

***2008 Easter Whittley Regatta, Cockle Bay Sydney.
Club Cruise Report By: Don & Jan (Waverider)***



Don & Jan left home on Friday 14th March meeting Rob & Betty enroute through Albury. Travelling all day in quite hot conditions, it was best to stay in the air conditioned vehicles. In the late afternoon we stopped to have a stretch and walk Rob & Betty's dog Steffy. While stopped we were passed by two other Victorian Whittley Boats that were not from our club. We had planned to stay the night in a caravan park in Mittagong but they were already booked out so we found a camping area in a small park and camped for the night with other Caravans and Motor Homes.

On Arrival in Sydney itself we had some fun trying to find a Service station close to the launching ramp where we could fuel up the boats. After a couple of unsuccessful attempts we finally found a BP Service station where we could get into the pumps to fuel up but then had to back into the traffic to get out again. Not an easy thing to do on a busy Sunday morning in Sydney's suburbs.

We arrived at the Roseville launching ramp in Killarney Heights at about 11.00am on Sunday morning and met our friends Sue & Peter Denton from the NSW Club. We set up our boats and filled the water tanks then launched the boats before anchoring and rafting up so the men could take the vehicles and trailers to be stored on a property owned by a friend of Peters'. Once the men returned they had to be picked up in the rubber ducky and brought back to the boats before we headed off to Bantry Bay for the night.

Over the next three days Sue & Peter took us around Sydney's most impressive Harbour.

Starting on Monday with Middle and North Harbour and then on Tuesday across into Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour) showing us some of their favourite spots along the south side around Watsons Bay, Rose Bay, Garden Island Naval Docks past Fort Denison, and the Opera House then under the



"Coat Hanger" and into Darling Harbour and Cockle Bay where the regatta was to take place.

We continued on to the fish market for some delicious seafood. From there we went up the Parramatta River checking out Hen and Chicken Bay where some of the other rally boats

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launched, and Homebush Bay of Olympic fame, then on to Wharf Road, another area with a launching ramp before heading back to the Lane Cove River and into Tambourine Bay where we spent Tuesday night.

Next morning we continued along the north coastline of Port Jackson past Kirribilli, the Taronga Park Zoo and back to Middle Harbour ready for Rob & Betty to take “Steffy” to be minded for the time of the Regatta. Wednesday night was spent in Bantry Bay again. A most interesting place as it was a WW2 Munitions storage area with many buildings still intact.



Thursday morning saw us heading back to Cockle Bay to meet up with the rest of the Rally Participants. We were met by some of the NSW members and directed into a berth. People continued to arrive all day and the rest of the day was spent meeting and greeting. Stuart Malone and his family was the only other MWCC member to attend.

Our time at the regatta was not structured but there was plenty to see and do plus cruises around the harbour were available for those who wanted to take their boats out. There was a fish & chips dinner provided for Good Friday and an impromptu concert on the Marina by “The Piper Ian” (a NSW member complete with Bagpipes) who even stopped the pedestrians on the bridge and walkways at Cockle Bay.

Saturday night saw a large group go to dinner in China Town, which was a great night out. Sunday morning we were awoken early by “The Piper and his saucepan banging friend Arthur” and later a group of adventure seeking people went for a ride around the Harbour on a Jet boat.



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Dinner was on the South Steyne with dancing and live entertainment. Ian "The Piper" even arrived to escort the last group back to their boats on the other side of Cockle Bay.



Monday morning saw some of the boats heading for home but about 30 boats went for a trip around the Harbour then around into Middle Harbour where they rafted up for the night in Sugarloaf Bay.

The boating opportunities in NSW outweigh anything we have in Victoria and the NSW club once again proved to be extremely friendly. They certainly know how to party.

Tuesday morning saw the Fraser's, Ainsworth's and Denton's leaving the raft up before most other boats were even awake. After 9 full days on the water we headed back to the ramp to pick up "Steffy" and get the vehicles and trailers so we could retrieve our boats. Once this was done Rob & Betty headed north to Queensland and Don & Jan went to Peter & Sue's for a few days sightseeing around Penrith and the Blue Mountains before heading home.

We had a really great time and it was a shame more of our members did not attend this Regatta. The total number of boats attending was about 47 give or take. Three Boats attended from Queensland including Greg Nickerson, Whittley's Queensland Dealer and there was even a boat from South Australia for the first time. The weather was warm and sunny with only a little rain very early on Good Friday and a couple of showers on Sunday and Monday evening. The weather was kind to us as Easter in Sydney is often very wet.

Don & Jan - Waverider