

## QUEENSLAND SPORTING HOVERCRAFT CLUB

Branch of the Australian Hovercraft Federation Inc.

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Meeting Venue: Coopers Plains Library 107 Orange Grove Rd Coopers Plains Q 4108. Meeting opens 7:30pm

Agenda for the Monthly Meeting of the Queensland Sporting Hovercraft Club held on Tuesday, 20 November 2018 at Coopers Plains Library, 107 Orange Grove Road, COOPERS PLAINS, Qld 4108 at 7.30pm

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD AT COOPERS PLAINS LIBRARY ON TUESDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2018 340th MEETING

### ATTENDANCE:

Kim Craig (Vice President), Cle Sheck (Secretary), Steve Stephens (Publicity Officer), Arthur Stead (Web-Master), Les Taylor {Craft Scrutineer}, Dieter Renisch, Angus Kerr, Peter Venn, Steven Odgaard.

### APOLOGIES:

Ben Wood head {President}, Phil Audsley (Treasurer), Dwayne Morgan (Safety Officer), Larry Franks, Michael Stephenson.

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer reported that there was \$3,100.91 in the account. (Emailed by Phil Audsley) Cheques to James King still not cleared. \$50 for freedom of speech, and \$100 for the boat show. RESOLVED that the Treasurer's report as tabled be accepted.

Moved - Kim Craig Seconded - Cle Sheck

### MAIL INWARDS:

Emails from James King to Leanne Enoch.

### MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The acting President Kim Craig read the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2018

RESOLVED that the minutes are an accurate account of the proceedings of that meeting.

Moved - Angus Kerr Seconded - Les Taylor

### CRUISE REPORT:

The cruise planned for October was postponed until November due to bad weather, but Steve Odgaard ventured up anyway with a revtech renegade in tow to investigate possible camp sites for November. His craft unfortunately didn't leave the trailer, but he reports to have had a lovely weekend.

RESOLVED that the report is an accurate account of the cruise.

Moved - Steve Odgaard Seconded - Steve Stephens

### OTHER BUSINESS:

Steve Stephens discussed code of conduct on Qhover webpage. James King wants it removed. Athur Stead quoted Qhover code of practice. Peter Venn supports James King regarding removal of the line "don't go over the same place twice".

A discussion was held regarding the removal of the line in the code of practice, "Avoid passing over the same place repeatedly in one day". See [www.qhover.com](http://www.qhover.com)

Moved - James King Seconded - Peter Venn

Steve Stephens discussed environmental risks. Kim explained the details, and Steve wants to put it up on the website. 9 out of 9 votes to put it on the AHF website. [www.hovercraft.org](http://www.hovercraft.org)

Moved - Steve Stephens Seconded - Dieter Reinsch

Steve Stephens quoted emails regarding insurance. Flemming Jensen replied to Steve regarding insurance. Steve contacted a company in Wynnum. Discussion regarding telling QPWS about our lack of insurance before 31/10/18. Advising James King that we are contractually obligated to tell QPWS about any lack of insurance.

A member of the Townsville club made other club members aware that there has been trouble with permits since 2008.

### QRBC MEETING -14 NOVEMBER 2018

The following was discussed for over 30 minutes at the QRBC meeting on 14/11/18, & it was then passed that the Qld Recreational

Boating Council will write a draft letter of support for QSH.

(Please note: The text in double brackets is the response from Richard Orchard, Senior Ranger at Qld Parks and Wildlife, QPWS) Of course, the main input was from the QPWS delegates who stated that our permits ARE renewable & not treated as a new application, otherwise each application would have to go through an assessment. (The George St staff have stated differently, so it makes you wonder why it typically takes 5 months to update a permit renewal!!!) (*What was stated was that provided the renewal is submitted before expiry of the permit it is able to be renewed without a full assessment. If the permit has expired then there is no permit to renew so a new application is required*)

"Managed Vessels", just in case we could potentially "wreck the environment". (Even though there have been virtually no problems with ACV's disturbing the Migratory Waders & other inhabitants of the Ramsar listed Marine Parks.) (*The words that were used were that Hovercraft are capable of accessing areas that other vessels are unable to which is why they are managed vessels. Some of the items discussed were possible disturbance wildlife, shorebirds and public amenity.* )

They also conceded that there is no realistic necessity for the PLI condition, even though it is included in their regulations. (*Nothing was conceded. The words used were that in my personal opinion there was no need for recreational hovercraft to have the insurance cover when it is not impose on other recreational vessel but that it was not my decision to make.*)

I presented a standard NPSR permit application form, & QPWS staff commented that it was a standard form which is used for every type of Marine Park permit, not just for hovercraft, & that is why there are so many references to commercial terms.

I also passed around the CoastCare brochure (which features a pix of our craft transporting volunteers), as well as a briefing about the department's letter refusing to allow us to land on Cobby Cobby Island for the routine cleanups, (even though the QPWS barge "Spoonbill" was alongside to take all the rubbish onboard at the end of the day.) (*As you are well aware the reason that you could not land was that the regulations do not permit the activity. Permission cannot be given for an activity that breaches the legislative requirements.*)

It was mentioned that our amphibious craft don't fit in any of the boxes, & that they should technically be registered as road vehicles to drive up the public boat ramps & adjacent parking areas. (Never mind that technically, our hovercraft should be doing 6 knots when approaching the boat ramp, so then we couldn't get up the ramp & out of the water anyway!) (*What was stated is that to access the beaches on the Islands that are managed under the RAM Act a vehicle needs to be registered to get a vehicle permit and as a hovercraft could not meet the roadworthy requirements they could not be registered and it would then be a breach for them to be on the beach, there was no mention of them needing to be registered to be on boat ramps, we have no authority for unregistered vessels/vehicles on boat ramps* ). So if a four wheel drive goes across the same beach & into the water, does it then also become a vessel????? Talk about strangling the world with red tape! Tell your local member & the media again!

As readers can see; QPWS staff just keep quoting the current regulations, & are not making any real effort to overcome the impracticalities imposed on small recreational hovercraft by them. The 10 yearly rehash of each Zoning Plan is their only offer of a chance to make a stake-holder submission for changes. The GSSMP Zoning Plan public-consultation should be starting this year with the MBMP Zoning Plan to follow. Go to the department's web site if you want more frustration.

Cruise report for Bli Bli held on 10<sup>th</sup> November at Muller Park by Cle Sheck.

25 people and 8 ACVs

Ben, Narelle, Callum and Gowan Woodhead with the XP960,

Angus, Ann, Danielle, Cameron, Milly, Hunter, Annie and Keven Graham with the Viper 4 cruiser.

Dieter Renisch and Jeanie Smith with a shared Viper 4 and Turbo 435, (Baffle)

Michael and Susan Stephenson with a shared Viper 4,

Les and Sandi Taylor with a turbo 235 Superwedge,

Frazer and Lyndon Austin with a Revech Razor,

Kim Craig, James Geordie with a Turbo 240,

Steve Odgaard with the Billy Baker static display, & Cle Sheck, who still had a broken craft at home.

There were 24 people and 8 ACV's in attendance.

Most of us met at the Bli Bli riverside caravan village which provided a fantastic launching area that was situated close to the campsite. A lot of repairs were being performed on a number of craft before we even got under way. Angus was having throttle cable issues in the Viper 4, Dieter and Michael had rear end weight and COG issues after installing the Subaru engine into their turbo 240, Les Taylor had ignition problems which rendered his 235 superwedge inoperable, Frazer had spark plug issues with his Revtech Razor, and even the viper 4 belonging to Dieter and Michael had it's share of problems when the rudder joining rod snapped. With the help of Matthew from 'Hire a hubby', who was also visiting the camp site, they soon fabricated a new one out of aluminium and they were on their way.

But we all soon hit the water and had a good days hovering. Cle Sheck went for a fly with Been Woodhead in the XP960 up the river, where we met up with Frazer who informed us of the spark plug issues he was having. Cle then took Ben's XP960 for another run with Angus in the Viper 4 and Kim in the Turbo 240 up to the mouth of the Maroochy river where Angus demonstrated his surfing abilities.

On the Sunday morning, Cle Sheck took the Viper 4 belonging to Dieter and Michael for a spin down river, with Dieter onboard, as well as a young camper named Grace who has an interest in hovercraft. All went well until the Viper developed a pull to the right. Dieter nursed it back to the campsite without incident.

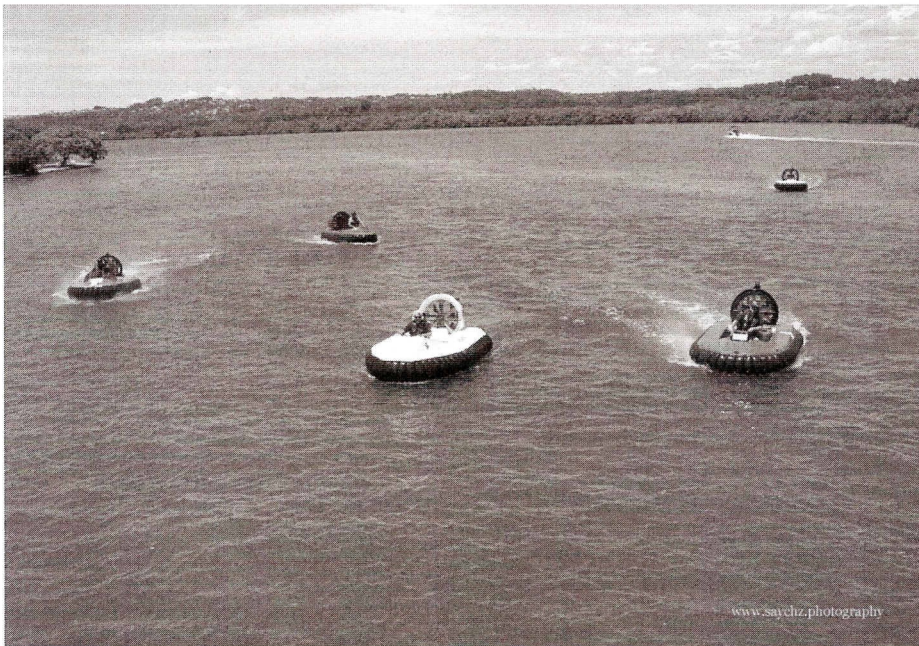
Cle took Grace for a fly in Ben's XP960, where he sat it down on a sand bar and let Grace have a bit of a fly under his guidance. She now wants her own craft.

Cle then took the Viper out for a run as a comparison to his own craft. He was very impressed at how easily it got over the hump.

James King has been very busy with a lot of correspondence & recent interviews, garnering support for changes to the unreasonable regulations which apply to small recreational hovercraft.

Steve also put a motion to the last QRBC meeting which agreed to write a draft letter of support. This will be discussed before being sent.





**OVERSEAS NEWS** Nothing to report

**HOVERCRAFT INSURANCE**

As stated earlier, from November QBE will no longer be providing hovercraft insurance.

Cruise report for Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2018 by Steven Odgaard.

With beautiful Spring weather the QSH club cruise was well attended including a visitor with a hovercraft. Oliver Gibbons of Boronia Heights, a young boilermaker by trade, brought along his UHT- F.

Ben Woodhead was impressed with the speed and agility of this small plywood craft. The main cruise was planned for the slipping sands at North Stradbroke Island, however the wake from a passing boat caused the Universal to take on water when Oliver failed to select the appropriate speed to safely bounce over this speed bump. It didn't end well. Peter Venn brought the small craft back to base in a similar fashion to the piggy back ride which the space shuttle once took upon the back of a triple finned Boeing 747 Jumbo Jet; only sideways.

We gathered around and encouraged Oliver to dry out the engine and try again, but he preferred to retire from further cruising for the day and neatly winched the craft up and onto the box trailer using a hand powered Davit hoist.

The main cruise headed off at 9-46am

Peter Venn TP6 Laila, Ruby and Harry Butler.

Ben Woodhead Turbo XP 960

Karl Bowman Viper 4X

Michael Stephenson

Dieter Renisch White Viper 4 Cruiser

Angus Purple Viper 4 Cruiser, Danielle, Cameron Kerr.

Steve Stephens Turbo Wedge 240 No Wheel Drive

Les Taylor Turbo 235 Superwedge Phoenix

Oliver Gibbons UHT-F AEC47Q

Other craft parked on the apron. Expo Turbo Wedge 240, Yellow Hoverjet, Renegade.

Others in attendance

Kim Craig, James Geordie, Arthur Stead, Judy Stead, Elaine Venn, Larry Franks, Judy Bowman, Steven Odgaard, Rita Chaffey, Lucas Kerr.

25" People and 10 ACVs

At 12-15pm 24 degrees C 74% Humidity 13 km/hr East North East 1009 Hpa.



Peter Venn/s bag skirt is an improvement for the TP6



Please check the AHF forum [www.hovercraft.org](http://www.hovercraft.org) for more information about the current insurance battle. Flemming Jensen is currently negotiating with insurance brokers to get suitable cover for all AHF members, as a lot more craft are involved & QSH club hasn't been able to get anything except commercial cover at ridiculous premiums.

Next cruise will be this weekend with Kim Craig arriving on Friday afternoon, 23-25/11/18 at Moogerah, then the normal monthly cruise for December will be at Peter & Elaine's place on 15/12/18.

January cruise will be at the Colmslie boat ramp on 13/01/19

See you on the water,  
Steve.