

Lake Macquarie Update:

Dear Members

The April Lake Macquarie trip is three weeks away, and we can look forward to a fun filled adventure on one of Australia's best boating environments. I do need approx. numbers to prepare for a couple of events, so please email me directly on kshaw@netspace.net.au if you think you will participate.

The Lake

Lake Macquarie is a boaties paradise with lots of facilities, and a mix of built up suburban areas and secluded bays and headlands to get away from the crowds. Lake Macquarie is 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 desirable urban areas, an abundance of wildlife and good fishing.

The overall plan

The weekend will start on Wednesday afternoon, where we'll launch at Balmoral Boat Ramp, Sealand Road Balmoral, and go through to Monday morning. Launching after Wednesday, and retrieving before Monday morning is fine, as Balmoral is easily accessed from all parts of the lake. If for some reason you arrive on Wednesday but cannot launch, you can stay on your boat at Rathmines Park, right next to the F Jetty and socialise with the rest of the group. There are toilets in Rathmines Park, and it is a short haul to launch at Balmoral on Thursday morning.

We will be enjoying the lake with the options of both water and land based activities, including

- watching an Anzac Day Parade at Wangi,
- playing barefoot bowls at Valentine,
- a walk through Green Point reserve
- browsing through the coffee strip village of Warners Bay, and a stroll along the Creative Lake Sculpture Trail and boardwalk over the Lake from Warners Bay
- visiting the home and studio of renowned artist Sir William Dobell
- anchoring in secluded bays and off natural bushland for some quiet time
- learning about the Toronto foreshore including the old railway station, and the historic Toronto Hotel dating back to 1887.
- cruising past the Lakes historic landmarks, modern urban areas, and natural environments.
- break away from the group for some fishing if you wish.

I will give a more detailed schedule closer to the weekend.

Catering

Expect to self-cater for breakfasts and lunches, although there will be the option to have a lunch on-shore on a couple of days if you wish. We will have dinner at the Valentine Bowling Club after barefoot bowls on the Friday evening, and Pepe and I also invite you for a casual dinner and an evening to mingle at our home on the Lake at Toronto on Saturday evening. There is also the option to dine at the Catalina Club, or get take away Chinese at Rathmines on the Wednesday evening. Expect to self-cater for three evenings unless you dine out on Wednesday evening.

Supplies

Fuel and water are available near the launching ramp. A full tank of fuel should last you all weekend, although there are two marinas that sell fuel on-water if you need to top up. You will be able to shop for supplies food and your favourite beverage at a couple of stops during the weekend. I'll give more details closer to the weekend.

What to bring

- Tenders if you can. We will use Jetty's where possible, but we may struggle to tie up all boats at a couple of locations. We will need tenders to go on-shore to Warners Bay.
- a stern anchor to secure your boat for beach drinks at Swan Bay. If you don't have a stern anchor, you'll need to raft up with another boat with a stern anchor.
- walking shoes for the Green Point reserve walk.
- Swimming costume for a quick (and likely a somewhat brisk) dip if you are so inclined.

Im looking forward to hosting NSW and Qld members for a looong weekend on the Lake. Please let me know preferably by **Wednesday April 10** if you are likely to attend so I can finalise a couple of final details.

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