



## Adelaide's Ross Williams Legacy

SA Sea Rescue pays tribute to a hardworking volunteer with a bespoke SAR craft that has everyone talking.

### Background

The SA Sea Rescue Squadron which receives operational funding annually from the SA State Government is an integral part of Volunteer Marine Rescue SA, a unit of the South Australian State Emergency Services. The Squadron Head Quarters is located at West Beach, just north of Glenelg. Country flotillas operate from Wirrina (south eastern zone of Gulf St Vincent), Edithburgh (south western side of Gulf St Vincent) and Wallaroo (on the eastern side of Spencer Gulf).

The Squadron currently operates three vessels SR 01 (due for replacement this year), SR 02 and the new, purpose built RW3 (SR 03) from their Adelaide and Lonsdale facilities, and another three vessels from their country flotillas. All of these craft are dedicated to search and rescue, training and seamanship instruction and community participation for 'come and see' days, school projects and general demonstrations. They are a high value asset to the SA boating public.

### The "Ross Williams" Vessels

The RW1 was a Stacer 5.5M aluminium cuddy cab, purchased locally in Adelaide. It served the Squadron exceptionally well, mainly as a seamanship training vessel. The Squadron's culture has always had a

strong focus on fundraising to ensure provision of the highest level of search and rescue services to the SA boating public, as well as promoting collective boating safety and awareness.

An opportunity arose in response to requests from shipping agents to provide launch services to ships at the Semaphore Anchorage. The RW2, a second hand 7.4M Clayton Gallant in 2C survey, was purchased in 2011 to serve this purpose. This vessel was regularly used for transfers of surveyors, technicians, light freight – mechanical and electrical spare parts, food supplies and change-over crews and their personal effects to and from ships at the anchorage until her service life came to an end in 2016.

The funds from this initiative has provided a small income stream to enable the squadron to expand and better deliver its services to the boating public, as well as availing invaluable sea time training for its crews and skippers. It has also assisted in the funding for the new RW3.

### Building RW3

RW3 planning commenced in 2014. The vessel was designed to be multi-purpose and built specifically to meet identified criteria for its operational and search and rescue duties. It has to provide safe and comfortable transfer of passengers, their luggage and

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Really nice video by Sam Ross for Nautic Star featuring clever use of drone video images.