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**Reporters : Terry & Kirstie - The Pearl**

Hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Years.

The Gippsland lakes cruise was an interesting one; it has beautiful scenery, beautiful beaches, shops, the lakes at their worst with bad weather, beautiful river and great company.

Three boats made the cruise. 'Bay Cruiser' which had commitments with friends, 'Wave Rider' that developed mechanical problems and the smallest boat 'The Pearl'.

'Bay Cruiser' and 'The Pearl' launched at Paynesville on the 26<sup>th</sup> and met up on the second day.



Mooring overnight at Paynesville we had all the shops. We also moored at a quieter berth at the Paynesville Motor Cruiser Club, which has public 24hr mooring out the front.

We went swimming at Bunga Arm (water was a bit chilly), great beaches for the kids to play.

'The Pearl' went down to Lakes Entrance (lovely spot) for some shopping.

We spent a night in the canals in the new estate, which is where we met up with 'Wave Rider'.

'Wave Rider' and 'The Pearl' cruised up the Tambo River where we had a counter Lunch at the pub (Huge Meal!!!!). We then cruised as far up as our boats could go and stayed the night, would have loved to stay longer but came back for the New Years Eve fireworks at Paynesville.



Tambo River is a 5 knot zone so we got to take in the scenery. Where we stayed amongst the cliffs, the river got shallow, down to .8m, but was fine if you took it slow. Nosed up to a beautiful beach where the kids played.



'Wave Rider' departed us at Johnsonville on New Years Eve and 'The Pearl' negotiated the lakes at their worst. She battled 30 knot winds, short swell waves up to 3 ½m (well I wasn't measuring them at the time) across to Paynesville. 'The Pearl' only buried her nose under water once, half way over the cabin hatch! It was a true test for the little 550 Cruiser, however 'The Pearl' was safe at all times of the trip across, due to the experience of the Captain and the knowledge behind the building of 'The Pearl'. The kids weren't bothered either, they fell asleep!

"The Pearl" moored at Paynesville Motor Cruiser Club New Years Eve and met up with 'Bay Cruiser' there. We went our separate ways for the evening, the crew of 'The Pearl' had dinner at the Cruiser Club then took the kids down to the town centre to watch the fireworks.

New Years morning both Boats decided the weather wasn't going to clear and headed to the boat ramp to return home.

The Roberts Family  
'The Pearl'