

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

VOLUNTEER MARINE RESCUE BOWEN INC.

Radio Call Sign: VMR 487

Emergency Phone 000

Duty Controller 0447 327 290

Base 4786 1950

VMR Bowen is a voluntary non-profit organisation. We are sometimes activated for medivacs, search & rescues and other emergencies for the local boating community. Should you decide to become actively involved, you will be joining a dedicated team promoting safety at sea in the Bowen maritime area. Being an active member of VMR Bowen is invaluable in improving your knowledge of marine safety & seamanship. Your input & assistance are always welcome.

All members are invited to come to our monthly meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm, in the VMR building on Henry Darwen Drive.

VMR membership is personal; ie if you are on a boat which is not owned by a member, your membership will cover an assist if required. Although vessel details are required, **it is the person who is the member and NOT the boat.**

VMR is a volunteer organization and, although we will attempt to help both our members and others at sea, there may be times when, due to crew, vessel or safety limitations, we are simply unable to assist. Due to insurance & litigation implications, it is against VMR policy to transport fuel to vessels at sea.

VMR Bowen has 2 membership options:

- \$44.00 - Member is charged for Rescue Boat's fuel & oil costs.
- \$77.00 - Member receives up to \$300 discount per membership year off Rescue Boat's fuel & oil costs.

Non-members are charged a \$132.00 (GST inclusive) callout fee plus cost of fuel used by the Rescue Boat. (Fuel charges are subject to review in line with fuel costs.)

We operate the radio station at the base on Saturdays & Sundays, from 8 am, depending on available **volunteer** radio operators. Sub-bases provide radio coverage outside these times, also on a volunteer basis. **NOTE: We cannot guarantee that any of these radio services will be operative, due to personnel shortages.**

- VHF: 16, 21, 73. (if unable to establish contact, try channel 80)

VMR Bowen advises all mariners to call up with your details, destination & E.T.A whenever you go to sea. Your call is logged and when you advise us of your return, you are taken off the log.

Weather forecasts are broadcast by Townsville Weather daily at 0815, 1215 & 1715 on VHF Channel 80 & Mackay Weather at 0615, 1215 & 1645 on VHF Channel 21.

The process of becoming an active member includes an interview, medical for potential boat crew, general induction, specific inductions (boat, radio room) & ongoing training, which does not finish with qualification. It takes time, dedication & the ability to work within a team. We always try to match people's preferences & experience with roles within VMR. Radio operation is often a suitable activity for retirees.

We suggest that new members who wish to become involved, attend our monthly meetings, to become familiar with other members & procedures. It is a requirement that all active members be financial, so as to be covered by Workers Compensation.