Marine Radio Community,

OMC staff had an interesting time last week we attended AGFEST. This is an annual event organized by The Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania Inc. A three day event initially set up to show case everything agricultural. However over the years it has grown and now also includes other products, services and craft stalls. This year a total of 58,285 passed through the gates. It was wet and muddy gumboots and rain jackets sold very well. OMC was in a big marquee set up by the University of Tasmania. Unfortunately I think we got lost in the general melee of the other more interesting areas. We did interact with a number of people but not as many as we usually do at boat shows. Interesting to note that both AMSA and MAST (Marine and Safety Tasmania) had stands.

Timely reminder – Recently one of our invigilators had a candidate who is dyslexic and was worried about sitting the examination. The invigilator has the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, by applying ‘reasonable adjustment’ a verbal examination was conducted and the candidate successfully passed the examination.

On our website under Governance and Privacy we have a document which sets out our Business Rules (BR) as agreed with ACMA (need updating regarding the name changes – in progress). These BRs have a section regarding Supported Examinations (situations where the ‘norm’ does not apply). The following is the section regarding supported examinations:

5.2 Supported Examinations

The AMC arranges supported examinations for:
1. persons with special needs;
2. persons residing in remote locations; and
3. persons who are domiciled overseas at the time of sitting the examination.

The AMC ensures that supported examinations are properly conducted and that they take place in an environment that mitigates fraudulent activity.

A person seeking a supported examination because of special needs may need to provide, on request:
1. a medical certificate identifying the nature of the condition, the need for special consideration and the form of assistance required; or
2. a written recommendation from an invigilator identifying the nature of the condition, the need for special consideration and the form of assistance required.

Where the assessment of an applicant requiring a supported examination raises further consideration, the AMC may consult with the ACMA to establish the most appropriate examination or assessment methodology.

The AMC takes all reasonable steps to ensure the security of its examination material and the privacy of any personal information collected during the examination process.

Please contact the office to discuss when a supported examination maybe required.

Regards, Sam Potts

ACMA - Remaking of the Qualified Operators Determination

The new Radiocommunications (Qualified Operators) Determination 2016 was made by the ACMA on 17 March 2016. While the new Determination mostly follows the layout of the old Determination which was scheduled to sunset on 1 April 2016, there is one major change in the new Determination relating to overseas equivalent qualifications. Previously, overseas equivalency was open to interpretation, however now, the equivalent overseas maritime qualifications are codified using a table in the Schedule to the Qualified Operators Determination. This table reflects the qualifications included in Article 47 of the ITU Radio Regulations.
**Invigilator Contact Details**
If changing your contact details, sponsor organisation, going overseas for a while or resigning as an invigilator, please let the office know so that our database can be updated.

**Feedback**
The OMC welcomes any feedback or comments regarding the content of this newsletter, our exams, the Marine Radio Operators Handbooks, and any other aspect or our service.

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**BOM – news**
Ever wondered why the Bureau of Meteorology includes the statement “Maximum waves may be twice the height of the average wave heights”? An infographic now illustrates the relationship between the maximum wave height and the wave heights that are provided in the Bureau’s marine forecasts. Mariners should expect to encounter these larger waves at least three times each day. Wave height forecasts are available on VHF radio marine forecasts and also MetEye. [http://media.bom.gov.au/social/blog/870/ruling-the-waves-how-a-simple-wave-height-concept-can-help-you-judge-the-size-of-the-sea/](http://media.bom.gov.au/social/blog/870/ruling-the-waves-how-a-simple-wave-height-concept-can-help-you-judge-the-size-of-the-sea/)

**Promotions**
This year we are looking at several boat shows in collaboration with AMC. The first one being:

**Gold Coast Marine Expo**
**May 19-22**
AMC has a stand (site 1) at the GCM Expo. OMC (Liz) will be sharing the stand with the AMC VET staff. Drop by and say hello. If you have a candidate attending tell them to see Liz about purchasing a discounted handbook (Limited number).

Hopefully we will also get to Sydney and maybe Mandurah.

**Frequently asked Questions (FAQ’s)**
Q Are statistics available about the number of applications made and sales of handbooks?
A. Yes, the tables below show the total number of applications and sales of handbooks and the variances over the last five years. The two years of note are 2013 and 2015.

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>LROCP</th>
<th>SROCP</th>
<th>MSCE</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Variance %</th>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
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<td>1642</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>6044</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1795</td>
<td>22</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>MROHB</th>
<th>Variance %</th>
<th>MVHB</th>
<th>Variance %</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Variance %</th>
</tr>
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<td>-18.93%</td>
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<td>2770</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
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</table>

**Important Reminder**
Sometime before sitting the marine radio examination could you please ask your students if they already hold a marine radio certificate? Anyone holding the MROCP or LROCP should not sit the LROCP examination, and anyone holding the MROVCP or SROCP should not sit the SROCP examination. The result of resitting, should a person fail, is that the original qualification may be cancelled!

Also once again, please good quality photos not scans of printed photos, they are too grainy! If possible just take a photo and send as a jpg file attached to an email.

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Office of Maritime Communications
Locked Bag 1394
Launceston
Tasmania 7250
Phone 1300 365 262
Fax 03 6324 9885
Email amcom@amc.edu.au

We're on the Web!
See us at:
Office of Maritime Communications

Have a look at AMC on Facebook and Twitter
AMC
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Manager – Sam Potts
03 6324 9550
Senior Office Administrator
Suzanne Whitmore
03 6324 9869
Administration Assistants
Elizabeth Reeve
03 6324 9686
Sherree Campton
03 6324 9869

Opening Hours
Monday to Friday - 9:00am to 5:00pm except for public holidays and university granted days.

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