

Marine Rescue Implementation Monthly

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January 2022 Edition



Welcome to the first edition of the newsletter for 2022, we hope volunteers managed to take some time over Christmas and New Year for a break. For many, it would have been a busy time on the water and in the radio room serving their community.

COVID-19 has provided additional challenges to the start of 2022 however the Marine Rescue Implementation team working with the Marine Rescue sector and its volunteers will continue to progress the reform program this year.

The Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group (MRIWG) will be meeting in February and the sub-working groups will commence meetings shortly and we will provide an update over the coming months.

This monthly edition provides some important program updates and opportunities for volunteers including:

- Future Marine Rescue Name Survey
- Direct Relief Grants and Service Agreements
- Expression of Interests
- Australia Day Honours
- Vale Doug Meng
- Queensland Volunteering Awards 2022
- Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience (AIDR) Volunteer Leadership Program accepting applications
- International Day of Women in Maritime announced
- Covid-19 update.

Volunteers are encouraged to subscribe to our communications or provide story ideas for future newsletters to marinerescue@gfes.qld.gov.au and join the [Queensland Marine Rescue Volunteers Facebook](#).

Future Marine Rescue Service Name survey

The Future Marine Rescue Name survey closed on 14 January 2022. There was an overwhelming response from volunteers from both Australian Volunteer Marine Rescue Queensland and Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association.

Thank you to all volunteers who participated in the survey, more than 900 volunteers participated in the survey which opened on 17 November 2021.



Results are being collated and we look forward to updating you on the results in the near future.

This was the first step towards the new look for the future service and with the Marketing Communications Reference Group being established and will commence work on the branding which includes the logo for the new service.

The reference group includes volunteer representatives and volunteers will be involved in the consultation process for the future logo.

Direct Relief Grants and Service Agreements

Squadrons and Flotillas who applied for the Direct Relief Grants have been advised of the outcomes of their application.

All applications were reviewed and if approved will have received the first instalment of funds.

The Direct Relief Grants were announced by [the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services](#) in 2021 and we look forward to working with VMRAQ and AVCGA to deliver this benefit to volunteers and their communities.

QFES and the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association have also finalised the current financial year service agreement (2021/22), which was finalised on 20 January 2022. QFES welcomes finalising the agreement after extensive negotiations and continuing to support AVCGA and its volunteers in Queensland to deliver essential marine rescue services in their areas of coverage.

Expression of Interests

There was an overwhelming response to the Expression of Interests (EOI) with more than 75 applications received with a high calibre of candidature. Thank you again to all volunteers that expressed their interest.

All applicants will have received the outcome of the process. If you applied and have not received an outcome, please contact the team via marinerescue@qfes.qld.gov.au

The Training sub-working group and Marketing Communications reference group are in the early stages of being stood up.

Planning for work in the areas of Radio Communications is also underway and the best way to engage across the sector for this area of work under consideration.

Australia Day Honours 2022

The 2022 Australia Day Honours have named several strong sector contributors among 1,040 Australians recognised this year.

Emergency Services Medal recipient Keith Williams



Keith Williams is the State Manager of Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland (VMRAQ) and is dedicated to delivering water safety education to VMR members and the Queensland community.

He has forged strong relationships with other organisations to deliver state training and assessments for recreational marine licensing. Through this, he successfully developed the Marine Safety Education and Recreational Marine Driver's Licensing training for the Moreton Island community. He continues to advocate for remote Indigenous communities by providing them with the tools to continue marine safety training and assessment at a local level.

He works tirelessly to maintain VMR fleets, training and attitudes of VMR members, and supported QFES during the Blue Water Review.

Keith is an active marine operative, skipper and on-call volunteer during search and rescue operations in southern Queensland. He has been responsible for the safe return of many mariners in distress.

As an outstanding, trusted leader with a wealth of marine knowledge, his contribution to VMR Queensland's operational response, training and delivery of water safety education to the community is admirable.

Australian Police Medal recipient Senior Sergeant Jim Whitehead



Senior Sergeant Jim Whitehead is familiar to many marine rescue volunteers in his role as the State Search and Rescue Coordinator and Training Officer at the Water Police Group in Brisbane.

Throughout his 39 years of service working in Search and Rescue (SAR) positions, he has personally coordinated or provided advice in more than 15,000 SAR incidents.

He developed the Queensland SAR System, created national training packages for SAR Diploma and Advanced Diploma courses and facilitated training for numerous SAR courses within Australia and Internationally.

He created the Australian Lost Person Behaviour Database (online) which provides better success rates for SAR incidents. His involvement in major SAR incidents include providing advice for the MH370 plane crash, the Daniel Morcombe search, and the 2010/11 Queensland flood events.

We would also like to acknowledge:

QFES South-Western Region Assistant Commissioner David Hermann was awarded the Australian AFSM for his exemplary leadership, operational excellence and contribution to operational capability and community resilience.

Rural Fire Service (RFS) volunteer William Brand was also awarded the AFSM for his sustained contribution to the Brooweena and surrounding communities as First Officer of the Brooweena District Rural Fire Brigade.

State Emergency Service (SES) Operational Capability Officer Jason Daniels was awarded the ESM for his distinguished service to the community during storms, flooding, bushfires and search and rescue operations since 1997.

Congratulations to all on well-deserved recognition and thank you for your service.

Photos: Top: Keith Williams, VMRAQ State Manager and 2022 Emergency Services Medal recipient. Photo supplied by Keith Williams. Middle: Senior Sergeant Jim Whitehead and 2022 Australian Police Medal 2022 recipient. Photo sourced: My Police Museum.

Vale Doug Meng



Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and the Marine Rescue Implementation team express our condolences on the passing of Doug Meng on 21 December 2021.

Doug began his 38 years of service with Beenleigh Air Sea Rescue (*now Volunteer Marine Rescue Jacobs Well*) in 1979 where he was a Foundation Member and also served as Secretary and Southern Zone Coordinator, along with wife Josie who began her service also at Beenleigh Air Sea Rescue.

In 1991, Doug and his wife Josie moved to Agnes Water and joined Air Sea Rescue Round Hill (*now Volunteer Marine Rescue Round Hill*) devoting their time to the Squadron and the community, holding committee and executive roles.

Doug was active in his local community serving on the Local Ambulance Committee. He received the National Medal for his service in 2017 and received a 2011 Flood Citation medal for his work during the floods over the summer of 2010 and 2011.

He was awarded Life Membership at Volunteer Marine Rescue Jacobs Well and Volunteer Marine Rescue Round Hill.

During his time as a marine rescue volunteer Doug was involved in many incidents including many Search and Rescues.

We send our deepest sympathy to Josie and her family during this time.

Photo above: Josie and Doug Meng (first and second from left) with Volunteer Marine Rescue Round Hill volunteers. Photo supplied by Josie Meng.

Queensland Volunteering Awards 2022



Nominations are now open for the 2021 Queensland Volunteering Awards. The awards highlight and celebrate the contribution that volunteers provide to people across our state.

There are six categories open for nomination:

- Volunteer of the Year Award
- Youth Volunteer of the Year Award
- Lifetime Contribution to Volunteering Award
- Excellence in Volunteer Management Award
- Volunteering Impact Award
- Corporate Volunteering Award.

Volunteering Queensland encourages all Queenslanders to nominate those volunteers who dedicate themselves to helping their communities and others.

Nominations close 5:00pm, Friday 11 March 2022.

More information is available [here](#).

Photo supplied by Rosemarie Caston.

**Queensland Volunteering
Awards 2022 nominate here**

Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience (AIDR) Volunteer Leadership Program accepting applications

The Volunteer Leadership Program (VLP) equips volunteers from community organisations, not-for-profits, disaster relief organisations and local government within the emergency management sector, with the skills and confidence to grow as leaders.

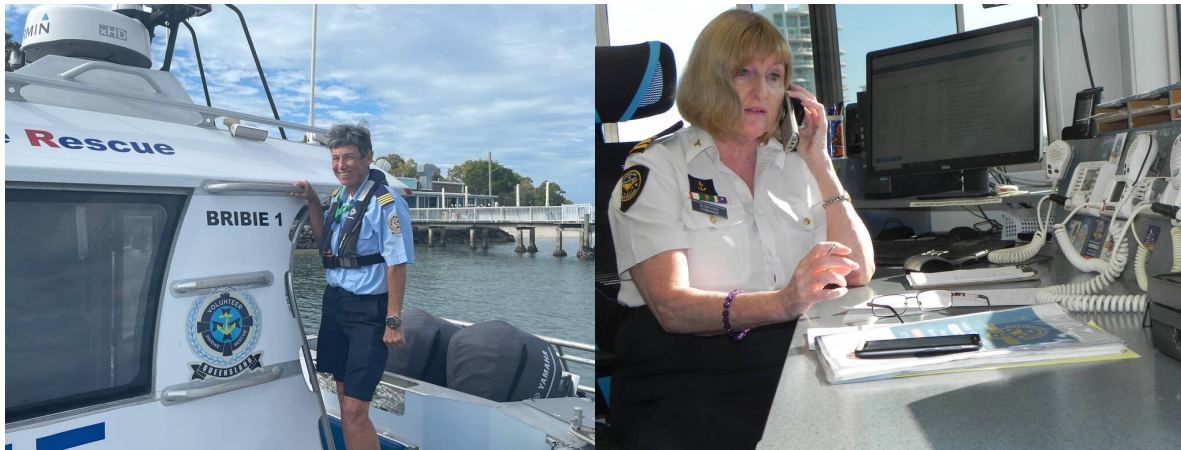
The VLP experience is an immersive and collaborative experience, bringing together volunteers from different organisations and agencies to build knowledge and share experiences with each other.

The program explores practical leadership frameworks through interactive learning, and participants gain both self-awareness and an enhanced ability to understand and contribute to their organisations.

Apply for the program here.

**Apply for AIDR Volunteer
Leadership Program**

International Day of Women in Maritime announced



The International Maritime Organization (IMO) announced an International Day for Women in Maritime to be observed on 18 May every year starting in 2022. It will celebrate and raise the profile of women in the sector and promote the recruitment and retention of women in the sector.

We look forward to celebrating the women in Queensland marine rescue on 18 May. Read more about the IMO announcement [here](#).

Photos: Left: Marine Rescue Bribie Island first female Commodore Liz Radajewski photo supplied by MRI team QFES. Right: Susie King, first female Commander QF 1 Southport. Photo supplied by Susie King.

[Read IMO announcement here](#)

COVID-19 update

QFES is encouraging all marine rescue volunteers to continue to follow health advice including getting [first and second vaccine doses and boosters when eligible](#).

If volunteers have questions about the vaccine, please contact your General Practitioner.

All volunteers are encouraged to keep up to date with health directives including [public health and social measures](#).

The Queensland Government has made requirement changes for Critically Essential Workers and close contacts which includes both AVCGA and VMRAQ volunteers. Read more about the Critically Essential Workers requirements [here](#).

Protect yourself and those around you by staying home if you are displaying COVID-19 symptoms, following public health and social measures, maintaining personal hygiene.

Out on the water continue to regularly assess the exposure risk, ensure you are wearing the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during self-activation and Search and Rescue activities.

Volunteers should follow their organisations policies and procedures in relation to COVID-19 and activations and Search and Rescue activities.

[Critically Essential Worker Requirements](#)

Join the Queensland Marine Rescue Volunteers Facebook Group

The [Queensland Marine Rescue Volunteers private Facebook group](#) is where volunteers can engage, share Squadron and Flotilla updates and facilitate discussions.

For 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 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](#)

A PDF version of this newsletter will be sent in a separate email.

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.

Hyperlinks

Direct Relief Grant announcement

<https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/91988>

Queensland Volunteering Awards

<https://www.volunteeringqld.org.au/133-nvw/nvw-pages/974-volunteering-awards>

International Day of Women in Maritime announcement

<https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/pages/A32WomenInMaritimeDay2021.aspx>

Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience (AIDR) Volunteer Leadership Program

<https://www.aidr.org.au/programs/volunteer-leadership-program/>

Queensland Health

Public health and social measures

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/queensland-restrictions-update/public-health-and-social-measures-linked-to-vaccination-status>

Critically Essential Worker requirements

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/industry-and-businesses/critically-essential-worker-requirements>

COVID-19 vaccine

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/protect-yourself-others/covid-19-vaccine>

Check In Qld

<https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/check-in-qld>

Queensland Marine Rescue Volunteers Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/qldmarinerescuevolunteers>