

Murray River, Echuca Australia Day 2009



Reporter : Peter & Christine – Shuffs 1V

The Australia Day long weekend cruise started at Torrumbarry Weir boat ramp for a round trip up the Murray River towards Echuca and back again to the ramp (120 kilometers). Five boats joined the cruise:- Wayne, Maria and family *Time Out*; Stuart, Annette and family *Zero Tolerance*; Terry, Kirstie and family *The Pearl*; Peter and Christine *Shuffs 1V*; and Walter and Claire *Xcape*.

Boats were launched with help from other members and on the water by midday Saturday. The first leg of the cruise was upriver to the National Channel.



Once all craft were secure, the time was ripe for a cool off in the channel.

The water was cold at first but shortly afterwards was very satisfying and relaxing.

Once in the water it was 'water guns at the ready. Every body was fair game.

There was a current flowing so the children and some adults put on floatation devices and, most importantly, a security line was attached just in case, for safety reasons.



Stuart pumped up his little tender and donut type craft for the children to play on. All the children, and big children too, had great fun. A lot of energy was spent by all that afternoon. with the donut.



The setting of the sun was beautiful over the Murray with its tree lined banks, reflections and a boat with skier going along and leaving a wake on the still water.

The next morning after a great sleep it was breakfast and a quick dip in the channel for some and then a nice cruise for a meal at Deep Creek Marina, the boat traffic up to the Marina was busy in some areas. The meal was great, the weather hot, and cold beverages went down well.

Stuart towed his two sons on the donut from the start of the day to the final destination I gather they had a great time.

Wayne had to get some fuel so he showed his skills at parking his boat. He wasn't too bad and the front bow thruster helped a lot.

Fuel added and away we went to our final mooring place for the day - Wills Bend, a beautiful bend in the mighty Murray River with a sandy bank and calm water.

Moored and setup, it was time for another swim to cool off. A lot of funny oooo's and ahhh's and other words came from people (the grown up type) about the muddy and weedy bottom. It didn't stop them from enjoying themselves in the water. A person swam over to us to talk and while we were talking something touched her bottom. (It was weeds). There was other vivid imagination about crabs, fish, and yabbies, which I saw none of.



Terry took his son out in a little donut with an umbrella on it for a trip on the water splashing him and doting on him as only a father can. It was great to see.

That evening was again a beautiful sunset. After the nights sleep and breakfast it was time to enter the water to cool down in the (still) muddy and weedy floor of the mighty Murray River.

Wally & Claire went to Echuca for the night and met up again midday on Monday.

We staggered our departure from Wills Bend to head back down stream to the Torrumbarry weir boat ramp where our boats were reunited with their trailers for their trip back to civilization and the real world.

I would like to thank all who came on this trip. The companionship and relaxed atmosphere was great, and we all had a good time. I look forward to going on other trips,.

Peter & Christine
Shuffs 1V

