

WHITTLEY CLUB QLD

LAKE MACQUARIE NSW TRIP 25th to 28th April

Co-Ordinators: Jon and Kim Heales (QLD) / Kevin Shaw (NSW)

Hi Captains and Crew,

Overview – Wednesday 24th April, launch at Balmoral. Thursday to Sunday, cruising the lake. Sunday 28th April, Return.

As you know, we are combining with the Whittley club New South Wales for a trip to Lake Macquarie. Here is a draft plan for the trip from Kevin Shaw, the NSW trip Coordinator. Can you please let me know your interest in going on this trip so I can pass these details onto New South Wales.

Here is the initial plan. More detail will follow soon:

- Arrive Wednesday 24th. Launch at Balmoral boat ramp, 2 Balmoral Place Fishing Point, on Wednesday, and spend the night at the F Jetty at Rathmines Park. Participants will also have the option of free camping on land on Wednesday night at Rathmines Park right at the F Jetty. My plan is to be on the water at Balmoral on Wednesday to assist participants to launch and park up, then stay overnight on F Jetty. I'll be back to Balmoral to assist participants who launch on Thursday.
- Have all participants launched and on the water on Thursday morning 25th. Spend the next 3 to 4 days cruising and exploring the Lake. We can stay overnight on public jetty's like the Rathmines F Jetty or Valentines Z Jetty, rafting up in secluded inlets like Browns Bay or Styles Point, or staying in luxury at Trinity Point Marina and dining at their expensive Table8 Restaurant. Lets have a conversation about your members preferences.
- Allow participants to retrieve boats on Sunday if they need to leave. I plan to stay on water on Sunday night and retrieve on Monday, so no need for your Qld contingent to feel rushed.

Key considerations:

Food and drink supplies, fuel and water are readily available on land close to the boat ramp and also available from public jetties once on water. Sewer pump out points are available at various locations around the Lake. I'll give more detail closer to the event.

I am looking forward to leading this trip in my backyard. Lake Macquarie is a boaties paradise with lots of facilities, and a mix of built up suburban areas and secluded bays to get away from the crowds. It's the largest coastal lagoon in the southern hemisphere, being 24km long north to south and 8 km wide East to West, and connects to ocean via the Swansea Channel. As it's a sunken Valley, the Lake has a lot of bays and inlets to give 174km of shoreline, with an abundance of wildlife and good fishing. Pulbah Island toward the southern end of the lake is a 68 hectare Nature Reserve which we will circumnavigate. There is also ample evidence of the industrial importance of the Lake to NSW, being home to two major power stations and the relics of a third, shut down in more than 35 years ago and now heritage listed. Autumn is my favourite time on the lake, with typically mild sunny days and cool nights, with typically warm water temperatures.