

## SA SEA RESCUE SQUADRON



### HOVERCRAFT ONE

This hovercraft has been used to assist emergency services, Police and other authorities in search and rescue operations in areas where conventional craft cannot operate. Night or day the craft can cross varied terrain, mud snow ice and water.

This craft has rescued and saved over forty seven lives over the last 30 years.

Areas covered are-

Tidal flats in both Gulf areas, Murray River and back waters, and in flooded suburban streets. Rapidly moving flood waters do not affect the hovercraft as it hovers above the current.

The Hovercraft can safely stop on water or on sheltered seas and float like a boat. In-built foam buoyancy makes the craft unsinkable.

The hovercraft has been used to assist-

- S A Sea Rescue Squadron and Aust. Volunteer Coastguard for use in mangrove areas,
- South Australian Police for search and rescues,
- State Emergency Service, for flood rescues
- S.A. Health Commission for checking swamps at Loxton
- Fisheries Department for patrols and surveys
- Defence Dept Pt Wakefield patrols
- CSIRO, EPA and others for geo-survey of lower lakes and Murray systems

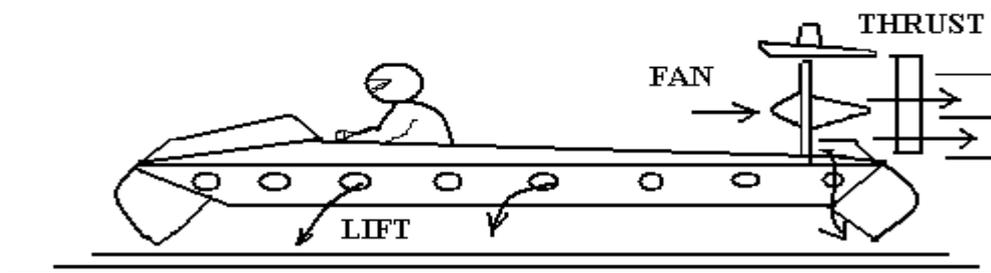
The hovercraft has been operating for 30 years in South Australia and has a proven continuous record of reliability and response during this time. This hovercraft would be the longest serving hovercraft rescue unit in Australia.

The hovercraft has a Pilot and two crew. It carries an array of communication equipment and safety gear similar to boats. The craft is fully amphibious and can operate from flat areas to access shallow seas or flooded areas.

Builder and Pilot: Kevin Dixon is fully qualified marine skipper and conducts pilot courses in hovercraft operations.

The craft is in full marine survey and is a commercial hovercraft for private and Government Dept charter flights.

#### CROSS SECTION OF CRAFT



The craft works by powering one large fan with a Subaru car engine. This forces air through the fan and out the back of the air duct to provide thrust.

The bottom section of the duct bleeds air under the deck and out of the air feed holes around the hull inside of the skirt. This supplies the lift air to pressurise the trapped cushion inside of the skirt and ground. The craft will lift until the air escapes from under the skirt. This craft lifts about 20 cm off the ground.

#### FACTS AND FIGURES

<b>Make</b>	<b>Hornet Hovercraft MX-S</b>
Speed	to about 50 Kts-90 Kph
Weight	450Kgs
Capacity	four people or 400 Kgs
Controls	rudders and elevons for trim
Skirt type	extended finger –individual elements
Engine	Subaru 1800cc brumby flat four
Communications	27Mh Electaphone @VHFmarine radio, UHF Uniden radio and Garmin GPS

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