

PASSAGE PONDERINGS

Issue #7

Compiled by John Trill

MARCH 2020

MARCH RADIO ROOM STATISTICS

1,039 Calls, 295 vessels logged on,
19 Vessel Assists, 92 Sitreps, 47 Requests,
0 Overdue vessels, 0 Vessel Tracking,
143 Radio Checks, 3 Weather Forecasts
0 Securite Broadcasts. 0 Pan Pan, 0 Mayday

VHF calls 77.3%, - 27MHz calls 9.3%

MARCH VESSEL ASSISTS:

SUN 01/03 1326pm – 3.5m Jet Ski member, Ski on fire near White Patch. Required a tow to

THU 05/03 1700pm - 4.5m Tinny non-member out of fuel in Ningi Creek, required a tow to Pacific Harbour.

FRI 06/03 0754am – 6m Half Cabin member with motor problems, required a tow from Bribie Bridge to Pacific Harbour canals.

FRI 06/03 1522pm – 8m Cruiser member with engine problems, required a tow from Cape Moreton to Banksia Beach.

SAT 07/03 1359pm – 4,2m Tinny non-member out of fuel in Ningi Creek required a tow to Pacific Harbour.

SAT 07/03 1715pm – Received a call from Water Police with people in the water off Redcliffe. Attended SAR but stood down around 1800 as person had been recovered, arrived back 1835pm.

SUN 08/03 1109am – 4m Tinny non-member with motor problems required a tow from Poverty Creek to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

FRI 03/13 0703am – MOP reported very large turtle with flipper caught in crab pot. Wildlife Rescue assisting our crew.

SAT 14/03 1605pm – MOP reported person in the water in the Passage. Both vessel and skipper taken to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

SUN 15/03 1058am – 4.8m Runabout non-member with engine problems, required a tow from Wrights Creek to Bellara Ramp.

MON 16/03 1015am – MOP reported a drifting Yacht South of the Sandstone Point Hotel Jetty – investigate and secure.

TUE 17/03 0732am – 12m Yacht non-member with broken driveshaft, required a tow to Scarborough Marina.

WED 18/03 1058am – Tender to Tahitian Ketch, a member broke away and was washed up on beach with the owner on board. Required to tow tender back to owner.



SAT 21/03 0747am – 7.5m Cruiser non-member with motor problems required a tow from Caloundra wide to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

SAT 21/03 1643pm – 5m Tinny member with fuel blockage required a tow from The Ripples to Bellara Boat Ramp.

SUN 22/03 0847am – 7.5m Cruiser member with starting problems, required a tow from Cape Moreton to Pacific Harbour Canals.

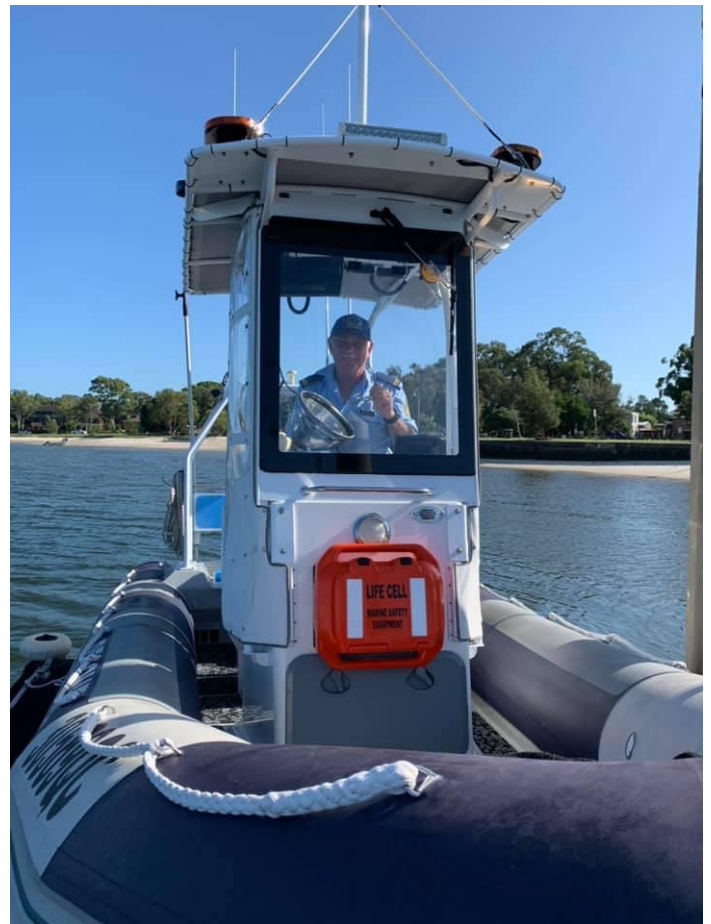
SUN 22/03 1146am – 7.9m Cruiser member taking on water, bilge pump not working off Woorim. Investigated, member made own way back to Pacific Harbour Canals.

SUN 22/03 1501pm – 7m Runabout non-member out of fuel South of Tangalooma. Required a tow to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

TUE 31/03 1026am – Advised by MOP non-member vessel stranded on Gilligan's Island, required a tow off the Island and accompanied back to Ningi Creek.

BLUE SUNDAY CREW DAY

Sunday 1st March 2020



Blue Sunday's Trevor Plant carries out pre-launching checks on Jonkers Bribie 3.



Mark Purtell receives his Competent Crew epaulettes from Senior Crew Bill Stanton and Commodore Liz Radajewski.

Service Agreement – Great News

Well almost. VMRAQ now has a signed 12 month Service Agreement with QFES with significant new benefits to squadrons. Why almost? Well the Minister may want to make a media statement about the improved funding model, but because AVCG have delayed signing we have to be careful not to make media or public statements until after then Minister has said his piece. However, we have QFES approval to advise our members. This will be happening officially in the next day or so.



QFES Commissioner Greg Lynch signs the Service Agreement with VMRAQ President Graham Kingston.

The great news is that the Insurance cover has again been covered by QFES, a benefit of \$8-9K on average for squadrons – more for some. We have also secured another \$363,636 (ex GST) new dollars for squadrons. This comprises \$113,636 for fuel to be used in training and \$250,000 for maintenance & servicing of rescue vessels. These new \$ will have to be acquitted to QFES as they are line items in the Service Agreement and policy will be distributed in the near future. This means squadrons could receive up to \$13,986 new dollars this year. When combined with the insurance savings it amounts to an equivalent doubling of the Operational Subsidy. It will

mean that the existing Operational Subsidy can be used for a wide range of operational activity that does not have to be acquitted to QFES.



VMRAQ Executive with Commissioner Greg Lynch, from Left: Treasurer Adrian Westerman, President Graham Kingston, Commissioner Lynch, Vice President Vince Papale and Secretary Ian Ivory.

We are pleased QFES has recognized the funding dilemma facing most squadrons and hope for an improved Capital Grants policy for vessel replacement as outcomes from the Blue Water Review is progressed.

Graham Kingston
President, VMRAQ

SEARCH AND RESCUE

Saturday 7th March 2020 – VMRBI received a call from Water Police about 1715pm that people were in the water off Redcliffe. Bribie 1 attended the SAR but were stood down around 1800pm as the people had been recovered, Bribie 1 arrived back at base around 1835pm.

The following was forwarded by the Water Police:-
“An investigation in the death of a 44-year-old man has commenced following a fatal marine incident in Moreton Bay, east of Redcliffe, this afternoon. Around 5pm, emergency services were called to two men who were thrown overboard from a yacht, one was reported to be unconscious. Brisbane Water Police coordinated a rescue involving volunteer marine units and the Rescue 500 helicopter.

The unconscious man was located a short time later and brought to shore.

Paramedics worked to resuscitate the 44-year-old man, however he was later declared deceased.

Initial investigations suggest the yacht was hit by a large wave causing a boom to swing and hit the two men, knocking them overboard.

The 44-year-old man sustained fatal head injuries while two others were transported to hospital with minor injuries.

Three other men who were also onboard were not physically injured.

Officers from Brisbane Water Police and the Forensic Crash Unit are continuing investigations.”

EX NORTH STRADBROKE VESSEL ARRIVES IN TASMANIA:

11th March 2020:- Kingborough Rescue 1 has arrived at its new home on Wednesday 11th March 2020! Volunteer Marine Rescue Kingborough is some 30km South of Hobart. They now have the big task ahead of them getting it ready for the water.



The following is an excerpt from VMR Kingborough website:

“We are extremely excited to announce that we have been successful in our grant application with the Tasmanian Community Fund. This grant will allow us to purchase a replacement marine search and rescue vessel as well as an air launching berth purpose fit to respond to incidents as well as expand and provide additional services to various communities of southern Tasmania.

The vessel and launching berth will enable faster response times in emergencies, provide assistance to Tasmania Police in a search and rescue capacity, and provide water safety to a number of community groups and events. The vessel has a proven hull design, modern outboards and is fitted with current navigation and radio equipment, providing a safer and reliable vessel for our volunteers.

The vessel was used by Marine Rescue North Stradbroke Island and is an 8.8 metre Noosa Cat powered by twin Suzuki 250hp outboard motors.

While it's still early days, over the next few months we will be organising transport, minor maintenance, electronic fit out (migrate from current vessel to new), testing and crew familiarisation.

The Tasmanian Community Fund was established in 1999 to provide grants to not-for-profit organisations. The fund arose from the sale of the Trust Bank. The sale proceeds were used to gain two particular benefits to the community:

1. retirement of a portion of State debt; and
2. establish a community fund to distribute an annual appropriation to the community through grants.

Since our last update we have been extremely busy behind the scenes organising transport and ensuring our new vessel is compliant to operate in our local Tassie waters. Our new vessel was lifted on March 3rd by Burpengary Crane Hire and put on the back of

a truck from Gradco (Heavy Haulage Specialists) at Marine Rescue Bribie Island. From there it made the long drive (approx 1,750km) down to Melbourne where it was placed on a ship bound for Tasmania. A big thank you to both Burpengary Crane Hire and Gradco for their assistance in ensuring that the new vessel arrived to us safely.”



Friday 13th March 2020 - Fundraisers at the Bribie Island RSL. From Left: Susan Ferrer, Ray Christensen, Karen Darlington, Treasurer Doug Lythgo and Paul Gillmore.

VMR Bribie Coronavirus Risk Management.



Our urgent rescue services will operate as normal.

1. We will be responding to all requests for urgent assistance from our community on the water.
2. The radio room will be manned and crews still on standby as always.
3. The base will be closed other than for emergencies.
4. We ask that members do not come to the base for any reason.
5. We ask that members pay joining or renewal fees via phone or internet.
6. Our front desk is closed for any card or cash transactions.

7. We will not be accepting flares until further notice. Keep them in a safe place at home and we will take them when the world returns to normal!
8. All social functions (Sunset Drinks, Happy Hours etc) are cancelled.
9. All training courses, meetings and functions are cancelled.

We have made every effort to ensure that our core activities of looking after the boating community are not interrupted, while looking after the welfare of our volunteers, members and the community.

NEW INTERCOM AT BASE



Friday 20th March 2020 - For anyone that does need to talk our radio operator at the base as our building is now closed in an emergency please use the new inter-comm system at the front door.

Thanks everyone for your understanding.



New Committee Members for Busy Fingers with Commodore Liz Radajewski and Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe are Secretary Sandra and Treasurer Pip.



Saturday 21st March 2020 - Green Saturday Crew was called to help a tinny in distress as you can see they were pretty happy to be rescued.



Sunday 22nd March 2020 – Self isolating? The scene at Tangalooma as Green Sunday Crew retrieved a vessel near Tangalooma.

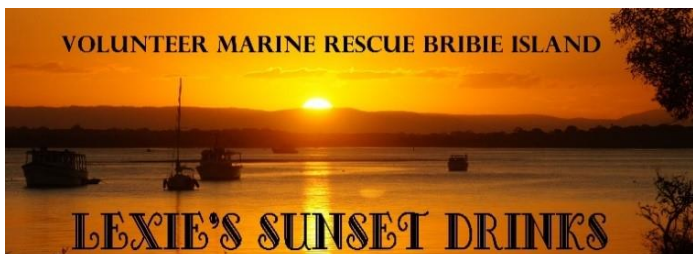
BRIDGE WORKS ANNOUNCEMENT MONDAY- FRIDAY 0700 hrs - 1600 hrs



We have Harcan Marine & Diving cleaning and inspecting the Bribie Bridge piles, they are now near the channel mainly today, Thursday 26th March 2020, Friday and some of next week.

Please pass under the bridge with caution as there will be divers in the water. It would be a great if you could help in keeping their team safe while they are working by slowing down and being vigilant.

Look out for their vessel and their dive flag and keep a low speed around the Bribie bridge.



SUNSET DRINKS

Friday 27th March 2020 - Due to restrictions imposed by National Coronavirus Containment Guidelines this event has been cancelled until further notice.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

The Local Government Elections were held on Saturday 28th of March 2020 at the VMRBI base. No

VMRBI Personnel were involved due to the COVID-19 Restrictions. The area used for voting at the Base was then professionally cleaned on Sunday 29th March 2020 at the expense of the Queensland Electoral Commission.

Cr Brooke Savige was returned for a 2nd term as Division 1 Councillor, Moreton bay Regional Council.

BUSY FINGERS CLOSURE

Our good friends and major sponsor Busy Fingers closed on Saturday 28th of March until further notice due to the COVID-19 restrictions..

POST by VMRAQ

“VMR and the COVID-19 situation
29th March 2020.

VMR has been classified as an Emergency Service within the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic, so volunteers will be able to travel for essential duties in the event of any further restriction of community activity. We are still here to provide essential support. Therefore, with respect of the safety of our volunteers and service to the community at large to following protocols are recommended:

1. We should maintain the VHF marine radio safety net, hopefully in the context of reduced boating activity;
2. VMR crews will operate on a callout, rather than on Base roster for SAR, waterside assist and non-COVID-19 related or suspected medivac; call out crew numbers should be restricted to the minimum for safe completion of the task and enactment of social distancing;
3. Determined or suspected COVID-19 medivacs will be advised to the relevant Water Police contact for medivac by QWPS, with QAS support;
4. If VMR is tasked by QWPS for a COVID-19 medivac, the activation will take place with minimum crew, a QAS paramedic, appropriate PPE, social distancing as possible and subsequent decontamination procedures for the vessel; Any isolation period for crew will be advised by Qld Health via QAS;
5. VMR squadrons may upgrade PPE in first aid kits to cover the eventuality that a routine waterside assist turns into a COVID-19 suspect. QWPS must be advised of this situation for instructions to proceed;
6. All training activity has been postponed until further notice;
7. Public access to Base facilities has been restricted and fund raising based on human gatherings has been suspended; members should only attend Base for radio roster, essential maintenance and crew activations;
8. Appropriate sanitizing equipment has been deployed at Bases;
9. Volunteers may decline participation in activations or radio watch based on personal risk assessment; acceptance of an activation is the prerogative of the VMR skipper.

10. Recent advice from the Queensland Government requires the isolation of international and interstate arrivals to enter a 14 day period of isolation. This includes maritime arrivals. No doubt marinas will be asking the relevant questions. Some VMR squadrons participate in the Australian Border Force pratique for arriving overseas vessels. If a squadron is tasked to assist a suspected international or inter-state vessel the following questions should be asked:

- a. What is your point of origin?
- b. How long have you been in Qld waters?
- c. Have you quarantined? When? Where?
- d. Is there any sickness on board?

Stay well everyone."

Graham Kingston, President VMRAQ:



Safety Dave The Frenchie says "To stop the spread of this terrible virus stay 1.5m from others follow the rules on social gatherings ,wash your hands (paws) and stay at home if you are sick, let's do this together and look forward to better days".



Photo and message from our facebook page: "If you are choosing to head out on the water today please follow all social distancing and hygiene rules at the boat ramp and make sure your vessel is 100% seaworthy so we can all stay safe.

Also remember if you are heading out to Log On with your local VMR or Coast guard."

PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACONS

PLBs are smaller and easier to transport than other beacons; and are designed to be worn or carried by individuals these can be used on land, sea and air. There are many different makes on the market so take your time to decide what PLB is the best for you. They are light weight and easy to use in an emergency it literally puts rescue in the palm of your hand.



Safety Dave the Frenchie demonstrates Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs)

For a PLB to be legally acceptable, it needs to abide by all of the following:

1. It must comply with the standard AS/NZs 4280.2
2. The owner or master of the ship must have it registered with the Australian Marine Safety Authority (AMSA).
3. It must have up-to-date registration.
4. It must be GPS-enabled.
5. It must float, or must be fitted with a pouch or similar item that ensures it will float.

Note: PLBs are not considered a substitute for EPIRBs when adhering to State and Territory marine rules and regulations.

STRANDED VESSEL @ GILLIGAN'S

Tuesday 31st March 2020 we were advised by a member of the public that a vessel was stranded on Gilligan's Island. It was a non-member vessel and required a tow off the Island we accompanied it safely back to Ningi Creek.



Nothing like attempting to self-isolate yourself on Gilligan's Island. Unfortunately for them we pulled them off!

APRIL 2020

APRIL RADIO ROOM STATISTICS

1,070 Calls, 333 vessels logged on,
24 Vessel Assists, 109 Sitreps, 44 Requests,
4 Overdue vessels, 0 Vessel Tracking,
79 Radio Checks, 1 Weather Forecasts
0 Securite Broadcasts. 0 Pan Pan, 0 Mayday
VHF calls 75.2%, - 27MHz calls 9.7%

APRIL VESSEL ASSISTS:

FRI 03/04 0951am – 5.2m Half Cabin member with motor problems required a tow from 1km off Woorim to Bellara Boat ramp.

SAT 04/04 1217pm – 8.5m Full Cabin member with motor problems, required a tow from entrance to Pacific Harbour into Pacific Harbour Canals.

SAT 04/04 1548pm – 11m Cruiser non-member with fuel problems required a tow from Pumicestone Passage South of Pacific Harbour entrance into Spinnaker Sound Marina.

SUN 05/04 1526pm – 4m Quintrex non-member with motor problems required a tow from Ningi Creek to Bellara Boat Ramp.

TUE 07/04 0822am – 3m Kayak non-member, had fallen off kayak and kayak floating North up the Pumicestone Passage – MOP recovered Kayak, VMR Crew was stood down.

TUE 07/04 1155am – Water Police activation for overdue vessel vicinity of Caboolture River. Vessel was located and VMR stood down.

SUN 12/04 1255pm – 4.2m Tinny non-member, conditions too rough and is tied to VKR Vessel Conroy, required a tow from Cowan Cowan to Bellara Boat Ramp.

TUE 14/04 0934am – MOP reported empty 4m Tinny with small outboard drifting North in Pumicestone Passage Bongaree – investigated nothing found.

TUE 14/04 1239pm – 7m Centre Cabin non-member with motor issues required a tow from Deep Tempest to Caboolture River.

THU 16/04 1428pm – 4.8m Centre Console non-member with motor issues required a tow from Cape Moreton to Scarborough Harbour.

FRI 17/04 1221pm – 6.3m Half Cabin member with motor problems required a tow from The Cackle Banks to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

SAT 18/04 1357pm – 5.8m Half Cabin non-member with motor problems was reported by Police Communications at Maroochydoore, required a tow from Tangalooma to Scarborough Harbour. On way to Tangalooma came across vessel towing Jet Ski in trouble, took aboard mother with a child and a baby for safety reasons.

SAT 18/04 1603pm – Non-member vessel towing Jet Ski required a tow from Southern end of Bribie Island to Bellara Boat Ramp.

TUE 21/04 0714am – 6.8m Cuddy Cabin member with fuel issues required a tow from Tangalooma to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

TUE 21/04 1101am – 10m BBQ Boat non-member stuck on sand bank North of Bribie Bridge, required a tow to deeper water.

TUE 21/04 1320pm – 5.3m Bowrider member required a tow from Cape Moreton to Banksia Beach.

WED 22/04 1115am – 4.2m Runabout non-member out of fuel required a tow from Tangalooma to Bellara Boat Ramp.

FRI 24/04 1500pm – 6m Cruiser non-member with motor problems required a tow from Comboyuro Point to Scarborough Harbour.

SAT 25/04 0912am – Vessel dragging anchor between The Bribie Bridge and the Bongaree Jetty. Investigate and secure.

SAT 25/04 1141am – 6.1m Half Cabin non-member with engine issues required a tow to the Bongaree Boat Ramp.

SAT 25/04 1236pm – 7.3m Centre Console member engine will not start, required a tow from North Woorim to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

SAT 25/04 1624pm – 5.1m Tinny member with electrical issues required a tow from off Beachmere to Caboolture River, Beachmere.

SUN 26/04 0611am – 5.2m Cruiser non-member with engine issues required a tow from Southpoint to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

SUN 26/04 1631pm – 2m Jet Ski non-member with engine issues required a tow from Passage in front of Base to our Base Pontoon.

TUE 28/04 0826am – MOP reported Empty vessel floating in canal under Sunderland Drive – investigated and recovered Tinny, VKR located and advised owner.

THU 30/04 0135am – 4.8m Centre Console non-member unable to start motor required a tow from White Patch to Toorbul Boat Ramp.

THU 30/04 0915am – 15m Cruiser member near White Patch has problems retrieving anchor, investigated and assisted vessel, which continued under its own steam to Scarborough for repairs.

CONGRATULATIONS DOUG LYTHGO



Doug Lythgo (White Saturday crew) being awarded his new epaulettes from Commodore Liz Radajewski and Coxswain and UTC Allan Tranter, on his promotion to Senior Competent Crew and as you can see social distancing was observed and we did a leg bump instead of a hand shake! Here at VMRBI we can be very inventive as you can see the boat hook came in very handy for the delivery of epaulettes



ROTARY CLUB CABOOLTURE VISIT



Steve Baker from The Rotary Club of Caboolture dropped in to the base to see Commodore Liz with a gift for all the Volunteers at VMR Bribie Island.

Steve stated that "They were provided by the Lolly Shop at the Caboolture Historical Village to 101.5fm our local radio station who bagged them up for Rotary Caboolture to give out to our local front line workers.

You and your crew at VMR Bribie are doing an amazing job and you should be very proud."

And who doesn't ve lollies especially at Easter, thanks to Caboolture Historical Village, 101.5FM - Moreton Bay's Own Radio Station and The Rotary Club of Caboolture.

The following notice was posted by MSQ on 1st April 2020.

This boat ramp is open

Social distancing rules apply – at the ramp and on your boat.

Boat alone or with one other person, or people you live with only.

Stick to your local waters.

Essential Reasons you may need to use your boat:

- Exercise (paddling, kayaking and sailing)
- Fishing
- Get to and from work
- Get groceries or medicines
- Provide assistance to immediate family.

Unless you have an essential need – stay ashore.



LtoR: Gary Bunker, Allan Tranter, Ian Grimes, Keith Freeman, Ray Gibbs and Bob Skinner.



LtoR: Gary Bunker, Ian Grimes, and Bob Skinner.

REPAIRS TO BRIBIE 1 SEA PEN

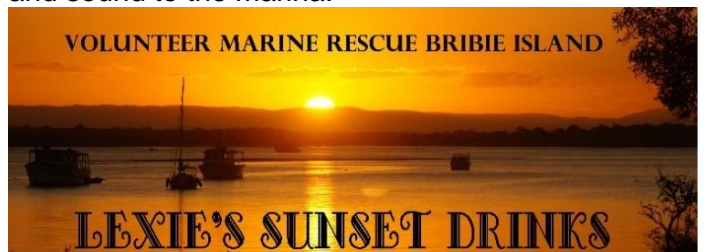


Skipper Keith Freeman all smiles after completing one of the dirtiest jobs. Keith had to crawl underneath the pen and look for signs of daylight that would show where some of the holes were that were letting water.

16th April 2020 - The Sea pen that protects Bribie One when it is not in use required urgent repairs. The membrane had numerous holes in it, thus letting water in and requiring the pump to work overtime to keep the pen empty. A difficult job at the best of times, was made a lot harder by the volunteers who came into help and were required to keep their social distances from each other.



Saturday 18th April 2020 Bribie 1 towing a 4.2m tinny back from Cowan Cowan this afternoon, in a 20kt SE. The 2 occupants were taken aboard Bribie 1 for safety as the seas were quite rough. All back safe and sound to the marina.



VOLUNTEER MARINE RESCUE BRIBIE ISLAND
LEXIE'S SUNSET DRINKS
SUNSET DRINKS

Friday 24th April 2020 - This Friday Sunset Drinks was once again cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

ANZAC DAY 2020

VMRBI was not involved in ANZAC Day Services or Marches due to the COVID-19 Restrictions.

ANCHOR MANAGEMENT

We had a different type of call for assistance Thursday 30th April 2020 - The anchor winch stopped on the Dauntless and the anchor couldn't be retrieved. Once the anchor was brought up by hand, which took a bit of effort, it appeared it was additionally fouled by another anchor. The whole lot was secured to the starboard side and the vessel proceeded to Newport for some anchor management.



Muscle power retrieving the entangled anchors.



Above and below: Anchors retrieved and secured, the Dauntless heads for Scarborough Marina.



MAY 2020

MAY RADIO ROOM STATISTICS

1,709 Calls, 321 vessels logged on,
27 Vessel Assists, 110 Sitreps, 33 Requests,
2 Overdue vessels, 1 Vessel Tracking,
107 Radio Checks, 5 Weather Forecasts
0 Securite Broadcasts. 0 Pan Pan, 0 Mayday
VHF calls 74.7%, - 27MHz calls 9.4%

MAY VESSEL ASSISTS:

SAT 02/05 1437pm – 5.7m non-member was not confident in strong winds and required assistance from Tangalooma Wrecks to Spinnaker Sound Marina, VMR transported an experienced skipper to bring vessel back.

SAT 02/05 1711pm – 3m Jet Ski non-member with motor issues required a tow from Woorim Lookout to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

SUN 03/05 1254pm – 6m Sports Cruiser non-member with motor issues, required a tow from Pumicestone Passage into Spinnaker Sound Marina.

MON 04/05 0001am – Request from Water Police to locate a woman heading from a Yacht to Spinnaker Sound Marina – investigated and located.

MON 04/05 1444pm – 7.4m Centre Console member with engine problems just South of the Bribie Bridge required a tow to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

TUE 05/05 1212pm – MOP reported drifting Yacht opposite Cotterill Ave and Welsby Pde, investigate and secure.

WED 06/05 1100am – VMR member advised that a 10.5m vessel adrift, vessel secured and owner notified.

THU 07/05 1024am – 6m Half Cabin non-member with a flat battery, required a tow 1km from Toorbul to Toorbul area.

FRI 08/05 1310pm – 4.5m Tinny member with a flat battery required a tow from Avon Wreck to Voyager Canal.

FRI 08/05 1906pm – Water Police requested search with 2 VMRBI Vessels between Elimbah and Ningi Creeks for missing 14 ft fibre glass dinghy. Found at boat ramp all OK.

FRI 08/05 2026pm – Requested by Water Police to check possible flare sighting on a direction of 128 from Sandstone Point. Later stood down, after more reports in different directions, possible meteorites.

SAT 09/05 1446pm – 4.3m Runabout member with engine issues required a tow from Bribie Bridge to Pacific Harbour Canals.

SAT 09/05 1705pm – 4.5m Runabout non-member with motor issues, required a tow from under Bribie Bridge to Bellara Boat Ramp.

SAT 09/05 1908pm – 4.8m Crestrider non-member required a tow from 500m South of Bongaree Jetty to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

MON 11/05 0610am – Requested by Water Police to transport QAS officer to Barge at 4 Beacons, Tangalooma for medical emergency. Later stood down before departure, attended to locally.

MON 11/05 1611pm – 14m Cruiser stuck on a sand bar and on its side just off Mission Point. Attended and expected vessel to float off on high tide.

MON 11/05 2109pm – 14m Cruiser was taking on water as it started to float off sand bar, and required pumping out. Attended and pumped out, owner was able to repair leak and anchored in deeper water OK.

MON 11/05 2132pm – Water Police advised 3 youths stuck on sand bar between VMR Base and Pacific Harbour. Another rescue vessel was launched and towed back to Base pontoon.

WED 20/05 1243pm – 5m Stessl non-member out of fuel in Passage ½ way to Caloundra, required a tow to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

SAT 23/05 1628pm – 5m Runabout with a flat battery required a tow from South end of Bribie Island to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

SUN 24/05 1054am – 8m Cruiser non-member with motor issues, required a tow from near Bribie Bridge to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

WED 27/05 1210pm – 5.5m Centre Console non-member broken down near Smiths Rock, required a tow Spinnaker Sound Marina.

WED 27/05 1304pm – 5m Runabout member broken down NW of Avon Wreck required a tow to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

THU 28/05 1239pm – 3.4m Jet Ski member, something is caught in impeller pick up required a tow from Poverty Creek to Pacific Harbour.

SAT 30/05 1407pm – 4.8m Runabout non-member with a flat battery required a jump start in the Pumicestone Passage at Toorbul.

SUN 31/05 1356pm – 5m Runabout non-member with a fuel problem 500m off beach halfway to Caloundra required a tow to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

RADIO MAST MAINTENANCE

Maintenance Work on the Radio Tower has started in May and will continue throughout the month. VMR Bribie Island recently engaged Telco Antennas to inspect, repair and replace the guyed wires, antenna mounts, antennas and cabling for our radio communication systems on the guyed lattice tower installed at our VMR Base. Scope of the work will include replacing some aerials, installing a couple of new aerials in preparation for the new radio system planned for later in the year and relocation of several aerials to improve reception.



The “Cherry Picker” in action.



Above and below: Telco Antennas inspecting, repairing/replacing and optimising antennas, connections, cabling and fittings on our radio mast.



Our Radio Officer John Bodycombe has been doing some testing with the current aerial configuration to ensure we get maximum coverage and reception.



Above and below, Tuesday 5th May 2020 Bribie 1 tows yacht between moored vessels in windy conditions to secure the vessel on the MSQ mooring.



NEW TRACTOR FOR VMRBI

VMRBI now has a permit to use our new pull-out trailer for Bribie 1 and Bribie 2. This will enable us to do more regular maintenance to Bribie 1 and Bribie 2 and will save us money and help to extend the working life of our rescue vessels.

We are now pleased to advise you that after a lot of searching we have been able to purchase a second hand tractor that is capable of pulling Bribie 1 and Bribie 2 out of the water to do this more regular cost saving maintenance.

Our maintenance manager Bob Skinner located a couple of possible tractors for sale – both of them around Mackay. There was nothing big enough to do the job in our region at the right price. Bob enlisted the help of VMR Mackay President and Life member Russell McLennan, who also happens to be a cane farmer, and a transport company operator. He knows tractors! Russell took some time out to travel to inspect both tractors; test drove them and gave us a terrific report. Thanks Russell!

Eventually we settled on a Case MX135HP four wheel drive tractor supplied by Ray Borg from Carlisle Tractors in Mackay. Ray did a great job getting the tractor up to scratch including getting it fully registered and supplying a brand new towing frame as part of the deal. He also arranged free transport to Bribie Island, saving us lots of transport costs. Thanks Ray! Willkie's Towing on Bribie also helped out with unloading the tractor off the back of the semi into our yard. Thanks Wilkies!



Tractor arrives at VMRBI.

The new tractor/trailer combination was put into action at Monday Maintenance on 11th May 2020 and proved very effective! Bribie 2 was hauled out this morning so that they could clean the hull. This was the first time it has been used after obtaining the necessary permit and registration. After a few minor adjustments ensuring that Bribie 2 was securely attached to the trailer, Bribie 2 was taken to the VMR compound for the hull to be cleaned. Gary Bunker was the tractor driver. The tractor had its flashing lights on and our maintenance team members acted as traffic marshals to ensure that there were no traffic issues. All the maintenance team were issued with 2-way radios for safety.



Gary Bunker reversing the trailer down the boat ramp.



The Case MX135 Tractor..



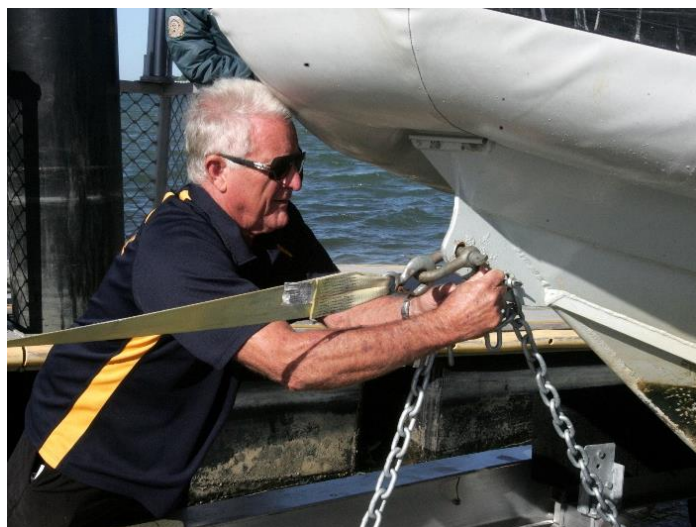
Bribie Two was skippered by Allan Tranter and Ray Gibb who drew the short straw to attach the shackles to Bribie 2. Still smiling even when the water was very cold.



Commodore Liz gives the thumbs up!



Gary Bunker at the wheel reversing the trailer down the boat ramp.



VMR Maintenance Manager Bob Skinner doing some minor adjustments to ensure that B2 was securely attached to the trailer ready to be hauled out of the water.



VMR tractor driven by Gary Bunker pulls Bribie 2 out of the water for the first time on the new trailer at the public boat ramp at Bellara.



Allan Tranter gurneys off the hull of Bribie 2, a much more efficient, safer, and cost effective process with the new tractor and trailer combo.



On route to the VMR Compound.



Gary Bunker reversing the trailer with Bribie 2 aboard into the VMR Compound for maintenance.



BREAKING NEWS!!!!!!

Safety Dave and Penny are expecting puppies on the 6th June. Yep we will have a junior safety crew! It will be cuteness overload

MONDAY 11th MAY 2020 ASSIST:

Our call out crew was called, around 4pm to a vessel stranded on a sand bank whilst anchored off Mission Point. It was considered that the vessel should float off as the tide rose! At around 9pm we got another call that the vessel was taking on water and they

needed help to pump it out. The crews arrived to the vessel that was almost full of water, the crew managed to pump the vessel empty of water and the owner managed to stem the flow. Another great effort from the crew and skipper for a great outcome.

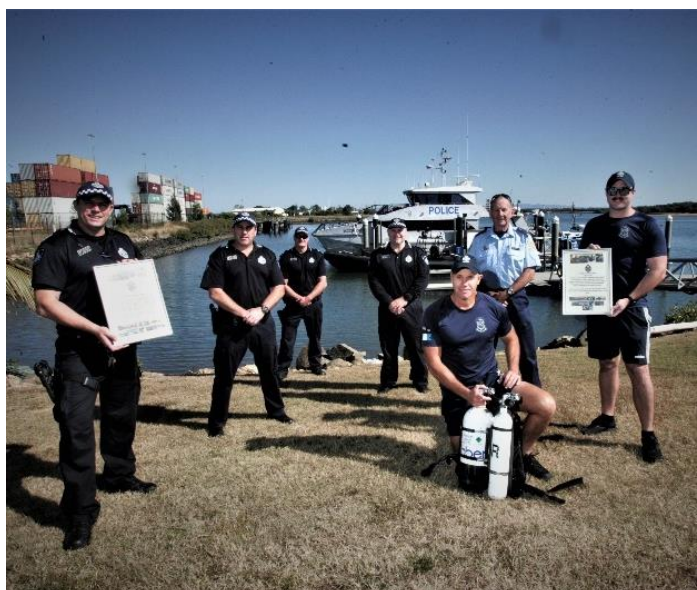


Monday 11th May 2020, 14m Cruiser off Mission Point stuck on sand bar, as the tide rose, she started taking on water and required pumping out and repairs were successfully conducted by owner.

Whilst busy with this assist, we had a call from the Water Police, who had received a triple 0 call from 3 youths in a tinny stranded between Pacific Harbour and our Base. Jonkers Bribie 3 was dispatched to bring the tinny and the 3 youths back to the Base.

EXPO PRESENTATIONS

The Emergency Services Expo for 2020 might have been cancelled for 2020 due to COVID-19 but Graham Gibb VMR Bribie's Emergency Services Liaison Officer along with Committee Member Peter McNamara, now that the 50km restrictions were eased, made sure that last year's event participation was not forgotten when they made a visit to those that hadn't yet received Thank You Certificates for being there last year. All agreed that they will be back next year bigger and better.

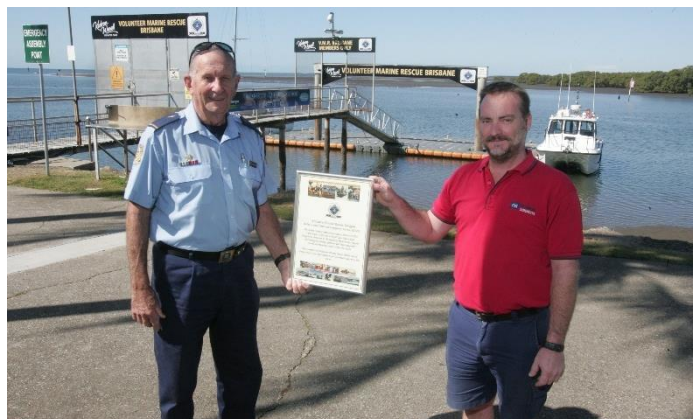


LtoR: At Brisbane Water Police Base - Acting Senior Sgt Jay Bairstow Officer in Charge, Senior Sgt Cary Worrell, Phil Brock, Acting Inspector Gordon Thiry, Police Diver

James Hall , Graham Gibb VMR Bribie Emergency Services Liaison Officer and Police Diver Kieren Spark. With their certificates. Social distancing was maintained for the Photograph.



Ron Grundy from Coast Guard Redcliffe accepting the Thank You Expo Certificate from Graham Gibb VMR Bribie's Emergency Services Liaison Officer.



Thomas Grice from VMR Brisbane accepting the Thank You Expo Certificate from Graham Gibb VMR Bribie's Emergency Services Liaison Officer. Social distancing was maintained for the Photograph.

VMRBI PATRON TO STAND DOWN

Our current VMRBI Patron Simone Wilson has announced that she will not contest for the State Seat of Pumicestone in the State Elections in October 2020.

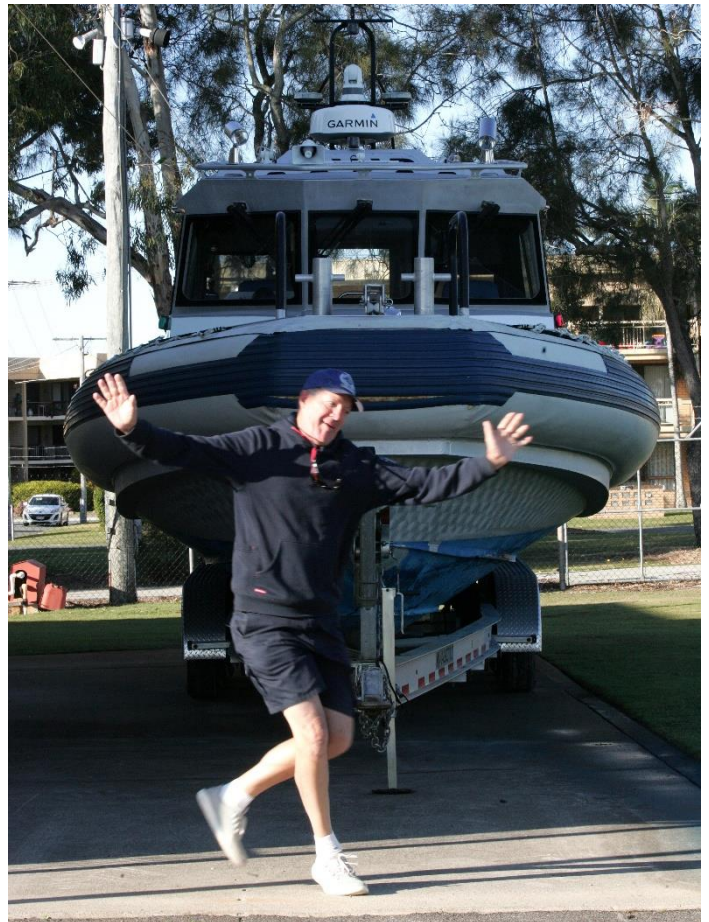


The LNP candidate for the State Seat of Pumicestone, Fiona Gaske, dropped by the VMR Base to say hello to some of VMRBI team. Fiona was met by Commodore Liz Radajewski, Vice Commodore Ces Luscombe and VMR Emergency Services officer Graham Gibb. Social distancing was observed for the visit and general discussions were held on the VMRBI operations.

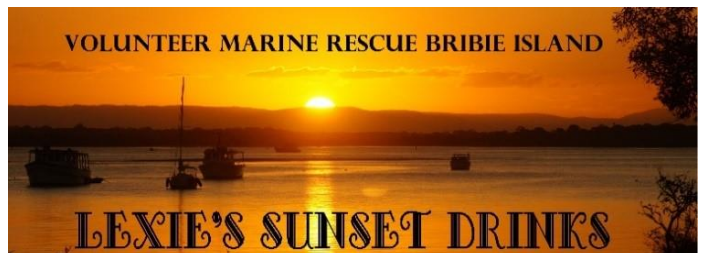


Terry Young and Fiona Gaske presenting Liz and Ces a cheque for \$2000 grant to go toward good wet weather gear for boat crews.

When you are on duty in the VMR Bribie Radio Room you often see a lot of strange things .but when Radio Operator Keith Walters was on duty recently he saw our main rescue vessel Bribie 1 coming down the road on our trailer, being towed by our tractor, he knew he had to take some pictures - for this was the first time it had happened. Thanks Keith. The tractor trailer combo worked well and enabled the maintenance crew to do some required necessary work on Bribie1 including cleaning the hull.



VMRBI Secretary Gary Voss photobombing Bribie 1 in the maintenance yard.!



SUNSET DRINKS

Friday 29th May 2020 - This Friday's event once again cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.



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 September 2020, you can keep up to date on our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Marine-Rescue-Bribie-Island-445>