

Commodore's Message, Dec 2018



Hi Guys and Girls,

Merry Christmas to you all!

Well it's the end of another year and what a fantastic year it has been for our club.

We have had some great events this year and with our member base now more than 90 boats it is shaping up to be an even better 2019.

Thanks for all those that attended the Christmas party held at Hope Island Ramada resort.

For those that missed it we had close to 40 members present plus children and this time we tried something different, a seafood smorgasbord. Check out Darryl and Linda's report for more details.

I will hopefully be up at Great Keppel Island over the New Year's break but don't forget the club trip hosted by Kevin and Debra if you are keen to catch up with some club members closer to home. Details will be up on the Facebook page and I'll send an email with details also.

First trip into the new year will be down on the Broadwater over the January long weekend hosted by Tony and Kim Pullen so don't forget to put that one in your diaries.



Organising Committee

Commodore: Julian Cox

Vice Commodore: Darryl Ayson

Secretary: Kevin Adams

Treasurer: Tony Pullen

Newsletter Editor: Barry Lane

E-Mail editor@clubwhittleyqld.org.au

Committee

**Kim Pullen, Linda Parker, Jon Heals,
Martin Brestin, Mark Wiemers**

Mark and Kelly Wiemers have been busy wheeling and dealing for some new merchandise ideas with our supplier so stay tuned in the new year to stock up on some more Club Whittley goodies!

Once again feel free to offer any suggestions for trips or the Club in general to your new Committee. We are keen to hear and listen to your ideas and don't worry, no suggestion will be considered too Crazy!

Have a merry Christmas guys and for those out on the water have happy and safe travels.

Hope to see many of you on the water during 2019

Regards,
Julian Cox
Commodore
Club Whittley Qld



Merry Christmas

Editors Comments

Dear members



Merry Christmas and welcome to issue 101 of Whit-bits and my first as your new Editor. I confess it has been a challenge re-learning the many things I'd forgotten about how to use Microsoft Word.

I still have more to learn and I'll have to ask for your patience as it may take a few more issues to get Whit-Bits looking as slick as I'd like it to be.

I owe a huge thankyou to Antonia Riley for agreeing to produce issue 100 of Whit-Bits while Marissa and I were overseas. Antonia did another great job, and issue 100 was not just a milestone for Whit-Bits, it was also a bumper issue with lots of fabulous content. I'd also like to thank Antonia for helping me learn the ropes. There have been several phone calls and messages back and forth and her support and guidance made my transition to the editor's role easier. So thankyou once again Antonia. ☺

My intention as your newsletter editor will be to simply follow on from Antonia with a similar format for Whit-Bits, as well as keeping the club website and Facebook pages as up to date as possible. The committee is currently looking at options for rebuilding the club website to make it more user friendly as no one on the current committee can write the code needed to update the website.

Please remember this is your newsletter and therefore the more members who contribute to its content the more enjoyable Whit-Bits will be for everyone who reads it. So whether you have a tale to tell of your boating adventures (or misadventures), a club trip report and photo's, or even just some interesting boating related article that you may have spotted online.

Please send them to editor@clubwhittleyqld.org.au

Calendar of Events 2018/2019

DATE	VENUE	CO-ORDINATOR
Dec/Jan 29 th – 1 st	New Year's Eve Scarborough/ Moreton Isl	Deb & Kev
January 26 th – 28 th	Australia Day Marine Stadium/Budds	Tony & Kim
February 23 rd – 24 th	Bribie Island/ Tangalooma	Mark & Kelly
March 23 rd – 24 th	Peel Is/ Southern Bay	Tim & Julie
April 19 th – 22 nd	Easter Weekend Southern Moreton Bay	Jon & Kim
May 4 th – 6 th	Labour Day Richmond River (Ballina)	Phil
June 22 nd – 23 rd	Tweed River	Barry & Marissa
July 20 th – 21 st	Christmas in July Rivergate Marina	Kev & Deb
August 24 th – 25 th	AGM	Kev & Deb
September 21 st – 22 nd	Runaway Bay/Whale Watching	Linda & Darryl
October 5 th – 7 th	Queen's Birthday: Keppel Is/1770/Agnes Waters	Julian
October 8 th – 20 th	Whitsundays	Barry & Marissa
October 26 th – 27 th	Oktoberfest	Tony & Jane
November 16 th – 17 th	Days Gutter, Moreton Bay (high tide 11.45)	Mark & Cindy
December 7 th – 8 th	Christmas Function	Linda & Darryl

As you can see there are lots of great club events coming up in the months ahead, so pencil them into your diaries and I hope to see you out on the water at a club event soon.

Don't forget the club's next event is the NYE trip heading out of Scarborough harbor on the 29th of December hosted by Kevin and Deb. More details on page 9.

Cheers

Barry Lane



Trip Report – Days Gutter Nov 10th (Moreton Island)

Saturday 10th November, was a beautiful sunny morning with light winds (about 10 knots) when 9 adventurous boats left Manly Harbour for what may in fact be the inaugural Days Gutter Trip!

We headed north east across Moreton Bay to Rous Channel, passing Chain Banks and slowly through Black Gutter (very shallow, about 2m at high tide) and safely into Days Gutter.



Cindy and I have been there many times (both in our 660 and in Crackl'n Rose) as it is a place Cindy spent a lot of her childhood. It was one of the first places we 'had' to go when Cindy told me I would like boating and I had to buy a boat so we were quite confident in our way points that we shared with everyone and they proved right!

There were no problems getting in at high tide! (late comers excepted, you know who you are ☺) There are some terrible rumors about one of our first attempts to get in there, but there is no evidence that we nearly died. Don't panic, we were not entering the way we brought the group the first time.

We went in to Days Gutter about an hour before high tide just to be safe, so we were in there to see the procession of gorgeous Whittley boats from afar, tacking and turning and slowing down in the tricky spots - lead by our illustrious leader, Julian!

Everyone arrived safely with no dramas along the way.

This was the first time to Days Gutter for 6 of the 9 boats which was fun as it is always nice to explore new places especially ones in your own 'back yard'! The shallow waters probably put some people off, as well as it being a good 45-minute cruise from Manly but who doesn't like a decent trip if the seas are good! You really have to pick the tides so it's not always conducive to visit and of course, you really wouldn't want to be there in any westerly or southerly winds.

Days Gutter is only about 6 meters deep at high tide and when the tide goes out, there is a great sand bank on one side and a reasonable trudge through nice sand and sea grass to the beach and the township of Koorinal.



We were lucky enough to be returning while there was still a decent amount of water but if you go there and are returning to your boat at low tide there are several sharp clams hiding in the grass so always take appropriate footwear.

Once everyone had dropped anchor, got their dinghy's set up and relaxed a little, we all went ashore and went to the world famous Gutter Bar (don't know how they get claim that. It's pretty good but....) for lunch and a few refreshing drinks.

The meals are certainly good enough and if you like prawns, they were sensational. They get them from the trawler at Amity so they are super fresh. If you don't want to be disappointed by them having none left, order ahead like we did! You only catch us out once!

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Days Gutter Trip continued

Once back on board the boats, everyone entertained themselves. Some had naps, some fished from their boats, Julian trawled the gutter in his dingy, some continued with the consumption of beverages while awaiting our last intrepid travelers to arrive which didn't go as well as the group as it was by this time – dead low tide.

So, Mark and Tim went to help Sea-duction into the gutter. Yay to Tim who literally pulled them across a couple of little sandbanks that were just impossible to motor through.



The afternoon Happy Hour was as per the brochure and we all rafted up in our dinghy's and set ourselves adrift. Unfortunately, the wind and tide weren't in our favor but I don't think anyone cared too much as there was too much fun and laughter to realize what we were missing.



Essentially the plan was to drift with the tide further into the gutter where there is usually a bit of wild life and always heaps of beautiful bright starfish.

Sunday morning was more of the same - dinghy drop-in's, fishing, swimming and discussing the weather and when to leave. The Sunday activity of exiting via another route was cancelled as the weather was supposed to be up around 17 knots for the return journey after lunch. Forecast wasn't too nice so most on the high tide around 10 or 11 and made their way back to Manly.

In summary, as you probably saw on Facebook, a lot of fun was had, Days Gutter didn't disappoint, and I think we will all be back there again soon!

Thanks to everyone that came along and made it such an enjoyable weekend.

Mark and Cindy



Club Whittley Qld Urangan trip 28th October to 1st September, 2018

By Mark and Cindy

We had another fabulous turnout for the trip to Urangan for the Labour Day long-weekend. Well done to those that could make it and did the big drive! 13 gorgeous Whittley's:

Jesse, Zero, Emma, Integrity, Superfun, Jazzcat, Ameena, Seaduction, Aquabella, Gypsea, 4Shore, Olivier, Wild Koala

Some of us were repeat offenders but we also had the opportunity to welcome some newer members who were just as good, if not better at the typical antics that go on especially when we are safely tied up in a Marina!



A few boats took the opportunity to do some exploring around The Great Sandy Straits in the week leading up to the long weekend and all but a couple of boats made it up on the Friday so the partying began Friday!

Some of the early arrivals went for a bit of a run but most of the day for us at least was helping those that needed it and getting everyone settled into the birth and locking cars and trailers away. Julian and his travelling spare parts supply got there a bit late after a couple of roadside stops but everyone got there in one piece! A number of groups did different things for dinner on Friday night, eating on-board, exploring the different restaurants or getting take-away.



Saturday morning we headed off to Kingfisher Bay, about a 45 minute drive! The weather was reasonable and everyone made it safely to Kingfisher Bay where we had lunch. Our trusty new treasurer went exploring a nearby creek in his dinghy followed by Troy just in case there was a rescue needed but all returned safe with some fabulous photos! I kind of wish I had have followed their lead but there is always next time.

The wind was getting up as the day went on so most boats went straight back to the marina but some did go up to Sandy Point for a swim which by all accounts, didn't disappoint as usual.



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Club Whittley Qld Urangan trip *continued*

Saturday night was our BBQ and Trivia night – the marina let us use a nice grassy spot behind the shops with a BBQ and tables and chairs. The Trivia competition was tough, I think some that were disappointed they didn't win last year did some studying which didn't pay off and Troy and Gillian won pretty convincingly – well done!

This is our third October at Urangan and the third October the weather can be a little tricky. Julian lead the group out nice and early on the Sunday as a storm was forecast for around 1 o'clock! Typical Julian style (illustrious leader....) he got everyone back at the marina with literally half an hour to get settled before a fantastic storm came and washed all the boats down well.

The groups all did different things again on Sunday afternoon – there was a movie marathon on 4Shore (well for the girls anyway and James came visiting), a group went and wine and dined at a restaurant, Ameena was games-central and Cracklin Rose was an art studio and dry haven for others. A couple of boats had nice afternoon naps too apparently!

Sunday night was some football match apparently so we all went to the Club for dinner! Good venue for a large group but I know not everyone was overly impressed by their food but we had a good time anyway. The football fans watched the game and had quite a few 'sherberts' and might have been asked to leave.... others were well behaved and went home at a respectable hour!!!



So, all in all, another great trip to Urangan with the final entertainment being the fun and games of getting all of

the boats on trailers as the winds were coming up!

Mark and Cindy

Interested in taking your Whittley boat onto interstate waterways? Check out and subscribe to both the Melbourne Whittley Cruiser Club and the Whittley Club NSW and keep up-to-date with their water activities 😊



<https://whittleyclubnsw.com/>



<http://melbournewhittleycruiserclub.com.au>



Welcome to Episode 7 of Cy's Fishing Spot

by Cy Stringfellow

The EPIC fishing Competition Round 2

With Barry Ralph now retired, and Garth O'Flynn on another "practising for retirement" holiday, the opportunity arose to head out for Round 2 of the EPIC fishing competition.

As the clear winner of Round 1 of the comp, Garth had choice of location. Since we were using his boat it seemed only fair that we let him pick where he wanted to defend his title.

The day started with the mandatory stop at the GEM Bait and Tackle to stock up on bait. Garth was mortified to find there were no bloodworms on offer (his secret to success in Round1). He chose to go with Prawns. Barry also was on Prawns and I stuck with Mullet fillets and whole Pilchards.



After a quick coffee at the Anchorage Café at Horizon Shores Marina, we headed off to Tiger Mullet Channel (TMC) at a leisurely 8 knots. This gave us plenty of time to individually work out our strategies and to mentally prepare for the challenging day ahead.



Anchoring in TMC, Garth chose the inlet on the southern side of the channel...a spot I call Wade's Inlet (named after my youngest son Wade, who out-fished everyone the first time we fished there).

The weather was almost perfect with just a few clouds and about 10 knots of ESE to keep things cool. We arrived at 11:30 am to fish the last 2 hours of the run-in tide and the first 2 hours of the run-out.

Unlike last time, Barry and I had lines out before the anchor had taken hold. We weren't taking any chance that Garth was going to grab the best side to fish.

I chose not to bring any fishing gear with me and relied on the Skipper's good graces to let me use one of his rods. I picked a 7ft Shimano rod and reel combo. It was light and had a fine whippy action. My first cast was a cracker... reflecting the excellent casting ability of the rod. The line soared out about 100 metres...what a cast.

Unfortunately, we were only about 75 metres off the bank and my hook, line and sinker landed 25 metres on shore...not a brilliant start. No way to retrieve everything so I cut the line and re-rigged.

After settling in, it was time for lunch...Prawns supplied by Garth (not the bait type), Bread rolls from Barry, and icy-cold drinks from me. Barry and I enjoyed the cold white wines with our Prawn Rolls, while Garth stood Captain's watch.

The afternoon session was a hive of activity when the boat swung with the changing tide and put the stern into the mangroves on shore.

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page 8*



Cy's Fishing Spot *Continued*

Needless to say, Barry and Garth were deeply concerned...as you can see from this action photo:



For those who are counting, the final result was a 3-way draw...nil, nil, nil...and so, on to Round 3 next time.

Garth said he wasn't trying...if you can believe that!!

Looking for a Quieter Anchorage over the holidays?

If you want to get away to some "quiet alternative anchorages" over the Christmas holiday period when the popular anchorages of Horseshoe Bay and Tangalooma will likely be packed with holiday traffic, read on.

Here are some alternatives courtesy of **Peter Hansen Yacht brokers**. References here are for anchorages as numbered in the **Beacon to Beacon** guide and coincide with the aerial photos of the same number in the back of the guide, or you can easily Google them online before heading out.

Instead of Tangalooma, which will be packed behind the wrecks, try Lucinda Bay (also called South Tangalooma) a mile to the south, it's always quieter and often has less roll, or anywhere along the beachfront north of Tangalooma in the bay between Cowan and the Bulwer Wrecks.

The big Sandhills are a great place too, locally called Kounangai (84) but the Blue Hole a little further south is

often much quieter but needs some tide to get in for deep draft vessels. (85)

One of the best anchorages in the Bay, with crystal clear water and a diversity of sea life, is Days Gutter at the southern tip of Moreton. Access can be difficult and tide dependant, but worth it. (86) Watch for dugongs.

Horseshoe Bay (105) may have clear water and white sandy beaches but it will be packed. For less traffic not far away have a look at One Mile and Myora (102) north of Dunwich, or Deanbilla Bay just to the south. (108). Small boats can access the Wallum Pool at high tide for a very secure night north towards Amity (97) and good holding and peace and quiet can be found at Amity itself, with a netted swimming enclosure on the beach, a park with BBQ's and only a short walk to shops and some casual dining. There can be a lot of tide run here so anchor securely.

Further down to the south is Blakesleys (113), with National Park camping and a sandy beach also the little visited Prices Anchorage (117). Crabbing can be good around this area. Perulpa Bay (116) on the eastern side of Macleay Island is also little visited and has good protection and plenty of depth. In a South easterly the anchorage (115) on the NW tip of Macleay island offers good shelter, has a nice beach for swimming plus a boat ramp and shop nearby.

Canaipa Point (123) is very sheltered and has a large sandhill to amuse the kids.

At the northern end of the bay the Bribie Passage offers a few alternatives with the best off the Welsby Lock entrance a mile or so north of anchorage (74) which can be rolly on the flood tide. If you can fit under the bridge (5.0m clearance high water) then it's a nice trip up the passage to either the Stockyards (72) or Mission Point (71).

Have fun out there –
Cy





Cooking On Boats

Segment by Jane Houghton

Cashew Chicken Satay Skewers

3/4 cup coconut cream

1 1/2 cups roasted salted cashews

2 large red chillies, roughly chopped

2 cloves garlic, crushed

1/3 cup soy sauce

800g chicken thigh fillets cut into large pieces

1/2 cup water

Steamed jasmine rice, sesame seeds and coriander



Place the coconut cream, cashews, chilli, garlic and soy in a food processor and process until a rough paste forms.

Place half the cashew mixture in a bowl with the chicken and toss to coat.

Thread the chicken onto skewers and place on a greased bbq plate.

Cook for 8-10 minutes each side until golden and cooked through.

Place the remaining cashew mixture and the water in saucepan over medium-high heat and bring to the boil. Cook for 2-3 minutes or until thickened.

Sprinkle the rice with sesame seeds and serve with the skewers, coriander and cashew sauce.

Club Whittley Qld NYE Trip

hosted by Kevin and Deb Adams

The proposed Club Whittley Qld New Year's Eve activity. Weather permitting the meeting point on Sunday 30th December 2018 will be the Scarborough Harbour area.

A day trip out to Moreton Island/ Tangalooma with anchorage overnight somewhere around that area. Travelling to Mission Point area on Monday for BYO picnic with a view of going and watching the fireworks and see the New Year either anchored off Bongaree, or Sandstone Point Hotel.

Final plans for this trip will be kept flexible keeping the weather in mind. We will be on VHF channel 72 & Kevin's mobile is 0438176766.

There will be a few liquid gold prizes so bring your loose change. There is a public ramp and plenty of public parking for cars & trailers near Moreton Bay Boat Club and apparently secure parking at a nearby caravan park.

Please let Kevin know if you are going to be attending.



September Bribie Weekend.

by Deb Wood

It began early for a few boats on Friday night but the main event was everyone launching boats at Spinnaker boat ramp on Saturday morning and then heading over to The Sandstone Point Hotel. Some boats were fortunate to snag a spot on the jetty whilst others just anchored about 50m from it.

Lunch was well attended by not only members with their boats but also members who arrived by car and also some members families joined in for the luncheon. Such a lovely spot to start our weekend.

About 2.30pm we all returned to the boats and then did the 20-30min trek up to Mission Point. Fortunately, Deb Wood had booked a campsite there which gave us a campfire pit and BBQ table for our evening activities which went quite late into the evening for some!! But much socializing was done and the odd cold beverage consumed (to keep us warm of course)

Sunday saw a beautiful morning at mission Point and a few members ventured to shore for a cook up of Bacon and Eggs.

It was a very slow start to our day with one of our new members heading off for a spot of fishing whilst most just enjoyed a lazy Sunday.

We all then pulled up anchor and heading back south to anchor up at Bongaree where the kids we taken ashore for a promised ice cream for behaving so well and a relaxing lunch was enjoyed either on members boats or in the park.



Sponsors



<http://www.whittleymarine.com/>



<http://northsidemarine.com.au/>

VOLVO PENTA

<http://www.volvopenta.com/volvopenta/australia/en-au/Pages/pentahome.aspx>

Here's a guy with only seconds to live...



"Did you name it after me,
like you said you would?"

Whittley Qld Christmas Function Ramada Hope Harbour 1st Dec

Once again it was held at the Ramada Hope Harbour where 38 Adults and kids made their way there by land or by boat. Jullian decided to do both ways of transport and not put his boat in the water. (Blaming the Starter motor)



After a cold drink at the bar we were escorted into the restaurant for a wonderful Sea food Buffet. Every one filled themselves up on the prawns and bugs, as well as the variety of meats and deserts.

Lucky door prizes were given out by Kevin. Some door prizes and raffle prizes were kindly donated by Couran Cove marina and North side marine.



One nights birth and accommodation at Couran Cove was won by Cy and Marion, congratulations. Then 2nd prize of a \$100 Northside Marine Voucher went to Mark & Cindy.



Another 8 prizes were then given out in the raffle with Kim Pullen almost ending up with a new wardrobe. Rebecca from Couran Cove attended venue to hand out the major prize and also issue every one a day pass on the island.

Awards for 2018 went to Troy & Gillian on Integrity for the most unpredictable boat and trailer combo. While Tim and Julia on Ameena received the honors for the most club events attended this year. Linda Parker was awarded for the best unexpected swim.

After Lunch and another cold beverage everyone slowly departed home or to the six boats that birthed in the marina to carry on for a night.



Once again a big thank you to all who attended and supported our Christmas function

Merry Christmas to everyone out on the water this festive season

Linda Parker

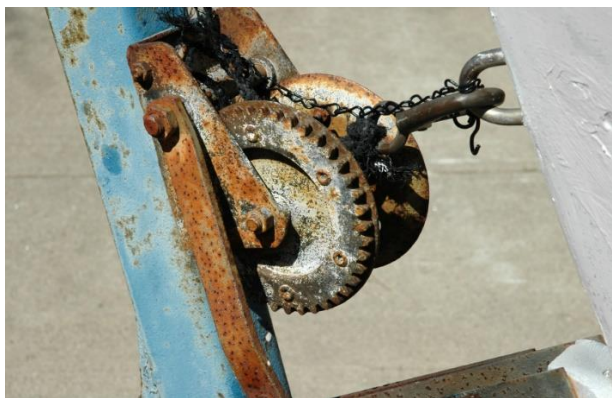
Tech Tips for Trailer Rust

The ocean is a harsh environment for boats and boat trailers. While some are constructed from rust-proof aluminium, the majority of boat trailers are made from steel, which is not known for its marine rust protection capabilities. This article takes a look at the best products and methods used in boat trailer rust prevention.

WHY USE STEEL IF IT RUSTS?

Steel is the ideal material to be used for heavy loads – it is stronger, more rigid and more resilient than aluminium. Importantly, steel is a cheaper material because it's easier to work with and more plentiful.

Most new steel trailers are hot-dip galvanised. This is just a fancy way of saying the steel is dipped in molten zinc. However, the galvanised layer will eventually perish, especially if the trailer is used often.



FISH OIL

An excellent and cost-effective way of prolonging the life of a new galvanised trailer is by adding a coating of fish oil. Fortunately, it's sold deodourised and is one of the cheapest marine rust protection products you can get.

Fish oil comes in tins and aerosol cans for hard-to-reach places such as inside tubes, and it's suitable for being

fully submerged in water. Fish oil is also suitable for older boat trailers that might have existing rust. It can penetrate rust and halt the process of more rust developing.

However, one of the downsides is that it remains tacky and can become unsightly when it collects sand. And if you're a regular boat tower, you will probably need to top up your supply annually.

LANOLIN

Lanolin is water, salt and acid-resistant and is a good, light-duty lubricant. Coming from sheep's wool, lanolin is biodegradable and a natural alternative to petroleum-based marine rust protection.

It's available in paintable or spray-on forms, or as a grease which can be applied to difficult areas. At \$20 for a 1kg tub of lanolin grease, it's also very inexpensive.



TECTYL

Tectyl is a petroleum-based corrosion-preventative compound designed to military specification. Available in aerosol form for about \$17, it uses a petroleum wax carrier that sets in a waxy orange coating.

Tectyl's rust prevention powers last for up to five years so you won't have to top it up annually like you might with fish oil. However, heavy trailer users should give

their trailer a once-over more frequently – every couple years should do it.

AEROSOL ZINC



For really hard-to-get-at places and for componentry such as bolts, nuts and springs, spray-on zinc coatings are hard to beat. The mixture is usually 93 per cent zinc and it can be welded or powder coated once it has set.

DISC BRAKES

Disc brakes are more corrosion resistant than drum brakes by virtue of their open design. By comparison, there are few areas where moisture can pool on disc brakes.



These are just a few rust prevention options that come highly recommended.

Original source article can be found here.

<http://www.withoutahitch.com.au/marine/throw-coat-boat-trailer-rust-prevention/>

Pre -Trip Trailer inspections

When you have a trailer boat you should at least give the trailer a good once-over to ensure that wheel bearings, tyres, brakes, the winch, hitch, fittings, lights and connections are all up to scratch.

Boat trailers suffer a lot of abuse over time and need constant care and attention to ensure they do not let you down. Prevention is always the best line of defense, so after every use it's worthwhile giving your trailer a thorough wash with fresh water, using liberal doses of water repellant spray to keep electrical connections and other fittings free from corrosion.

Wheel bearings, brakes and tyres all deserve special attention at least once each year, and always before taking your boat on any long distance road trip (like our clubs Whitsundays trip in October).

There are many good video's on Youtube that show how to remove and service your trailer wheel bearings. The link below is to one of the more informative videos for first timers, as it provides a step by step process. Though the heating equipment used in the video is not necessary in most instances.

<https://youtu.be/osXS7XmhpWE>

If you are mechanically-challenged, the best bet is to have a qualified repairer check and service your trailers critical components at least annually and always before you head off on a long trip.

Original source article can be found here

<https://www.clubmarine.com.au/exploreboating/articles/24-5-Skipper%E2%80%99s-checklist>

Hervey Bay 2018

‘Integrity’



Part 1-The way up-WTF?

BUY A BOAT THEY SAY IT'LL BE FUN THEY SAY

BLOODY HELL!!!!

This was the trip we were looking forward to and I thought we were prepared for a great few days on the water with some great people. Gillian got sick and lost her voice (not a bad thing, lol), but still very excited about the trip.

I thought I made sure that the trailer wasn't going to give us any trouble as I got all the bearings replaced as I've been informed they can cause a lot of unwanted issues on trips like this, even though we made it down and back from the Clarence River trip unscathed.

As it turned out the bearings performed beautifully, it was the rest of the trailer wheels that let us down.

LET'S BEGIN!!! -So as I'm travelling along at 90 km's an hour enjoying the drive thinking life was good we were about an hour outside of Hervey Bay, I get a car drive up beside me yelling at me I had lost a wheel off the trailer (AS IF?), so as I look back (as I've been doing most of the way up) I see sparks and smoke coming up from the left-hand side of the trailer so yes in fact I had lost a wheel and I didn't even feel it, (GEEZ those Ford Rangers are good)

WTF? What to do now? I know let's Call JMR as you do, so Julian was about 5 kms ahead of us and says he's coming back. THANK GOD!!!

So Julian pulls up behind me just on the shoulder of a busy highway takes a look and as if it's an everyday occurrence for him says "No problem lets just replace the hub" of course I said why didn't I think of that. HMMM ?

So while I am warning traffic on the busy highway letting them know of the hazard as they zoom past at 100+km's, Julian replaces the hub because he carries an entire workshop in the back of his car and we use his spare tyre as we cant get ours off the trailer.

Guess what? - I now carry an entire workshop in the back of my car.

The kids played on the side of the road and found an ols bike in the scrub which they started riding (maybe it was part of a murder investigation, we will never know)

And we're off again but this time Julian stays behind us in case something else goes wrong (surely not!!) and lucky for me he did because about 15 mins up the road, one of the brakes on the other side of the trailer locks up and starts pouring out smoke, 'SERIOUSLY NO WAY THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING.'

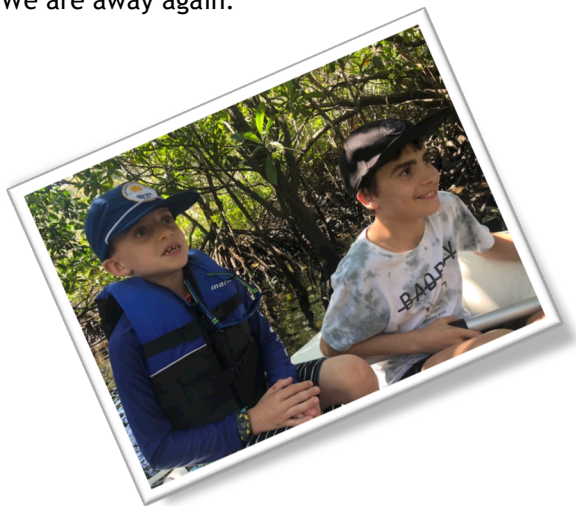
WAY!!

Part 2-Yes this Happened Now.

We pull over to a much safer part of the highway and JMR is called upon once again but this time to replace a brake caliper where the piston on my trailer had locked on and caused a heap of mayhem. Of course he has a spare caliper in his car as well.

With a few choice words being said after JMR burns his hand on the brake disc we continue to get the brake caliper replaced by using the spare parts shop stored in the back of Julian's truck and the good thing about these parts is that they were free and so was the labor.

We are away again.



Just a little adventure with Tony Pullen the photo above is when Cody quickly jumped out of Tony's tender and into mine as he had enough of Tony's driving into Mangroves



Part 3-The nervous run home

So the weekend came and went with a few eventful things and a sick wife we loaded up the Boat onto the trailer said our goodbyes and headed home.

Now as you might get the jiff, we started to follow JMR out of the marina just in case anything did happen because as you know these things can happen in threes.

Somewhere along the way about 15 mins out of Hervey Bay JMR gets ahead a bit from us and we are on our own but still a phone call away. I have now formed an even bigger habit of looking in the side mirrors at the trailer constantly checking for things that don't quite look right.

Coasting along the road doing about 80 km's this time I feel the trailer start to ride a bit rough, so I look in the side mirror and guess what? A BLOODY BLOW OUT, unbelievable!

As we pull over to start the wheel change our next rescuer in the form of Marty pulls up behind me with the other half of the spare parts shop, jumps out does a quick wheel change and sets us on the road again. Thanks Marty

Now you might be thinking that seriously why did he need another bloke to change the wheel? Well let's just say by the time I started to get my jack out from behind the seat in the back of my car he had his jack out and changed the wheel before you could blink, obviously he's done this before. (I think Guido from Pixar cars has competition after that pitstop) After that we made it home and spent another couple thousand on the trailer YAY!!!

Final Note to all-BE PREPARED!!!!