

# A CHANCE MEETING

**A recent chance meeting** has resulted in a very beneficial sponsorship deal for VMR Southport.

In June this year a gentleman contacted our Rescue Base wanting to undertake a Marine Radio Licence exam. This was organised and the exam was successfully completed.

Whilst at the VMR facility, this gentleman, Johnnie Macleod, was very keen to find out a bit more about what VMR did, and how they did it, as he was the owner of a jetski, and should he ever need the assistance of VMR, he wanted to know the procedures and processes of being rescued.

After a lengthy conversation and nothing but praise for the VMR volunteers, Johnnie left the VMR Base with the departing words of 'You will hear from me again soon'.

Just a few days later, Johnnie contacted the VMR Southport President, advising his business, the Knightsbridge Insurance Group was very interested in financially contributing to the Organisation, and could VMR come up with a proposal for something that would benefit both VMR and his Company.

As luck would have it, there was a project underway within VMR Southport at that current time, to purchase every Boat Crew member their own personal lifejacket for use whenever they ventured out on a VMR vessel.

This project was mentioned to Johnnie, who without hesitation, gladly offered to further mention this to his Companies Board of Directors, for their consideration.

Again, just a couple of days later, approval was given by the Knightsbridge Company to purchase 100 manual inflating PFD's (Personal Flotation Device) for use by the VMR Southport volunteers, with the intent of ensuring their safety at sea.

A meeting of VMR Senior and Duty Skippers was held soon after to discuss what brand of lifejacket to purchase, and several other Commercial vessel operators in the local area were consulted as to their recommendations, with the Hutchwilco 170N brand being highly recommended for its comfort and ease of wearing.

On 1 October 2022, these lifejackets, beautifully printed with both the Knightsbridge Insurance Group and VMR logos on the front sides, and with additional night lights were distributed to those members who travel on our Rescue vessels, to be worn at all times when on the water.

VMR Southport is extremely grateful to Johnnie and his Company for their generosity, and whilst we hope these life jackets never need to be used in emergent circumstances, we can all feel very comfortable that if this were to be the case, our members would be adequately protected.

Additionally, the VMR Southport Management Committee has further mandated that all persons riding on the Organisation's vessels must wear a lifejacket at all times as of October 1, 2022.

As a Squadron, we have ample lifejackets to ensure this mandate is met. This is now in effect, with no complaints received so far.

RIGHT: President Glenn Norris shaking on the deal with Johnnie Macleod of the Knightsbridge Company

BELOW: VMR Southport's Black Crew proudly displaying their lifejackets

