

VMRWA UPDATES

FROM AROUND THE TRAPS

Well, it's wintertime ☁️☔️☔️☹️ down this way and we can only dream about those further north enjoying the warmth. ☀️🌡️🌴🍹

Sadly, we have lost a couple more Marine Rescue stalwarts - Jurien Bay's Robin Randall and Mandurah's Steve Wilding.

Much valued and dearly loved Life Member, **Robin Randall** passed away on Friday, May 3rd.

Robin was a volunteer with Marine Rescue Jurien Bay for more than 30 years. He wore many hats during his time with the Group; boat crew, skipper, Commander, secretary, radio operator (tower and home base), radio training officer, and was a long-term committee member. Robin also conducted RST training courses and assessments for many years - and donated his fees for this to the Group. He will be greatly missed by all.....



Robin volunteered extensively to make our world a better place. As well as his time with us at Marine Rescue, he spent 30 years as a volunteer fire control officer in the Badgingarra Brigade, he was a community car driver taking people to Perth from Jurien for health appointments and was a St John's Ambulance driver for a short time in the 1990s. He also won community awards such as Citizen of the Year and the National Medal (and bar) from the Prime Minister's Office

Steve Wilding was a special member of Marine Rescue Mandurah and had been with the group since May 2012.

It is not every day that you find someone as talented as Steve. The Group was blessed to have had him in their ranks for 12 years. He was extremely capable and brought many skills from his working life to the group.



Steve held a variety of positions in the group including Special Events Coordinator, Maintenance Officer, Training Officer, Vice Commander and a DFES trainer for Pathway 3. In these roles he had a unique ability to organise members and problem solve issues as they arose. Steve was also a highly capable skipper. He was able to adapt to the role of rescue skipper and develop the skills required at a very rapid rate.

In his private life Steve was happily married with three children. He loved fishing and boating and delighted in taking his grandchildren out in his boat. He had only just built his dream boat when he fell ill. His Marine Rescue Mandurah call sign has been retained by his family as a gift from the group and this is something that would have meant the world to him. He was also a very fit man riding up to 40kms a day on his bike.

VMRWA sends our condolences to both families, and their friends – we will fondly remember the interactions we had with both gentlemen.

Sad to lose people that we have had so much interaction with, and who we regarded as personal friends.

New buildings

With the Capital funding round coming up it's a good time to reflect on the progress of some previous grants and where they are now.

Pt Hedland has been given access to their existing site to redevelop and that should now be something to behold once they get going. Speaking of "get going", Carnarvon and Augusta are right into it as you can see by the pics below and while there's more to do for sure, however, the locals must be enjoying the progress that is finally happening.

Carnarvon

Marine Rescue Carnarvon have been hard at work getting their new shed erected. The Group has had many hurdles to get to this point and VMRWA has been able to assist in the background to get over some of the hurdles but take nothing away from the tenacity of Carnarvon's Marine Rescue people they have done some hard yards to get this far and there is more to come and now it's all about money.



And now Augusta

As you can see the project is finally coming together and we look forward to the final pictures that will show a fit-for-purpose building that like Carnarvon has been a long hard road for their members and another example of volunteers not giving up on the vision. Well done to you all.



Whitfords

The Honourable Roger Cook MLA, Premier of Western Australia, recently announced that the Works are beginning on the new headquarters for Marine Rescue Whitfords; with state-of-the-art amenities to support WA's dedicated volunteer rescue service.

It'll mean that, for the first time, three marine rescue boats will be based at the marina ready for fast deployment; helping keep those out on the water safe.



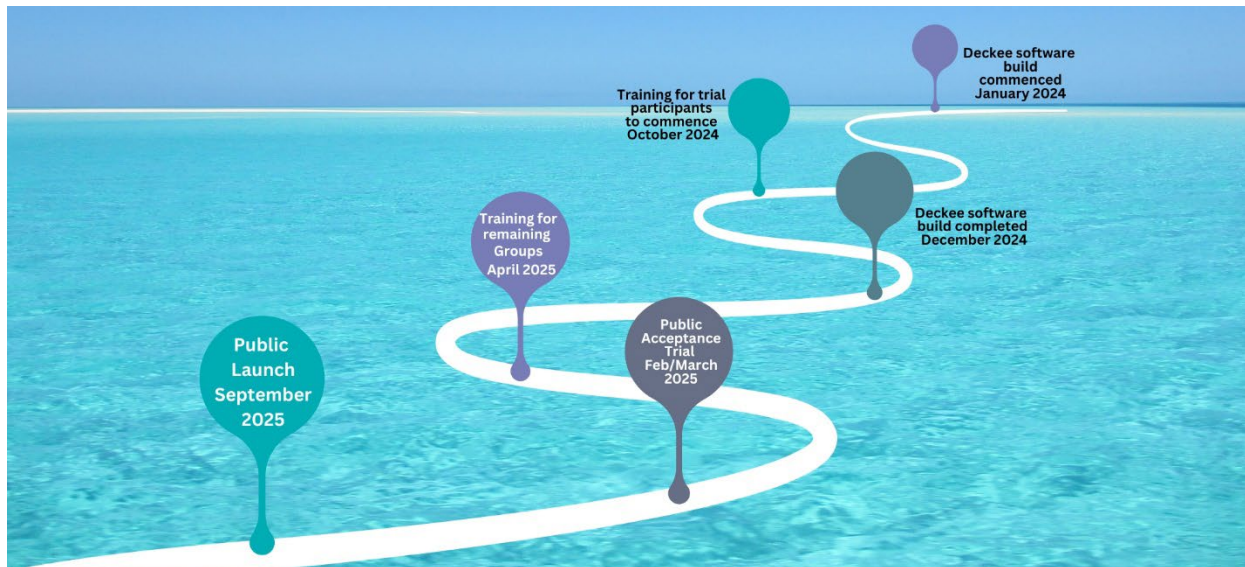
On a sad note, **Marine Rescue Geraldton's** headquarters building has succumbed to the power of the ocean after unprecedented high tides and storm surges eroded the shoreline to the point where the building had to be demolished.

At present they are temporarily using a small room at the City of Geraldton's Multi-function Centre for radio operations. On a positive note, the introduction of RoIP has meant that they have been able to relocate their radio transceivers to a site in the Moresby Ranges which has improved coverage out to sea and along the coast considerably.

RoIP and Log-on/Log-off App Update

By Joanne Olsen
Project Manager
RoIP & Log On/Log Off Project

We're excited to share an update on the Marine Log On/Log Off (LOLO) App project. This initiative aims to enhance safety for recreational boaters across Western Australia by providing a modern, accessible way for boaters to log their trip details.



Key Project Highlights:

1. **App Development:** We're working with Deckee to develop a full LOLO capability within their existing app. This will allow boaters to easily log on and off from their smartphones.
2. **Expanded Coverage:** Currently, only about 40% of our Marine Rescue Groups offer regular LOLO services. This project aims to extend LOLO capabilities to all 37 Marine Rescue Groups across WA.
3. **24/7 Monitoring:** We're developing the Marine Rescue Communications Support Group (a new volunteer group - which you can contribute to) to better provide round-the-clock monitoring of LOLO activities, ensuring better safety coverage for boaters.
4. **Training and Support:** We'll be developing comprehensive training materials and providing training sessions for all Marine Rescue volunteers on using the new LOLO app and associated systems.
5. **Public Trial:** Before full implementation, we'll conduct a public acceptance trial involving selected Marine Rescue Groups, WA Police, Department of Transport, and members of the public.

What This Means for You:

- **Enhanced Capabilities:** The new app will provide you with better tools to monitor boating activities in your area.
- **Increased Safety:** By expanding LOLO services, we aim to significantly improve boater safety across WA.
- **Streamlined Processes:** The app will standardize LOLO data capture, making your job easier and more efficient.
- **Improved awareness of activity:** By bringing all LOLO data into one central system we can better manage and report on activity, including providing statewide data for funding submissions in the future
- **Training Opportunities:** You'll receive comprehensive training on the new systems to ensure you're comfortable with the changes.

Next Steps:

We're currently in the development phase of the project. In the coming months, we'll be reaching out to select Groups for involvement in the public trial. We'll keep you updated on progress and opportunities for involvement. Your role is crucial in this project's success. Your expertise and feedback will be invaluable as we work to improve marine safety across Western Australia. If you are keen to be involved, reach out to the team at LOLOproject@dfes.wa.gov.au, visit the Volunteer Hub for updates, or tune in to our regular webinars where we showcase the latest updated in Deckee and answer any questions you might have about the project.

Thank you for your continued dedication to marine safety. We look forward to working with you on this exciting initiative.

Marine Rescue Communications Support Group

A phone app is available to users 24/7, so the monitoring of the app needs to be available 24/7. The Marine Rescue Communications Support (MRCS) group is being created to help provide coverage for the app and radio across the state. This group is vital to the operation of the app and LOLO services, ensuring continuous monitoring and support for recreational boaters across Western Australia.

Background:

The concept of the MRCS evolved from the recommendations in the Concept of Operations report developed by Mingara Australasia in September 2020. Initially envisioned as a regional approach, it has now developed into a centralized model that will provide comprehensive coverage and support for the entire state.

Current Status:

As of July 2024, significant progress has been made in establishing the MRCS:

- **Initial Committee:** The initial MRCS committee was selected in October 2023, marking the first step in formalizing the group's structure and operations.
- **Proof of Concept Trial:** An initial Proof of Concept Trial was launched on 1/03/2024, focusing on remote monitoring for Walpole, Dampier, and Port Walcott. This trial has provided valuable insights into the operational requirements and challenges of centralised monitoring.
- **MRCS Conference:** A key milestone was the MRCS Conference held over 3 days in June 2024. This event brought together committee members from Marine Rescue Communications Support Group, along with various guest presenters from DFES, Mark Eatts and Brendan Packard representing Marine Services and Tony Monaghan our Comms and Change specialist. The weekend allowed the team to meet in person for the first time, and gave us all opportunities for knowledge sharing, strategy alignment, and team building.





Recruitment and Training:

The MRCS is implementing a phased approach to recruitment and training, and the project team will be sending out an invitation to existing Marine Rescue volunteers who might like to participate in the remote monitoring program. We are aiming for a gradual build-up of capacity, which allows for refinement of training processes based on early experiences.

Operational Expansion:

Starting in late 2024, the MRCS will begin onboarding additional Marine Rescue Groups for remote monitoring. This process will be staged to ensure smooth integration and minimal disruption to existing services.

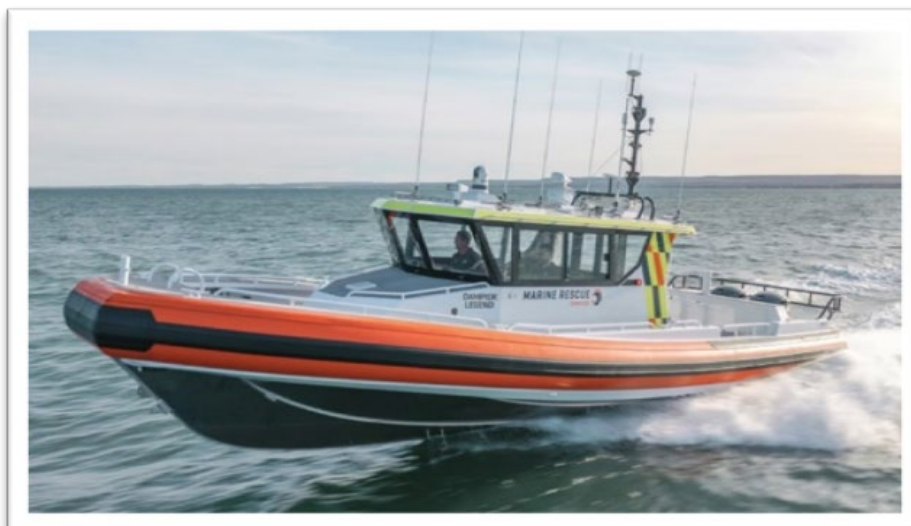
Future Developments: The MRCS is poised to play a crucial role in the successful implementation of the LOLO functionality within the Deckee app. By providing 24/7 monitoring capabilities, the group will significantly enhance the safety of recreational boaters across Western Australia.

As the project progresses, the MRCS will continue to evolve, adapting to the needs of both the Marine Rescue groups and the boating community. The group's development is closely aligned with the overall project timeline, ensuring it will be fully operational to support the public launch of the LOLO functionality in the Deckee app.

Rescue Vessel Review –Dampier Legend

Work Boat World, published by Baird Maritime, recently reviewed Marine Rescue Dampier's new 12 metre rescue vessel

[Click here to read the whole article online](#)



Exclusive Offer!

Considered to be the “boater’s bible”, the Australian Boating Manual is the most comprehensive book on boating available in Australia.

It is widely used as the “go to” textbook used for training commercial Coxswains, and Masters at TAFE Colleges, and would be an extremely useful teaching aid for Marine Rescue trainers and those working toward qualifying as rescue vessel skippers and crew.

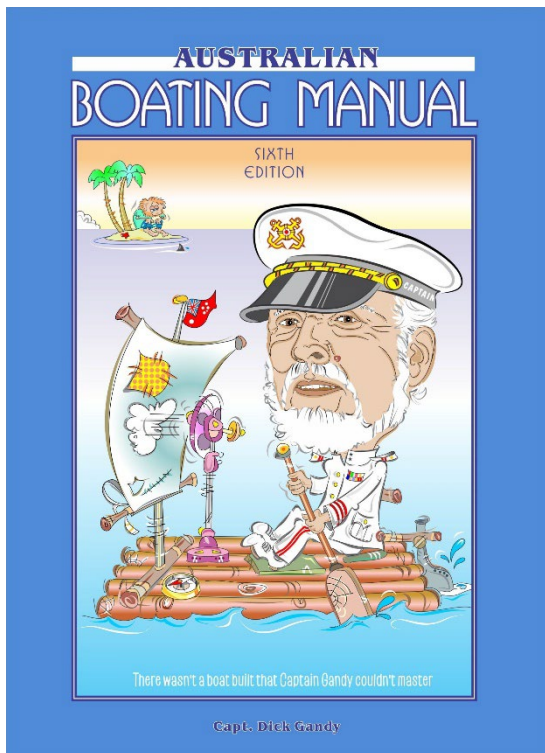
It includes nearly 3000 questions and answers and is a useful and effective reference book for any boater.

The publishers of the Australian Boating Manual are kindly making the eBook version (rrp \$59.00) available to Marine Rescue volunteers for \$35.40, a 40% discount!

To download your copy, go to <https://www.vmrwa.org.au/product-page/the-australian-boating-manual-ebook-by-dick-gandy>. You will be able to download the installation instructions. An unlock code will be sent to you via a separate email.

For the 1000 page hard copy version (rrp \$119.00) we will need you to register your interest first, as we need a minimum number to get a bulk purchasing discount that also minimises the serious freight component just to get them here.

To register your interest for a hard copy, go to the VMRWA website (<https://www.vmrwa.org.au/>) and send us a chat message.



Just arrived!

VMRWA Beach Towels

Just arrived, these limited-edition micro fibre towels are now available from the VMRWA web shop (<https://www.vmrwa.org.au/shop>)

These stylish towels are packed with thoughtful design and cutting edge eco-technology, keeping your comfort and the environment in mind:

- ☀ innovative microfibre repels sand
- ☀ dries 50% quicker than other towels
- ☀ fits neatly into a compact draw-string bag
- ☀ eco-friendly made from 80% recycled bottles

RRP \$84.95 Our price is \$70.00 each or 2 for \$120.00 plus postage.



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