

HOVERSERVICES PTY. LTD.

ABN 44 071 804 843

Brief history of Hoverservices

Director and Pilot of Hoverservices, Kevin Dixon started building model hovercraft while in primary school in 1963. A full size craft of 6 meters in length and powered by two WV 1600 cc engines was designed and built together with father Arthur Dixon in 1968. This craft was called Hovabout, and was often seen operating in both Gulfs especially around the tidal flats north of Adelaide. This craft was one of the first fully functional craft built in Australia. The Hovabout craft operated for 20 years and was used by emergency service groups Police and research agencies in the waters of South Australia.

In 1974 the Federal Senate select committee saw the craft operating at Parafield Airport to determine the Federal decision on hovercraft as an extension of maritime laws.

In the years after Hovabout, Hornet Hovercraft were made by Kevin Dixon in partnership and produced a number a craft for use with mining companies and the defence departments.

In 1995 Hoverservices Pty Ltd was incorporated as a Company to develop further and produced refitted Hornet craft and new craft for the Fisheries Department in SA.

To assist in the delivery of craft operations the first Light Hovercraft Pilot training course was written and accredited as a training course with the Australian Recognition Council.

Hoverservices was contracted by the SA Transport Department to facilitate survey regulations for commercial hovercraft. Also to train and assess craft pilots with endorsements up to and including masters certificates of competency to operate hovercraft.

The company is maintaining the original Hovercraft delivered to the defence department in South Australia as well as Air Force craft and other private craft.

Currently Hoverservices has Hornet craft available for charter operations as well as a number of other craft.

Developments over the years, has been mainly with improved safety and reliability in hovercraft. Kevin Dixon invented a method of preventing serious ploughin on craft and has designed this in all craft built since 1987. Also a safe and simple method of towing stricken hovercraft was announced the same year.

Currently all operations and rescues with emergency services is commenced with a full hazard and risk assessment carried out. Craft preparedness is maintained to a very high standard for safety and reliability. Pilots have extensive craft flight time and experience. Craft have insurance cover with BJS brokers. The craft is inspected and maintained to a high standard with safety and safe operation first in all aspects of the craft operations

Hoverservices hovercraft have carried out many rescues for SA Police and Sea Rescue Squadron call outs. In South Australia and other States. In all, about 30 lives have been saved by the craft over twenty years. These have occurred mainly in mangrove mud flats and shallows. Also the craft has been used by SES units for flood rescues and evacuations in times of flood disasters etc.

Kevin Dixon has acted as consultant to different Government Departments in the role and use of hovercraft in specialist areas. These include Defence applications, Fisheries research and survey as well as geo survey applications. Lately the craft as seen operations in the Murray Lower Lakes district with survey work in both main lakes and adjacent estuaries. The largest hovercraft survey in the States history was done by Hoverservices in mud and acid soils around the lakes. This speeded up the mapping of acid soils and its likely impact with the current drought conditions. This was for the Murray /Darling Auth, EPA and various Sate Departments.

For further information see Hoverservices.com

**Kevin Dixon.
2009**