



Tin Can Bay: 3-6 Apr 2026

TRIP REPORT

BACKGROUND

The trip event planning included:

- Good Friday
 - Tin Can Bay (TCB) Boat Ramp Launch, exploring TCB township on foot and Happy Hour Dinner. Marina Berths were optional at \$59 per night.
- Easter Saturday
 - Optional activity - 0830 Coast Guard Bar Crossing Training and Dolphin Feeding at Barnacles Café, with proposed alternative, including swim, fish and chill at Inskip Point Lagoon followed by picnic lunch. After lunch we intended to go to Gary's Anchorage for overnight anchorage.
- Easter Sunday
 - Tides permitting, we planned a midmorning explore of Poona and later swim at Inskip Point, sandbar cricket and afterwards returning to TCB for dinner at the Yacht Club.
- Easter Monday
 - Return Home

WHAT HAPPENED

A smooth sea never made a skilled boatsman and skippers would agree that the weather gods were not on our side.

Seven boats made it to Tin Can Bay, Nauti Supa, Lady in Red, Rae Chaser, Sanguine Hooch, Nothing but Time, and Sea Change. Trip Leaders Phil and Annette launched “Nauti Supa” (CR2380 OB) on Thursday, intending to stay overnight on the Marina. We were launching and Kelvin and Vicki were retrieving “Lady in Red” CR2600 OB....???



Boats don't sink because of the water around them; they sink because of the water that gets in them.

Belinda and Ian in “Rae Chaser” CR2600 OB arrived early in the afternoon. Most of us went to the Sleepy Hollow Pub for dinner. The pub was packed to the rafters but the locals welcomed us with open arms and lucky Phil managed to score a table for us.

Former Whittleby owners Scott and Pam arrived Thursday night on “Sanguine” - a Jeanneau Merry Fisher. They opted to anchor in Schnapper Creek. Scott put us onto the great local entertainment at the Snack Shak on the Esplanade, which we visited after the Pub.



On Friday morning, we were met with a couple of Whittleys Alan and his CR2800 “Hooch”, and Paula and Rod in their Cruisemaster 700 – “Nothing but Time”; and Kieron and Kylie with their children Scarlett and Hunter in their CR660 “Sea Change” on trailer with all four wheels attached.



Good Friday greeted us with southerly gusts of 15 to 20 knots, and with everything shut at Tin Can Bay we headed to Carlos Point for Sundowners' and BBQ dinner and overnight anchorage. We were mindful of the low and high tide and based on tidal data for Rainbow Beach (nearest location to Carlo Point/Carlo Sand Blow) for April 2025, the tides for Good Friday were:

- **Low Tide:** 1:27 AM (0.52m) & 1:41 PM (0.34m)
- **High Tide:** 7:27 AM (1.93m) & 8:01 PM (2.15m)

For accessing the beach (Carlo Sand Blow/Double Island Point area), low tide was around 1:41 PM, this provided us excellent opportunity to explore the beach by tenders and chill.

Saturday morning we noted that water levels near the boat ramp change rapidly; shallow sandbanks make low tide navigation difficult, with the best water available 1-2 hours on either side of high tide. We decided to leave at 0730 am to head across for the scheduled training and/or optional activities. Nauti Supa in lead and Lady in Red as tail end Charlie. It did not go quite to plan as Nauti Supa tows its tender and Captain Phillip did not secure it to the bridle, hence as we are about to go on the plane our tender went towards the shallow sandbank outside the channel marker. Retrieval was difficult, albeit we made it to Tin Can Bay Coast Guard on time.



Most participants attended the Coast Guard (CG) classroom training. Three boats participated in the Wide Bay Bar (WBB) and headed to one of the CG reference points and returned under guidance of the CG. Alan had a CG member on board which facilitated an on-water, boat to boat member transfer. Importantly to note: WBB Paper charts including Beacon to Beacon for the WBB should not be used, as depths are out of date. It's prudent to contact TCB Coast Guard on VHF 80 or 16 or ph 5486

4290 between 0600 and 1800 daily and request the latest Bar conditions. All navigation points should be plotted before attempting to cross. Life jackets are mandatory for the WBB crossing. Whittlely QLD donated \$400 to TCB Coast Guard and boats that participated in the escorted practical component donated \$100 each to TCB Coast Guard.

Afterwards we met at Pelican Bay for swim and lunch and it was here we learnt that “Nothing but Time” had plenty of time as they stranded themselves on a sandbank, whilst going a little too wide off a channel marker. The southerly winds were picking up gusting up to 29 knots from Saturday Afternoon and Sunday. We all decided to book the Marina, wait for Rob and Paula, whilst enjoying the Yacht Club dinner on Saturday Night and a Sunday afternoon session at the Yacht Club.



Windy weather did not stop “Sea Change” crew from going swimming. Sunday evening, we decided to go to the country club for a Chinese feast. It was here that we voted for the duck and QUACK the three contenders:

“Lady in Red” – Bung problems – technically before the event started

“Nothing But Time” - High and Dry for several hours

“Nauti Supa” - Throwing the tender away as flotilla leaders.

Quack Quack, we voted, we laughed and the duck a close call is presented to “Nauti Supa”.

Footnote:

Coast Guard Tin Can Bay has welcomed Whittleby Club QLD for several years and were very receptive to provide future training if needed. The mutually beneficial training was highly valued by all who attended – particularly in challenging conditions!





Annette and Phil Sullivan

Trip Leaders and 1st timer Duck winners

Nauti Supa CR2380 OB