

New Years Resolutions for Recreational Boaters

We have your New Year's Resolutions all organised! If you own a boat, make this the year that you are going to be safer on the water with these resolutions.

Safety Every good day on the water must finish with every person arriving home safely. In 2017, 322 incidents were reported in Queensland, the majority of these were reported by recreational boat users. While most incidents only involved a collision with a structure or another vessel resulting in a little repair work, 55 people were injured and there were 7 fatalities. Unfortunately, this number increased to 12 in 2018. In 2017 it was found that of the fatalities resulting from drowning, none of these were wearing a life jacket. A life jacket can be the difference, and it is only going to assist if you have it on.



So, say it with me, "I will wear my life jacket, and I will make sure that my loved ones wear theirs too".



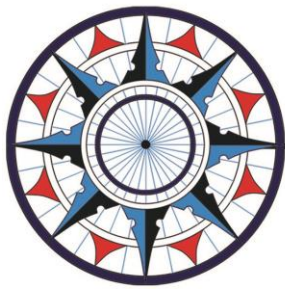
Pollution This year, focus on "clean and go" biofouling, meaning that before you move your boat to a new location, give it a good clean on the hull and also in the niche areas. Hull cleaning can take place in the water or out on a slipway, so take to the internet, talk to your local boat club, your boating friends, and this year make it happen.

While you are at it, why not freshen up the anti-fouling on your boat's hull and niche areas. Anti-fouling was reported as being applied on a 12 monthly basis by most boat owners, so do give yourselves a pat on the back. But this year, talk to the manufacturer before you re-apply and be sure that you have the best or most appropriate anti-fouling product for your boat.

Keep our waterways cleaner, our ecosystems happier, and your boat faster!

Wrecks In 2017, the Queensland Government announced a huge funding boost of \$20 million to begin a "War on Wrecks". The dingy washed up on the creek bank, or old fishing boat trapped in the mangroves, these boats are being targeted to clean up our waterways. So far 65 boats have been removed and another 143 are on the to-do list.





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If your boat has seen better days, then 2019 is the year for you to do something about it. Don't allow your vessel to become a wreck. Your resolution, pick just one:

- I will maintain my boat and make sure it stays afloat for more fun-filled days on the water.
- I will take my boat out of the water and onto a trailer to get those repairs done.
- I will list my boat for sale so that someone else can take on the repairs and maintenance and bring it back to its best.



Here's to a Happy 2019 out on the water!



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