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WHIT-BITS
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Greetings! And to all new members, welcome!

Well, our last Whittley weekend was supposed to be to The Little Ships Club at One Mile and then to Moreton Island on the Sunday. Now, from past experience – bitter past experience, weekends planned for One Mile must always have Plan B - the contingency plan which springs into action when the weather is even slightly foul. New members please note – we never run risks. If the weather is not so hot at One Mile, you can count on it getting worse! You may recall the “adventure” we experienced last year! I won't say another word – I don't even want to think of it!

So, it came to pass that that our Whittley weekend at One Mile and on to Moreton Island, was changed on the day to Horseshoe Bay, Peel Island. So off we went! Now I do wish that Barb' would get this birdie thing out of her system once and for all! En route, because Possum (or rather Sugar Glider) was made to wake up earlier than her Saturday morn norm, I believe the dear pet fell asleep! She certainly won't admit it BUT she was quiet for some time – an extremely rare occurrence! Overtaking a bay boat, we had just crossed its bow wave when our Monterey quickly tilted to starboard and that's when Tweetie fell off her perch! If it were not so potentially serious, it would have been hilarious, but we can chortle at it all now! Those of us of more..., shall we say ...of more mature age may recall the American show popular in the 60's - “Laugh In”. Remember the old guy on the park bench who would nod off and fall sideways off the seat? Well, you've got it! I did my hero routine and, with the perfect timing of Superman minus the longjohns and cape, I extended my left arm while hanging onto the steering wheel with my right, stopping Her Majesty's plummet. So, how was I repaid I ask you? In her sleepy state, Tweet reached out to grab something with her left handShe got my face! I sported a nose, bloody from a rip above the right nostril, plus assorted scratches and scrapings from her talons!

So, with much ado, we finally arrived at Horseshoe Bay. It was yet another ghastly, muggy Summer's day, causing the lure of a good lunch and a shower afterwards to send Barb and I across to One Mile, if only to check that it really wouldn't be the place to spend the night.

Yes, it was too lumpy. I must say that the management at Little Ships was very understanding, considering we had made bookings, and even confirmed that it would be too rough but their seafood basket and the shower made the visit worthwhile. Next stop was back at Horseshoe Bay. We weren't there long when Peter heard a radio call, warning of a severe storm with strong winds. Now we were up to Plan C – vamoose to Canaipa! Just as we were leaving at full speed, Jim Pilgrim proudly made an announcement, by radio, of his arrival at Horseshoe, to be told promptly by our flight controller, Ian Rennie, to change course immediately for Canaipa, don't pass Go and don't collect \$200! What a welcome! From the safety of Canaipa, we had a good view of the storm with a spectacular light show. The storm actually bypassed us. On the way home, we were to see large gum trees that suffered the effects of that storm. We were very lucky and sleeping on a boat on a rainy night is not unpleasant.

Plan D on the Sunday was to be a barbeque lunch at Karragarra. However, hordes of folk were being ferried from who knows where to have multiple Australia Day barbeques and picnics in our favourite spot and they had managed to reserve all the tables! So, to Plan E .. Flexibility is the key to having a good time on the water – or should I say a good, SAFE time.

Barb and I decided to go home after lunch as another storm was forecast. Most stayed on, enjoying the rest of the weekend at Canaipa.

On the way home, we couldn't outpace the storm – we took refuge at a petrol station. It reminded me of a sci fi movie – bright sunlight on one side of the road – truly, while, on the other, a wall of black cloud and darkness with lightning bolts everywhere, particularly at the edges and torrential rain! Horrendous! Needless to say, we arrived home at 5.00pm the next day. BUT being an avidly prepared boatie, I was able to swing into action with my trusty Christmas present for the third time in as many weeks! Yes, the Light of My Life bought me the best of all Chrissie presents – and I hadn't even campaigned for it! I hadn't even hinted! What did I get? A Honda EU 20 generator! Herself secretly did her research and decided on the make and model. Sometimes, I'm left flabbergasted! I had to pick it up because it wouldn't fit in her Prelude. I wasn't allowed to open the box but, after my Sorrowful Sam routine, I was allowed to read the manual, giving me valuable time to buzz about the house



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secretly checking the wattage of every electrical appliance known to man. (Believe me, we have them all!) With rumbles of “Don’t you dare play with your Christmas toy”, I had it all worked out and then.....Day 3 of possession (16th December) – we had a blackout! I won! I can tell you, it runs the fridge (start it first though) plus the T.V. and a light! In my foraging all sorts of curious objects came to light. I found a spare electric fry pan now located in “Osprey”, plus a popcorn maker, a kebab maker, a foot spa, vaporizer to clear nasal passages

Our next Whittley weekend is on the 6th & 7th March at Noosa. Plan A is to have the evening barbeque at Woods Bay at the public park area. It promises to be fantastic – like last time. For those attending the Easter Rally, don’t forget that the Saturday night at Couran Cove Island Resort is themed – Hawaiian – we’re going tropo.

Until next time,

Regards
 George Szczepanski
 Commodore
 Club Whittley Queensland Inc.

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HEAT WAVE

After Xmas and all the things that need to be done to “return to normal” I was bighting at the bit to get out on the boat. We set out last Friday when the day was hot, thinking it would be great on the water. SE winds blew a 30+ degree wind all day. The water temp was 30 degrees. Fishing from the back was too hot. Under the back deck in the water was the only place possible. The night would surely bring relief. Not so! The wind stopped and temp came down to 29 by morning. Sand fly bites just covered my body. Well that went well! We gave up and came home. Then we had those 40 degree days!

The **Noose weekend** should see a little cooler days. See you there.

COMING EVENTS

March	6 th Sat. – 7 th Sun.	Noosa River.
April	9 th Fri. – 12 th Mon.	Club Whittley National Rally 2004. – As per registration form.
May	1 st Sat. 2 nd Sun. & 3 rd Mon. (Labour Day weekend - Qld.).	Tweed River
June	19 th Sat. 20 th Sun.	Raby Bay.

A BIT OF FUN – SPELLING CHECKER

I have a spelling checker I disk covered four my PC
 It plain lee marks four my revue Miss steaks aye can knot see.
 Eye ran this poem threw it Your sure real glad two no.
 Its very polished in its weight – My checker tolled me sew.
 A checker is a blessing – it freeze yew lodes of thyme.
 It helps me right awl stiles two reed and aides me when aye rime.
 Each frays comes posed up on my screen eye trussed too be a joule.
 The checker pours over every word to cheque sum spelling rule.
 Bee fore wee rote with checkers hour spelling was inn deck line,
 Butt now when wee dew have a laps, wee are not maid too wine.
 But now bee cause my spelling is checked with such grate flare,
 There are know faults in awl this peace, of nun eye am a wear.
 To rite with care is quite a feet, of witch won should be proud.
 And wee mussed dew the best wee can, sew flaws are knot aloud.
 That’s why eye brake in two averse, cuss eye dew want to please,
 Sow glad eye yam that aye did bye this s oft wear for pea seas.

e-NEWS

This newsletter is being e-mailed this time for those who have given me an address. Need more addresses. Saves post and gets speedier delivery.

e-MAIL ME

I am pleased with the response from members who have sent me e-mails with comments and ideas. If you wish to put a view or comment on anything, just e-mail me.
ian@plazahealth.com.au

NEXT OUTING

See you at Noosa. This is my home territory.
 I intend to be there Friday so watch out for the Cruisemaster and my big Oz flag. Good boat ramp on Gympie Terrace at the roundabout by Davo’s bait shop. Parking may need to be in a side street for late comers.





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TECHNICAL

I would like to share with you some of the information I have collected over the last three years upon my return to boating after a long break. I have set up my Cruisemaster to do five day trips away without re-provisioning.

I have found the magazine F&B to be a most informative reference source and along with the two issues of "Plate Alloy Boats" have cemented many of my ideas on modern fitouts.

The previous issue 94 contains great articles on ANCHORS and MUD CRABS. Book 2 of Plate Alloy Boats has in-depth articles on FRIDGES, GENSETS, COVERS, SATPHONES, FITOUTS and more. I have just received issue #95.

Some of the little refinements I have implemented include:

- A tube map compartment under the seat.
- Carpet on the back deck and toilet floor.
- Freezer unit under the driver seat with the compressor under from behind.
- Genset. Well who could beat George's Xmas gift. They are great to keep the batteries charged. I have a great story of my first big outing on this boat and using up all the battery power.
- Batteries & charger. I installed a third house battery and a pulse charger so I could feed those hungry appliances. Must run the genset daily. Pick a time when you go ashore or the noise will not worry you. Not too noisy on eco setting.
- Sea anchor. Great for off shore fishing in deep water, or just drifting. Essential for emergency breakdowns at sea to stay into the wind. Mine is set up in a bag ready to attach to a permanent rope from the front along the deck to the stern, just short of prop length.
- Flag. BIG! Fitted to a wood pole that sits in one of the rocket launchers.
- Knife. Attached to an upright back rail with cable ties.
- Extra lights. Fluoro over the sink. Dome light over the freezer under the dash. I have a previous portable fluoro for fishing

- Stereo. I had a false bulkhead built across the front cabin and installed a 5.1 dolby car stereo set with woofer under the bunk. A DVD player feeds a flat LCD screen TV between the speakers. Great movies.
- Curtains & screens. Screens all round. Toilet, side sliding windows, sun roof, hatch and all the back. Velcro to the back area, studs everywhere else. Must close up every gap for mozzies. Make sure studs pull the mesh tight. I used the plastic soft mesh. A new mesh to keep out sandflies is available, but also reduces the air further. Curtains can be velcro'd over the clears to keep out the sun on hot afternoons. A tropical cover over the front hatch will reduce cabin temp and direct wind in the hatch. Also good for shower proofing. A similar cover over the sun roof stops sun heat and showers. A cover over the back will protect from back entry sun and give good hot weather protection. Glen at Northside Marine is good at developing ideas for your boat.
- I had made a small table top for eating to increase space around the table. A short pole on the back deck makes great eating out back.
- At a boat show, I found a deck wash hose coil in an in-deck container. Great for cooling down and washing down after fishing.

MAINTENANCE

MR.SHEEN in a pump pack is ideal for final GRP surface cleaning. Good for clears too.

GLIDE or any silicone spray will keep zippers working well. Watch for corrosion on some zipper slides.

VASELINE on press studs makes them easy. These things should be done after each trip.

TRAILER SECURITY

Buy a short length of chain and padlock your spare tyre onto the post. Most hitches have a padlock hole to secure the hitch from being used. Insurance requires you to prevent theft with an approved safety restraint. Welding or burring threads will stop them being undone.



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AUSTRALIA DAY 2004

