



Beyond The RMDL ESSENTIAL TRAINING

Brett and Nathalie with son Julien organise a training session on their own vessel



Paul underwent two 5-hour practical on-water sessions, vessel handling, manoeuvring, and Broadwater navigation



Virginia was very pleased after completing her PWC Jet Ski Only Course



Johnnie MacLeod undertook a vessel familiarisation, Broadwater practical, and chart plotting fundamentals session

Having a recreational marine driver licence (RMDL) requires completion of competency-based training. It may be convenient that the RMDL is granted only once and does not need to be renewed, but it does not always guarantee practical safety knowledge and good seamanship. If you are always driving your boat and go to almost the same places regularly, you probably will have no problem navigating your usual route and dealing with potential problems along the way. But if you are one of those who only take the boat out on special occasions, there may be situations that will catch you off guard, and you would not know what to do. The same thing may happen if you have upgraded to a new boat, and there are more technical and mechanical aspects that you have not dealt with before. If you are lucky, you may avoid being penalised for your mistakes; if you are not so lucky, the consequences may include a fine for violating a rule, or worse, major damage on your boat (and your ego!).

Further training has not hurt anyone. Every boatie should consider enrolling in a training course – yes even if you have already obtained your RMDL/PWC licence – whether it is simply for refreshing or enhancing boating knowledge and skills, learning the ropes on a specific vessel type or make, revisiting a bondage session to understand your knots, springlines and hitches, or obtaining advanced certification.

BUILDING MORE CONFIDENCE

Brett and Nathalie have been using their jet ski on the Broadwater for many months when they purchased a new 8m vessel. Although they already had their RMDLs, the added responsibility of having more passengers, friends and family on board demanded they sign up for advanced training to become more confident in all aspects with priority on safety. “We have done it all! We have run aground, been stranded, and been towed back after a couple of mishaps. We don’t want any more dramas. Now we would like to learn the right way,” Nathalie said. Karla Herbert-Evans, owner of Nautical Training and Marine Services, facilitated the training on their own vessel, an SDX 250 Searay with 300HP Mercury engine, with theory components and personalised training booklet to reference, specific to their vessel and requirements.

A new boating couple, Paul and Sissi, were ecstatic with their new Antaries 8 and keen to obtain their boat and jet ski licences to enjoy Broadwater cruising with their family. With English being only a second language for them, their boat dealer Peter Nicholson recommended on-water tuition and practical guidance for them to be confident with their GPS, collision regulations and IALA buoyage system to safely navigate the Gold Coast waterways. They underwent two 5-hour practical on water sessions, including vessel handling, manoeuvring, and Broadwater navigation with Karla, prior to sitting their boat and jetski licence course. Karla recalls, “As I can only speak one language, I was very fortunate that both Paul and Sissi’s English was fluent and their 8-year-old son Eric gave extra assistance with translating, too!” Paul and Sissi had training on their Fab Dock setup, vessel start-up and shut-down procedures. They are now quite confident with their own vessel and navigating their local area.

FURTHER KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS LEARNED

Johnnie Macleod was keen to increase his confidence not only at the helm, but also with close quarter manoeuvring, and anchoring and docking. Although his main goal was to be more confident in navigating to Moreton Bay via Peel Island, for a weekend