

# WHIT-BITS

Jan 2025



## *Commodore's Message*

We welcome 2025 as a new year with lots of excitement and anticipation for the trips and activities that we have planned for the New Year. But first, rounding out last year was our annual Christmas luncheon held at Moreton Bay boat club. It was a great afternoon and evening with lots of laughter and Christmas merriment! So read more about it in the trip section below.

Also, we had the Bribie Island Christmas Lights Parade and Commodore's BBQ. This is an annual tradition when approximately 40 boats of all sizes are decked out in Christmas splendour, lights, Christmas trees, Santas etc. Whittley boats gathered at the Commodore'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 Bribie Island canals that are lined with spectators. The houses and pontoons are decorated with Christmas lights, 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) dance their way around to the tunes of Christmas songs. We were all horse from wishing everyone a Merry Christmas by the end of the evening, and we retired to the Commodore's pool to cool off and participate in some additional nibbles and Christmas cheer. Put it on your calendar for next year!



As we come into the New Year it's a good time to check out our boats and trailers, and make sure that they are seaworthy and roadworthy for the upcoming year. There's nothing worse than getting down to the boat ramp only to find you have a problem with your boat. Worse still, your trailer has wheel bearing or brake issues on the way to the ramp, or once you've left the ramp you have a breakdown. It is worthwhile to create a little checklist to make sure that you have covered everything, including fuel, bungs, keys, radios, lifejackets, and safety gear. Make sure you have your boat serviced by competent mechanics (I've seen too many cases where servicing has not been carried out properly). If you are in salt water make sure you flush your engine thoroughly!!

Speaking of safety, there are new safety laws that have come into effect in Queensland. They apply to boats **and tenders!!** Of particular note are the life jacket ones.

Wearing a lifejacket is **compulsory**:

- when alone or accompanied only by children under 12 years in an open boat less than 4.8m in length and underway.
- during the crossing of a designated coastal bar in an open boat, as well as in any open area of a boat of any length, and on certain craft.
- while boating between sunset and sunrise in an open boat less than 4.8m in length and underway.
- children aged over one year and under 12 years must wear a lifejacket when on an open boat or in the open area of a boat of any length while it's underway.

Life jacket standards and requirements can be found here, ensure you comply!!

<https://www.msq.qld.gov.au/safety/life-jackets>

I'm looking forward to seeing you all out on the water at our planned and ad hoc trips, and of course at the National Rally. We will

be looking for volunteers to help with this event as it is a huge function and the Rally team have been doing an awesome job with the organisation.

## Committee news:

Some exciting boating activities have been planned by your committee in 2025. You can find the 2025 calendar of events on the website. It is suggested you bookmark the weekends and plan to join in with as many events as you can. We do try and have a contingency plan if the weather is not great, so you can be assured of some form of socialising with like-minded boaties at some stage on the planned boating weekends.

Rally planning is in the final stages with the rally fast approaching in March. We are almost full and will be closing the registration period on the 14<sup>th</sup> Jan, currently there is only 4 spots remaining!

The first event on our 2025 calendar is the Australia Day weekend, led by Michael and Vanessa Magrath. They have planned an exceptional weekend and this is one you will not want to miss.

## Trip reports

### October 2024:

Wavebreak Island/Mackintosh  
Island/Budds Beach



Nighttime skyline view of the Gold Coast

## November 2024- Peel Island

The photos from attendees on this trip say it all...the Gold Coast waterways do have a lot to offer. I have heard that there may have been some eviction attempts by the local council authority since the park at Mackintosh Island happened to be in the exclusion zone in preparation for the Gold Coast 500. I don't think the council workers were prepared for arrivals in the park vi boat trying to have a quiet bbq....



As sometimes happens with boating, plans to enjoy a weekend at Peel Island were thwarted by the weather. The weekend began with an overnight anchorage off Raby bay Parklands. We welcomed some new members; Troy and Toni and Jenney and Steve. Before we completely surrendered to the weather, most of us managed to tender around to Raby Bay harbour on the Friday night and meet up with some wiser boatless members for a dinner at Fiction. Kelvin and Vicki onboard 'Lady in Red' bravely volunteered to scope out weather conditions at Peel Island on Saturday morning and returned, having endured a bumpy ride so decision was made by most to up anchor and head home. Jon, our commodore moved around to anchor in the canals and actually had an enjoyable peaceful time on the water for the next few days, once the rain passed.

At least we get to try again for the upcoming Australia Day weekend!







Just a bit of wind and rain about to be dumped on the beach at Raby Bay! A good anchorage though for a late Fri anr launch

all agree the air conditioned room is a 'must have' if we go there again this year!



Julian and Emse trip leaders for most popular trip 2024 – Keppel Island



Happy raffle prize winners



This was the table to be at....

## December 2024- Christmas Lunch Scarborough-MBBC



We have made this a Christmas lunch spot a few times over the years and we always enjoy a good spread. Although I think we

Other award winners included:

**Most attended trips in 2024:** Kelvin & Vicki "lady in Red"

**Most Breakdowns in 2024:** Kevin & Deb "Salty Kisses"- only had one monumental issue....a little bung (or not so little) in Kev's case....lots of water in unwelcome places and hopefully a good as new boat once engine is sorted in 2025!

**The Golden Duck Award:** Julian "Jesse"  
Whilst his Keppel trip was the most awarded, it was also the most eventful for some of the wrong reasons...losing a child and almost calling an air sea search party, Emese breaking her ankle (guess we can't blame Julian for that one!) trailer issues enroute to the Keppels...goes to show hiccups can happen to even the most prepared!

Vicki was a hot contender for this award as she really showed her skill for unintentionally exiting a tender on multiple occasions in 2024!



Smiles all round!



Judy & Owen got a notable mention for the number of Whittley Christmas lunches attended!

## Upcoming trips:

**Jan 24-27<sup>th</sup>**

**Australia Day**

Peel Island/LSC/

Blakesleys

**Feb 15-16<sup>th</sup>**

**Koorinal**

**March 17-21<sup>st</sup>**

**Sanctuary Cove  
National Rally!**

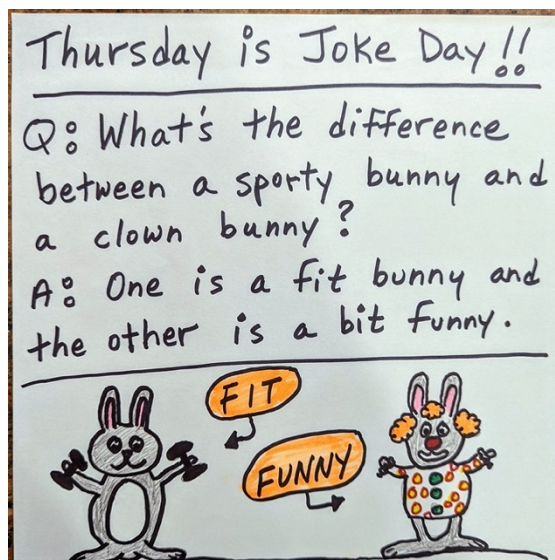
## Handy Hints & Tips

- Make January the time to check all of your safety gear- expiry date on flares, life jacket inspections, fire extinguisher expiry date.
- Enrol in a marine radio course to obtain a marine radio

licence- often run by your local VMR

- Keep your batteries on a maintenance charger between use
- Come out on as many Whittley weekends as able – this is where you can learn and pass on any boating knowledge you have to others.

### *Just for Laughs...*



The other day, my wife asked me to pass her lipstick but I accidentally passed her a glue stick.

She still isn't talking to me.

FUNNY JOKES - WWW.PUN.ME