

BHP

ALL HANDS ON DECK

Volunteer Marine Rescue Port Hedland's purpose is to preserve life at sea. The group is a volunteer organisation with professionally trained personnel, ready to assist 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. We aim to be world class in volunteer marine rescue with teams of skilled, effective, and efficient volunteers. The Port Hedland Volunteer Marine Rescue (PHVMR) have contributed immensely to the promotion of Marine Safety in operation by engaging the Port Hedland community in training and educational programs, and demonstrations at local events. Overall, as is their main group objective, the PHVMR have successfully come to the aid of distressed mariners in the Port Hedland area for many years, preserving numerous precious lives along the way.

In the early hours on the 8 August forecasted to be a lovely Pilbara winter's day with temperatures set to warm up to an average 32 degrees. Eleven members from BHP's RSM E Shift gathered at Port Hedland Volunteer Marine Rescue to volunteer their time and lend their hands to assist with a general busy bee. After a warm welcome, they listened with interest as they were told the history of the vital service by Commodore Zac. They were then briefed on the tasks for the day, where to find equipment and tools, and taken through safety procedures while on site with special mention to keep hydrated and take regular breaks. After a quick tour of the marine vehicles and the facility it was time to start the day. The team split into groups to attend to the list of tasks that were needed to be completed.



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One group undertook the yard duties trimming the overgrown tree then loading it onto the trailer to be emptied later at the tip. As two others cleared the side area of parts and equipment sorting them into neat piles, and another member sprayed weeds around the grounds.

The team worked to the sounds of good old rock classics as they started the job of sweeping the floor and cleaning and organising the existing shelves in the shed. The exterior furniture and undercroft area also got a good wash and pressure clean, while a couple of lucky members cleaned the air-conditioned training area inside the building.

Several of the team turned their attention and concentration to the precision task to hang 2 new industrial water hose reels and signage on each side of the huge, shed door. It was warming up and the group appreciated the cold water which was regularly circulated to ensure everyone was well hydrated and the morning tea break under the shaded area.

Back on the job the crew continued the clean up on the Marine Rescue Vessels and vehicles, which involved wiping and cleaning all interior equipment and surfaces and washing and scrubbing the outside of the boat, main deck and inside the main cabin. After a bit of Windex, surface cleaner and elbow grease the boats were all spruced up and ready for their next rescue mission.

The day finished when the lads returned from the tip with the trailer emptied of the green waste collected from the day's efforts, they all sat together for a well-earned lunch break and cool down. It was a job well done in good spirits and a fine effort from the team that was much appreciated by the wholly volunteer manned Port Hedland Volunteer Marine Rescue service.

Thank you everyone for your support of the community in Port Hedland you can be proud of the contribution your team has made through your team volunteering day, hope you enjoyed the experience.