

## ***Club Cruise Report***

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Easter 2007 : Gippsland Lakes

### **A Holiday in Heaven**

Easter time last year 2006 at Lakes Entrance was not the greatest and it was with much trepidation that we embarked on a return to the Lakes for the 2007 Melbourne Whittleby Cruiser Club get-together.

Ten boats in total made the trip (eight Whittleby's and two ski boats), launching from various locations including, Lakes entrance, Tambo Marine and Paynesville. The Whittleby boats included Bay Cruiser, Still Cruisin, Moon Dancer, Flame 1, Splash, Waverider, Bridget and The Malone's. And so there were certainly a number of new faces that turned up at Bunga Arm on Good Friday.

Having spent a chilly damp Thursday evening on the boat in the car park of the Paynesville Motor Cruising Club, memories started to come back about another wet week-end like the year before. Alas, we woke to a perfect day on Friday, which in fact became the norm for the rest of the week-end.

Our new club was very well organized indeed. Prior arrangements had been made to store our vehicles and trailers (for those that opted to take up Wayne's offer) at Blue Water Marine in Paynesville and prior booking of Bunga Arm camp sites meant that we even had the luxury of making the most of a secluded, sheltered camp site area at Bunga Arm. Some of the kids slept in tents at night (to escape their parents of course) and this had the added advantage of freeing up valuable space on the boats.



Most days were spent with the kids either water-skiing, tubing or playing with the footy and the little ones occupying themselves in the safe shallows of the lake's edge.



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A real bonus was the nightly campfire and the most entertaining discussions and activities that took place. It's quite extraordinary how much nonsense gets spoken around a camp fire and the fire has that special way of making the evenings longer and the desire to leave its warmth and ambience practically zero. A number of memories come floating back - one fellow (whose name escapes me) insisted that there was no need for a kettle as he re-used a tin can over and over to boil water. Stuart demonstrated that toasters were not required for hot cross buns as he carefully balanced these on small rocks – and just as the last one was devoured, Debbie would magically appear with another bag. Mike Fisher proved that his bedtime was 8 pm as he continually dozed off in front of the fire and refused to wake up even when Wayne placed his strobe torch a few millimeters from Mike's face, ah the magic of red wine.

We even had our own version of trivial pursuit and where Greg dreamt up some of his questions (let alone his answers are anybody's guess).

Easter Sunday lunch was at the Paynesville Club Motor Cruiser Club where we all sat down to a well-deserved lunch.



The saddest part of the trip was packing up and yet again this was conducted in perfect weather conditions.

The best way to judge a holiday is to reflect back on the trip. Its unlikely any of us will go again next year as it will be impossible to replicate the superb weather and the genuine fun that was had by all. Okay, seriously, we were proud to be part of this club trip, which was well planned, FRIENDLY (on a scale like we have not experienced before) and incident free.

You cannot ask for more than this after all.

Crew of Bridget

Dave, Debbie, Michael and Kerry