Vsheet

Volunteer Marine Rescue
SOUTHPORT - SURFERS PARADISE



VOLUNTEER MARINE RESCUE
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SEPTEMBER 2026

FREE ISSUE



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anthony.cheeseman@raywhite.com
0431 322 773
raywhitesurfersparadise.com.au

ALAN WHITE
ELITE
PERFORMER 25-26

Volunteer Marine Rescue
SOUTHPORT - SURFERS PARADISE
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2025 - 2026

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PRESIDENT: Glenn Norris

2025 - 2026

Firstly, I must apologise for the delay in getting this edition of the V-Sheet (the last under the VMR Southport entity) to print, it's been extremely busy in every facet, as in case you haven't heard, VMR Southport has transitioned to Marine Rescue Qld (MRQ), with our Squadron now being affectionately known as Marine Rescue Qld – Southport East.

Despite a new name, a new uniform, newly sign written Rescue vessels, and lots of background administrative changes, our operation remains unchanged, and we stay committed to servicing the Gold Coast's boating and island communities 24/7.

We do the same activations, we are still located in the same place, our Active members are still as dedicated as ever, and its business as usual.

We also have a new Executive Leadership Team (á fancy term for Management Committee) to progress our business, and that group of people hold the same level of enthusiasm as those who have preceded them.

As the normal VMR Southport Management Committee year comes to a close, under my Presidency, I must admit it certainly has been a very different past 12 months, with lots of ups, and downs, uncertainty, confusion, and good and bad times, but nonetheless we have met all that has been thrown at us, and we have survived.

At time of writing, it is the one-week mark of our transitioning to Marine Rescue Qld. This Squadron was the final VMR Qld Squadron to transition to the new MRQ entity.

I would like to personally thank one and all for their support, trust, hard work, enthusiasm, and most of all their dedication, over the last 58 years of Air Sea Rescue Southport, and Volunteer Marine Rescue Southport, an Organisation for the members, and the community, in what has recognised VMR Southport as the busiest Marine Rescue Squadron in the country, over a long period of time.

This Organisation still exists, just under a different name. Under MRQ, with the Qld Government providing free waterside assistance for all marine users, there won't be a requirement for us to administer a membership program, as has previously been undertaken.

As membership was our largest connection to our members, in lieu of its disappearance we are forming a supplementary Supporters Association, so that we can still offer ancillary support to the new MRQ Southport entity.

All going well, and with a positive vote from the members, this Association will be known as 'Marine Rescue Southport Supporters Association'.

This will be run much like how Surf Lifesaving Clubs operate, with their Supporters Club supporting their operational side, with donations of equipment, member support, and welfare being core business.

Whilst on water service will be free of charge, financial donations from the boating public will still be very heavily sought under this new Association.

In continuing to support the great work that is being done, we would appreciate you continuing your membership contribution when it falls due, as this will still support marine safety, training, and support of our members, those very people who assist you in your time of need.

Within this edition of the V-Sheet you will find a printed letter, to you, the valued member, explaining the new Association in a little more detail.
Under the Supporters Association, it is planned that this magazine will continue to be circulated.

I have stepped down as President of VMR Southport, given this role no longer exists, as we have transitioned to MRQ.
My new role will be as President of the Supporters Association, to which I am very much looking forward.

Focusing back to VMR Southport, since our last V-Sheet edition, we have remained relatively busy on the water, which just seems the normal now, week in, week out.

Activations assisting the Qld Ambulance Service have been steady, and as these callouts can happen at any time, be it the middle of the day, or the middle of the night, we are always prepared.

There has been a very notable increase in vessel fires over the period, in fact they have almost tripled, and we have maintained a very good relationship with the Qld Fire Department through the support we offer each other.

continued on page 4 -

continued from page 3 -

As always, our relationship with the Qld Police Service, generally through the Gold Coast Water Police is very strong, and quite often I receive accolades, on behalf of the members, for assistance we have provided in search and rescue, and general circumstances.

The most recent exercise involving all of these Emergency Services, to which we contributed, was the Pacific Airshow, where everything ran very smoothly, despite strong winds keeping the multitude of spectator vessels off the water for the entire Airshow duration.

Another great achievement of the past few months has been the removal of the old, and replacement of the new deck of the Rescue Base outdoor function area.

This area had been tired, unsightly, and somewhat unsafe for some time, and apart from a little bit of poorly timed rain, the project went off without a hitch, and now this area is a sight to be seen, its clean and tidy, it's no longer unsafe, and it's a hit with partygoers at the increasing number of functions the repairs have generated.

Additionally, the local Curlews, Ducks, Magpies, Bin Chickens, and Bush Turkeys are also happy, as they have somewhere smooth and warm to leave their deposits, something they didn't have the benefit of with the old pavers!!!! You've got to love nature, and what it gives us.

We take great pride in our facility, and the efforts of the few members who spend hours on end providing Base maintenance is very much appreciated, as is commonly acknowledged by the attendees at the many and varied functions held at VMR Southport during the year.

Check our facility out if you have an upcoming birthday party, wedding, or special event. Inspections can be undertaken by simply calling our Rescue Base on 55 911300

The Seaway Tower has continued to operate efficiently, ensuring the boating public are protected whilst at sea. Moving forward MRQ should take over the landlord rights of this facility, so nothing should adversely change.

It has continued to be very noticeable of the declining number of Skippers logging on with the Seaway Tower for their journeys, for whatever reason, so please remember if you go offshore, let us know your intentions, so we can ensure you return.

If you don't know how to log on, the Seaway Tower operators will gladly talk you through the process.
Call on VHF Channel 73, or Phone 55 912948.

As has been undertaken annually over the last 28 plus years, VMR Southport attended the 2026 Sanctuary Cove Boatshow, for yet another fantastic result. If anyone is going to get their business name and product out in the general community, Sanctuary Cove is the place to do it. The Boatshow team have always been great supporters of VMR Southport. Thank you if you supported our cause at this year's Show.

Sadly, as the VMR era ends, may I wish the incoming Executive Leadership Team of Marine Rescue Qld – Southport East the very best of luck in taking on the challenge of moving this new business forward.

Thank you again one and all for your contribution to Team VMR Southport, you are the reason we have been so successful, year after year.



Please continue your support of MRQ Southport East, remembering, this is your Organisation, an Organisation you should be very proud of.
Please stay safe, and continue to rely on MRQ being your lifeline on the water

Neither the phone number of this Base, or the service should change

Glenn Norris
President
VMR Southport 2025-2026





FIRST MATE

LOVE BOATING? WE'VE GOT THE REST COVERED

Captain, You Didn't Buy a Boat to Become Its Full-Time Secretary

Listen Mate, owning a boat is a dream. The wind in your hair, the salt on your skin, the cold beer in your hand. But let's be real. The moment you start drowning in service reminders, maintenance logs, and booking repairs, that dream starts feeling like an admin job.

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FIRST MATE



NOTEABLE JOBS

by Glenn Norris

The owner of a vessel called VMR Southport recently to advise of running aground in the Coomera River.
The man stated his vessel was a timber Cruise boat, which was 93 feet long, and weighed 170 tonne.
Given that the wind was blowing at close to 25 knots from the south, and the mooring of the vessel was close by at the Marina, the man simply requested that a VMR vessel be available to assist as the tide rose, so that the stern of his Cruise boat could be pulled out into deeper water, at which time he could then take control, and maneuver into his mooring.
Just to add another risk, it would be night time before this could happen.
A VMR Crew attended, a risk assessment was undertaken, and a plan of attack was devised by both the VMR Skipper, and the other Skipper, and in no time the Cruise boat was free of the bottom, with only a light nudge required by the VMR vessel, and predominantly using its own steam, it was soon safely attached to its mooring.
A great result was achieved, with great teamwork, and communication.

The Qld Ambulance Service recently activated VMR Southport to transport Paramedics to a vessel in the northern Broadwater, whose three occupants were complaining of being unwell, given that they had eaten some field mushrooms, sourced from a walking track on South Stradbroke Island.
Thinking these mushrooms were the same variety as those typically bought at Woolworths, these people soon found out they were not, and nausea, vomiting, and diarrhoea set in quite quickly, resulting in them seeking medical assistance.
A VMR crew transported two Paramedics to the scene, who assessed the patients, all of whom were stable, and then transported them back to Labrador, where they were then further conveyed to hospital for ongoing treatment.
The golden rule is, when mushrooms have golden tops, don't eat them!!!!

A lady contacted VMR Southport recently to advise that her two teenage sons had embarked on an overnight camping trip to South Stradbroke Island, only to have someone tamper with their small runabout during the dark hours.
The boys had set up a tent north of Currigee, had spent the afternoon and evening fishing, having a great time, finally leaving their boat anchored off of the beach when they went to sleep.
On waking in the morning, the boat was exactly where it was left, however, when the boys left to go home, they had no way of starting their outboard, as during the night, their fuel tank had been stolen.
A VMR Crew attended and towed the vessel back to the Runaway Bay canals, with two very upset boys on board.

A jet ski rider presented at the VMR pontoon on a recent weekend, screaming for some medical assistance after he had smacked his head on the handlebars of his ski.
The rider had been trying to negotiate the shore break on South Stradbroke Island, and had misjudged a wave, landing very heavily, propelling his head forward, resulting in a couple of very nasty lacerations, one to the bridge of his nose, and the other near his right eye, with extensive bleeding.
Bleeding control was undertaken by VMR members, with his wounds then being dressed, so he could be transported to hospital, where his injuries were to be further treated.

The QLD Fire Department recently contacted VMR Southport, after they had received a call of a lithium battery overheating on a vessel near Wavebreak Island.
A Fire Crew arrived at the VMR Base, and with a VMR Crew ready and waiting, they were rapidly transported to the scene, where the battery was able to be safely isolated, and removed, preventing a fire.
A firefighting cache of equipment is stored at the VMR Southport Base, for quick deployment, and as we have seen a substantial rise in marine fires in recent months, this equipment has been used several times.

A midnight call for assistance was recently received, after a man called VMR stating that his yacht had blown aground near Runaway Bay.
Unluckily for the owner, the tide had dropped before he realised his predicament, and the vessel was hard aground when a VMR Crew arrived.
After taking some convincing that the water was too shallow, and the risk was too great of damaging his vessel if VMR attempted to unground him at that time, the man admitted defeat and decided to stay put.
Several hours later, the man called VMR again, informing them he had got himself off the sand, and was now safe.
Furthermore, given the time of night VMR attended, and given the blustery, windy conditions at that time, the yacht owner thought that was worthy of a donation to VMR, of which a very healthy contribution was made.
This just proves that the service VMR provides is very much appreciated by most people.

REMEMBER
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SOME STATS

ACTIVATIONS	FEBRUARY 2026	MARCH 2026	APRIL 2026
Towed Vessels	45	36	60
Jump Starts	0	2	1
Pump Outs	4	1	2
Transporting	0	0	0
Fire	0	1	1
Standby	0	0	0
Medical	4	2	5
Searches	2	3	1
Dispersals	1	1	3
Public Relations	2	2	7
Crew Training	51	85	75
Groundings	8	9	10
Other	5	11	8
Investgate	4	4	9
TOTALS	126	157	182

ACTIVE MEMBER PROMOTIONS/AWARDS

Active Members who have achieved higher ranking

Congratulations to:

RECRUIT
Derek Walsh
Rebecca Settree

CREW
Gavin Carpenter
Matt Hollstein
Jane Sansum
Robert Walker
Damien O'Mara

Order of Australia Medal
Glenn Norris

15 Year National Medal
Steven Hipkiss

25 Year Service Clasp
Jason Horn

45 Year Service Clasp
Greg Turner



News & Community

The Gold Coast Waterways Authority has marked 40 years since the opening of the Gold Coast Seaway, recognising four decades of supporting navigation, recreation and connectivity across the Gold Coast waterways network.

Since opening in 1986, the Seaway has become one of the city's most significant pieces of coastal infrastructure, helping shape the Gold Coast's identity as one of Australia's premier waterfront destinations.

Officially opened by then Queensland Premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen, the project represented one of Queensland's largest infrastructure investments of its time and reflected the confidence and ambition that helped shape the modern Gold Coast.

Central to the success of the Seaway is the Gold Coast Sand Bypass System — the first permanent system of its kind anywhere in the world and a pioneering engineering solution designed to maintain the natural movement of sand along the coastline while protecting the stability of the Seaway entrance.

The engineering developed on the Gold Coast would go on to influence coastal management internationally and remains recognised as a world-leading example of long-term coastal planning and innovation.

Together, the Seaway and Sand Bypass System continue to support navigation, recreation, coastal access and the ongoing resilience of the Gold Coast coastline.

Queensland Minister for Education and the Arts and Member for Surfers Paradise, John-Paul Langbroek said the anniversary recognised both the historic significance and ongoing importance of the Seaway.

"For 40 years, the Gold Coast Seaway has played an important role in supporting boating, tourism, recreation and coastal access across the city," Minister Langbroek said.
"The Seaway and Sand Bypass System are internationally recognised and remain a defining part of the Gold Coast coastline."

"This anniversary is an opportunity to reflect on the foresight, innovation and long-term vision that helped shape the Gold Coast we know today."

Chair of the Gold Coast Waterways Authority, Deanna Nott, said the anniversary highlighted the long-term management of the waterways and coastline.

"The Seaway remains one of the Gold Coast's great engineering success stories," Ms Nott said.

"What makes the Seaway so significant is the foresight and innovation behind it."

"Projects like the Seaway, Wave Break Island and the Sand Bypass System only exist because previous generations planned ahead and invested in the future of the Gold Coast."

"Our responsibility now is to continue that planning and long-term thinking for future generations."

"The Seaway remains critical to the resilience, accessibility and connectivity of the Gold Coast waterways."

CEO of the Gold Coast Waterways Authority Chris Derksema said the Seaway continued to play a vital operational role along the coastline.

"Before the Seaway, the entrance to the Broadwater was constantly shifting and difficult to navigate," Mr Derksema said.

"The Seaway created a stable and reliable connection between the Broadwater and the ocean."

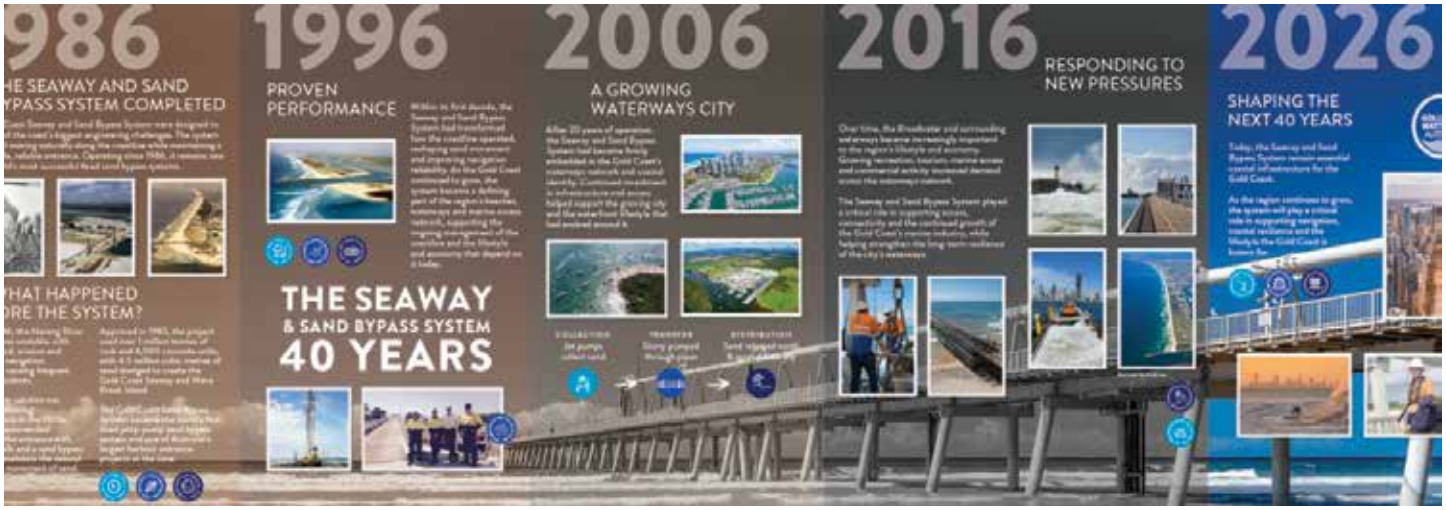
"Wave Break Island was created alongside the Seaway as part of the broader solution to stabilise the entrance and help protect the coastline."

"Today, the Sand Bypass System continues to move around 500,000 cubic metres of sand each year to help maintain the stability of the coastline and ocean entrance."

"Most people probably never think about the system, but it's working every day to help keep the coastline stable and accessible."

"Coastal systems are constantly changing, which is why ongoing monitoring and management remain so important."

The anniversary event brought together government representatives, engineers, industry stakeholders and community leaders to recognise 40 years of the Gold Coast Seaway and its ongoing role in shaping the future of the city.



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Portrait of a VMR Volunteer

MICHAEL KYLE

RADIO OPERATOR

JOINED VMR SOUTHPORT 40+ YEARS AGO



Tell us a bit about yourself

I was born and educated in Brisbane, and lived there until moving to the Gold Coast in 1973 to work for the legal firm of Adamson and Co. I subsequently became a partner of that firm (which eventually became ABKJ Lawyers), and remained so until my retirement three years ago.

My sons, Tony (a Skipper of Black Crew) and Andrew are now partners in that firm, and I remain as a consultant to it, although I now do almost no legal work.

I have been married to my wife Trish, a retired Secondary School teacher, for 53 years.

In addition to our two sons, we have two daughters, a Software Engineer, and an Accountant.

Our children are the proud parents of our 11 grandkids.

We are very blessed in that they all live locally and we see them often.

Why did you join VMR?

Back in the 1980's, when John Kumm was the President of what was then known as Air Sea Rescue, I was asked to give some legal advice, with respect to some issues which the Association was then dealing with.

That resulted in my being asked to become the Honorary Solicitor for the Organization.

I remained as Honorary Solicitor until my son Tony assumed that role several years ago.

After I retired, I volunteered as a Radio Operator.

What do you enjoy most about being a member for VMR?

As a person who has always enjoyed recreational boating, I understand and appreciate the necessity for a Rescue organization to be available to assist the boating community when needed.

It is very satisfying to be able to play a very small role in providing that assistance, and to interact with those who do the real work.



What is the most memorable activation you have been involved in?

I could probably count on one hand the number of times that I have actually been on a ASR/VMR vessel during my 40 year association with the Organization, so my activations have been limited to manning the radios while crew have done the hard work.

My most exciting event in recent times was the occasion when I received a radio call from an 28 tonne, 52 foot vessel, with five people on board, 50 kilometers offshore, with a disabled engine. Its engine bay had filled with water after a hose dislodged from the engine.

Unsurprisingly, the engine wouldn't start and the vessel were drifting south at two knots.

With the assistance of a VMR crew, the Seaway Tower, the Gold Coast Water Police, the Tweed Heads Water Police, a Lifeflight helicopter, AMSA, and a passing cargo ship, the vessel was able to be safely towed back to the Southport.

The incident was complicated by the fact that, while I could hear the vessel transmitting, they couldn't hear my responses. Fortunately, the Seaway Tower was able to communicate with them until mobile phone communication was eventually established.

What do you do in your spare time?

My principal recreational activity is playing golf.

Unfortunately, I am a very poor golfer, but fortunately the handicap system assists in enabling someone like me to achieve a reasonable score.

I was on the Southport Golf Club Board for twelve years, three of which I spent as Club President. I continue to have some involvement in the administration of the Club.

I have been a member of the Board of Tamborine Mountain College since its establishment thirty years ago. I was Chairman of its Board for ten years.

I am also on the Board of the Gold Coast Community Legal Service, an organization which exists for the purpose of providing legal advice to members of the community who can't afford the services of a Lawyer.

In 2018, I experienced the extraordinary privilege of receiving an Order of Australia Medal in recognition of my various community activities.

Trish and I enjoy travelling in our caravan. We particularly enjoy coastal national park campgrounds, and the outback, and we regularly visit Fraser Island. Of course we enjoy interacting with our children and their families.

What are your future intentions with VMR?

I expect that I will continue to volunteer as a Radio Operator with MRQ, once the transition occurs

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super snaps











TOP LEFT: New members Harriet Parker (L) and Sarah Mansell learning the layout of the Radio Room with Trainer Guy Coubrough

TOP RIGHT: From this to this - the old outdoor area deck to the new outdoor area deck - a big improvement!!

MIDDLE LEFT: Strong wing winds bought this Cruiser undone recently - VMR Southport chose to let the rising tide solve the situation

MIDDLE RIGHT: This pontoon broke loose from its mooring in the Nerang River. It was quite a task for Marine Rescue 2 to re-locate, and re-secure it.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Marine Rescue 1 perfectly glides a whale watching vessel into its pontoon, after a recent gearbox failure.



FUN BOAT FACTS



01 A COMPASS WITH AN ANCIENT HISTORY

The Chinese were the first to use the compass for maritime navigation.

02 STUCK IN THE DOLDRUMS



The Doldrums is a region of calm winds and unsettled weather where sailing ships could become stranded. Today, being "in the doldrums" also means feeling down, stagnant or depressed.



03 KNOW YOUR BEAM

The boat's width at its widest point—from starboard to port—is called its beam.

04 THE MOST POPULAR BOAT NAMES



"Grace" is the most popular boat name, followed by Feelin' Nauti, Aquaholic, Therapy and Seas the Day.



05 THE PIRATE WHO RULED A FLEET

Ching Shih, a Chinese female pirate, was one of the mightiest pirates who ever lived. She controlled 1,800 ships and 80,000 sailors.

06 WHY BOAT ENGINES GET HOT



Engines get hot as fuel burns and pistons move. The radiator cools the engine, while the exhaust releases spent fuel.



07 THE MOST COMMON FISHING INJURIES

Two common fishing injuries are putting a hook through your hand and straining a muscle while getting out of a boat.

08 WHY IS IT CALLED QUARANTINE?



The word "quarantine" comes from the Latin word for 40—the number of days a ship had to wait before docking during plague outbreaks.



09 SAILING FOR THE RECORD BOOKS

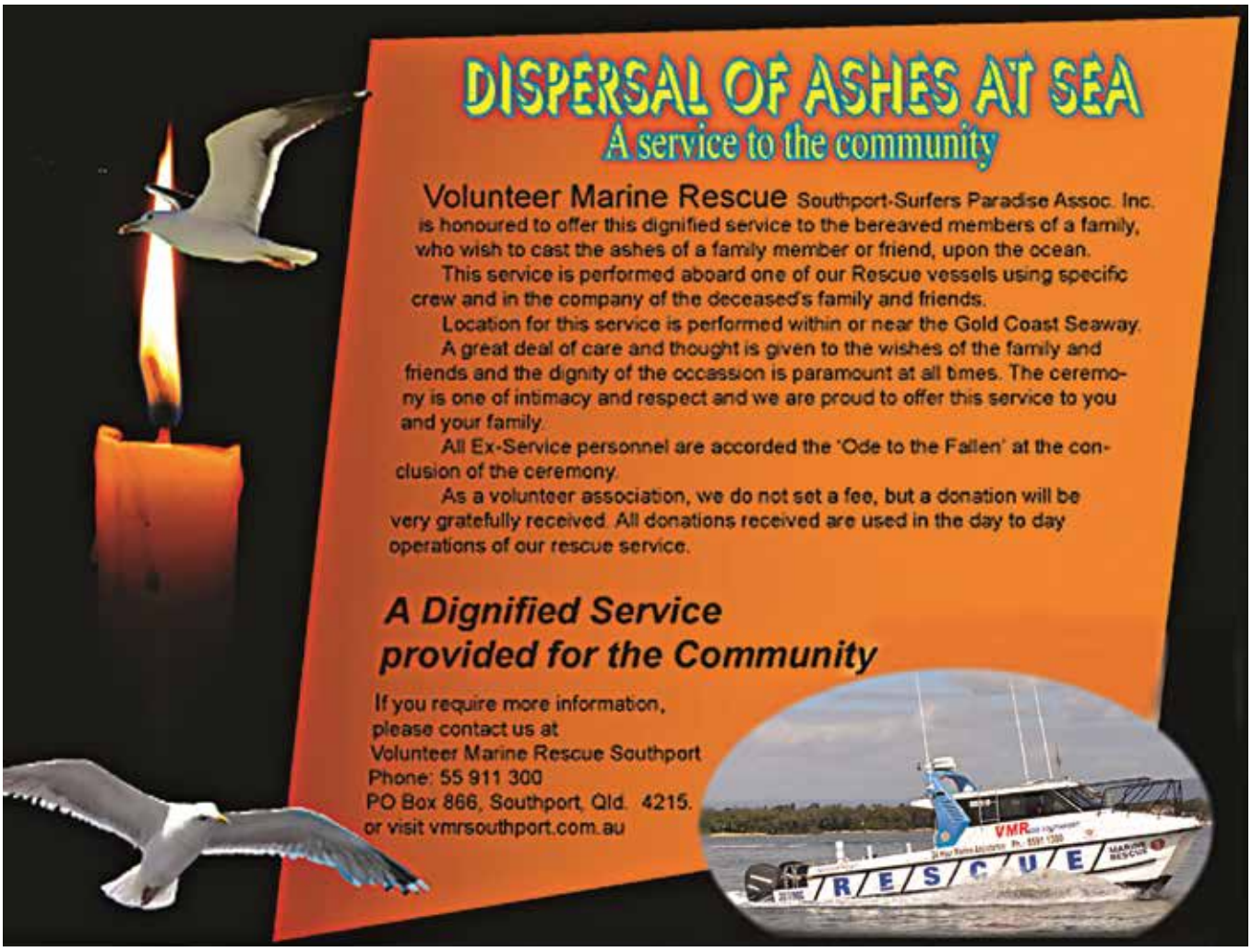
Most World-record sailors head east for stronger, more predictable winds and currents. Only five records use the Westward route, with none set since 2010.

10 WHAT IS A SKEG?



A skeg is the rudder-like lowest point on an outboard motor


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Marine Radio Operators
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DID YOU KNOW that VMR Southport can assist you to obtain a Marine Radio Operators Certificate of Proficiency? There are two types of Certificates, the SROCP (Short Range Certificate of Proficiency) which allows an operator to operate VHF marine radio equipment only, and the LROCP (Long Range Certificate of Proficiency) which allows an operator to operate both VHF marine radio equipment and MF/HF marine telephony equipment.

VMR Southport encourages student to self educate when it comes to obtaining these certificates. Study Manuals are available from our Rescue Base, and examinations can be conducted at a time that suits both the student and the Examiner.

Remember, your marine radio may be your only form of communication in an emergency, and you should know how to use it.



For more information on courses go to
http://www.amc.edu.au/industry/omc/certificates
or contact VMR Southport on Ph.(07) 55911 300



Map: S8sp-115-1

Horizontal datum: GDA2020
Projection: UTM (Zone 56)

Prepared 4 September 2026
Maritime Safety Queensland
Spatial Services

6 KNOTS SPEED LIMIT TRIAL
14 September 2026 to 30 September 2027
Paradise Point Channel between Paradise Point and the Sovereign Islands

© The State of Queensland 2026 (Transport and Main Roads)

Queensland Government

MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS

CELEBRATING VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE

VMR Southport Skipper and Search and Rescue Controller Bruce Partridge was recently awarded the Central Gold Coast Volunteer Award by Moncrieff Federal MP Angie Bell.

Bruce has been with VMR Southport since 2019. During this time, he has been involved in many varied rescues and has become a highly competent operator of rescue vessels.





30 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

Current VMR Southport President Glenn Norris was recently recognised with an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for his 30 years of service to emergency response.

Glenn is also a Queensland Ambulance Service First Responder and has been involved in a large number of serious emergency activations. His dedication to VMR Southport has been unwavering throughout his time with the organisation, making this recognition particularly well deserved.

A FAMILIAR VOICE HANGS UP THE RADIO

VMR Southport Senior Radio Operator Peter Cartwright recently retired after 25 years of outstanding service.

Peter has served as both a VMR Base and Seaway Tower Radio Operator and is also a former President of VMR Southport. Throughout his time with the organisation, he has taken on countless roles during marine emergencies, providing calm, professional support when it mattered most.

Peter's professionalism and dedication have always shone through, and his unmistakable dulcet tones will certainly be missed around the radio.



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see you on the water!

RB

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