

## Rescue Boat & Crew

The marine arm (originally Air/Sea Rescue) joined the Squad in 1980. There are currently 7 trained and active **volunteer** members in the crew.

Brunswick Heads has the reputation of being one of the worst bar crossings in NSW and over the years has experienced many capsizes with the loss of life and vessels.

Our boat crew has an excellent response time - from call-out to the mouth of the river within 7 minutes. Our boat, Sea Rescue One is 7.4 metres long, has a fibreglass mono hull, 250hp Yanmar diesel, and a tracking system on board. The tracking system enables the Marine Radio Base to log the boat's track on computer, allowing the exact position to be known at all times. The Boat Crew are on standby 24/7 and contactable by a pager system. Typical operations involve searching for missing swimmers, body retrieval, vessels in trouble at the bar or at sea, or vessels that have simply run out of fuel, broken down, or any emergency directed by police.

## Marine Radio Base

The Marine Radio Base (MRB) is situated on the south wall of the Brunswick River and was opened in 2001. The MRB is attended between 0600 –1700 hours, 7 days a week. Outside these hours radios are monitored by "standby stations" in the homes of two squad members.

We currently have around 25 **volunteer** radio operators, who must have a Marine Radio Operators Licence and also be proficient in manual navigation and weather pattern interpretation. In an emergency, operators activate the pager system to call Sea Rescue One.

Our call sign is 'VMR274 Brunswick' and we monitor VHF channels 16, 22 & 73, 27 Megahertz channels 88 & 90 and UHF channel 25. Boats without radios can log on with the MRB by phone on 6685 0148.

## Fund Raising

Fund raising seems like an endless task (Government funding wouldn't put a spare wheel on a truck). The running costs of the Squad are currently \$60,000 per year and this doesn't include the continual upgrading of equipment to keep in line with current State Rescue Board policies and requirements.

Many members spend hundreds of hours in fund raising activities (if they didn't the Squad wouldn't exist), so if you see us out and about, buy that raffle ticket, throw that gold coin in the bucket or a least give us a smile and stop for a chat, maybe even consider joining our squad.



MARINE RADIO BASE

Telephone: 02 6685 0148  
Fax: 02 6685 0257  
Email: [vrabrunz@bigpond.net.au](mailto:vrabrunz@bigpond.net.au)  
Web Site: [www.vrabrunz.org](http://www.vrabrunz.org)

**Donations To:**  
Brunswick Valley & District Volunteer Rescue Organisation Inc  
PO Box 126 Brunswick Heads NSW 2483

Telephone: 02 6685 1999  
Secretary: Lola Mills 02 6684 7383



# Brunswick Valley Volunteer Rescue

Your local rescue squad



Proudly serving Byron Shire for 30 years

