

VMRWA UPDATES

From around the traps

July saw me back in Onslow albeit on a break and I just couldn't go past without a quick look at the RV SARDAM currently covering the region while Onslow's new vessel is being built. I know now that there are a couple of issues with the electronics on the old girl and by the time this is published, they should be all fixed.

In the meantime, RV TOM REED which was despatched to Exmouth following the destruction caused by the recent tropical cyclone Narelle has returned to the shed at Henderson, not for long though as refits/replacements don't stop.

We were in Jurien Bay on the 29th of August to witness RV MARINE WATCH formally christened, that is after members gave her a final "tub up" to be ready for the event.



With the visitors all assembled it was time to get on with the day's formalities.

Also in attendance was Mr Shane Love MLA member for the Midwest who had a chat with us regards "things" in general.

Following the blessing DFES DO Simon Miller, and VMRWA's Vice Commander Jeff Howe had the enviable task of presenting a variety of Long Service Medals recognising the years of service given by a number of the assembled, Jurien Bay marine rescue members.

Catering was done by a very clever Community BBQ trailer complete with their own volunteers, something I haven't seen before but a very clever initiative of the Dandaragan Shire, well done. Now back to the blessing.



With that completed it was time to prepare for this year's WAFES Conference and there were some guest speakers that would prove to be even better than expected and that was not only my opinion but all that I spoke with throughout the day.

To say that Jessica Watson OAM chat was inspirational is an understatement and Scott Millar on how Gen Z thinks and interacts with us old farts was interesting albeit scary, and this is plainly from me (and a number of others assembled in the room) being fair and square in the baby boomer/old farts definition.

Let the WAFES conference (not the only circus in town) begin ...



And while we will promote unashamedly our own VMRWA Commanders Award we take this opportunity to respectfully recognise, all of those volunteers and staff both shortlisted and the eventual recipients on the night, as they deserved all the recognition they receive as do all our volunteers from the emergency services.



The Appelbee Recue was another of the well-attended and here I must add well received presentations. It provided a very interesting insight to a rescue that received huge media attention. Well done Hammy, as a number of we marine rescue people sat in the front rows which was perceived as intimidating, it wasn't though and what Hammy may or not have believed was irrelevant as we were all interested.

Following on from this the VMRWA AGM was held and here we welcome Dan Goodlad ESM back into the chair and officially recognize Rockingham's Commander Sam Gibbling to the Treasurers seat. AGM done now onto the dinner.

Something different ...



The Dowerin Field Day, Rockingham stalwarts took off in late August with RV TOM REED to show the marine rescue flag. These days are tremendously successful and are very well received as a marine rescue boat in Dowerin isn't all that common.



Word on the street is that SWORD set up the accommodation etc up and that was all good as even a wee bit on moisture didn't cause problems as mariners and water do go together. Also, the Salvos and their catering apparently was reported to have added a kilo or two to those reporting back 😊

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Also, a wee snippet was that DFES auctioned off a bundle of vehicles surplus to requirements, now who would have thought?

.... And now back to RV TOM REED, which wasn't home for too long when Dan and Jeff took it down to Windy Harbour straight after the WAFES Conference to cover for their vessel that was off to Westerberg's for a refit.

That road in from Northcliffe hasn't got any better over the years, you can see where they (the Shire) have tried but



Dan could not resist the offer from Windy's finest, that being Rob, Geoff and Ray to park Tom in their shed. Safely too.



Thanks to the guys and Fabio for having everything ready to go as we pulled in. We will catch up when we come back for Tom, see you then.

Following on from this Dan was on his way up to attend the Geraldton AGM and then a short break with his wife, in an effort to make up for all of the marine rescue "away time".

School holidays being imminent, saw Jeff at Leeman to catch up with the crew and have a wee chat and a coffee.



The long weekend gave us the opportunity to catch up with the Marine Rescue Leeman and have a wee chat and catch up on the goings on with the Group.

It was much appreciated by all, and the Commander makes a good coffee. Driving out I saw a few old cray boats, and I don't think their issues will simply "polish out".

Vale Sherrill Williams

Many members will know Alex Williams. Alex was a long-time member of Marine Rescue Walpole as well as serving for a number of years on the Committee of Volunteer Marine Rescue Western Australia before he and his wife Sherrill relocated to the eastern states to be closer to family due to Sherrill's deteriorating health.

Sadly, Sherrill passed away on Wednesday 23 September.

Volunteer Marine Rescue Western Australia has passed on its condolences to Alex and his family on behalf of all member Groups and Marine Rescue Volunteers.

Remember to take the time to give those around us a big hug.

Should you or someone you know in the volunteer family need some assistance, there is the WA Emergency Services Volunteers Hardship Assistance Scheme (WAESVHAS)

Please do not hesitate to contact Roger Martin on 0418 612 082 or via email at projects@vmrwa.org.au for direction and assistance.

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