



## Easter 2012 Queensland Whittley Regatta 6<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> April

### Cruisers Attending were :-

Zero Tolerance	The Malone Family	Whittley 660
Shalimar	The Fawcett Family	Whittley 660
Mabel 2	The Walters Family	Whittley Voyager 580

Easter break was started early by the members from the Melbourne Whittley Cruiser Club. Our aim was to arrive at Horizon Shores Marina which is north of the Gold Coast, launch, park our vehicles, pay for the ramp, berth fees, and be on the water and ready to go by 10 am on Good Friday. Which we managed with one day to spare.

Stuart and I launched on the Thursday around midday and met up with other Whittley owners from different states who were already on the water waiting for the rally to begin on Good Friday.

Before we departed from Horizon Shores we were handed a bag full of information and some goodies. Included was a well presented itinerary for the forthcoming days, including names of group leaders, and their cruiser's name for communication.

There were 31 Whittley Cruisers attending the rally and we were split up into 4 groups Red, Blue, Green and Silver and were scheduled to depart at 1/4 hour intervals.

I was in the Blue team lead by Stephan (a good bloke) and his wife Kelly.

The Blue team was second to leave and shortly after cruising north towards Peel Island it was evident there was trouble with some boats in the first group. The first team leader decided to look after the stranded craft allowing the Blue team to take over the lead for the day.

We passed Little Rocky Point and headed north in the Main Channel, past Macleay Island and up to Horseshoe Bay on the southern side of Peel Island. The conditions on the water were not great and as we were to stay there overnight it didn't look promising.

As I was slowing down into Horseshoe Bay I flooded the rubber duckie I was towing and had to stop and bail out the water, tighten the ropes that secured it to the rear of the boat and take off again. While I was bailing out the water, one of the Q'ld Members stayed with me

just to see if I was ok or needed any help. That was great and I appreciated the concern and his watchful eye over me. We didn't stay there overnight so headed for Deanbilla Bay. We took a break while the remainder of the regatta turned up, secured our cruisers with our anchors, and used our rubber duckies to get ashore and have lunch.

After about 1.5 hours Mabel 2 decided she didn't like where she was and on her own started to drift towards other boats, luckily someone from the rally saw what had happened and went to her aid starting the engine and repositioning her for re anchoring.

When all craft had arrived and everyone had eaten their meal it was off to an anchorage between Koureyabba and Tuleenderley for the overnight stay. We arrived and secured our cruisers on anchor again, everyone went ashore for the happy hour festivities and to meet each other. All went very well until those large mozzies started to bite so it was back to the boats for some tea and a good night's sleep.

Saturday morning was a beautiful day. Some of the people wanted to go in different directions so I went back to Horseshoe Bay, what a difference a day makes. It was magnificent the water was so clear you could see the sand, weeds and sea life, also, the afternoon before there were only about 4 craft anchored offshore, now perhaps there were up to 100 craft of all shapes and sizes. What a lovely place to come, no wonder it is so popular.

As we left a bit on the late side to head back to Calypso Bay Marina for our evening meal and the nautical theme night it was a quick trip back. I was told it took us a little over 45 minutes from Horseshoe Bay to Calypso Bay Marina. (usually takes approx 1 hour).

At the Marina it was time to shower and try to look the best you can in the time allowed. It had been arranged to meet at Harrigan's Irish Pub for the meal and entertainment with a raffle and the best dressed nautical personality, Popeye and Olive Oil won that section. The raffle was a rubber tender which I didn't win. Oh well! another time maybe. What a great night, after all the activity it was back to the boat for a bit of shut eye.

Sunday started off with a Buffet Breakfast at the Pub again, saves cooking yourself, then it was off to Jumpinpin Bay for a look and see, a swim and some lunch, then on the way back start the treasure hunt from around Calypso Bay Marina to Sanctuary Cove Marina.

On the treasure hunt you had to answer questions on many points that you passed, note them down, and also find some articles which could be found in a boat or someone's hand bag. It was very well done and made the trip south more interesting.

Upon the water in Coomera River, on the way to Sanctuary Cove, there were some craft travelling faster than the prescribed 6 Knots which I was doing by my GPS. Was their GPS accurate or mine being inaccurate as they were passing me quickly? Anyway we arrived at the entrance to Sanctuary Cove Marina, the smaller Whittley's were the last to be berthed so

we stayed at anchor in the Coomera River until called for by the Q`ld members. The Q`ld Whittleby Members did a great job of berthing all the 31 craft, backed side by side into the jetty.

A great job done it was time for tea at Leo`s in the Harbour Village for Tapas, very nice. There was a bloke playing the guitar in the background and could he play! It was music to the ears.

Monday morning was a nice day and the official closing of a well run 2012 Whittleby Regatta in Queensland. Before the closure all the participants were asked to meet on the lawn overlooking our boats for the presentations for the treasure hunt and a group photograph. Then it was time to say our goodbyes and head off back to Horizon Shores.

Stuart and I were staying a couple more days and intended to head off to Bribie Island. We refuelled at Horizon Shores and took off north bound for Bribie, somewhere near north of Coochiemudlo Island, the weather was not good and the conditions on the water were deteriorating, the waves were getting bigger.

Stuart decided to head back to Horizon Shores Marina again, I agreed with the decision and we headed back towards the Marina. We saw a boat nearly out of the water on a sand bar (on the wrong side of the marker) so being a nice bloke I tried very hard to get him floating again, but not this time, he was too stuck in the mud so after breaking my rope it was time to say "you have a 6 hour wait to refloat your boat and get back home". (It was his first trip in his new boat, what an adventure!) We eventually arrived back at Horizon Shores Marina for the night had tea and went to sleep.

Tuesday morning I removed my canvas roof to enable the zip on the windscreen to be repaired and to prevent further damage on the drive home. While getting my zip repaired Stuart enquired about a marine carpet for his 660. Stuart picked a nice colour and asked him to supply and install the new carpet in his Whittleby as well. Both items were completed and fitted in the morning so we decided to go for a trip in Stuarts 660 to Slipping Sands. We went through many channels and ended up in the Canaipa Passage where the Slipping Sands are and anchored up. The rubber duckie was used to go to the shoreline. Once Stuart and Ethan were on the sand they would run up the dunes and jump down, they had a great time.

On another trip we ended up in Tipplers Passage somehow and tried to get to the The Bedroom near Pandanus Island, but the tide was against us and our draft was a little too large for the trip up to The Bedroom, so a decision was made to go back to Horizon Shores for another night stay.

This was the last night on the water as we were to leave the next day to head back to Victoria. The only thing against the stay was that we could not flush our motors out as the entire complex is on tank water only. The water was only for permanent personnel and their crafts so we had to find somewhere else to flush out our motors. On our way to Warwick we passed a boat ramp sign so we went down the road about 8 klm to flush out our engines at the lovely Lake Moogerah just near Aratula.

Here endeth our trip, just another 1600 klms approximately to complete the trip back to Victoria from the Queensland Whittley Regatta 2012.

I speak for all of the Victorian people who attended in thanking the Qld Whittley Members for a very enjoyable Easter break and Whittley Regatta.  
I will be back for their next Rally

Written by **Peter in Mabel 2 & no Tuppence this time.**

Photos of this trip have been included in the club Website under Q`ld Regatta in the Photo Gallery.