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WHIT-BITS
Issue No. 45 May 2005



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GEORGE DOES IT AGAIN

Greetings! And to all new members, welcome!

Ah! A long weekend on the water! Not a Club Whittley, Clayton's long weekend! This was the real McCoy! However, this time, the Szczepanskis didn't start the weekend on the Friday night – we had been too busy through the week. Instead, we left home before lunch on the Saturday morning, launched the boat, as usual, at Horizon Shores and headed off to join everyone at R.Q. Canaipa.

Ah! The euphoria of being on the high seas! – or the low seas, for that matter – or to be **very** precise, the **very low** seas – to be even more/precise, the bottom of the tide! Off we flew – red beacon....yeh, green beacon ahead and then ... the dreaded THUD! I didn't notice the red beacon on my right. I must have had what the doctor on television calls a "microslip". That's my excuse and I'm sticking to it! The lesson – COUNT your beacons, particularly in tricky bits at low tide! There we stayed stuck, with deep water just one and a half boat lengths ahead. I checked – I got out and waded about. Madam, meanwhile, stayed on board, trying to calculate when there would be sufficient water below to push "Osprey" off the sandbank. I could see, by that wicked twinkle in her eye, that she was recalling my nickname, bestowed upon me in my early days of boating by my "mates" – "Sandbank"! However, instead, she reminded me yet again, that had I used the money spent on the winch for the trailer, as she had originally suggested - for body-building sessions Bless her!!

I did try to push "Osprey" along in vain hope and, of course, to no avail while Bossy Boots just watched the clock. After about 2 hours, she declared that the approaching sunset was shark-feeding time and with that, she elegantly stepped out of the boat via the ladder in her usual careful manner.

When the fair, regal tootsies hit the water, there was an instant transformation! Like a charging wombat, as befitting the toughest member of a Rugby scrum, she put her shoulder to the back of the boat, roared "Push!" and, before I could do anything, the boat moved – I do not lie! I suggested sagaciously that, if we rocked the boat a tad, letting water underneath, the job might be easier.

With that, like a demented monkey on steroids, she leapt forehead, clung to the bowrail, rocked with all her might and then resumed her position in the scrum, bellowing "Push!" Who would be game enough to do otherwise?! (I now know why she has few behaviour management problems in the classroom!) So, after repeating the process several times in rapid succession, ignoring my kind suggestions that she might need a break, we were free! These treasured moments of tenderness, togetherness and sharing are so very special! Aren't they?!

So, finally, we joined everyone else at Canaipa for the ritual barbeque which was made more special by natal celebrations. It was our trusty treasurer's birthday. So, there were many candles as befitting one who is now on the way to his second half century. So, he's gone only one year past 50! As an author, I demand poetic licence! Best wishes, Chris! So, after the barbie and non-fattening cake (ever the optimist, I live in hope!), we spent a very pleasant evening mixing with members and chatting. Now, I must digress a little. As we were packing our gear into the inflatable to leave for the barbeque, Herself was determined to add a towel and her wetpack, claiming that boat-pushing was sweaty work. O.K. I know when it's best not to argue although I was so tired, that I was prepared to skip ablutions and just flop onto my bunk! Her Majesty told me afterwards that I was about to be given orders to get wet and clean or else! Instead, and just as well, at the end of the evening, I asked Precious if I could borrow her wetpack and towel and enjoyed a wonderful, hot shower. Bliss! So I went to bed smelling of sweet jasmine from Barb's scented bodywash! Desperate times demand desperate measures!

In the morning, we were to learn that we had not done the right thing by R.Q. At the clubhouse (headquarters), members may sign in a set number of guests, but at venues such as Canaipa (owned by Royal Queensland Y.C.) and Dux (owned by Southport Y.C.), the guests that members may sign in, are to be guests from the member's boat and must always be signed in on entering club property. This was explained very pleasantly and politely. I said that we were unaware and had acted in all innocence. I have taken the point and have contacted R.Q. and apologized and hope to make some future arrangements for a Club Whittley event.

[Correspondence is under way and being considered. Ed]



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The Sunday-night barbeque was at Karragarra where the facilities are just fine with clean electric barbeques, tables and seating under cover, lights that can be switched on at night plus a toilet with a curious flushing mechanism – you pull a lever back & forth. I must admit though that it is certainly worthwhile being a member of a club like R.Q., Southport Y.C. and The Little Ships Club for the sake of the showering facilities alone, particularly if you wish to spend more than one night on the water or in the middle of Summer. It's well worthwhile to check reciprocity for added value. Anyway, I digress again! We spent another very pleasant evening and then – sleeping on your own boat is a reward in itself.

How good was my weekend? I returned home on Monday afternoon to realize, Hey! It's bin day! Had we thought to put out our bin? Duh! No! But hark! In the distance was the dulcet sound of the garbage truck! We made it! I just love it when things come together at last!

Now for an important notice: Due to a clash with the Sanctuary Cove Boat Show which many of you may wish to attend and with the poor weather over the past week with still rain to come, the next event has been moved forward to Saturday, 28th May at Anchorage 103 on South Straddie, just north of "the bedroom".

So, until then, Regards
George Szczepanski
Commodore, Club Whittley Queensland Inc.

Folks,

Our long awaited edition of Power Boat Magazine is out - the one with a 4 page spread on our boat - "Wild Turkey". The journo appears to have crafted a good write-up from a Whittley perspective, even Club Whittley got a mention.

The edition is April-May, and has "Malibu Marvel" on the cover. We're on pages 78 to 81.

Regards,
Ian Ashley



[Thought members would like to see a letter from the Lanes. Your input to the club is always welcome. Photos also came from the camera of Cecil B. Lane. Ed]

Hello Ian and Ian,

Thought you might be interested in a few snaps of the weekend Sorry you didn't make it. I must admit that come Saturday morning we were a little unsure given the wind forecast but joined Doug and Jacki Wells and Gary and Clare Oliver at Horizon Shores at about 10.00 and set off for a bit of fishing on the way to Canaipa where the others had assembled.

Tangalooma was off the agenda once again.

It was good to see so many boats in such average conditions.

A few brief showers and a fairly constant SE at 20 knots during the afternoon, later saw us all enjoying a BBQ at RQYS.

George and Barbara eventually arrived after being delayed somewhat by a piece of Moreton Bay real estate with water (and sand views).

The open fire was a centrepiece as the evening turned quite cool but good company, good food, a glass of wine and an almost full moon made it all very worth while.

With a little respite from the wind early on Sunday, some ventured up the sand hill track to check out the view. With opportunity to do our own thing, boats went in different directions to find a spot out of the wind and later met at Karragarra for the on beach get together.

A much calmer night on the water and the full moon made for a pleasant mooring and surprise, surprise Monday morning dawned with a gentle breeze and clear skies.

Some, including ourselves took the opportunity to head home in the superb conditions and looking at the boats launching at Horizon Shores it looked like the afternoon would be a busy one.

As we will be away in May checking out the Clarence and Yamba, we will catch up with everyone on the Tweed in June.

Regards

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[Check out the calendar Page 3. Ed.]



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A BIT OF FUN

SIGNS

- Spotted in a toilet of a London office:
TOILET OUT OF ORDER, USE FLOOR BELOW
- In a London department store:
BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS
- In a safari park:
ELEPHANTS PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR
- On a health food shop window:
CLOSED DUE TO ILLNESS

CLUB CLOTHING

Marg Dwyer is taking clothing orders.
Phone Marg on 07-33764943
For detail on products, visit the supplier website.
www.fraserproducts.com.au
Look for Johnny bobbin range

Jackets	\$60
Rugby jumpers	\$40
Shirts from	\$25

FUTURE OUTINGS

The calendar is reprinted below.
Because of the bad weather we have been experiencing and the fact that THE boat show is on our weekend, the date for the next outing has been moved forward by one week.

Great venue. Good water, beach and wind protection from the SE.

If you liked the Easter venue, or you wish to sample a long weekend a bit further away, try the Tweed outing. Secure parking, Weather protection. Long river way past Murwillumbah.

Mark it onb the calendar. Members have make great comments about this outing.

Don't forget Riverfire.

More detail in next newsletter.

2005 CALNDR

Month	Dates	Place
May	28 th Sat. – 29 th Sun. May	Anchorage 103 South Stradbroke Is
June	11 th Sat – 13 th Mon. June	Tweed River
July	9 th Sat. – 10 th Sun. July	Just a little north of Slipping Sands
August	6 th Sat. – 7 th Sun. August Late August	Karragarra Island. Riverfire (non club event)
September	3 rd Sat. – 4 th Sun. September	Noosa River.

TECHNICAL

REDUCING FIRE AND EXPLOSION RISK

With the number of boat fires and explosions seemingly on the increase, what can we do to reduce our risk exposure? Recently we had TV coverage of members of a family burned in an explosion on a luxury boat.

Petrol, battery gas (hydrogen) and LPG are highly explosive. Fumes tend to gather on bilge and low areas of the boat. Here are some tips to increase your safe boating:

- Have good ventilation through areas where fumes can gather.
- Install fume detectors in the bilge and under floor lockers linked to blowers.
- Have TWO fire extinguishers, one forward, one at stern entry.
- Have a fire blanket and ice pack handy.
- Remember, cool wet covering is best for burns.
- Store reserves of petrol and gas cylinders in open locations. LPG must have external venting.
- Check fuel lines for leaks.
- Check the bilge for signs of fuel.
- Have your boat serviced at least annually and insist on checks of fuel line damage.
- A simple spark can ignite explosive vapours. Use manufacturers recommended starter motors and generators – possible ignition sources. Quality equipment greatly reduces the spark potential from electrical sources.
- If using LPG appliance, do so on the back deck or have sensors installed. Make sure “flame-out” devices are used with the burners.
- Take care with the small disposable cylinder cookers on the market. They are just as dangerous as any gas appliance.

Think diesel as a possible alternative. I had a fuel leak at Easter. If it were petrol, I would not be here now.

Not 51 candles?





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CLUB WHITTLEY ANZAC OUTING 2005

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

