

RESCUE ONE



OFFICIAL JOURNAL

VOLUNTEER MARINE RESCUE HERVEY BAY
INC.

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AUTUMN 2017

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Volunteer Marine Rescue Hervey Bay Inc.

Rescue One

AUTUMN 2017



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P.O. Box 7120 Urangan QLD 4655

Fax: 07 4128 9789

Email: vmradmin@gmail.com

Web: vmrherveybay.com.au

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Commodore: John Smith

Unit Training Coordinator: Col Goldsworthy

Vice Commodore: Jill Barclay

Vessel Group Coordinator: Les Czislawski

Secretary: Theresa Harris

Radio Group Coordinator: Ray Harris

Treasurer: Rhonda O'Brien

Operations Manager: Dave Marshman

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Asst. Boat Maintenance Officer: Gil Townson & Kevin Lategan

Asst. UTC (Crew): Brian Stumer

Marketing/Promotion: Graeme Davies

Asst. UTC (Radio): Jill Barclay

Charts & Navigation: Ross Jensen & Mark Livingstone

Working Members Rep: Reg Treston

Operations Officers: Dave Henry, Geoff Friend, Geoff Drake, Peter Dicker,
Ray Harris and Graeme Stanton

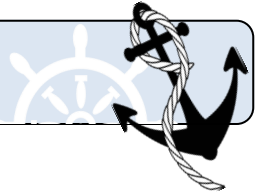
Events Co-ordinators/Providore: Cheryl and Lance Price

Workplace health and safety Officer: Les Czislawski & Col Goldsworthy

Zone Delegate: John Smith & Col Goldsworthy

Grounds/Building/Vehicle Maintenance: Reg Treston

From the Commodore — John Smith



Hi All,

The past quarter included the Christmas period and we were prepared for a busy time with our vessel on the water and ready to go if required. However the early part of the quarter turned out to be very quiet probably because the weather did not prove all that inviting for most of the boating fraternity.

The last week of the holidays brought a change and we were tasked with a number of activations including a few Medivacs including a patient transfer in rough conditions in the northern bay. A number of break downs required tows back to Urangan.

We have a newly qualified coxswain who has also gained her commercial qualification. In the couple of weeks since gaining her qualification, she has certainly had a baptism of fire with several medivacs and a couple of difficult tows. She also had a Search & Rescue & subsequent tow for a vessel with a child on board who was experiencing a diabetic episode. It was necessary for us to seek permission from the Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) in Canberra to activate the vessels EPIRB to enable us to locate the vessel in distress.

We are moving forward with our strategic plan in focus. HBVMR has recently purchased an ex Police RHIB (Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat) and we will start to access its capabilities once it is fully operational. Our replacement Primary Rescue vessel is still in the drawing stage so we are about a month behind with this project.

Membership in HBVMR is on the increase and we now have about 110 Working Members.

John Smith— Commodore

2017 Radio Course Starts 13th May



If you have a VHF radio on your boat, someone on board must have a licence to use it.

The Office of Maritime Communications at the Australian Maritime College is responsible for the management of marine radio examinations and certification services in Australia.

At VMR Hervey Bay, we hold regular training courses and supervise the examination necessary for you to gain your radio qualification.

We train and examine two courses:

Short Range Operator Certificate of Proficiency - SROCP (VHF use only)

Long Range Operator Certificate of Proficiency - LROCP (VHF & Long distance MF/HF, working on commercial vessels, volunteering at VMR)

The next date for the courses and examination (for both of the above) is the 13th May.

The course starts at 08:30am and takes approx. 3½ hours to complete. You then sit the exam which takes up to an hour.

The course is free for VMR members, but for non-members we charge a \$60 admin fee.

The Office of Maritime Communications charges an examination fee of \$83 which everyone has to pay.

For further information or to book your place for a course, log onto our website vmrherveybay.com.au or drop into to our office in Buccaneer Drive Urangan (beside the Boat Club) between 8.30 and 4.30 on weekdays.

For enquiries and bookings please Phone: 4128 9666.

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Maritime Safety Queensland



MSQ GETTING INTO MOVIES - FOR SAFETY'S SAKE!

Everybody loves a good video and our take-up of social media grows by the day. Combine the two skilfully and you've got a potentially very effective, low-cost way of getting important information out to massive numbers of people.

With this and its safety objectives in mind, Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) has recently made its first forays into filming maritime safety messages for broadcast via social media and websites.

"Maritime Minutes" are short, punchy video excursions into topics aimed at that most basic of boating imperatives – ensuring that when boaties go out on the water they also return to dry land.

Using the knowledge and personalities of its own staff in boating settings, aided by skilled and helpful volunteers and using relatively inexpensive filming and editing technologies, MSQ has so far produced three instalments in a series of videos it calls *"Maritime Minutes"*. These have covered topics like vessel maintenance, the importance of reporting marine incidents, and lifejackets and children. A fourth video, on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, is in production.

Let's face it – at first glance these are not topics guaranteed to set the average boatie's pulse racing. While boaties intuitively know they are important, traditional methods of communicating them – for instance posters, brochures, fact sheets or a page of information on a website – don't necessarily grab their attention and make them read.

So, while MSQ has not abandoned traditional methods, it no longer expects them to do the job all by themselves. MSQ will still produce a range of traditional materials for our safety educational messaging, and they will have their audience – Old Salts, after all, are a tough and stubborn breed who do not bend easily in any wind, let alone the winds of change. But we must also factor societal changes into our thinking.

Maritime Safety Queensland



Consider these raw numbers. Social media platforms Facebook and YouTube, to name just two, had 16 million and 14.8 million users respectively in Australia In January, 2017*. They and other social media are hungry for visual content and enable us to share it with our networks of friends at the click of a mouse or the tap of a screen. If we can produce an attractive video or photograph with a well-thought-out message conveyed in an interesting way, these platforms can be a great way to reach a large number of people in a very short space of time.

What's more, the quality of video footage that can now be captured on inexpensive devices including mobile phones, and the availability of software to edit it with, puts the ability to make engaging short videos at our fingertips with a little imagination and planning.

Maritime Safety Queensland is by no means expert at the medium yet. If it has any Spielbergs or Nicole Kidmans among its staff, it has not yet discovered them. But the agency thinks that's not a problem, because we boaters would probably prefer to see and hear important, common-sense safety information imparted by people like them.

So MSQ has featured its own marine officers and content experts such as workshop manager and head mechanic Ben Kirby in its *Maritime Minutes* so far. It's also why MSQ will be looking for partners in other willing and capable organisations such as Volunteer Marine Rescue from time to time. That makes sense - VMR staff are passionate about boating, have a wealth of knowledge about it and are respected by the boating public – so don't be surprised if you get tapped on the shoulder by MSQ to appear in *Maritime Minutes* soon.



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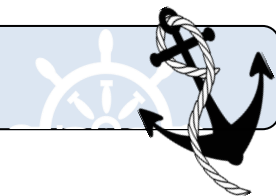
Darren Perkins

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Great Sandy Marine Park



Information for Visitors and Locals

The Great Sandy Marine Park extends from Baffle Creek (about half way between Bundaberg and 1770) to Double Island Point. It includes Hervey Bay, The Great Sandy Strait, Tin Can Bay and the waters off Fraser Island for three nautical miles.

Following are a number of links that provide information on the park that may be useful to both visitors to our region and locals as well:

Great Sandy Marine Park home page: <http://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/great-sandy-marine/>

Great Sandy Marine Park Visitor guide (providing maps and GPS points to zones and areas): <http://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/great-sandy-marine/pdf/gsmv-vis-guide.pdf>

Great Sandy Marine Park Frequently asked questions: <http://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/great-sandy-marine/faq.html>

Great Sandy Marine Park 5 Zones and 8 Designated areas: <http://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/great-sandy-marine/marine-park-zones.html>

Great Sandy Marine Park Artificial Reefs: <http://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/great-sandy-marine/artificial-reefs.html>



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VMR Crew Training



The Hervey Bay VMR Rescue boats are registered commercial vessels. As such they are required to be maintained to marine survey standards. The crew also have to meet training qualifications as set down by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). When new members join VMR, they are required to complete a training course which usually takes about 2 months before they can become provisional crew on the vessels. This course is known as “Elements of Shipboard Safety”.

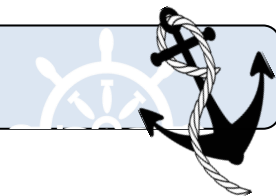
The initial training is all about safety – what to do in the event of a fire or other emergency on a boat, how to prolong life if you have to abandon ship, wearing lifejackets and using liferafts, use of marine radios, flares and EPIRBs. Trainees also learn to proficiently tie knots and handle lines, and to launch, retrieve and refuel the vessels. The training begins with theory (and exams) in the classroom and is then reinforced with many practical exercises.

Following are some of our recent practical training exercises for new crew:



The “group huddle” in lifejackets. This is used to lessen the loss of body heat and prevent hypothermia.

VMR Crew Training



Learning how to right an inverted life raft.

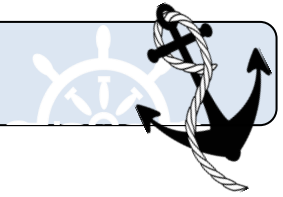


and then how to climb aboard from the water.

Training in the correct use of orange flares.



VMR Crew Training

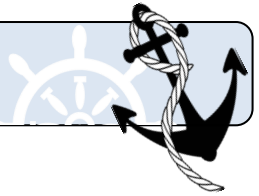


Practising how to recover
a person from the water

This time a Dry Powder type is used.
These are the most common type
aboard recreational boats.



Marine Stingers Alert



Marine Stingers, especially the Irukandji, have been in the news this summer with a number of injuries reported in our waters.

The Department of National Parks, Sport, and Racing (NPSR) has issued the following alert:

<http://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/park-alerts/14515.html>

It is timely that we all revise how to deal with any suspected occurrence of a marine sting. The following fact sheet produced by Surf Life Saving Queensland provides information about marine stingers:

<http://lifesaving.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Fact-Sheet-BOOKLET-FINAL-Beach-SafetySting.Stab.StrikeMarineStingers.pdf>

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QUARTERLY OPERATIONS STATS

DECEMBER 2016 TO FEBRUARY 2017

TOTAL VESSELS LOGGED : 1,037

RADIO CALLS : 4,826

ACTIVATIONS (ex training) : 40

TRAINING/CEREMONIAL

ACTIVATIONS : 29

VMR 466...

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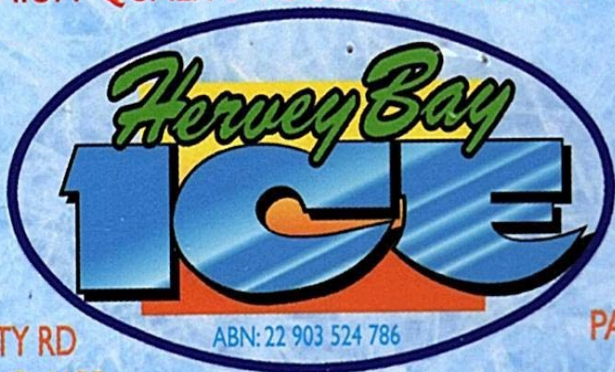
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VMR Hervey Bay Radio Frequencies

VMR Hervey Bay Call Sign - VMR466

Urangan Boat Harbour and surrounding areas - VHF 73 or 27.91

North of Latitude 25° S - VHF 22

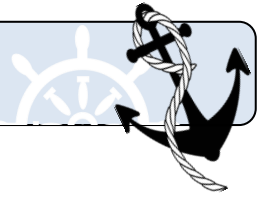
South of Garry's Anchorage - VHF 67

If No Response on 73 or 22 - All Areas - VHF 16 or 67

Distress Calls - All Areas - VHF 16 or 27.88

Supplementary Distress Channel - All Areas - VHF 67

From our Photo albums



A large vessel in serious difficulties.

An early evening Medivac
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Weather

VMR Hervey Bay broadcasts weather reports from the Bureau of Meteorology at:

07:15 12:15 17:15

on VHF Channel 67 followed by 27.91MHz

Forecasts are given for Hervey Bay Waters and Fraser Coast Waters, Sandy Cape to Double Island Point. These are followed by local observations and tides at Urangan Boat Harbour.

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The Queensland Recreational Boating and Fishing Guide

The Queensland Recreational Boating and Fishing Guide provides information covering general rules and requirements for boating in Queensland. Information about fishing rules and regulations is also included.

Printed copies of the guide are available from Maritime Safety Queensland regional offices and most Department of Transport and Main Roads customer service centres.

The guide can also be downloaded from the MSQ website at:

[www.msq.qld.gov.au/Publications/
Recreational-boating-fishing-guide](http://www.msq.qld.gov.au/Publications/Recreational-boating-fishing-guide)



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