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WHIT-BITS

Issue No. 43 January 2004



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Greetings! And to all new members, welcome! Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed a sumptuous Christmas dinner. I feel a tad guilty because once again, bad boy that I am, I overindulged! Over the last three or four Christmases, Barb' has been developing a special relationship between our Christmas turkey and Grand Marnier which she liberally applies inside the poor, cavernous beastie plus in the stuffing, and in the basting mixture (as well as the odd glug down the hatch!) It's her own creation which she always pronounces with French flair and a wistful, far away look. I must admit, the result is magnificent but I'm sure I'd fail a breathalyzer on leg of turk alone! I hope Santa was kind and generous. I gained not only a red silk tie, but also, believe it or not, a – watch! But .. but... but this one is special – more special than my watch that shows where the tide is at! This one reveals not only the time illuminated and in large digits to accommodate failing middle-aged vision, but also, your bearings (if you're going somewhere), the barometric pressure to warn of storms, the temperature (which is probably increased a little when worn on a warm-blooded human wrist and even more so when worn on a hot-blooded Polish wrist), but it also gives me an altitude reading, so that I can tell whether I'm at sea level or below it! I shouldn't joke. Next time you visit the Southport Yacht Club take the time to look at the photos of the yachts and the almost-ships on the wall. One inspiring photo, taken from the air, of a yacht named "Jimmie Blacksmith" in full sail has an added bonus or two. Cast your eyes aft and then gaze into the water. Three whopping sharks were following "Jimmie"!

Our **Whittley Christmas party** held at Curran Cove Island Resort attracted the greatest number ever! Unfortunately, Yours Truly and Madame could not attend for two reasons. Firstly, Barb' had to conduct special exams from the U.S.A. under conditions similar to the old Public Exam system, involving six hours of supervision! Nevertheless, we did entertain plans of arriving on Saturday evening – the exams weren't to finish until 5pm. However, earlier that week I had been quite ill, but had soldiered on – as you do, but by Saturday, in spite of packing the boat in the wet on Friday night, I was down and out for the count.

So, sadly, I couldn't make an appearance. Barb' was furious at the timing of the exams but it couldn't be helped as they are held on the same day around the world. However, reports from those lucky enough to attend the Christmas party recall a great time with Santa at his usual fantastic best and I believe that later, some were graced by the attendance of a certain chic, cheeky shiek (See if you can say that ten times rapidly – or rabidly for that matter!) Of course, it was the Kiwi, Ian Rennie, in disguise.

Due to the weather, the venue set for the previous event, **Horseshoe Bay, Peel Island**, had to be changed on the day. Phase one was Karragarra and then on to Blakesley's anchorage for lunch and faithful R.Q.Y.S. Canaipia Point for our barbeque. All was at its usual high standard until just before midnight. Barb' woke me. In her sleep, she thought she heard a train! When she deduced, accurately this time, that it was the wind, she heard voices calling out to us. At that point, Sleeping Beauty awoke as we bumped into 40+ footer owned by a real gentleman who calmly proclaimed that the winds had increased to 30 knots "as predicted". After that, we had to move around in the dark, constantly checking that depth for sandbanks, as we found a safe place to anchor. In the morning, we were to find out that our anchor had held but the 40+ footer had drifted back onto us! To say the least, it was a worry, but we were not alone in our plight! Several others also had to move due to dragging anchors. The morning revealed a further, even worse problem – One Monterrey's anchor rope had become entangled around the prop shaft of a large yacht. Thanks to the efforts of Les Tuton and Ian Rennie the situation was saved. Life on the water is never dull – is it?!

One of Barb's favourite posters which promotes the Royal Australian Air Force over the Australian Army, states that the R.A.A.F. "avoids danger and discomfort". I think Club Whittley should do no less. If the weather becomes a concern, we too, always avoid danger and discomfort, and change the venue to a safer but nearby (if possible) location, as you can see by our planned event at Peel Island. To make this official and to dispel uncertainty in the future, the committee has decided that the standard communication channels for all Whittley events will be 96 on 27Meg and 17 on VHF so that, even if the weather turns nasty on the day, a simple call on the radio will provide our new location.



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Our **2005 Calendar** has been compiled and Chris Wright has posted all the events on our Webpage. In addition, the calendar will be included in this newsletter. Also, at the last committee meeting, it was decided that the preferred communications medium is to be Email, thus reducing the workload of printing, packing and posting information to members who are on the internet. Also, the use of the internet makes it easier and quicker to inform of any late changes of a venue. Therefore, if you are on the internet and as yet, have not supplied your email address, please do so, by contacting either Ian Bennett or myself as soon as possible. Our contact details are provided in this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you at our first event for 2005.

Until then,

Regards

George Szczepanski

Commodore, Club Whittle Queensland Inc.

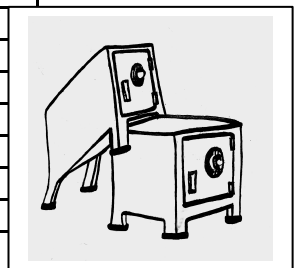


EASTER

Your committee has decided to host an Easter outing in the Sandy Straits and Hervey Bay. Expressions of interest have shown good support and it should prove a great long weekend. Mark your diary and plan for a super four days. More detail will follow over the next months.

2005 CALENDAR

<i>Month</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Place</i>
January	29 th Sat. – 30 th Sun.	Peel Island
February	26 th Sat. – 27 th Sun.	Marine Stadium Southport.
March	Easter 25 th Fri. – 28 th Mon.	Sandy Straits
April	23 rd Sat. – 25 th Mon.	Tangalooma (Backup Blakesleys Anchorage).
May	21 st Sat. – 22 nd Sun.	Dux Anchorage North Stradbroke Island.
June	11 th Sat. – 13 th Mon.	Tweed River.
July	9 th Sat. – 10 th Sun.	RQYS Canaipa Point.
August	6 th Sat. – 7 th Sun.	Karragarra Island.
	Late August	Riverfire (non club event)
September	3 rd Sat. – 4 th Sun.	Noosa River.



SAFE SEX

A BIT OF FUN

FUNNY BUMPER STICKERS #1

- Half the people in the world are below average.
- Kill them all! – Let God sort them out.
- Love is blind. Marriage is an eye opener.
- Never hit a man with glasses. Use your fists.
- Was today really necessary?
- hAS ANYONE SEEN MY cAPSLOCK KEY/
- You show the sensitivity of a medieval dentist.
- Sex is not the answer. Sex is the question.
Yes is the answer.

NEW MEMBERS

It is great to see so many new members joining us. Over the past year, we have had many new members come on our outings and it is good to see many of them becoming regular outing goers. With the summer and the desire to get-on-the-water, we have again many new members.

OUTINGS

I offer some advice to help new (and older) members get the most out of coming on one of our outings.

- The calendar is published in this bulletin.
- We have about one outing per month.
- You will not always be able to join us but do so whenever you are able.
- I will report on outings, events and items of interest through this news letter.
- Many of our outings are in sheltered Moreton Bay.
- A good place to launch is Horizon Shores.
- Spinnaker Sound at Bribie is also a great launch.
- Most outings are from Saturday morning to Sunday afternoon.
- Many take long weekends and arrive well before or stay well after the official outing – a great way to see the area.
- On arrival, radio in or just look for the Whittleys on the water (see radio notes on page 1)
- Saturday night is a BBQ (usually on the beach) at 4pm
- Don't be concerned about the lack of formality, but you will appreciate the fun, friendship and information you will learn about boating (and other things).



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TECHNICAL

SEA LIBRARY

I am a keen reader of the F&B Magazine. The publishers have been working for some time to produce an electronic format for reproducing their articles going back to the start of their publication. This is to happen in early January and it is worth your while to take a look at this.

The address: www.seamedia.com.au

Some recent great articles in F & B include:

- Issue #104 "When is Rough Too Rough?"
"Cooktown to Princess Charlotte Bay"
- Issue #103 "Over the Top" A trip across the top of Australia over several issues.
"Ford F-250 Gets 'Top Gun' Towing Rating"

CLUB MARINE ARTICLES

- Vol 19 No.5 "Corrosion" (Great article)
"So you want to catch crabs?"
- Vol 19 No. 6 "Catching Fish on Holidays"
"Slow is the Go"
(Both on the Clarence River—a must-see)
"Marine Batteries"
"The Golden Age of Flying Boats"

TRAILER MAINTENANCE DAY

For those who did not attend this day, let me say, "you should have". What we learned about our trailers and how to fix it was such good knowledge. We found that it is not just a simple take 'off the wheel and change the bearings'. We found many minor and major difficulties. Getting bearings off was most difficult in the larger trailers. I am sure we will run another day and highly recommended, even for new boat owners. Find the problems before they find you.



BOAT WEIGHT

I recently got keen and took my boat and trailer to the local weigh bridge. An interesting exercise to see how close to legal weight you are. You will find a significant difference between the bare boat, motor and trailer weight and the fully loaded weight with all gear, fuel and water.

e-NEWS

New Members

We have quite a few new members, and as George reported on page 1, most of these new members have email addresses making communication very easy.

Extra bulletins

If we have your email address, you will receive extra bulletins including last minute venue changes, very current items of interest, and info that will not wait till the next newsletter.

Addresses

If you do not receive emails and are on-line with email, just send me a note at ian@plazahealth.com.au and you are on our list. Let me know any changes also.

Your post box size & security

I get some bounced emails at times. Sometimes it your mail box full or your inability to receive larger files or your fire wall rejects attachments. I try to give the best service and will attempt to re-send or contact you. If you are not getting e-news regularly (about 10 a year) let me know and I will resend you.

(note issue numbers at the top of each page)

Website

Try our website for info and photos @

www.geocities.com.au/clubwq/

My security

I use windows XP professional and Symantec professional with a business firewall. I have not had any viruses that have not been captured and I feel confident about info I send you.

Summer Shade

With summer sun beating down, we could all use more shade on the water.

I recently added 2 aluminium tent poles, a spreader bar and 2 tent ropes to my Monterey and now have an extra shade solution using the rear camper cover and some heavy duty bimini anchors with butterfly pins on the stern to locate the poles.

The spreader bar and pole tops are placed through the rear canopy bungee chords and anchored by the ropes to the ski tow rings under the stern.

A couple of male push studs on the ends of a length of ribbon enable the end of the camper cover baggy section (applies to outboard only) to be shortened and secured over the spreader bar in the centre. Works a treat.

Submitted by: Ian Ashley





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CLUB WHITTLEY

Just a few photos, especially for those not there, to show what a great time we all had.



XMAS 2004



MARINE STADIUM SEPT 04



HAPPY NEW YEAR