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**WHIT-BITS**  
*Issue No. 38 May 2004*



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**Greetings! And to all new members, welcome!**

My, my, my! What can one say about our fantastic Easter Rally?! Seventy-five boats! Awesome! The sight of a full line of Montereys lined up and stern-tied along the beachfront at the Southport Yacht Club, seemingly facing off against a string of 700s with yet another Monterey at the end, may have left me amused, but the sight, from the air, of over 70 Whittleys all together at Couran Cove Resort, left me simply gobsmacked! But I digress!

For a number of us, the Easter weekend started earlier. I arrived at Horizon Shores on Thursday morning and after checking out the Southport Yacht Club, returned to Horizon Shores for a prearranged dinner. There were so many of us that two separate sittings were organized. The food was superb! Now, I'm partial to calamari but the calamari served there was the best I've ever had! In future, Friday night sleepovers at Horizon Shores, dining on seafood at the start of Whittley weekends, will become the norm for the Szczepanskis.

On Good Friday morning, after a brief briefing, we headed off in colour-coded groups to the Southport Yacht Club. The Broadwater provided the usual headaches with mega bow-waves created by much larger craft whose drivers know only one speed and always stare dead ahead, ignoring all those around them. I do understand why a yachting friend of ours calls them "pig boats"! The Broadwater is always an ordeal but the sight of so many Whittleys at the Yacht Club was impressive and lifted my spirits. Many had lunch at the club – to me, the Lobster Thermidor was an irresistible temptation! This was to be followed of course, by dinner but, prior to that, we saw the weather report which was broadcast from outside the clubhouse with the Montereys on the beach all in a row! That night, Herself was sick but was convinced that it wasn't seasickness. (Her grandfather, a sailor in his prime, would have rolled in his grave at the mere thought!) Of course, she was right. It was another bug – teachers deserve danger money!

On Saturday morning, it was off for Couran Cove Island Resort. The more we visit this place, the more I'm impressed! There's so much to do, especially for kids.

This is a venue for sporting activities – swimming, cycling, walking ... Unlike Sanctuary Cove, shopping really isn't a focus here and athleticism isn't really Madam's forte. I felt that nice cosy feeling that comes with a sense of safety and security– my credit cards were safe! Yes, there is an art gallery, but at the moment, we're not in that phase ...again! So, my breathing was easy!

Saturday night was simply fantastic! As the song goes – "Oh what a night!" We had been so impressed by Marissa as a singer and entertainer at the AGM, that she was hired again to entertain us – this time with the voluntary assistance of a chanteuse from the NSW club. The dulcet tones produced by the vocal chords of this fair damsel can be described best as formidable, and were to feature at Sunday night's karaoke. Never a dull moment! The theme was Hawaiian and all present looked simply stunning from ladies in sarongs to a gentleman from NSW in a grass skirt and shell bra which would have inspired the greats of the bra business, Simone Perele and Elle McPherson! The night wore on. We danced, we dined, we sipped wine and other delightful beverages and as the night before, there were prizes to be won. Oh what a night!

Sunday morning brought the egg hunt. The Easter Bunny left lots of eggs for the munchkins secreted in assorted hidey-holes. That afternoon, somewhat reluctantly, we left for our next destination, Dux's. Some were so reluctant they didn't leave at all! Instead, they stayed another night at Couran Cove. Now, all was going so smoothly. And then! And then Herself, the Queen of Retail Therapy heard via smoke signals, semaphore – who knows how – that the general store had half-priced T-shirts!! What did I say about She Who Must Be Obeyed not being athletic? She sprang out of the starting block at a pace that would have left Lonhro spinning! Moan! I really don't want to talk about it!

Sunday night featured a barbeque at Dux's and Karaoke – I believe the wildlife on South Straddie is still recovering! The revelry went on and surprise, surprise the Szczepanskis were late for brekkie – but it was my birthday after all! The Victorians, who took up the challenge to organize a similar event for Easter 2006, will have a hard act to follow. We did well!

Until next time,

Regards  
George Szczepanski



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**Next outing – Tweed River**

The next club outing will be on the Tweed River on the long weekend of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> May commencing at approximately 10.30 am on Saturday from Fingal boat ramp. (Brownies' Map 98 E4)

Secure car storage is again available at Chinderah Bay R.V. Storage approx. 3km South (upstream) from the ramp. Some coordination of transport back to the ramp will be required. The business is under new ownership and the quoted discount?? price will be \$8 per vehicle (\$16 per car and trailer) per night. .... anyone coming down Friday and storing their cars and trailers for three nights can have the Friday night free! They are open from 6am to 6pm every day.

Note: Anyone staying longer can get cheaper car storage (\$24 per week for car and trailer) at Boyds Bay Caravan Park in Dry Dock Road, Sth. Tweed (Brownies Map 98 D2) however the nearest launching ramp is 1km up Dry Dock Rd (where we had the BBQ in the rain last year) (Map 98 D1) and you would have to walk back to the boats as there is nowhere deep enough to pick up near the caravan park. Anyone planning to use this storage should ring the caravan park to book on 07 5524 3306.

Saturday morning can be spent exploring Terranora Inlet, Ukerebah anchorage etc. or fishing the lower river (**NSW fishing licence required!!**) followed by a "Whittle procession" up the river in the afternoon. Saturday night anchorage will be in the mouth of the Rous River at Tumbulgum and dinner will be at the Tumbulgum Hotel commencing at about 6pm. (Hope the weather is as perfect as last year!) Tumbulgum is a great skiing area for those keen to have a go.

Sunday, breakfast in the park at Tumbulgum and then a leisurely cruise up-river to Murwillumbah. Sunday evening will be a BYO BBQ at a site to be decided, depending on weather conditions.

Remember there is NO on-water fuel on the Tweed River. The return trip will be about 50 km plus exploring, fishing, skiing etc..

On water contact will be the usual VHF Ch. 17 or 27 Meg. Ch 96

**Tides** for Saturday at Tweed Heads  
Low 12 noon 0.3 m                      High 6.00 pm 1.2 m

*See you there.... and Don't forget the aeroguard!!*

*Keith Miller*

**SEE YOU ALL AT THE TWEED**

**Noosa Weekend**

This seems a while ago now, paling into insignificance after the National Rally, but we had one. It was at the end of a wet period and the numbers were well down, BUT, we did one.

There were five or six boats, all acting as dry land caravans on the first night with wind and rain, but Saturday just turned better and better with a great evening light settling over Noosa River at the spit.

The highlight was the BBQ, as always. A great social time with story swapping and fixing the problems of the world.



Welcome new member and Boat, Don and Dell Bliss (above).

**Raby Bay**

The following weekend outing is on 19<sup>th</sup>. & 20<sup>th</sup>. June at Raby Bay. Mark in your diary.

**Editors note**

The great things about belonging to Club Whittle Qld are:

1. Exploring new places with those who know.
2. Learning about your boat from other's experiences.
3. Enjoying great company and food with fellow members.

The Tweed is somewhere I have not taken my boat or experienced the waterways.

Join me and fellow club members for a great weekend.

See you there.

Ian



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## **TECHNICAL**

### **GPS and anchoring**

Most GPS units have an anchor watch alarm. This is a most valuable item for overnight stays. It is important to keep a tight tolerance on the watch to warn you is the boat has exceeded it's limits. If you take the length of you anchor line as a radius about the anchor, (this gives extra security as the anchor goes down roughly at a diagonal) this can be the radius of swing for the watch. HOWEVER, is you set the alarm after you anchor, you need to double the radius because you are already at a radius length. When the tide changes, you go 2 radii lengths in the other direction. Another way to keep this tight is to set the alarm at the point of the anchor on the bottom (when you drop the pick). This needs some co-ordination of your actions. Try to keep the set tight for safety, but be prepared to be woken in the night at tide change if too tight.

How do you know how much anchor line you have out? The depth is no guide as you need a good length of chain on the bottom as an anchor set. (you should have three times the depth for good weather – more for stronger winds). There are anchor chain counters you can buy. I find the easiest is to paint the chain. Start with a red and white section near the anchor to tell when it is near home. Then at 10 metre intervals paint red on white, with one red dash for each 10 metre length. Mark near the full length of the chain to tell when you are near full out. To paint, take the full length out (remember to attach the end to the boat anchor well with a shackle) wire brush the sections and use spray can paint direct onto chain. Care with overspray near the boat and car.

It lasts for several years and can easily be redone.

### **Gensets**

I have found great benefit from a Honda 1KVa genset. With all the gadgets we put on board, even three house batteries can easily be used up. If you move around, the boat genny will do some charging. Also the solar panel will put some back in. I can put the genset on the bait board, on the back deck, but for best sound insulation, I have strapped it to the seat of the ducky with a tie-down and set the ducky just off the back. Sound reduction is amazing.

Of course, with 240v power, **safety** in handling is important, as is care of where your power lead goes.

## **A BIT OF FUN**

### **Things you didn't know you didn't know.**

- Americans eat 18 acres of pizza every day
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than it's brain.
- Butterflies taste with their feet.
- China has more English speakers than USA.
- Elephants are the only animals that can't jump.
- "I am." Is the shortest complete English sentence.
- February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have had a full moon.
- A snail can sleep for three years.
- If the population of China walked past you in single file, it would never end because of the rate of population growth.
- In the past 4000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.
- If you yelled for 8 years, 7 months and 6 days, you will have produced enough energy to boil a cup of coffee.
- No word in the English language rhymes with month.
- Nutmeg is extremely poisonous is injected intravenously.
- On average, people fear spiders more than death.

### **e-NEWS**

This is a growing area of our member information service. It forms a quick means of communication up to date detail of what is happening. For instance, it is possible to provide last minute information on outings and changes, with weather reporting and destination information.

It is also a great money saver as a large part of your membership costs go in post each year. Email costs next to nothing and is instantaneous.

So far I have 87 e-mail addresses out of a current active membership of 154. That means that 67 members have not given me their e-mail address. I find it difficult to believe that there are nearly half our membership without an e-mail address.

Just send me a note at [ian@plazahealth.com.au](mailto:ian@plazahealth.com.au) and you're in for electronic mail.

### **OUR WEBSITE**

[www.geocities.com/clubwg/](http://www.geocities.com/clubwg/)

Have a look. You will be surprised at the information and photos posted there.

### **Future articles**

GPS/Mapping/sounder SETUP

Trailers – is yours overloaded?



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**CLUB WHITLEY NATIONAL EASTER RALLY 2004**

**Just a few photos, especially for those not there, to show what a great time we all had.  
The committee is looking at providing a photo CD of the outing to all who attended.**

