

VMRWA UPDATES

FROM AROUND THE TRAPS



AUGUSTA'S NEW HOME

SITE WORKS UNDERWAY

While it has taken some time to get to this stage, it is finally happening. A big well-done to the Group and we will post the latest progress pictures as they come to hand.



REMEMBERING

GEORGE WATSON

We mourned the passing of Marine Rescue Jurien Bay's George Watson on Tuesday 15th March 2022.

George was a Life Member and had been a part of the Group since the 1990s. He had served as Commander, Skipper, and Radio operator over the years. The Group honoured George by scattering his ashes out in the Bay.

Those of us that remember him, do so fondly, as he was one of Nature's gentlemen, and we are proud to have known him.



REMEMBER WHEN ...

I am sure some from the East Kimberley Marine Rescue Group are familiar with the old rescue vessel storage "facility" (a generous term) in Wyndham. We are all progressing, and hopefully we won't return to needing something like this ever again. For the rest of us thinking about how badly off we are, maybe not so, and now neither is East Kimberley, mercifully.

NEW/REPLACEMENT RESCUE VESSELS TWO ROCKS – R.V. “Neptune”

Two Rock’s beloved “Marko” is on the way out. She has served the Group well and will be a good pickup for someone when sold most likely into the recreational world.

She is being replaced by a 12m RHB Series by [Cordina Marine](#) in Henderson ([link to video clip of the new boat being rolled over](#)).

When completed it will be powered by twin 425 hp Yamaha V8 outboards and will feature a full Simrad electronic suite, permanent shockwave seating for 4 persons, complete walk around ability, access doors on both port and starboard sides for ease of recovery.

This vessel will enhance Two Rock’s ability to keep both their volunteers and the boating public safer in all conditions.





JURIEN BAY – Rescue 1

This will replace Jurien’s aging 9 metre Leisurecat 9000 Series, “Crikey” after more than 15 years of sterling service.

The new vessel is a [Southerly Designs 10.0m RHIB](#) powered by twin 300 hp V8 Mercury outboards and will be equipped with a full Simrad electronic suite, Shockwave seating for 4 persons and other state-of-the-art features (<https://www.facebook.com/JBVMR/videos/638061311326372>).

The basic hull was built by [Niche Marine in Henderson](#), and at the time of writing is at [Dongara Marine in Geraldton](#) for Painting and final fit out .

With its greater offshore capability, this vessel will complement their smaller 8.0m RHIB, “Bay Watch” that was featured at the WAFES Sundowner earlier this year.



Reassembling MR Kalbarri

Those of us lucky enough not to have been whacked by a cyclone, great, but in the current times of supply shortages it is good to see Marine Rescue Kalbarri's building getting put back together while they have been operating out of a converted sea container.



Marine Rescue Kalbarri - before Seroja

As a reminder, [check out the video](#) taken the morning after tropical cyclone Seroja ripped through Kalbarri on 11 April 2021.

The rebuild commenced just on a year later – Here are some photos of progress so far:



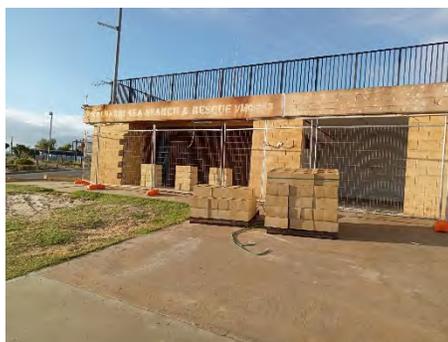
13 April 2022 - Contractors on site



Temporary Radio Room



Temporary Radio Room



2022 WAFES CONFERENCE

MARINE RESCUE AWARDS

Yet again we recognise our people, who in a variety of ways have demonstrated just how switched on and resourceful Marine Rescue volunteers are.

While the focus was on all those Marine Rescue groups and volunteers nominated, and the eventual recipients, it reflects well on all marine rescue volunteers as those gathered for the event get to understand what life on the water is all about.

Congratulations to the following:

Youth Achievement Award winner, Marine Rescue Carnarvon's, James Cotter, with Marine Rescue Dampier's Emmie Burton, winner of the **Individual Achievement Award**.

The Marine Rescue **Team Achievement Award** went to Jurien Bay.

Rounding up the Marine Rescue Awards was the **VMRWA Commander's Award** with the recipient being DFES Marine Services Manager, Mark Eatts.



DFES Marine Services Manager, Mark Eatts presented with the VMRWA Commander's Award



Youth Achievement Award finalists James Cotter and Jaymes Rosen



Individual Award finalists Emmie Burton, Krisma May, and Chrissy Heu

Team Achievement Award Finalists



Marine Rescue Geraldton



Marine Rescue Jurien Bay



Marine Rescue Margaret River

Award Winners



James Cotter



Emmie Burton



Marine Rescue Jurien Bay



BLOODY COVID

We are not done with these just yet.

VMRWA urges everyone to do what you can to stay safe not just for yourself but your family and your community.

These customised masks are available along with other merchandise online. Just go to the [VMRWA webpage shop](#).

Simple as the meerkats would say.



Marine Rescue Fremantle's R100 resplendent in the new livery

MARINE RESCUE BROOME'S UNIQUE TRAILER

After the road between Cape Leveque and Broome was fully sealed, it made up a large area of coastline accessible to larger recreational vessels. With the possibility of 160 to 200 nautical mile return trips and a general trend to bigger craft, the Group realised that their 8.5m Rescue Vessel was no longer adequate. An upgrade to a larger, more capable vessel was indicated; the 10m *Redbill III* was the result. The other requirement was that it needed to be trailable to take advantage of the reduced travel times offered by the newly sealed Broome/Cape Leveque Road.

This presented multiple significant challenges, in that the new vessel required a trailer rated at 6 Tonnes Gross Trailer Mass, which in turn meant it needed to be equipped with air brakes to be ADR compliant. To accommodate the air brakes, the on-trailer keel height would be 600mm as compared to 350mm for the 8.5m vessel's trailer, not to mention the corrosion problems associated with air brakes operating in a marine environment.

The increased height would have made launching and retrieving far more difficult, if not impossible, given the limited launching facilities in Broome, a tidal range of ten metres and the need to launch in soft wet sand.

The air braked trailer would need to be reversed (depending on where the tide was) nearly twice the distance into the water to get 600mm under the vessel, greatly increasing the chance of getting bogged, increasing maintenance to equipment, shortening its lifespan, and critically, reducing launch window times.

After consulting trailer builders across the country, with pretty much the same answer each time, "*you can't do much about it, it's the law*", Darren Geurts at [Duralite Trailers](#) suggested applying for an In Principle Exemption from DoT.

After months of emails back and forth, repeated mountainous hurdles cleared, and a monumental effort from Darren, Broome finally secured a 6-tonne rated, triple torsion axle, fully roadworthy, federally approved, licensed trailer, **with electric over hydraulic brakes**. This gave a trailered keel height of 400mm, an increase of only 50mm, with no loss to the launch window.

Many thanks must go to Darren Geurts – multiple times it looked as though the trailer would not be approved, but he simply would not give up.

It may not look like anything out of the ordinary, but this trailer may well be the only one of its kind in Australia.



Redbill II arrives in Broome



The trailer in all its glory



Launching in Broome is always a challenge



Assorted pics from a recent trip to the Pilbara taking Pt Walcott's refitted vessel back and moving Sardam back to its home in the Henderson shed with a few from the recent WAFES 2022 tours etc.



On the way home, a tight fit parking up at the Gateway Motel unit in Carnarvon.



It happens when the rescue dummy has a night out



BBQ following recent exercise debrief - Carnarvon





For the first time, all the assets are home. Some minor work needed on the trailers before they go out again.

NEWS JUST IN!

Marine Rescue Jurien Bay's, **Chrissy Heu & Michael Cockburn** have been announced as finalists for this year's International Maritime Rescue Federation (IMRF) Awards, which recognise all those involved in maritime search and rescue (SAR) from around the world.

Their outstanding achievement in rescuing three men after their 11.5 metre yacht became disabled and capsized in what was described as horrendous conditions, became news around the world.

Jurien Bay police station officer in charge Sgt Kevin Bearcroft praised the "courage" and "dedication" of Mr Cockburn and Ms Heu, saying it was due to their skill and bravery that no one was killed or seriously injured in the incident.

Read Sergeant Bearcroft's report [here](#).

