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DATE TO REMEMBER

FOOD TRUCK EVENT
Hosted by Alpha Crew on Sunday, 15th October, 2017
12 noon – 4.00 pm

What a fabulous day we had on 10th September with our Emergency and Community Services Expo, thanks in the main to our Secretary, David Massam, who coordinated all the participating displays and activities, in conjunction with the opening of the 2017-2018 Sailing Season. The last two pages have a number of pictures, mostly courtesy of James Mathieson, to give you an idea of the range of displays covering emergency and community organisations.

Another big event in September was our AGM. We are fortunate that nearly all our 2016-2017 Executive Officers have been re-elected for 2017-2018. See more in the President’s Annual Report on page 2 and Awards given at the AGM on page 3. Also on page 3 is a list of the positions which are still vacant – perhaps you or someone you know would like to help us out. (The Annual Reports from our Senior and Junior Vice-Presidents, Treasurer and Unit Training Coordinator are attached to the emailed version of this newsletter.)

One of our very special honours was awarded to Tony Lloyd who is now our newest Life Member. You will most likely have seen him around as he is the person who is our Vessel and Equipment Manager and coordinates the Tuesday (mid-week) crew as well as being on Quebec Crew since 2009. Nothing is too much trouble for him and he is constantly available and anticipating anything required for the benefit of VMRB.

Our Clubman of the Year for 2016-2017 is Hugh Martin, a dedicated volunteer and a valuable member of the midweek crew.

VMR Brisbane is proudly supported by
President’s Annual Report

An interesting year 2016-2017. Firstly I would like to thank the 2016-2017 Management Team for their enthusiasm and passion for VMR Brisbane and also the Support Team who are what makes things happen around here. I used to say “Nothing ever happens in a hurry at VMR Brisbane” and while this may still be true for a few things, it is most certainly not for the majority of things now.

We had an interesting start to the year and a few challenges but, in what should be commended of this Management Committee, we pulled together and overcame them and got stuck back into doing the best we can for VMR Brisbane and its members. We watched our Associate Groups grow and get stronger which is great to see. We had the opportunity to partner with our Associate Groups on some of their existing events and we have an exciting opportunity to partner with one of our Associate Groups for a bit of a first event for them and I believe Moreton Bay. We have also had another water-based Associate Group join us in the Xiang Dragons (Dragon Boat Club) and we look forward to working with and supporting them.

We saw our Squadron ranks grow again with the majority of new Active Members in the 45-60 age bracket followed closely by the 30-45 age bracket. We also had a few more senior members and also some younger Active Members and 2 more ladies join our ranks. We also welcomed over 30 new Full Members to our Association and another over 100 Waterside Assist Members.

We saw our own little Eat Street come into being with the Food Truck Events. I’d like to acknowledge Emma from Downie Park Food Trucks, Harley from All in Brewing and Jared Cassidy for helping make this idea become a reality and I’d like to thank Dylan from the Food Truck Collective for his continued support in making sure we have an amazing variety of food and entertainment available for the Food Truck events. And a big thank you to Col and Tony who have made sure the crew hosting the event had the support and beer required for a successful event.

We have upgraded our Rescue Vessels and Training Facilities for the Rescue Squadron which Peter Leech, Senior Vice-President talked more about in his report. We have continued to improve and utilise our facilities for the benefit of all members which Karl Nast, Junior Vice-President talked more about in his report. And with all of that, as Col reported, we have actually improved our financial position.

To David Massam: thank you for all that you do. There are not too many people that would appreciate what a Secretary does in an Association such as ours. David unfortunately couldn’t make it to one Management Meeting this year and I had to take the Minutes. We now have an unofficial rule: if David can’t make a Management Meeting the meeting is to be postponed until he can attend! And along with all your duties as Secretary, you still managed to organise and execute another bigger and better Emergency and Community Services Expo.

Once again, it is amazing what people with a common vision and direction can achieve. We, and by “we” I mean each and every one of us, have continued to build an amazing Association with a very strong brand both within our community and abroad.

So thank you to:
- The Management Team;
- The Support Team;
- The Volunteers who get called out to assist people in need;
- The Volunteers who help at our Community Events to raise awareness of who we are and what we do;
- The Volunteers that go above and beyond and are always there to help most of the time without having to ask or as I heard recently being “Voluntold”
- The Volunteers that distribute our Waterside Assist Flyers: by your efforts you have increased our Operation Revenue by approximately $7,000 per year, and
- The Associate Groups for your support and belief in VMR Brisbane to be your home.

If you would like to be more involved with this amazing group of people and the results they have achieved, please make yourself known to Management or the Support Team. Even if it is just a suggestion, an idea or an offer to help in any what that you can, I can guarantee you will be welcomed with open arms and open hearts.

I personally thank all the members for allowing me the opportunity to represent such an incredible group of diverse people who share the vision of making VMR Brisbane the place to volunteer your time, the place to spend some quality time with friends and being a very self-sufficient Association. I firmly believe we have an Association that we should all be very proud of and that has the ability to be here for another 100 years and beyond.

Safe Boating and Best Regards
Thomas Grice, President, VMRB
2016-2017 Recognition

Patrons: Hon, Stirling Hinchliffe, Cr Jared Cassidy
Snr Sgt Helen Barnett (OIC Sandgate Police)
Police Commissioner Ian Stewart

Unit Chaplain: Rachael Pickard

Auditor: Mr Gary Marsh

Legal representative:
Mr Ray Brown (G R Brown & Associates)

Honorary members:
Mr Rod Chiapello (McDonald’s Bracken Ridge)
Mrs Cathy Walk (Deagon Meats)

Life member:
Tony Lloyd

Club person of year:
Hugh Martin

Appreciation plaque:
Mr Ray Brown

Appreciation certificate:
Snr Constable Carol Spurdle (Sandgate Police)

5 year service awards: Greg Henderson, Noel Luxton, Ben Gillespie, Malit Khan, Rick Secombe, Greg Wylie, Colin Nielsen, Shane Traversari

10 year service awards: Cameron Pegler, Chris Hillyard, Jon Paul Cardoso, Neil Sheppard

15 year service awards: Allen Crawford, Peter Leech, David Massam

20 year service award: Joe McCoy

Activation Report

SEPTMBER

3rd - Towed broken down powerboat with 4 POB from Green Island to Manly Harbour.

16th – Secured 38 ft yacht which had dragged its anchor and returned it to its mooring in the Brisbane River.

22nd – A dingly with 2 POB ran aground in the Pine River. Its location meant Sandgate 1 couldn’t reach it so the after-hours crew brought Sandgate 2 to the task but eventually the tinny was tied up and retrieved by its owner the next day.

Thank you to all the crews who assisted with any activations. We really appreciate receiving activation details and photos to help promote VMR Brisbane. Please email any information through to editor@vmrbrisbane.com.au and also to admin@vmrbrisbane.com.au.

ACTIVE CREW ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations and thank you to the following crew member who volunteered more than 5 years ago and who joined in September.

Alan Crawford 2002

October Crew Roster

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Positions Vacant

Volunteers are how our squadron exists and operates but we are in need of more people to fill some vacant positions to keep VMRB functioning efficiently. Some of the other positions are designed to promote public awareness and social interaction with members. They are all important but this month we will focus on the Designated Person Ashore and After Hours Call Out Officer – ideally the same person but the roles could be separated.

Designated Person Ashore (DPA) is very simply an interface to management for the Master of the Vessel. If the Master needs assistance with something on shore like: crew change, environmental issues (i.e. spills), food, fuel, etc. The position is to allow the Master of the Vessel to concentrate on the Vessel while shore-based requirements are taken care of. The DPA is to assist the Master in the safe operation of the Vessel.

Other positions seeking helpful volunteers are:

Senior Vice-President
Web Master
Social Media Administration
Crew Liaison
Social
Fishing & Cruising
Squadron Historian
2nd Zone Delegate

For more information on what each position entails, or to make them happy by volunteering, please contact president@vmrbrisbane.com.au or secretary@vmrbrisbane.com.au
Food Truck Event
This month the Food Trucks supplied food to many of the visitors to our Emergency and Community Services Expo on 10th September. This meant we missed out on the 3rd Sunday of the month but they will be back on Sunday, 15th October.

On Food Truck Days, food is on sale from the vans from 12 noon and drinks on sale from our Club until 4 pm. It is great that the public attend in such numbers and bar sales including boutique beers from the All Inn Brewing Co are very good but Club members are invited to stay later and it is a wonderful chance to catch up with fellow members; you can meet upstairs if you like.

Are U OK?
September 14 was ARE U OK? Day, a day for all of us to take a step back and reach out to each other with a courageous conversation in three simple words: Are U OK?

We are not psychologists and in our busy daily lives, there are so many things impacting upon us that perhaps sometimes we do not notice the change in a family member, workmate or friend. Sometimes there can be personal, family, health or other matters happening, and they are just looking for someone to talk to, not solve the matter, but just a friendly ear who might respond with “Well, if you need me I’m here”, or be able to offer advice or assistance or contact to a specialising Community Service Organisation.

Within our Squadron, we have a diversity of Members and I’m sure we all sometimes face challenging personal situations, and on the water we face many situations, some life threatening, some perhaps unfortunately ending in loss of life, and this is where we need to nurture a strong environment of support and encouragement not just within individual Crews, but within our Association as a whole including our Associate Groups.

Let’s not simply just say to others “What’s wrong with him/her”. September 14 was the allocated day as R U OK? but why can’t we be alert and caring at all times?

Within our Squadron, our Unit Chaplain Rachael Pickard is only a confidential phone call away at any time for any Member or Family, even just for a chat, or she can refer people to appropriate organisations if requested. (Rachael Pickard 0403 724 122 rachaelp@chappy.org.au)

David Massam
Squadron Workplace Health & Safety Representative

Missing Green Lateral in CTC
There have been quite a few vessels run aground recently due to cutting the corner that was marked by this Green Lateral in Cabbage Tree Creek.

Please ensure you stick to the starboard side of the channel leaving Cabbage Tree Creek up until you come to the Front Lead Mark before turning to line up the Leads.

Please keep this in mind returning to Cabbage Tree Creek and stay on the Leads for as long as possible before turning starboard to enter the creek.

VMR Brisbane has reported this to MSQ and a temporary beacon has been installed.

Associate Groups of VMRB
Our Association is made up of the following clubs. Please click on the logo to find out more details.

Xiang Dragons
This is our newest Associate Group and a new Club. Jenny Urquhart (Women’s Coach) and Bruce Eckersley (Men’s Coach) are the very passionate instructors who are training people interested in learning how to paddle dragon boats. If you (or anyone you know) would like to join an enthusiastic group of learners, contact Xiang Dragons on their Facebook page or go down to the VMRB base on Sunday mornings at 8 am. In November training will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6pm to 7pm.
Emergency & Community Services Expo 10th September, 2017
Senior Vice-President’s Report

I am pleased to present this report for the 2016/2017 year.

Activations
The VMRAQ database indicates that there are 130 Active members within the Squadron who were involved in 249 activations during the past 12 months. The total number of Activation hours was 592.75 with the Total Crew hours being 2253.87. During this time 16,941 litres of fuel was used on the vessels involved.

A total of 178 activations were for training/patrol and 54 activations were for Breakdown. The remaining activations were for Medical (1), Grounding (7), Sinking/Sunk (1), Search (4) and Drifting (4). Of the total fuel used, 11,919 litres were for Training and 3,894 litres were for Breakdown. A total of 106 persons were assistant by VMRB. This was a good effort by all Skippers and Crew.

Vessels/Motors
The three vessels have been maintained and for this thanks must go to the Maintenance Manager Tony Lloyd and his Tuesday Crew.

The main vessel Sandgate 1 had its motors replaced in July with two Mercury 250 XXL Verados at a cost of $35,857.13 and a grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund of $35,000.00 meant that the cost to VMRB was only $357.13. The RIB, Sandgate 2, had its outboard replaced with a Mercury 150 X EFI motor at a cost of $11,878.82 and with a grant from the Port of Brisbane of $5,000, the cost to VMRB was $6,878.70.

The Stabicraft, Sandgate 3, was refurbished at a cost of $5,600 and a grant from the Port of Brisbane of $5,500 meant that VMRB had to pay only $100.

The grants have greatly assisted in allowing the Squadron to properly maintain and update all vessels. There is also in place a documented monthly and yearly maintenance program which meets the requirements of the vessels’ Safety Management Plans and the legislative requirements of the NSCV Part E Operations.

Training
Training this year has been under the control of UTC Dean Steinback with many crew gaining further qualifications. Three new Coxswains have been appointed, namely Tony Lloyd, Col Neilsen and Noel Luxton. Another crew member, Greg Henderson, is close to obtaining his Coxswain appointment. There are 4 commercial coxswains, with experience outside of VMR within the squadron, with one already a Duty Master, and the remaining three members must be urged to complete their subjects for Local Knowledge and Search and Rescue to enable them to be appointed as VMRAQ Coxswains.

As these members all have vessel experience outside of VMRAQ, they can, upon completion of a certificate in Training and Assessment with LLN, make an application through the State Training Manager VMRAQ to AMSA to have them appointed as VMRAQ Assessors in all subjects.

Appointments
During the year, due to resignations of Duty Masters, it was necessary to reposition Duty Masters, with Callum Baird moving as DM from Sierra to Papa Crew, Neil Sheppard being appointed as DM of Sierra Crew and Vivianne Richards being appointed as DM of Bravo Crew. Vivianne is the first female DM within this Squadron.

Legislation and Compliance
The Safety Management Plans for all vessels were reviewed in January 2017 in accordance with legislative requirements and were duly updated to reflect legislative requirements. The SMP’s must be reviewed every 12 months.

Documentation was prepared to comply with the requirements of the SMP’s and the induction of members onto the vessels.

An audit was undertaken during the year by AMSA and the Squadron received a compliant report.

Peter Leech, Senior Vice-President.

Junior Vice-President’s Report

I would like to thank all who have assisted me in my first year involved in management and made the learning curve a lot less painful.

Another year done and dusted, as you are all aware a lot of work and upgrading has been occurring around the grounds and buildings. The western wall of the main building, inside the main Hall, sliding gate to hardstand area, swipe card access to all areas, storm water to creek outlet, small training room below the radio room and various other smaller projects.

A new year brings on to tasks and challenges. This year we are hoping to upgrade the shower facilities, down stairs hall/training room, completion of the main Venue Hall and various other smaller projects that should arise. We are also hoping to take a serious look at the upgrade of the long overdue boat ramp; that will be dependent on available grants and funds.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to Lizzie and Col. Lizzie who has worked tirelessly on the Managing and running of the Function centre and Col for all your effort and work in the back ground that goes largely unnoticed. As the Treasurer’s report shows, profits are up and look to keep heading in that direction. Their hard work has made the function centre a place that more and more people are looking to hire and we as a squadron can be very proud of. Lizzie is also seeking more people to help with running the Bar at functions - this is a paid position so any interested people please let Lizzie know.
The "Midweek Warriors": a big thank you to all of you for your hard work and commitment into looking after and caring for buildings and grounds. Visitors and people in general always comment on how good and well-cared for the premises are, thank you. A big thank you to the Sandbag group as well for their assistance and work in and around the place with the bigger tasks around the premises.

I look forward to the coming year and hope we as a club can continue our strong growth and keep moving forward. If any members have any plans or ideas that will assist with the continued prosperity of the club, please come forward and present them to management so that we as a club can continue to grow and prosper.

Karl Nast, Junior Vice President

Treasurer’s Report

Let me first begin by thanking the Management Committee for the great work that they have achieved once again this year.

During this past year, the Management Committee have been working on a plan for the financial stability of our squadron, not only for today but also the future. We have been working on a drive to incorporate many projects which are for the benefit of our members. The audit has been completed and they are happy with the procedures the club has in place.

During this year we started the process of changing banks to BOQ, only leaving one account open with Westpac which allowed us to streamline bill payments and merchant settlements for our new members. We have also been able to take advantage of some of the bank’s new facilities to allow us to increase our interest revenue. Also an EFTPOS machine has been obtained for our bar operations.

Our grants have contributed this year to being able to supply new motors to Sandgate 1 and also a new motor for Sandgate 2 and first aid training. Bar takings and venue hire have once again increased greatly. This is also due to the bar being opened for the food truck events, which has also helped boost our bottom line. We will be looking into the future to increase our income from these streams. Our hardstand facility is almost full. Overall, fuel costs for the operation of our vessels have not increased. After our Commonwealth fuel subsidy, it is about 85 cents per litre.

Unfortunately, even with these grants and income streams comes a portion that we have to fund. So this has drawn down on our operating profit. Assets have remained stable as budgeted. Our expenses were as projected.

In closing, we are looking to move into a more structured future for the financial security of our squadron. This can only be achieved through the ongoing supportive assistance of our members involved.

Col Neilsen, Treasurer

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Unit Training Coordinator’s Report

This year we have welcomed over 40 new crew members to Marine Rescue Brisbane.

We commenced training in January with a Sea Safety Survival Course. This course, run over 2 days, was attended by 20 of our new crew members and covered the introductory modules required to work on a commercial vessel and was followed by another course in April. Some more of our new crew will be attending their course up at Marine Rescue Bribie in October.

For other crew members who were working through their modules, their training commenced in February and has been reasonably well attended by those working towards Competent Crew and for some, Senior Crew. Things have been made easier on both sides after we implemented some changes in the way in which training is delivered.

In late July, Glenn ran a LROCP exam and this was well attended by a lot of our new crew members and some existing crew who were looking to obtain their Marine Radio certification.

During August, ATI, a local RTO assisted us in running First Aid courses and CPR refresher. These courses were reasonably well attended by crew members and its great to not only have the support and assistance of local business, but also to be able to support them as well.

This year, we have seen:

- 3 Crew complete their modules and receive their Certificate II and be appointed as a MRQ Coxswain. Well done to Col Neilsen, Tony Lloyd and Noel Luxton.
  - Greg Henderson is also in the final stages of his course and will finish after final sign off of documents.
- 26 Crew complete their modules and receive their Certificate I and be appointed as a Trainee Crew – 1 Stripe,
- 18 Crew complete their First Aid,
- 24 Crew refresh their CPR.

Moving on, we are going to be working with Marine Rescue Bribie Island in the areas of training and I’m looking forward to forming a closer bond with our neighbouring MRQ unit. The idea for this initiative is to have MRQ units paired up to work together and have central “Hubs” for training which will be especially beneficial for modules including Engineering and Electrical.

Thank-you to Andy Ross from MRQ, Peter Leech and Glenn Philip who have assisted with the delivery of training this year.

Dean Steinback, Unit Training Coordinator