



2019 Melbourne Boat Show – Whittley Stand

The Melbourne Boat Show is the largest event for the local marine industry, with thousands of exhibitors gathering in the Melbourne Convention Centre to display their latest products and services. This year it was special for three of our MWCC members Gary Honeychurch, Mark D'Alterio and Laurie Jackson who were very privileged to be offered the opportunity of working on the Whittley stand as sales staff for the duration of the boat show. Gary has previously been involved, but for Mark and Laurie, it was a new experience with four intensive days of walking, talking, learning, assessing and assisting people with lifestyle decisions and just generally being an all-round nice guy to anyone who was remotely interested enough to chat about Whittley boats whilst working very long exhaustive days and at the same time loving every minute of it.

Our day would typically start early with a short stroll from our accommodation to the convention centre with the three of us talking nonstop about Whittley boats trying to brush up on our sales techniques, in through security and straight to the stand for cleaning and polishing duties to ensure the boats looked at their absolute best. Prior to the doors opening to the public the sales group would have a ten-minute prestart discussion about how the day would hopefully progress and any last-minute instructions for the team would be spoken about. After coffees all round it would be a nervous wait for the show doors to officially open and the arrival of the first of many interested prospective buyers, some visitors to the stand came to look at the boats simply because they had heard so many good reports about the Whittley product, we also had people come to see us who we had previously spoken to at one or more of the pop-up boat shows we have had the pleasure to present at various locations around Gippsland, the experience we have gained from running these pop up shows proved extremely handy to us in honing the skills required to deal with clients from all walks of life and learning all the models of boats with the specifications and the many variations available.

Some new boats were featured at this year's show with some new variations of the much-loved Sea Legend models, a CR and an optioned up ClearWater.

- SL25 Hard Top Coast Tourer with lockable sliding doors at the midships and mounted with twin F150hp 4 stroke Yamahas.
- SL22 Coast Tourer mounted with a F150hp 4 stroke Yamaha.
- SL22 Hard Top Stern Drive with a 200hp Volvo Penta.
- SL20 Hard Top Coast Tourer mounted with a F130hp 4 stroke Yamaha.
- CR2080 with a F115hp 4 stroke Yamaha.
- CW 1650 featured as the Mako Edition optioned up and ready to go with a F90hp 4 stroke Yamaha upgrade, an electric anchor winch, a massive bait board, a 7" Garmin fishfinder, cabin curtain divider, L&R catch and an extended bimini.

Also new to Whittley are a ClearWater aluminium range of boats of which 5 were presented at the show, all looking very smartly dressed up in the CW vinyl rap livery of yellow and black:

- 389 Kingfisher with a 25hp 4 stroke Yamaha tiller steer.
- 399 Cherokee with a 25hp 4 stroke Yamaha tiller steer.
- 433 Kingfisher with a 40hp 4 stroke Yamaha tiller steer.
- 440 Kingfisher with a 40hp 4 stroke Yamaha side console steer.
- 500 Caballero Runabout with a 70hp 4 stroke Yamaha front steer.



Melbourne Whittley Cruiser Club Inc.

Also representing the MWCC on the club stand over the four days of the show were Peter Holyoake and Peter Nicolopoulos on Thursday, Lee-Anne and Wayne Carpenter on Friday, Tony Marshall, Tracey and Dean Worsley with their boys Manning and Bryce on Saturday and Lee Honeychurch and Marisca Seinen on Sunday, having these club members on the stand is another string to the bow for the Whittley brand as no other manufacturer at the show has this outlet for the public to discuss boats with people who are Whittley owners and are able to draw on a wealth of boating experience to provide important and insightful information about activities and adventures we all have enjoyed as part of the Melbourne Whittley Cruiser Club on planned cruises to different waterways in both Victoria and Interstate.

In closing I would like to thank the Whittley family for giving Gary, Mark and myself this fantastic opportunity and placing their trust in us to be part of a highly professional and successful team over the full six days required for the show, starting with the towing of the boats from the factory into the Convention Centre, four full on days of nonstop action at the show itself and then towing back out to base at the completion of the show means no rest for the wicked.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay some of our club members a most honourable mention....John Beckman, Peter Holyoake, Wayne Carpenter and Glenn Dalcam who were all part of the tow team for the show.

Hope to see you somewhere on the water!

Cheers Laurie



The Boys on the stand prior to the start of a very hectic Day 4