

### **JULY 2007 - DOCKLANDS BOATSHOW CRUISE**

The cruise started on Friday, for those lucky enough to get the day off, with a leisurely morning of packing the boat ready for an easy weekend in at Docklands with plenty of activities on the agenda.

Arriving at the Warmies ramp around 2:30pm in the rain wasn't Maria's idea of fun. With the expectation of more rain I prepared the boat in between showers. When the boat was ready to launch and the rain finally stopped we backed up to the ramp, trailer in the water, only to realise the newly purchased winch handle was the wrong size. Fortunately the crew from Zero Tolerance arrived unexpectedly so I was able to borrow their winch handle.

With both boats in the water the crew from Zero Tolerance headed off into the bay to give their boat a good run, as it hadn't been in the water for 3 months due to work commitments. A quick call to the Malone's to see how far away they were identified they were stuck in traffic and would still be about an hour, so the kettle was on and tea prepared to keep us warm while we waited.

The Malone's arrived and launched without too much trouble after shuffling some luggage around as they had come straight from the Gippsland Lakes where they had spent the week with Stuart's parents. We both headed off straight into the Dockland marina arriving there just on dark. With boats tied up and it was off to the boat show for us and the Telstra Dome for the Malone's to see Geelong and Essendon play. The boat show had much to see that was new in the boating world, including the release of the Whittley CR2800, and what a beauty we all thought it was.

Saturday morning saw the dawn of a good looking day. The crew of Bay Cruiser and Juliet arrived, but unfortunately the crew of Flame had to pull out due to vandals hitting their's and many other houses in their street late on the Friday night. The crews from all boats headed off to the boat show for the afternoon whilst we had reserve seating to watch Collingwood down St. Kilda at the MCG, a thrilling match. By this time it had been raining for most of the afternoon and did not look like letting up, so we caught a taxi back from the MCG and met all crews at a restaurant at Docklands, a great night was had by all.

Sunday morning was a slow start to the day, just the way we like it, a bit of a tidy up and showers in the marina and we were set to go. A quick stop at Waterfront City for coffee and toasted sandwiches for breakfast and we were off to see the southern end of the bay. The Malone's and Juliet headed over to St. Kilda for a quick burst while Still Cruisin and Bay Cruiser took a leisurely motor out to the mouth of the Yarra where we all met then headed over to Williamstown. Once we were all tied up at Williamstown we decided to take a look around the town. The expedition was topped off by a tour of the ex Navy mine sweeper HMAS Newcastle which the kids all found very intriguing. Making our way back to the boats Mary and Maria found a fisho selling fresh mussels of which they both purchased a couple of kilos each. Then it was back on the water and a short trip back to the Warmies ramp where all boats were retrieved safely.

A great weekend was had by all.

Cheers from the crew of Still Cruisin