



# Multi-agency emergency response

Above L to R: Vessels involved in the exercise included the new police vessel 'Brett T Handran', CityCat 'Beenung Urrang', 'GJ Olive' and 'Newstead'.

A multi-agency exercise designed to test response to a fire on board a commercial passenger vessel was held at Colmslie in the Brisbane River on 18 August 2009.

The agencies involved were Maritime Safety Queensland, Emergency Management Queensland, Queensland Ambulance Service, State Emergency Services, Queensland Police Service (Water Police), Brisbane City Council, Port of Brisbane Corporation and Transdev TSL Brisbane Ferries.

The exercise highlighted several issues which could have been potentially dangerous in a real situation. One observation was that 'Tugulawa' incorrectly approached from the windward side of the 'burning' vessel, placing crew and the vessel in danger of catching fire. Other issues included the length of time it took for the passengers to don life jackets, and the length of time before the emergency and agency vessels were able to respond. On the positive side, Maritime Safety Queensland took a proactive role in engaging the tug 'Newstead' in cooperation with Svitzer tug company who kindly participated in the exercise.

As a result of the exercise, recommendations were made to improve emergency response efficiency. These included that CityCats should review onboard procedures in relation to fire fighting and passenger evacuation, and should also conduct a risk assessment of crew numbers in the event of an emergency. Queensland Fire and Rescue should ensure familiarisation with the tugs operated by Svitzer, and Maritime Safety Queensland should dispatch vessels immediately and arrange to collect Queensland Fire and Rescue Service officers at the scene. CityCat should also identify suitable and assigned locations to ground vessels in the event of an emergency to facilitate discharge of passengers and transfer of emergency service personnel.

The simulated emergency exercise took place as follows:

- 10.08 CityCat 'Beenung Urrang', situated at Colmslie, was advised of a fire on board with 22 passengers.
- 10.11 Call was made to 000 to advise.
- 10.24 Passengers were transferred to 'Tugulawa' and Brisbane Harbour notified fire was under control.
- 10.26 Maritime Safety Queensland vessel 'George Kerr' departed Pinkenba.
- 10.30 Notified that fire has flared up again and two passengers remain on board.
- 10.44 'George Kerr' arrived at scene.
- 10.45 'GJ Olive' arrived at scene.
- 10.48 'GJ Olive' delivered Queensland Fire and Rescue Service officers on board CityCat.
- 10.49 Tug 'Newstead' (engaged by Maritime Safety Queensland) with two Queensland Fire and Rescue Service officers on board was underway to the scene.
- 10.56 'Tugulawa' departed scene.
- 10.57 'Newstead' called to direct water off the stern of CityCat.
- 11.00 'Newstead' in action.
- 11.07 Exercise complete.
- 11.11 Display of fire fighting capabilities.



Above: Queensland Fire and Rescue Service officers demonstrating fire fighting equipment aboard Maritime Safety Queensland vessel 'George Kerr'.

Below: Passengers in life jackets being transferred from CityCat to 'Tugulawa'.



## Regional boating

# Savings from innovative plastic day marks

About 18 months ago at a boat show in Bundaberg the Maritime Safety booth happened to be located next to a plastic trailer manufacturer. The conversation turned to aids to navigation and the high maintenance required for the wooden day marks currently being used.

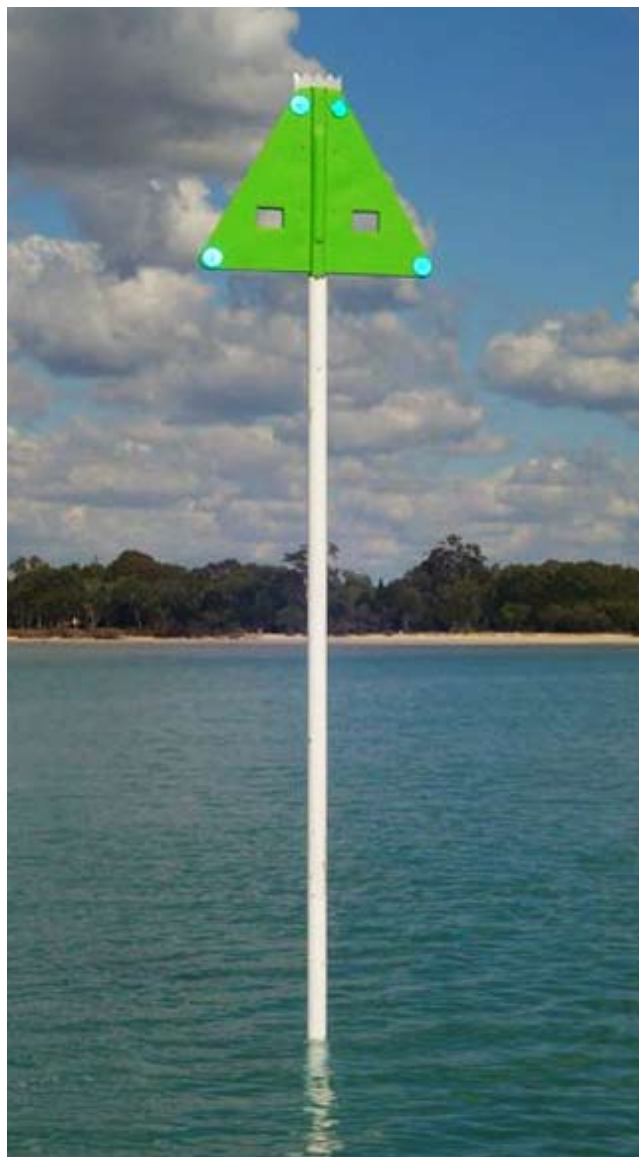
The manufacturer offered to make up a couple of 80 mm series day marks to the exact dimensions so they could be trialed. A red and a green were installed in Round Hill Creek and after 12 months showed no sign of deterioration. During this time the manufacturer, with the aid of Maritime Safety Queensland officer Glen Cunningham, made and modified moulds for further production of these day marks. Forty were ordered for the southern Gladstone region for installation in the Great Sandy Strait and a further six were ordered for the Brisbane region.

The advantages of these plastic day marks are:

- the same price as the raw materials for the wooden day marks
- they do not require painting
- they do not require maintenance every two years as wooden ones do
- bird fouling washes off in the rain
- they have a life expectancy in excess of 15 years
- they are about half the weight of the wooden marks, giving a significant workplace health and safety advantage.

Prototypes of the 150 mm series are currently being produced and interest has been shown from several other regions.

There is potential for significant savings in money and labour over the life of the day marks.





Claudine Ward's fishing vessel, FV Turtle.



Regional boating

## BoatSafe alive and well in remote areas of Queensland

The BoatSafe Training Association of Queensland (BTAQ), formed at the request of Maritime Safety Queensland, is recognised as the only BoatSafe industry association. Since its formation it has grown to represent the majority of Boatsafe training organisations.

Members are located from the New South Wales/ Queensland border along the east coast to Cairns. In the past remote areas of Queensland were serviced from the east coast, but in recent times that servicing has been switching to BoatSafe training providers who live in those remote areas. Many of the members can be found in areas such as Karumba and Longreach and others service remote areas like Weipa and Cooktown.

Long time Karumba resident Claudine Ward represents Australian BoatSafe Licence College in the Karumba, Normanton and Croydon areas. Claudine along with her husband Gary have been professional fishers on the east coast of Queensland and the Gulf of Carpentaria for 35 years. Claudine is the master of a fishing vessel, the FV Turtle and holds a Skipper Grade 3 and a Marine Engine Driver Grade 3 and unrestricted Coxswain. Claudine is also an authorised Maritime Communications Invigilator and a Justice of the Peace. In 2004 Claudine was awarded The Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation Queensland Rural Woman's Award. Claudine and her husband Gary have been training professional fishermen and women in Karumba for the last 20 years. Claudine can be contacted for BoatSafe Training and Assessment on 0417 926 367.



Chris Rumsey with his BoatSafe training vessel.

The BoatSafe Training Association of Queensland training provider in Longreach is long time resident Chris Rumsey. Chris arrived in Longreach in 1988 to work as a jackaroo on a cattle and sheep station. Chris is the local controller of the State Emergency Service, a Flood Rescue Boat Instructor, and a State Emergency Service volunteer since 1997. Chris is also owner/ operator of Outback Airboat Tours in Longreach and has trained Australian Defence Force personnel in the operation of military airboats. He holds a restricted Coxswain Certificate and a Marine Engine Driver Grade 3. The area covered by Chris conducting BoatSafe is north to Winton, east to Alpha, south to Quilpie and west to Windorah. Chris can be contacted for BoatSafe Training and Assessment on 0427 033 378.

Both the BoatSafe Training Association of Queensland and Maritime Safety Queensland have websites where the recreational boating public can find a BoatSafe training provider in their area, to conduct training and assessment for a recreational marine driver licence or a personal watercraft licence. For Maritime Safety Queensland visit [www.msq.qld.gov.au](http://www.msq.qld.gov.au). For BoatSafe Training Association of Queensland visit [www.btaq.org.au](http://www.btaq.org.au).



Claudine Ward with her Boatsafe Training vessel.



Chris Rumsey's Air Boat Tours.

## Bureau of Meteorology

# Safe boating tools on weather website

The Bureau of Meteorology has recently added some new tools to the Marine Weather page ([www.bom.gov.au/marine](http://www.bom.gov.au/marine)).

On each state page there are links to tide information, sunrise and sunset times as well as the usual forecasts and warnings.

The text forecast gives the wind, sea and swell information averaged over time and area.

For example, "SW/SE winds 15/20 knots, lighter winds inshore early. Seas 1.8 metres. E/SE swell 4 to 5 metres. Showers."

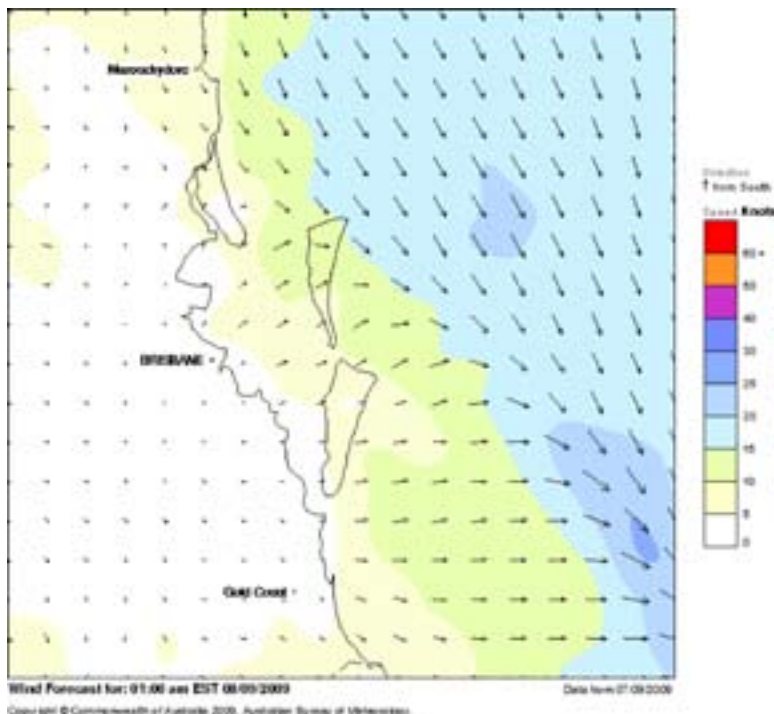
This forecast can cover a very large section of the coast and doesn't really show how the conditions are likely to vary throughout the day. You can find more localised information on the newly developed

wind forecast maps.

The forecast maps show how the conditions vary over time and area. The maps have more localised information and show the wind speed and direction every three hours.

The forecast maps should not replace the written forecast — they are computer generated and have not been checked by a forecaster so they should always be used in conjunction with the text forecast and the marine warnings.

For more information on wind forecasting, please go to [www.bom.gov.au/marine/about/about-forecast-wind.shtml](http://www.bom.gov.au/marine/about/about-forecast-wind.shtml) or for general marine weather information go to [www.bom.gov.au/marine](http://www.bom.gov.au/marine).



## Updated handbook



The 2009-2010 edition of Maritime Safety Queensland's *Recreational Boating and Fishing Guide* is now available.

This small handbook includes invaluable information for boaties about safety equipment, buying a new boat, fishing (including a table showing bag limits), navigation rules and regulations. There are tips on trip preparation and driver safety, and chartlets which delineate smooth, partially smooth and open waters along the Queensland coast. There is also a section explaining how to read navigational marks.

The Guide is available free of charge from Maritime Safety Queensland regional offices and most Department of Transport and Main Roads customer service centres.

### Upcoming events 2009

#### OCTOBER

- 4 River to Reef Festival, Mackay
- 4 Port of Gladstone Open Day
- TBA Mt Isa Fishing Classic
- TBA Gold Coast MAST Day

#### NOVEMBER

- 6-8 North Coast International Boat Show
- TBA Bundaberg Boat Show
- TBA Clermont Fishing Competition, Townsville

## Contacting Maritime Safety Queensland

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Bundaberg \_\_\_\_\_ 07 4131 8500  
Gladstone \_\_\_\_\_ 07 4973 1200  
Mackay \_\_\_\_\_ 07 4944 3700

## Seascope online

To comply with whole-of-government policy, the *Seascope* magazine will be available only online from now on.

To see the latest and previous editions, go to <http://www.msq.qld.gov.au/Home/Publications/Seascope/>.

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