PASSAGE PONDERINGS

Issue #10 **Compiled by John Traill**

DECEMBER 2020

DECEMBER RADIO ROOM STATISTICS

1,144 Calls, 333 vessels logged on,
28 Vessel Assists, 126 Sitreps, 55 Requests,
6 Overdue vessels, 1 Vessel Tracking,
117 Radio Checks, 0 Weather Forecasts
0 Securite Broadcasts. 0 Pan Pan, 0 Mayday

VHF calls 75.0%, - 27MHz calls 8.1%

DECEMBER VESSEL ASSISTS:

THU 03/12 0630am – 3m Jet Ski non-member broken down near Turners Camp, required a tow to

FRI 04/12 1552pm – 2m Jet Ski non-member floating off Bongaree Jetty, stuck in reverse. MOP rang in to advise they had towed vessel to Bongaree Ramp as she was sinking.

TUE 08/12 0806am – Assist Energex with monitoring waterway Ningi Creek while repairs made to downed power lines, deployed B2 and JB3 to assist.

TUE 08/12 1335pm – 10m Cruiser member grounded on beach near "The Gums" in yesterday's storm, investigated and advised owner it was a commercial salvage job.

TUE 08/12 1644pm – Vessel washed up into mangroves near White Patch in yesterday's storm, request to resecure and anchor in passage. Advised owner will try tomorrow on high tide.

THU 10/12 1035am – MOP advised that 9.5m Cruiser has very frayed rope attached to buoy off Kakadu Beach, Investigate and Secure.

THU 10/12 1224pm – 4.5m Runabout non-member broken down off Woorim required a tow to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

THU 10/12 1519pm – 6m Half Cabin with engine problems required a tow from middle of Passage back into Spinnaker Sound Marina.

SAT 12/12 0919am – 16m Power Cat non-member with a broken rudder, required a tow from Main Bribie Beach to Pacific Harbour Marina Maintenance Dock.

MON 14/12 1008am – Large tree floating toward moored vessels at Bongaree – investigate & remove.

MON 14/12 1337pm – 12m Catamaran member has broken mooring and drifting out to sea, recover and secure on mooring South of Bribie Bridge.

SUN 20/12 1451pm – 7.9 Cuddy Cabin non-member lost power in the main channel required a tow into Spinnaker Sound Marina.

SUN 20/12 1705pm – 5.4m Centre Console non-member with bearing failure, required a tow from Buckley's Hole to Bongaree Ramp.

MON 21/12 1128am – 5m Tinny non-member with a fuel leak required a tow from the Avon Wreck to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

MON 21/12 1454pm – 6.1 Centre Console non-member with battery issues, required a tow from Tangalooma Wrecks to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

FRI 25/12 1238pm – 4m Tinny between Bribie and Moreton Island had run out of fuel, required a tow to Redcliffe Jetty.

FRI 25/12 1300pm – 5.2m Runabout non-member with battery problem required a tow from Yellow marker at entrance to Pumicestone Passage into Pacific Harbour.

SAT 26/12 0949am – 5.3m Half Cabin non-member with motor issues, required a tow from just off Clontarf back to Clontarf Boat Ramp.

SAT 26/12 1153am – 5m Runabout non-member with fuel blockage required a tow from Tangalooma Wrecks to Bribie Island.

SUN 27/12 0906am – 9m Cruiser member with engine problems, required a tow from Turners Camp to Pacific Harbour.

SUN 27/12 1421pm- 5.6m Centre Cabin non-member with motor issues, required a tow from South of Sandstone Point to Uhlmann Road Boat Ramp.

SUN 27/12 1648pm – 7m Bowrider non-member had lost power and required a tow from Pumicestone Passage 3km North of VMR Base back to the Bellara Boat Ramp.

MON 28/12 0927am – 7.9m Sports Cruiser non-member with a blocked fuel line required a tow from Moreton Bay back to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

MON 28/12 1016am – Jet Ski Member with rope stuck in impeller, required a tow from Red Beach back to Bellara Boat Ramp.

MON 28/12 1225pm – Tasked by Water Police to find vessel in the Pumicestone Passage – investigate and report back.

MON 28/12 1300pm – Recover Cruisecraft non-member which had drifted from 100m from Buckley's Hole and tow to Base Ramp.

MON 28/12 2035pm – 5m Half Cabin non-member with mechanical issues just North of the Bribie Bridge, required a tow to Bellara Boat Ramp.

TUE 29/12 0935pm – 6m Cuddy Cabin member with motor problems required tow from Mission Point to Bellara Boat Ramp.

TUE 29/12 1828pm – Tasked by Water Police to conduct line search from Woorim to North Bribie between Shipping Channel and shore, for missing person from grounded yacht.

WED 30/12 0628am – 8m Cruiser member with flat battery at Bulwer, required a jump start. Jump start successful and vessel made its own way back.

XMAS LIGHTS BOAT PARADE

SAFETY BRIEFING –
1830PM Thursday 3rd December 2020.

With 30 boats entering the parade at this stage, 40 people attended the safety briefing at VMR Bribie Island Base tonight. This was run by Commodore Liz Radajewski with assistance from Coxswains Ian Grimes, Jon Brice and Keith Freeman, who will also be the skippers of VMRBI's 3 boats on duty at the parade on Saturday 5th December 2020. The parade is due to commence at 1900pm.

Tracey from PHRCA was also in attendance to complete registrations and hand out number signs for attaching to the port side of vessels entering the judging competition for the parade.

Winds of up to 20 knots are expected on the evening. Accordingly, Commodore Liz went through a simplified route for the parade should the coxswains attending decide (on the day) that it should be implemented for safety reasons. VMR Brisbane is also sending 2 vessels to participate.

Commodore Liz welcomes all to the Safety Briefing.

Commercial Coxswain Ian Grimes runs through procedures prior to the start of the parade.

Commodore Liz points out the path the parade will take.

Most of the 40 people attending the Safety Briefing.

Tracey completes registrations and hands out numbers for display on port side of vessel.

Commodore Liz chats with Ritchie Bloomfield and Darren Bates from VMR Brisbane.

VMRBI Coxswains Jon Brice and Keith Freeman.

Tracey Milligan-Marsh, Community Development Manager, Pacific Harbour Residential Community Association Inc., chats with Commodore Liz at the end of the Safety Briefing.

Tracey confirms with Coxswain Ian Grimes judging details for the parade.

Paddlers out early on Friday morning 4th December 2020 – photo taken from the Radio room.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S HOVERCRAFT

SA Sea Rescue Squadron volunteers prepare for search operation at Milang on Thursday morning. The pilot Kevin Dixon and co-pilot Steve Everett of Hovercraft 1, the Squadron's special search craft, were called in by SA Water Police in terrain that was difficult to access by boats and jet skis. The Squadron's Communications Van in the background provided the radio link between the search team and the police. Hovercraft – would be ideal for our conditions and expanses of mud here on Bribie Island.

The SA Sea Rescue Hovercraft 1 with the Communications Van in the background.

ENERGEX VISITS VMR BRIBIE

Saturday 5th December 2020 9am

Danny Donald and Chris Graham from Energex visited VMR Bribie Island with the view of producing an awareness video of the submarine Electric Cable Crossing in Pumicestone Passage just South of the Bribie Island Bridge.

On a recent inspection dive of the cable, some 28 anchors were discovered to be hooked on to the cable and abandoned there. One particularly large anchor had raised the cable over 1m from the seabed.

There is clear yellow and black signage on both sides of the passage with the warning **DANGER** ELECTRIC CABLE CROSSING DO NOT ANCHOR.

The Warning Sign on the Mainland side of the Pumicestone Passage.

The Warning Sign on the Island side of the Pumicestone Passage.

Some of the 28 anchors recovered from the cable crossing in the Pumicestone Passage at Bribie Island.

Danny Donald (white shirt) outlines his requirements to Commodore Liz Radajewski, Chris Graham and Coxswain Ian Grimes.

Bribie 1 and Bribie 2 were used in the production. Danny interviewed both Commodore Liz Radajewski and Chris Graham aboard Bribie 1 in the vicinity of the cable crossing and the sign on the beach at Bongaree.

Chris Graham boards Bribie 1 followed by crewman Celal Erisir.

Bribie 1 heads for Bongaree.

Bribie 1 passes under the bridge.

Danny Donald interviews Commodore Liz Radajewski aboard Bribie 1.

The warning sign at Bongaree

Danny Donald interviews Chris Graham aboard Bribie 1.

PHRCA XMAS LIGHTS BOAT PARADE

Saturday 5th December 2020

VMR Bribie was tasked with providing the lead vessel Bribie 2, skippered by Coxswain Jon Brice with crew Nigel Blundell and Garry Bunker; the rear vessel Jonkers Bribie 3, skippered by Coxswain Keith Freeman with Graham Parker and Mike Lucas as crew; and Bribie 1 skippered by Coxswain Ian Grimes and crew Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe, Crewmen Jim Brown and Michael Henson.

These 3 vessels were also the safety vessels along with the Water Police Vessel which also attended. Judging was performed by the crew on VMR Bribie 1. The photographer was Public Relations Officer and Senior Radio Operator John Traill along with new member Lee Prescott as an observer.

The criteria they used was:

1. Lights
2. Theme
3. Effort

With extra points for audible music and interaction with the public.

Water Police members Sergeant Daniel Moyle and Senior Constable Jodie Rowell prepare their vessel with some lights for the parade.

New member Lee Prescott with Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe.

Commercial Coxswain Ian Grimes at the helm of Bribie 1.

The navigator Competent Crew Jim Brown aboard Bribie 1.

Bribie 2 heads for the Pacific Harbour Canals.

Bribie 2 closely followed by the Water Police vessel head for the Pacific Harbour Canals.

The Water Police vessel encountered a little "chop" from Bribie 1 on the way!

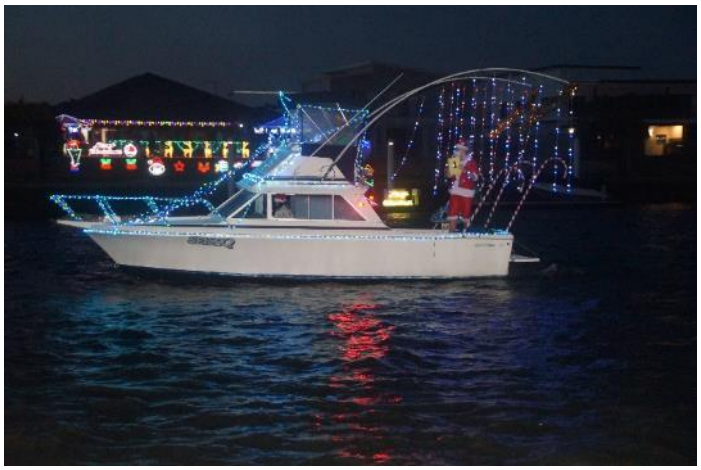
Bribie 2 in the calm of Pacific Harbour Canals.

The Winner of the competition was Boat 15, Tracey and Deb Lang.

Second Place was Boat 17 Craig Hoolihan and Lee-Anne Brown.

Third Place was Boat 6 Peter Pacey.

With honourable mentions to Boat 1 Matt Berezwick



And Boat 10 Luke Grant.

ENTRANTS IN JUDGING NUMBER ORDER

Boat 1 Matt Berezwick

Boat 2 Ewan Meldrum

Boat 3 David Boucher

Boat 7 Michael Stover

Boat 4 Phil Enright

Boat 8 Chris Ferris

Boat 5 Peter Satchell

Boat 9 Douglas Cross

Boat 6 Peter Pacey

Boat 10 Luke Grant

Boat 11 Gordon Price

Boat 15 Tracey & Deb Lang

Boat 12 Graeme Cunningham

Boat 16 Stephen McLean

Boat 13 Neil Wilkins

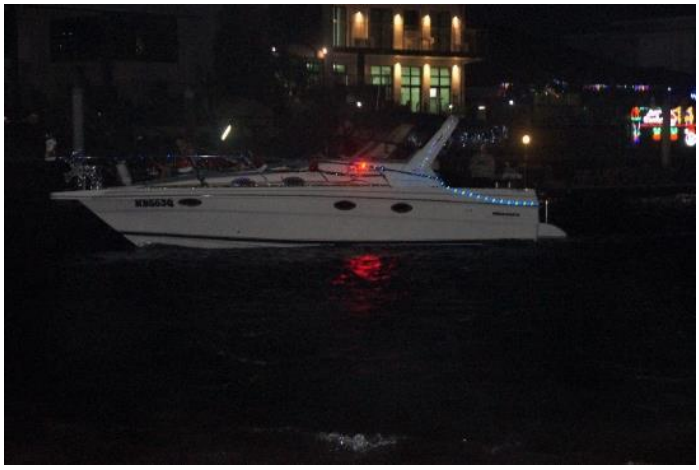
Boat 17 Craig Hoolihan & Lee-Anne Brown

Boat 14 Stuart Bell

Boat 18 Pontoon Boat ZG683Q

Boat 22 Kevin Adams

Boat 26 David, Lachie & Karl Carter-Leay


Boat 28 John Blake

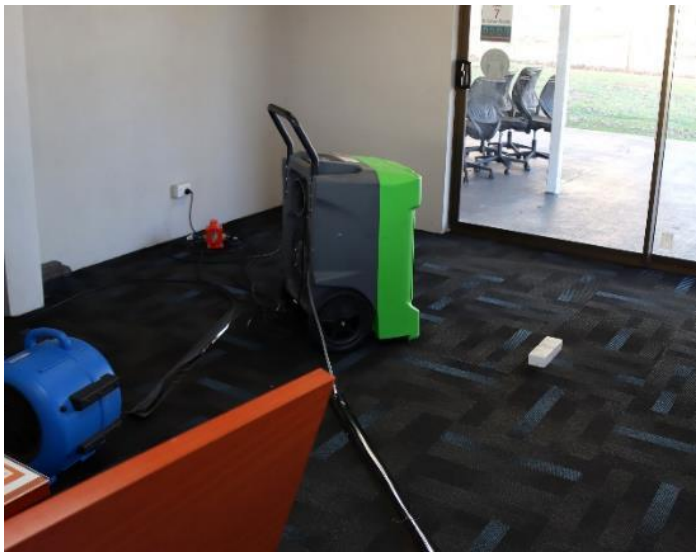
Boat 29 Craig Coulsen

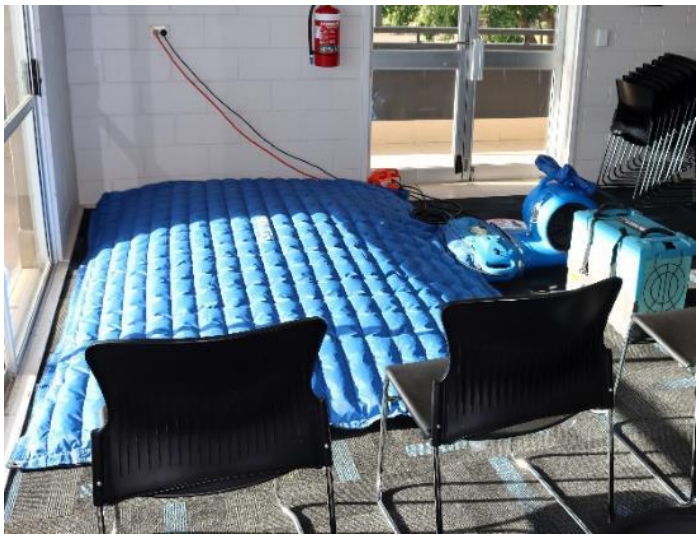
Boat 30 Sharyn & Trevor Harrex

STORM DAMAGE

Monday 7th December 2020

The severe weather storm had some impact on the VMR Bribie Island Base. Water entered the building in a number of places, the crew room, the function room, and the operations room. Our radio aerials also required securing and testing and there was minor hail damage to paintwork.


Wet Carpets being dried out at VMR Bribie: above in the Crew Room and below in the Function Room.


The drying process in the function room.

During the storm on Monday 7th of December two of our aerials on the Radio Tower became loose and had to be refastened. James from Telco Antennas climbed the tower in full safety harness to re-fix the aerials in the right position. The aerials are rated to wind speeds of 110Klms.

James from Telco Antennas checking aerials and fittings on our radio tower at VMR Bribie Island.

VMR Building Signage and paint work damaged by hail during the storm on Monday 7th December.

PLEASE remember if you see something on the water you need to report, please call the base on 3408 7596 our Facebook page is NOT monitored so please call us 📞 we are open 24hrs and have crews on standby ready to assist.

ASSISTANCE TO ENERGEX

This last week we have had some pretty crazy weather, we were tasked to help the guys from Energex connect the power across Ningi Creek after the massive storm that took power from many homes.

The snapped power cable.

Tuesday 8th December 2020 - Craig Hoolihan and Lee-Anne Brown donated their 2nd Prize from the Xmas Lights Parade to VMR Bribie Island. Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe and Commodore Liz Radajewski gratefully accept their donation.

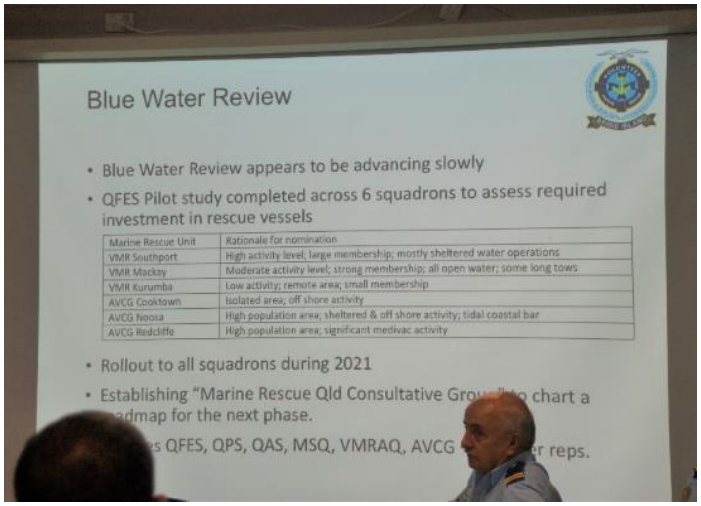
GENERAL MEETING

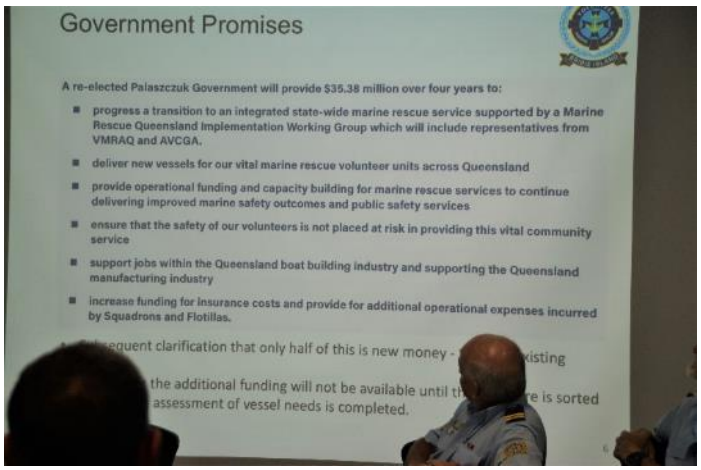
Wednesday 9th December 2020 7pm

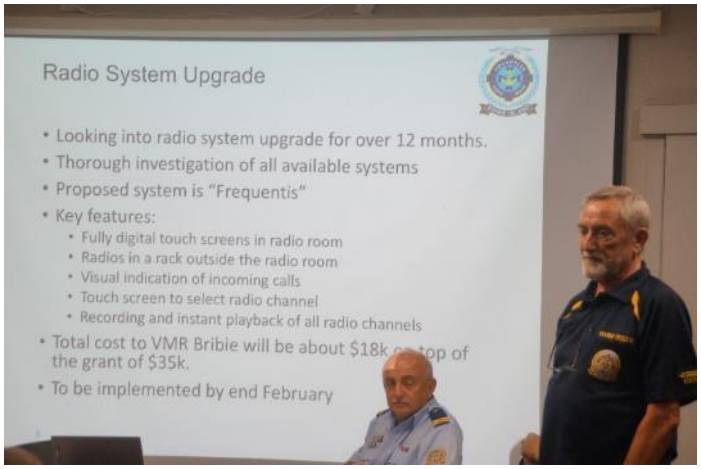
24 members attended: Uldis Baltars, Nigel Blundell, John Bodycombe, Lynnette Boucaut, Jon Brice, Garry Bunker, John Burdinat, Aamir Cao, Lindsay Crompton, Graham Gibb, Ray Gibbs, Paul Gillmore, Ian Grimes, Noel Justo, Mike Looney, Ces Luscombe, Doug Lythgo, Peter McNamara, Dale Mullins, Liz Radajewski, Wayne Sclater, John Traill, Allan Tranter, Gary Voss.

Minutes of the AGM which were circulated were ratified.

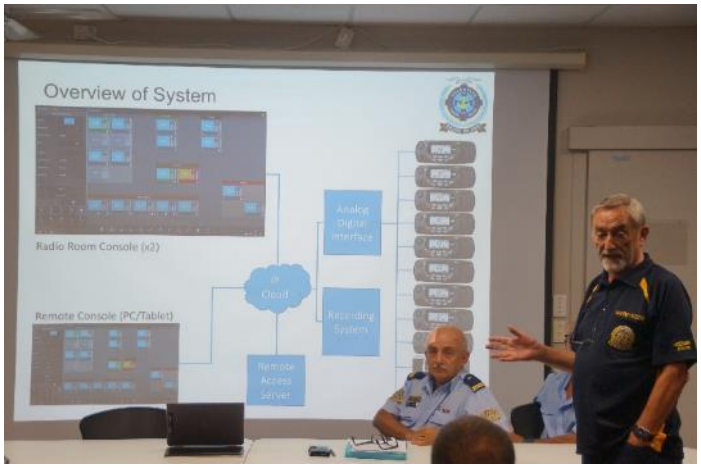
The Secretary, Gary Voss, went through where we are with the Blue Water Review and the Labor Government's election promise of funding (see pictures below).





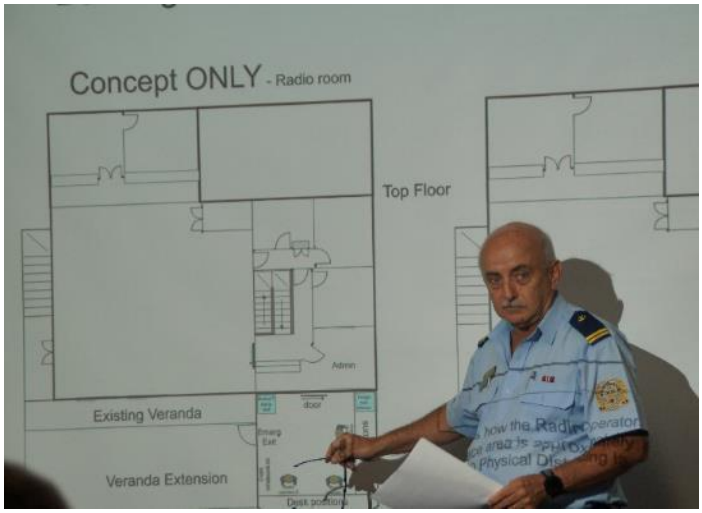


Radio Officer John Bodycombe runs through details of the new radio system to be purchased and implemented by the end of February 2021.



Radio Officer John Bodycombe gives an overview of the functionality of the new radio system.

It wasn't all serious!



Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe outlined where we are at with the proposed building upgrade. Ces explained that of immediate concern is the upgrade of the radio room to comply with fire safety and compliance with Covid requirements. But also stressed that this was a concept only and formal plans and consultation would follow in the first half of next year.

CAR PARKING AT SSP HOTEL

Saturday 12th December 2020

Sandstone Point Hotel - Mix FM Sunset Sounds Concert, with headline artists such as Ian Moss, Kate Ceberano, Richard Clapton, Wendy Matthews, Thirsty Merc, Dragon, and Russell Morris. Our Volunteers provided the cark parking support and others raising those much needed funds for VMR Bribie Island.

Our amazing volunteers were out today in force helping with the car parking at the Sandstone Point Hotel concert. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped park cars and rattle those money tins, - you all rock.

Our Martin Jonkers Motors sponsored 4X4 Hilux on display at the Sandstone Point Hotel concert parking.

Adrian Westerman "on point duty".

Parking in the paddock.

Aamir Cao with her collection bucket.

Peter McNamara with new member Lee Prescott.

Although there was heavy rain in the early morning, it cleared in time for the parking, and most of the event. A light shower appeared just on dark followed by heavier showers around 9 o'clock.

High tide at the Base Boat Ramp, as shown past the middle of the roadway on Marine Parade.

Above and below: Photos at the Northern end of Bribie Island showing where the sea has broken through into the Pumicestone Passage near Golden Beach (Caloundra).

SANTA'S BUSYFINGERS VISIT

Friday 18th December 2020 – Santa (a.k.a. Peter McNamara) with his helper (a.k.a. Commodore Liz Radajewski) visited our generous sponsor Busyfingers with many little gifts for all their volunteers as a thank you for their continued sponsorship throughout this "annus horribilis". Sacks of gifts were left for those not on duty today.

Santa puts out a call for his reindeer and sleigh to transport gifts to all the "good little volunteers" at Busyfingers.

As the reindeer and sleigh weren't available, the Martin Jonkers Motors sponsored Hilux 4X4 "chariot" was used.

Santa a bit dishevelled after his "rough ride in "the chariot".

Santa and his helper struggle weighed down with gifts!

Santa hands out his first gift of the day to one of the goods receivers at Busyfingers.

First call inside was at the Reception counter, where Santa presented Sonya with a gift.

Santa's helper with Hazel, Carole (front) Sue and Di-Di with their gifts.

Sonya and Peta with Santa and his helper.

Santa's helper digs into the sack to ensure everyone receives their gift, from left: Hazel, Sue, Carole (front), Di-Di, Heather Santa, Sue, and Jo with Di in front.

Santa's job almost completed, although he left a couple of sacks of gifts for those Busyfingers volunteers not on duty for the day.

Santa and his helper with Robyn and Narelle.

Santa also caught up with Rae.

Toni with her gift.

Carolyn with her gift.

Peta at the counter with her Xmas hat!

ACTIVE MEMBERS XMAS GET TOGETHER

6pm Friday 18th December 2020 – All active members were invited for an Xmas Get Together and to farewell 2020. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions we are still limited in how many people can attend functions. The Active Members are those that kept the squadron running throughout a most difficult year. The Social Committee ladies once again provided great finger food and topped it off with mini pavlovas and fruit mince pies (with cream of course).

With 46 attending we were just inside our limit for the Function Room. Those attending were: Peter Morton, Ray & Ingrid Fox, Graham & Leona Patrick, Janine Jaavuo, Brenda Allardyce, Betty Snell, Liz & Henryk Radajewski, Jim Brown, Ian Nesbitt, Dave Smith,

John & Sheryl Traill, Cheryl Robinson, Doug & Leigh Lythgo, Jamie & Karen Darlington, Graham Gibb, Sharyn Giles, Wayne Beeton, Uldis Baltars, Mark & Adele Horsburgh, Ian Grimes, Ces & Wendy Luscombe, Ron Burrett & Robyn Young, Alan Gough, Garry Bunker, Gary Beros, Dale Mullins, Craig McShane, Eric Holliday, Noel Wendt, Peter Paschke, Nigel Blundell, Allan & Gail Tranter, Graham Parker, Wayne Beeton, Mike Looney, Paul Gillmore (after RSL Raffles).

Ray Fox chats with Brenda Allardyce on arrival.

Allan and Gail Tranter with their grandchildren, Gail then left Allan to go home and babysit! It is wonderful to see Allan back and looking great!

Ron Burrett chats with Ian Grimes and Wayne Beeton.

Barman Peter Morton - sad that there will be no more social events for the rest of this year! Maybe we will all go around to his place and cheer him up!

Ray Fox with Mark and Adele Horsburgh.

Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe resplendent in green and a drop of red to match.

Ian Nesbitt, Garry Bunker, Commodore Liz & Henryk Radajewski with Graham Patrick.

Gary Beros was chatting to Eric and Noel.

Henryk Radajewski, Graham Patrick with Uldis Baltars.

Dale Mullins, Craig McShane, Karen and Jamie Darlington.

Ian Nesbitt, Garry Bunker with Commodore Liz Radajewski.

Wendy Luscombe enjoys the evening.

Eric Holliday and Noel Wendt let out on the loose.

Robyn Young and Ingrid Fox catch up.

Cheryl Robinson, Betty Snell, Brenda Allardyce and Sheryl Traill enjoy proceedings.

VMR Social Committee Ladies: Janine Jaavuo, Leona Patrick and Brenda Allardyce put on a wonderful spread.

In the red – John Traill and Dave Smith.

Jim Brown chats with Doug Lythgo.

Peter Morton chats with Graham Parker at the bar.

Peter Paschke, Nigel Blundell, and Alan Gough catch up.

Graham Gibb chats with Sheryl Traill, Cheryl Robinson and Betty Snell.

Jim Brown sharing a stubbie with Doug Lythgo.

Dave Smith chats with Karen Darlington, and trys to point out the photographer lurking in the back of the bar!

Sprung, "not all mine" says Karen Darlington!

Peter Morton chats with Allan Tranter watched by Gary Beros, Uldis Baltars, Graham Gibb and Wayne Beeton.

Commodore Liz Radajewski calls attention for the raffle draw of a ham donated by Cheryl Robinson and won by Mark & Adele Horsburgh.

Commodore Liz Radajewski with Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe in the Aussie Xmas theme.

Graham Patrick enjoys a red!

Peter Paschke, Dale Mullins, and Paul Gillmore.

Allan Tranter, Commodore Liz and Henryk Radajewski with Ron Burrett and Robyn Young.

Ces Luscombe, Sheryl Traill and Wendy Luscombe catch up.

Betty Snell chats with Uldis Baltars.

Allan Tranter, Leona Patrick with Mike Looney.

Allan Tranter, Mike Looney, Peter Paschke and Dale Mullins.

Ces Luscombe, Sheryl Traill, Wendy Luscombe, Leona Patrick, Ron Burrett and Allan Tranter.

Cheryl Robinson with Leigh Lythgo.

Leigh and Doug Lythgo all smiles.

Sheryl Traill with Allan Tranter.

Cheryl Robinson clearing the tables.

Leona Patrick "working on the other one!"

Peter Morton – "Who's going to clean up this mess?"

PH LOLLY DROP

1:30pm Saturday 19th December 2020 – The annual lolly drop took place on a hot, humid day. The tide was high, and the Santas chose to wear an Australian summer themed outfit to distribute the bags of lollies kindly donated by MBRC's Division 1 Councillor Brooke Savige. Unfortunately, Brooke could not be present today due to other commitments.

The 2 Santas: Celal Erisir and Alan Gough in the summer Santa attire!

Can you spot the fake beard?

Ready for take-off, from left: Graham Parker, Coxswain Keith Freeman, Santa (Alan Gough), Ritchie Bloomfield, Santa (Celal Erisir), Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe and Les Oldmeadow.

Commodore Liz Radajewski with Santa Alan.

Ces Luscombe adjusts Santa Celal's life jacket straps, and a red one at that!

Tracey Milligan-Marsh and Ritchie Bloomfield from PHRCA were there to see the Santa boats off.

Commodore Liz aboard Bribie 2 indicates 5 minutes to be ready for departure.

Graham Parker casts off at the bow of Jonkers Bribie 3, Les Oldmeadow casts off at the rear, Watched closely by Coxswain Keith Freeman and Santa Celal.

And Jonkers Bribie 3 is on the way to find those awaiting Santa at the Pacific Harbour Canals.

Bribie 2 casts off and is under way, with Santa Alan at the bow, skippered by Commodore Liz Radajewski and crewed by Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe.

Bribie 2, now to find all those kiddies at Pacific Harbour.

Jonkers Bribie 3 well on the way!

Bribie 2 and Jonkers Bribie 3 meet up mid-Passage to confirm timings and areas visited – so we don't miss anyone!

A group of young people were putting a floral tribute in the passage at Sunset Park when they noticed Santa passing by in Bribie 2.

Bribie 2 approaches the entrance to Pacific Harbour Canals.

Santa managed to land a few packets to the youngsters.

Jonkers Bribie 3 en route to Voyagers Canal,

Jonkers Bribie 3 heading under the Sunderland Road Bridge.

Bribie 2 at the entrance to Pacific Harbour Canals.

Santa Celal on Jonkers Bribie 3 was even approached mid-stream of Voyagers Canal!

Jonkers Bribie 3 distributes more lollies.

Jonkers Bribie 3 heads toward the low bridge at Island Parade.

Santa Alan on Bribie 2 managed to land some lollies for the waiting child, at Sea Eagle Place Park, whilst mum records it all on her iPad.

Bribie 2 continues to visit homes in the main Dux Creek Canal, then the canal between The Peninsula and Northpoint.

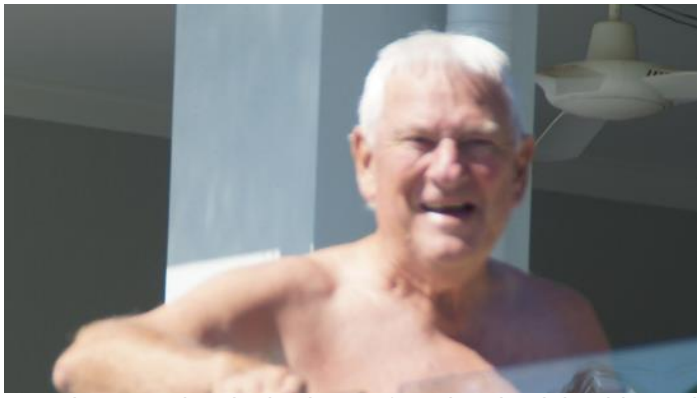
Santa Alan aboard Bribie 2 lands some more lollies.

Bribie 2 finds more interested residents.

Another fine toss from Santa Alan.

Santa Alan and the crew wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

Residents came out to see who was making all that racket!



Surprise, surprise, look who we found maintaining his pool VMRBI's IT and Rosterman guru and Senior Radio Operator – Peter Morton.

Peter also met Santa Alan down on his pontoon.

Pete's neighbour was also home to receive a "good toss" from Santa Alan.

SANDSTONE POINT HOTEL XMAS CARNIVAL

Saturday 19th December 2020 -

Volunteer Marine Recue Bribie was kept busy today with special Santa Runs. Firstly, the Santa Lolly Drop around the Pacific Harbor Canals and secondly, taking Santa over to the Sandstone Point Hotel before the Christmas Carrols and Fireworks.

Picture shows Commodore Liz Radajewski and Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe taking Santa (aka VMR's John Burdinat) on Bribie Two on route to Sandstone Point Hotel.

Above and below Bribie 2 makes her way to the Sandstone Point Hotel

Santa rings his bell.

Doesn't anyone want to sit on my knee?

Some of the fireworks at the Christmas Carnival.

BRIBIE GARDENS LOLLY DROP

4pm Sunday 20 December 2020 –

Bribie Gardens Waterway Association (BGWA) along with Bribie Island Bowls Club sponsored this event with the help of local residents utilising their boats for the lolly drop. There was a challenging wind which made conditions not ideal for ramping up against pontoons, so the Santas and helpers honed their skills in tossing the lolly packages to those participating.

Bob Skinner's boat was one of those that took part, crewed by Linda Skinner (and border collie) and Noel Wendt plus Santa.

The conditions were tricky in the windy conditions.

Another fine toss by Santa.

BOXING DAY

Great to see our friends from the water police out today. Perfect timing as well to come and assist with a person in the water after their ski started to take on water and capsized (see photos below).

VALE IAN BEATY

It is with much sadness that we advise that VMR Bribie Island has lost one of its long time supporters.

Ian Beaty, a member of VMR Bribie since 2006, passed away on Boxing Day, 26th December 2020 after a long illness. Ian`s wife, Shirley Beaty has been a radio operator at VMR Bribie since they joined in 2006.

Ian's funeral service is to be held 11am Wednesday 6th January 2021 at St Patrick's Catholic Church, Tamborine.

SAR FOR MISSING SKIPPER

Tuesday 29th December 2020 –

A man has described how he clung to a water beacon for three hours after his 17m yacht ran aground off Queensland's Sunshine Coast. David Simpson, 64, was found two-and-a-half kilometres from his vessel, which got into trouble off Caloundra towards the northern tip of Bribie Island. The boat was found with the motor still running - and only a dog on board, sparking an air and sea search.

The boat's skipper says he was trying to secure the small dinghy that had come loose from the main vessel when the waves pushed the dinghy into him and knocked him and he fell 2 ½ to 3m into the water.

Experienced boatie David Simpson, 64, said he watched his vessel, drift away from him with its motor still running, before he spent three hours clinging to a shipping channel beacon.

He managed to make it to the beacon, and watched his boat, with his dog aboard, float away. It was found by another boater, and a search was launched by sea and air.

Emergency services were called to the vessel about 4.30pm after lifeguards found the boat, with the motor still running, had run aground on the northern tip of Bribie Island off Caloundra. Only a dog was found on board, triggering a search and rescue operation involving Water Police, Surf Lifesavers, Australian Maritime Safety Authority, RACQ LifeFlight Rescue, Coast Guard and VMR.

Police said the multi-agency search found the 64-year-old safe and well on a marine beacon off Bribie Island just after 7pm on Tuesday.

An RACQ LifeFlight Rescue spokeswoman said those on a nearby passing ship spotted the man standing at the top of a navigation beacon tower.

The rescue helicopter flew to the beacon and hovered over the man for a short time, keeping a light on him, while Coast Guard and police boats arrived and took him to shore.

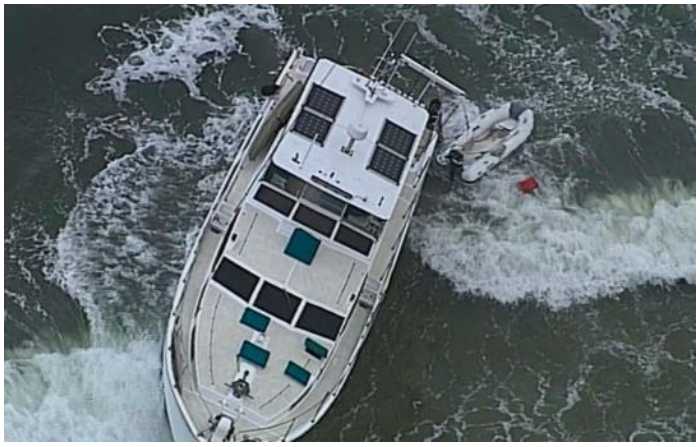
Mr Simpson was back at the Coast Guard base on Wednesday working out a plan to re-float his vessel and get it to a dock for assessment and repairs. It remains aground on Bribie Island.

At high tide this morning the Salvor's contracted vessel managed to pull Focus off the beach. Mooloolaba Rotary Rescue then took up the tow back to Mooloolaba.

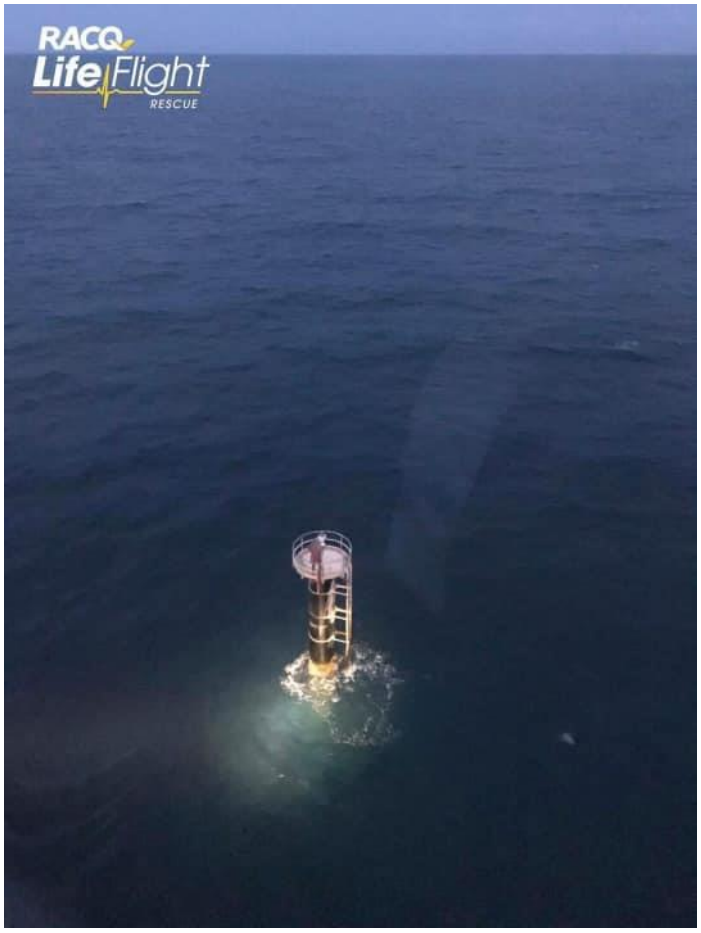
A great result all round by everyone involved.

Following the accident of this large vessel running aground on the northern end of Bribie Island, we attended onsite by land yesterday afternoon-night and pumped out the water consumed over the day and high tide, secured and prevented any further leaks, with the help of Paddy Marine and the tow vessel "Diamond Star" we got the boat back in the water and has now been towed to safer water and secured.

The "Focus" stranded on the beach.



Aerial view of the "Focus".



The marine shipping channel beacon with the skipper standing on top.

Back in deep water at last on the way to Mooloolaba.

The "Focus" high and dry at low tide.

Above and below: The refloating and recovery underway.

VMR Bribie vessels and crews back at the Base Pontoon after the SAR. Commodore Liz Radajewski ensures the SeaPens are working.

Jamie Darlington and Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe back at the Base Pontoon, with Bribie 2 in the background.

VMR Bribie Treasurer and crew Doug Lythgo check to make sure the SeaPen is operating correctly.

Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe and crew Karen Darlington aboard Bribie 2 head for the SAR area earlier.

2020 YEAR

RADIO ROOM STATISTICS

12,949 Calls,
3,715 vessels logged on,
285 Vessel Assists,
1,375 Sitreps,
607 Requests,
43 Overdue vessels,
11 Vessel Tracking,
1,418 Radio Checks,
43 Weather Broadcasts,
17 Securite Broadcasts,
0 Pan Pan,
0 Mayday

VHF calls 75.9%,
27MHz calls 8.6%

JANUARY 2021

JANUARY RADIO ROOM STATISTICS

xxx Calls, xxx vessels logged on,
xx Vessel Assists, xx Sitreps, xx Requests,
xx Overdue vessels, x Vessel Tracking,
xx Radio Checks, x Weather Forecasts
x Securite Broadcasts. x Pan Pan, x Mayday

VHF calls xx%, - 27MHz calls xx%

JANUARY VESSEL ASSISTS:

FRI 01/01 0718am – 9m Cruiser member with motor problems, required a tow from Kooringal to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

SAT 02/01 0751am – 7m Centre Console non-member with loss of steering, required a tow from North of Cape Moreton to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

SAT 02/01 1605pm – 1.5m Jet Ski non-member stuck on sand bank off Beachmere, required a tow to Bongaree area.

SAT 02/01 1918pm - 2 overdue jet skiers, left Bellara ramp, last seen heading south under the bridge, no phones, radio, or lights. SAR south around Red Beach, Skirmish Point and up to Woorim and return. Polair deployed by QWP.

SUN 03/01 1216pm – 3m Jet Ski non-member, propulsion unit had ingested a tow rope, required a tow from Tangalooma to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

SUN 03/01 1604pm – 8m Cruiser member with engine problems required a tow from Hutchinson Shoals to Spinnaker Sound Marina arriving back 2100pm.

MON 04/01 1252pm – 6m Cruiser non-member out of fuel, broken anchor, and drifting, required a tow from 1km off Beachmere to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

TUE 05/1 1012am – 4.6m Runabout member with motor problems, required a tow from Sandstone Point to Bellara Boat Ramp.
TUE 05/01 1200pm – 9m Full Cabin member, with a blown hose, required a tow from Cowan Cowan to Pacific Harbour.
TUE 05/01pm 1548pm – Attended vessel off Welsby Parade with Water Police, reported that person believed to be in danger. Investigated.
WED 06/01 1242pm – 4.5m Tinny non-member with motor issues, required a tow from Glasshouse Creek 3km from mouth to Toorbul Boat Ramp.
FRI 08/01 0518am – 10m Yacht non-member has drifted into another vessel near Shirley Creek. Secure vessel on MSQ mooring and check damage to the other vessel.
TUE 12/01 1429pm – 5m Aluminium non-member with water in fuel and will not start, required a tow from Ningi Creek (past Boat Ramp) to Spinnaker Sound Marina.
WED 13/01 1106am – MOP reported10m Yacht non-member on MSQ mooring taking on water. Investigated and pumped out.
SAT 16/01 1345pm – 13m Bertram non-member with rudder issues, required a tow from off White Patch to Pacific Harbour.
MON 18/01 1304pm – Jet Ski member with starting problems, required a tow from North of Pacific Harbour entrance into Pacific Harbour.
MON 18/01 1715pm – Request from Bribie Police to visit vessel opposite IGA.
TUE 19/01 1334pm – 15.8m Cruiser non-member with both motors not starting, required a tow from 6Nmiles South of Bribie Bridge to Passage near Spinnaker Sound.
WED 20/01 1714pm – 15.8m Cruiser non-member drifting in the Passage, still no power and required a tow to Banksia Beach.
FRI 22/01 1134am – 8m Half Cabin non-member with a fuel problem required a tow from Southern end of Bribie to Spinnaker Sound Marina.
SUN 24/01 1251pm – 5.5m Centre Console non-member with engine failure South of Bribie Bridge required a tow to Spinnaker Sound Marina.
SUN 24/01 1308pm – 5.5m Bayliner with gearbox issues required a tow from 2km North of Avon wreck to Spinnaker Sound Marina.
MON 25/01 1109am – 9m Sports Cruiser member with fuel blockage required a tow from 500m South of Tangalooma Jetty to Spinnaker Sound Marina.
WED 27/01 1053am – 9m Cruiser non-member broken down at Mission Point required a tow to Toorbul mooring.
THU 28/01 1307pm – 4.1m Hobie Cat non-member overturned and dismasted 1km out from Sandstone Point, required a tow to Base Ramp.
FRI 29/01 1012am – 8m Sports Cruiser member with a seized motor required a tow from Pacific Harbour canals to Spinnaker Sound Marina.
SUN 31/01 0236am – 14.5m Houseboat member running out of fuel and unable to get back to Marina, required a tow from 2nm off Redcliffe to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

DAWN BUSTERS

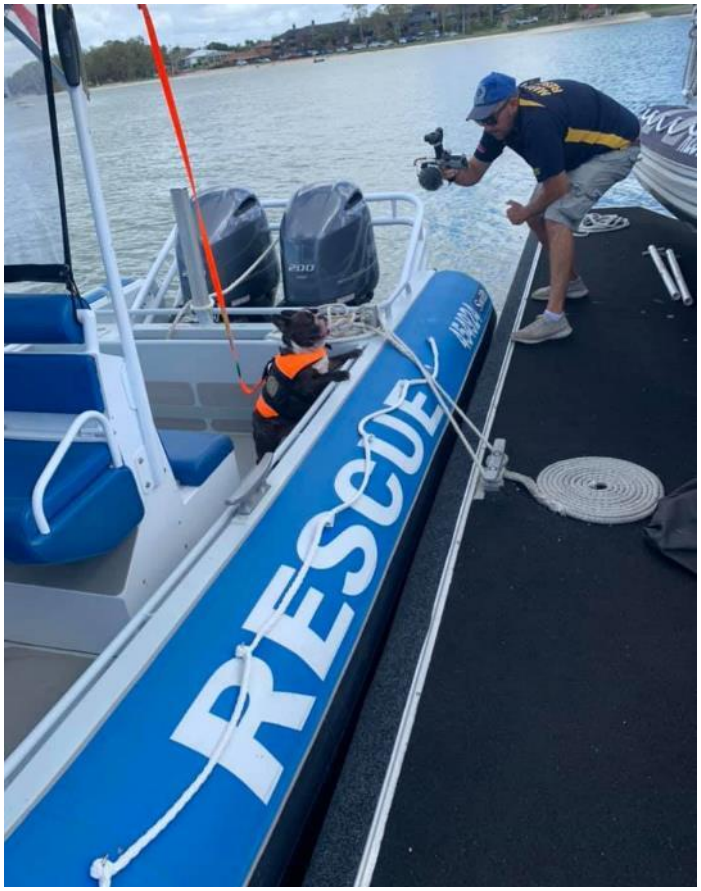
Volunteer Marine Rescue Bribie's Dawn Busters Radio Team for the first day of 2021. Peter McNamara, Committeeman and Senior Radio Operator surprised the AM radio shift with a cappuccino and a photo opportunity!

Last year VMR Bribie Radio Room handled 14000 calls and already our rescue vessel Bribie One is doing an assist at Moreton Island. So, if you are going in 2021 give us a call at the VMR Bribie's Radio Room and Log On with us. It will be the best call you make all Day. Safe and healthy Boating for 2021 from everyone here at VMR Bribie.

Senior Radio Operator John Traill and Radio Operator Dennis Pfrunder saw the dawn of the first day of 2021 from the VMR Radio Room. The VMR Bribie's Radio Room is manned 365 days a year from 0500am to 1800 and then we have a callout crew available.

COFFEE & BISCUIT FAIRY

Meet some of our super volunteers Hans and Kulla Puurand. Hans is one of our Super Senior Volunteer Radio Operators, his wife Kulla keeps all the rescue crews and radio operators happy by making sure that the biscuit barrels are full and there is milk in the fridge to enjoy a well-earned coffee.



It's photo shoot time today Safety Dave and team are hanging out at the base making sure everything is being done safely.

SATURDAY 2nd JANUARY

Well, what a start to the New Year, Bribie 1 and her crew have been to up the Passage to check on a drifting vessel and then to Moreton to help a disabled vessel all before 10.30am.

Do not forget to LOG ON with your local VMR or Coast Guard before heading out on the water it will be the best call you make all day.

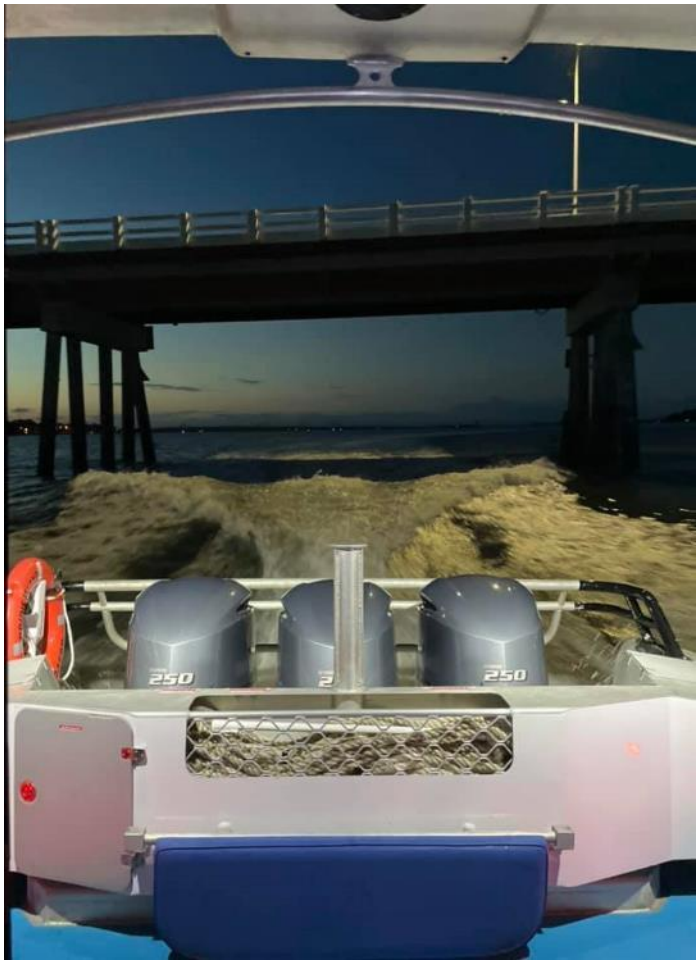
Colin Reese and Paul Gillmore get Bribie 2 ready for the crew day on Saturday.

SAR MISSING JET SKIS

Bribie 1 and Bribie 2 were tasked this evening (Saturday evening 2nd January 2021) to find a jet ski and 2 missing people last seen heading out under Bribie Bridge.

The search has now been called off and the persons have been found safe and sound. Another great result well done to all the crews involved.

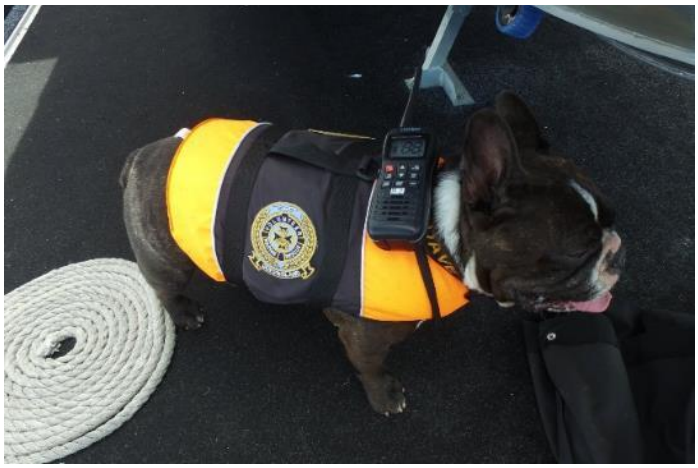
Nav lights are working on Bribie 1, before heading off on SAR for the jet ski and 2 missing persons.



Bribie 1 heads to sea after passing under the Bribie Island Bridge.

POLAIR assists in the search for the missing Jet Skiers.

SAFETY DAVE THE FRENCHIES REMINDER:



After last night's search and rescue we cannot stress enough the importance of LOGGING ON with your local VMR or Coast Guard it's a free service, so why wouldn't you use it? If you don't have a radio call the base our radio operators are waiting to help you.

You may contact us on VHF channel 73, 27MHz channel 90 or by phone direct to the radio room on 3408 7596. If you are unable to contact us on VHF channel 73 or 27MHz channel 90 we also monitor VHF channels 16, 20, 21, 63, 67 and 81 as well as 27MHz channels 86 and 88.

SANDSTONE POINT HOTEL RAFFLES

Are you popping into the Sandstone Point Hotel today if so come over and grab a ticket for the meat draw?

Holly Darlington, Lee Prescott, Keith Freeman and Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe sell raffle tickets at the Hotel.

EPIRB DISPOSAL

Australia has the highest usage of beacons per capita in the world with over 350,000 beacons registered in AMSA's database.

Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs) need to be disposed of correctly to avoid accidental activation.

Every year, thousands of dollars are spent, and important resources diverted searching for beacons that have been accidentally activated in waste facilities or landfill. Beacon batteries are hazardous items which should be disposed of appropriately.

A friendly reminder that if you need to dispose of your EPIRB **DO NOT** put it in your bin or take it to the tip, please firstly update your details with AMSA, this can be done online at www.amsa.gov.au/beacons or by phoning AMSA on 1800 406 406.

Then drop it in to your local VMR or Coast Guard to dispose of it properly.

Note: Also, many battery stores will disconnect the battery for a small fee.

This is a box of EPIRBS dropped into us at the base that have been collected at our local tip. These can still activate and cause a massive search and rescue which is a complete waste of time and resources.

So here are all the EPIRB's that were bought in from the tip Now That is a lot of EPIRBs. These will now be deactivated and disposed of correctly.

BUSY TUESDAY

Wow Tuesday call out crew had a crazy one with 3 call outs, each one using a different vessel. Even a tow from Cowan but it was a pretty good day for it!

TUE 05/1 1012am – 4.6m Runabout member with motor problems, required a tow from Sandstone Point to Bellara Boat Ramp.
TUE 05/01 1200pm – 9m Full Cabin member, with a blown hose, required a tow from Cowan Cowan to Pacific Harbour.
TUE 05/01pm 1548pm – Attended vessel off Welsby Parade with Water Police, reported that person believed to be in danger. Investigated.

Jonkers Bribie 3 tows 4.6m Runabout member with motor problems from Sandstone Point to Bellara Boat Ramp. - Thanks to Mick for this picture.

Bribie 1 tows the 9m Full Cabin vessel back to Pacific Harbour from Cowan Cowan.

WIND WARNING

Friday 8th January 2021 - If you have a boat at anchor or on a mooring, the next few hours would be a good time to check your vessel to make sure it is secure. The Collision (below) was due to a dragging anchor from "Mystic Rose" in the passage.

Bribie 2 leaves the Base Pontoon on route to the "tangled" yachts, with Commercial Coxswain Ian Grimes and crew: Mark Purtell, Graham Patrick, and observer Steve Williams.

After receiving 3 early phone calls around 5am, Radio Operator John Traill called in the on-call crew to attend to the 10m yacht "Mystic Rose" which had reportedly drifted into the 12.5m Beneteau Oceanis 411 "Say No More" in the Pumicestone Passage just out from Shirley Creek (near Bongaree Boat Ramp).
The anchor rope had to be cut from "Mystic Rose" to safely untangle the yachts, the anchor was then marked by a buoy from Bribie 2 for later retrieval and "Mystic Rose" was tied up to the MSQ mooring. MSQ, Queensland Water Police and Bribie Police were all notified of this incident.

Above and below the 2 yachts in contact.

Our VMR Crew aboard Mystic Rose to secure her to the MSQ mooring.

Damage to “Say No More”.

Close up of the major damage to “Say No More”.

More damage to “Say No More”.

”Mystic Rose” now on the MSQ mooring.

Say No More on her mooring alone once again.

Bribie 2 returns to the Base Pontoon after securing the vessels.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Friday 8th January 2021 - We wish to advise you that due to the Queensland Government COVID-19 lockdown starting 6pm Friday 8th to 6pm Monday 11th, we will be keeping our VMR base front door locked to the general public and non-active members. Active members are to come to the base only if you have to. For example, a crew callout, duty in the radio room, very essential maintenance, and only essential administration.

ALL CREW TO WEAR A FACE MASK ON OUR VESSELS

If you are called in for crew or radio, please wear a face mask when you are outside your home.

These restrictions will be in place till 6pm Monday, 11th but await an email for further information.

This will not affect our 24/7 rescue service.

UPDATE: BOATING THIS WEEKEND.

We have been advised by the relevant authorities in charge of boating that (based on the restrictions published today), boating is not a permissible reason to leave your home in Moreton Bay or Brisbane.

We also now have advice this afternoon from Qld Fisheries that "People can fish for food and essential reasons locally (wearing masks and with max one other person unless all from same household)". This information is via messaging and apparently has not been published. It is not in the Government Covid Q&A.

So, we leave it to you to work out whether this means that you can officially leave home on a boat for "essential fishing"...

If we get further clarification, we will let you know!
Our radio room will still be monitoring the airwaves, and we will have a crew on standby all weekend as normal.

COVID UPDATE 9TH JANUARY 2021

The VMR Bribie radio room is fully operational this weekend, and ready to respond to calls for assistance from boaters on all the normal radio channels and phone. Our vessels are operational, and our crews are on standby to provide emergency assistance. The latest advice from the Qld Government is that leaving home for recreational boating is not permitted under the lockdown restrictions.
The Government Q&A has been updated as follows: "You can fish for food and essential reasons locally. You may not go fishing for recreational purposes."

BRIBIE 1 OUTBOARD SERVICE

Bribie 1 was out the water today, Tuesday 12th January 2021 for her 100-hour engine service and some TLC. Thanks to Northside Marine and the maintenance crew for making this happen.

the Northside Marine service vehicle at VMR Bribie.

Once again, our tractor is used to bring Bribie 1 out of the water for maintenance.

Bribie 1 awaits her engines to be serviced.

Above and below, Bribie 1 has her 100-hour service on her new outboards.

COVID-19 UPDATE

We wish to advise you, that due to the updated Queensland Government COVID-19 restrictions starting 6pm Monday 11th January, VMR Bribie Island we will be keeping our VMR base front door locked to the general public till 1pm, Friday 22nd January.

We will not be accepting flares or EPIRBS during this time. Any enquiries re new membership or membership renewals may be made using our website (vmrbribie.com) or by contacting the base between 7am and 5pm on 07 3408 7596.

RAFFLES CANCELLED

Unfortunately, our raffles are cancelled this weekend. It's a shame as we had a great prize up for grabs.

PROMOTIONS AT VMR BRIBIE

Ian Nesbitt receives his Competent Crew Stripes from UTC Allan Tranter and Commodore Liz Radajewski.

After five years of hard work and hours of training VMR Bribie Crewmember Jon Brice received his approval today to become an unrestricted coxswain from the Commodore Liz Radajewski. This means he can skipper all three of our rescue vessels without supervision. Seen here getting the keys to Bribie 1 from the Commodore.

A very wet bunch of probationary crew after completing night training up to mission point a week ago. Front row: Cass Hickey, Egg Richards, Sam Cronk, Leeton Shepherd, Middle row: Lloyd Clark, Coxswain Simon Middap, Commercial Coxswain Ian Grimes, Colin Reese, with Steve Williams at the rear.

BRIBIE 1 SEAPEN MAINTENANCE

Above and below Ian Grimes checks and repairs Bribie 1's sea pen and pump.

No matter the weather maintenance still goes on, the sea pens were given the once over to check for any damage and components replaced where required.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations Jim Brown on receiving your Senior Competent Crew Anchors from Coxswains Adrian Westerman and Simon Middap, very well deserved!

A massive shout out to Leeton Shepherd and Egg Richards for receiving their first stripe on their VMR journey congratulations gents. Above on Bribie 2 Coxswain Simon Middap, Noel Wendt, Jim Brown, Leeton Shepherd and Egg Richards.

VMRAQ REFRESHER COURSE

VMR Bribie's Coxswains Simon Middap and Allan Tranter doing their VMARQ refresher course with VMRAQ State Training Manager Andy Ross (pictured in the centre) Wednesday morning 27th January 2021 at the VMR Bribie Base.

QUEENSLAND BOAT RAMPS & JETTIES

Transport and Main Roads provides over 800 boat launching ramps, floating walkways, pontoons, and jetties throughout Queensland.

Below is a link to all the facilities in each suburb including address and coordinates once on page click on the excel spreadsheet. This is great if you are going to visit a new area.

Happy Boating

https://www.msq.qld.gov.au/.../Recreat.../Boating-facilities

See below Safety Dave The Frenchie's message:

Boating activities have priority over all fishing activities.

AUSTRALIA DAY ASSIST

Above and below: Bribie 2 retrieves stranded vessel.

YAMAHA OUTBOARDS SERVICED

WEDNESDAY 27th January 2021

Another big service day at VMR Bribie after a busy long weekend. Jonkers Bribie 3 was hauled out of the water by our Toyota Hilux supplied by Martin Jonkers Toyota Morayfield and Bribie 2 was hauled out of the water by our tractor/trailer combo. All three Yamaha outboard motors were serviced by Graham and Gavin from Northside Marine and were quickly back in the water ready for their next rescue. Regular servicing is critical to ensure that all three vessels are ready to go at a moment's notice.

Jonkers Bribie 3 was hauled out of the water by our Toyota Hilux supplied by Martin Jonkers Toyota Morayfield.

Graham from Northside Marine servicing Jonkers Bribie 3's Yamaha Outboard.

Gavin from Northside Marine working on Jonkers Bribie 3's bottom leg.

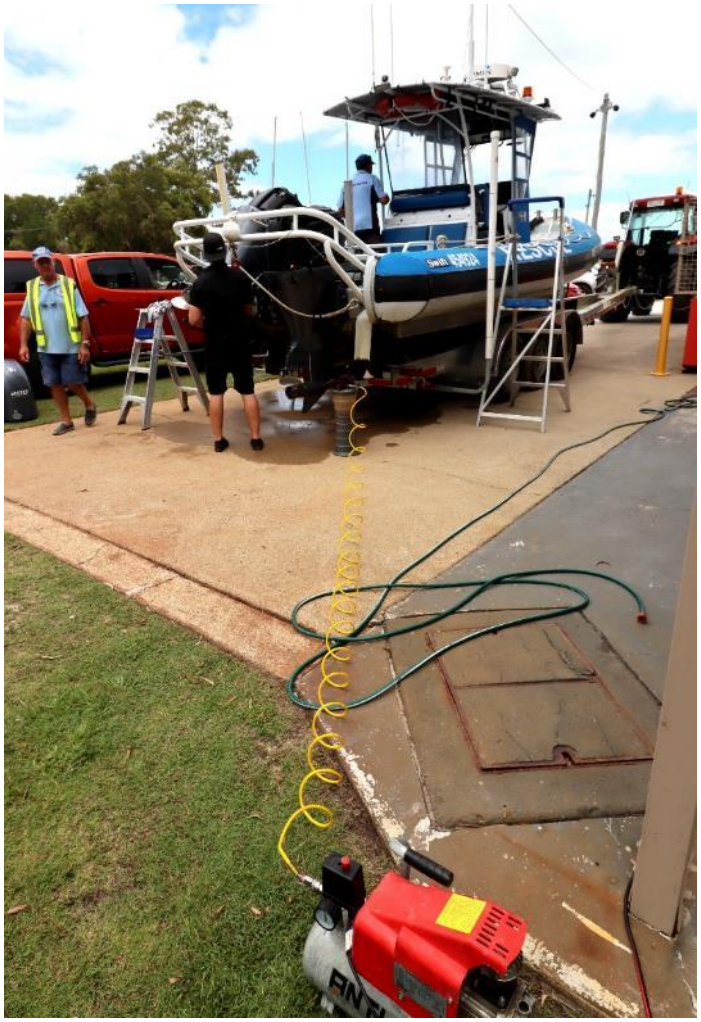
Jonkers Bribie 3 about to be returned to the Base Pontoon.

Commodore Liz Radajewski helping to put Jonkers Bribie 3 back in the water for return to the pontoon.

Patrons at the local Coffee shop had an added attraction this of watching the Commodore Liz Radajewski putting Jonkers Bribie Three after its outboard was serviced.

VMR Tractor reverses Bribie 2 into the compound for its service.

Graham from Northside Marine servicing Bribie Two's outboards, new filters about to be fitted.



Old oil being removed.

VMR Tractor ready to return Bribie 2 back to her SeaPen.

A trip to Tangalooma was undertaken on Monday for a 9m vessel that had just been purchased and had fuel problems, VMRBI left our base at 11.30am and arrived back at Spinnaker Sound Marina about 15.00.

A fine day for a tow back from Mission Point!

This shot was taken on Bribie 2 while on the way home after a search and rescue.

Committee Outcomes Jan 2021

The following is a summary of the outcomes of recent meetings.

The Commodore noted the following:

- On December 7th two hailstorms caused a bit of damage to Base including water ingress and hail damage to signs and paintwork. Some radio mast brackets were also damaged. The damage is being assessed and repaired as quickly as possible. There was no apparent damage to the vessels.
- Pacific Harbour Christmas Lights Parade was successful with 30 entrants. It was noted that there was a diversion from the planned route for safety reasons, and VMR will be working with the parade organisers to minimize the potential for such issues in future.
- A General Meeting was held on 9th December. The turnout to the meeting was modest, possibly due to the proximity to the AGM last month.
- There were a number of community events undertaken over Christmas that involved VMR vessels and crew, including lolly drops, Santa transport, and fireworks safety.
- The Commodore thanked all active members for all that they have done for the Squadron during 2020.
- The Commodore also thanked all members of VMR Bribie for their support, as well as our sponsors and supporters in the community.

The Treasurer reported that our finances remain on track, with responsible levels of investment set aside for maintenance and replacement of vessels, and maintenance and potential upgrades of the building.

We have over 1780 members -- 1600 of whom have rescue coverage.

The radio room again handled over 2,100 calls for Nov/Dec, with 50 assists provided to members and other vessels.

The committee has approved the radio system upgrade, and the system will be purchased and installed during February with a transition planned from the old to new systems over subsequent months. The system to be installed (from Frequentis) will provide enhanced digital radio operation using touch screens, and will also allow recording of all radio calls as well as remote monitoring of the system.

The committee noted that the Coxswains Committee is progressing with a project to investigate replacement of motors on Bribie 2. It is anticipated that a recommendation will be available in February 2021.

As discussed at the recent General Meeting, the committee has approved initial investigations into an upgrade to the radio room. Initial as-built and concept designs have been commenced and should be available in February 2021 for further consideration and consultation.

Vessel maintenance has been undertaken in accordance with the maintenance plans. Bribie 1 has been fitted with replacement trim tabs, and the B1 pen has been upgraded with new automatic pumps. Bribie 2 will shortly have a sampson post repair. The Bribie 3 trailer has been refurbished. Otherwise, all vessels are operating well.

As discussed at the last meeting, planning is underway for advanced training for up-and-coming skippers.

Meetings are planned with the Moreton Bay Local Disaster Management Group and the Moreton Island Essential Support Services Group, of which VMR Bribie is a member.

The fundraising team will be undertaking some boat ramp days in February and March, to engage with our boating community and increase boating safety awareness -- and maybe generate a few new members!

We were successful in obtaining a grant to assist in replacing the Bribie 1 seapen pumps as mentioned above. Councillor Brooke Savige was instrumental in securing this grant, for which we are very grateful. Brooke continues to be a tireless supporter of VMR Bribie and our whole community.

The planned Local Knowledge seminar had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 lockdown in January, as did our return to Sunset Drinks and other social events.

The good news is that there is to be a measured return to social events following the recent lockdowns. We will be announcing more on this in the near future.

In the meantime, the base has reopened to members and the public, following social distancing protocols of course.

RADIO ROOM PROJECT

Allan Tranter, John Bodycombe, Peter Morton, Ces Luscombe and Gary Voss, with Peter McNamara behind the camera.

Thursday 28th January 2021, another big day for Volunteer Marine Rescue Bribie with the formal start to the new Radio Room project. A skype meeting was held with Ruth Trogan from Frequentis and several of Frequentis technical personal. In attendance from Volunteer Marine Rescue Bribie Island was our Radio Officer John Bodycombe, Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe, Our IT manager and Senior Radio Operator Peter Morton, Gary Voss VMR Bribie's Secretary, Peter McNamara Senior Radio Operator and Committee member and Allan Tranter Unit Training Co-coordinator and committee member. This exciting project will take a few months for it to be

installed and for all radio operators to be fully trained on the touch screen system before it goes live.

It would appear that Frequentis has Radio Officer John Bodycombe's approval.

BLESSING OF THE FLEET

A spectacular morning on the water with the Bribie Island Sailing Club's Blessing of the Fleet 2021, Father Steven Schwarzrock from Bribie Island St Peters Anglican Church blessed the fleet as they motored past the Volunteer Marine Rescue Bribie Island pontoon. VMR Bribie's three rescue vessels were used as marshalling vessels and were blessed as well. VMR Coxswain Simon Middap did a safety briefing for all the skippers before the ceremony. A fleet of 9 sailing vessels, the Bribie Island Dragons Abreast Dragon Boat, plus outrigger canoes from the BIMOCC, Ken and Frankie Park in their vessel Pacemaker, plus quite a few paddle boarders joined in the fun.

VMR Coxswain Simon Middap doing a pre-Blessing of the Fleet Safety Briefing.

What does an off duty VMR skipper Jon Brice do? Comes and watch the Blessing of the Fleet with his wife Nia of course!

VMR Coxswain Simon Middap, Father Steven Schwarzrock, Dr. Doug Wilson from the Bribie Island Sailing Club, VMR Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe and VMR Commodore Liz Radajewski on the Base Pontoon for the Blessing of the Fleet.

VMR Bribie's 3 Rescue Vessels head for the forming up point at Turners Camp.

Bribie 1 and Bribie 2 leading the parade of Bribie Island Sailing Club Vessels to the Blessing of the Fleet.

Bribie 1 and her Crew receive their blessing from Father Steven Schwarzrock from Bribie Island St Peters Anglican Church.

The first vessel from the Bribie Island Sailing Club was Euphrosyne skippered by Jim Thomson to be blessed by Father Steven Schwarzrock.

Bribie Island Sailing Club member vessel Millie skippered by Ian Teakle.

Bribie Island Sailing Club Member vessel Windbuster skippered by Kevin Bennett.

Bribie Island Sailing Club member vessel Therapy skippered by Paul Bird.

Father Steven Schwarzrock on the VMR Bribie Pontoon.

The Bribie Island Sailing Club Blessing of the Fleet vessels Miss Understood skippered by Barry Colson with Midnight Rain a Farrier Trimaran skippered by Bill Ferguson following.

Bribie Island Sailing Club Blessing of the Fleet Father Steven Schwarzrock from Bribie Island St Peters Anglican Church giving a blessing to Now or Never skippered by Andy Keats.

Pacemaker skippered by Ken and Frankie Park is blessed by Father Steven Schwarzrock.

Pacemaker passes the Official Party on the Base Pontoon.

Bribie Island Sailing Club Blessing of the Fleet. The Outrigger Canoes from BIMOCC.

Bribie Island Sailing Club Blessing of the Fleet. The Outrigger Canoes from BIMOCC.

B14 Dragons Abreast Bribie Island's Kal-Ma-Kuta with 20 POB approach the VMR Pontoon.

Almost "Blessed!"

Bribie Island Sailing Blessing of the Fleet. Father Steven Schwarzrock blesses the Bribie Island Dragons Abreast (the Bribie Pink Ladies, in their Dragon Boat).

Bribie Island Sailing Club Blessing of the Fleet even had some local paddle boarders join in the ceremony.

Andrew Veary aboard Bribie 1.

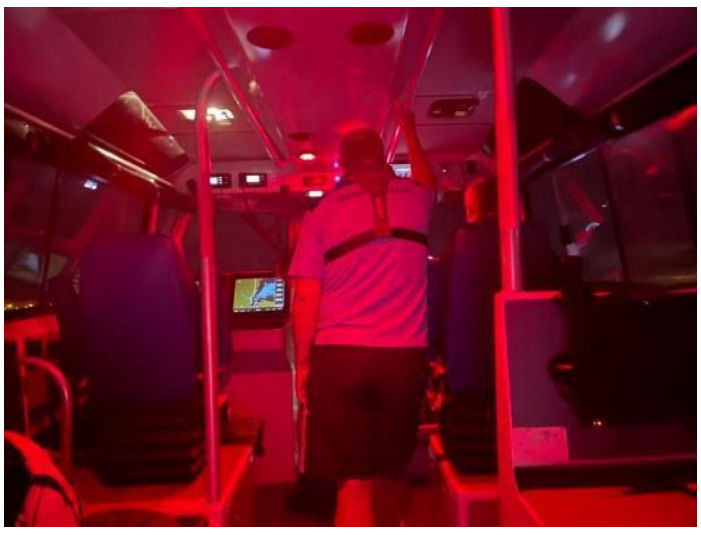
Les Oldmeadow and Samuel Cronk arrive back at the Base Pontoon aboard Jonkers Bribie 3.

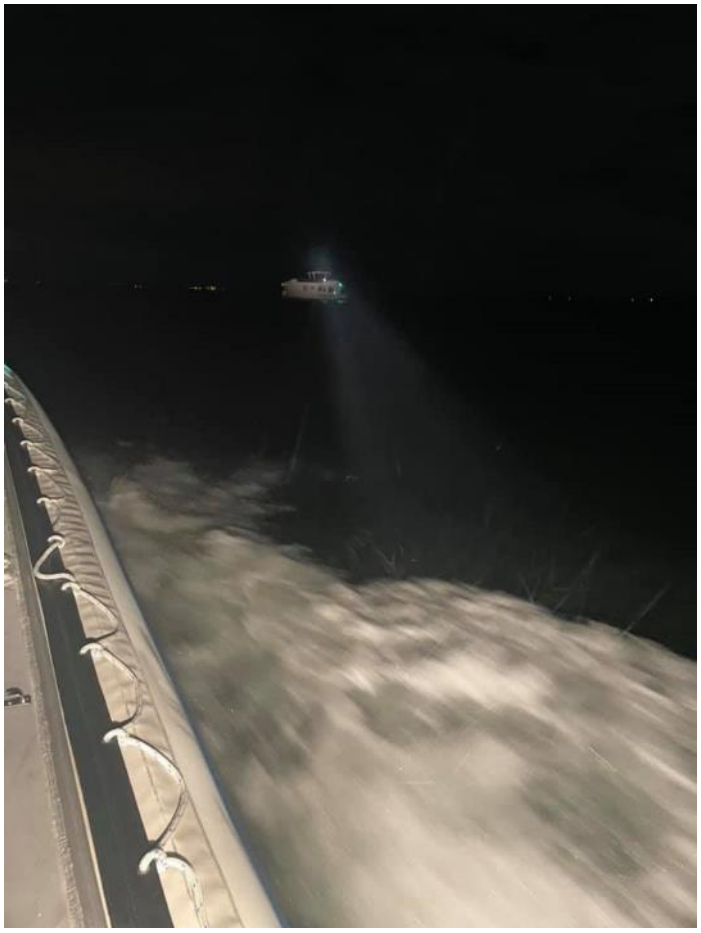
Karen Darlington preparing Bribie 1 for docking.

The Sunday crew assisting a disabled vessel on Pumicestone Passage.

EARLY MORNING ASSIST

It was a 2 am wake up call for the on-call crew this morning, they were called to a houseboat struggling with tide, wind and current to get into the passage and was not making any progress after 2 hrs so he was taken under tow to the north side of the Bribie Bridge then he made his way to Spinnaker Marina.




Bribie 1 under way to assist the Houseboat.

Above and below: The Houseboat under tow.

SUNSET DRINKS

Friday 29th January 2021 – Once again Sunset Drinks was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

FEBRUARY 2021

FEBRUARY RADIO ROOM STATISTICS

1,147 Calls, 309 vessels logged on,
24 Vessel Assists, 126 Sitreps, 93 Requests,
4 Overdue vessels, 0 Vessel Tracking,
143 Radio Checks, 0 Weather Forecasts
1 Securite Broadcasts. 1 Pan Pan, 0 Mayday

VHF calls 73.5%, - 27MHz calls 7.9%

FEBRUARY VESSEL ASSISTS:

WED 03/02 1307pm – 6m Yacht non-member reported by MOP to be dragging anchor toward Pacific Harbour entrance – investigate and secure.

FRI 05/02 1338pm – 4m Tinny non-member motor won't go down required a tow from Elimbah Creek to Toorbul boat Ramp.

SAT 06/02 1709pm – 4.6m Tinny non-member motor won't go down required a tow from Glasshouse Creek to Donnybrook Ramp.

SUN 07/02 1341pm – 6.5m Centre Console non-member with electrical problems, required a tow from Shallow Tempest to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

SUN 07/02 1450pm – 4.5m Tinny non-member with water in fuel required a tow from South of the Bridge to Banksia Beach.

FRI 12/02 0748am – 5.4m Half Cabin member, with U/S battery, required a new one delivered to Bulwer area Moreton Island.

FRI 12/02 1554pm – 4.5m Centre Console member with a fuel problem required a tow from 2km South of Gilligan's Green Marker to the Bongaree Boat Ramp.

SAT 13/02 1231pm – Jet Ski non-member broken down, required a tow from Red Beach to Pacific Harbour.

SUN 14/02 1945pm – 11.6m Yacht member taking on water at White Patch required a tow to beach at Turner's Camp.

MON 15/02 1029am – 10m Catamaran member, beached last night and required assistance to refloat at Bongaree.

TUE 16/02 0950am – 7.9m Yacht member stuck on sand at Beachmere, required a tow at high tide to refloat and secure on mooring at Beachmere.

WED 17/02 0927am – Request from QPS to transport 2 Officers to Goat Island to search for 2 missing persons.

WED 17/02 1710pm – Request from Water Police to assist with SAR for Kayak drifting between Scarborough and Bribie. The conditions were not good, but person was located safe and sound.

SUN 21/02 1040am – MOP reported vessel beached at Red Beach, taking on water and bilge pump not keeping up. Investigated and pumped out. Southern Fish towed vessel to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

MON 22/02 1850pm – A/H callout 8.5m Cruiser member of VMR Southport without fuel, power, or generator at Tangalooma, required a tow to Scarborough Marina for fuel, Bribie 1 returned to base at midnight.

THU 25/02 0936am – 4.5m Runabout non-member with engine problems, required a tow from Buckley's Hole to Bellara Ramp.
FRI 26/02 0712am – 12m Yacht member was reported drifting off Bongaree, investigated and relocated near Airforce Park.
SAT 27/02 0929am – 5m Tinny non-member with fuel problems required a tow from near South Cardinal to Spinnaker Sound Marina.
SAT 27/02 1407pm – 4.7m non-member with engine problems required a tow from Ningi Creek to Bongaree Ramp.
SUN 28/02 0859am – 5m Half Cabin member with motor problems, required a tow from Bulwer to Bellara Boat Ramp.
SUN 28/02 1022am – 6m Cuddy Cabin member with engine problems required a tow from Tangalooma to Spinnaker Sound Marina.
SUN 28/02 1147am – 5m Tinny non-member with engine failure required a tow from Avon Wreck to Toorbul area.
SUN 28/02 1434pm – 6.6m Half Cabin with engine failure required a tow form Pumicestone Passage to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

Bribie 1 heads out for a night exercise on Tuesday the 2nd February 2021.

JOIN VMR BRIBIE ISLAND

Have you been meaning to join VMR?
Well, have we got a deal for you, if you join in February or March you will go into the draw to win a GME GX625 Handheld VHF Radio.

So, what are you waiting for click the link below to join up online or drop into the base and see our amazing radio operators, or watch this space for a few dates where we will be at various boat ramps, where you can come meet the crews and sign up at the same time.
https://www.vmrbribie.com/how-to-join/

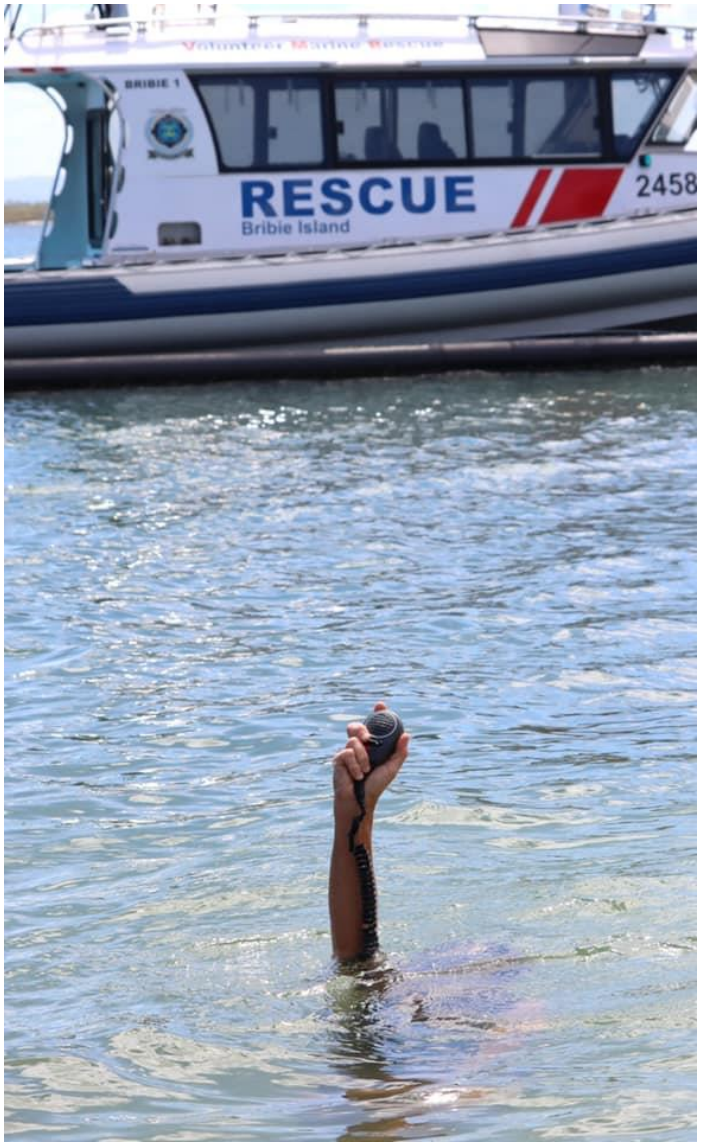
NEW CREW INFO NIGHT

An information night was held under Covid Safe conditions at VMR Bribie on Thursday 4th of February for six new potential crew members. The meeting was hosted by VMR's Training Officer Allan Tranter also in attendance was Commodore Liz Radajewski, Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe, and Crewmember Jamie Darlington. All spoke about various aspects of the VMR operations.

Above and below: VMRBI Unit Training Coordinator and Coxswain Allan Tranter addresses the meeting on training requirements of being a crew member at VMR Bribie Island.

Crew Member Jamie Darlington talking about some of the fun things that happen on crew days.

Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe addressing the meeting on requirements other than training of the being a crew member at VMR Bribie.



Did you forget to LOG ON today?

You may contact us on VHF channel 73, 27MHz channel 90 or by phone direct to the radio room on 3408 7596. If you are unable to contact us on VHF channel 73 or 27MHz channel 90 we also monitor VHF channels 16, 21, 63, 67 and 81 as well as 27MHz channels 86 and 88.

When logging on we will ask you to provide the following details:

- Your call sign (member number or vessel name)
- Your departure point
- Your destination
- Number of people on board
- Your estimated time of return

If you are a non-member, then we also ask for. particulars of your vessel and a contact phone number (for members we have these details recorded in our database as part of your membership record).

The radio operator will repeat these details to ensure we have understood and recorded them correctly, so it is important that you wait for confirmation before signing off.

If you decide to change your voyage or return time particulars, then call us to advise these changes. When you have safely returned to your departure point, we ask that you call us so that we can log you off from our monitoring system.

Blue Saturday is your crew for today. Remember safety on the water; so, we have Log On Sam with handheld, EPIRB Nigel has his ready, flares Graham ready to go, life jacket Celal, and sunscreen Alan.

VARIETY JET TREK

Well, what a weekend it has been for us here at VMR Bribie Island, on Saturday the Variety Jet Trek came down and used the facilities for on water training with K38 Oceania for all the jet trek officials. The amazing social ladies and BBQ boys looked after all their food needs and what a great job they did.

Jet Trek Officials and some of our more experienced riders who made their own way to Bribie Island this weekend were put through their water rescue paces by Craig Zulian from K38 Oceania. We already had a huge level of experience and knowledge within our group but to be lucky enough to have Craig & Jayson share their rescue knowledge, techniques, tips & tricks makes it even safer on the water for everyone!

Jet Skis at the ready for the practical sessions.

Craig Marriott speaks to the group.

Practical classes begin on Sylvan Beach.

Demonstration of rescue techniques.

Classes continue.

BLUE SATURDAY CREW DAY

Saturday was also car parking day for our volunteers at the Sandstone Point Hotel, they managed, in the never-ending heat, to park thousands of cars safely and raise much needed funds. Then on top of that Blue Saturday was busy training and looking after the waterways.

Samuel Cronk was welcomed to Blue Saturday Crew and congratulated on attaining his new rank of Crew. We all wish Sam well with his time at VMR Bribie Island.

Samuel Cronk receives his Crew Epaulettes from Commodore and Blue Saturday Crew Skipper Liz Radajewski.

Samuel Cronk proudly displays his new rank of Crew, watched by Competent Crew Nigel Blundell and Commodore Lis Radajewski.

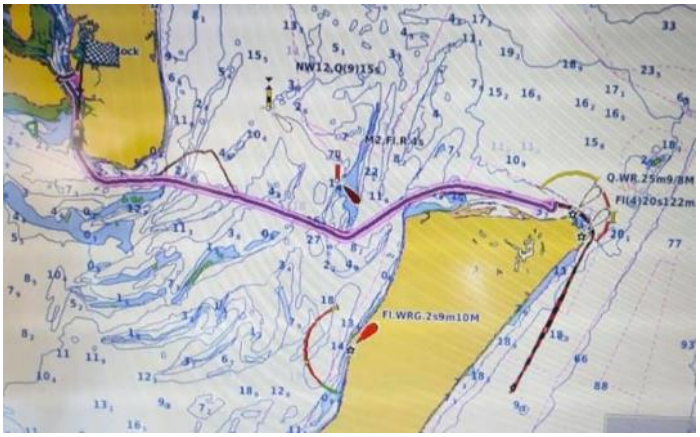
Sunday didn't stop either, our amazing raffler's went to The Sandstone Point Hotel to raffle off 6 meat trays while Blue Sunday Crew were keeping our boaties safe on the waterways.

A massive shout out to all the volunteers that make this possible, we couldn't do it without you.

SUNDAY ASSIST SHALLOW TEMPEST

Paul Gillmore waves all is well with the tow.

Dave Wereszczuk of Blue Sunday Crew (7th Feb) hard at work, we had some very happy people under tow from a long way out at Shallow Tempest as you can see from the chart.



The trip to Shallow Tempest shown on the Chart.

Dave Smith can testify there really is never a quiet moment here at VMR Bribie Island, the maintenance team are always busy keeping the base and equipment in tip top shape.

Ron Burrett cleaning up!

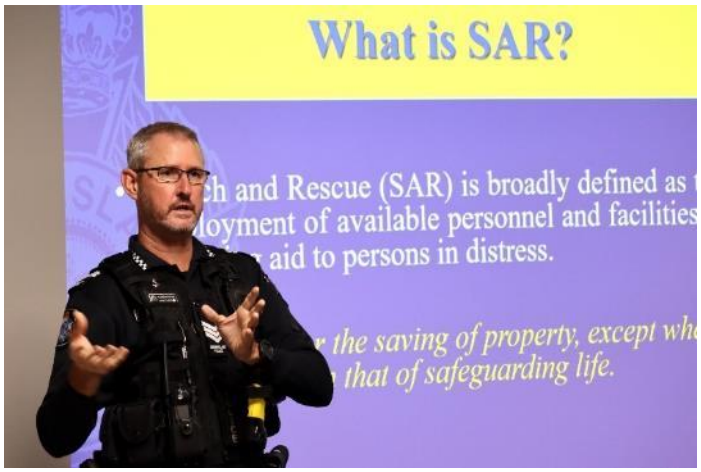
We are often asked how do you keep your lawns so nice, as they always look so lush and green? Well, here is your answer our secret weapon, Peter Naven the "Lawn Barber".

Recently we had a cherry picker on site with the techs from Teleco doing repair work to the tower after the big storm a few months ago and installing another antenna for the upgrade to the radio room.

SAR TRAINING

Wednesday 9th February 2021 - VMR Bribie always looking to improve their operations, invited the Brisbane Water Police to the base to talk to night callout Radio Operators and some Senior Crew on how a SAR (Search and Rescue) is managed and how to effectively communicate for the best outcome between all parties. It was a very successful night, and all who attended gained some useful knowledge making us all better prepared for the next emergency.

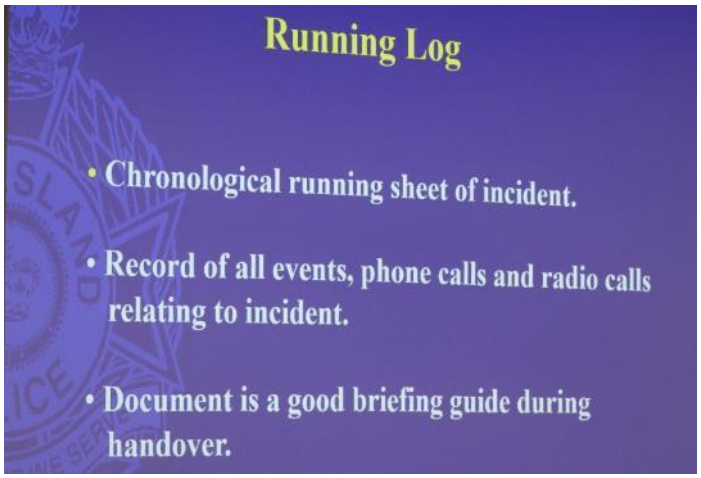
The experienced Water Police went through examples of recent SARs, the outcomes, a brief outline of their computer modelling, which made more sense of why we have been sent to search what seemed odd areas to us at the time!



Acting Sgt Mark Gardner from Brisbane Water Police talking about Search and Rescue operations.

SAR meeting held at the base with callout radio operators and some senior boat crew, and members from the Brisbane Water Police.

One of VMR Bribie's photographers not often seen in our photos, Public Relations Officer John Traill.



SAR Meeting

VMR Bribie's Emergency Services Liaison Officer and part of the Night Callout Radio Team Graham Gibb addressing the meeting on some communications points.

VMR Bribie's Unit Resources Controller and part of the Night Radio Callout Team John Bodycombe. Asking questions at the SAR Meeting with Brisbane Water Police.

L to R: VMR Bribie's Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe, Senior Const CJ Findlay, VMR Bribie's Commodore Liz Radajewski, Acting Sgt Greg Hornby, VMR Bribie's Emergency Services Liaison Officer and one of the night Callout Roster for Radio Operators Graham Gibb and Acting Sgt Mark Gardner

HAPPY HOUR
5 pm Friday 12th February 2021

Commodore Liz Radajewski welcomed the 41 Active members and partners which attended the first Happy Hour for the year and thanked them for their dedication and ongoing volunteer service. Peter Morton and Heather Pearson manned the bar and provided bar snacks. The new stereo system in the function room was tested and our Secretary Gary Voss showed, on the big screen, a selection of bar crossings US style!

Commodore Liz Radajewski welcomes all to the first Happy Hour for the year.

Some of the 40+ crowd

More of the crowd: Betty Snell, Brenda Allardyce, Robyn Young, Ron Burrett, Graham Patrick, and Ian Grimes.

More of the crowd, standing: Geoff and Lyn Boucaut, Wayne Sclater, Dave Smith, Mark Horsburgh (partly obscured) and Peter McNamara, seated clockwise: Graham and Kerrie Parker, Graham Gibb, Sue Sclater and Pam Purtell.

More of the crowd.

Still more of the crowd.

Commodore Liz "working the crowd".

Commodore Liz Addresses the members and explains Phil Holmes' dedication to his role as Coxswain of White Sunday Crew.

Recently appointed Coxswain of White Sunday Crew expands on Commodore Liz's remarks re: Phil Holmes and thanks him for his endeavour to see him qualified to take over as Coxswain White Sunday.

Phil Holmes responds to the best wishes of his new venture to the Huon Valley in Tasmania.

Phil Holmes assures VMR that we are in good hands with Jon Brice taking over as Coxswain White Sunday Crew.

Clockwise from left: Graham Gibb, Wayne Sclater, Peter Moreton, Dave Smith and Sue Sclater listen intently to Phil Holmes response.

Kirsty and Phil Holmes attend their last Happy Hour at VMR Bribie Island.

The White Sunday Crew: Dale Mullins, Jon Brice, Phil Holmes Commodore Liz Radajewski, Mike Lucas, and seated, Mike Looney, Mark Purtell, and Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe.

A Sad and Happy night at VMR Bribie as one of our long-term skippers Phil Holmes is moving to Tasmania to live fulltime in the Huon Valley. A presentation was made to Phil by our Commodore Liz Radajewski, and members of his "White Sunday Crew" were also present. Seen above with his wife Kirsty. Everyone was very happy to be able to have a Happy Hour even though that the numbers were restricted Covid regulations to celebrate with Phil. The Commodore thanked Phil for his many years of service and leadership at VMR Bribie.

Ian and Denise Nesbitt, Ian is part of White Saturday Crew.

Heather Pearson, at home behind the bar!

IT Guru, Senior Radio Operator, Mr Rosterman, and Barman Peter Morton, "would you like nibbles with that!"

Mark Purtell and Graham Parker.

Sheryl Traill and Betty Snell had a chance to catch up.

Above and below: Sue Sclater and Gwen McNamara listening intently to one of Peter 's stories.

John Bodycombe dropped in, as he had just finished his afternoon radio shift.

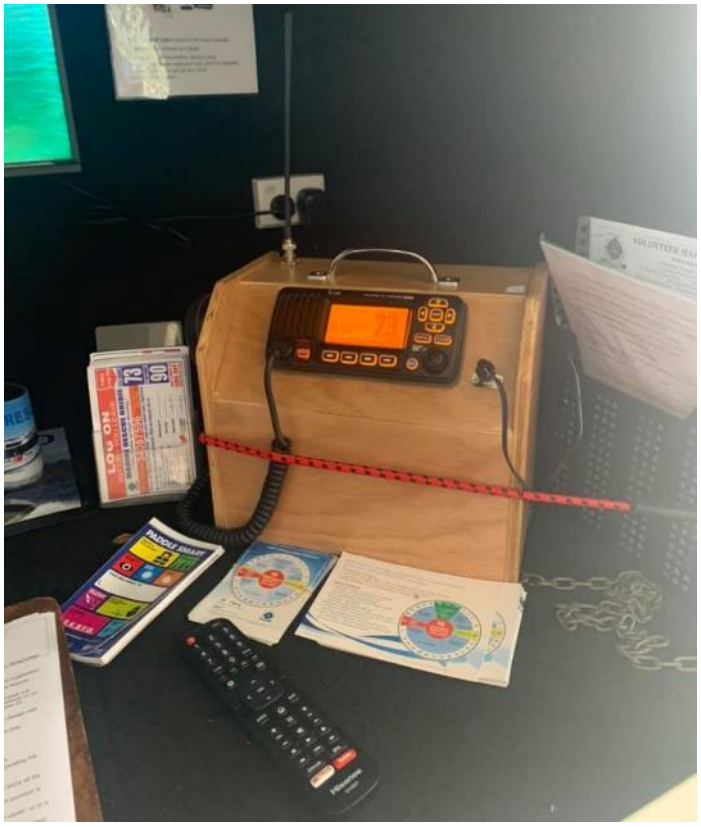
Commodore Liz, Secretary Gary and Member Services Officer Wayne working out how to drive the new stereo system!

BELLARA BOAT RAMP SAFETY AND MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION

Sunday Morning 14th February 2021 – Despite early morning showers and cloudy conditions, the weather cleared in time for the 9am start. Boaties, jet skiers and the general public dropped by to have a chat at the VMRAQ's information trailer at the Bellara Boat Ramp this morning.

We know it's raining but it will take more than that to stop us so we will be at the base 4 Marine Parade, Bellara in the dry so come on down buy some merchandise, become a member, grab some safety info watch some rescue videos, talk to crew watch a life jacket demo and how to maintain them, don't be shy come say HI

Not sure how to LOG ON with VMR come on down to the base and we can show you how it's done.



VHF Radio set up in the promotional trailer.

Training never stops at VMR Bribie even on a rainy Sunday Morning waiting for our boat ramp promotion, VMRBI Commodore Liz Radajewski can get roped into some knot training when walking through the base. Crewman Mark Purtell practicing some knots with Commodore Liz.

One of the hard-working couples at VMR Bribie Jamie and Karen Darlington spending Valentine's Day Morning at the Bellara Boat Ramp doing a membership drive and handing out information on boating safety.

"If it rains again at least we've got shelter".

VMR Bribie Bellara Boat Ramp Promotion. When someone comes along and asks how the Lifejackets work, next minute they are getting the full treatment from Commodore Liz Radajewski, and crewman Jamie Darlington.

Inflation successfully completed.

Commodore Liz has the procedure on video!

One of our friendly crewmembers Ian Nesbitt talking to members of the public at VMR Promotional trailer.

One of our friendly crewmembers Ian Nesbitt helping out a yacht at the Bellara boat Ramp.

Bellara Boat Ramp Promotion VMR Crew Members Karen and Jamie Darlington talking to boaties at about Marine Safety before they ventured out for the day.

Bellara Boat Ramp Promotion despite the overcast day there were a steady flow of boaties coming up to the VMR Bribie Trailer for information. Some of the hard-working Crew L to R: Committee Member and Boat crew member Karen Darlington, Senior Radio Operator and Public Relations Officer John Traill and VMR Bribie Commodore Liz Radajewski were on hand to help.

New members Ian and Lauren Alberts and children get all the safety advice from crew member Ian Nesbitt before launching their new jet ski.

Crewman Jamie Darlington helps out Lauren on the boat ramp after launching their jet ski.

Ian takes his son for his first ride on the jet ski.

Lauren has her turn on the new Jet ski.

Even “Wally” dropped in for some info.

New member Nathan Miano chats with crewmen Jamie Darlington and Ian Nesbitt.

Self-inflating life-jacket demonstration - just pull the cord!

Life jacket fails to fully inflate as this was an unserviceable life jacket for demonstration only!

Inflation completed by blowing air through the mouthpiece. Crewman Jamie Darlington explains why the life jacket didn't fully inflate as the old CO2 cylinder weighed less than the required 33g and therefore insufficient gas to fully inflate the life jacket.

A Valentine's Day surprise for Radio Operator Shirley Beaty when she received a basket full of goodies from the Commodore Liz Radajewski and Committee Member Karen Darlington. This was Shirley's first shift back at VMR after the passing of her husband Ian on Boxing Day last year. Great to have you back Shirley.

WINDY CONDITIONS

What a night it was last night with that crazy wind and terrible sea conditions. Bribie 1 and Bribie 2 and crews on the water various vessels dragging anchors and some taking on water, one catamaran was not so lucky and ended up on the beach.

All vessels were secured by the crews, another great outcome well done everyone involved.

Above and below: Bribie 2 and crew touching base with the owners of the poor catamaran that ended up on the beach last night.

SEAHAWK VESSEL LOGGING SYSTEM

VMRBI Radio Officer Peter McNamara, Senior Radio Operator Peter Morton and Secretary Gary Voss attended a meeting at VMR Brisbane on Monday 15th February 2021 which included a presentation from Andrew Cribb Marine Operations Manager with Marine Rescue NSW on the Seahawk vessel logging system which is currently used state-wide in NSW.

Seahawk vessel logging system presentation at VMR Brisbane. VMR Bribie Island's IT Guru and Senior Radio Operator Peter Morton talking with Andrew Cribb Marine Operations Manager with Marine Rescue NSW.

Seahawk vessel logging system presentation at VMR Brisbane by Andrew Cribb Marine Operations Manager with Marine Rescue NSW, present at the meeting were VMR Bribie's Secretary Gary Voss, IT Guru and Senior Radio Operator Peter Morton, VMR Bribie's Radio Officer Peter McNamara, John Murray Regional Operations Manager for Northern Rivers

Marine Rescue NSW, members from VMR Brisbane, Seaway Tower and VMR Southport.

This vessel was spotted Monday afternoon by a concerned member of the public she was well and truly high and dry. But Tuesday callout crew managed to tow her off at high tide and now she is safe and sound back with her owner.

RESCUE 500

17th February 2021 - Graham Gibb VMR Bribie's Emergency Services Liaison Officer arranged for Rod Edwards from Rescue 500 Helicopter to come and address the VMR Bribie's Committee on the operations of the Rescue 500 Helicopter and talked about possible joint training exercises. He also discussed the various ways they lift injured personal of vessels at sea, the importance of getting their weigh and fuel ratio right when doing long distance assists and how much it costs to run the helicopter a huge $12,000 per hour.

Rod Edwards from Rescue 500 Helicopter addressing the VMR Committee Meeting with the Rescue 500 Helicopter up on screen behind him.

Rod Edwards from Rescue 500 Helicopter having look at Bribie One on a very windy afternoon with the Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe, Commodore Liz Radajewski and Graham Gibb our VMR Bribie's Emergency Services Liaison Officer.

POSITION VACANT

Have you ever wanted to help your community in a meaningful way but weren't sure how?

How about joining our team? Become one of the VMR Family.

We are looking for a FUNDRAISING SUPER STAR
Tasks would be (but may vary):

- Co-ordinate all crew and raffle activities for every Sunday at the Sandstone Point Hotel i.e. making sure all rostered crew know when they are raffling, attending at least 2 raffles a month, making sure all equipment is ready to go and crew have all the things they need, create rosters and be the go to person for all crew.
- Help out with fundraising on carparking days.
- Find places to put donation boxes and monitor and organise collections and replacements as needed.
- Help out on Ramp days selling merchandise and memberships (1 ramp day every 8 weeks)
- Be a general help/fundraiser at BBQ's, EXPO's public events.

If this is something you can see yourself being part of then please email darlingtonk@vmrbribie.com

SAR MORETON BAY

SAR late yesterday arvo with Redcliffe Coast Guard looking for a man in a kayak conditions where not good at all, the missing person was located so it was great ending.

Above and below: The choppy and windy conditions made for poor visibility on Moreton Bay.

YOUNG ES AMBASSADOR 2021

Graham Gibb and Peter McNamara went to the Banksia Beach State School today to meet the new Young Emergency Services Ambassador selected by the school for this year's Emergency Services Expo due to be held later in the year. Willow Sheppard from year 6, a delightful young girl and I am sure that she will be great ambassador.

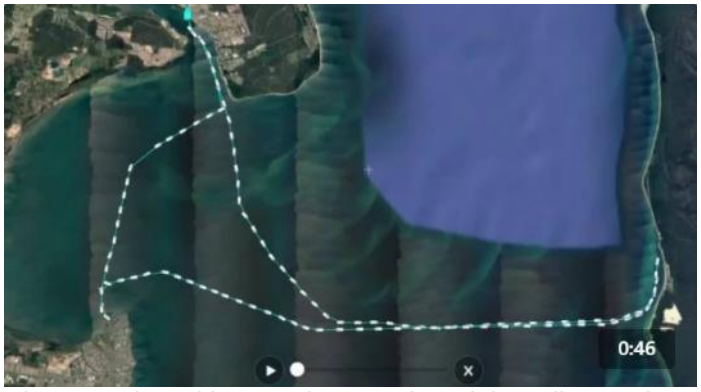
Meet the new Young Emergency Services Ambassador for this year's Emergency Services Expo Willow Sheppard, a year 6 student from Banksia Beach State School. Seen here with VMR's Bribie Emergency Services Liaison Officer Graham Gibb.

Willow Sheppard the new Young Emergency Services Ambassador for this year's Emergency Services Expo due to be held later in the year.

banksia Beach State School Principal Martin Leach, Willow Sheppard, and VMR Bribie's Emergency Services Liaison Officer Graham Gibb.

ASSIST AT TANGALOOMA

1850pm Monday 22nd February 2021 – An 8.5m Cruiser, a member of VMR Southport rang our after hours emergency hotline – a callout crew and radio operator were called in. Bribie 1 left the pontoon at 1918pm. The vessel had no fuel or power, and no generator. It has been many years since fuel was available at Tangalooma. The stricken vessel was towed to Scarborough Marina where fuel is available 24 hours, Bribie 1 returned to Base around midnight.



The vessel tracking on the Monday night call out where crew assisted a vessel with engine and power problems from Tangalooma to Scarborough. It was quite stormy on land but very peaceful on the water.

AIR CONDITIONER SERVICE

Tuesday 23rd February 2021 - The guys from Squeaky Clean Aircon Sanitising have come in at the VMR Bribie Island Base and given all our air conditioners a thorough clean.

If your aircons require a sanitisation or clean, you can give these local guys a call on 0460 667 510.

Vehicles at the ready in our Base Compound.

Committee Outcomes February 2021

The following is a summary of the outcomes of recent February meeting.

Mr Rod Edwards from the Queensland Government addressed the committee on the operation of the Rescue 500 helicopter. It was agreed that VMR Bribie and Rescue 500 would explore opportunities for joint training. Mr Edwards advised he would pursue attendance of Rescue 500 at the 2021 Expo.

The Commodore noted the following:
Representatives of VMR Bribie attended a meeting to discuss the Pumicestone Passage Catchment Local Management Body. The community in the northern section of the passage is pursuing the formation of a central coordinating authority to oversee the Pumicestone Passage waterways. At this time, the emphasis appears to be on planning issues in the north of the passage. VMR Bribie will continue to keep members abreast of developments.

New lifejackets have been delivered to replace the ageing lifejackets on all vessels.
VMR Bribie is looking for a raffle coordinator to oversee the operation of this important fundraising team.
VMRAQ has advised that there is a new training system to be rolled out on March 1. VMR Bribie has not had an opportunity to review this program prior to implementation.
VMR Bribie will be attending meetings during March with emergency services stakeholders in the Moreton Bay region.

The treasurer reported that our finances remain on track, with responsible levels of investment set aside for maintenance and replacement of vessels, and maintenance and potential upgrades of the building.

We still have over 1770 members, of whom 1600 have rescue coverage.

The radio room again handled over 1,300 calls during the period, with 32 assists provided to members and other vessels.

The radio system upgrade is well underway, with kick-off meetings held with the supplier (Frequentis). The hardware has been manufactured and is currently being tested before dispatch during March. It is anticipated that installation and commissioning will take place over subsequent months.

The system to be installed will provide enhanced digital radio operation using touch screens and will also allow recording of all radio calls as well as remote monitoring of the system.

The committee noted that the Coxswains Committee is well advanced in the investigation of replacement of motors on Bribie 2. It is anticipated that a recommendation will be available for consideration at the March meeting.

Initial concept designs have been developed for the upgrade of the radio room and verandah areas of the base. Further consultation with planners and builders will be undertaken during March, following which the costed plans will be put to members for consideration and discussion.

Unfortunately, three of our Coxswains have resigned during the period, as a result of interstate relocations and personal circumstances. The turnover of crew is a common issue faced by all VMR squadrons, due to the transient nature of individuals. There is a program underway to review crew structures and to recruit additional crew. Planning is underway for advanced training for up-and-coming skippers.

Vessel maintenance has been undertaken in accordance with the maintenance plans. Bribie 1 had a few minor fixes including navigation lights. Bribie 2 Sampson Post has been repaired, and the engines on Bribie 2 and Bribie 3 were serviced. All vessels are operating well.

VMR Bribie attended a demonstration of the Seahawk vessel logging system, used by Marine Rescue NSW. The demonstration provided a useful insight into how a state-wide vessel logging and incident response system has been implemented in NSW.

Search and Rescue training was delivered to radio operators and crew by Sgt Mark Gardner of QPS. Feedback on the training was positive, and further sessions are in planning.

Planning for Expo 2021 is well underway. Willow Sheppard from BBSS has been nominated as this year's Young Emergency Services Ambassador.

Meetings are planned with the Moreton Bay Local Disaster Management Group and the Moreton Island Essential Support Services Group, of which VMR Bribie is a member.

The fundraising team will be undertaking a boat ramp day in March, to engage with our boating community and increase boating safety awareness -- and maybe generate a few new members! Unfortunately, the February day was virtually washed out by rain.

A team of volunteers from across the squadron undertook a successful car parking exercise at Sandstone Point Hotel event. There are a few of these events planned for 2021 so the committee encourages members to help out at these events!

The fundraising team will also be attending the reopening of Anaconda at Morayfield on 27th February. Members are encouraged to visit the team and the store for a free sausage sizzle!

The base security system is being upgraded, including a new electric gate, and replacement security fobs for all Active Members. Unfortunately, the changes to the security system - as well as the increasing use of the secure yard for volunteer parking, emergency services vehicle parking and vessel maintenance - has meant that we will no longer be able to accommodate overnight trailer parking within the yard.

The annual VMR Bribie Golf Day is now locked in for 21st May. More details will be forthcoming shortly.

SUNSET DRINKS

Friday 26th February 2021 – Around 50 Active Members and Partners attended our first Sunset Drinks since February 2020. The Social Committee ladies and our BBQ boys put on delicious hamburgers for just $5. Commodore Liz Radajewski welcomed all to the function, the usual raffles were drawn, and Service Badges were awarded for 5-year Service and one for 20-year Service. Presentations were then made to the 2 retiring Coxswains.

Some of the crowd at Sunset Drinks.

Doug and Cecilia Wilson with Peter McNamara.

Commodore Liz in deep discussion with John Burdinat, and Brenda Hammond in the foreground.

Above and below: More of the crowd at Sunset Drinks.

Winner of the 1st Raffle Leona Patrick receives her prize from Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe and Commodore Liz Radajewski.

New member Maiya Edwards draws the 2nd Raffle ticket.

Ian Grimes winner of the 2nd raffle with Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe and Commodore Liz Radajewski.

Wayne Sclater and Peter Morton.

Nathan Gundry and fiancée Kate.

Keith Freeman and Wendy Luscombe.

Ron Burrett and Dave Smith.

Graham Patrick and Uldis Baltars.

Denny Freeman received his 5-year Service Badge from Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe and Commodore Liz Radajewski.

Jon Brice receives his 5-year Service Badge from Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe and Commodore Liz Radajewski.

Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe receives his 5-year Service Badge from Commodore Liz Radajewski.

Nathan Gundy receives his 20-year Service Badge from Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe and Commodore Liz Radajewski.

Nathan Gundry receives his presentation on his retirement from VMR Bribie.

Nathan Gundry responds to his presentation.

Nathan Gundry presents Keith Freeman with a plaque flanked by Commodore Liz Radajewski and Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe.

Keith Freeman responds to his presentation.

Green Sunday Crew respond to their Coxswains retiring from VMR Bribie.

Mike Henson speaks about his time with the retiring Coxswains.

Wayne Sclater, Green Sunday Crew and previous Commodore speaks of his time with the retiring Coxswains.

Green Sunday Crew with Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe and Commodore Liz Radajewski.

Linda Burdinat with Sue Sclater.

Nathan & Kate with his presentation.

Mike Henson chats with Nia and Jon Brice.

Peter McNamara with new members Maiya and John Edwards.

Commodore Liz Radajewski with Treasurer Doug Lythgo.

Linda Burdinat with Sue Sclater and Gwen McNamara.

Stayers Sheryl Traill with Commodore Liz Radajewski.

Karen Darlington, Graham and Kerri Parker with Ian Grimes.

Last drinks.

Leigh Lythgo with Gail and Allan Tranter and Ian Nesbitt.

Leigh Lythgo with Gail Tranter.

ANACONDA SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Saturday 27th February 2021 Anaconda in Morayfield celebrated the opening of their new look store. There were lots of discounts and give aways.

VMR Bribie was given a prime location right at the front doors. We were to provide free sausage and onions in bread, and we sold drinks for $2 and had various VMR merchandise for sale. VMR Volunteers were on hand for expert advice on everything boating!

We had 1500 sausages to sizzle!

Graham Patrick and Garry Bunker on BBQ duty.

Ready for business, Lee Prescott, Wayne Sclater, Garry Bunker, Graham and Leona Patrick, and Janine Jaavuo.

Free Sausage Sizzle!

Great location.

Graham Patrick, Garry Bunker and Sharyn Giles were kept busy.

Sausages were a hit with the kids as well.

Lee displays some of the VMR merchandise for sale.

Paul Burt managed time for a photo with Janine Jaavuo.

Time out for free ice-creams!

Paul Burt dropped in to promote our cause!

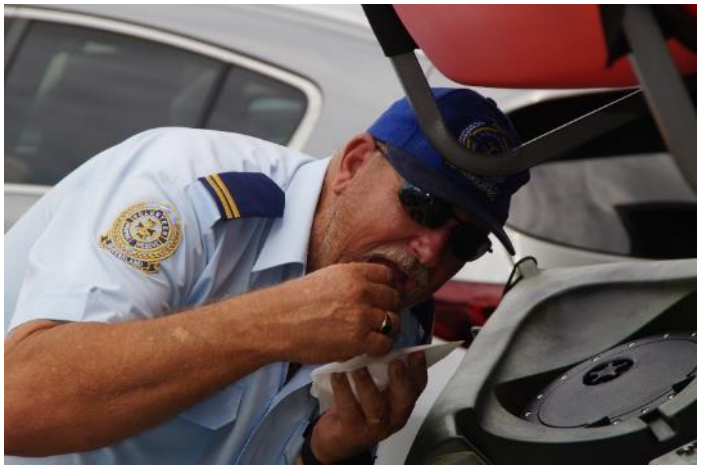
The donation tin was there as well.

Gail Tranter wiping the sweat from her brow (or hiding from the camera)!

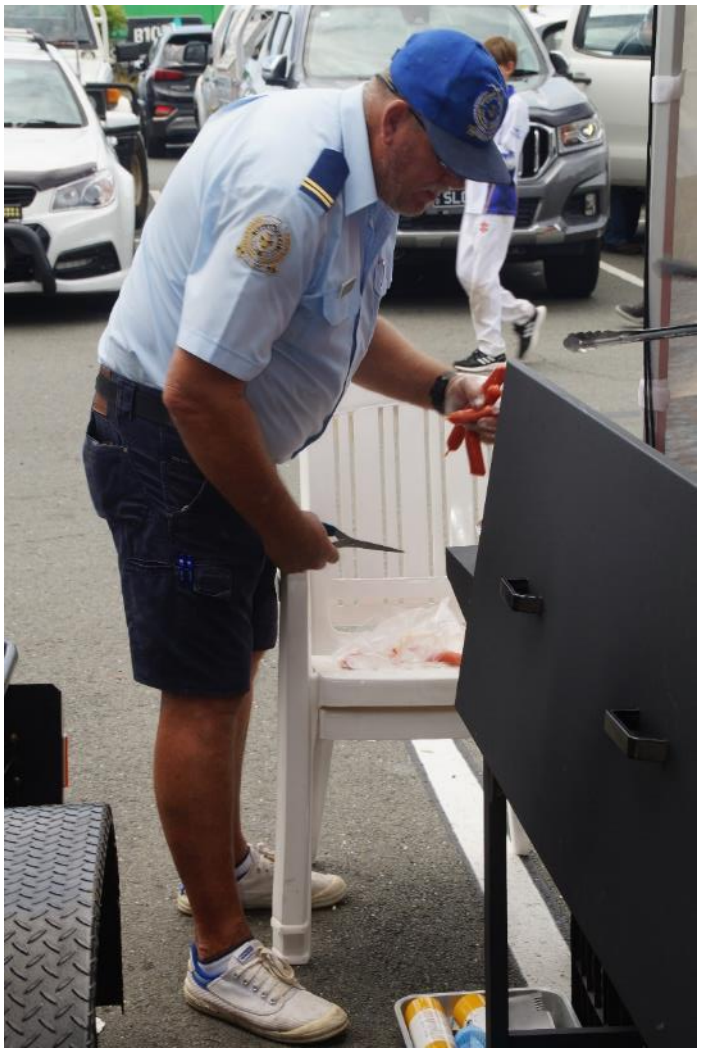
Queues were kept to a minimum with efficient service.

Commodore Liz ensured Janine's epaulettes were the right way around!

It was hot work at the BBQ – the free ice-creams from next door were a great hit!



Of course, the free sausages had to be quality checked by or Member Services Committeeman! Of course, it was his first one!



"Mr Snip It".

Dave Smith tidied up on his arrival.

Paul Burt promoting Log-On with VMR Bribie, above with Commodore Liz.

Paul Burt promoting Log-On with VMR Bribie, above with Lee Prescott.

Got busy at times with merchandise as well as free sausage/onions and bread, drinks were $2.

Dave "quality testing" the produce!

Gail Tranter had a visit from her daughter & grandchildren.

Allan Tranter with his granddaughter.

Graham Parker took over the EFTPOS machine from Allan Tranter.

Mike Pobar and Kerrie Parker took over duties on the BBQ.

Kerrie wonders how she got talked into this!

Mike with tongs at the ready!

GREEN SATURDAY

Green Saturday had some visitors drop in VMR Brisbane and the Water Police dropped in to catch up with the crews and see what was going on in the Passage.

VMR Sandgate One alongside Bribie 1 at our Base Pontoon.

QPV Casey Blain ramped up beside Bribie 1.

RADIO ROOM INFO AFTERNOON

2pm Saturday 27th February 2021 - VMR Bribie held an information afternoon for anyone who might be interested in becoming an active member as a Radio Operator here at the base.

Radio Officer Peter McNamara covered all aspects and requirements of the role, namely: -

- Clear and concise over the airwaves and capable of following standard radio protocols and procedures.
- Organised, methodical, and persistent in gathering and relaying information.
- Computer literate, at a basic level, or willing to develop the necessary basic skills.
- Able to remain calm and focused for extended periods especially during emergency situations.

- Able to work effectively in a team situation including liaison with external organisations.
- Able to understand, accept and act on instructions, including compliance with standard operating procedures, as required.
- Familiar (after training) with the operation of the base and associated office equipment.
- Qualified in First Aid and CPR from a recognised RTO or willing to undertake this training.
- In possession of a current Marine Radio Operators Certificate of Proficiency (LROCP). For those who do not have a suitable radio license training will be provided.
- Fundraising.
- Must be reliable and available for rostered duties.

Radio Officer Peter McNamara presents to the group.

24 interested people attended the meeting which held under current COVID-19 conditions.

Assistant Radio Officer Bob Brandis, assisted Peter, preparing, and operating the computer and projector; and with Radio Operator Dave Nicholls assisted Peter with comments and experiences within the VMR environment.

In closing Peter reiterated – "If you are interested in Boating and Volunteering this is a great way to give back to the community and the Radio Room has one the best views on Bribie". Peter also undertook to contact all those in attendance after a "2 weekly cooling off period" to progress to the next step.

Radio Officer Peter McNamara requests questions from the group.

BULWER ASSIST

Sunday 28th February 2021 – Commercial Coxswain Nathan Gundry and Coxswain Keith Freeman had a fun filled last day at VMR Bribie Island, Green Sunday Crew will certainly miss their experience and knowledge.

Already training at Tangalooma, they were diverted to Bulwer to tow a 5m Half Cabin member with motor issues back to the crowded Bellara Boat Ramp. This was only one of the 5 assists for the day.

The crowded Bellara Boat Ramp at 1047am.

Vehicles waiting to use the ramp.

The Boat Trailer park is full.

Bribie 1 with the stricken vessel in tow.

With the stricken vessel now rafted up to Bribie 1 an approach is made to the Bellara Boat Ramp.

Safely back at the Bellara Boat Ramp, Crew from left: - Lloyd Clark, Competent Crew Wayne Sclater (tugging on the rope), Commercial Coxswain Nathan Gundry (at the helm of Bribie 1), Senior Competent Crew Ces Luscombe, and Coxswain Keith Freeman.

GREEN SUNDAY FAREWELL BBQ

Sunday 28th February 2021 – After a busy Green Sunday Crew Day with 5 assists, the crew put on an impromptu BBQ to farewell Commercial Coxswain, Green Sunday Skipper and immediate past Commodore Nathan Gundry after more than 20-years' service Keith to VMR Bribie Island: along with Coxswain and Radio Operator Keith Freeman after some 8 years' service.

2 Water Police Vessels, Casey Blain and Carolus Isua, also called in to wish Nathan and Keith well in their new lives outside VMR and thanked them for their service.

Former Commodore Wayne Sclater had some surprise gifts for Keith all bundled into a little brown box, which provided considerable fun at Keith's expense! He was also gifted a VMR Bribie mug & stubby holder to compliment his VMR Plaque he received on Friday night at Sunset Drinks. Keith's wife Chris was also present for the event.

Commodore Liz Radajewski presented Nathan with a photobook of his time at VMR Bribie, with photos from Peter McNamara, John Traill, and others provided by Betty Snell. Those present were asked to sign the book to mark the occasion.

Nathan chats with Water Police's Senior Constable Jodie Rowell.

Commodore Liz Radajewski chats with Jamie Darlington and Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe.

John Traill shows the Water Police videos of today's assist docking the assisted vessel on the public pontoon with a racing tide and vessels everywhere. Which demonstrated the loss to the squadron of its most experienced skipper.

Bob Skinner and Sue Sclater chat with Water Police's Travis Kloda.

A quick snack before the presentations!

Wayne Sclater delves into "the box" to explain it's contents to a bemused Keith Freeman.

Keith Freeman is presented his "gifts" by Wayne Sclater watched closely by Vice Commodore and fellow Green Sunday Crewmember Ces Luscombe.

Keith Freeman responds to the "kind" words!

Green Sunday Crew members plus Commodore Liz help Keith display his "gifts".

Commodore Liz Radajewski presents Nathan with a photobook of his time with VMR Bribie Island.

Nathan and Keith with their parting presents!

The photobook generated much interest!

Two former VMR Bribie Commodores catch up! Bob Skinner chats with Nathan Gundry.

Nathan and John Traill discuss some of the difficulty in naming some of the subjects in the older photographs in the photobook.

The assembled group less photographer Peter McNamara.

Two Commercial Coxswains catch up! Ian Grimes chats with Nathan Gundry.

QPV Casey Blain leaves the base pontoon.

The Water Police vessels idle away from the base pontoon.

Commodore Liz sees off QPV Carolus Isua.

A familiar sight - "the stayers" - no matter the occasion!!!!

VMR BRIBIE ISLAND – THE HOME OF SAFE BOATING

Don't forget to Log On and Log Off with VMR Bribie no matter how long or far your trip, it may be the best call you make all day!

The next Issue of Passage Ponderings is due mid June 2021, you can keep up to date on our facebook page https://www.facebook.com/Marine-Rescue-Bribie-Island-445