

SES Sea Rescue Squadron

John Burrow – “What we are is a Search and Rescue organization for marine activities. Our function is to provide additional support to the SAPOL water police, and we also provide 24 hour radio coverage. Our radio base is open 7AM to 7PM, 7 days a week.”

Don McCulloch – “I think in this organization that most of us have a love for the sea. It’s a chance to enjoy yourself and still fulfil an important role in looking after members of the boating public.”

Rae Hunt – “Basically I’m a yachty, so I’ve been out there on the other end of the radio and having someone looking out for us on the seas. I wanted to take some courses in seamanship and give something back to the squadron for looking out for us while we were sailing and also give something back to the boating community.”

Ameen Zaytoun – “I bought a boat a couple years ago and went out fishing in the local waters. I had a chat with one of the members about a seamanship course and the rest is history”

Kevin Bilske – “I find that what I’ve experienced being out on the water and engaging with other seamen is that a lot of them don’t understand the risks and the challenges that they take out there, so for me it’s about protecting those people.”

Bill Stupple - “It’s a great feeling when you get a call on the radio and somebody is looking for assistance and we have all the facilities to assist them.”

Dennis Hickling – “The most memorable part is when you go out on a rescue and you get to the boat and the people are so happy to see you and you know that you will be able to bring them to shore in a safe manner.”

Steve Hudson – “One of the major operations we’ve had recently was where a couple of guys went missing at Edithburgh. We had to take vesicles across the gulf and do a search for quite some time. The police had enough confidence in us to let us manage the On-Water Search and Rescue operation. They had some many other things to do but they knew they could count on us to manage it.”

John Burrow – “To have an incident where we’re out for a Search and Rescue and to see the whole thing work together is really satisfying. As the commodore it’s a great thing to see the whole group work together.”

Rae Hunt – “There’s no demarcation in this at all, so if you want to be part of the sea-going patrols, or if you want to be a radio operator, or want to be involved in any of the other committees, you can do it. It’s encouraged!”

Don McCulloch - “I’ll be in this organization as long as they’ll have me and as long as I’m fit. They don’t actually put any age limits, it’s just a matter of if you can still do the job and your health will see it through.”

Ameen Zaytoun - “If someone wants to become a member of the sea rescue squadron, I would say go right ahead! It’s a wonderful organization to be a part of!”