

WHITTLEY CLUB VICTORIA
CRUISE REPORT – Tasmania 2026

Day 1 – Monday 5 January 2026

Spirit Bound

The Tasmanian cruise adventure officially kicked off today! One boat — JB Squared — boarded the Spirit of Tasmania for the day sail, while the other seven boats jumped on the night crossing. Excitement was high as we all set course for the Apple Isle.

Once onboard around 8:45pm, everyone scattered across the ship to grab food, drinks, and settle in for the crossing. Spirits were high, plans were being made, and Tasmania was finally on the horizon.



Day 2 – Tuesday 6 January 2026

Road Trip to Margate Marina

We enjoyed an incredibly smooth overnight sail, arriving in Devonport at 8:10am. Within half an hour we were off the Spirit and rolling south toward Hobart.

Craig's travel tips paid off — a few of us stopped at the Elizabeth Town Bakery, which did not disappoint. Excellent coffee and baked goods all round. The drive down was a treat, with warm sunshine and classic Tasmanian scenery.

Before reaching Margate, we stocked up at Kingston Shopping Village, then rolled into Margate Marina where Zac greeted us at the gate with a big smile. Boats were prepped, launched, and berthed by 5:30pm — a solid effort.

That evening, Alanna had organised a BBQ on the marina deck. Cody took charge of the grill, expertly handling snags and burgers. After a long day, it was perfect to sit back, relax, and catch up.

Ten boats were now in the water — ready to explore Tassie.



Day 3 – Wednesday 7 January 2026

Bruny Island Bliss

An early start to inflate tenders and grab showers before departing Margate Marina at 10am. The excitement was real — we were finally heading out.

The conditions couldn't have been better: warm, sunny, and no wind. Matt and Sharon aboard Orca led us across to Great Bay, Bruny Island, where we anchored and tendered ashore through crystal-clear water.

First stop: Bruny Island Cheese & Beer Café — a short walk from the beach. Shade, cheese platters, beer, and wine made this an instant favourite. From there, we motored around the point to Get Shucked, and the seafood lovers among us were absolutely in heaven.

After thoroughly overindulging, we headed back to our boats and followed Orca down to Alonnah Jetty for the night. A couple of boats had minor issues, but everyone made it in safely.

Happy hour was catered by Casper in the shelter at the end of the jetty, where we also met some welcoming members of the South Bruny Boat Club. An outstanding day from start to finish.



Day 4 – Thursday 8 January 2026

Walks, a Rescue & Port Huon Marina

We woke to a stunning morning at Alonnah / Sheepwash Bay — blue skies, calm water, and sunshine.

The Boss, Fun Time, and Casper tackled the Alonnah–Sheepwash Bay track, while others enjoyed a relaxed beach walk. Unfortunately, Sea Legend woke to boat troubles. Jay Jay came to the rescue, towing him safely to Charlotte Cove while the rest of the fleet followed.

Once anchored, the pace slowed right down: coffee, tea, boat jobs, reading, sunbaking, and soaking it all in. Sea Legend stayed overnight at Charlotte Cove awaiting parts.

Later, we cruised to Randalls Bay for lunch, swimming, and a nap. In the afternoon, several crews tackled the Mickey's Beach track — tough going, but the views were absolutely worth it.

Back on the water, Fun Time's anchor decided it wanted a cuddle with The Boss. Renato and Gary sprang into action in the tender and saved the day — legends.

By late afternoon, we cruised into Port Huon Marina for a two-night stay, complete with power and water. Happy hour was supplied by Gottago, followed by dinner at the local Kermandie Pub. Another cracking day.



Day 5 – Friday 9 January 2026

A Birthday Celebration & Exploring Franklin

A bright early start with breakfast at Port Huon Café at 7:30am — shared with Fun Time, Casper, Gottago, The Boss, and Jay Jay.

Mark's legendary honesty earned him a free second dim sim, and Renato was surprised with a birthday cake back at the marina. Any attempt at subtlety vanished when Happy Birthday signage appeared proudly on The Boss. Thanks to Sharon and Matt — stealth was clearly optional.

Skippers' meeting at 9:30am, departure at 10:30am, and we headed to Franklin. The afternoon was filled with lunch, shopping, wandering, and a fascinating tour of the Wooden Boat Centre.

The Wooden Boat Centre was a real highlight. It was great to see traditional boatbuilding skills still alive and thriving, with craftsmen working on classic timber vessels using methods passed down through generations. The centre plays an important role in preserving Tasmania's rich maritime heritage, celebrating the state's long connection to wooden boats, the Huon pine industry, and life on the water. For a boating group like ours, it felt especially meaningful and well worth the visit.

A tender briefly escaped during a knot-tying test, once again requiring Gary's rescue services. By mid-afternoon we returned to Port Huon just as light rain arrived. Happy hour was postponed due to weather, but dinner at the Kermandie Pub more than made up for it.



Day 6 – Saturday 10 January 2026

Geeveston Adventures

A beautiful sunny start, with some heading for coffee and others staying aboard. Lee organised a walking group to Geeveston — 6km return — with a vague plan to catch the bus.

The bus, however, had other ideas and sailed straight past us 🙄.

Undeterred, Fun Time, Gottago, The Boss, and Casper walked in rain, sun, and wind. Sea Ya declined due to lack of coats (a very poor excuse). Other crews snagged lifts.

Geeveston delivered: the lolly shop was first (bags everywhere — I'm still eating mine), then the museum, and finally a fantastic wine bar with cheese platters and excellent wine.

The highlight? Spotting a platypus in the wild along the creek — absolutely magical!

Back at the marina we held a captain's meeting and a chilly happy hour on the dock before heading back to boats for dinner and an early night.



Day 7 – Sunday 11 January 2026

Quarantine Bay raft up & Flathead

A cold, cloudy start and an early 7:15am run from Port Huon. Calm waters gave way to bumps as we headed 26 nautical miles to Kettering for fuel for everyone, then on to Quarantine Bay on Bruny Island for the night.

Picking up a mooring turned into an event. Fun Time took a while to free and then pick up the designated mooring while Casper and JB Squared found no issues putting mooring lines around their props. Peter ended up swimming to clear the rope and JB Squared needed assistance from the Sea-Ya crew to free himself eventually.

After settling in, some tendered ashore to the old Quarantine Station (1918) — a fascinating and slightly sobering stop. Built to protect Tasmania from infectious diseases arriving by sea, the site was a reminder of how serious isolation and biosecurity were taken even a century ago. Standing there, it was hard not to draw parallels with more recent times.

Happy hour followed, along with a fishing competition:

- Peter: 8 flathead
- Zac: 5 flathead
- Eva: 1 very large flathead

Gary toured the bay on a paddleboard making friends with other local boats. Dinner, games, calm winds, and an easy night.



Day 8 – Monday 12 January 2026

Hobart Bound

We woke to a glorious morning at Quarantine Bay, farewelled Sharon (pickleball calls) and Elka (home to Victoria), then we all headed off for Iron Pot Light house.

Sea Legend returned to Margate Marina with boat issues, with Fun Time as escort. The rest headed to Iron Pot for some boat photos, then on to Bellerive Oval for morning tea before berthing at Hobart City's Kings Pier visitor dock.

Everyone disappeared into Hobart for lunch and a walk around the area, then regrouped. Late that afternoon – when the sea breeze was at its highest - we powered through the waves across the Derwent River to Bellerive Marina, with most boats covered in salt spray. We enjoyed happy hour hosted by The Boss, and split between pub dinners and boat dinners.



Day 9 – Tuesday 13 January 2026

Easy Tassie Day – International Tennis Tournament & Sea Plane Flight

We all woke to a nice morning. An early Bellerive Bluff walk was enjoyed by The Boss with great views looking down over the river beyond.

Whitley crews filled in the day well after the itinerary change due to the Bridgewater bridge exclusion, preventing the planned New Norfolk stage of the cruise.

Alanna took a group of the ladies along to the Hobart Women's International Tennis, which was a real highlight — great seats, great atmosphere, and a perfect way to spend part of the day.

Meanwhile, Matt organised for other crews to experience an unforgettable seaplane flight over southern Tasmania, taking in spectacular aerial views of the coastline, rivers, and surrounding landscape — easily a once-in-a-lifetime experience for those lucky enough to go.

The rest of the day rolled along easily with food, coffee, boat talk, and beers at the bistro, mixed in with trips to the laundromat, washing, and general maintenance.

We finished the day with everyone gathered on the dock for Happy Hour — another great day.



Day 10 – Wednesday 14 January 2026

Derwent River Cruising

Grey skies and low cloud greeted us after overnight rain. Spirits stayed high as we cruised up the Derwent River to Bridgewater Bridge.

We passed the wreck of the Illawarra beneath the Tasman Bridge — visible clearly on our depth sounders — then continued upstream toward New Norfolk before turning back at the new Bridgewater Bridge due to the old bridge demolition works and exclusion zone.

We anchored opposite the Claremont golf course for lunch and naps, then moved to Prince of Wales Bay Marina, arriving just in time for happy hour courtesy of Fun Time. A very easy day had by all.



Day 11 – Thursday 15 January 2026

MONA & Spotty Dog Brewery

A stunning sunrise at Prince of Wales Bay set the tone. Hot showers, clean facilities — luxury!

Mid-morning we headed to MONA — the Museum of Old and New Art, Tasmania’s bold and world-famous museum known for its underground design, confronting artworks, and mix of ancient and contemporary pieces. Built into the cliffs along the Derwent River, it’s as much about the experience and architecture as it is about the art, and it certainly lived up to its reputation.

Later, some visited Andrew’s (Matt’s mate) engineering and foundry business — fascinating stuff — before the whole crew regrouped at Spotty Dog Brewery for dinner, laughs, and heartfelt thanks to Matt and Sharon who had to leave the cruise for work commitments.



Day 12 – Friday 16 January 2026

Constitution Dock Perfection

A cool, calm morning greeted us at Prince of Wales Bay Marina, with just a slight hint of sadness as the trip began edging toward its end.

With an 11:15am bridge lift booking into Constitution Dock, we had time for a small detour first. We cruised past Sandy Bay, watched the seaplane take off, and even had a quick look around for *Bob*... with no confirmed sightings.

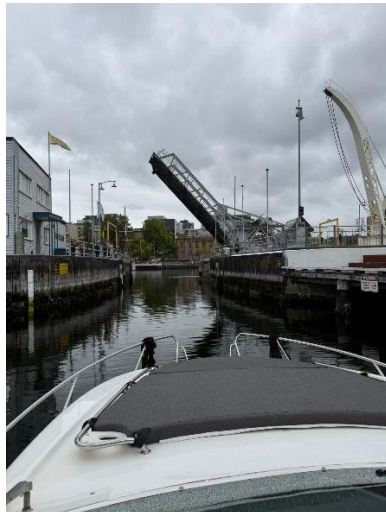
Almost right on cue — 11:17am — the Constitution Dock bridge lifted, and nine Whittley's filed neatly into what suddenly felt like a very tight space. Thanks to a well-prepared docking plan (excellent work, Craig), the whole manoeuvre was executed smoothly and calmly — apart from some pesky kayakers.

Berthing at Constitution Dock is something pretty special. It's the historic heart of Hobart's waterfront and is not open to general berthing, so being granted access was a rare privilege and a real highlight of the trip. Judging by the attention we attracted, the locals seemed just as impressed as we were.

Once tied up and adjusted for the tide, crews scattered in search of lunch. Dinner plans were locked in for Street Eats, the night food market in Franklin Square, offering an impressive variety of food and plenty of cold drinks.

An impromptu rescue mission followed when The Boss retrieved a locals \$250 shoe from the water — a textbook International Rescue operation that earned plenty of smiles and gratitude.

The night wrapped up with some enthusiastic crew clambering across boats, but all was well in the end. We turned in safely, tucked up for the night in "Constitution Dick" 🚫 — another memorable Tassie moment added to the log.



Day 13 – Saturday 17 January 2026

Markets & Music

The day started cool and overcast as we gathered on the dock and headed off for breakfast at Hobart Coffee Roasters. It was busy, but employee Dan worked his magic and found space for us all. We weren't seated together, but no one minded — the coffee and breakfast were worth it.

From there we made our way to Salamanca Market, Hobart's famous Saturday weekly market, packed with local produce, handmade crafts, art, food stalls, and plenty of Tassie treats. The place was buzzing, and it was easy to lose an hour (or three) wandering the stalls, grazing on snacks, and soaking up the atmosphere.

Several crews jumped on the Hop On, Hop Off bus after the market, while others kept exploring on foot. Later in the afternoon, a tender tour around the waterfront was lined up for 3pm.

The sun finally came out around lunchtime and stuck around for most of the afternoon. Mark headed off to the hospital to get his skinned shin (courtesy of the Constitution Dock ladder) checked out and came back patched up with antibiotics.

That evening, Fun Time, Casper, and JB Squared headed off to see Jimmy Barnes, Ian Moss, Kate Ceberano, and Icehouse, while the rest of us relaxed on our boats, listening to the concert drifting across the harbour.

All up, a great day exploring Hobart and making the most of what the city has to offer.



Day 14 – Sunday 18 January 2026

Last Hobart Hurrah

Another beautiful Hobart day. Some crews headed out early for breakfast, while others enjoyed a well-earned sleep-in and breakfast on board. A few groups toured Cascade Brewery, while others took the chance to restock supplies before the journey ahead.

Cascade Brewery is an important part of Hobart's history — established in 1824, it's Australia's oldest continuously operating brewery. Set at the base of Mount Wellington, the historic site and gardens are as much a Hobart landmark as the beer itself, making it a fitting stop on our final full day in the city.

The rest of the day had a relaxed, end-of-trip feel. Crews wandered, read, and soaked up the sunshine before happy hour rolled upstairs at Mures Kelp Bar. We sat out on the deck with a perfect view of our Whittley's moored in Constitution Dock. Peter from *Casper* spoke on behalf of all crews, thanking the Sea-Ya and Orca crews for leading the trip and delivering such a fantastic Tasmanian cruising experience. The appreciation was well earned, with applause all round, followed by the presentation of a small memento to each crew.

Dinner plans went sideways when the Italian restaurant was full, so pubs and boats filled the gap nicely. As the evening wound down, music drifted across from Jay Jay, but with an early start ahead, most of us turned in early to be ready for departure the next morning.



Day 15 – Monday 19 January 2026

Goodbyes & New Adventures

Today we said goodbye to Constitution Dock, where nine Whitley's had certainly turned plenty of heads. An early 7:15am departure saw us regroup at Battery Point to farewell one another — the last day of the scheduled cruise.

Crews then split off toward Bellerive Marina, Rosny boat ramp, and Margate Marina. Sea Legend briefly lost an engine (again), but after a few starts and some persistence, we were back on our way.

The boats heading to Margate Marina were put on trailers then headed inland toward Lake St. Clair, and then Tassie's West Coast (Gordon, Franklin & Pieman Rivers) for more adventures.

Meanwhile, the crews leaving from Rosny boat ramp quickly packed up and set off for the Tasmanian East Coast, eager for more exploration.

The boats staying in Bellerive Marina were tied up for another three nights, giving crews time to explore Hobart's sights, local farm cheese shops, wineries, and the historic town of Richmond, all expertly guided by Craig and Alanna.

A relaxed but memorable way to round out the trip before the final farewells.



Final Wrap-Up – Trip Leader's Note

Thank You

As our Tasmanian adventure draws to a close, I just want to take a moment to reflect on what has been an unforgettable cruise. From the excitement of the Whittley boats and crews boarding the Spirit of Tasmania, to exploring Bruny Island, Franklin, Port Huon, and Hobart, every day was filled with laughter, breathtaking scenery, and a shared sense of camaraderie that made this cruise truly special.

A huge thank you to every crew member for your energy, patience, and good humour throughout the journey. Your help with happy hours, daily reports, moorings and impromptu rescues (yes, there were a few!), and keeping the spirits high made the trip run so smoothly and added to the fun for everyone.

Special shout-outs to Alanna, Matt and Sharon, for leading side excursions that added so much to the experience: from tennis matches to seaplane flights, your ideas and enthusiasm made these moments extra memorable.

A special thank you to my own crew member, Zac, for spending most of the trip onboard keeping an eye on the boat, lending a hand wherever it was needed, and zipping around endlessly in the tender. His help was invaluable, and I know he loved every minute of it.

It's been a privilege to lead this group of passionate and adventurous Whittley owners, and to share in the camaraderie, the stories, and the breathtaking Tasmanian waters. Watching the Whittley's travel in formation, hear laughter echo from happy hours, and see everyone make new memories reminded me why these cruises are so special.

Safe travels home; and I hope the memories of Tasmania stay with you long after the anchors are lifted.

Thank you all for making this cruise truly extraordinary. Until next time!

Craig (Cruise Leader)

Sea-Ya

