as training and vessels.
- Marine Rescue Services will remain locally led, and managed and will continue to serve their local communities.
- Greater and better recognition and support structures for marine rescue services volunteers.
- More public recognition for volunteers in the community.

How were the name options determined?

The BWRWG recommended a number of options for the future marine rescue service name which were reviewed by the Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group.

Future Marine Rescue Name Survey

1. Which marine rescue organisation in Queensland are you from?
 - ☐ Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (AVCGA)
 - ☐ Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland (VMRAQ)
2. Of the options below, which name is preferred for the future marine rescue service? Please check one box only. This question requires an answer
 - ☐ Marine Rescue Queensland
 - ☐ Marine Rescue Service
3. If you could suggest an alternative name for the future service what would it be?
4. What are the key five words that come to mind when you think of marine rescue service in Queensland?
5. How important is the service name to you as a volunteer?
 - ☐ Extremely important
 - ☐ Very important
 - ☐ Somewhat important
 - ☐ Not so important
 - ☐ Not at all important.
6. Is inclusion of the term 'volunteer' as part of the future service name important to you?
 - ☐ Extremely important
 - ☐ Very important
 - ☐ Somewhat important
 - ☐ Not so important
 - ☐ Not at all important.

So, now you know what is involved, go ahead and join the [QFES Facebook page](#) and complete the survey.

Not Long Until Christmas

But maybe not long enough if you're going to be making your Christmas decorations from scratch!



Bowen Boat

You may remember we had a sneak peek at VMR Bowen's new rescue boat a while ago.

"**VMR Bowen** recently commissioned Gwada Murals from Airlie Beach to brighten our base. With this stunning mural, artist Martin, has captured our rescue vessels in a timeline. From inception as Air Sea Rescue in August 1969, transition to Bowen VMR in March 1997 to the present day. Our vessels have been, a Shark cat, Cougar cat, Noosa cat and our new pride and joy, a Woody Marine rib."



Submarine at Mooloolaba

Ever fancied going out on a submarine? Now is your chance. Mooloolaba Coast Guard had a very interesting exercise recently.

"The tourist submarine 'Catalonia' – call sign 'Subcat' - will start operating soon out of Mooloolaba. As part of the AMSA approvals, towing of 'Subcat' by 'Mooloolaba Rotary Rescue' (MRR) had to be demonstrated.



With a crew of our skippers aboard MRR and 2 aboard 'Subcat', to confirm our procedures, we successfully demonstrated how we could assist 'Subcat' back into the river, if the need arises.



The exercise certainly got some attention, with some watchers thinking that 'Subcat' had actually broken down.

Once the final approvals are received, surface and dive trips will be able to commence, so watch out for the details."

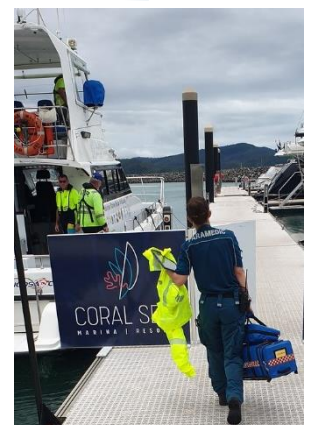
VMR Whitsunday Medivacs

On 10th November VMR Whitsunday completed its 100th Medivac for the year (*and have done more since*).

"When a call goes to 000, the duty QAS supervisor considers all aspects of the call for help, such as the seriousness of the injury or illness, before deciding whether a medivac is necessary, and whether it is best performed by helicopter or by sea. Sometimes the weather precludes the use of the helicopter or it is unavailable, and we are called into action. At other times, we are their first call. Medivacs can be literally anywhere in the Whitsundays, from any of the island resorts, or from boats at sea or around the islands, maybe even on the outer reef. They can be at any time, day or night, and we always have at least one and sometimes two QAS Paramedics on board when we do a medivac.

We have just completed our 100th medivac for the year, almost three times where we were at the same time last year. Pretty impressive considering the reduced occupancy at the resorts due to lockdowns down south and border restrictions.

During the 100 medivacs, we used over 21,000 litres of fuel, some were after midnight in the wee small hours and some were in atrocious conditions with winds to 35 knots and rough seas. A couple were even in daylight! Medivacs are all part of our dedicated volunteers saving lives at sea."



The Spruce Goose

It took a while to come up with the concept, then to build the seaplane for it only to fly once in November 1947!

Designed by the Hughes Aircraft Company, the Hughes H-4 Hercules, commonly known as the *Spruce Goose*, made its first and last flight 74 years ago. Designed as a strategic airlift flying boat, The *Spruce Goose* was intended to be used to carry cargo during the Second World War. Built from wood due to wartime restrictions on metals, the Hughes H-4 Hercules is the largest flying boat ever built.

The *Spruce Goose* was not completed until after the war. In 1942 at the height of the Second World War, Allied shipping in the North Atlantic suffered heavy losses to German U-boats. Desperate to transport weapons and personnel to Great Britain, the United States War Department started looking for a large aircraft that could cross the Atlantic.

The idea for the *Spruce Goose* was the brainchild of Liberty Ship builder Henry J. Kaiser. Designed to carry 150,000 pounds, 750 fully kitted troops, or two M4 Sherman tanks, the plane was a collaboration between Kaiser and American business magnate [Howard Hughes](#). Despite coming up with the idea for a flying cargo ship, Kaiser had no aeronautical experience, so he deferred the plane's development to Hughes and his designer, Glenn Odekirk.

After eventually settling on a final design that would use eight Pratt & Whitney R-4360 Wasp Major 28-cylinder air-cooled radial piston engines for propulsion, work began on the massive plane. After sixteen months, Kaiser was fed up with delays and Hughes's desire for perfection and decided to leave the project.

Undeterred, Hughes decided to go it alone, signing a new contract with the United States Government for one plane. The work on the [H-4 Hercules](#), as it was now called, progressed exceptionally slowly. So slow that by the time the prototype was completed, the war was over.

Constructed in sections, the aircraft had to be transported to Pier E in Long Beach, California, for final assembly before test flights. Concerned about the money the government was spending on the project, Hughes was summoned to appear before a Senate War Investigating Committee in 1947.

The only flight the *Spruce Goose* made lasted 26 seconds. When speaking before the committee about the *Spruce Goose*, a name Hughes disliked intensely, Hughes said:

"The Hercules was a monumental undertaking. It is the largest aircraft ever built. It is over five stories tall with a wingspan longer than a football field. That's more than a city block. Now, I put the sweat of my life into this thing. I have my reputation all rolled up in it, and I have stated several times that if it's a failure, I'll probably leave this country and never come back.

And I mean it."

With Hughes at the controls, the *Spruce Goose* began a series of tests in the waters off Cabrillo Beach in California on November 2, 1947. Along with Hughes, the aircraft had a co-pilot, two engineers, and 16 mechanics. The plane also had several members of the press onboard to record the day's events.

After two successful test runs, the aircraft picked up enough speed to lift off and remain airborne for 26 seconds on the final run of the day. While in the air, the plane flew a mile before safely touching down on the water.



The *Spruce Goose* is on display at the Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum in Mc Minnville, Oregon.
Photo: Getty Images

Despite having vindicated everything Hughes had said about the plane, it never flew again. If you want to see the *Spruce Goose*, it is displayed at the Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum in McMinnville, Oregon.
By Mark Finlay

Summer Fishing in Moreton Bay

Bush 'nn Beach Fishing say:

If there is a time in which to focus your efforts on Moreton Bay, it's summertime. As the annual run of pelagic species such as tuna, mackerel, marlin and dolphinfish make their way down the east coast, Moreton Bay comes to life with big schools of bait and even bigger predators.

Obviously, you're unlikely to encounter the larger pelagic species including marlin and dolphinfish in the bay but several mackerel and tuna species, as well as cobia and kingfish, are very realistic targets during the warmer months. Find the bait and you will surely find the fish. No truer statement applies to fishing Moreton Bay.

Advice from Fishing World:

As summer kicks into gear, species like estuary cod, mangrove jacks and even threadfin salmon can be regular catches in and around Moreton Bay. These "tropical" fish are usually concentrated in and around canals, pontoons and particularly around the mouth of the Brisbane River before heading out into the bay proper. Focusing your efforts along the various island reef edges can also produce results. Estuary cod is one of the best table fish on the planet so don't be put off by their looks, they're simply delicious!

