



# **Volunteer Marine Rescue**

**Southport-Surfers Paradise Association Inc.**

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## **MINUTES OF FORUM MEETING HELD 2 FEBRUARY 2010**

### **1 MEETING OPENED**

Chairperson, Steve Pomas, opened the meeting at 19.01 hours and welcomed all members.

### **2 ATTENDANCE**

As per attendance book

### **3 APOLOGIES**

As per attendance book plus Diana Gibson, Syd Richards, Bev Weldon, Roy Patterson, Dave Mac, Toni Watson.

### **4 STANDING ORDERS ASIDE** - one minute's silence held in remembrance of Julie Elkes.

### **5 PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**MOVED THAT** Minutes of meeting of 10 December 2009 be accepted.

**Proposed: Scott Gregory**

**Seconded: Bruce Anderson**

**Motion carried**

## **BUSINESS ARISING**

### **6 NEW MEMBERS**

### **7 PRESENTATIONS** by President

- a. Jacob Stenberg – Inshore Skipper
- b. Kate O'Shea – Crew
- c. Suzanne Kienzle - Crew

### **8 CREW REPORTS**

#### **Black Crew – Ken Gibbs**

1. Thanks for welcome back
2. 4 crews – therefore must be special
3. 1<sup>st</sup> crew: thanks to Scooter for coming in
  - 3.1. 5 tow jobs \$380, 680 L
4. 2<sup>nd</sup> crew: thanks GT and Jake for coming in
5. 4 jobs, nothing substantial
6. 3<sup>rd</sup> crew: thanks GT and Al Curtis – very special crew – so busy we ran out of paper
  - 6.1. Seaplane crash – Information came through very inaccurately to start with – first we were told the plane was in the Seaway, then Dux Anchorage, then told only 1 person on board who was safe. Then heard 5 people injured – demonstrates we need to take information diligently. Our crew did remarkable job applying first aid and being able to assist. Good experience for everyone. Plane is a write off.
  - 6.2. \$420 almost 27 hr runtime 400L fuel
7. 4<sup>th</sup> crew: thanks to Craig Moore, 1 tow job only – very quiet 170L fuel for 7 hours runtime

### **Blue Crew – Adam Sexton**

1. Will advise you of the highlights only
2. 4 jumpstarts, 3 in marine stadiums – 1 guy twice
3. 1 grounding of a houseboat
4. 40 foot vessel in Aldershots – unable to tow off, therefore it sat there for 2 days before a call out crew was able to move it.
5. 11 other tow jobs 2 vessels from offshore and 2 jet skis from offshore
6. 1 medivac – a woman with headaches and nausea from Couran Cove
7. The crew then took her back next morning
8. Glen Norris and Roy Patterson both came in – thanks
9. 3 new recruits are very keen and 1 new member on the weekend – welcome to Jo

### **Red Crew – Peter Barker**

1. 3 fantastic crews
2. 1<sup>st</sup> crew: thanks to Glen Norris for coming in. Welcome to Roy Patterson for joining Red Crew.
3. One job with a yacht “Rebecca” aground at Aldershots – 6 inches waterline but 6 foot of mud - therefore unable to get close enough to even play a towline out to.
4. 2<sup>nd</sup> crew: near Christmas. Consisted of a few tows, PR runs.
5. last crew – doubled crew numbers with Watson family joining
6. Congratulations to Jake for becoming Inshore Skipper
7. a few jet ski tows from offshore
8. 1 job up at north of Jumpinpin after activation by Water Police, who advised vessel was 3 Nm offshore – however vessel was 10Nm north of the pin. No problems with tow, just long!

### **Yellow Crew – Merv Handley**

1. 1<sup>st</sup> job \$170, 140L fuel and 3 jobs
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> crew – over Christmas period – very very quiet – no phone calls even
3. highlight of day was Currumbin VMR calling to go off air at 1130 hours!
4. 400L fuel, runs outside, lots of good training.
5. 3<sup>rd</sup> crew – plenty of work with 1 jump start, 7 tow jobs, 1 dispersal
6. 500L fuel \$585

### **Green Crew – Scott Gregory**

- 3 crew –
- 1.1. 11/dec/09 thanks to Guy and Chris Leech
  - 1.2. held the practical component of shipboard safety module
  - 1.3. Called to an injured dolphin in the Seaway
  - 1.4. 2<sup>nd</sup> crew – thanks to Chris Leech, Pete Barker, and the crew from Friday night, also to Dave Mac, White Wrew and those who stayed after the New Year’s Crew.
  - 1.5. 3<sup>rd</sup> crew
    - 1.5.1. Bruce Anderson came in; welcomed back Mandy Watt to full time duties after a leave of absence.
    - 1.5.2. Completed a night run in MR2 to Whalleys Gutter with Peter Holliday.
    - 1.5.3. Crew is running very well considering what has recently happened.

### **White Crew – Steve Modra**

1. 3 crews: Only 4-5 jobs each crew – very quiet considering time of year.
2. Lots of training, tows, jump starts, destroying engines on MR2
3. That particular night – travelling up Aldershots, pitch black, vessel appeared out of nowhere. We managed to miss him, but when MR2 was put in reverse, boat still went forward – very disconcerting!!
4. Apart from that, 3 ordinary crews

## **New Year's Eve Crew – Chris Leech**

- 1 Thanks to crew members who attended
- 2 15 jobs – mostly small
- 3 a couple of medivacs
- 4 QPS attended one due to aggression at one at Wavebreak – very drunk people involved – uneventful outcome.
- 5 Al Curtis had to take Kelly to KFC for lunch
- 6 A couple of groundings and tows
- 7 Great fun crew, good to work with others
- 8 24.4 hr run time, used 436L
- 9 \$579 donations
- 10 Thanks to those who stayed back to support Green Crew re: Julie Elkes. Shows what the organisation is all about – no one said “no” to the request for help – we should all be very proud of our organisation.

## **Callouts – Steve Pomas**

1. Guess how many callout activations since last forum?...
2. 65 activations between December and February
3. Used no fuel!!
4. Very small group of members – thanks to those who participate
5. Merv and Roy in particular complete a significant proportion of these – around 75%
6. Thanks to everyone for extra efforts over Christmas period – all areas well covered as needed

## **Skipper's Crew – Australia Day**

- 6.1. This year Senior Skippers, Offshore Skippers, and invited guests (only Martin Hood in the end)
- 6.2. Ended up being exceptionally busy.
- 6.3. Only had MR1 and MR3 – very amusing experience, for example one crew consisted of Bruce Anderson, Chris Leech and Pete Barker attendin Millionaires Row in MR3
- 6.4. 15 activations including some offshore jobs
- 6.5. Medivac at Wavebreak – Scooter did excellent job with patient. 3 inch cut on back of head from slipping downstairs on vessel.
- 6.6. Some left early – 5 left.
- 6.7. As got to 5 pm apprehension occurred in case of further jobs.
- 6.8. \$866 and 490 L of fuel
- 6.9. All had a good time
- 6.10. had informal meeting – Bruce A chaired
  - 6.10.1. BBQs – need to keep clean. Checklist to be made
  - 6.10.2. Roles of Senior Skippers on crew – to increase use
  - 6.10.3. Building modification and sleeping quarters – a lot of support for this from all skippers.
  - 6.10.4. Faster winch requested for MR3
  - 6.10.5. First aid kits – need plans in place to replace and update more regularly
  - 6.10.6. Visibility through windscreens of MR3 and MR2
- 6.11. New procedures have come about from legal proceedings –
  - 6.11.1. VMR Southport are not to attend to any unattended vessel unless written authority from Water Police or Water Police are in attendance.
  - 6.11.2. Our role is to ring Water Police
  - 6.11.3. General discussion with management of this if unable to contact waterpolice
  - 6.11.4. Glen Norris gave feedback that discussed same within VMRAQ state meeting
    - 6.11.4.1. If grave and imminent danger – different set of circumstances
  - 6.11.5. Water Police are to be sent a letter to clarify this
  - 6.11.6. If owner's permission given, can do.
- 6.12. Marina Protocol:
  - 6.12.1. If removing vessel from a marina, need to make courtesy call to marina management

- 6.12.2. In this instance, the owner was present however owed money from the marina, therefore marina is very upset with removal of vessel.
- 6.12.3. If marina says no – don't move vessel, call SRC
- 6.13. Phone numbers in middle of lock – emergency numbers to be placed in accessible spot

## 9 REPORTS FROM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### 1. Search & Rescue Controller – Steve Pomas

- 1. nil

### 2. President – Peter Cartwright

- 1. Projects
- 2. Sunshades for northern side of annexe
  - 1 Investigating possibilities for same
- 2. Investigating upgrade from Coastalwatch dial up to Telstra ADSL2+ and will save us \$60-\$80/month
- 3. Building subcommittee will be appointed next Management Committee meeting
  - 1. Currently, membership consists of John Lang and Martin Hood
  - 2. Nominations for other positions will come from Management Committee.
- 1. Memorial plaque to be engraved with Julie Elkes' name.
- 2. Actual plaque is for recognition of people past and present, not necessarily their passing.
- 3. Co-duty Skipper of Blue Crew – Management Committee has decreed this honour on Adam Sexton due to Steve Pomas' work commitments

### 3. Vice President – Adam Sexton

- 4. Confusion in New Member Introduction process – therefore all new potential members to come in on crew day
  - 1 Duty skippers to nominate 2-3 from each crew to review what needs to be told to potential new members to ensure that all members give consistent

### 4. Secretary – Kate O'Shea

- 5. Congratulations to Broadwater Electorate QLD Day Awards – Volunteer Award – Nominee Bev Weldon
- 6. Congratulations to GCCC Australia Day Awards – Gold FM Community Service Award
  - 1. Nominee – Tom Little
  - 2. Co-winner – Glenn Norris

### 5. Treasurer – via Peter

- 1 Apology from Bev being unable to attend
- 2 Break down from Australia Day Raffle – overall sales \$13379; net profit \$11 053.45
  - a. NB this only covers 2 months of our fuel costs!
  - b. Special commendation to Glenn Norris for his efforts to sell crews' tickets.
- 3 Julie Elkes' funeral day, we received over \$600 in donations from family and friends in her memory.

### 6. Operations Controller – Glenn Norris

- 1. Very pleased with receiving the Community Service Award – an award for all of us.
- 2. MR1 –
  - 1. Significant leaks– found source of 2 worst ones – horn is leaking for example
  - 2. Found leak in consultation with NoosaCat – salt water. In fuel tank compartment. Likely knocked when rafted or offshore at speed. Cracked breather pipe. Have pumped out about 30-40L out today. Will be fixed ASAP
  - 3. Port rear compartment leaking full of oil. Depth sounder oil. Tube that depth sounder sits in has broken – to be reviewed on Thursday – won't have depth sounder until it gets fixed.

4. Bollard on port side was leaking into compartment. Craig McCarthy to point out exact location.
3. MR2 –
  - a. Engine failure – rebuilt, now cables adjusted too. Appears to now be in working order. Fixed under warranty
  - b. Side door hinge – to be fixed tomorrow.
  - c. Not maintaining shine – perhaps need re-gel coating – to be investigated now
5. MR3 – sticky throttle
6. All boats now serviced in last week – because so busy had to be re-serviced in 6/52 not 3/12 like normal. Should last to Easter.
7. QAS First Responder – looking into grey areas – then to go to Management Committee
8. QLD Fire and Rescue – to work out fire transport plan on GC – have approached us – want to put box on our boats. Need to await QPS. Will be advised.
9. VMRAQ state meeting
  - a. Achieved a lot. Don't realise until these meetings how much Southport stands out over the other VMR
  - b. As of 30<sup>th</sup> June, VMR Point Danger to be affiliated with NSW instead of QLD. Most jobs have been in NSW.
    - i. Likely to lose 25% of their members – we may gain some members from that.
  - c. Legal examination of boat ownership etc currently underway.
  - d. Unattended vessels – discussed in depth. General discussion on Warlock.
  - e. A few injuries recently have occurred.
  - f. Audit of organisation – preliminary results presented – improved professionalism at the top.
  - g. Discussion of WA and NSW systems in comparison to QLD.

## **7. Communications Controller – Jacob Stenberg**

- i. Mobile phones all now replaced
- ii. Call for notification of problems from floor – speakers on commercial set of MR2 don't work – probably all 3 need replacing
- iii. 73 and commercial backlights faulty on MR3
- iv. MR1 – 73 has lower range than commercial – therefore may have aerial issues
- v. Hand held radios – only 4 still – please call Jake if this sort of thing occurs, instead of just advising at Forum meetings please.
- vi. 2 front aerials now replaced on MR1 to good effect
- vii. 2 back aerials to be replaced with smaller aerials as well.

## **h. Radio Operations Controller – Diana Gibson**

- i. Apology
- i. **Committee Member 1 – Syd Richards**
  - i. Apology

## 9 GENERAL BUSINESS

1. John Stanfield
  1. V Sheet – to be handed in today please.
  2. Comment on Glenn Norris's presentation re: VMRAQ – great to hear about what is happening outside our own squadron.
2. Terry Hunt
  1. Polo Shirts – have spoken to all crews – short vs long sleeves and white vs colour  
- Most want white short sleeves
  2. Proposal to be put to Management Committee next week with quotes, ideas to improve the shirts, 4 shirts as samples to be examined. General discussion re: same including options for shirt. To be presented next week to Management Committee.
3. Guy Coubrough
  1. Thank you to Terry to do the uniform shirt – can be a thankless job.
  2. Training starts next week – everyone is ready.
  3. Seamanship – Planning and Navigation – Manoeuvring vessels – Shipboard Safety.
  4. Could Duty Skippers please advise numbers coming for each training event.
  5. Will address getting the 4 urgent modules to be done – considering to do them some weekends.
4. Rob Sinclair
  1. Now and at previous forum meetings, camaraderie and mateship have been raised a lot. Earlier on this year, I had bad experience where had 2 weeks in hospital. Would like to pass on that Yellow Crew all contacted me, sent cards, visited and rang. Would like to thank my crew mates.
  2. Special thanks to Merv, Trevor, Al, Suzie, Rob Fisher, Jason and Craig for their support – you are all great examples of camaraderie and mateship.
5. Glen Jackson
  1. I have finished up with VMR – would like to thank all the skippers and crew for their friendship and training and support over the years. I hope to be back sometime in the future.
6. Peter Barker
  1. Insurance – to be clarified next Forum.
  2. Perpetual plaque arrangement – will need to be re-visited. Remains on list of things to do
7. Merv Handley
  1. Bar – a few anomalies with money in the bar. Every duty skipper has a key for crew only. Whoever opens the bar is responsible – you will be given a bill if you open it and there is a discrepancy.
  2. Better care needs to be taken.

## 10 NEXT MEETING – MEETING CLOSE

- 10.1 Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 2 March 2010 at 1900.
- 10.2 Raffle drawn. The meeting was declared closed at 2048

Signed: CHAIRPERSON: .....  
Name: STEVE POMAS

SCRIBE: .....  
KATE O'SHEA