



Whitbits

January 2026

Welcome to the latest edition of Whitbits – it's January as I type OK!

Commodore's Corner

Welcome to the second edition of my Commodore's Corner. I can't believe how quickly time is passing—but as the old saying goes, *time flies when you're having fun*.

Committee Update

We recently held our second committee meeting under the current group, and it was great to have everyone on board. A special welcome back from holidays to Tony & Kim Pullen.

We were also fortunate to enjoy the company of Nate Wolland from Benjamin & Benjamin Insurance Group, who shared valuable insights into all things insurance with the committee. I'm sure we all walked away knowing a little bit more than when we arrived.

Trip Highlights

There will be a separate trip reports highlighting recent activities, but I wanted to make a few special call-outs:

- **Jon and Kim** – thank you once again for opening your home and allowing it to be used as a base for the Bribie Lights event. What a great night and experience being part of the show for the Bribie Island community
- **Michael and Vanessa** – thank you for leading a wonderful trip to Peel Island and surrounds on Australia Day. No surprise here—you once again delivered a fantastic experience.

Our Trip leaders have been doing a sensational job across the board and have truly set the bar very high.

A Note for Future Trip Leaders

I'll put this out there for all upcoming trip leaders—including myself: we don't need to feel pressured to match or outdo any recent trips.

A well-planned outing at your chosen location, with clear instructions, is all anyone can ask for. (maybe just make sure there's a little bit of fun somewhere there too.)

Thanks again to everyone for your continued enthusiasm, commitment, and support of the club.

Fair winds, following seas, and see you on the water,

Regards

Kelvin Deasy

RECAP:

6 Dec 25 Christmas Lunch

13 Dec 25 Bribie Christmas Lunch

31 Dec 25 Tweed NYE (unofficial)

24 Jan 26 Peel Is. Australia Day



Whitbits Submissions – if ever you have a funny story or meme, photos or interesting boating info you think could be used in Whitbits, please email Vanessa Magrath - secretary@clubwhittleyqld.org.au

Blast from the Past

On 12/3/2004 Judy and Owen joined Club Whittley Qld. and have been members ever since. Their boat is a Monterey named Olivier which has provided them with years of boating pleasure. They are now life members and have served the club well over the years. In 2005 Judy and Owen attended their first Whittley national rally and have attended every rally since then! What an achievement!! They won the "Most Ralley's Attended" award and received a round of applause on this announcement at the 2025 National Rally Gala Dinner held at Sanctuary Cove. Judy and Owen have been dedicated members over the years, serving on the Management Committee, and Judy was treasurer for many years. They have organised numerous trips, and Judy was on the organising committee for the 2018 National Rally (treasurer). They are always prepared to help and provide advice on any aspect of boating!! We thank Judy and Owen for their loyalty, service, and continued involvement with the club.



Trip Reports

Christmas Lights Parade and Jon and Kim's BBQ

Wow! What a night of colour, bright lights, music and dancing, and well-wishing as the parade of boats made its way through Bribie's Pacific Harbour canals. And to top it all off Whittley boats won second and third prizes, with Kevin Adams in Salty Kisses taking away second prize and \$500, and Commodore Kelvin in Lady in Red took out third prize and \$300. This annual tradition saw approximately 40 boats of all sizes decked out in Christmas splendor, lights, Christmas trees, Santas etc. Whittley boats gathered at Jon and Kim's pontoon to decorate their boats and enjoy the pre-parade BBQ. VMR's Bribie 2 with flashing lights led the parade as it snaked its way around the Island canals, lined with spectators. The houses and pontoons are decorated with Christmas lights and families and children come down to their pontoons to wish us a Merry Christmas as we



pass by. The passengers on our boat (and many others) danced their way around to the tunes of Christmas songs. We were all hoarse from wishing everyone a Merry Christmas by the end of the evening, and we retired to the Kim and Jon's pool to cool off and participate in some additional nibblies and Christmas cheer. Put it on your calendar for next year!



Salty Kisses



Lady in Red



Australia Day 2026 Peel Island/Little Ships Club

Coordinators – Michael & Vanessa Magrath

The trip began with smooth seas, with the first boat arriving at Peel before 6am. Throughout the morning the majority of our fellow Whittley boaters arrived, prepared and checked tenders, wandered along the shoreline and frolicked in the perfect 27°C waters. A number of boats then headed over for lunch at Straddie Brewing Company, carrying extra passengers, so that some boats could be left behind at Peel to keep their highly favoured positions for the nights' anchorage. Beautiful meals were enjoyed at both the Brewing Co. and Little Ships Club over the weekend.

Peel Island protected us nicely from the N to NE breezes and great nights sleep were had. Several later arrivals appeared over the weekend, culminating in a full house of 13 boats for the great Whittley Club Australia Day Breakfast BBQ! With a change of wind direction and an



expected decline in sea conditions approaching, boats prepared for their journeys back home from lunchtime onwards. A wonderful weekend was had. This however was not the end of the story ...



Horseshoe Bay 5.50am



Sundowners Peel Island



Merchandise

Don't forget, the website has been updated with WCQ merchandise you can order. Complete the order form, pay your money, and collect your order at the next event, simples!

<https://whittleyclubqld.godaddysites.com/merchandise>



Safety First

We are calling for expressions of interest in receiving training in the following areas:

- Senior First Aid/CPR & defibrillator
- Radio Operators Course
- Bar Crossings
- Anchoring
- Map/Chart Reading
- Navigation & Trip Planning

Please email secretary@clubwhittleygld.org.au by the end of February, with the training that you would be interested in undertaking through WCQ.

Maintenance Blog

Tender / Dingy & their Engine Maintenance

Essential Maintenance Checklist

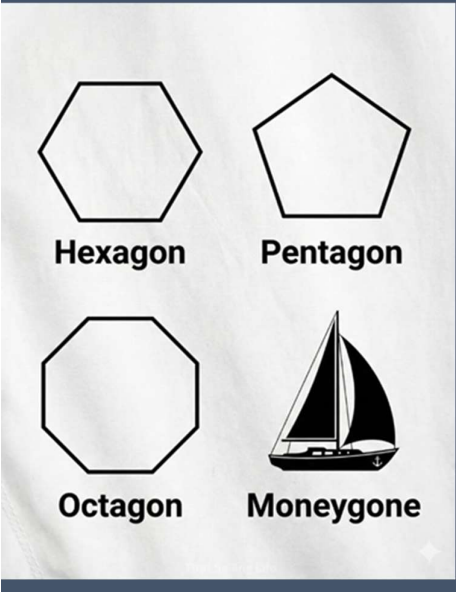
- Daily/After Each Use: Rinse thoroughly with fresh water to remove salt and grit. Avoid using high-pressure washers, which can damage the material.
- Cleaning: Use mild soap, specialized inflatable cleaners, or soft-bristle brushes to remove dirt, grime, and algae.
- UV Protection: Apply a UV-resistant protectant like a cleaner / protector to prevent the fabric from becoming brittle and fading.
- Inflation & Valves: Check tube pressure regularly with a gauge, as boats are most efficient and protected at recommended pressures. Spray soapy water around valves to detect leaks; tighten or clean them if bubbles appear.
- Storage: Store in a cool, dry place, ideally covered to shield from sun and keep inflated, if possible, this is the best practice. If it must be deflated, store loosely to prevent sharp creases.

Electric Outboard & Petrol Motors - Routine Care (After Each Use)

- Rinse the Motor: After every trip, especially in saltwater, thoroughly rinse the entire motor (below the control head) with fresh water to prevent salt and debris buildup. Avoid high-pressure water jets, which can force water into seals.
- Clean the Propeller: Inspect and remove any weeds, fishing line, or debris from around the propeller and the prop shaft. Fishing line can damage the seals, allowing water to enter the motor's lower unit, which is a major cause of failure.
- Dry and Store: Ensure the motor is dry before storage. Store it in a cool, dry place, ideally covered and away from the elements and extreme temperature fluctuations.
- Charge Batteries: Recharge your deep-cycle marine batteries as soon as possible after each use to maximize their lifespan and performance.

Electric Outboard & Petrol Motors - Periodic Maintenance

- Lubricate the Shaft: Periodically wipe down the composite or metal shaft with an aqueous/water-based silicone spray
- Inspect the Prop Drive Pin: While the prop is off for cleaning, check the drive pin for signs of wear, bends, or damage. These pins are designed to





break under impact to protect the motor, so keeping a few spares on hand is a good idea.

- Check Electrical Connections: Regularly inspect all wiring and battery terminals for corrosion or loose connections. Clean terminals with fine sandpaper or an emery cloth and apply a marine-grade anti-corrosive spray or dielectric grease before tightening the connections securely.
- Lubricate Moving Parts: Apply marine-grade waterproof grease to pivot points, hinges, and the stow/deploy latch mechanisms to prevent friction and corrosion.
- Inspect Mount and Seals: Check the mounting bolts for tightness and inspect all seals and gaskets for cracks or deterioration, replacing them as needed to prevent water intrusion.

Safe & enjoyable boating everyone!

Insurance

During the committee's discussions with Nate Wolland from Benjamin & Benjamin Insurance Group (the broker that all Whittley Clubs use for their insurance), he mentioned that he also does insurance for individual boat owners and house and contents. Please feel free to contact him if you're looking to reinsure.

nate@benjamin-ig.com.au

