

Marine Rescue Implementation Monthly

Message from Assistant Commissioner Joanne Greenfield

Welcome to the first Marine Rescue Implementation Monthly update. This forum allows the Marine Rescue Implementation (MRI) team to provide updates about the MRI Program progress. We will also share achievements from Flotillas and Squadrons and opportunities for awards and grants.

We know this is the busiest time of year for volunteers with more people getting out on their boats, our priority through this process is your safety and support. I would like to extend our continued thanks for everything you do to keep communities safe.



The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner Wassing and I were privileged to attend the Emergency Services Expo at Volunteer Marine Rescue Bribie Island on Sunday 17 October.

It was an impressive display of local emergency services collaborating. Well done to the VMR Bribie Island for a wonderful day – looking forward to the next one.

I encourage you all to subscribe for updates through the links at the end of this document.

I am excited that the next Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group (MRIWG) will be held at the end of November where members will continue to advise and make decisions on the implementation of an integrated service. Progress. Please look out for the update in the next Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group Communique.

Photo: Deputy Commissioner Wassing, Commissioner Leach and Assistant Commissioner Greenfield at the Emergency Services Expo hosted by VMR Bribie Island.

Future marine rescue name survey

Thank you to those who responded to our call for involvement in the last Communique and in the [Queensland Marine Rescue Volunteers Facebook group](#).

The survey on the name for the future integrated marine rescue service is open, and all volunteers

are encouraged to get involved and have their say.

Volunteers can take part in the [online survey here](#), via email or post back a paper survey. The survey link and PDF of the survey was emailed along with mailed paper copies to each Flotilla and Squadron.

The survey has six (6) questions and will take five (5) minutes to complete.

Volunteer feedback and involvement is critical to shaping the future integrated service in Queensland.

The future service name options came out of the previous Blue Water Review Working Group which recommended several options for the future marine rescue service name. These were also reviewed by the Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group.

We are also asking volunteers to provide a suggested name if they have one.

The results of the survey will be reported to the Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group, who will then provide the results to the Minister. The outcomes will also be communicated to volunteers.

This is the first survey the MRI team has undertaken and there are plans to have future surveys to gain volunteer insights.

The survey closes midnight, Friday 31 December 2021.

Survey queries should be directed to the MRI team via email on marinerescue@gfes.qld.gov.au.

[Complete the Future Marine Rescue Survey here](#)

VMR Southport receive Australian Search and Rescue Award



Congratulations to Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR) Southport for being awarded the 2021 Australian Search and Rescue Award, Long-standing Contribution to Search and Rescue.

The Long-Standing Contribution to Search and Rescue Award is presented to an individual, group or organisations who have demonstrated an outstanding contribution to the Australia SAR system over an extended period.

VMR Southport have been recognised for more than 50 years of continuous service to the community, with 2.5 million volunteer hours of service, and more than 80,000 lives assisted across 35,000 rescue activations.

Thank you for your service to the community!

Read more about the [award here](#).

Photo source: Australian Maritime Safety Authority

QF 6 Mooloolaba First Female Skipper

QF 6 appointed the first female skipper in its 45-year history, Rosemarie Caston who received her Skipper Certificate on 29 October 2021.

Rosemarie joined QF6 in February 2018 and has enjoyed supporting and volunteering from day one.

"This is a group effort however, I don't believe I would be here at this stage today without the fantastic support, leadership and guidance from my skipper Rod Ashlin and my wonderful Gold Sunday Crew."

Congratulations Rosemarie!

Photo: Rosemarie Caston receiving her Skipper's Certificate. Photo supplied by Rod Ashlin



VMR Bribie Island Emergency Services Expo



On Sunday 17 October 2021, under blue skies and with a shimmering Pumicestone Passage in the background thousands flocked to the Bribie Island Emergency Services Expo hosted by Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR) Bribie Island.

After having to cancel the event in 2020 due to COVID-19, it made a triumphant return in 2021 bigger and better.

Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, the Hon. Mark Ryan MP and Moreton Bay Regional Council Mayor Peter Flannery opened the Expo along with Commissioner Leach, Deputy Commissioner Wassing and Assistant Commissioner Greenfield.

The Pumicestone Passage was the perfect backdrop for the impressive demonstrations by QPS Water Police and Dive Squad, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS), VMR, Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ), State Emergency Services (SES), Rural Fire Services and many more.

There was also a COVID-19 vaccination clinic which administered almost 300 vaccines, all round an excellent day. Special mention goes to Graham Gibb, VMR Bribie Emergency Services Liaison who coordinated the event.



Photos supplied by Volunteer Marine Rescue Bribie Island

QF 14 Ingham Life Member receives 25 and 35- year bar



Congratulations to QF14 Coast Guard Ingham Life Member John 'Snow' Stafford who was presented with a 25-year and 35-year bar to add to his Long Service Medal.

Snow has been with QF 14 Ingham for 42 years and recently stepped down as Flotilla Boatmaster. Congratulations to Snow Stafford on a fantastic achievement and thank you for your service.

Photo: John 'Snow' Stafford receiving his 25 and 35-year bar from QF14 Commander Denis Rook. Sourced QF14 Facebook page.

Resource to Risk Project Update



The Marine Rescue Implementation team has continued visiting Volunteer Marine Rescue Squadrons as part of Resource to Risk (R2R) revisits.

The MRI team so far has visited: VMR Currumbin, VMR Bundaberg, VMR Hervey Bay, VMR Jacobs Well, VMR Raby Bay, VMR Port Douglas, VMR Gladstone, VMR Round Hill, VMR Midge Point, VMR Whitsunday, VMR Bowen and VMR Burdekin.

General Questions and Answer (Q and A) sessions have also been run as a part of these revisits. Any sector volunteer is welcome to the Q and A sessions, to attend

the Q&A sessions please contact the team via marinerescue@gfes.qld.gov.au so the team can ensure room capacity at each venue.

For AVCGA Flotillas Resource to Risk revisits, they are currently on hold at the request of the AVCGA National Board.

Photo: VMR Hervey Bay and MRI team members following the Resource to Risk update

Joint Search and Rescue Exercise – Coast Guard

and Volunteer Marine Rescue

Volunteer Marine Rescue Bundaberg, Volunteer Marine Rescue Hervey Bay, Coast Guard Sandy Straits and Coast Guard Tin Can Bay along with Queensland Police Service, Queensland Ambulance Service and State Emergency Service participated in Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) on the 24 October 2021.

The SAREX was four people missing from an upturned vessel and included a coordinated search of local waters and islands.

This was a great collaboration local Coastguard Flotillas and Volunteer Marine Rescue Squadrons, along with other local emergency services.



Photo credit: Marine Rescue Hervey Bay Facebook page

Queensland Greats Award – nominate a remarkable Queenslander



The Queensland Greats Awards recognises extraordinary Queenslanders who have made a long-term contribution to, or whose achievements have significantly impacted, the history and development of Queensland. If you know someone you think deserves recognition.

Nominations are now open for the 2022 Queensland Greats Awards. [Nominate a remarkable Queenslander you know today.](#)

To assist in preparing a nomination please review the [nomination booklet \(PDF\)](#) the nomination booklet.

Nominations close at 5pm, Monday 31 January 2022.

For more information contact Events and Engagement, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, by email QldGreatsAwards@premiers.qld.gov.au or phone [07 3003 9200](tel:0730039200).

[Queensland Greats Award
nominate here](#)

Queensland Marine Rescue Volunteers Facebook group

The [Queensland Marine Rescue Volunteers Facebook Group](#) is growing, and more members are welcome.

It is a QFES moderated private Facebook group for volunteers to share squadron and flotilla updates, implementation updates, have

discussions and more. For any volunteers wishing to join there are four questions required to be answered when you request to join the group including abiding by the group rules

We encourage all volunteers to join the group, share updates and get involved in discussions.

[Join the Queensland Marine Rescue Volunteers Facebook group](#)



Join Queensland Marine
Rescue Volunteers Facebook
Group



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To provide feedback or suggest story ideas for the future communications, please email:
marinerescue@qfes.qld.gov.au

[Join the Queensland Marine Rescue Volunteers Facebook Group](#)

QFES acknowledges and recognises Traditional Owners as custodians of the lands where we work together with the communities of Queensland. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ancestors of these lands, their spirits and their legacy.