
Reporter : The crew - Bay cruiser

Well what luck we had with perfect weather for boating and swimming. The cruise initially consisted of **Bay Cruiser, Still Cruisin'**, **The Pearl** and **Moondancer** staying at the Paynesville Cruiser Club for our first night, some of the team had dinner there and the others joined for drinks later.



On our second day we headed off for Barrier Landing, a beautiful spot near Lakes Entrance, where the kids canoed, used the blow up dingy and swam.

After overnighting on the beach at Barrier we went across to Lakes Entrance for lunch and some shopping before heading off back towards Metung and in to Boxes Creek where we stayed the night.

We swam off the backs of our boats, canoed, and we were using the blow up dinghy again! Terry and Caitlin tried out their new blow up sea horse, which comfortably accommodated both of them. Alexandra asked for a turn on the sea horse and promptly flipped off backwards dunking herself in the water. Weather was getting hotter each day!



On Day four we went across Lake King to Paynesville to renew our supplies of ice, food and drinks.

Then we headed off to Duck Arm for the night where we were joined for the evening by **Wave rider** and **Splash** and all rafted up at anchor in Picnic Arm.





After some socialising on the boats the Fishers and the Taylors headed out in **Bay Cruiser** back to Paynesville for a 40th birthday party on the Enterprise sailing up to Sperm Whale Head for dinner. A quick trip home in the dark back to Picnic Arm where the ever reliable Don was there to help us raft back up to the others.



Sunday morning came and **Wave Rider, Splash** and **Moondancer** went their own way to go down to McLelland Straight while **Bay Cruiser, Still Cruisin'** and **The Pearl** went to Bunga Arm to spend the day with the kids doing water sports and then to stay there for the night.



Another hot day was enjoyed on the beach. The youngsters David and Caitlin both played on the beach digging in the sand and paddling in the water all day! The bigger kids, Aiden, Ashlee and Alexandra swam and had water fights with our new noodle water squirters.

New year's eve morning and **Bay Cruiser** decided to go for a spin along the arm to charge the batteries on the boat (the start of alternator problems). A few kliks along the arm we noticed the temperature gauge going up slightly, so we stopped to check out the motor. We



must have floated around in and faced the wrong direction so when we got up on the plane we noticed a 5 knot sign which we hadn't seen before and as we went to slow down we went thud straight onto a sand bar. There was no way we could get ourselves off as we were standing only knee deep in the water at the stern of the boat.

This is where being part of the club really helps. We were able to call on the other boats for assistance. **Still Cruisin'** tried to tow us off backwards but the boat was well stuck and wouldn't budge! Then we tied a rope to our front cleat and after a lot of pushing from Mike and Bianca (in knee deep water mind you!) and with **Still Cruisin'** pulling we finally managed to get free! What an experience but at least we came away with no damage, except to the skippers pride!

After this we all cruised back to Paynesville where we moored in the fingers down from Fisherman's wharf. New Years Eve started with dinner at the Paynesville Pub followed by a visit to the Enterprise which was to be used as the venue from which to see the fireworks display. The crew of **The Pearl** chose to stay close to the boats so Caitlin could go to sleep and Kirsty could get much deserved rest due to her pregnancy.

New Years day was to see the Fishers pull out and disappear back to Melbourne so Bianca could start work the following day. The other boats stayed on to enjoy the great weather at the Lakes a little longer.

