

March Cruise at Martha Cove 2011

Participants on the Cruise :-

Don & Jan Fraser in a Whittleby 700 with all the bells and whistles.
Stuart & Annette Malone in a Whittleby 660
Peter & Tuppence Walters in a Whittleby Voyager 580
Greg & Colleen Elks in a Whittleby 2800

There were 2 boats launched on Friday afternoon and before checking out our berths we went for a bit of a spin to the Mornington boat harbour and returned to our berths. I should mention that when I launched my boat I floated it off the trailer, tied it up to the jetty and had my car and trailer parked before returning to the boat to start the weekend. I then started the motor, selected reverse and discovered no motion in any direction. After some investigation I found the hand throttle control centre button which disengages the gearbox was stuck in the depressed position. With help from Don`s Tools and my brains we ended up repairing the problem to enable us to go to Mornington.

Saturday morning, after a good night sleep, and breakfast, Don, Jan, Peter & Tuppence went to the boat ramp to meet the Malones but the wait was cut short as they were stuck in a traffic jam around Frankston. We returned to our boats and waited, had a cup of coffee and, as arranged, once the Malones had turned up and launched we would meet them in the harbour and head back to the Mornington Harbour area where Don and I rafted up together as Stuart wanted to meet some friends in the area. An hour or so after our leisurely lunch Greg and Colleen turned up in their CR2800. He rafted up to us, went for a swim and started to communicate with his own sense of humour.

Shortly after, Stuart turned up and rafted up to us also. During the afternoon we all went for a swim and enjoyed the company of people with a common boating interest.

Just before dusk we decided to head back to Martha Cove, when it was decided we would go fishing just out from the Martha Cove entrance. Two Port Jackson sharks were caught and thrown back, Ethan Malone then caught a very nice flathead which was definitely a keeper. After pulling up anchor we all headed back to our berths, had happy hour, during which time it was decided to rise early the next morning to head out towards Sorrento for breakfast, which we did. The condition on the water was magnificent, no thumping on the hull just a pleasure to be on the water and being alive.

Around midday we were near the Dolphin protected marine area. A lot of dolphins swam past us as we were having our breakfast come lunch just behind the old Quarantine Building on Ticonderoga Bay.

After lunch we all went for a cruise toward the heads again slowly following pods of Dolphins. Greg and Colleen then left us to head back to Martha Cove, acquaint his boat with its trailer and head off home.

The remaining group decided to head over to Queenscliff for a look. The crossing was good and we went up past the moored boats and the marina to the end where we moored up together for a bite to eat and a drink. Whilst eating the clouds came across and it didnt look good, we then decided to head back to Martha Cove so we all set off past the Sorrento Queenscliff ferry heading towards the eastern side of the heads. Upon entering the bay it was raining quite hard and the conditions were deteriorating, but we were all on our way. Not that far into the trip Stuart`s little rubber duckie which was tied to the roof blew off into the

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water losing the seat. Annette managed to retrieve the seat and then the upturned duckie, Stuart and family by this time were not very well and decided to head back to Queenscliff until the conditions improved. Don and I decided to continue back to Martha Cove. The crossing was done at about 4 to 6 nm / hour, which is slow for me, but as my safety is paramount I proceeded slowly and enjoyed the crossing.

As my boat is a small craft with a soft and removable windscreen, the bow was dipping down and picking up volumes of water which then went up the deck and in through the gaps on the windscreen onto my lap many times.

I tried to take a video of the crossing, but using a new camera, I thought I was recording, but you guessed it, I was not (it would have been interesting). When we arrived to the east side of the heads it was calm. We then contacted Stuart, waiting for him to come over, but to no avail. After contacting Stuart again he suggested we return to Martha Cove and he would follow when the conditions finally improved.

Both Don and I travelled through slight chop back to Martha Cove.

When we arrived back and berthed we had a coffee and some food and decided to phone Stuart again to see what was happening. He intended heading back in about 10 minutes, and about an hour and a bit later he and his family turned up all safe and well.

We all had dinner and went to bed after a great day filled with great sights, great company and drama, losing a rubber duckie owned by Stuart.

Over the 3 days 81.8 nm 98.2 miles or 147.2 kms were travelled on the water around Port Philip Bay.

Monday morning was a beautiful day. I was told the sunrise was magnificent - I did not see it!! Breakfast for some was bacon and eggs, coffee, tea and herbs and all we had to do then was pay for our stay, put our boats on their trailers and head for home.

I hope everyone on the cruise enjoyed themselves, I will go on other cruises with the members of the Melbourne Whittley Cruiser Club.

Just one short note, my 1st mate Tuppence spent most of the travelling and berth time in Don and Jan`s company. I felt hurt – could it have been bribery!!!!

Trip Report written by
Peter and turn coat Tuppence



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