

# Come & Try



## Some great ideas to get your day off the ground

Come & Try Etchells Sailing days are a great way to introduce sailors from other classes and boats to the spirit of Etchells sailing. It doesn't take a lot of effort for Fleets to organise one or more of these days each year.

Following are some pointers from the Brisbane Fleet on how they organised their Come & Try days.

We **advertised** the C&T days as follows -

- The weekly Fleet Newsletter;
- The National Etchells site by drilling down to the Brisbane Fleet site;
- In the local yacht club's weekly newsletter; and
- We produced a significant computer generated eye-catching poster on the club's notice board

The **format** for each day was very simple -

- 1100 - Meet on hardstand
- 1200 -- Leave harbour
- Short sail then three or four short windward/return races
- 1500 -- Back to harbour
- Free BBQ and obligatory beer.

Each boat had one or two experienced sailors aboard and then carried two to three guests. We used eight boats the first day and ten on the second.

The guests were on the boat the whole time and there was no offloading to a power boat or to the dock.

**Prior to these C&T days** a list was made of all of the dormant or seldom sailed Etchells on the hardstand. Every owner of those vessels was telephoned to establish the status of each yacht by asking the hard questions -

- Are you ever going to sail it or do you just want to hug it ?
- Are you interested in selling it/how much ?
- Are you interested in chartering it ?

It was amazing to see the reaction of those owners once having the no-nonsense hard word put on them about their tearful, frustrated boat.

The overall experience has been good for the Brisbane Fleet. There has been a feeling of coming together for the good of the fleet/class which can only be good.

**International Etchells Class Association of Australia Inc, <http://www.etchells.org.au>  
Fleets in WA, SA, Victoria, NSW and Queensland**