



*The Spirit of Australia's Waterways*

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**PRICELESS**

# Tassie Cruise

**Page 10**

# Captain Liz's misadventures

**Page 18**

*Take monthly with water*

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# Working @ Sea

Water sports instructor and business owner Tracy Turner leads a varied working life on the Gold Coast, writes **Kevin Green.**



*Tracy gained a wide on-water experience before going professional.*

# Water sports Instructor

## How did you get this job?

Many hours on the water getting sea miles and your hours up. Dedication, passion and an open mind. Starting this business from the ground-up required a lot of money for all the vessels and equipment. To train and assess people to drive a boat or jetski, you need to be flexible in your way of thinking. People learn differently. This role requires a commitment to understanding each student's unique practical and theoretical needs. I need to be able to help them learn at all levels. Having been on the water since my teenage years, I learned early that knowing the rules and regulations is key to navigating safely and having a good time—without getting grounded or going in circles. For me, this profession is not merely a job but a true passion.

## Were there any special qualifications and experience required?

Becoming a trainer and assessor in the marine industry takes years of experience and sea time inshore and offshore, to acquire the qualifications and comprehensive knowledge on the water. It's so important for effectively instructing and preparing new boat operators to navigate and operate a vessel safely.

## What was your motivation?

I specifically chose to be a jetski and boat licence trainer and assessor after spending a lifetime on the water, sailing yachts globally, yacht racing and serving as a charter boat skipper. Wanting more than just sea stories and a sunburn, I decided to transition to a more grounded role.

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Good boat licence training makes safer boaties, says Tracy.

*Gaining experience offshore and dealing with all kinds of people prepared Tracy well for running her own training business.*

Inspired by very professional and knowledgeable people, I started my own training business to give back. Now, instead of chasing the horizon, I get to share my knowledge and passion instructing and preparing new boat operators to navigate safely without ending up on the wrong side of a mishap. I'm still connected to the sea, without constantly getting my feet wet—unless I really want to!

### **What are the main tasks?**

First point of contact paints a picture for potential students. They need to feel comfortable that they are getting what they want. Giving them confidence that they will pass the theory exam. Also giving students sufficient practical training before they do their practical assessment on the water.

### **Challenges?**

As a trainer in the marine industry I meet all types of personalities and age groups. We all learn in different ways. Being able to adapt and identify alternative training techniques in a short period of time is crucial in helping achieve competency.

### **Rewards?**

There's nothing more natural and real as the look on a person's face when they have managed to get it right. Driving a boat or jetski for the first time can be daunting. Feeling comfortable and confident is priceless.

### **Promotion and the future?**

I love sharing my knowledge and experiences with my students. Avoiding marine incidents is a priority. You can call on me any time for support. If I can help, I will.

### **Advice to those considering this job?**

Experience to train and assess boat and jetski licensing is gained by bum-on-seat time and many hours on the water. Start doing as many trips as you can inshore and offshore to see what it's all about.

### **How is your industry fairing?**

I would like to see more company course fees to be more consistent at a price that reflects the responsibility required to operate a vessel safely. After all, a high standard of boating skill results in a decrease of tragedies on the water. ⚓

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