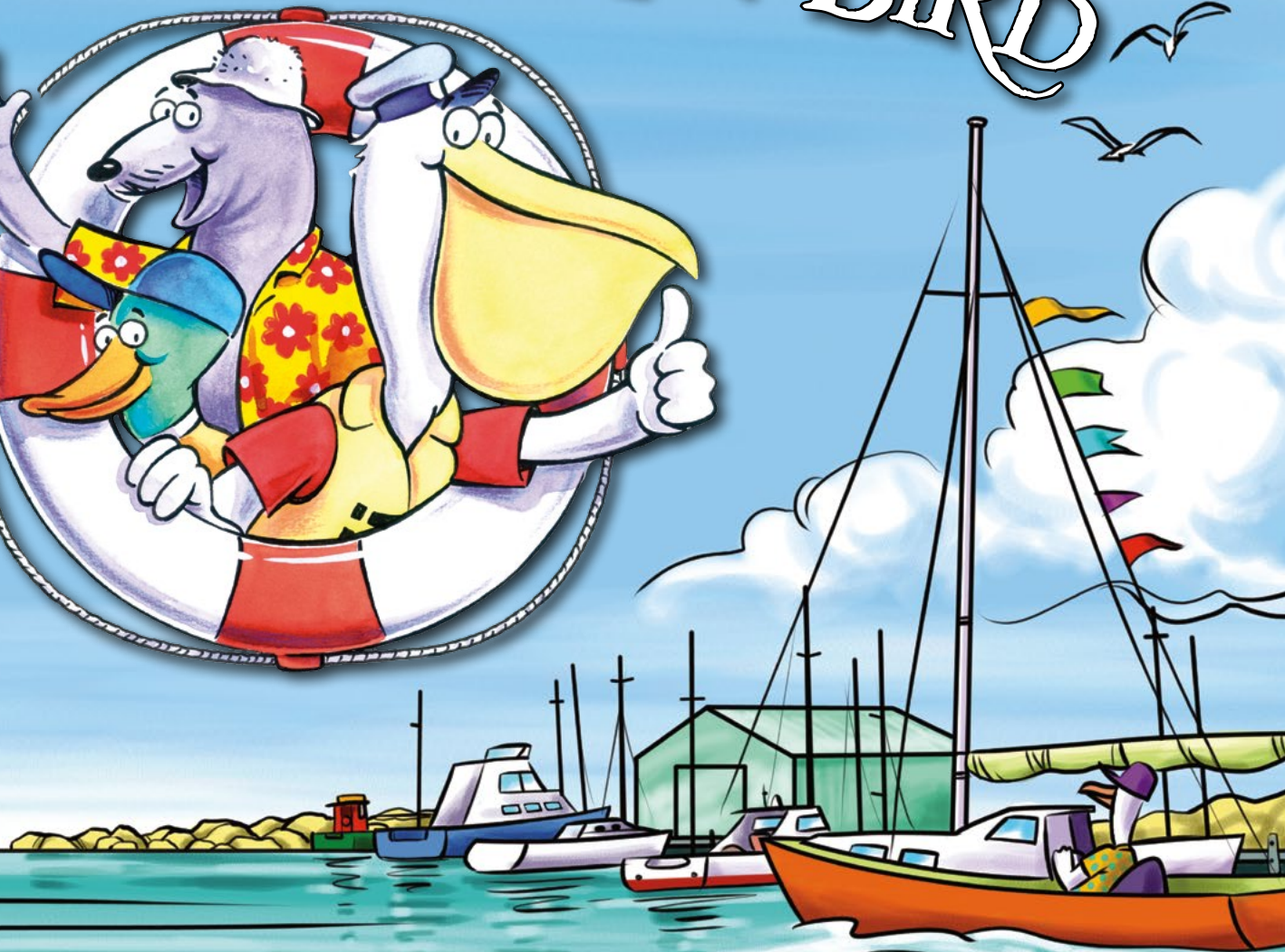




Department of  
Transport

# SKIP THE BOAT SAFE BIRD



It was a magnificent morning in the town of Fremantle, located on the banks of the beautiful Swan River. The sun was shining and there wasn't a breath of wind. It appeared to be the perfect day to go boating with a couple of friends.

"What a beautiful day", said Skip as he looked out over the river from his perch on top of the old jetty pylon. I think I'll give 'Surfer the Seal' and 'Diver the Duck' a surprise and take them boating for the day.

So, Skip set off along the old jetty boardwalk to find a weather forecast and his friends 'Surfer' and 'Diver'.





Along the way, Skip passed by the launching ramp and noticed that 'Stumpy the Shag' was preparing to go boating with his friends, 'Shriek the Seagull' and 'Robba the Water Rat'.

"Good morning," said Skip, "lovely day for boating, I hope you have done a safety check before you go out in your boat."

Skip always likes to make sure that people do a safety check before going boating, in fact, he was known in Fremantle as "Skip, the Boat Safe Bird."

"Don't worry about that", said 'Robba the Water Rat.'

"Yeah, mind your own business," squawked 'Shriek the Seagull.'

"I've been boating for years and I don't need a puffed up pelican telling me what I need to check before I go out on my boat" said 'Stumpy the Shag' as he pushed his boat off the trailer.



Stumpy's boat slipped quickly off the trailer and into the river, but he had forgotten to tie the rope from his boat to the jetty. Stumpy's boat floated off into the slow moving current without anyone on board.

"Hey Stumpy, I thought you were going to take us boating," said Shriek.

"Of course we're going boating," snapped Stumpy, "that's why we're here isn't it?"

"Well, why is the boat floating away without us?" said Robba.

Stumpy turned to see his boat floating off down the river.

"Oh No! My boat! Come back!" he yelled as he raced out into the river after his boat.

"Yeah, you've been boating for years, I can see that," Skip chuckled as he watched Stumpy swimming after his drifting boat.

Once Stumpy reached his boat and climbed onboard, Skip turned and continued on his way to find his friends Surfer and Diver.



As Skip walked into the marina he checked the weather forecast posted on the Sea Rescue notice board.

Diver and Surfer were enjoying the morning sunshine on the landing in front of the boats.

"Hi guys," said Skip, "fancy a day out on my boat? The weather forecast says it will be a great day to be out on the water".

"You bet," said Diver, "where are we going?"

"I thought we could catch a fish or have a swim at Heron Island," said Skip.

"Fantastic idea," said Surfer.

Skip pulled the mooring lines in tight and climbed onboard his boat the PV (Pelican Vessel) Pilchard.

He then helped his friends onboard the boat.





“Remember, when you go out on a boat, fun and safety go together. Before I go boating, like all good skippers, I always do a safety check,” said Skip.

“What’s a safety check?” asked Surfer.

“Ok, there’s three things you need to know when you go boating,” said Skip.

“Safety check number one, lifejackets,” said Skip as he pulled two brightly coloured jackets from the locker and handed them to Diver and Surfer.

Of course Skip didn’t need another lifejacket for himself as he always wore his, even when he went to bed.

“How’s the fit?” asked Skip, “Make sure it’s not too loose or it will fall off you.”

“Just right,” said Diver.

“Are they supposed to cover your eyes?” asked Surfer.

“No that won’t do,” said Skip, “this one looks more your size, see how it fits”.

“This one is a perfect fit,” said Surfer.



"That's safety check number one, what do we check next?" asked Diver.

"Check number two, keep your arms and legs inside the boat," said Skip.

"I want you to be safe, especially when we are docking or near other boats."

"Easy," said Diver.

"I can remember that, keep your arms and legs inside the boat, check that," said Surfer as he took his arm off the side of the boat.

"Safety check number three, always do what the skipper says," said Skip. "I'm the skipper, and you're the crew."

"Is it hard to learn to be a skipper?" asked Surfer.

"No it's fun," Skip replied. "You get to spend a lot of time out on boats, listening, learning, and practising."

"Always do what the skipper says, check that." said Diver.

"How do you remember what to check?" asked Surfer.

"I always remember the three L's, lifejackets on, legs inside the boat and listen to the skipper," said Skip.



With their safety check done, Skip turned the ignition key. The engines on the PV Pilchard burst into life with a steady CHUGGA, CHUGGA, CHUGGA, CHUGGA, CHUGGA CHUG.

Skip asked Diver to cast off the mooring lines and they slowly reversed out of the pen.

They were just about to leave the marina entrance when they heard a deafening roar coming from down the river.

Vaaarrrooommm. And then in a flash, right in front of their boat, Stumpy with Shriek and Robba sped past.

“Yeeee Haaa!” they yelled as they zoomed by.

“Look out for the pylon!” Skip shouted.

It was too late. Stumpy’s boat hit the side of the marker, flew up in the air, and came down with a thud, stopping in the water.



Shriek and Robba fell over the side and Stumpy was staggering around the deck.

"They'll need help, they don't have their lifejackets on, hold on guys," said Skip.

"Help! Help!" cried Shriek and Robba as they tried to keep their head above the water.

Skip drove PV Pilchard towards Shriek and Robba. As the boat got closer, Skip turned the motor off, he knew how dangerous propellers could be.

"Pull them aboard," said Skip.

Diver and Surfer helped Shriek and Robba into Skip's boat.

"What happened?" said Robba, "Where am I?" said Shriek.

Skip told them how Stumpy wasn't looking where he was going and he hit a pylon.

"Thanks for helping us," said Shriek.

"I guess we should have had our lifejackets on," said Robba.

"We're not finished yet," said Skip, "we need to see how Stumpy is."

Skip drove PV Pilchard over to Stumpy's boat.





"Are you okay?" asked Skip.

"It's only my pride that hurts," said Stumpy, as he shook his head.

"At least you did one thing right, you had your lifejacket on," said Skip.

"Thanks for your help," said Stumpy.

"Any time," said Skip.

"We are going to Heron Island to catch a fish and have a swim, why don't you join us? it will be fun!" said Skip.

They all agreed that it was a great idea and headed off up the river.

Skip noticed that this time Stumpy got Shriek and Robba to put their lifejackets on and was telling them not to put their legs and arms over the side of the boat.

It seemed that Stumpy was finally a safe skipper.

Skip smiled as he drove his boat PV Pilchard up the river and they all enjoyed a wonderful safe day out on the water.



