

Whittley Club Qld – Great Keppel Island

29th September - October 3rd

Hi Guys,

Please see the following info for the upcoming Great Keppel trip held over the October Long Weekend.

Overview

The destination for our stay will be the Great Keppel Island area located not far from Keppel Bay marina.

The marina is around 680km North of Brisbane and is around an 8 to 9 hour drive with minimal breaks.

As this is a long weekend many people may choose to come up a bit early on the Thursday or Friday but I will probably try and come up on the Wednesday.

Plan at this stage is for those that arrive Friday night/ early Saturday is to head from the harbour to Great Keppel Island and select the best anchorage and assess the conditions.

Great Keppel has many anchorages so depending on the prevailing wind direction you can usually pick a spot with an offshore breeze.

Great Keppel has plenty to offer and there is some great snorkelling, great beaches and some awesome bush walks all within close proximity to most anchorages.

There is an old under water observatory not far from Great Keppel opposite Middle Island which is a protected area so no fishing but has some great fish life including large cod and plenty of coral trout for those keen to do some snorkelling.

There is also a Café / Bar on the Western side of the Island not far from Fisherman's beach which would be a top spot for afternoon sundowners if conditions permit.

To the South of great Keppel is Humpy Island which also has a great beach and plenty of exploring options also.

For the Sunday night we might plan our final night in the marina for those needing to return to Brisbane the next day. The marina has an attached restaurant called the Waterline Restaurant with a great menu and reasonable prices. And yes, they also have espresso martinis!

Launch Facilities

The usual place to launch is located in Rosslyn Bay, which is also home to Keppel Bay marina.

It is a similar setup to those familiar with Hervey Bay.

Keppel Bay marina can be contacted at 07 4933 6244 and are a very helpful bunch of guys and are expecting our visit. Note you will need current insurance etc so be sure to have those details at the ready.

I have attached the PDF of the Berth Map for reference.

Check out their website at www.keppelbaymarina.com.au for heaps of other info on anchorages and to book a berth.

There are two launch options available, one being adjacent the local Coast Guard and the other southern ramp being your typical public facility.

Both are suitable for all tide conditions and also have pontoons to make things easier. Fuel is also available within the harbour at the nearby fuel wharf.

Trailer storage is available from GKI Security Carpark for a modest fee. The contact number is 0488 004 785.

During my last visit I parked in the public carpark with no issues during our week long stay.

Tides

Tides will have a high during the late afternoon during the weekend, see times below.

Having a good understanding of the tides is critical for places like Great Keppel where a large difference can arise between the low tide and high tide.

For example there is close to a 3m difference in water depth leading into Saturday evening's high tide. Pay particular attention to these times whilst anchoring near beaches during the day and choosing your anchorage during the nights.

For those not familiar with tide tables the first number refers to the time (in 24 hour format) and the second number refers to the height of water above what is known as the lowest astronomical tide (LAT).

As you can see there are normally 4 tides in the day roughly 6 and a quarter hours apart.

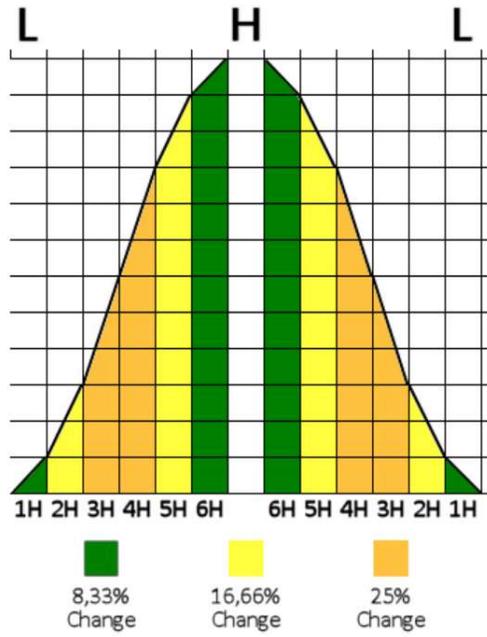
The high tides are of course the larger numbers and the low tides are the lower of the 2 heights.

With a bit of practice and a little bit of maths you can predict what the height of water will be when you anchor and make allowances for both the high and low tides.

Use the rule of 1/12 's to predict the water height for different times within the tide cycle to assist in planning your anchoring depth.

Don't forget a minimum of 5 times the maximum depth for your anchor rode so we are still near the Island the next day !!

29	0308	2.47
	0904	1.91
	WE 1551	3.28
30	0500	2.64
	1037	1.74
	TH 1704	3.51
	2355	1.47
1	0554	2.94
	1136	1.45
	FR 1754	3.81
2	0032	1.17
	0628	3.24
	SA 1220	1.15
	1831	4.09
3	0105	0.89
	0658	3.52
	SU 1259	0.87
	1906	4.33
4	0137	0.65
	0729	3.78
	MO 1336	0.64
	1941	4.51



High Tide

RISE OF TIDE
IN 6 HOURS:

$$1/12 + 2/12 + 3/12 + 3/12 + 2/12 + 1/12 = 12/12$$

Low Tide

Rosslyn Harbour



Points to Note:

Please ensure your trailer is in top condition before embarking on this trip. Check your tyre pressures, bearings and brakes and ensure the structural integrity of all components.

Some of the roads during the last 30km leading into Rockhampton are ordinary at best with many potholes.

There are also large distances between service stations so plan your fuel stops accordingly.

As mentioned please pay close attention to tides and distances from beaches whilst anchoring.

For those wanting to have a fish there are some Green Zones to consider, please check your local Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority charts (GBRMPA) to check areas before fishing.

Distances to Great Keppel from Rosslyn Bay are not too far at only around 15km each way so fuel capacity should not be an issue for most boats even with some exploring of local Islands.

Monitor radio on Channel **VHF 72**.

My mobile number is 0423 548 025 for those wanting to reach me off radio. Feel free to give me a call to discuss the trip.

Regards,

Julian Cox

Trip Co-ordinator

CLUB WHITTLEY
queensland