

VMRWA UPDATES

FROM AROUND THE TRAPS

WAFES24 done and dusted for another year.

Awards night at the Emergency Services Conference



Winners

VMRWA Commander's Award

Winner of the VMRWA Commander's Award was **Owen Rouse** from the Marine Rescue Derby Group.

It's worth quoting what the Derby Group had to say on their Facebook page, praising "his dedication and stepping up when our wonderful Commander, "Rocky" Prouse unexpectedly passed away earlier this year.

Owen's hard work during this devastating time when the community and group was heartbroken and effective leadership made the transition as smooth as it could be. Well done Owen, we are lucky to have you!"

Judging by the reception he received on the night it wasn't only the VMRWA Commander that thought Owen was a deserved recipient.

Well done, and very much deserved.



DFES Operational Staff Individual Achievement Award

Bec Benson
District Officer Marine
Road warrior

As District Officer Marine, Bec supports nine groups from Exmouth to Kununurra.

She spends a lot of time on the road visiting marine rescue groups and delivering training, as well as taking part in call-out operations.

As a trainer assessor, Bec is known for making things easy to follow. In September, she organised an exercise at Cygnet Bay with Marine Rescue Broome and the Derby and Bardi Jawi Ranger group.

Fifteen people participated in the eight-hour exercise which saw two vessels working together to find a missing person. Skippers and crew received valuable hands-on training, and plans are being made for a larger-scale exercise late in 2024.



Early on in July saw Marine Rescue Pathways training conducted in Esperance.

VMRWA's Commander and Vice Commander dropped in on the Group and caught up with those undertaking the training, the trainers and several members of the Group.

It was informative learning about where the Group wishes to be in the future and to be able to chat about Association "stuff."



Marine Rescue Hopetoun was next with a very brief visit again due to members work schedules, but we were able to cover off on a number of topics with those we could catch up with and look forward to getting back there again soon when there is a better opportunity to catch up with more people.

So much was being crammed into a tight time frame.

Back to the WAFES Conference events; at the sundowner, DFES' Craig Waters presented Lincoln Heading with a DFES Certificate of Distinction recognising his contribution that spanned a hell of lot of years 😊





Lincoln surrounded by DFES luminaries (L-R Mark, Craig, Lincoln, Bec & Gary).

A few assorted pics from the WAFES Awards night.



DFES's finest Marine Rescue DO's and while a beverage is seen in the picture, we can assure the DFES management that everyone was particularly "tidy" and professional. Purely medicinal and to ease the excitement levels. Honest.



And how couldn't we resist an "after getting the Commanders Award" at the dinner shot of Owen and he wasn't about to go anywhere without the wheel and the bell.



SNEAK PEEK - DECKEE APP UPGRADE WILL BOOST BOATING SAFETY.

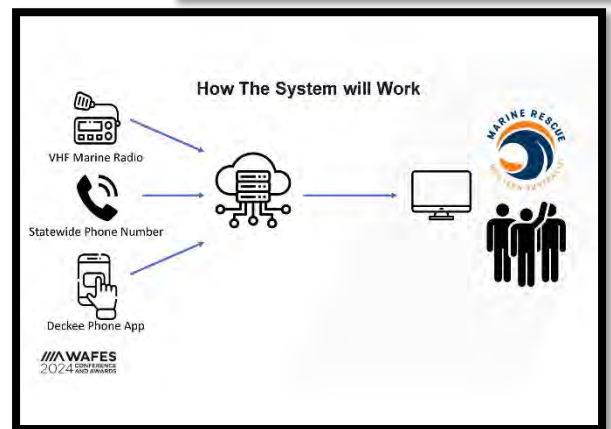
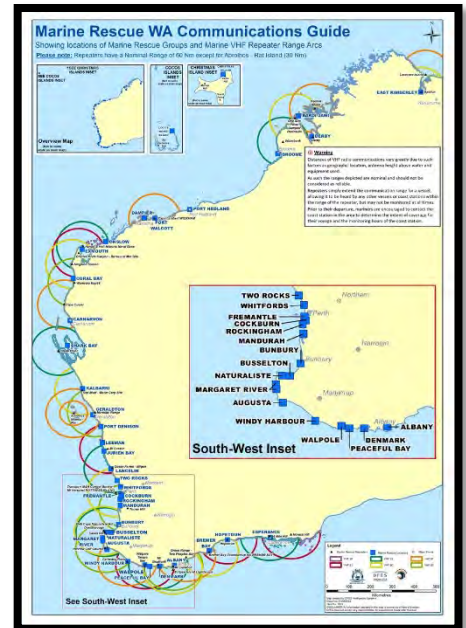
Attendees at the 2024 WAFES conference were treated to a presentation regarding a major upgrade to the popular Deckee Boating. DFES Marine Services and DoT Marine are working together to develop a Log On/Log Off (LOLO) function which will allow users to log their trips with Marine Rescue using the app interface, telephone or their Marine VHF radio.

In conjunction with this a Marine Rescue Communications Support Group (MRCS) is being set up to support local Marine Rescue Groups which are unable to provide a round-the-clock radio monitoring service. This will use the recently introduced Radio over Internet Protocol (RoIP) system that has networked Marine Rescue coast stations from Kununurra in the north to Esperance in the deep south of WA. This means that all stations can be centralised and remotely monitored via the internet using the Omnitronics Omnicore despatch system.

The MRCSG will be staffed by trained operators working from their homes using specially equipped laptops, and all necessary information will be combined into a single centralised database.

The project is well into its development and testing stage and is due for public launch by September 2025.

If you would like to view the presentation seen by those who attended WAFES2024 it is available on the DFES Volunteer Hub ([Here](#) - you will need to be logged into the [Hub](#)).



VMRWA Merch:

A new product that is proving very popular are our Sand Free Beach Towels.

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

These are made from innovative microfibre made from 80% recycled bottles that repels sand, dries 50% quicker than other towels and comes complete with its own neat compact drawstring bag.

At \$70.00 each or \$120.00 for two, they are perfect for the fast approaching Summer and would make a unique gift.



For other products, check out the VMRWA website shop - <https://www.vmrwa.org.au/shop>.

New Vessel for Exmouth

NINGALOO GUARDIAN'S MAIDEN VOYAGE.

[Marine Rescue Exmouth](#) recently took delivery of their new rescue vessel, a magnificent 12 metre [Southerly Designs](#) craft built by [Dongara Marine Pty Ltd](#) and fitted with triple Cox 300hp V8 Diesel Outboards.

The crew from Exmouth drove by road to Geraldton and after sea trials embarked on a three day voyage home via Denham in Shark Bay and Carnarvon.



RV Ningaloo Guardian was officially launched on the 28th of August by the Honourable [Peter Foster MLC](#), representing the Minister for Emergency Services, Hon. [Stephen Dawson MLC](#).

The group also celebrated their newly constructed, dedicated vessel berth in front of the Marine Rescue Exmouth HQ in the Exmouth Marina.



The Group also produced two videos that contain some of the highlights of the trip North.

To view them, Click on ([Part One](#)) ([Part Two](#))

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