



Melbourne Whittley Cruiser Club Inc.

December Cruise to Gippsland Lakes 26th Dec to 2nd Jan 2013

Attending Cruisers attending over the Xmas New year break

Zero Tolerance	Whittley 660	Malone family
Shes Apples 2	Voyager 580	Appleby Family
G & T	Whittley 700	Dickson Family
Mable 2	Voyager 580	Walters family
Black Sheep	Whittley 2380	Holyoake Family

The launching ramp was located at Tambo Marine Johnsonville west of Lakes Entrance. The 27th of December was the day to launch as all cruisers and their owners had commitments on Boxing Day.

John and Helen in Shalimar are still at home with brake problems with the trailer, so they had to decline to meet us at the Lakes, sorry to hear about your problem.

Mabel 2 arrived first to meet new members Peter and Rhonda also in a Voyager 580. We were all on the water by around 2pm and headed along the Tambo River towards Paynesville, the wind was blowing making the water slightly choppy for the trip across Lake King.

Once arriving at Paynesville we berthed at the 4 hour berthing on the foreshore. We decided to have a walk along the main street and have a coffee and then buy some fish and chips for our evening meal which we ate on the lawn overlooking the Raymond Island car Ferry. Due to the bad conditions we decided to stay at the public berths at Paynesville, the nights weather was not kind to us as both Voyagers were rocked around until the early morning.

The next day started well and we headed over to the Grange, which is where you can take pets, on the way over I got stuck on the silt between the port and starboard markers, Shes Apples 2 also had a moment in shallow water but we both floated our boats off the silt without help well done to both of us. We arrived at the Grange and Peter & Rhonda went for a walk over to the Ninety Mile beach which is well worth doing, (great fishing Ive been told) I had to leave to pick up Gemma & Tony in G & T back at Tambo Marine, before I departed we all decided to go to Picnic Inlet off Duck Arm for the evening. With G & T now on the water and finally arriving at Picnic Inlet for the night stay.

After the happy hour and a beautiful sunset we all went to bed for another great day tomorrow.

We arranged to be on the water by 8:00 am the first time the MWCC left before time to head over to Metung for breakfast and refuel, on the way over Black Sheep was on the water at Paynesville and agreed to meet us at Metung.

At Metung we all had our Brunch, walk around the township, did some shopping and then headed back to our cruisers for a quick and short trip to Box`s Arm for an overnight stay. Shes Apples 2 decided to head up to Lakes Entrance and return to our overnight mooring. Black Sheep left us to head back to Paynesville for the night.

Next morning we awoke to another great day, Peter and Rhonda had to depart for Tambo Marine and then back to Melbourne. The rest of us decided to head back to Picnic Inlet for the New Years eve fireworks, I didnt see the new year in I was sleeping soundly, I tried to keep my eyes open but failed, well next year I will try again.

New Years Day was going to be hot so we stayed in Picnic Inlet and enjoyed a relaxing day in and out of the water, eating and drinking,

Black Sheep had to leave to go back to Melbourne which left just G & T and Mabel 2 for the remainder of the trip, Zero Tolerance was launching at Lakes Entrance and was to meet us at Picnic Inlet but Stuart had brake problems at Wallan on his trip down to the Lakes and was held up and running late. Stuart and family did arrive at the Lakes later that day.

The following morning weather was only fair with strong winds predicted, so Gemma, Tony and I decided to see Lake Wellington. We headed for Lake Wellington, through Lake Victoria in choppy conditions, past Loch Sport and made a detour to Blond inlet, that had to be aborted as the depth of water was declining rapidly near the entrance to the inlet, so we headed directly to the markers leading us into the McLellan Stait.

The trip down the McLellan Strait was slow at about 6 or 7 knots but we eventually arrived at Plover Point a sandy piece of land at the entrance to Lake Wellington. We rafted up together had a coffee and decided to try some fishing, some fishermen were catching nice Bream so we tried to do the same, but all we caught were nice size Carp, they would have made a nice meal if you new how to cook them. The wind had been blowing all day and making conditions uncomfortable, but as we are tough aussies we stayed the night and left in the morning to head back towards civilisation.

On the way back both G & T and Mabel 2 were getting low on fuel, we detoured over to Loch Sport to refuel only to be told that they dont have fuel on the

water, so we headed back to Paynesville to refuel. Once refuelled we ended up at Picnic Inlet for another peaceful and relaxing overnight stay.

Stuart and family in Zero Tolerance came to Picnic Inlet in the afternoon for an overnight stay, we didnt venture too far that day as we enjoy the peace and tranquillity on the water at Picnic Inlet.

Zero Tolerance had to return to Lakes Entrance today to pick up some friends so G & T and Mabel 2 were again on their own to do what ever we wanted so another day at our location could not go a stray, I listened to the cricket, Gemma and Tony read so we all destressed for the day.

After a good nights sleep it was time to do some more cruising and our destination was The Grange again as Tony and Gemma had not been there before, the water conditions had not improved on Lake King but we arrived and moored up at the Jetty waiting for Zero Tolerance to come across from Metung, after a few phone calls Zero Tolerance decided to head back to Lakes Entrance. While at the Grange we went for a walk over the dunes to the Ninety Mile beach, once on the beach, I went down to the surf to wet my feet with Tuppence beside me to see if the waves would frighten her in any way, the first one shocked her but after that it was ok. After our sightseeing trip to the Grange it was back to Picnic Inlet where else? The windy conditions had not eased on the water so we didnt make any detours.

The last day of the MWCC December Cruise at Lakes Entrance has finally come to an end, all that is to be done now is head back to Tambo Marine load Mabel 2 on its trailer and head off towards home.

I would like to thank all participants who came down to the Lakes for their company and hope they had an enjoyable time, I know I enjoyed the trip, the days not going anywhere, thats what boating is all about. The only thing I had no control over was the B*****Y wind. I hope all who came had a good time.

Some photos will be entered into the gallery when I can get hold of some.

Written by

Peter & Admiral Tuppence