



Marine Rescue Implementation Monthly

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Welcome

Welcome to the July edition of the Marine Rescue Implementation Monthly newsletter.

There have been significant announcements for the future marine rescue service over the past two months starting with the name of the future service, '**Marine Rescue Queensland**'. Thank you to the volunteers who participated in the survey and contributed to this outcome.

Following a rigorous procurement process the first vessel build contract for a 12-metre Rigid Hulled Hard Collar marine rescue vessel was awarded. This vessel is to be delivered under the Vessel Replacement Program to VMR Thursday Island mid-2023.

The Direct Relief Grants program has been extended for 2022-23 financial year. Flotillas and Squadrons will be supported with a \$470,000 grant program to directly support frontline units. Further information will be provided shortly on how to apply.

The Queensland Government also announced an additional \$8 million to support operational capability and accelerate the replacement of rescue vessels in the 2022-23 financial year .

Stay updated with the Marine Rescue Implementation Program by subscribing to our communications which continues to be the accurate source of information about the implementation program. Volunteers are encouraged to join the Queensland Marine Rescue Volunteers Facebook Group.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) extends our thanks and appreciation for continuing to keep our communities safe on the water.

Troy Davies, Acting Executive Director, Emergency Management and Community Capability

State Budget 2022-23

The Queensland Government announced the State budget for 2022-23 financial year with an additional funding of \$8 million committed for 2022-23 for the marine rescue sector to support operational capability and to accelerate the Vessel Replacement Program.

This bolsters the commitment and continues support towards a fully integrated and legislated marine rescue service in Queensland.

[Read more here.](#)

[Read Budget Statement](#)

Multi-Agency Search and Rescue Course - June 2022

More than 35 marine rescue volunteers from Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (AVCGA) and Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland (VMRAQ) attended a Search and Rescue (SAR) Course.

The course was held over five days at Volunteer Marine Rescue Raby Bay and was organised by QFES and led by Queensland Police Service (QPS) State SAR Coordinator Senior Sergeant Jim Whitehead.



Marine rescue volunteers participated in the course along with QFES personnel, Surf Life Saving Queensland and State Emergency Service (SES) personnel.

The SAR course was for Coxswains and Resource Co-ordinators with search and rescue experience and covered topics including SAR responsibilities, search planning, map work, and SAR medical aspects. It was a great opportunity for marine rescue volunteers to refresh their skills.

QFES takes this opportunity to thank Senior Sergeant Jim Whitehead for leading the course and for his many years of service and expertise to SAR in Queensland as he moves into the next phase of his career outside of QPS.

VMR Brisbane Sandgate 1 Blessing



On 4 June 2022, VMR Brisbane launched the newest addition to their fleet, Sandgate 1. This will serve VMR Brisbane and its members as their primary rescue vessel.

The blessing was attended by 300 guests including Queensland Water Police, QFES, Naval Cadets, other VMR Squadrons, community groups and local residents.

The vessel is a 10.8 metres Rigid Woody and was purpose-built for local conditions and has proved already its up to the task.

**Photo credit: S Hollingdale and J Mathieson.
Photo supplied by VMR Brisbane.**

QF 14 Ingham's 50-year anniversary

On 9 July 2022, QF 14 Ingham celebrated 50 years of operations with an Open Day and a celebratory dinner with members past and present to mark this milestone.

The Flotilla began in 1972, with the first meeting being held at the Victoria Hotel in Ingham and their first rescue on 18 February 1973 using volunteers' private vessels until launching the Flotilla's first vessel in 1976.

In 1974, a radio watch commenced with radios temporarily located in Don Chapman's Lucinda home with radio operations continuing there until the new base building was opened in 1978.



QFES congratulates and recognises the volunteers both past and present and their experience, contribution and commitment made to their community over the past 50 years.

Photo: QF 14 Executive team receiving Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (AVCGA) National Award for 50 years. Photo supplied by QF 14.

Take part in the Marine Rescue Implementation Sentiment Survey

We want to hear from you!



Queensland marine rescue volunteers are invited to take part in the Marine Rescue Implementation Sentiment Survey and tell us about your current sentiment on the implementation.

All survey responses are anonymous.

The survey takes one minute, and you can participate [here](#).

**Take the Marine Rescue
Implementation Sentiment
Survey**

Vessel Replacement Program update

The Queensland Government announced additional funding of \$8 million in the 2022-23 State budget of which \$5 million will go towards accelerating the Vessel Replacement Program.

The Vessel Replacement Program is part of the Queensland Government's commitment to the marine rescue sector and through this program, Flotillas and Squadrons that have been identified for priority replacement will be eligible for a replacement of their primary vessel.

The Vessel Replacement Program includes the delivery of the first new vessel for the program to VMR Thursday Island.

The "Invitation to Offer" for the second vessel build under the Vessel Replacement Program closed on 23 May 2022 and submitted offers are in the final stages of assessment.

The Fleet Sub Working Group, which includes sector volunteers continues to provide key inputs for the Vessel Replacement Program.

Receiving Flotillas and Squadrons under the Vessel Replacement Program will be involved and directly consulted about the vessel build for their unit.

The Marine Rescue Implementation team looks forward to continuing to work with the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard (AVCGA) and Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland (VMRAQ).

Volunteerism Sub working group EOI

Thank you to the volunteers who applied to be part of the Volunteerism Sub-Working Group. We received over 20 expressions of interest which are currently being assessed for the available positions.

The Marine Rescue Implementation Program team appreciates the time and effort taken by volunteers who applied and are excited to see the high quality of applications and interest

All applicants will be advised of the outcome of the EOI process shortly.



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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.

This email was sent by Marine Rescue Implementation, Marine Rescue Implementation, Level 3, 85 Hudson Road, Albion, Queensland 4010, Australia to marinerescue@qfes.qld.gov.au

