



## ' On Deck '

### Word from the President

Winter has finally arrived, and you might think that the opportunities for boating have closed for another year. Think again. A day on the Swan River still holds a lot of appeal and nothing impresses the "Overseas/Interstate Visitors" like a sunset over Perth, viewed from a boat on the Swan River. The Swan River Trust has been doing some terrific things with "courtesy moorings", these are the red moorings and anyone can use them for a 4 hour stay to enjoy their day out on the river. They start down in East Fremantle at the Stirling Bridge; continue to Blackwall Reach, Mosman Bay, Matilda Bay, Narrows Bridge (Perth waters) and across the pond at South Perth. If that is not enough destination points to ensure a good mooring and a great day out, you really are not trying very hard.



We thank the Swan River Trust, Department of Transport (Marine Safety) and the Recreational Boating Funding Scheme for not only providing the funds and maintenance of these moorings, but for having the foresight to provide to beautiful destination points for boaters to moor in comfort and safety. PS. The Black Swans and the occasional dolphin at Blackwall Reach make for an unforgettable outing for your visitors.

### JUST TELL US THE TRUTH – AND WE WILL WORK WITH YOU !!!!!

Wednesday June 8 (Page 20) of the West Australian - Paul Murray writes : **"Green marine rhetoric not backed by science"**. *To read full article click [here](#):-*

"Politics and science, instead of being like oil and water: have

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For further information on any of the news in this letter or membership please contact us on [secretary@boatingwa.com.au](mailto:secretary@boatingwa.com.au) , 9335 3296 or visit our website [www.boatingwa.com.au](http://www.boatingwa.com.au).

become a murky emulsion”, writes Paul.

We have received so much “dark information” about the state of our fisheries and the absolute need for Marine Reserves, why is it when a positive result emerges from the Govt’s own research they are reticent to share it with us. There might even be some evidence that Boaters and Fishers are respecting “Nature’s Bounty” and that the Seasonal/Species Restrictions and Education Policy are having a positive impact. There is substantial State disagreement over Canberra’s push for more fishing sanctuaries in WA waters. Very recently West Australian Fisheries, after spending \$578,000 on research, has announced that “there is no evidence to suggest that fishing activity was having any major impact on the aquatic food chain with the State’s four marine bioregions. On the contrary, research reveals that overall food chains are stable in each of those bioregions.”

After being told relentlessly “that our fisheries are under threat of over-exploitation”, and with the crayfishing industry on its knees, boaters and fishos might well ask – WHAT THE!!!

It is also worthy of note that just today, the Minister for Fisheries, Norman Moore has eased the reins on the West Australian Rock Lobster Industry and sanctioned weekend fishing, which has been vetoed up until now.

A foot note to all of this is the catchcry of the Marine Reserves advocates of “It is less than 1% of the waters around the coastline”. A further footnote to that we read recently was that Australia possessed 38% of the World’s Marine Reserves? Seems like we are already carrying our share pretty well. The sensible stance in all of this is to respect our environment, and it will be there for our kids to enjoy when they can afford a boat.

So to our Politicians both State and Federal:

***Let us see the science and the facts, and let’s cut out the rhetoric!***

***We have no desire to damage our Marine Environment, and we will work with you to maintain and improve it. In return we ask for less “Green Zeal” – and considerably more Science.***

#### **INSURANCE – MANDATORY HULL INSPECTIONS.**

As our Members know well, Boating Western Australian has an affiliation with Club Marine Boating Insurance and our



#### **BWA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

Did you know you receive all of the following discounts?

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If you are not Club Marine Insured, email us on [secretary@boatingwa.com.au](mailto:secretary@boatingwa.com.au) to get a quote and receive 10% back on your premiums.

#### **QANTAS CLUB MEMBERSHIP**

\$200 discount off your first

members enjoy a discount through this affiliation.

Over the last few years Club Marine has added the proviso; “Renewal of your insurance will be dependent on satisfactory hull inspection”.

We spoke with Club Marine’s State Manager Phil Whybrow and got the full story on the inspection requirement and its necessity.

***“Once your vessel reaches 20 years of age – it will require a hull inspection to continue its insurance by Club Marine. Once this is done, a vessel will need an inspection once every 5 years. This is to ensure the integrity of the vessel and thereby will assist in keeping premiums down. Some vessels this age can easily fall into disrepair, become victims of osmosis and it is an assurance to Club Marine that they are insuring a sound vessel”.***

To assist our Members; Club Marine have included with each renewal a list of inspection points and agents where they can get this inspection/survey done and although they cannot recommend individual agents – BWA CAN!

We are currently talking with BIAWA (Boating Industry Assoc.) with whom we are also affiliated, to develop a list of

RECOMMENDED INSPECTION AGENCIES that we will be sending out to Members. That list will consider :

type of vessel, penning/storage of vessel, where the vessel is stored and of course price.

Costs on surveys and inspections can be high, so we will seek full requirement details from Club Marine to ensure that costs to our Members is kept to a minimum.

Club Marine have also sought to make the process easier by giving advance notice of the requirement for inspection to allow Members to factor this into their next “annual maintenance or boatlift” and have been showing our members considerable flexibility in the “deadline” for this process.

We will be out to all members with the “**Recommended Providers List**” as soon as we finalise consultation with BIAWA their Team of Brokers and Service Providers in WA.

Watch for it !

Safe Boating  
Colin Lockley

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year as a Qantas Club Member.

## **FRIENDLIES CHEMIST DISCOUNT**

Each year our members will receive a discount card. Click ['here'](#) to view ShopRite's latest offers.

## **USEFUL LINKS**

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Boating WA website click ['here'](#)

Rottneest Island Marine News click ['here'](#)

ShopRite's latest news and specials click ['here'](#)

Swan River Trust's eNewsletter - ['RiverView'](#)

Fremantle Sea Rescue click ['here'](#)

## General News....

### Scientific Investigation of Swan River boatwash and wind wave action

Release Date: May 2011

[Link to details of investigation](#)

### Fremantle Ports Notice to Mariners

Release Date: 25/05/2011

[Link to notices](#)

### Unprecedented funding benefits metropolitan boating facilities

Release Date: 13/06/2011

[Link to article](#)

### Albany Water Front Marina - Pens available

Release Date: 27/06/2011

[Link to article](#)

### Ferry skipper suspended over Rotto Swim incident

Release Date: 24/06/2011

[Link to article](#)

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## ROTTNEST ISLAND MARINE NEWS

Release Date: May 2011

[Link to newsletter](#)

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## STERN LINES

### Marine Insurance - Public Liability

Boating WA members will most likely have read in the media, or heard on the radio during the week of 27<sup>th</sup> May last about the young lady Kate Campbell who was injured in a boating accident at night in 2007, on the Canning River. The driver was Luke Woollard who reportedly was driving his parents open top sports boat. Luke was convicted after admitting that he was

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### UP AND COMING BWA EVENTS

29th September,  
Annual General Meeting  
Swan Yacht Club

14th - 16th October  
Mandurah Boat Show

We invite you to participate!



drunk. He received a sentence of a suspended prison term and 200 hours of community work.

Not only was this an avoidable tragedy but the tragedy has been exacerbated by the owners of the boat allegedly not having any third party marine insurance. Whilst some people could say that the son must be responsible for his own actions, it is reasonable to suggest that a person lending their vessel to others has a social obligation to ensure that the vessel is covered by marine third party insurance. However it must always be borne in mind that third party insurance will not protect skippers or owners when the skipper is under the influence of alcohol or drugs. So whether the vessel was uninsured or the insurance has been excluded by the skipper being convicted of being intoxicated we are unclear and a clarification by the Woollard family would be enlightening and could help to alleviate some of the pressure on them.

Members of Boating WA have expressed their incredulity that anyone owning a boat, as well as having non family members on board, could take to the water without third party insurance cover. This is especially surprising when such a high public profile family well known for its public stances on issues of social standards and concerns is involved. Indeed it is surprising that on an issue so important, Luke's mother Janet Woollard, M.P. who is Chairperson of the Parliamentary inquiry into the consumption of alcohol in this state, is still content to receive the publicity and discuss the issues around her public stance about the consumption of alcohol, but is not prepared to address the issue of the injuries to passengers in her family's boat whilst her son was in charge of the vessel. Additionally a statement as a social service to highlight the dangers to society that even if you do have insurance that it will be of no value if the skipper is intoxicated. It is understandable if some people today are distressed by the lack of translation of a social conscience into deeds.

Quite simply if a boat owner is not prepared to insure for marine third party issues, or they wish to over indulge with alcohol, then they are opting to self insure. This means backing every minute of your boating trips with your entire personal assets. Clearly with the costs and damages associated with personal injury this would be considered an unreasonable choice, as perhaps even your assets would not be adequate to cover all the costs awarded against you. Bear in mind the court

## **More from STERN LINES**

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### **State Marine Tourism still Under Estimated**

*With the Australian dollar so high it is a good time for all concerned in the tourist industry in Western Australia to expand their thinking, imagination and initiative to find ways to keep tourists and Australian dollars at home. Some energy and drive is required from the Minister for Tourism to galvanise the participants in any new understanding and development of the tourism market. It would seem that some of the key participants are unaware of the possible extent of their potential involvement.*

*The attraction to boaters to holiday more around the coast of W.A. can be greatly assisted by a more sympathetic approach to supplying facilities and the necessary conveniences to water based holiday makers. We have in mind launching ramps and associated facilities, good road access and free or cheap moorings as close as possible to the town centre. Boaters like caravaners and campers research the most user friendly and welcoming places to stop or spend meaningful time where they are made to feel welcome. It is well documented how well convenient and economic marine visitors facilities in the central European countries assist the local economy. These town centre boating facilities are usually free to visitors who make up for the free mooring by their expenditure in the town.*

awards now being made for loss of life, paraplegia or serious injury.

Ms Campbell has stated that she has accumulated medical costs close to \$300,000 and her rehabilitation has not finished yet. These costs are without the additional risk of damages being awarded against the boat driver or owner.

In some cases there may be an issue where the passengers either boarded the vessel knowing the skipper was intoxicated or became aware of it when aboard. It would be reasonable to expect that the injured parties would have refused to board or would have insisted that the skipper put them ashore.

Participants in outings on small vessels should be alert to the condition of the skipper and consider the consequences of their own lack of action.

There have been poorly informed calls for compulsory marine third party insurance. Quite rightly such calls have been rejected by the state government. The government has a compulsory scheme for motor vehicles which assists when a vehicle is uninsured. This scheme still has the right to recover costs from the uninsured driver if they believe that there may be assets which can be called upon.

Such a scheme is inappropriate for recreational boating, playing golf, cycling, skydiving and other amateur interests. However responsible boaters who are well enough educated to be aware of the consequences of a propeller or a sailing vessel meeting a human body in the water will view it as a reflex action to have third party insurance. Any boater not having this elementary cover could be viewed as anti social. Any boat skipper who consumes more than a minimum of alcohol should refrain from driving and step aside in favour of another person. The skipper may be intoxicated but at least he is not at the wheel, which is the lesser of two evils.

This ongoing case is a serious embarrassment to the boating community, the majority of whom are civic minded citizens who take all of their marine responsibilities seriously. Due to the lack of comment by the Woollard family on this issue we are still left wondering if they still believe that in any event the alleged lack of marine third party insurance was appropriate. Members are reminded that Boating WA is an agent for Club Marine one of the most reputable marine insurers in Australia and which is backed by the international Alliance Group. This company has a good record of stability with their underwriters

*There are now over 100,000 registered recreational vessels in W.A. We have suggested before that it is in this state's best interest to create an inter Ministry working group to identify the potential for marine based tourism and to set out a plan for local government, the Ministry for Transport, the Ministry for Tourism and the Ministry for Sport and Recreation to improve the attraction of holidaying in this state as an economic option. Royalties for regions are filtering through and achieving benefits for communities and we hope that this continues in the area of marine tourism with more specific targeting. We are not that naïve that we do not understand the size of the challenge involving different ministries and the need for urgency but we live in hope that there may some in responsible positions that understand how important these issues are and do not allow the agenda to drift despite the urgency needed to "re-boot" the flagging tourism industry. This is not a request for a football stadium and small capital works in appropriate areas could transform marine tourism*



#### **FOR SALE**

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WIND IN MY WINDS by Fran Taylor  
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and many commendations for the manner in which it has handled its members claims. Bear in mind that the correct approach to buying insurance is not what the insurance costs but what is covered by the policy.

Boating WA members receive a substantial rebate on their Club Marine insurances placed through Boating WA. If you do not have marine third party insurance cover every time you go boating you can be risking everything you have achieved in life.

P.S. We note from a report in the "West Australian" on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June that Ms Campbell will launch civil proceedings against Luke Woollard. We await the outcome with interest particularly the legal costs, the costs of treatment and any damages awarded. Luke's ongoing punishment of facing the long term consequences of his actions should be enough deterrent for any other skippers inclined to over indulge with their guests.

## Peel Inlet

We have been advised that the Department of Transport is currently reviewing the rules and regulations governing navigation on the Peel Estuary. This also covers the South Yunderup Channel entrance. Navigable areas and speed limits are being considered. We will keep members informed of this issue as it unfolds.

For more information on the book go to <http://windinmywings.com/>



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