

## Whittley Cruise Report for 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> September 2011

### Boats attending were :-

Mabel 2	Peter & Tuppence
Shalimar	John & Helen, Amy & Bella
Zero Tolerance	Stuart & Annette, Lochie & Ethan plus a Lewis (boat)

The Cruise started at Bonnie Doon, on the Eildon Reservoir.

Coming into Bonnie Doon by road I was amazed by the breadth of water from the last trip to Eildon which was only 2 months ago.

The water level was at 96.3% on this Saturday morning,

I was at the Lakeside Caravan Park at 0830 in the morning and waiting for the Boom gate to be lifted for entry, The boom was lifted at 0840, I proceeded to launch my Cruiser on the ramp that was being used, while talking to a waiting boat owner he told me the ramp on the point was good providing there was no wind.

I launched my boat and found Stuart had launched his Cruiser from the point ramp so we were on the water and only waiting John & Helen with Shalimar who were held up at home.

John and Helen arrived just after 10.00am when Shalimar was launched and all vehicles were parked in a secure part of the property.

It was time to start the cruise, while John and Helen got organised Stuart and I decided to go under both bridges at Bonnie Doon but before we did, we had to lower our aerials to get under both bridges to check out the Bonnie Doon Caravan Park from the water, the area of lawn which was there a couple of months ago, was now covered with water.

Heading back towards Lakeside the Island in the middle of the reservoir just before the bridge was also covered with water just a few remnants of a tree were left.

Both Stuart and I cruised back under both bridges and headed over to check the Bonnie Doon Boat Ramp (not much parking available due to the high water level) and then to the Lakeside Caravan Park to pick up John and Helen to continue on the cruise.

A decision was made to venture down the Delatite Arm to check for some suitable areas for a nights stay and to accommodate 4 boats, no acceptable and free from other people locations were found.

So we headed back to the favourite spot Woodbridge Point to a safe and sheltered spot for the night. The Clubs new chain saw was put to use and in no time a good supply of dry wood was stacked, and with kindling found in the vicinity a fire was started quickly for cooking and later to sit around and talk about the day just gone and tomorrows itinerary.

Sunday morning was a beautiful morning and Helen was up early and started fishing from their boat catching quite a few Red Fin which she put back. We had a late breakfast and continued fishing.

Stuart invited me in for a ride in his Lewis speed boat called Lewis (It goes well).

We very quickly went and checked out a few more prospective areas to stay along the foreshore and also just for a look, then we went back to our cruisers for lunch.

That afternoon Stuart and family did some water sports of some kind and returned to say farewell and head off back to the boat ramp then to home sweet home.

John, Helen and I decided to stay another couple of nights at the same little sheltered inlet have a fire for cooking and a focal point to sit around at night.

Monday was here and we were going down to Big Arm River to catch a **Big Trout**, this is what Helen has always wanted, the trip down was easy as not many boats were on the water and good time was made to the junction where we turned to our starboard into the Big River Arm.

We meandered down to past Dudley Flats to near the end where it would be difficult to get our cruisers past all the trees and snags.

We both separated to do our own type of fishing, John put in his little Hobbie Canoe and fished out of that along the edges of the Arm all to no avail not even a nibble. I asked Helen whose bright idea was it to come down here to fish for trout a funny grin came onto her face and no answer.

As the weather was turning bad we headed back to our little sanctuary before it got too rough for

the night. We did not have a fire as the front of the storm was close and it was better to be in our boats when the storm hit. Both John and I surveyed the area for any possible trees or rubbish that could be blown onto our boats and damage them, during the rough weather we did put a stern line on both cruisers for safety, all was clear and after a bit of thunder rain and wind a good night's sleep followed after about 9:30 pm when the storm past us.

Tuesday was a wet and miserable it was decided by us both to pull out around midday and head for home sweet home.

A great holiday on the Eildon Reservoir again great place to explore hide from the weather and relax.

I will come here again.

Written by  
Peter & Assistant Navigator Tuppence  
Mabel2



Lakeside Caravan Park



Going under 1<sup>st</sup> Bridge at Bonnie Doon



Just a dead tree nice photo?



Entry into paradise Woodbridge Point



Eildon Wall and Control Tower