

RESCUE ONE



OFFICIAL JOURNAL

VOLUNTEER MARINE RESCUE HERVEY BAY INC.

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SPRING 2016



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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

Office Manager: Sharon Davies

Asst. Boat Maintenance Officer: Juan Pereira & Gil Townson

Asst. UTC (Crew): Brian Stumer

Marketing/Promotion: Steve Nolan

Asst. UTC (Radio): Jill Barclay

Charts & Navigation: Ross Jensen

Working Members Rep: Reg Treston

Stress Management: Graham Huth

Operations Officers: Dave Henry 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



Photos: Open Day 2016 and Blessing of the Fleet



From the Commodore — John Smith



Hi All,

This year has gone very quickly and I guess that has been the result of the Squadron being so busy. I have been extremely lucky, grateful and humbled by the efforts of the management committee and members of the squadron who just keep on giving. From everybody at Marine Rescue Hervey Bay; thank you.

We now have in place a maintenance program for all the equipment and facilities of the squadron, a strategic plan moving the squadron toward 2030, a strong subcommittee developing infrastructure and replacement programs for vessels and other squadron equipment.

The Research & Development subcommittee are on schedule as far as assessing quotes for a new Search & Rescue vessel. Sourcing funding is progressing with an appointment with the Emergency Services minister providing a valuable insight into the support available to Marine Rescue squadrons from the state government.

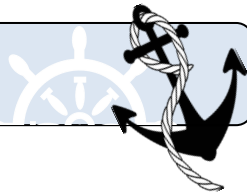
7Rescue has been sold, surprisingly very quickly and the purchase of a more suitable vessel is being negotiated.

We are in the process of having some of our working members trained as QAS first responders. When these guys have completed training, late November, they will take the pressure off QAS to respond to medivacs from Fraser Island. It also provides another skill level for our members.



The Reel Buoy Toys event, a buy swap & sell program generated a bit of interest and also raised some funds for the squadron. We were

From the Commodore — John Smith



supported in this by councillors from Fraser Coast Regional Council. This event will be run again next year with the idea of making it an annual fund raising event.

An open day held on the base in conjunction with the Whale Festival and the Blessing of the Fleet was a great day with a large number of the public coming through and about 80 members and families here for a BBQ dinner, music and fireworks display to finish the night.

John Smith— Commodore

A large advertisement for Bay Auto Marine Electrical. The background is dark with blue lightning bolts. In the center is a white speedboat. To the left is a yellow off-road vehicle, and to the right is a white van. The text "BAY AUTO" is in large, blue, outlined letters at the top. Below it, "MARINE ELECTRICAL" is in even larger, blue, outlined letters. At the bottom, the phone numbers "07 4125 2263 or 0421 828 304" are in white. Below the numbers is "Unit 1, 2 Jetty Rd, Urangan" in white. At the very bottom, "email info@bame.com.au" and "web www.bame.com.au" are in blue and white respectively.

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Emergency Drills training with Amaroo



In early July, we were asked by the skipper of the Boat Club vessel Amaroo, if we would like to be a part of their training for their crew in emergency drills. This was an excellent opportunity for us to also train in some of the scenarios we may face when dealing with a commercial vessel.

The first scenario involved Amaroo being run aground on Pelican Bank, with some injuries to passengers on board. Our training involved hooking the tow line up to the stern of the vessel and gently easing her back. We then undertook the transfer of our 90kg practice dummy ('Duncken') from Amaroo onto the rescue vessel.



The second scenario involved a man overboard situation. Our dummy 'Duncken' was thrown over and the Amaroo crew retrieved him. We then transferred him from Amaroo to our rescue vessel at speed. This one is considerably harder and something that would be

undertaken if the conditions were rougher, where the speed of the vessel (between 5-10 knots) calms the roll between the two vessels.

The third scenario involved a fire in the engine room and the deployment of the fire hoses. The fourth scenario involved the abandonment of vessel, where the carly floats were deployed from Amaroo. We had the opportunity train in the retrieval of these from the water.

All in all the exercises provided essential training for the crew on Amaroo

Emergency Drills training with Amaroo



and allowed us to practice many skills with a commercial vessel. This provides vital training for us in preparation for an incident involving a whale watch boat or other larger commercial vessel. On the day many of the crew on the rescue vessels were relatively new, so the exercises were an ideal opportunity for them.

We were also well supported by both local TV channels who were able to film the action from on Amaroo. Both featured the exercise on their local news bulletins.

It was a worthwhile exercise for everyone involved and something that we will look to offer to other commercial operators for their emergency drill procedure training.

Jill Barclay
Vice Commodore



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First Medivac



This was what it was all about. Finally a real Medivac, and at night too. I can say I was just a little excited....even though it was at someone else's expense. It was like watching a car race just for the crashes. Gary was our skipper for the night and Josie and Mark L were aboard who both had assisted greatly in my continued training. RSL was already in the water, so after final checks we were on our way, heading out into smooth waters and clear skies. We had two Paramedics on board, one of which was in training. It was interesting to talk with them about their work and watch them in action once we had the patient on board. We went the long way around Big Woody due to the tide, with Gary quizzing me on the flash sequences of the

markers on the way. Yes, S9 is a continuous flash!! We pulled alongside the front of the jetty at Kingfisher due to the tide and current, tied up and waited for the ambulance. While we waited I had a chat with some fisherman from Ireland who had absolutely no idea what they were doing, so I gave some (probably unwanted) fish-erly advice. When the ambu-



Kingfisher Bay Resort
Fraser Island

lance arrived we assisted in bringing the patient and his wife on board safely. The patient had a suspected dislocated shoulder. After the paramedics attended to him ensuring he was settled and monitored, we were off again. On arrival at the pontoon we helped the patient and his wife off, who were both very grateful for the smooth trip back, and then went to refuel and clean the boat down. Great experience for my first Medivac

Kerry Bryant—Crew

Open Day



The day dawned bright and sunny – a perfect day to provide the general public with a glimpse of what we do at Marine Rescue Hervey Bay. Our volunteers arrived late morning to prepare the base for the influx of visitors. The liferaft was inflated, safety equipment was displayed, rescue vessels were put on the water, the BBQ was fired up and the coffee was brewing. The Police RHIB and National Parks vessels were also on display.

A steady stream of visitors came through the gates for the two and half hours that we were open. Many recounted stories of being rescued by Marine Rescue or knowing somebody who had been.

The timing of the event coincided with the annual Blessing of the Whale fleet and fireworks display at the marina. This event also provided the

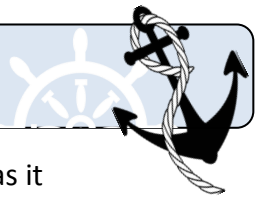
opportunity for volunteers and their families to have a social BBQ after the Open Day.

A big thank you to all of the Marine Rescue volunteers who came down and helped out at the Open Day. And thanks to Col and his merry band of ukulele players who entertained us into the evening.



Jill Barclay
Vice Commodore

Reel Buoy Toys– Wrap Up



Well this event has been a reel eye opener for most of us as it was conceived from an idea that was re-enforced by a fellow that came into the office one morning. He suggested that it would be a good idea and we advised that the thought had already been discussed.

Maryanne our Secretary grew the idea and did a lot of the organising as well as taking on board suggestions to hopefully improve the event.

Let us not forget Councillor Darren Everard without whose support both financial, personnal and organising ability through the council made the event possible. Many Thanks and we hope to continue his involvement. Thanks to the Fraser Coast Council for their support and backing as well.

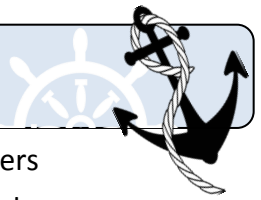


The event bookings started off a bit slow and at some stages I thought it might not get off the ground but wrong I was. Bookings started to pick up as the date got closer and Maryanne organised

some food vendors and a coffee van to feed everyone. I cannot leave out the VMR sausage sizzlers as they did a great job. I believe the first event is always the slowest and expectations are usually higher than reality and this was the case. The event as far as I am concerned was a success and has the potential to grow/expand and become a major fund raiser for VMR Hervey Bay.

Many Thanks to all the stall holders who attended for without you we would not have raised the funds that we did. Hopefully you received interest in what you had for sale and were able to sell your TOYS.

Reel Buoys Toys– Wrap Up



I stood back in amazement at the number of VMR Volunteers who put their hand up and helped out to organise the event, prepare the site, park the vessels and stall holders, generally help out on the day and clean up through the day and afterwards. You all have my deepest admiration and I cannot thank you enough. Many Thanks. I even disappeared for about 3 hours and I wasn't missed??? Possibly a message in there somewhere.

This turned out to be a great team building exercise and showed what a tremendous group of people can do when we work to a common goal. Well done.

A lot of things have been learnt from our first event and these have been recorded. If you have any ideas, please put them forward to improve on future events if it is decided to continue. Remember we need the help of a lot of people to run these events. Especially if it grows from further community demand.

The day was great, the company was fantastic, the laughter was infectious, a jovial mood existed, co-operation abounded, the sun shine and fair weather improved the day and I put my feet up at 18:30 to have a beer at home as I collapsed in a chair.

Many Thanks to everyone for a successful Event.

Thanks Maryanne for all your work.

Dave Marshman.

A blue rectangular box containing the Fraser Marine logo and contact details. The logo features the text "FRASER MARINE" in white serif font, with a white silhouette of a motorboat to the right. Below the logo, the text "Boat Broker" and "Caribbean Boat Sales" is written in white sans-serif font. At the bottom, "Darren Perkins" is written in a larger white sans-serif font, followed by "Ph: 0428 857 116", "darren@frasermarine.com.au", and "www.frasermarine.com.au" in a smaller white sans-serif font.

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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)



QUARTERLY OPERATIONS STATS

TOTAL VESSELS LOGGED -	1520
RADIO CALLS -	5260
ACTIVATIONS -	69
FUEL USED -	5760L
VESSELS RETURNED TO SAFETY -	59
PERSONS RETURNED TO SAFETY -	81

VMR 466...

*Saving
Lives
at Sea*



Open Day



How do you make an open day at the base more interesting so as to draw people through the gate and enjoyable for all?

Simple. Make it more like a carnival and put some interesting events out front.

Flags on display and a large sandwich board proclaiming the base is open for the day for one and all to inspect.

Have Peter Z and associates out the front suggesting they get a free ticket in a lucky draw just

by coming in. Then they put the bight on them to buy another couple of raffle tickets to help our funding. A new record set again in ticket sales. Is there a limit to this man's devilish approach to part people from their gold coins?

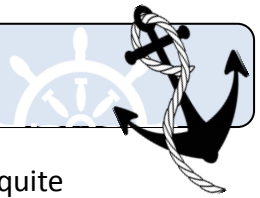
Set Captain Ron Sparrow up cooking sausages and onions so that the smell cannot be resisted.

Set up a coffee van with another irresistible smell.

Tell the kids that they can get their faces painted for free and watch the delight on a parents face as they glare at you but can't say no.



Open Day



Try to keep the volunteers away from the face painting as quite a few have been scarred for life by the exquisite designs on offer and worn on quite a few cheeks.



Walk them past the electronics wiz Nick Sennett who dazzled them with knowledge.

Funnel the crowd down the back and show them a couple of boats from a few different groups. Parks and wildlife as well as the Police and our own and again sub-

ject them to more knowledge from Josie, Gary, Adrian, and crew.

Have cheery and engaging working members talk to them and explain what we do and how we go about it.

When the visitors have gone, have Captain Ron and crew cook a delicious steak. Mix with the beautiful salads and desert prepared by Therese, Christine, Jill and hidden talent chef Stevan Kelly.

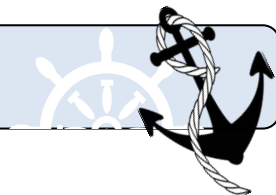
Have a laugh at the end of the day while we are entertained by a terrific group playing those little ukuleles. Then realise that they have drawn a crowd from the boat club that are supposed to be listening to paid entertainment but preferred the HUMPS. Fantastic.

Sorry if I missed you but well done. Congratulations Col Goldsworthy well organised.

My view only and no correspondence shall be entered in to.

Dave Marshman.

Major Raffle



Thank you to the businesses who kindly donated prizes for our raffle, and to everyone who bought tickets. The lucky winners are...

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1st Prize Skydive Jump donated by Skydive Hervey Bay - | Winner: Robert Burnell |
| 2nd Prize Boat licence donated by AquaVue- | Winner: Troy Murray |
| 3rd Prize SOS Membership with VMR - | Winner: Kevin McLaughlin |
| 4th Prize SOS Membership with VMR - | Winner: Brian Muhamad |
| 5th Prize Personal Labeller donated by Office National - | Winner: Ron Jones |
| 6th Prize Polo Shirt donated by Bowls at the Bay - | Winner: Dean Brake |

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Flyer Drop



I would like to tell of our day, Sandra and I delivered the flyers for Real, Buoys, Toys to the caravan parks around the "Bay", all 20 of them. We had VMR 01 to do the job and it was a great advertisement for us. Everyone was really receptive and couldn't do enough to help us. The first park was at Burrum and the response was so good I thought this is going to be a good day. However Sandra noticed a key board cut out of wood in the shape of a car and van and said she just had to have it, \$12.00, then I thought how much is this day going to cost me with 19 parks to go?

Then onto Burrum Heads caravan parks. There were about 35 cars and boat trailers parked at the boat ramp, we had extra flyers so we stopped and placed them under the windscreen wipers. We thought Toogoom has a boat ramp so we did the same there, but as it was such a perfect day and the water looked divine and we were working so hard it was coffee time, at Goodies. So on we went talking and explaining what was going on. When we arrived at the caravan park in Margaret St I pulled a "U" turn and parked outside as there was not a lot of visitors space in most of the parks. As we left the vehicle 2 young girls about 14, 15 years old were walking past when one said and I quote "YOU GUYS ARE AWSOME ". As I work in the radio room I took it to mean everyone at VMR is awesome but probably the boat crews in particular.

I had a great morning and looking back on it I think "this is why I enjoy and get so much satisfaction from helping people ", a job worth doing.

Clive- Senior Radio Operator

VMR Hervey Bay Radio Frequencies

VMR Hervey Bay Call Sign - VMR466

Urgan 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

Riverside Christian College Morning Tea



Thursday 8th September 2016

A Thank You from a Community Organisation.

Volunteer Marine Rescue Hervey Bay along with S.E.S, Rural Fire Brigade, Police, Ambulance, Q.F.E.S., Tow Truck service, Fraser Coast Councillors and our Mayor were invited by Riverside Christian College to attend a morning tea.

The event was organised by students from years 11 and 12 to thank the various services for their support to one of the students who was recently involved in a traffic accident. The students felt the need to thank rescuers and to acknowledge how important our roles are within the community.

This next generation of young adults wish us to understand that we are respected within the community and that our organisations deserve more affirmation. Their words not mine.

The school Captains ran the morning and presented all groups with a certificate of appreciation.

Students approached us as individuals and asked questions as to what our work involved and how we chose the service that we work for.

An excellent morning tea was provided by the students who were proud of their contributions and made us all feel very welcome.

Approximately 30 representatives attended the event and all left with a smile on their faces and a few kilos heavier.

Many Thanks to the students and teaching staff for organising the morning.

Dave Marshman
Operations Manager
VMR Hervey Bay

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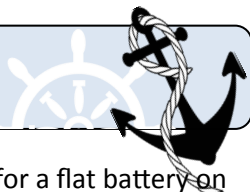
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Activations



Friday, 20 May – A mid-afternoon call on the show day holiday for a flat battery on the Artificial Reef by a 5m vessel had Hervey Bay RSL Rescue on the water.

Wednesday, 1 June – A QAS Medivac to King Fisher Bay for a fractured elbow meant an early evening run for the crew on Hervey Bay RSL Rescue

Monday, 6 June – Two boaties had their boat swamped and sunk in high winds on Sunday afternoon 5 June. They managed to swim to Fraser Island around Awinya Creek. Next day, one walked five hours to Wathumba Creek and raised the alarm. The Water Police activated us at around 1930 Monday night. Hervey Bay RSL Rescue embarked with a paramedic and 4 crew. Conducted searches along the coast picking one up at Wathumba and one just south of Awinya Creek. Their boat was washed up on the beach.

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Activations– continued



Sunday, 12 June – A mid-afternoon QAS callout for a medivac saw Hervey Bay RSL Rescue with two ambos embark from Urangan Boat Harbour to King Fisher Bay. With a gusting south easterly there was some chop on the water and the ambos requested that they return on MV Amaroo which was over there at the time.

Tuesday, 21 June – An early evening call from the Water Police to the after-hours duty operator for a yacht aground in Yankee Jack creek with a split keel. The police wanted the vessel towed back to Urangan Boat harbour however the skipper decided he wanted to stay where he was.

Sunday, 26 June – A late morning run up to Wathumba Creek to assist a 7m tinny broken down with 3 people on board. Hervey Bay RSL Rescue headed up there at a pace to allow the tide to rise enough to get through the creek mouth. After a slow trip through the mouth we got a tow on and headed back to Urangan Boat Harbour

Later that afternoon, a vessel reported running out of fuel only 2nm from Urangan Boat Harbour. A quick trip to deliver 40ltrs of fuel saw them on their way.

Later that night a QAS call for a Medivac from King Fisher Bay saw Hervey Bay RSL Rescue head over in calm seas. The patient was on the wharf when we got there and then a quick trip back via the main channel.

Thursday, 30 June – A midnight QAS call out for a medivac to King Fisher Bay. They made it back and were wrapped up by 0230.

Friday, 1 July – A zodiac tender from a 12m sailing cat was heading to Urangan Boat Harbour for fuel and it too ran out requiring a tow into Urangan Boat Harbour around 1800 from just outside the harbour. The crew provided a short tow with

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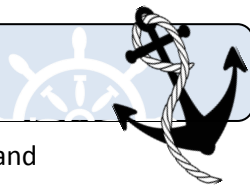
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Activations– continued



Hervey Bay RSL Rescue back to the fuel pontoon. We used a grand total of 4 litres for this job.

Saturday, 2 July – A breakdown for a 3.7m tinny with 2 people on board at the bottom of Big Woody Island around South Point saw a mid-morning tow for the duty crew on Hervey Bay RSL Rescue, tow them back to the harbour.

Monday, 4 July – A midday call from a 13.5m yacht which went the wrong side of EU1 stuck on the bank with the tide falling. By the time the crew arrived in Hervey Bay RSL Rescue there was nothing they could do for him so they returned to base. The yacht got off the bank around 1700 that afternoon.

Sunday, 10 July – We received a radio call from a small tinny with an outboard that wouldn't start on the western side of Big Woody Island about 2nm south of Round Island with a dropping tide requiring a tow. The crew headed out and returned the boat to Urangan Boat Harbour about an hour later.

Tuesday, 12 July – A very early morning QAS activation to medivac patient back to Urangan Boat Harbour. The crew went out in Hervey Bay RSL Rescue around 0200 with two paramedics on board and brought the patient back to base.

Wednesday, 13 July – A visiting NSW 4.5m tinny had problems starting the motor around midday about 1.5nm NE of Urangan Boat Harbour. Hervey Bay RSL Rescue provided a jump start and followed him back into the harbour.

Wednesday, 20 July – A late afternoon activation for a 6m cruiser located at the Southern Gutters with possible water in the fuel. Hervey Bay RSL Rescue headed out and got them back in the harbour around 2200.

Thursday, 21 July – A quick early morning job for Hyne Timber Rescue to tow a 4m vessel back to Urangan Boat Harbour from around Round Island.

Later that evening QAS required our services to assist a patient back to Urangan

Weather

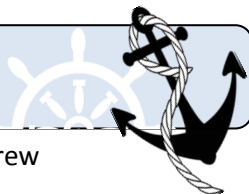
VMR Hervey Bay broadcasts weather reports from the Bureau of Meteorology at:

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.

Activations– continued



Harbour from King Fisher Bay with a dislocated shoulder. The crew on Hervey Bay RSL Rescue with two paramedics embarked.

Saturday, 23 July – Another QAS activation to King Fisher Bay for Hervey Bay RSL Rescue

Sunday, 24 July – An afternoon activation for a 7.5m cruiser with a broken drive shaft up around Awinya Creek saw Hyne Timber Rescue head up to provide a tow back to Urangan Boat Harbour

On completion of that job, another one came up for a 5m cuddy cab with an oil problem for his outboard that required a tow back to harbour from around Middle Bank South mark. They wrapped it up by a bit after 1800.

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WHAT'S YOUR NEXT PROJECT?

Activations– continued



Wednesday, 27 July – A mid-afternoon call for an 8m sail cat that had drifted away around McKenzies while the master was ashore. Hervey Bay RSL Rescue went out to pick up the master off the beach and located the sail cat. They then put the master back on board his boat.

Friday, 29 July – Around 1930 hours, the after-hours radio operator got a call from Police communications that a vessel with 2 people on board had grounded on Round Island and required assistance. Although not a police activation Hervey Bay RSL Rescue departed to the coordinates which were on Pelican Bank. We located a 4.7m centre console tinny high above the water line on a dropping tide and proceeded ashore on Daffy Duck to assess the situation. The vessel was stuck firm and two people were in shock with minor injuries from hitting the bank at speed. The vessel was anchored fore and aft and the two people transferred to Hervey Bay RSL Rescue for transfer back to the boat ramp.

Saturday, 30 July – An early start at 0500 to catch the incoming high tide on Hervey Bay RSL Rescue to recover the grounded tinny from the previous night. With Daffy deployed again, the anchors were retrieved and a tow line attached. While not yet floating there was enough wave action to break suction and the boat came around and into the water. A cold, uneventful tow was had back to Urangan Boat Harbour.

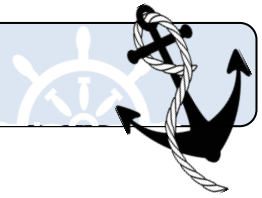
A mid-afternoon Medivac to King Fisher Bay to recover a male patient with a dislocated shoulder saw Hervey Bay RSL Rescue on the water to bring him back to Urangan Boat Harbour with a paramedic on board.

Sunday, 31 July – A busy day with three activations. At 1300 a call from a 5.6m cruiser with flat batteries requiring a jump start off Moon Point. Hervey Bay RSL Rescue got him underway again.

An hour later a tinny with mechanical problems required a tow from the top of Big Woody Island back to Urangan Boat Harbour.

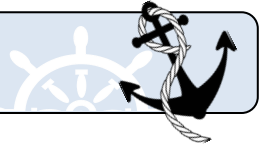
Immediately after that one, a 5.5m half cab with engine problems at the SW end of Big Woody Island required a tow.

Activations– continued



Saturday, 6 Aug – What started out as a general training run quickly turned into an activation for a broken down 5.5m half cabin out near NU2. Hyne Timber Rescue successfully towed him back to UBH.

Radio Courses



If you have a VHF radio on your boat, someone on board must have a licence to use it. At VMR Hervey Bay, we hold regular training courses and supervise the exam necessary for you to gain your radio qualification.

We train and examine two courses:

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

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

Date for the course and exam (for both of the above) are as follows in 2016:

12th November

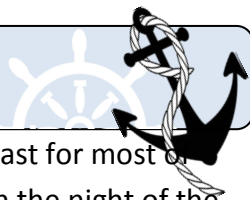
The course starts at 08:30am and takes approx. 3½ hours to complete. You then sit the exam which takes up to an hour.

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 register for a course, please call in to our office or phone 4128 9666.

Census Day 2016



This year's Census collection has now been and gone (at least for most of us!). In light of what happened to the collection website on the night of the census and the troubles people had getting forms, I would like to fill you in on just one activity to show how much trouble the Australian Bureau of Statistics does go to in collecting the data.

Prior to Census day, VMR Hervey Bay was asked to supply a boat and crew to distribute census forms to people travelling through our area by boat.

So on Tuesday, 9 August, I was at the base early to prepare Hervey Bay RSL Rescue for a long trip. Along with me were crew Col and Dave and Skipper Tom. The boat was prepared with full fuel tanks and plenty of drinking water.

Shortly after, census officer Luke arrived with a couple of bags of forms all wrapped in plastic bags.

Hervey Bay RSL Rescue left the pontoon shortly after 8.00am and began its first leg along the shoreline from Urangan to Burrum Heads. The low tide meant that we were not able to cross the sand spit that runs several miles north from the end of Urangan Pier. However, for the first time recently, there were no boats anchored along the shoreline from Urangan right through to Point Vernon, so we were able to continue our course outside the sandbank.

Around Point Vernon and a quick look at Gataker's, Eli Creek, Dundowran and Toogoom proved negative. We then continued to Burrum Heads. Still no forms distributed.

The next leg was a long one from Burrum River across to Sandy Cape lighthouse – about 1.5 hours. Getting a little lumpy but well within our experience. Halfway across we spotted our first pod of whales, with one “tail slapping” to show us it was there. We eventually saw about 6 pods of whales – plenty about.

Census Day 2016



Nothing around Sandy Cape so we turned to come back down the inside of Fraser Island. Leaving Sandy Cape behind.

Finally a target! As we approached Rooney's Point we could see an 11m catamaran cruising along under genoa alone. We came around their stern and hailed them. 8 adults on board were enjoying coffee, cheese and biscuits for morning tea while the boat cruised lazily under autopilot. They had a good laugh at our request and then asked for a couple of forms. We came alongside and passed the forms over at the end of a boathook. Big wave and we pulled away to continue our mission.

Next boat was a trawler anchored up and with its booms out. No sign of anyone aboard so we hailed them with our loudspeaker. 2 trawlermen popped their heads up from the cabin where they had obviously been asleep. Even though we woke them they graciously accepted the forms.

Next into Wathumba Creek. The tide was full by now, but even so we picked our way in gingerly. A large catamaran inside and a cruiser just outside the creek. However the crews of both had already completed their forms online. Another boat in the creek but with no crew aboard.

Carefully picking our way out of the creek, we continued along Fraser. A number of yachts were located along the island. Some crews had already made provision to do the census but several more forms were distributed. Everyone was surprised to be hailed by a census officer on the water.

Back to harbour, refuelled and boat back on pontoon by 1700. Over 130 nautical miles travelled and many forms distributed.

Brian Stumer




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