



AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER

COMMITTEE 2017 - 2018

President: Phil Sparks

Commodore: John Whittles

Secretary: Maxine Mantle

Treasurer: Narelle Baglin

!!! GEORGES RIVER, SEPTEMBER 8 !!!

COMMODORE'S REPORT



Hello Members,

Well summer is behind us now and the cooler months are upon us. Don't forget boating in the cooler months, particularly with our enclosed boats can still be pleasant, the ramps are less crowded and likewise are the water ways.

Ray Mantle's gem!

While I was away at the Queensland rally I was once again reminded of the depth of knowledge and boating wisdom that we have amongst our members.

Imagine this, you're halfway through a long road trip, one of your hydraulic brake calipers has developed a leak and you still have 400 km to go.

You could try a Super Cheap auto shop and have the pimply 16-year-old behind the counter look at you as if you're crazy when you want spare seals for your brake caliper.

You could perhaps crush the Brake line with vice grips, which will complicate the final repair job.

Or you could do this. Ray Mantle told me you could undo the break line from the faulty caliper, insert a 3mm pop rivet (mandrel first) in the brake line then tighten the brake line back into the leaking caliper. Partly "popping the rivet" would ensure a better seal.

With this method you could then drive to somewhere where I permanent repair could be affected. You would only have to be aware of the reduced braking that your trailer would perform.

Good one Ray, thanks.

If any other club members have any gems of wisdom like this and they would like to share please drop me a line or a phone call and I'll include it in the next Commodores Article.

Auto External Defibrillator Training

On Saturday 26 May, 20 club members attended the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training course.

Amongst other things the paramedic lecturer showed us security camera footage of an actual Cardiac Arrest. It is as sudden as it is deadly.

The AED itself is designed so that it can be used by untrained people, it gives you voice prompts as what to do.

When a person has a cardiac arrest (as opposed to a heart attack), they immediately lose consciousness, cease breathing and there is no discernible pulse.

CPR must be started as soon as possible, then after 30 compressions and optionally two breaths of air then, by following the instructions on the AED, the patient has the best chance of survival until professional help is available.

Full instructions are provided with the machine which will be carried by trip leaders on all future trips.

Reading the instructions and discussing with people who have been to the course is a way of building up some confidence and knowing that you are protected by the good Samaritan act from any liability whilst performing first aid is also reassuring.

I would also like you to know that the reason we received a Government grant which subsidised the cost of the AED was the tenacious and tireless efforts of Narelle Baglin. Many, many thanks. Also many thanks to Colin Gatley for arranging the venue at Taren Point Bowling Club, they looked after us well, lunch and drinks after the training was great also.

John Whittles



Crikey! – Look at those Whittleys go!!!!!!!

(no similarities to any Whittley members implied or inferred)

Don't forget Georges River weekend

8 & 9 September 2018

Contact Tony Patti 0424 691 233

!!! GEORGES RIVER, SEPTEMBER 8 !!!

CRUISE REPORT - 2018 NATIONAL RALLY, QUEENSLAND COURAN COVE

Report by:

Phil Haworth, 'Highly Strung'

John Whittles, 'Two Can Tango'

Roger Gregson, 'Athena'

Phil Haworth, Minnamurra to Couran Cove.

After weeks of planning and boat/trailer preparation the day had finally come to leave Minnamurra and head off on the long trip north to the 2018 Whittley National rally. Even though we have been members of the NSW Whittley club for over 14 years, due to numerous family commitments and the odd mechanical failure, this was our first National Rally.

First stop was the Twin Servos where we caught up with some of our travel companions, Bruce and Sharon, Roger and Athena and Michael and Diana. Michael was spotted as we approached in his usual position.....lying under his trailer doing



some last minute adjustments to his brakes, the rest of the members were found in their usual positions.....enjoying a coffee at the cafe!

Leaving the Servo our group were undecided on our overnight destination, either Port Macquarie or Coopernook. The later eventually won out as our overnigher, where they allow free camping in the hotel grounds if you patronise the hotel.....as if that wasn't going to happen. Here we meet up with Ray and Maxine and later on John and Jan who had made a very late minute decision to attend the rally. We all enjoyed a great meal at the hotel before retreating to the parked boats for an early night.



After a very enjoyable stay we left Coopernook, our next stop a servo just outside of Kempsey, good access, good coffee and a very interesting trailerable houseboat in the parking area that caught everyone attention (see photo). The owners had just returned from touring Tasmania! While checking out the houseboat John somehow managed to spill his coffee over Jan's white top then spent a considerable amount of time trying to clean it! (see photo). Very suss!



Continuing on we called into Brushgrove for lunch, parking the boats in the local park. Brushgrove is a pretty little town on the banks of the

Clarence River and just happens to have a nice country style pub. Silva and I made good use of this as an overnighter on the way home with Peter and Lindy.

Being school holidays we were having some difficulty finding accommodation for our second night with most van parks being booked out but with the help of Wikicamps, Commodore John found room at Alstonville show ground. Silva and I were the first to arrive and made the executive decision to decline the covered area offered and camp down on the actual show ground. A decision we were to regret as that night the sky opened up and it poured rain. Lucky our fellow travellers are a forgiving lot and didn't rub it in.....much.

Sunday morning, we left Alstonville in the rain and headed for our destination, Horizon Shores Marina. We had an uneventful trip except for some heavy traffic coming into the Gold Coast. We all stopped at various service stations to fuel up the boats and eventually arrived together at the marina around lunchtime.

From the boat ramp we motored around to our berths for the night were we all enjoyed the obligatory happy hour to celebrate our arrival. I think it was here that Sharon unveiled her new wooden platter that could have been mistaken for a piece of outside furniture! Bruce was heard to say "it took up so much room in the boat that I had to leave my guitar at home".

Following a leisurely breakfast at the marina cafe we left Horizon Shores for our final destination Couran Cove, where we spent the three days prior to the rally exploring South Stradbroke and surrounding waters.

To quote our good friend Roger Gregson..... "the long road trip in our boats is often just as enjoyable as the destination itself ".....

Although the rally was lots of fun so was the road trip getting there!

John Whittles here, I'll pick up the story after Phil's report on the road trip to Horizon shores.

Six vehicles and boats arrived at Horizon Shores mid-morning Sunday; we launched and then proceeded to our berths in the marina.



The following morning Bruce Lynch kindly took a number of the ladies shopping for groceries I always knew Bruce was brave but I never knew he was that brave.

!!! GEORGES RIVER, SEPTEMBER 8 !!!

Surprisingly Bruce returned and although I looked closely, I actually couldn't see grey hairs.

Early that afternoon we headed across to Couran Cove resort on South Stradbroke Island.

Over the next 24 hours we were joined by Max and Margaret, Leah and Bob, Tony and Wendy, Lindy and Peter, Sandra and David, Judy and Ian as well as Alison and Colin.



Sadly Leah and Bob's boat, Not So Little had developed a fuel pump problem and was only able to manage displacement speed, but in true Club spirit, they didn't miss out on any outings because there's always room for two more in a Whittley.

This was the first rally I have ever attended, and I was frankly amazed. The Queensland club had organised for us to be able to stay additional nights in the marina for the paltry sum of \$20. This is entitled us to full use of the resort, unbelievable value.

The Rally proper started on Thursday with rally registration, meeting our team leaders, happy hour drinks on Sunset Beach, followed by a hot roast Buffet dinner at the poolside restaurant.

The first few days that we were on Couran Cove resort the weather was wonderful, sadly however a southerly change came through which made some of the boat trips a little bumpy but nothing our boats couldn't handle.



!!! GEORGES RIVER, SEPTEMBER 8 !!!

There were over 50 boats in attendance and as a result we were broken up into three teams to allow for manageable groups to tour the locations of Peel Island, Tipplers and Buds Beach. On all of these day outings we were very ably led and shepherded by members of the Queensland Whitley club.

As busy as this sounds we still had time to explore Couran Cove Resort, some Sydney boats took a day trip to Sanctuary Cove for the occasional cleansing ale or wine.

Not only were we dined every night, mostly around the pool side bar, but we also had a Gala dinner on the Saturday night at the Surf club, complete with a great band and dancing.



!!! GEORGES RIVER, SEPTEMBER 8 !!!

No names here, but there were some Wimpy members of the Sydney Whittleby club who chose to stay in the luxury of the on-water bungalows. I must admit, the accommodation did look tempting.

Min and Garth from the Queensland Whittleby club did a fantastic job of pulling the rally together. The value was exceptional, there were generous door prizes every night and the Sample bag that everybody got was better than I remember the Sample bags from the Royal Easter show when I was a kid. The individual members of the Queensland Whittleby club who gave up their leisure time to guide us around and were always on hand to assist with docking were wonderful, they demonstrated how Whittleby people enjoy being with each other.



!!! GEORGES RIVER, SEPTEMBER 8 !!!

Monday morning saw us departing from Couran Cove for Horizon shores. Not So Little limped back under its own steam but as always with the Whittley club, there were members standing by and shadowing him to ensure that he made it back to his trailer safely.

Roger Gregson, the trip home.

How sad, heading for home after a fabulous rally with the best bunch of Whittley owners.

I would like to head back a couple of kilometres to the convoy to Horizon and to complement commodore John for his guidance in organising overnight locations and to Ray and Maxine for their (almost faultless) guidance through to Horizon Shores, but most importantly, the side track to the most fantastic pie shop imaginable. For the troopers who forged ahead of us, you missed out on a real experience and I can only suggest if you are up that way again make the effort to have a pie and peas, immediately off the freeway turnoff (exit 48 - I think, check with Ray & Maxine), take the first turn off the round-about, before going under the freeway.

(A tip for the future, leave Horizon Shores in the morning before the afternoon wind plays havoc at the ramp)

Now back on track:

An executive decision was made to head for Yamba to assault the mighty Clarence River.

After spending the night parked in the local park we enjoyed the fare with pub food and an ale or two of choice. After extensive research by Max she finally found a contact her and Ray had at Brushgrove, and a parking location for cars and trailers.

After launching we firstly headed down to Maclean for the night and the inevitable pub meal. The river has a host of pub eateries and we managed most over the next few days i.e.: Yamba, Maclean, Ulmarra, Iluka, (bypassing Lawrence and Harwood).

At Maclean we rafted at the town pontoon whilst Tony and Wendy dropped anchor on the rocky ballast heap (yep GOT STUCK). After “Athena” tried all conventional methods to release the brand new, never used before, highly polished stainless steel anchor, “Athena” moved over to the other side of the river to a safe anchorage to drop anchor amongst several large yachts (yep we GOT STUCK TOO). Using the anchor winch stop/ start we managed to get the anchor, firmly holding a 10cm diameter main electrical cable that crossed the river (no signage anywhere), try getting that off the anchor at water level when lying over the bow (thought Tony was going to have company for the night). All's-well, that ends-well, Tony now has a favourite town that he insists on visiting frequently!!!!

After this ordeal Tony and Bruce decided to head for home, led by commodore John the remaining fleet headed to Iluka for the night and next morning walked the town for coffee and invaded the fish co-op, returning to our boats. Low and behold there's John and Jan blasting up river heading for home or what (by account) turned out to be a date with Phil and Silva at Coopernook Pub (Taree).

After a calculated fuelling at Yamba we headed up river to Brushgrove where Ray n Max, Michael n Dianna and Athena n Roger held court re a trip to Grafton for some retail therapy. After reaching Ulmarra, Ray and Michael doubted if they had sufficient fuel for a round trip, following some finger to the wind calculating, Roger felt he had sufficient to complete the trip with a full load (R n M, M n D, A n R). Grafton, nice town, floating dock at last, nice pub, no fuel. We returned to Ulmarra

after lunch to find "To The Max" and "Marie Christean" happily sunning themselves at the pontoon.

We left Ulmarra and headed down river for Brushgrove, as Ray entered the pontoon his low fuel light activated and Roger had to pass Michael as his low fuel alarm was screaming and not to be outdone Michaels low fuel alarm started objecting as he approached the pontoon (UNBELEIVABLE 3 boats 3 hits of low fuel).

The road trip back home was uneventful apart from a night stop over at Cooperook for the night and you guessed it another ale and pub meal.

Good night all!

Happy/ Safe Boating

"ATHENA" and her crew

CRUISE REPORT -

2018 BOATSHOW CRUISE & DINNER

REPORT BY JOHN WHITTLES:
THE CRUISE:

On Wednesday second of August tranquillity and Two Can Tango, with solo skippers aboard, launched onto the Harbour.

We chose the boat ramp at the end of Lyons Road on Fivedock Bay. Of note to club members is that all parking in the parking area at that boat ramp now has a 24 hour limit on it and there is only limited street parking.

Following a successful launch of both boats an uneventful night was passed in Police bay. Unencumbered by female company, the tales told that night definitely fall into the tall category.

Following a leisurely breakfast we made sail for our evening anchorage in Sugarloaf Bay.

Just in case there is somebody who doesn't know this, I need here to point out that I am by means a great fisherman. In fact I firmly believe that any fish I catch is looking for somewhere to commit suicide. Late that afternoon one such deeply depressed fish impaled itself on my unattended fishing line and sacrificed itself for our dinner (editor's note: John has a set of miniature fishing knives, ideal for fish photography).



no

Friday morning arrived and Bruce Lynch and I took our boats to their berths in the marina at Birkenhead point. That afternoon Sharon and Jan joined us and decorum was re-established.

On Saturday Ian and Judy, in Much Ado, also berthed in the Marina. We attended the boatshow where we bumped into other Whittley club members David and Sandra Creed, Phil Sparks and Jenny.

I have found a \$5.5 million Riviera that caught my fancy but a reality check with Jan resulted in me only having my photograph taken on its foredeck with Bruce & Sharon.

Ahhh dreams.

The marina at Birkenhead point has had its facilities refurbished, the amenities are similar to what you would find in a moderately expensive hotel, individual bathrooms provided with beautiful linen. There is even a lounge room. Unfortunately this has resulted in an increase of the cost of a casual berth. Up about \$20 from last year to \$99 per night, still cheap for accommodation a short distance from the Sydney CBD.

I had intended to have Two Can Tango back on the trailer that Sunday afternoon, but such was the enjoyment that we decided to spend another night on the harbour with Bruce & Sharon.



!!! GEORGES RIVER, SEPTEMBER 8 !!!



THE DINNER:

Saturday night the club members all joined together to have dinner at Stacks Bar and Restaurant.

Stacks Bar and Grill is a typical modern restaurant the ambient noise levels make conversation difficult at times, that said my steak was excellent.

Adjacent to our table was a group of scantily clad pretty young things a certain Whittley club member was severely berated by his partner, one phrase uttered was "put your tongue back in your mouth and stop staring".

(In 2016, the South American restaurant we had the function at had Rio de Janeiro Carnivale dancers - I missed them this year).

The highlight of the night for me was that a couple of club members on separate occasions said "the feeling of the night was one of friendship shared, almost family like feeling".

It certainly felt like that to Jan and I.

Many thanks to Ian for coordinating this dinner. We had over 20 attendees and I know a good time was had by all.

All in all a very enjoyable weekend the weather was sensational and even though it was mid-winter the boats were really quite cosy.

John Whittles

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2018

2018	DATES	EVENT	MEETING PLACE	CONTACT
January	26 th 27 th & 28 th	Australia Day	Castle Lagoon	Ken Hickson 0412 243 806
February	10 th & 11th	Myall Lakes	Nerong	John Whittles 0457 843 073
March	10 th & 11th	Shoal Haven	Greenwell Point	Phil Haworth 0408 671 684
April	30 th 31 st 1 st & 2nd 26th to 30th	Batemans Bay Queensland Rally	Gold Coast	Queensland Whittley Club
May	19 th & 20th	Vivid Sydney Harbour	Blackwattle Bay	Bruce Lynch 0412 869 411
June/Long weekend	9 th -- 11 th	Hawksbury	Castle Lagoon	Ray Mantle 0418 292 512
July	7 th	Mystery Dinner	TBA Closer to the date	Phil Sparks or Maxine Mantle 0414 267 664 0419 015 092
August	4 th	Boat Show & Dinner	Darling Harbour	Phil Sparks 0414 267 664
September	8 th & 9th	Georges River		Tony Patti 0424 691 233
October/Long Weekend	29 th 30 th & 1st	Yamba	Yamba TBA	Phil Sparkes 0414 267 664
November	10 th & 11th	AGM	Akuna Bay	Maxine Mantle 0419 015 092
December	8 th & 9th	Christmas Party	Greys Point	Garry Baglin 0419 462 237

!!! GEORGES RIVER, SEPTEMBER 8 !!!