

INTRODUCING KIDS TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF BOATING

Few would doubt one of the great joys of going boating is to do so with your family, and very few of our readers have not shared the pleasure of watching a child catch their first fish. As Jeff Borg explains, you don't need a very big budget to introduce today's youngsters, all it takes is a little bit of extra effort and planning.

Words by Jeff Borg, Pics by Linda Borg, Kids by themselves!

I have 2 kids, Mark who is 12 years old and Michelle who is 8 and they both love going out in my 5.0m Quintrex Fishmaster.

The evening before we go out we prepare the boat and discuss the plans for the following day on the water. Mark is always up first in the morning to make sure we have an early start. After all, the early bird catches the fish, so he says.

When the kids were much younger, fishing was only done in short periods during the day. Their short attention span would mean that fishing was not the dominate activity on a day on the boat.

If you want your kids to enjoy boating activities, you have to think like a kid. I find that quite easy. As my wife says I am more on their level than hers. I am not quite sure if that's a compliment.

What we found is that the kids love doing different things on the water. When boating on the Southport Broadwater on the Gold Coast we have a few places where we stop off and stretch our



feet and get an ice cream. They included Runaway Bay Marina and Hope Island Marina. Lunch would usually be at Tipplers Resort on South Stradbroke Island.

On the Southern end of South Stradbroke Island, there is also a playground with swings and the usual

assortment of playground equipment. It is a bit of an adventure for the kids to arrive at a playground by boat and the added bonus of friendly wild wallabies that come over for a pat and no doubt looking for a feed.

My wife would always pack the plastic beach

bucket and spade and the kids would amuse themselves for ages on the beach. Building sand castles is another great family pastime.

Going for a swim in the shallows is always on the cards so we make sure we bring their cossies and towels just in case and



Michelle (above) has really taken to this fishing business, and has now progressed to her own totally pink rod 'n reel, whilst Mark is a dab hand already, and skipper-in-training to run the family's immaculate Fishmaster.

