

Tas Maritime Radio

e-Newsletter

July 2017

Golden Electronics Security takes over after-hours watch

Following planned internal restructuring [TasPorts](#) advised they were no longer able to continue after hours monitoring of Tas Maritime Radio's state-wide VHF network.

TasPorts have provided this valued and much appreciated service for the last fifteen years, during which time they have attended to many distress or urgent calls for assistance. On behalf of members of Tas Maritime Radio we sincerely thank them for their efforts.

This obviously meant we had to find an alternative organisation to monitor for us and, after some head scratching, we approached [Golden Electronics](#), a local security company, to see whether they would be interested in taking on that responsibility. Owners [George and Meagan Pavlides](#) enthusiastically agreed to do so on a voluntary basis as a community service.

With a financial contribution from [Marine and Safety Tasmania](#), some 16 staff have been trained and have qualified as base operators, with them commencing monitoring duties on the 20th of June.

Tas Maritime really appreciates the cooperation and enthusiasm shown by everyone at Golden Electronics Security as they enter a new field of service to the boating public.



Sam Hoggett takes the first after-hours watch at Golden Electronics Security

TasETAR - a new service for members

This winter we at TMR are introducing our new **TasETAR** system (ETAR = Expected Time of Arrival or Return). This was principally designed to provide overdue alerts for members who voluntarily give us an ETA/R.

Our logging system, TasLog, checks periodically to see if any vessel's ETA/R is coming up or is in fact already overdue and pops this information up on the Operator's screen. If you are **20-30 minutes** overdue and you have not advised us of your arrival or of an amended ETA/R, we will:

1. try to contact you by **radio**;
2. if unsuccessful, try to contact you using your **phone** number in our database - we will not phone the Shore Contact/Second Owner as this could cause undue panic;
3. if still unsuccessful and the vessel is now more than **60 minutes** overdue we will refer the matter to **Tasmania Police**.

Non-members are welcome to use this service but point 2 above will not apply to them – if you are not a member and wish to use TasETAR, the best bet is to become a TMR member (see our website under **Members' Area / Membership**).

If you do provide an ETA/R when you call in, we will assume you want us to follow up in the event that you become overdue and the above actions will apply.

If you don't want us to follow up, don't provide an ETA/R. TasETAR is a voluntary system for you – **it's your choice to use it or not**.

If you do use TasETAR, remember:

1. **ALWAYS call in** when you arrive at or are approaching your destination (if, for some reason, it is not possible to radio in phone us on 6231 2276 or email us at ops@tasmaritime.com.au and advise us of your arrival).
2. If you know you will be delayed, **let us know** and we'll reset the ETA/R for you.

TasETAR is intended for short day trips, particularly fishing trips out to the continental shelf and back, although you can provide an ETA/R for a future date under some circumstances. If you are taking a longer trip around the coast or to the mainland, use TMR's comprehensive TasREP system which provides more concentrated logging that is specific to your trip. For more about TasREP or to book a trip, see the website under **Services / TasREP**.

Our Members

Tas Maritime membership continues to grow steadily with a total of 1232 members at the time of writing, 64 of them from interstate so it's great to see our reputation growing outside state borders.

You can join TMR by visiting the **Members' Area** on our website at www.tasmaritime.com.au

Operator Changes

Since the last newsletter Tas Maritime has welcomed two new operators, [Colin Johnston](#) who commenced training in January and [Robyn Mundy](#) in March.

After four years living on board his 36' yacht Freespirit (RG72), Colin comes to TMR with a wealth of valuable sea experience. When he's not on watch Colin enjoys sailing, motorcycling and playing music.



Robyn arrived fresh from her latest stint as volunteer caretaker and weather observer on Maatsuyker Island. After interacting with TMR on Maatsuyker Robyn was inspired to join us as an operator. When not working in Antarctica or co-leading adventure trips to polar regions, Robyn writes and teaches creative writing.



In February one of our stalwarts, [Peter Muir](#), decided to retire after many years of service to Tasmanian mariners. We all miss Peter's cheerful and helpful nature and his retirement has been a big loss to TMR.



Another stalwart, [Neil Hutton](#), has taken leave due to ill health. We all miss Neil and wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him back at the microphone soon.



We are always keen to hear from anyone who has the time and inclination to become a TMR Operator. (Phone Barry McCann on 0417 581 789). Most Operators do one 4-hour watch per week, so it's not a huge time commitment.

Building Plans Approved

Plans for TMR's new radio room and marine radio museum at the Queens Domain have been approved. Work is to begin shortly with TMR member John Nibbs of Nibbs Electrical removing power from the rear shed so that demolition work can commence. It was hoped to have the building finished by the end of the year but with Hobart's buoyant building industry in full swing it may go on into next year. Remember we are still looking for donations of old HF, VHF and 27MHz marine radios for the museum.

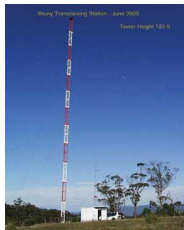


System Maintenance

The TMR network incorporates a great deal of infrastructure that needs ongoing maintenance and the responsibility for this upkeep is shared between TMR and [MAST](#).

TMR maintains some of the base stations, as well as our central communications hub at Mt Nelson and the control equipment and software as well as the long range HF transmitters and receivers at [Bruny Island](#) and [Snug Tiers](#). MAST takes on the responsibility for the base stations and some radio links that are expensive to service like Maatsuyker, Maria, Three Hummock and Flinders Islands and Elliot Range in the south west (many require a helicopter). We appreciate MAST's no-nonsense commitment to this work and we enjoy and value the cooperation with MAST. There would be no state-wide VHF network without this partnership.

We recently completed maintenance work on our antenna systems at the Bruny Island HF site. Our volunteer riggers from Telstra, Warren Arbuckle and Jason Gaitero, again assisted with the installation of new insulators and winches to make future maintenance easier.



TMR's Busy Summer

This summer has been very busy. We exceeded [2500 logged calls](#) during January. That's an average of almost 83 calls per day! On some days we would have easily exceeded 100 calls.

So far this year we assisted with 5 Mayday, 14 Pan-Pan and 30 other calls. This is a major part of why we are here – to assist mariners who get into difficulties. We would like to thank [Tasmania Police](#) and the many boaties who have responded to our calls for assistance. Transit were up too with 92 voyages being recorded.

Wooden Boats Festival

Tas Maritime again operated for the 4 days from a marquee near Kings Pier. Many regulars called in for a chat as did a number of interstate visitors who had used our services on their voyages to Hobart. As a result we gained many new members and we enjoyed putting faces to names and many boaties have said the same – now they can visualise who is on the other end of the radio.



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Volunteers providing safety services for Tasmanian mariners