Whittley Club Victoria Inc.

Reg No. A0049742X

CRUISING AND MEMBER PROTOCOLS

The Whittley Club Victoria (WCV) is a social boating club where everyone is welcome. We all share a passion for boating with our Whittley boats. It's important that members are respectful, courteous and kind. It is also important that when on a Club cruise our members act responsibly and don't do anything to risk the safety and wellbeing of others.

All boats must conform to the current Marine Acts of Victoria or other States as required for the safety and comfort of all cruise members. This includes but is not exclusive to the Victorian Marine Safety Act 2010 and Marine Safety Regulation 2023.

The WCV promotes boating safety and practical opportunities to improve and refine boat handling skills with fellow Club Members. We take every opportunity to be out cruising on the water with cruises planned every month. Destinations include waterways in Victoria, NSW, Queensland and South Australia.

We support new members as they learn their way around their boat in many different waterways.

WCV cruises are social, fun and enjoyable. Our Club cruises offer a chance to make new friends and learn more about your boat and how to get the best out of it. We all love our Whittley boats and would not like to see them damaged or be the cause of damage to anyone else or their property so the most important aspect of our cruises is safety. Registration for Club cruises are completed via an online proforma that submits information directly to the Cruise Co-ordinator and Cruise Leader.

The boating experience of cruise participants varies from those who have only recently acquired their boats, to others with extensive experience of boats, boat handling and waterway knowledge. To ensure everyone stays safe, we have several Club rules which cruise participants are required to acknowledge and follow.

1. By Registering To Attend A Cruise:

- You agree that you have read and understand the WCV Cruising & Member Protocols.
- You ensure your boat is seaworthy, has all the required safety equipment (as per State regulations), registered and currently insured.
- Your boat has all required mooring ropes, fenders and a tow rope.
- Ensure you have an operational VHF marine radio.
- You agree to provide your crew details, estimated arrival / departure details and other information as requested by WCV.
- Inform the Cruise Leader of any delays to your arrival time.
- Make it known to the Cruise Leader if you are new to boating or have not driven a boat for a long time and may require support/assistance during the cruise.
- Advise the Cruise Leader if you need to depart early.
- Attend the Cruise Briefing to understand the daily cruise plan.

- The Cruise Leader may create a WhatsApp Chat group of all cruise participants. This chat group will be a communication platform for all cruise participants. The Cruise Leader may use this platform to advise cruise participants of changes to cruise plan, weather changes, other issues, etc. You must monitor this WhatsApp chat group daily during the cruise.
- Comply with all WCV Cruising & Member Protocols.

2. Launching, Departing and Mooring:
We use boat ramps convenient to the location of the cruise and on busy days when our boats are launching together with local boats, these can be hectic places. Under these circumstances the Cruise Leader may appoint a ramp master, who is usually an experienced member of our club who will support you to launch and ensure that all participating boats launch efficiently and in an orderly manner with minimal disruption to other boats launching. **You must always follow their directions.**

The Cruise Leader may hold a daily "Cruise Briefing" where the following will be advised:

- Daily cruise plans
- Cruise departure time
- VHF radio channel for all cruise communications
- Boat who will be the cruise Tail End Charlie
- What boat has the Club defib unit

The Tail End Charlie will assist the Cruise Leader and any boat that may have operational issues during the cruise. The Tail End Charlie will be the last boat to depart. In the event of any boat experiencing trouble or breaking down, the boat involved is to pull out of line and radio the Cruise Leader to advise of their issue. Where possible the vessel in distress should ensure the safety of their boat and crew which may include setting their anchor to prevent drifting into obstacles, being blown by the wind or carried by the current, etc. It is recommended that the crew put on their life jackets and wait for the Tail End Charlie to stop, assess, assist and advise the appropriate rescue options.

Similarly, boats must dock safely following directions of the Cruise Leader or nominated representative. When leaving moorings or pontoons, the lead boat (normally the Cruise Leader) leaves first and you should follow in a safe manner being aware of all other boat movements around you.

During the cruise, boats will moor-up from time to time for lunch, swimming or other activities and again the Cruise Leader will direct the group and arrange for all boats to be secured. Wake created by boats in the vicinity of moorings can create considerable damage so you need to be aware of your speed around moored boats.

3. On The Water:
It is important that you :

- Follow directions of the Cruise Leader and Tail End Charlie
- Respond to the daily radio check on the designated cruise channel and monitor your radio continuously during the cruise
- Travel in line at a safe distance behind the boat in front of you
- Be prepared to stop safely if required
- Use appropriate radio procedures, in line with Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) guidelines.
- Advise the Cruise Leader if you need to depart the cruise at any time.
- Be mindful of the environment by not discharging or emptying your toilet into the waterway but use designated dump or pump out points. Where possible use eco-friendly detergents and soaps on your boat, don't empty oil, fat or grease directly into the waterway from your boat (ie. use alcohol wipes to clean plates and fatty pans before washing).

4. Alcohol:
The boat rules for drugs and alcohol are the same as for driving a motor vehicle, and that any breach received on one licence may apply to both your boat and car licence. For the safety of all members and their crews on our cruises, we ask you to be mindful of this, aiming for all major celebrations to wait until after you have completed your boating activities for the day.

5. Covid:
The WCV will always follow Government recommendations and will not risk or place members at risk. The WCV Committee believes that all members need to be responsible for their own health and should not attend a cruise or Club event if feeling unwell or showing any flu or Covid symptoms. The Cruise Leader can ask members and their crew not participate in the Club cruises if they believe they are unwell.

6. Mandatory Equipment For Club Cruises:
The following equipment is required for Club cruises:

- A tow rope of minimum 10mm diameter and 30m long is required to be attached to the front eyebolt of your boat for safety reasons before leaving the boat ramp.
- A minimum of four (4) fenders suitably sized for your boat
- Sufficient mooring lines, correctly sized for your boat. Four (4) lines should be attached, one (1) to each of your port and starboard bow and stern cleats. The lines must be accessible to others when mooring to jetties or other boats.
- An operational VHF marine radio
- One long rope approximately twice the length of your boat to be used as a stern line.
- One metal/plastic stake (maximum 500 mm long) including a hammer to secure the stern line from the bank to the stern of your boat.
- Any spares that you may consider necessary for your boat to cover this particular cruise.

7. Conditions Of Participation On Club Cruises:

- All boats must conform to the current Motor Boating Act of Victoria.
- All boats must hold current registration and insurance
- Cruise entry is accepted on the condition that any person or persons connected herewith whilst participating in this cruise shall do so at their sole risk and any such person or persons shall not have any claim against the Whittley Club Victoria Inc. or the sponsors or any official or servant or other person appointed by or acting on behalf of the said organiser or in connection with the cruise for any loss or injuries suffered by him or her, or any other person, whether or not the same shall be caused or contributed to by any act, omission or negligence on the part of the Whittley Club Victoria Inc. or any other sponsor or official servant or other person aforesaid.
- Every member or guest taking part in a Club cruise shall indemnify the Whittley Club Victoria Inc. and the sponsors and the officials, servants and any other persons aforesaid against any claims by any other entrant or other persons whomsoever for injuries, damage, loss or other claim whatsoever nature or however arising.
- All members are required to have all licences and permits applicable to the waterways being cruised and have applicable insurances for the activities to be undertaken.
- All members have read and understood the appropriate conditions of entry, protocols and WCV requirements and agree to comply with them on every cruise.

- For the safety and enjoyment of all participants, WCV Committee members, Cruise Leaders or their representative, have the authority to refuse participation to any member or guest:

    - If the member, member's guest or guest boat is considered not a good fit for the intended cruise, or
    - If any crew member of the boat is considered unwell and shows flu or Covid like symptoms.
    - If the Cruise Leader or a majority of the participants on a cruise feel unsafe or feel the captain / or his crew's behaviour is a risk to the other members or their boats, not in the best interests of the Club or brings the Club into disrepute, they have the right to request the boat and crew to leave the remainder of the Club cruise.

9. Guest Boats Of The WCV:

- Guest boats may be invited to attend a WCV cruise or event on an **one-off basis**. This will be at the discretion of the Commodore / Committee and needs to be approved prior to the guest boat attending the cruise or event. The Cruise Leader needs to be advised of the guest boat participation prior to commencement of the cruise.
- The guest boat and crew must comply with all Club procedures, processes and cruise protocols.

- Guest boat may be-
  - a non WCV member who owns a Whittley boat and would like to experience a WCV cruise prior to joining the Club, or
  - a non WCV member who doesn't currently own a Whittley boat but is in the process of purchasing a Whittley or intending to purchase a Whittley and would like to experience how Whittley boats operate.

10. Guests of WCV Members

From time to time Members invite guests to cruise with them onboard their Whittley boat. WCV Members are responsible for the behaviour of their guests and are reminded that all guests are bound by the WCV Cruising & Member Protocol. Guests need to be respectful of other WCV members, follow directions of Cruise Leaders and Tail End Charlies and don't have the right to voice an opinion concerning WCV matters. Any Member's guest that is being disruptive or abusive on a cruise will be asked to leave.

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