



Volunteer Marine Rescue

Southport-Surfers Paradise Association Inc.

ABN: 28 929 833 597

PO Box 866 Southport Qld 4215

t 07 5591 1300 f 07 5532 0331 e southport@vmraq.org.au

MINUTES OF FORUM MEETING HELD 1 DECEMBER 2009

1 MEETING OPENED

Chairperson, Steve Pomas, opened the meeting at 19.10 hours and welcomed all members.

2 ATTENDANCE

As per attendance book

3 APOLOGIES

As per attendance book plus Diana Gibson

4 PREVIOUS MINUTES

MOVED THAT Minutes of meeting of 10 November 2009 be accepted, with Steve Pomas instead of Steve Modra on callouts.

Proposed: Scott Gregory

Seconded: Dave Mac

Motion carried

5 BUSINESS ARISING

Uniforms – no outcomes from previous uniform committee. Therefore will formalise the new committee to look into it

6 NEW MEMBERS

7 PRESENTATIONS by President

- a. Craig Moore – Crew
- b. Alyssa Peisley – Crew

8 CREW REPORTS

Black Crew – Ken Gibbs

- 1. Pristine reputation has been tarnished: Black crew had had 2 crews but reported on one last forum.
- 2. I'd like to clear my good name as I work from calendar month, instead of from forum to forum, so several times per year there may be a difference; I looked through SOPs etc for guidance – to no avail. I have my head held high – I have done no wrong in reporting on Calendar months instead of Forum months.
- 3. 2 crews in November
- 4. Ist Crew:
 - 4.1. Full complement of 9 members – only 2 jobs. First was meant to be simple; came in early to complete. Supposedly there was a broken down vessel just outside the Seaway, to be towed to Loders Creek. However, it was actually 6 nm south of the Seaway; also discovered that Loders Creek does not have much water at low tide.
 - 4.2. Then we completed another small tow job from Wavebreak to a boat ramp.
 - 4.3. 1 pr job – Bruce Anderson and friends for a run around the Broadwater, running in MR 1
 - 4.4. 15 hours/344L/\$110

5. 2nd crew – welcomed Kirby as our new member
 - 5.1. Trev came in for the night as she had been doing her boat licence.
 - 5.2. Without MR3 therefore only Ken was able to skipper a vessel
 - 5.3. Towed 18 foot half cabin from Currigee to Horizon Shores
 - 5.4. Towed a 38 foot yacht off a mud bank just near Deep Hole, just near where earlier in the day another yacht had run aground and we'd been unsuccessful in towing it off.
 - 5.5. 6hours/200L/\$260 + 1 membership

Blue Crew – Adam Sexton

1. 1 crew – not very busy
 - 1.1. First job at 5.50 released Black crew early. Vessel that ran out of fuel at the Seaway, towed to next door to Steve Modra; luckily we knew the way.
 - 1.2. Night run to Whalleys
 - 1.3. Big charting exercise – challenging but good
 - 1.4. Between 1 and 3pm a large storm blew up. Vessel wanted to go to Rudy Maas from Southport Yacht Club. Jacobs Well VMR refused to put boats in the water due to electrical activity and blowing 40 knots. Therefore the crew brought the vessel back to base to await storm clearing, then towed up to meet Jacobs Well at Measured Mile.
 - 1.5. Delivered tide time tables
 - 1.6. PR runs for Merv's Snooker Club.

Red Crew – Peter Barker

1. 1 crew
 - 1.1. Started with new ritual – refuelled both boats at start of crew – filled a couple of hundred litres.
 - 1.2. Welcomed new boy on the crew, Roy Patterson.
 - 1.3. Thanks to Craig Moore for doing a double shift
 - 1.4. 9 activations with 2 boats and 1 skipper – 6 training exercises and only 3 jobs
 - 1.5. 1 jumpstart at Wavebreak
 - 1.6. Call taken from Surf Lifesaving; vessel needed tow urgently off Surfers — Found that Surf Lifesaving had wanted a broken down jet ski out of their area so had tied the jet ski with 2 men to the shark nets to get them away from the shore
 - 1.7. 4.45pm Tow job called in – requested tow to Southport as out of fuel; only short tow 2.5 Nm from Jumpinpin.
 - 1.8. Nowhere near enough food on board. When almost there, Jake put in GPS coordinates and realised vessel was south of Point Lookout
 - 1.9. 26.5 Nm away – swapped 20 min on/off driving as the conditions were tiring to drive in; maintained 20 knots as wished to reach them before dark in order to reduce complications with setting up the tow and locating the vessel (75 foot). Took 1.5 hours to reach them; luckily they drifted towards us 2.5 Nm in that time.
 - 1.10. Managed to add 4 knots to his rate of progress – 4 hour tow job.
 - 1.11. At the Seaway – full run out tide.
 - 1.12. Took 20 min to get up the length of the Seaway.
 - 1.13. Assistance from Coastguard 2 and Yellow crew in MR1 to dock at the fuel wharf; everything went smoothly though CG2 nudged the bow of the vessel rather hard when bringing the nose around; however 4 crew on the dock at that stage managed to prevent damage.
 - 1.14. Owner was very pleased with the assistance given and paid \$860/6 hrs – Thanks to the crew who accompanied me on this job as it all went smoothly: Dave Palmer (I think he'll come back), Jake, Craig Moore & apologies to Yellow crew for keeping them out so late.

Yellow Crew – Merv Handley

1. Only had 1 boat as Red crew had other boat
2. Had a call from another vessel supposedly off Surfers, whose vessel wouldn't start. Then a friend called to say he'd been electrocuted. Water police organised event. We ferried paramedics to meet up

with this vessel, and were to bring the patient back to hospital. Coast Guard were activated to bring the vessel back.

- 2.1. When arrived, he appeared OK walking around. Paramedics refused to go onboard his vessel due to significant swell. Towed the vessel back as QAS felt he could stay on his vessel and be examined once the boat was docked. About an hour later, we received a call from Coastguard who were looking for the vessel offshore, however couldn't find the GPS coordinates. Ambos cleared the patient. Vessel towed back to Runaway Bay. No money received.
3. Sunday, 3 small tow jobs. 14.5 hours on the 2 boats, after MR2's run with Peter.
4. \$200/340L, and an incident free crew.

Green Crew – Scott Gregory

1. 1 crew – quiet until 2pm then inundated with jobs while setting up Christmas party
2. Friday night's function – last of the party 'kicked out' at 12.30. As they left, they dropped about stubbies just outside the Base, so as the crew had to clean all that up, only got to bed about 1.30am.
3. Did some offshore training in MR2 at night with Tim and Peter
4. Jacko did inshore training run with the radar; the next morning he almost knocked off Bruce's record with Dave Downie's radio report – about 10 seconds short
5. Trialled new motors offshore MR1 though not much conditions
6. Jacko did docking training at marina mirage
7. Peter H had to leave during the day as he now works with Rodney, teaching boat licence courses
8. Did a tow job from the Seaway to Bayview Harbour
9. One incident – had a telephone call from QPS regarding a person on the beach who saw a kite surfer injured during a heavy landing and never come back up – MR1 went flat out searching for kite surfers at Carters Bank, also known as "Kite Island"
10. MR2 finished their job at Bayview Harbour so returned to assist with the search.
11. Then we got called out to a dog in distress at Labrador – another kite surfer's dog was swimming but exhausted – however the dog then ran straight back in the water; so all ok
12. Towed boat off the bank at Aldershots; Tim's first job off sandbank after finally managed to get rid of the other boat that was trying to help; all they were worried about was getting their fender back.
13. Did a jumpstart at Wavebreak
14. Re-anchored a Sundowner houseboat at Wavebreak

White Crew – Dave Mac

1. 1 crew
2. We checked on the relocated houseboats that Green crew had been involved with
3. Reviewed another houseboat that had anchored itself in the Seaway overnight.
4. A couple of tows, 2 off the sand. 1 tow in south arm of the Coomera River – a yacht – drew 2.9 m and was in the channel, trying to exit Sovereign Islands
5. Training, some PR runs, 1 jumpstart
6. Had expected more PR runs around midnight after the Christmas party
7. Offshore runs with new motors – however conditions got rougher, and over 1.5m isn't worth playing in until the motors get fixed

Callouts – Steve Pomas

1. Little to report on.

9 REPORTS FROM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1. Search & Rescue Controller – Steve Pomas

1. Crew movements – Roy from White crew to Red crew. Kelly from Red crew to Green crew.
2. 1 incident on Merv's crew. The incident came under review; now finalised.
3. Peter and I met water police again to meet re: tsunami crisis. Small turnout 5 people only. Coastguard did not attend. Minister wants plans in place for what all organisations would do in the case of a threat or event. Need policy to state this – to be drafted.

4. Initially they had wanted us to put to sea etc. however there is now more relaxed attitude to what they expect from us. Therefore plan to be submitted to the Minister for approval. Simple plan (will be drafted as a SOP). Text alerts will come to SRC phone. Seaway Tower to evacuate. Base – if there is a crew on duty, it will be left to the Duty Skipper's discretion as to whether to move or leave boats. If mid week, crew and radio operators are to leave with the logs. 1 in 10000 year thing, but we are ready.
5. A few opportunities to do Christmas day and New Years Eve crews. Can be on crew or on call. Need to be sober. Need at least 2 skippers and 5 crew.
6. Also please do let know if are available through Christmas period
7. Scooter discussed Green crew are rostered on to 2010 Christmas Day.

2. **President** – Peter Cartwright

1. Little to say, except thanks for good year.
2. Insurance policies – email from Michael Kyle. Seems substantial improvement but need to clarify some items. Briefly, personal accident cover – increased to \$500K (unable to afford \$1mill). Loss of wages top-up has been reinstated, wasn't in place from 2004-2007. Max sum of \$500/week. Top up to Workcover amounts.
3. Question about cover during training in adverse conditions – wasn't covered; we are now.

3. **Vice President** – Adam Sexton

1. Christmas Party – thanks to all the organisers.

4. **Secretary** – Kate O'Shea

1. Nil.

5. **Treasurer** – Bev Weldon

1. Thanks to those who went to Runaway Bay Marina Boatshow – 11 new 2-year memberships. \$724 worth of raffle tickets.
2. Raffle tickets – need money back before Australia Day. Crews to sell tickets on crew if possible please. Sellers required at Centro shopping centres and Carrara Markets to help sell raffle tickets.
3. So far have covered costs only – need to work hard to get past this amount to allow profit.
4. Money to be placed in admin box
5. Will have lots of jobs – try to get money on the job otherwise we find it hard to recap the costs – only Visa/MasterCard /cash/ cheque/Bartercard. Amex and Diners cost more money therefore not available. Question from the floor: Can it be looked into whether we can get funding? However it is very rare to get payment through Amex or Diners and incurs increased costs
 - 5.1 Management committee to look into and report back.

1. **Operations Controller** – Glenn Norris

1. Please check lost property.
2. High pressure cleaner – all ready to go. Read instructions please.
3. Steve Pomas has been working with setting up MR1's new engines with the main Suzuki manager, Suzuki technicians and mechanics. Steve reported: Suzuki believe the issues stem from the engine height and propellers. Trialled smaller props that are extra-cupped. Did runs for comparison with both props, looking at speeds, fuel, and different revs – however the boat is still not correct. The cavitation was improved with the new props however the performance is nowhere near as good as before. New props on for the next week so please comment. It needs to be used more. Take it offshore with care.
 - 3.1 They believe the engines are still sitting too low; however there is only one more bolt hole to raise them, so to raise them sufficiently, they need to get plates made to bolt onto the back of the transom.
 - 3.2 Many different opinions of what should be done, however we need to listen to the Suzuki techs, as they are the experts in this. If they don't get it right, we'll keep hassling them until it is right. This is to be done straight away.

4. MR2 has had no problems – Chris Leech commented unable to get any revs in reverse – noted today. Max 1500 revs. Will be looked into.
5. MR3 to be delivered Saturday – new bags surrounding – insurance job. Was cut on edge of our pontoon while the trailer was away; therefore now please position MR3 further forward on pontoon. Worse damage than initially realised.
6. MR2 and 3 will be serviced on Monday.
7. Problems from the floor:
 - 7.1 MR2 2 dials kept flashing – Ken agrees. Many goes to get fixed, was meant to be looked at today, but Suzuki techs did not get time. Aware of problem; will continue to endeavour to get fixed.
 - 7.2 MR1 – 1 horn broken off therefore only 1 horn.
- 8 First Responder – QAS are keen for us to get involved and to train our active crew members. Meeting has occurred looking into this with QAS, who explained the details further. No decision has yet been made regarding
 - 8.1 First Responder = pre-paramedic arrival care. Meeting to be held on Tuesday 15/12/09 6pm for all who are interested – to explain what the training involves. Ask questions. Each person will have to apply for the program – will include criminal checks etc. Won't be full paramedic training. Looking for anyone who may wish to – hoping for 2 people per crew, but not compulsory.
 - 8.2 Show of hands demonstrated some interest.
 - 8.3 No individual cost involved. VMR Southport will be given subsidies from QAS to be involved, if we pursue it.
- 9 Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

2. Communications Controller – Jacob Stenberg

- 10 MR1 aerals repaired
- 11 MR2 phone broken - to be repaired
- 12 27mHz radio on MR1 not working - to be repaired
- 13 External mike holder being tracked down
- 14 Grants – Peter Holliday and Jacob are securing a \$15k grant to replace all radio sets, and a new tracking system for boats. State will move to new commercial tracking system – AIS. International system, to be used instead of SeaTrack.

3. Radio Operations Controller – Diana Gibson

- 15 Apology
- 16

4. Committee Member 1 – Syd Richards

- 17 Nil

9 GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Peter Cartwright
 1. Marie Burr – has had a stroke about one week ago and then fell over, so also had a head laceration. Appears to be recovering quite well, in Gold Coast Hospital; no visitors or phone calls at this stage.
 2. Question from Scott Gregory - Are we covered driving to and from VMR under the insurance? President confirmed that we are covered.
2. Guy Couborough
 1. Thanks to all. Training for this year is almost complete for 2009.
 2. Meeting to be held on 15/12/09 7pm – trainers and assessors meeting
 3. Thanks to those trainers and assessors for their efforts this year; it's been a huge learning curve within the new system and a huge job well done by everybody; We aim to improve it more next year.
3. Merv Handley
 1. Christmas Eve – there will be an open bar and a few nibbles 4 – 7pm; all welcome to attend
4. Peter Barker
 1. Building Committee – general discussion on building needs led by Peter Barker
5. Steve Pomas
 1. Message from Jill. Please try to find out membership number during the job, even if it needs to be looked up after you've returned to base. Very hard to find membership numbers afterwards due to past members and multiples of the one member in the database. This will be greatly appreciated and will help out the office volunteers.

10 NEXT MEETING – MEETING CLOSE

- 10.1 Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2010 at 1900.
- 10.2 Raffle drawn. The meeting was declared closed at 2020

Signed: CHAIRPERSON:
Name: STEVE POMAS

SCRIBE:
KATE O'SHEA