



Whittley Club NSW Nautical Newsletter

Your Monthly Update on All Things Whittley!

Welcome to our March 2025 Newsletter

From the President

March was a reminder that we boaters are very much subject to prevailing weather conditions when the biennial National Rally scheduled for Sanctuary Cove in Qld had to be postponed to September due to heavy rain leading to unsafe conditions. I was looking forward to the trip, and hoping that the Rally would proceed, as we get to experience new waterways, and the event is a great socialising opportunity.

The event is now to be held at Sanctuary Cove from 8th to 12th September. I know a small number of NSW members who were due to participate in March cannot participate in September. Now that we know the new date, it is an opportunity for those members who could not participate in March to be there in September. I encourage you to attend if you are able. The Rally demands a huge commitment in time to organise, and carry financial risk for the hosting club. We need these events to be a success so that successive events are planned with confidence. Keep a watch out for follow up details from the Qld organisers on how to register for the event in September.

Kevin Shaw

Communication



Update



Facebook Messenger

An updated Event Calendar has been sent to everyone's email inbox. Please have a look in preparation for any trips that you would like to attend coming up.

A reminder: Our Whittley Club NSW facebook page is a great place to post a general question to the club plus send out any information to club members. Our facebook page is a closed page, meaning no one has access outside of our club membership.

For club trips and events: a messenger page will be available for all participants to that particular event to post photos, funny comments and information.

Both of these platforms are secure for members and run by our committee

From the Commodore



COMMODORE'S March Report.



Hello fellow Whittley owners, it's been a crazy Month with the Queensland Rally been cancelled, The NSW club rallied split and diversified and a hear all had a great time
The rally has been rescheduled to September 8th to 12th so pencil in the dates if you were going, please advise the Committee if you can no longer go or are not interested in going.
Also please consider and start preparing for our April Journey down and back up the Hawkesbury River 25th to 28th April.

Please don't forget our social Clubs Face book page below;

www.facebook.com/groups/238523399518305



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Your Monthly Update on All Things Whittley!

Im properly towing a dinghy, tender or rigid inflatable boat (RIB) can result in damage or reduced fuel consumption. Additionally, if the dinghy has an outboard engine, damage can occur to that (and nobody wants to purchase a new engine if they don't have to).

You've probably seen dinghies and tenders towed with a single rope attached at the bow. While this isn't a terrible setup, there's a much safer and more reliable way to do it.



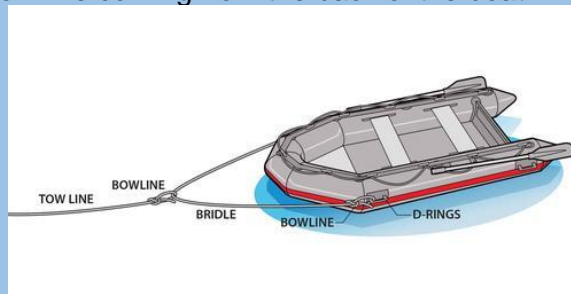
Tying up with one line can be unstable and result in flipping the dinghy. Whether you're towing a dinghy with a **sailboat**, **cuddy cabin** or luxury yacht, you'll want to do it safely so that all vessels get back to the private boat dock rental, marina or **boat ramp** safe and sound (and not filled with water). If you can't stow the dinghy on the swim platform, towing it is the next best choice.

Let's discuss the proper way to tow a dinghy or tender.

Advantages of Towing a Dinghy Along with your Boat

- Ability to anchor out further from shore and use the dinghy/tender to get to shore and into crowded areas or busy docks
- Take it into small coves for fishing (while leaving the boat **anchored out**)
- Explore areas where larger boats can't go (excellent for the secluded coves and islands in the **Florida Keys**)
- **Safety measure** in the event of problems onboard the boat (such as fire or **running aground**)
- Transport passengers to shore or bring supplies back to the boat (very helpful on a **Great Loop** excursion)

A three-point bridle is the best and safest way to tow a dinghy. This system consists of a V-shaped line that combines two towing points. The two lines come from either side of the dinghy into one central point (a line coming from the bow of the dinghy). It's like what you would use for towing **water skiers or wakeboarders**. This then gets attached to the tow line coming from the back of the boat.



This setup helps keep the vessel stable and centered and prevents it from veering (like the way a bridle works on a horse). You'll need a tow line and a bow line.



Whittley Club NSW Nautical Newsletter

Your Monthly Update on All Things Whittley!

Helpful Hints

- Tie the tow line low. Use a bow eye rather than a **cleat** on the dinghy.
- The bow line gets tied to the D-rings. Most inflatable dinghies and RIBs have two low D-rings on either side specifically designed for use with a bridle.
- A bridle goes on both the towing boat and the dinghy. It then connects to the towing line.
- Remember to remove the engine on the dingy or tender if there is one.
- Tow the dinghy approximately two waves behind the boat. The faster the boat is moving, the further the dinghy should be behind it.

Towing a dingy only reduces speed by about ½ to 1 knot, so you probably won't notice a whole lot of difference. Even if you do, the convenience of having a dinghy along with you just might make up for it. Dinghies are easy to store as well. Simply deflate and store in a dock box at a private boat lift for rent or leave on the boat.

We hope this has helped with any questions you might have on how to properly tow a dinghy. The next time you leave a private boat slip rental, take one with you and let us know how it goes. Happy Boating!

Warmest Regards
Mark PENNEY

Recent Trips

Queensland Rally 17th – 21st March 2025 - Cancelled

Due to the presence of Cyclone Alfred, the difficult decision was made the week before the rally to postpone it. The Qld rally will now be held in September 8th- 12th September 2025. The Queensland committee is now asking for members to re-commit to this date. If there are any members unable to attend the March rally may now be able to attend it in September instead, please register your interest.

Club Trip – March 2025 – Sussex Inlet

Hi Everyone,

Well what a great trip Sussex Inlet was. Only 5 boats but plenty of Fun. We had a couple of nights tied up to the wharf at the RSL club due to the winds, & I'm sure all of you have seen my special knots I designed for this by now, due to my Husband posting them on the Facebook page. I won a



couple of meat trays the first night, so the 2nd night we had a BBQ in one of the huts along the inlet. Another great night & lots of laughs. On Tuesday we finally got off the wharf & did some



exploring of the inlet & St Georges Basin, then rafted up in Swan bay as the winds were coming again. After drinks and

nibbles on Michael's boat we all went back to our own boats and I'm sure some were thinking we were going to have a quiet night until Roy decided to put on his Spotify disco playlist an amp up the music then started playing dress ups. I have never had a disco on the back of a boat before





Whittley Club NSW Nautical Newsletter

Your Monthly Update on All Things Whittley!

but boy was it a great night. I even got my 10,000 steps up for the day. Michael had some great moves, & at one stage Diana had gone to bed, but when she heard Devels gate drive by Suzie Q she threw her clothes back on & she was out dancing again. **A couple of videos were taken. As these videos are MA rated you will have to click on the attachment in the email to view.**



Wednesday we got in the water for a swim at the sand hills, did some fishing, had lunch then had to say goodbye to Sharlene & Mark, as Mark was called back to work. Later we tied up on the RSL wharf again for the night and went to the Swordfish Brewery for dinner, which was great.



Thursday we said goodbye to 2 more boats so only Michael, Diana, Roy & myself remained, so we went & moored up in the inlet where we caught some fish. Roy tried to pull Diana around in the dingy so she could drift fish but I think it turned out to be a comedy of errors rather than a successful fishing event. Then we went on board Michael's boat for a baked dinner & drinks. Great company & food & lots of laughs.



Friday Michael pulled his boat out, & Roy & I were joined by our daughter & partner for a great weekend of fishing eating & drinking, we even found slappy the seal in the basin who followed us around all day. Had a feed of flat head that night & a couple of kilos of fresh prawns caught off the back of the boat.



Can't wait for the next Whittley Club event. See you all soon

Tania Sterchow





Whittley Club NSW Nautical Newsletter

Your Monthly Update on All Things Whittley!

Club Trip – March 2025 – Lake Macquarie

The March Lake Macquarie trip was the scheduled event, but turned out to be an alternative to the Qld National Rally trip which had to be postponed.

It was a small flotilla starting with 'Sunny', 'Much Ado', and 'The General' on Friday evening, building to 5 boats with the addition of 'Two Can Tango' and 'Dream Catcher' on Saturday. We visited some old favourites, including the F Jetty with a walk to the Catalina Club at Rathmines for a Thai dinner, and a stop at the Wangi Wangi wharf for provisions. Being a large and diverse waterway, we were able to experience a couple of new spots not visited in recent times. We spent Saturday evening at Wyee Bay, chosen for its bush setting away from land based residents. Peter had some success with fishing and shared around his catch – thank you Pete! The other reason for choosing Wyee Bay was it would provide protection from the southerly which was predicted to be with us all night. Unfortunately Hewie had its own idea of wind direction and strength, swinging around from the East in the wee hours as a stiff breeze. An extra anchor saw our raft stay intact, and we were able to continue to enjoy the bush setting for the morning. A Sunday lunch was arranged at Crusoes on the Lake restaurant at Lake Macquarie Yacht Club, Belmont. The fare was good, but berthing for our boats is quite limited, with the wharfs being high and more suitable for large yachts. The club hosts live music each Sunday afternoon, but this was not one of the Club's finest acts, so the flotilla departed for Wangi Wangi wharf again and an afternoon of a better known musician at the Wangi RSL Club.

Although Lake Macquarie was not the Qld experience some were hoping for, a relaxing weekend was had by all!

Pepe Shaw





Whittley Club NSW Nautical Newsletter

Your Monthly Update on All Things Whittley!

Club Trip – April 2025 – 25th – 27th Anzac Long weekend Hawkesbury River

This trip is being organised by Mark Penney and entails launching at Wisemans Ferry and navigating downstream to Pittwater, with maybe a night at Spencer if time allows. Mark has put out a Trip info email together . If you are wishing to attend this club trip please email info@whittleyclubnsw.com.au

Club Trip – May 2025 – 24th-25th Shoalhaven River

Michael s currently a trip leader for this one. Shoalhaven River winds its way through the Nowra area. Launching will be at Greenwell Point. More info will be available soon on this trip

Club Trip – June Long weekend 2025 – Fri 6th June – Mon 9th June Winery trip to Yass Valley.

After a brief survey of members all have agreed to check out the Yass Valley area by car or caravan/camper. Travel Friday 6th June. Yass Valley is a winery region close to Canberra and Murrumbateman. The area has many sites to see – Burrinjuck Dam, wineries, chocolate artisans, historical homesteads and great pubs all within easy travel distances. An itinerary will be put forward.

I have reserved some rooms at The Swaggers Motor Inn at Yass for \$150 per room per night. David and I have stayed there last year and found that it was in a good location was clean and air conditioned for comfort. If anyone wants to take a camper, boat or caravan we can get some sites at the local caravan park.

More information about this trip will be published soon, please email info@whittleyclubnsw.com.au if you intend to participate.

Sandra

Ideas beyond the “buoy”

Words from Phil. – (This is for the newer members as this article has been run before)

To anyone considering installing a bow thruster I offer my following thoughts.

I have owned our boat “Highly Strung” for nearly 19 years and consider myself a reasonably confident and capable driver. We all know that it is not easy to maneuver our boats, we have a single engine, shallow draft and tend to catch the wind, usually at the most inappropriate times. The thought of berthing at a marina amongst other expensive boats can be very nerve wracking. So after much consideration and research I bit the bullet and decide to have a bow thruster installed. During my research I discovered that to be effective the two most important things to consider are the position of the thruster and the power rating of the motor. The thruster must be installed as low and as far forward as possible. This can be limited by the available room inside the hull to position the thrusters motor. I decide on a Lewmar brand that are made in England, the most powerful model suited to our boats is rated at **2.2 kilowatts** with a 140 mm tunnel diameter. Next decision was to select a trusted installer. I chose “The Boat Pimpers” at Condell Park (thanks for the recommendation Michael) and was very happy with that decision.



Whittley Club NSW

Nautical Newsletter

Your Monthly Update on All Things Whittley!

The result? I am very pleased with both their workmanship and the performance of the thruster. I've found it works well even against the wind. It certainly makes manouvering a lot easier, especially in the dreaded marina situations.

Expect to pay around \$7500. As we all know boating can be a very expensive hobby.

Footnote: the installation involved cutting two oval shaped holes thru the hull, I was very surprised to see how thick the fibreglass is, 13mm!

Very reassuring if ever I follow JW or MF into shallow waters.

Phil Haworth

What did you do instead of the Qld Rally?

As you know the rally dates have come and gone and the event was cancelled with only one week to go. I know the lengths we all go to be ready for such a long trip so it got me thinking –

“What did everyone do instead?”

After a quick survey the results are in- (all members agreed to be published)

David and Sandra – had already left and got as far as Coffs Harbour – decided to stay lost at Coffs for 4 nights in a caravan park, then went looking for a clearer waterway, found Port Stephens on the way back down South for 4 nights. Ditched the boat back home and took up with an Ocean View villa at Forresters Beach (Central Coast) for another 4 nights. Hooked the boat back up and went to Lake Mac for a day, to join the group too and arrived back home in time for the house sitters to move out.

Kevin & Pepe – Headed south to join the group at Sussex Inlet 5 nights. Then hi tailed it back North and relaunched at Lake Macquarie for another 3 nights. Hectic.

John and Jan – After walking around home lost for a few days, took advantage to see their granddaughters graduation from Uni which they were going to miss, hooked up the boat and joined the group at Lake Macquarie for a few days.

Pete & Lindy – Pete enjoyed not working for the week, then together launched and enjoyed Lake Macquarie for 3 nights.

Ian and Judy – Ian had recently broken a bone in his hand just before the rally. They were intending to go to QLD prior to see family too. They had just picked up the new trailer from Melbourne the week before in preparation for the rally and instead joined the group at Lake Mac for 3 nights.

Phil & Silva – Phil had a nice back up plan, hooked up the boat and took his lovely wife to Lake Conjola for a few days. Happy Phil.

Michael and Diana – Currently Michael and Diana are caring for Michael's elderly Dad, for them to disappear for 2 weeks requires respite care for Leo. Respite care proved difficult and was on then off then on again by 3rd March they finally had secured a place, Diana requested leave then cancelled, then requested again to find out by 10th March that the rally was cancelled. Decided to join the group at Sussex inlet and had a wonderful time. Phew!



Whittley Club NSW

Nautical Newsletter

Your Monthly Update on All Things Whittley!

Roy and Tania – After spending over \$8K on a new rear canopy and other preparations for the rally, Roy & Tania were relieved to hear the rally had been cancelled as they wanted to enjoy the QLD waterways when in good condition. Especially as each time they venture on the water there is usually some kind of catastrophe so they weren't keen to tempt fate. As it happens instead they not only joined the group on Sussex Inlet but bought a new holiday home Tania has had her eye on for a while on Sussex Inlet at the same time. Now there is an omen!

Mark and Sharlene – With new windscreen and rear canopy and very nice new galley table installed ready for the rally and armed with time off work they headed South to Sussex to join the group and enjoyed a week with good company, wild weather but crystal clear waters.

Roger & Athena - Roger and Athena were not going to let Athena's Long Service Leave go to waste. They packed the Land Cruiser and headed to Bruce & Sharons at Holbrook where the 4 of them had a lovely time visiting wineries in the King Valley. From there Roger & Athena headed to Geelong for the epic Great Ocean Road adventure then to Adelaide and the Barossa for winery tours. Heading home via Renmark and Mildura then back to the coast. A fabulous trip.

Mark & Lisa – This very productive couple took the chance to spend time at the their recently purchased farm, cleaning, gardening and cracking the whip with the Tradies from the country working on their farm. Also took time to enjoy watching the kangaroos grazing on their lawn while the sun set on the horizon, glass of wine in hand. Oh the serenity.

Robyn & Stuart - These two will never let an opportunity pass them by. Once the rally was cancelled they packed their bags and headed South to Adelaide via every winery ever heard of at Mildura, Hay, Griffith then onto the Fringe Festival in Adelaide, Botanical Gardens, Glenelg, McLaren Vale, Robe then off to check out the Great Ocean Road via The Blue Lake etc before heading home.

Peter & Ros Blaas – Peter and Ros continued up to Queensland to brave the waterways. They joined "The Queenslanders" approx.. another 5 boats to Tangalooma, Peel Island and Koorringal Near Stradbroke Island on Phase 1. After this joined the group for Bribie passage and Moreton Bay as they enjoyed their local trips of boating plus. They also spent time with the Queenslanders in The Hinterland and other areas by road. Afer this spent time in Noosa. They represented NSW well (we hope) and are very much looking forward to the rally in September this year.

John & Leone Hickey – Our newest members were looking forward to spending time with us but once cancelled took the opportunity to stay back and attend to their business. No doubt we will catch up soon with them.



Whittley Club NSW Nautical Newsletter

Your Monthly Update on All Things Whittley!

Member Spotlight

[Michael and Diana] –

Michael as a young tacker was always involved in fishing with his Dad Grandfather & Uncle in Egypt and Greece. During the family's time in Kenya, Michael enjoyed being around the water, fishing and skiing. After finishing his studies in England he moved to Dubai and Michael got into power boats. His first power boat was a speed boat and progressed 25foot Dory. About 15 years ago Michael and Diana purchased a Whittley Monterey being the first taste of Whittley boats. After this experience they finally ended up with the largest on trailer boat with bathroom and kitchen their CR 2800 – "Marie Christine.". The Hawkesbury is their favourite waterway for relaxing and for fishing Botanay bay all the way to the south coast.

Fun fact: Just a few months after purchasing their CR2800 they ventured to The Whitsundays. During their trip the boat motor stopped suddenly with no warning. With no hope of getting it to start, Roger kindly towed the boat back to the marina to work out the problem. Is there fuel? Michael says yes the gauge is reading ¼ tank full. Will put a few litres in, just In case, and the motor fired straight up. What a way to find out the gauge didn't work!

