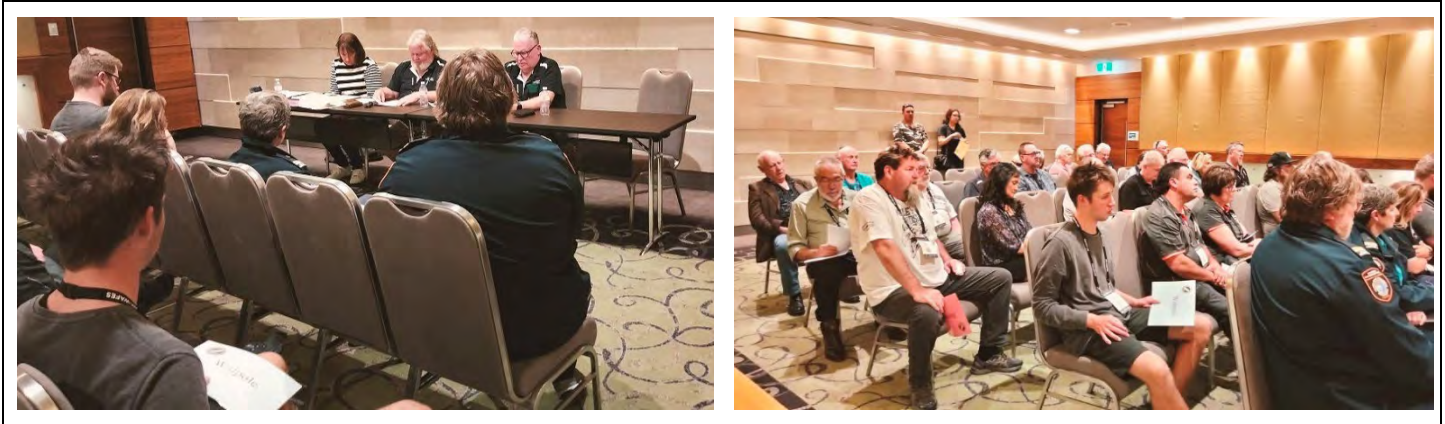


VMRWA UPDATES

FROM AROUND THE TRAPS

VMRWA Committee

The AGM was held on Saturday of conference and was attended by representatives of VMRWA affiliated Groups from around the State. There were a couple of changes, we welcomed John Beer from Marine Rescue Lancelin as Metropolitan Regional Commander. He brings a wealth of knowledge to the Association. Welcome aboard John. We also acknowledged the retirement of South Coast Regional Commander, Alex Williams from Marine Rescue Walpole as he was preparing to relocate to Victoria.



MARINE RESCUE WALPOLE - It's not all about the trees.

It has been a wee wait but well worth it when their new rescue vessel was properly blessed by the Reverend Sally Buckley and formally named with champagne by retiring VMRWA Southcoast Regional Commander and Walpole stalwart Alex Williams ES.M.



It was also an opportunity to acknowledge the commitment of Alex Williams to both the Walpole Group and VMRWA with Life Membership to both organisations. Well done and well deserved. Alex and his good wife are returning to Victoria to be closer to family. Did we want to keep him, sure did but family is important.



Vice Commander Dan Goodlad and Commander Jeff Howe attended representing VMRWA and wish to thank Marine Rescue Walpole for their hospitality and a special mention must go to the caterer and helpers on the day, thanks Louise.

Many thanks to the Walpole Community Resource Centre for their exceptional work supporting the local volunteers.

What else has been happening?

VMRWA’s loan vessels have been away filling in while refits are carried out on Denmark and Carnarvon’s rescue boats.

R.V. *Tom Reid* has been down in Denmark.



and

Sardam has been with Carnarvon and was involved in the Midwest MARSAREX at Kalbarri in November.



Vice Regal Visit

VMRWA was honoured by our patron, the Governor of Western Australia, Chris Dawson AC APSM taking time out of his busy schedule to meet with us up at Marine Rescue Two Rocks. To say the volunteers that were in attendance were impressed with the Governor would be an understatement. From the informal meet, greet and chat we were off to inspect their new rescue vessel R.V. *"Neptune"*.

Representing the VMRWA Association were Jeff Howe, Dan Goodlad and Roger Martin.

Thanks to Two Rock's Mike Henderson and the troops, also Lancelin's Commander Pat Shinnick and Deputy Commander Bob James for taking the time to attend what was a very successful day. Also in attendance were DFES Deputy Commissioner, Craig Waters AFSM and the WA Attorney General, Minister for Electoral Affairs and Member for Butler, Hon. John Quigley MLA.

There were a number of laughs along the way from everyone gathered. Has the Governor got a fan club? If not has one now. The word on the streets is that he very much enjoyed his visit.



But wait there is more happening ...

The Exemption 24 review has commenced. AMSA and the National Volunteer Marine Search and Rescue Committee (NVMSARC) attended the initial meeting to start the discussions around the document known as AMSA EX24 – Marine Safety (Emergency services vessels) Exemption 2020.

DFES Marine Services manager Mark Eatts and VMRWA's Commander were there representing Western Australia and it would be fair to say discussions were lively particularly around definitions. 😊

There will be more to come as this was simply the introduction, as those representing AMSA had not been party to the history of how we got to where we are today. They went away with increased knowledge about marine rescue volunteers and the world in which we work.

Watch this space as they say...

In summary, a lot has been achieved throughout the year.

- The two VMRWA vessels have been out and about all over the place with the "SARDAM" back in the shed for the Christmas break while the "Tom Reed" is continuing to do time on the south coast with the Denmark Group. Pink boats are conspicuous and are widely noticed and chatted about.
- Derby has obtained a small vessel for the creeks and as a stable tender when they are transferring people and stores to their moored Rescue Vessel (important when you are dealing with the perfect trifecta of tides, crocodiles and sharks). This will go up behind our truck in early January 2024.
- As previously mentioned, respected VMRWA Regional Commander, Alex Williams ESM has stepped down from his South Coast position as our Regional Commander and by default he continued on by supporting the Great Sothern Groups as well.
Not to mention his role in the DFES training pathways and numerous other committee roles in Marine Rescue and many other community organisations including Fire and Rescue. We thank him for that commitment and at the Walpole Emergency Services Volunteers Day he was formally recognised by being awarded Life Membership to both VMRWA and Marine Rescue Walpole.
Well-deserved and something for him to remember us as he and his wife travel back to Victoria to be closer to family.
- We continue to deal with DoT with respect to the nuances surrounding Carnarvon's shed build and here we can thank Minister Dawson's Policy Officer, Mathew Dixon for his assistance in trying to hurry along other Government Departments that don't seem to share or indeed understand the urgency.
- Ensuing discussions around PTSI and Emergency Service Volunteers, something that we will continue with in collaboration with the other Associations as this is a work in progress.
We will keep you informed.

Situations Vacant

Two VMRWA Regional Commanders are needed, one for the South Coast Groups (Denmark to Windy Harbour) and another for the Great Southern Region (Albany to Esperance). More will come out in the New Year when we contact these Groups.

The task isn't difficult, but the rewards are huge.

If you are interested in helping your fellow Marine Rescue Volunteers, contact;
Vice Commander Dan Goodlad Mob: 0487 430 313

or

Commander Jeff Howe Mob: 0457 167 799 for more information.

Last but not least ...

We have lost a few and our heartfelt condolences go out to their families and friends particularly at this time of the year.

Christmas is upon us and so don't forget your own families and that includes our DFES Marine Service's people Mark, Bec, Alisha, Renee, Ivan, Simon, Danial, Brendan and Ivan. We respect your commitment to marine rescue we really do but don't forget your families.

That said enjoy the festivities, be happy and stay safe and see you on the other side. From all of us here at VMRWA.





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