



# 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

### Forum Meeting

**Date:** 06 February 2018

**Time:** 1905

**Venue:** VMR400 Training Room

#### Attendance – As per signed register

Minute Taker	Glenn Norris
New Members	Niall Murray – Green Crew, Jeff Schorr – Red Crew
Apologies from the floor	Greg Turner, Annie Erichsen, Trevor Park

#### Presentations

##### MEETING ADDRESS – Martin Walsh

Martin advised that earlier this afternoon VMR Southport were activated by the Gold Coast Water Police and Qld Ambulance Service to assist in the search for a female who had gone missing after swimming in the Marine Stadium. VMR had activated 3 vessels and searched until sunset. Marine Rescue 1 is still at the scene assisting. Police Divers have activated from Brisbane.

Martin also advised of the current situation with the Seaway Tower. The SWT has been closed since January 4 when it was discovered that a septic blockage could not be rectified in a short timeframe. Since that time the SWT operation has been run from the Coastguard Radio Room at Loders Creek. Negotiations to rectify the problem have been taking place between the Gold Coast Waterways Authority, VMR and Coastguard and as a result a stakeholders meeting is to be held on Thursday 8 February to discuss the future of the SWT. VMR will be represented by Martin and MRQ State Manager Keith Williams.

Members will be kept informed of any outcomes.

##### Presentations – Crew Member of Year Awards

Black Crew – Dave Wade  
Green Crew – Martin Walsh  
Yellow Crew – Rex Scott  
Red Crew – Rob Sinclair

Overall winner – Dave Wade – Black Crew

#### 3.0 Previous Minutes

**3.1** **MOVED THAT** the minutes of the Forum meeting of 5 December 2017 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

**PROPOSED** Andrew Milne **SECONDED** Bruce Watson **MOTION CARRIED**

#### 5.0 Crew Reports

<b>5.1</b>	Green – Martin Hood	Had 3 crews for the period since last meeting. Martin is now fulltime Duty Skipper of Green Crew. 3 crews have consisted of 17 breakdowns, 3 sinkings, 2 out of fuel vessels and 1 medivac. Used over 1500L of fuel and received \$3163 in donations. Keith Williams from VMRAQ attended a 24 hour crew on 30/12/2017 to see how VMR Southport operates. He was very impressed. Keith wrote a very nice email to Martin, congratulating the crew on their dedication and efforts.
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5.0	Crew Reports	
5.2	White – Dave McDonald	<p>On the 19 January 2018 Green crew were activated to a very serious QAS job where a female had been struck by a boat propeller. 2 VMR vessels attended, with 1<sup>st</sup> Responders, also transporting multiple Paramedic crews. It was a very horrific scene, and the lady was very well attended to by witnesses to the incident prior to VMR / QAS arrival. A student Police Officer who did a 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Course the day before was the first on scene. This immediate response possibly saved the ladies life. Water Police also attended and investigated the incident. The VMR crew also did a great job under the circumstances and lots of lessons were learnt. QAS also did an operational debrief which was also very much appreciated.</p> <p>Some points to note on these big jobs – QAS have improved the VMR 1<sup>st</sup> Responder tasking process, so these 1<sup>st</sup> Responders are ready to go very quickly once activated. Good communication is needed between all parties involved, QAS, VMR, Water Police. This was very good on this activation. The scene needs to be controlled of bystanders. Do this the best you can if Police aren't available. The right people need to be selected to attend. Some people are suited to these jobs, others aren't. Don't be afraid to stand back if you aren't suited to 1<sup>st</sup> Aid jobs. Above all, no-one can prepare for this type of incident. Remember the basics with 1<sup>st</sup> Aid, blood needs to go round and round and air needs to go in and out. Thank you to everyone involved in this job.</p> <p>Had 3 crews since last meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> crew 09/12/2017. 14 on crew. Stephen Hipkiss filled in. Only 2 jobs. Lots of training exercises. First job wasn't until 1230 in afternoon. Towed a 5M vessel from the Nerang River to Sorrento and then a late job from the Aldershots to the Jabiru island boatramp. Weather wasn't great for boating. 2<sup>nd</sup> crew – 30/12/17. 8 on crew. Sed Crest and Steven Hipkiss filled in. Very busy. Had 6 tows, 1 grounding and 1 pump out. Tows Sorrento to Runaway Bay, Wavebreak to the Grand, Seaway to Runaway Bay, Tipplers to Runaway Bay, and Pimpama River to Coomera Shores. All vessels were in the 4.5 – 8M range. Ungrounded a 15M yacht late in the afternoon. Very good crew. 3<sup>rd</sup> crew – 20/01/2018. 15 on crew. Trevor Park and Merv Handley attended for a couple of assessments. Had a tow from Outside Oates canal to a mooring inside Oates canal, a jetski tow to Runaway Bay Marina for fuel, towed a 15M houseboat from near Seaworld to the Marine Stadium, reanchored a large catamaran near Seaworld, towed an 8M vessel from Wavebreak Island to Runaway Bay, and towed a jetski from Couran to the Howard Street boatramp. Another good crew.</p>
5.3	Red –Rob Sinclair	<p>Had 3 crews since last meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> crew – 22/12/2017. 11 on crew. Greg Turner and Glenn Norris filled in. Quite busy. Had a 26ft vessel with a fouled anchor in the early evening. Several training runs later in the evening. During the day had 4 jobs, a tow of a 5M vessel Marine Stadium to Lands End, a tow of a 4M vessel Paradise Point to Hope Island, a tow of a jetski from Tipplers to the Broadwater boatramp and a tow of a 9M vessel Couran to Runaway Bay Marina. Great crew. 2<sup>nd</sup> crew – 12/01/2018. 8 on crew plus Dave MacDonald and Scott Gregory who came in for an assessment. 6 jobs for the crew. Had a flare sighting in the evening, however it proved to be nothing. Early morning were tasked to assist a small tinny sinking near Jumpinpin, however, were stood down mid trip. Had a jump start of a 10M vessel around breakfast time, then a tow of an 11M Cigarette boat from offshore to Runaway Bay Marina. Offshore was very messy and the passengers were seasick. Then assisted a 10M vessel out of fuel at Currigee. Towed to Runaway Bay Marina. In the afternoon ungrounded a 7M pontoon boat at Ephraim Island. A few training activations as well. A good crew. 3<sup>rd</sup> Crew – 02/02/2018. 9 on crew. Trevor Park filled in. Very ordinary weather. No jobs, just training activations. During a training run in the afternoon, Trevor Park unfortunately had an incident on Marine Rescue 2, fracturing his leg, offshore of the Seaway. He was transported to hospital by QAS. Bad ending to a good day</p>
5.4	Yellow – Peter Barker	<p>Had 3 crews since last meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> crew 23/12/2017. 10 crew. Trevor Park and John Wise filled in. Quite a busy day. Did some offshore training activities in the evening. Early morning assisted an 8M vessel in the Nerang River. Saturday afternoon got very busy. Towed a 4.5M tinny through the Seaway from offshore, towed an 8M vessel from Couran Cove to Hope Harbour, jumpstarted a jetski at the Timbers, jumpstarted a 5M bowrider at Paradise Point, and towed a jetski from Wavebreak Island to the Spit boatramp. All small jobs but a good crew. 2<sup>nd</sup> crew 13/01/2018. 11 on crew. John Wise, Trevor Park and Merv Handley filled in again. All up had 10 jobs and 5 training activations. Started the evening with a tow of a 10M vessel</p>



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5.0	Crew Reports	
5.5	<b>Black –Guy Coubrough</b>	<p>from the Nth Arm Coomera River to the Hope Island Resort. In the morning had a tow of a 9M vessel from Broadbeach Waters to the SYC. Mid morning tows of 2 vessels to the Broadwater and Boykambil boatramp. Got very windy in the afternoon and received numerous requests for assistance from drifting houseboats. Assisted vessels in the Marine stadium, on the Labrador foreshore and also at Ephraim Island. Late in the afternoon, a 12M vessel had engine failure near Wavebreak Island and went aground. 3 VMR vessels assisted in atrocious conditions but were successful in towing the vessel to Runaway Bay Marina.</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> crew – 03/02/2018. Very small crew. Only 7 people. Quite busy. 5 jobs and 5 training activations. Assisted to tow a 8M vessel near the Powerlines. 3<sup>rd</sup> time this person has been assisted recently. Had a tow from the Aldershots to Paradise Point, a tow of a jetski from the marine stadium to the Condor Apartments, ungrounding of an 8M vessel near the Grand, and assisted a 4M tinny with 12 Vietnamese POB, that was swamped on the eastern side of Wavebreak Island. Good crew</p> <p>Had 4 crews since last meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> crew – 15/12/2017 – 11 on crew. Peter Barker filled in. Very busy day. 9 jobs</p> <p>A jump start and a tow in the evening. Tow of a speedboat from the Dux to Tipplers and a jetski jump start at Jumpinpin in the morning. A tow from Runaway Bay to Boykambil and a tow from Currigee to Runaway Bay in the early afternoon, both small vessels.</p> <p>Mid afternoon towed a 13M Charter vessel from 6NM NE of the Seaway to Runaway Bay canals, via the Spit pontoon, where the passengers disembarked. A jetski ungrounding and a tow of a 5M vessel from the John Elkes Beacon to Parklands boatramp in the very late afternoon. Several training missions in between. A great crew.</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Crew – Christmas Night / Boxing Day 25/12/2018. 11 on crew. Peter Barker, Steve Phillips and Marnie Keith filled in. 6 jobs in all. A severe thunderstorm at the start of crew. Marine rescue 2 were mid tow of a vessel from the Seaway to Bundall canals. Crew got drenched. Had a QAS activation late evening to an elderly lady at Couran. Very quiet until early afternoon, then a yacht was ungrounded at Crab island. Late afternoon assisted a vessel to release a snagged anchor at Marina mirage and then a tow from Currigee to Allisee. Another great crew</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> crew – 05/01/2018. 12 on crew. Merv Handley and Greg Turner came in to do an assessment for Guy Coubrough. Went very well. Another busy day with 6 activations. Towed a 9M vessel Oates Canal to Runaway bay, then a 6M vessel Tiger Mullet Channel to Runaway Bay Marina. Early afternoon saw 4 jobs, a tow of a 7M vessel Runaway Bay to Runaway Bay Marina, a 10M vessel aground at Carters Bank, a 4M vessel tow to Couran, and a 5M vessel tow from near Charis to Runaway Bay Marina. Another great crew.</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> Crew – Australia Day evening 26/01/2018. 12 on crew. Peter Barker and Marnie Keith filled in. An exceptionally busy crew. Had 5 activations in the evening. Water Police requested VMR to transport 5 juveniles from Wavebreak Island to Runaway Bay after they had been involved in a fight. A jumpstart at Wavebreak Island, a tow from Wavebreak Island to Sovereign Island, a tow from Millionaires Row to Runaway Bay canals and another transport of people from Wavebreak Island to the Grand.</p> <p>During the day, a tow of a 6M Wake boat, Paradise Point to Boykambil and a 6M speedboat from Tipplers to Biggera Creek. Several training activations in between. Another great crew.</p>
5.6	<b>Blue – Scott Gregory</b>	<p>Had 3 crews over the Christmas period.</p> <p>On the crew in late December we completed 22 jobs and received almost \$2000</p> <p>Have been involved in various types of jobs over the break including a spinal injury on the Jumpinpin Bar.</p> <p>In the year of 2017, Blue crew were activated in 149 activation's, for jobs alone, not including training..</p> <p>We received just under \$22,000 in donations from the above jobs.</p>
5.7	<b>Callouts</b>	<b>Been very, very, very busy</b>
5.8	<b>Special crews</b>	<p>New Years Eve crew 31/12/2017</p> <p>12 on crew. Extremely busy. Thank you to all who attended. 11 jobs. Varied from</p>





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5.0	Crew Reports
	towing broken down vessels to QAS jobs, to sinking vessels to jump starts. A great effort from everyone who attended

6.0	Management Reports		
Item	Brief Discussion	Action/Outcome	Officer
6.1	<b>TREASURER</b>	<p>Finances are looking very healthy at the moment. Income this year is around about the same as last year, however, last year there was a bequest amount in the figures. This year that difference has been made up by a very healthy increase in membership revenue of almost \$9000. Marnie Keith has worked very hard on phoning expired members recently.</p> <p>Both member and non-member donations are also significantly higher at this time.</p> <p>Vessel maintenance is considerably lower this year as well, however, all 4 vessels are going to need money spent on them very soon.</p> <p>Fuel used is about \$1000 more expensive at the present time.</p> <p>Very happy. Keep up the great work</p>	John Kaus
6.2	<b>SECRETARY</b>	Nothing to report	Diana Gibson
6.3	<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	- <b>Not present</b>	Alan Coy
6.4	<b>SEARCH &amp; RESCUE COORDINATOR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Merv gave a rundown on the Christmas / New Year period of activations. Has been extremely busy. More than 300 activations in the past 3 months. A big thank you to all of those people who have helped out with callouts and extra crews. Extraordinary effort by everyone.</li> <li>- During the Commonwealth Games 2 VMR vessels will be left at a unit complex at Runaway Bay. Communications Controller John MacDonald has organised this as he lives in this complex. The Body corporate has approved 24 hour access to members. These vessels can be activated for midweek jobs or to transport crews / radio operators to their shift</li> <li>- Peter Barker has offered to spend the period of the Comm. Games at VMR, transporting members by boat / car etc. to their shifts, whatever is required</li> <li>- The Games are a very much unknown, so we may have to adjust as they go.</li> <li>- There was an incident on the weekend just gone. Trevor Park suffered a broken leg. An Incident Review Committee will convene to investigate this</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	Merv Handley
6.5	<b>COMMUNICATIONS CONTROLLER</b>	<b>Not present</b>	John MacDonald
	<b>RADIO OPERATORS CONTROLLER</b>	<b>Not present</b>	N/A
6.6	<b>OPERATIONS CONTROLLER</b>	<p>Reiterated everything Merv said about the great work contributed by the crews in the past few months. It was significantly busier than last year, which was also chaos. VMR Southport did almost 50% of the States activations over this period this year.</p> <p>The Rescue vessels are all running well, with no major problems experienced.</p> <p>Marine Rescue 4 is currently at the SYC getting its annual antifoul and detail, plus some other minor repairs. Will be back Thursday.</p>	Glenn Norris



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6.0 Management Reports			
Item	Brief Discussion	Action/Outcome	Officer
		<p>Marine Rescue 2 will follow next week for a good clean up as well.</p> <p>There has been a serious water leak into the port engine pod of Marine Rescue 2. The technicians believe an engine bolt is causing this, so it will be rectified at the same time. The numerous chips in the fibreglass will also be fixed.</p> <p>The Management Committee have approved the replacement of the engines on Marine Rescue 1. Currently negotiating with Mercury. A new model of engine is being released in April 2018. We may choose to fit these. More to come.</p> <p>Marine Rescue 3 has a crack in its windscreen. Will be fixed asap.</p> <p>Could anyone who has any equipment in the lockers in the boatshed please remove this asap as the lockers are being re-located as part of the boatshed upgrade.</p> <p>Thanks to Rex and his team for their work on the boat ramp.</p> <p>The radios on the boats are in need of replacement. I have spoken to John MacDonald re this and we will advise asap.</p>	
6.7	COMMITTEE MEMBER 1	Not present	Annie Erichsen
	COMMITTEE MEMBER 2	Nothing to report	Helen Stanfield
6.8	PRESIDENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Martin advised that MRQ have adopted a new computer portal. Because of the system Southport currently runs there was a lot of work that had to be done in the background for both systems to be compatible, however, everything is now up and running and working well. Any issues, talk to Martin.</li> <li>- There is also a new MRQ website. The web address stays the same, however, the site has been upgraded. Please have a look at this when you can.</li> <li>- As the 2018 Commonwealth Games get closer we are waiting on any final information that will enable us to complete our preparations, as far as making sure our members are able to get to their crew /shifts etc. Merv is looking after the repositioning of VMR vessels etc. More to come.</li> </ul>	Martin Walsh
6.9	UNIT TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR	<p><b>Guy -The 2018 Tuesday night training schedule is now on the notice board at the front door. Please try to attend as many of these courses as you can if you want to move forward in VMR. Please don't forget to advise the Instructor If you wish to attend a course.</b></p> <p><b>Guy - An Elements of Shipboard Safety Course starts next Tuesday evening 13 February. Those required to attend have already been advised. Practical training day will be Sunday 4 March.</b></p> <p><b>Ken - Has been several Skipper Assessments in recent times. Congratulations to all of those candidates who</b></p>	Ken Gibbs / Guy Coubrough



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6.0	Management Reports		
Item	Brief Discussion	Action/Outcome	Officer
		have been successful	

7.0	<p><b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b></p> <p>Rex Scott – Rex gave an extensive rundown on the repairs that have been carried out on the VMR boat ramp. It is unknown until the next series of low tides as to whether these have been successful. At this stage only the southern half of the ramp has been worked on. Rex will keep everyone advised on further progress.</p> <p>Scott Gregory – Scott gave a rundown on the MR3 repair / replacement project. Skippers have been asked to talk to their crews about what they would like. A lot of options have already been discussed and the project is ongoing.</p>		
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8.0	Lucky Door Prize –Jo Schon		
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Meeting Closed 2040 hours      Next Meeting 1900 hrs on Tuesday 06/03/2018

Minutes Signed

Next Forum Minutes Keeper is – **Glenn Norris**

**Next Forum BBQ – WHITE CREW**