



Marine Rescue Implementation Monthly

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April 2022 Edition

Welcome from the Acting Assistant Commissioner

We are well and truly back into the swing of things after an eventful start to the year. It has been a busy time for volunteers with floods and severe weather during February and March, with a further heightened activity over the Easter break and Anzac Day long weekend, with people getting out onto the water.

I extend our continued thanks and appreciation for the work you do to keep our communities safe on the water.

I am pleased to advise the next Marine Rescue Implementation Working Group (MRIWG) will be meeting at the end of May, where members will continue to work on the implementation of a future integrated marine rescue service. An update will be forthcoming after the meeting.

In the meantime, I encourage all volunteers to keep up to date via our webpage on the [QFES website](#), which remains the accurate source of information on the implementation program and [subscribe to communications](#). You can also join the [Queensland Marine Rescue Volunteers Facebook Group](#).

Cheryl-Lee Fitzgerald ESM, Acting Assistant Commissioner Emergency Management and Community Capability

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AIDR Volunteer Leadership Program



Nominations have opened for the 2022 Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR) Volunteer Leadership Program (VLP).

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.

This year, the course is taking place in Cairns from the 22-24 July 2022 and any associated costs need to be considered by the attendees in consultation with their organisation.

Volunteers are to nominate directly through AIDR:

1. Volunteers must have support of their organisation complete the [Organisation Endorsement](#).
2. Volunteers submit the [application form](#) and completed Organisation Endorsement directly to AIDR.

Applications close 17 June 2022. [AIDR VLP information](#)

Share your stories

Do you have an interesting story to share? Our team wants to hear from you.

We are looking for the following type of stories for our newsletters and Facebook:

- Flotilla or Squadron anniversaries
- Award and recognition of volunteers
- Interesting activations
- Community engagement initiatives and activities.



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

Membership is for current Queensland marine rescue

Liz Radajewski – Champion of Change



Congratulations to Liz Radajewski, Commodore, Volunteer Marine Rescue Bribie Island was awarded the Champions of Change- Highly Commended at the QFES Women in Fire and Emergency Services Awards on International Women's Day in March.

Liz is the first female Commodore at VMR Bribie Island, first elected in 2018 ten years after joining VMR Bribie Island in 2008.

The award was a complete surprise to Liz, who was nominated by Graham Gibb from VMR Bribie Island.

Graham nominated Liz for her unique ability to communicate with volunteers no matter their rank,

create an environment making operational issues seamless and build strong relationships with local emergency service organisations.

Liz said it is a privilege to be recognised for her work over the past few years in a leading role and taking every opportunity to support and foster the organisation including to encourage women to thrive.

"I did not set out to be a Champion of Change, [I set out] only to contribute to the community by volunteering at VMR Bribie Island," said Liz.

"The leadership of a volunteer organisation is not riding in on a white charger and taking charge. The biggest change I have facilitated is cultural. I have encouraged more engagement between volunteers and the management committee."

Our operations now involve input from all volunteers. This change in approach has hopefully lead to a more constructive environment where we can all do what we signed up to do—keep our community safe while they enjoy our beautiful waterways."

The QFES Women in Fire and Emergency Services Awards recognise those who make outstanding achievement towards advancing women in QFES. You can read more about all the recipients in the April edition of Response.

volunteers and current QFES employees with four membership questions to be answered.

Any member of the group can post within the group as long as it adheres to the group rules.

**Join Queensland Marine
Rescue Volunteers Facebook
Group**



[Read Response magazine](#)

Search and Rescue at Port Alma

On 3 April, QF 11 Yeppoon, QF 20 Keppel Sands, QF 19 Rockhampton and Volunteer Marine Rescue Gladstone undertook a search and rescue in the Port Alma vicinity after a vessel hit a marker buoy in the channel with one person falling overboard.

The crews worked alongside police and QFES Swiftwater crew searching nearby creeks and the mouth of the Fitzroy River.

After close to seven-nine hours on the water, the search unfortunately ended in tragedy with the fisherman located and recovered by friends taking part in the search. QFES sends our condolences to the family, friends and community members who participated in the search.

QFES thanks the marine rescue volunteers from QF 11 Yeppoon, QF 20 Keppel Sands, QF 19 Rockhampton and VMR Gladstone for their vital roles in this search and rescue.



Marine Rescue Implementation Program Update

The Marine Rescue Implementation Program team has been busy throughout March and April and continues to progress significant areas of work.

The program is still in Current State and Future Service Planning Phase and during the current phase and future phases will continue to:

- embrace the strengths of marine rescue volunteers and value their history
- ensure volunteers are not disadvantaged during transition and a viable and sustainable service for all marine rescue volunteers across Queensland.
- enhance operability and integration with other emergency services

The program's current priorities are:

- policy pathway and progression including a future service structure
- program governance review and implementation
- Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland (VMRAQ) and AVCGA sustained during implementation and supported during transition.

- MRIWG re-engagement with AVCGA.

Direct Relief Grants

Flotillas and Squadrons which received the Minister's Direct Relief Grants will receive the remainder of their grants by the end of May 2022. In total 20 Flotillas and 25 Squadrons benefited from the \$10,000 one-off grants.

Grant acquittals were due back to the Marine Rescue Implementation team by 30 April.

The grants have been received well, with successful flotillas and squadrons using the grants towards training defibrillators and manikins, radio replacements, safety equipment and radio and communications and more.

Service Agreements

The 2021-22 Services Agreements with both AVCGA and VMRAQ continue to be maintained and provide support to both organisations.

Discussions have commenced for 2022-23 Services Agreements for both organisations to continue to provide ongoing support to the sector during implementation and transition phases of the program.

Resource to Risk

The Resource to Risk project continues with updated Unit Profiles being provided to squadrons. This provides an opportunity for the Marine Rescue Implementation team to ensure squadron nuances have been accurately captured.

Where possible the Resource to Risk model has been updated to include additional rescue, research and scientific data. The Marine Rescue Implementation team thanks VMRAQ Squadrons for participating and providing input into the process.

QFES continues to discuss with Resource to Risk revisits for flotillas with the AVCGA National Board

Vessel Replacement Program

The contract for the first vessel build under the Vessel Replacement Program will be announced shortly along with announcing the receiving unit and the second vessel tender is now out to market via Q Tenders.

Further vessel builds will be procured and announced throughout this year. Planning and discussion with receiving units is underway and ongoing support is provided through the Fleet Sub-Working Group.

Father and son reunite

QF 2 Brisbane Skipper Ian Williams was on duty on the weekend of 2 April, and was given the rare opportunity to cross paths at sea with his son. It was the first time in 15 months they had seen each other, however this was no ordinary reunion.

Ian's son is currently serving on HMAS Arunta and was looking forward to reuniting with his son after an overseas deployment.

Unfortunately, due to a COVID-19 outbreak on HMAS Arunta Ian's son was no longer able to take leave and the ship was anchored in Moreton Bay for one day only.

Ian, with appropriate approvals was able to approach the ship, initially 200 metres away, talking on the phone when further permission was granted for the vessels to approach the warship alongside and have a conversation with his son.

"Although I was disappointed that his leave was cancelled, I was extremely grateful for the opportunity to go see his ship on the water, and even more grateful for the opportunity to come along side," said Ian.

"The officers of [HMAS] Arunta were extremely accommodating, and I am very grateful for the opportunity they provided."

The crew of CG 22 and CG 23 had no issues getting up close to the warship.

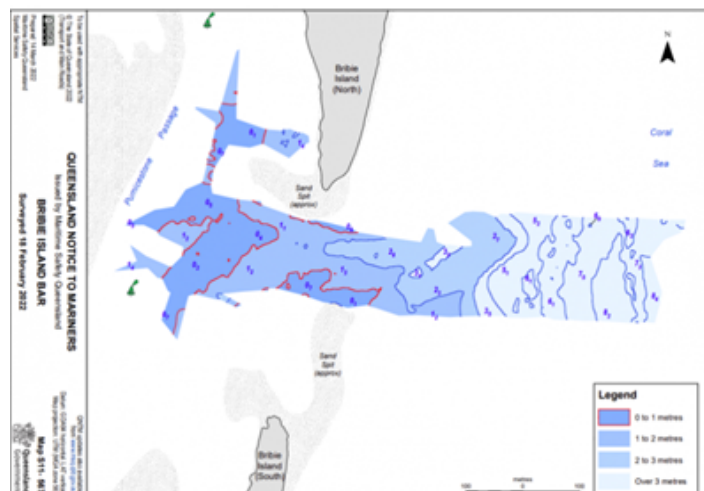
“We are used to close quarters manoeuvring as part of our Coast Guard training although I do admit to being a little nervous talking to the navy on the radio,” said Ian.

Ian’s fellow crew appreciated how much the opportunity meant to Ian, and it also gave the crew an opportunity to get up close to a warship.

There are already plans underway for face-to-face reunion in June.



New coastal bar declared – Bribie Island Bar



A new coastal bar has been declared at the northern tip of Bribie Island, the Bribie Island Bar is now a designated coastal bar, effective 17 March 2022.

The coastal bar was caused by Ex-Tropical Cyclone Seth, which brought high tides and massive seas and carved out a new passage at the end of 2021.

The Queensland Government gazetted the new coastal crossing which is now included in updated charts.

The revised charts will show two islands in the area: Bribie Island (North) and Bribie Island (South).

The new coastal bar has seen an increase of traffic and callouts for marine rescue volunteers at QF 4 Caloundra and with the declaration improving safety for local mariners.

The Bribie Island Bar declaration means lifejackets are mandatory when crossing the waterway and should still be navigated with extreme caution as conditions are constantly changing.

QFES Influenza vaccination program — available to marine rescue volunteers



QFES' annual flu vaccination program is open and available marine rescue volunteers as part of QFES' ongoing support to the marine rescue sector.

The 2022 Influenza Vaccination Program is open from 1 April to 30 June 2022.

Prior to registering for the QFES Influenza Vaccination program, volunteers are encouraged to check eligibility for a free vaccination under the [National Immunisation Program Schedule](#).

The National Immunisation Program Schedule is available to those over the age of 65, or those with certain medical risk factors. Flu vaccinations available under the National Immunisation Program Schedule can be arranged with your doctor.

If you are unsure of your eligibility or have any other concerns about the vaccine, please speak with your doctor. Please note that while the vaccine is free, a consultation fee may apply.

If you are not eligible under the National program you can participate in the QFES Influenza Vaccination Program.

Bookings must be made [online](#).

This opportunity is available through QFES's partnership with the Pharmacy Guild and their affiliated pharmacies across the state.

Take your Medicare card with you to your appointment and if on the day of your appointment you are feeling unwell stay at home.

Read more about the [QFES Influenza Vaccination Program here](#).

Book flu vaccination

Darkness to Daylight Challenge

The Marine Rescue Implementation team is taking part in Darkness to Daylight Challenge, raising awareness and funds towards Challenge DV, undertaking to complete a 110-kilometre run to represent 110 people lost to domestic and family violence each year.

[Show your support here.](#)



**Darkness to
Daylight Challenge**



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