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WHIT-BITS
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EASTER RALLY 2005

MARINA THURSDAY

Launched and tied up. About a dozen boats arrived by evening. Dinner at Hervey Bay Boat Club. Purchased prawns and split them up into bags for distribution. Great tasting prawn too. Super price. Thanks to those members who helped me pack the prawns. Lemons came by the bag from my lemon tree. Try giving away too many lemons.

FRIDAY

Boats travelled in procession from the marina to North White Cliffs. South east winds were the prevailing winds for the weekend, gusting at times to 40 but we had good shelter at all times. We had a storm with light showers in the early afternoon. Motor problems with Don Cattanach's boat. 3 pm briefing on the beach after a hold up by the storm. Back to the boats then 4 pm prawn night on the beach. Because of the rain and late start, the Easter bonnet comp was postponed to the next night. Fines (gifts donated by Northside Marine) for Richard & Susan Land finally naming their boat "Odiarne", For Ian Smee for living next door to my wife in Hurstville and not knowing her. Owen Oxley for trying to out-do me with a big Oz flag and Easter bunny posters on the side of his boat. Ray Barrett for failing to get Don's boat "started"

SATURDAY

Trip onto Hervey Bay. Weather was great but there was a storm on bay. Great place to set down an anchor in a SE breeze. Don towed back to port and pulled out of the rally. Ian Ashley waited with Don for the VMR and returned home due to strong wind warning forecast and Tracey being seasick. Ian tells a great story of the hail storm on his way down the highway on the trip home. My boat spewed diesel everywhere in the engine compartment when a bolt on the fuel filter came free. Some members visited Kingfisher Bay Resort. Would you believe, some also grounded like high and dry, right outside the resort.

A storm before dinner at night delayed start again, but we were very lucky with storms, getting just a short shower. The Easter bonnet comp went to a tie with Margaret Dwyer and Judy Bradley.

Take a Capt Cook at the photos on page 3. Capt. Joe, the cockatiel was also a great hit. Everyone wanted a cuddle. The girls were all jealous.

SUNDAY

A beautiful day for a trip to South White Cliffs. I left early to set up the treasure hunt. The tide was out and I placed all the markers. Time for the boats to arrive and the tide decided to beat the comp. There we all were up to waist deep in water finding markers. Capt. Joe loved the mangroves. We had a beach boating discussion standing waist deep in water (mostly to get away from the bities guest Glenn Gibson from Northside Marine gave great input to a wide range of boating topics and questions. This morning must have been the highlight of the trip.

MONDAY

The rally broke up Monday morning with most returning home. Several boats stayed on to do more exploring, but the weather cut this down to a shorter time than we would have liked.

SUMMARY

We ended up with twenty boats, 9 Cruisemasters, 3 Cruiser 660's, 6 Montereys and 1 Cruiser 550 and 1 Voyager. We had a great weekend, learned a lot about extended staying out, had fun as a group as well as finding individual moments enjoying the scenery. Some members visited Kingfisher Bay Resort and we won't mention who went high and dry when the tide went out. I believe that a lot of new (and not so new) members learned a great deal, and that they will benefit from the experience by taking many more adventures on the water.

Thanks to Northside Marine and Glenn Gibson for their sponsorship and support
Check out the web site for more reports and photos



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TECHNICAL

LIVING ON-BOARD

This Easter saw one of the longest club outings undertaken. Many arrived on Thursday, staying through to Monday or later. This saw most staying out for at least four nights. It was always my aim when I purchased my Cruisemaster, to set it up to stay out one week at a time. This would allow visits to the Barrier Reef, exploring Moreton Bay and the rivers of NSW.

What did we learn from this?

Food: There is a need to prepare well. Pack as much dry food as possible. I always carry a contingency plan for emergency food and water in case weather or an emergency crops up. Get your butcher to cryovac pack meat. It stays stable at fridge temperature for at least a week in the absence of oxygen.

Fridges: These are one of the greatest power users. Cold reserves can be used. Dry ice, wrapped well in paper can be packed on the bottom of an esky or cold box, covered with ordinary ice and surround cold food with ice. Allow the box to drain so food does not 'swim' but the dry ice will keep things cold to a point of freezing. Allow for access to food when packing the ice. Freeze bottles of water for storing cold and for later drinking. Freeze any food that will take it also. Don't forget to take out your needs for the day early to allow thawing time.

Remember, anything put in with dry ice will almost certainly freeze. Many vegetables and fruit items will not take freezing - either in fridge or in second esky with frozen water bottles. Can swap frozen water bottles with those in the dry ice esky to re-freeze overnight. Look at what does NOT require refrigeration.

Toilets: This is a subject requiring consideration. Mostly a porta potti will be sufficient, but will need emptying on extended stays. This could be done on open waters outside regulated areas, or at a marina. Holding tanks in fixed toilets will also need a pump out on extended stays.

Batteries: This is a weak spot for smaller boats and longer stays. The start battery must be preserved. The night anchor light must be lit. The boat alternator will help to top up the charge if the boat does some day trips, but this is limited. If you have a genset, take it. Make sure the solar panel is clear for sunlight charging. If you have no batteries left, you may need to manually retrieve your anchor (no winch power)

Water: This is a 'must' commodity. Sufficient for each person for each day. Drinking and bathing. I find a late swim does wonders for the basic hygiene followed by a back deck final hose down after dark.

Tools:

One thing I have learned is the need for a tool kit. Not to go overboard, but basics like a shifting spanner, multigrips, WD40 etc will have a place at some time for you. Maybe you don't have great mechanical expertise, but if you have some spares specific to your boat, someone will be able to help.

A spare prop, motor drive belts, filters. (ask your boat service department) I now carry a range of small to medium nuts, bolts and washers. If you are to change your prop, you will need a piece of wood to jam the prop and a spanner for the prop nut.

Marina stays

: These can be valuable for replenishing supplies. Marinas have water and power where you tie up and usually basic food supplies near by.

Coast Guard:

Don't forget to call in at least once daily. This is a free safety service and if you run into difficulty, they will know where you will most likely be from your last report.

Give it a try. Plan and stay out for increasingly longer stays and push the boundaries. It is rewarding. The ultimate is the Barrier Reef. Quite possible in any Whittley boat if you plan.

A BIT OF FUN

A farmer gets sent to jail and his wife is trying to hold the farm together until he gets out, but she is not very good at farm work so she writes to him. It reads: "Dear sweetheart, I want to plant potatoes. When is the best time to do it?" The farmer writes back: "Honey, don't go near that field. That's where all my guns are buried."

Because all his mail is censored, the prison guards read it and run out to the farm where they dig up the entire potato field looking for the guns. After two days of digging, they don't find one single weapon. The farmer then writes to his wife: "Honey, now is when you should plant the potatoes."

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The ringer cracked a fair smile when he saw this list of chart-topping country and western singles just in from the US.

- "I still miss my baby, but my aim is getting better"
- "She got the ring, I got the finger"
- "She ran off with my best friend ...I still miss him"
- "I never knew what real happiness was until I got married, then it was too late"

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CLUB WHITTLEY EASTER RALLY 2005

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

