

Post QLD Regatta: Keppel Island

The Sanctuary Cove Regatta was a great success many thanks to all QLD Whittley club members who were involved in organizing such a great trip.

There were 2 cruises organized post the regatta, Brisbane River and Keppel Island. Surreel couldn't make the Brisbane River Cruise but by all reports it was another great trip. Surreel arrived at Rosslyn Bay Marina on Monday 14 September. There were a few Whittleys already in their allocated berths. Tuesday afternoon there was a total of 13 Whittleys at the Marina, 4 from VIC, 3 NSW and 6 QLD.

We all met at the Marina for tea Tuesday, chatted about Regatta and Brisbane Cruise, Jon the Commodore of the QLD club suggested our first anchor night Fishermans beach. The weather was on our side for the 4 night cruise.



Fishermans Beach: Note the colour of the water

We arrived at fisherman's beach and couldn't believe the clarity of the water, it was roughly 30-minute 18 km trip from the marina.

Straight away tenders were in the water, some crews were swimming. The water was very inviting. After a swim we all headed to the island restaurant for early happy hour.

Jon filled us in what was on for tomorrow, early fishing for some, relaxation for others and after lunch some exploring.

Next day after lunch we headed to Calm beach, while sitting at Calm Beach a Whale and her calf were spotted, so Surreel, Jay Jay and Sea Legend headed out to have a look and get a some photos, amazing to see them both there laying on top of the water. Back to Monkey Beach for the night, Jay Jay and Sea Legend rafted up and invited everybody over for happy hour. This worked out great, some were in the two boats others just sat in the tenders.



Monkey Beach: Happy hour on the boats



Monkey Beach: Anchorage

Next morning more fishing. After a leisurely morning we all met up at Leekes beach, then circumnavigated the island with Jon leading the way into each bay, his commentary was very informative and enjoyable. This took approx. 1 ½ hours with the stopping and starting.



Chart of our travels: Courtesy of Jay Jay

Jon asked for a vote over the radio where we would like to anchor up for the night, most said they would like to anchor up off Leekes Beach, this was a bit of a mistake. Everybody anchored for the night and we proceeded to the beach for happy hour, fun was had on the beach.



Leekes Beach: Happy hour

We all headed back to our boats there was a slight swell, but by about 10.30pm the swell increased and all the boats for some reason wanted to sit side on, we rolled all night everybody was glad to see the morning sun.

Most woke up and headed straight back to Fishermans Beach, Jon said we could take the tenders up Leekes Creek to the Old Homestead. Jay Jay, Sea Legend, Surreel and Tilly all followed Jon in their tenders. Then Cliff and Jay yelled out Croc! We were all concerned till we saw what they had found, it was yellow and was worn on your foot, Cliff thought that was pretty funny.



Leekes Creek: Heading to homestead



Great Keppel Island: Homestead

Back to Fisherman's Beach for a drink at the restaurant, then we headed back to Monkey Beach to anchor for our last night at Keppel Island.



Last happy hour at Monkey Beach

Next morning a few boats went fishing but the VIC'S decided to head back to the marina. Jay Jay lead the way with Sea Legend, Tilly and Surreel following.

Back at the marina most boats pulled out getting ready for the long trip home the next morning. We all had our last meal together that night all saying how beautiful the water is around Keppel Island, and how much we enjoyed the trip.

Next morning by 10.00 am all boats were gone except Surreel. Our plan was to put the boat and car in storage at Yeppoon head back to Melbourne for 2 weeks R & R and then fly back, grab the boat and car head up to the Whitsundays which we did.

The Crew of Surreel would like to say a big thankyou to the QLD Club Members for showing us all a great time.