



WHITTLEY CLUB NSW Inc

SHOALHAVEN RIVER Whittley Club Event – September 2016

from the MASTER less MARINER of the good ship “ATHENA”

The Shoalhaven event started early under the joint guidance of “HIGHLYSTRUNG” and “MARIE CHRISTENE” and supported by “TO THE MAX” with a Friday raft up under the bridge at Broughton Creek.



The mighty joint leader Michael travelled back down-stream to the Greenwell Point launching ramp to meet up with the late Friday arrivals (minus “ATHENA”). As the sun set behind Coolangatta Mountain and day turned to night, once again “MARIE CHRISTENE” led “THE PALACE”, “TWO CAN TANGO”, “HALCION”, “TRANQUILITY” and Max and Marg in their unnamed Monty to the nights roosting place in Broughton Creek.

Naming rights for the Monty became a creative session over a drop or two of chardy ie; “M&M”, “Choco”, “Bundyoff” plus a host of questionable wine fuelled alternatives.

After peak hour traffic and two accident hold-ups, a call to “MARIE CHRISTENE” from Athena (the captain of “ATHENA”) at Greenwell Point launching ramp saw the patch-over-eye pirate (Michael) obey his survival instincts and break from the raft immediately, in the pitch black, against the chardy advice from an indulging member, he headed solo back once again to the launching ramp. After what seemed like hours, a locals help and a bottom kissing sandbank “MARIE CHRISTENE” was in sight, (Michael must have questioned himself as to ‘why don’t I listen’). On the return trip a marker was missed and some friendly advice from John (“TWO CAN TANGO”) regarding marker change from upstream to downstream finally saw us on the right track to Broughton Creek and the welcoming raft.



to a lovely beach for a swim (by some) and lunch by all. After lunch the fleet headed back to Greenwell Point Bowling Club for a massive evening Chinese banquet feast, music, dancing and an overnight stay.

After a great night’s sleep, Saturday saw “MARIE CHRISTENE” head off to Greenwell ramp again to meet Dianna (he got it right this time). As the Greenwell express came charging back up river the raft was disbanded by Phil (“HIGHLYSTRUNG”) and we proceeded up stream under the Nowra bridge





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Whilst at low tide slowly negotiating the shallow channel toward the Club with "HIGHLYSTRUNG" in the lead, followed closely by "TO THE MAX" and



be Silva throwing Phil off the marlin board, we guessed Silva had recently increased Phil's insurance. With the boat still moving a cruiser, a tinnie, a dock and two teenagers later Phil managed to



"ATHENA", "HIGHLYSTRUNG" was seen to deviate from its course as what appeared to



retrieve Bruce's hand held VHF radio that he had violently thrown overboard, (a little bit of poetic bull



dust) actually he missed them all. Seriously Phil there was no need for your heroics as the radio was waterproof and a floating model????? "TO THE MAX" tried to remodel Phil's lost cap but missed leaving Athena to save the day, when returned to



Phil the comments were 'thanks, but its wet', oh well! so much for gratitude, next time Phil your cap will be returned remodelled to about a meter in length.





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Sunday morning saw a slow sobering start and a jaunt to Shoalhaven Heads led by the friendly marker change adviser John ("TWO CAN TANGO"), yep! it happened, John managed to forget about the change to upstream/ downstream markers and very nearly had the fleet beached on a sandbar. Michael I guess even the knowing (st - -f up) get it wrong some times, sorry John must have been the hangover mate, your'e almost forgiven.

Don't ever let it be said that our members don't have a competitive spirit,

DRAMA 1 - Michael's bottom kissing sand bar

DRAMA 2 - John's upstream/downstream markers

DRAMA 3 – Phil's monumental rescue

DRAMA 4 – still no name for the Monty

Not to be outdone Tony on "HALCION" offered Diana's girlfriend Linda a lift home,

DRAMA 5 – Tony closely following the fleet back from Shoalhaven Heads (there's a car ferry, you know the one with wire cables), well we can only surmise what had distracted Tony sufficient to wander some boat lengths off course and he managed to nearly hit the stationary ferry BUT fouled his prop on the wire cables. Tony we will never know the truth however, speculations will be full steam ahead.

Phil's DRAMA 3 wins the 'furfey trophy' with Tony's DRAMA 5 in a close second place.

Sunday afternoons are a sad time of day as the under privileged must head for home, after fond farewells to "HIGHLYSTRUNG", "MARIE CHRISTENE" and "TRANQUILITY", Gary ("THE PALACE") led the way (at low tide) through the sand banks and marker changes (without a hitch) back to the ramp at Greenwell Point and a very, very wet drive home.

On behalf of the fleet! thank's to Michael and Phil for a really wonderful well-planned weekend.

"ATHENA"