

## December 2009 Gippsland Lakes Xmas Boating trip

Time Out	Wayne and Maria Taylor and Family	Whittley CR2800
Mabel Two	Peter Walters	Whittley Voyager 580
The Pearl	Terry and Kirstie Roberts and Family	Whittley 550
Wave Rider	Don and Jan Fraser	Whittley Cruisemaster 700
Zero Tolerance	Stuart and Annette Malone and Family	Whittley 660
Wunee	Jan and Ruth Van Zenah and family	Whittley 2380
Also the crew from Bay Cruiser without their boat		

From the club and its members we hope all people involved in boating have a great Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year for 2010

The trip started from Paynesville Public Boat ramp in Slip Road on Saturday 26th December.

Two boats arrived on boxing day and the remainder joined when they were able too, the members who attended the Xmas Trip are as follows :-

Two boats ended up at the Paynesville motor cruiser club, were we all had great meals, and then outside to our moored cruisers tied to the jetty for a good nights sleep.

The next day was a beautiful morning and while waiting for other members to arrive at Paynesville, Time Out and Mabel 2 went for a cruise around the water ways seeing how the other boating fraternity live, it was eye catching, the beautiful homes and water craft, it must be terrible for those people to live like that with the water at their backyard, I was envious.

Everyone with and without their boats met on shore on the wharf in Paynesville, all the good wishes and happy new years said it was time the boats departed to Duck Bay for the evening and a swim .

A Cruisemaster 700 from Tasmania met up with us, generally at or around dusk, and during the night they tendered to stay at anchor, didn't like rafting up on shore, this happened a few times.

In the early evening Riley Roberts had a problem which cause the family to depart to the Paynesville boat ramp to an awaiting Ambulance for a trip into Bairnsdale hospital, Riley and Mum both returned to The Pearl about 11:30 pm the same day PROBLEM resolved..

The next day was spent traveling to Metung and supplies who wanted them and then onto Box Creek where we stayed for the night, a club member who was fishing caught TWO legal sized flathead off the back of the boat well done Ashy. Wayne caught a couple on the line but they would have choked on the small bait not worthy of a mension. Noted that Riley Roberts was back to his normal self for the rest of his holidays and very relieved parents.

The following day we left Box Creek to head back through Metung to Paynesville to pick up more supplies and topup with fuel and water and empty you know whats.

Our President Mr Wayne Taylor with his Whittley CR2800 with all the bells and whistles including a thruster showed HOW NOT TOO DOCK upto a wharf, he missed the corner pylong by **I.....I** that much hitting the BBQ, it didnt`n't look good, it was then a quick trip across a choppy Lake Victoria to Bunga Arm for the night and another swim and a peaceful, relaxing, and picturesque evening, also some members took a walk over the sand dunes to the beautifull 90 mile beach, they had foot races wet their feet and enjoyed themselves except for Wayne as he had to carry out repairs to the BBQ. With a mash hammer borrowed from Don and some noise of stretching stainless steel, changing to the UNDAMAGED legs and mounting it on the rail, it is now usable again (pics to follow at the end.)

The next morning was as usual, beautiful, and settled in for a pleasurable cruise to Lakes Entrance for the New Years eve fire works. The crossing was uneventful until we entered the

## ***Club Cruise Report***

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Narrows were the colour of the water was a magnificent aqua blue, we continued in this water and finally headed towards Cunninghams Arm, where we stayed and waited for the Fireworks to start at 9:30 pm for the children and then at midnight for the official start to a new year No 2010. While soaking up the good weather Jan took his sons for a tow behind Wunee on a biscuit I gather they enjoyed the time on the water. After a meal, it was time for a game of cricket on the sand, great to see participation from most people, its what cruising clubs are all about.

The weather forcast for the Gippsland Lakes was not very promising, storms, high, winds and thunder, so it was suggested I think by Don to put an anchor from the stern of both end boats and a diagonal rope to shore on the same boats as the wind was going to change directions and also for the tidal change, this was done and by the way the two smallest cruisers were on both ends a Whittlely 550 and a Whittlely Voyager 580 holding all the bigger craft in between, well done the little ones!!.

The fire works were magnificent at 9:30 pm and they lasted for about 30 minutes, all different shapes and colours of a rainbow the inclement weather did not spoil the New Year activities. With all the fire works over it was time for a chat and then curl up in bed for the start of another year.

The following day we headed back to Paynesville whoops tried to except Wunee had charging problems in his new boat, with some help and talk mostly talk the leg was lowered and off to Paynesville, we passed through Metung where all the sailing vessels some very very old ones and newer ones pass the Commadore on the jetty to take the salute, and when that is finished I beleve the Commadore opens the bar for the afternoon, anyway continuing to Paynesville through Metung Wunee decided to curl up her toes and stop as I was tail end charlie I relayed a message to Waverider Don and Jan that we had a problem with Jan in Wunee, Don turned around and came alongside and tied Wunee to Waverider and continued to Paynesville where he put his boat on the trailer and towed it to BlueWater Marine for a warranty claim that repaired and a quick battery charge and the boat was put back in the water.

Some club members stayed longer and enjoyed their time on the water.(some people are clumsy and fall and hurt themselves after the trip had finished)

Thank you all for a great xmas trip on the Gippsland Lake water ways I better mention also that both Cloe and Tuppence enjoyed their time as well..

Trip Report by:- Peter Walters and Tuppence in Mabel 2

