



Melbourne Whittley Cruiser Club August Cruise 2012

Saturday the 18th August saw three boats front up for the club outing on Lake Eildon. Peter and Tuppence in Mabel 2 and Stuart on his own in Zero Tolerance – Annette and the boys were absent due to sporting commitments. They had both got to Bonnie Doon nice and early. We -John and Helen with Bella & Amy in Shalimar arrived about mid-day after having to work that morning.

Stuart and Peter had kindly waited for us to arrive and seemed more relaxed than stressed that we were on the later side of the morning start time, which was appreciated after our busy start to the day.

We quickly got on the water and wasting no further time all three boats took off for Jamison in the upper reaches of Lake Eildon. I know a number of us have done this run a number of times, but it is always a good opportunity to have a great cruise without having to slow for anything or anyone ... that is of course until you get right up into the Goulburn River and the pace is down to 5 knots – which is a good thing as there was a lot of timber floating about and even a bit of a log jam which required a bit of manoeuvring on Stuarts, part who led us through.

Our run down to Jamison took us just over an hour. We had a fresh southerly headwind on our way down the lake but once past the Eildon wall that abated, and with little rain the dark clouds over the mountains made the whole scene pretty amazing. As we made our way up the Goulburn a stunning rainbow made for a beautiful photo – as they are not easy to capture I was quite pleased with the snap I took.

Mooring out front of the Jamison pub, we did not stint on the nibbles... especially Peters sisters chocolate balls... went well with corn chips smoked salmon ect.... no really - it was all rather yummy!! And then there was the best Jamison Beef Burgundy Pie which we all had at the pub for dinner. Feeling very full after a tasty meal and enjoying the warmth in the pub, we all rugged up to go back to the boats – all of us except Peter who seems to be warm enough in just a jumper.

So back at the boats we decided it was best to keep warm by hopping into our respective beds with a DVD and some shut eye.

Sunday was a beautiful morning, calm with enough sun to soak up some rays. Peter was helping John sorting out some radio issues with the new VHF we had fitted in Shalimar. Stuart was torn between a run or indulging in the opportunity for more sleep, seeing us well & truly occupied with a wiring problem... but in the end he chose the active option and went for a run up a very steep hill behind the pub – and sent us a picture when he made it to the top – we did actually believe he was jogging and not enjoying another 'Beast' tippie at the pub

When Stuart got back we all made headway up to the Big River Arm where Stuart wanted to check out another potential campsite he had seen on a previous trip. That's the thing about Eildon... it has all these little bays and coves, and you just don't expect them to open up to another tributary which winds its way around another set of hills.. just goes on and on. So we had some lunch, threw in a line just for fun and then made our way round to our old haunt halfway up Eildon.

As always the water here was calm and protected and someone else had made good use of our fireplace as it was still smouldering. John and I had decided to stay an extra night and Peters plans were flexible and decided to stay the extra night as well.

So John hopped aboard Zero Tolerance with Stuart and Peter in Mable 2 followed them back to Bonnie Doon to see Stuart off. I could hear them on the radio – sounds like they were giving Zero Tolerance a bit of a speed test!! From what John said the new V8 exhibits a fair bit of grunt (make that a LOT of grunt- how does 49.7mph sound?) Sounds like low level flying to me... but then that's not unusual for Stuart!!

Due to the quick trip it wasn't long before Peter and John were back in our cove, and rustling up some firewood for the evening. It definitely is colder at Jamison as the night was mild and clear, and as we sat round the fire late into the evening we wondered what all of you were doing - we felt pretty fortunate to have a beautiful night to enjoy, water lapping at our boats not a street or houselight in sight.

After another sound sleep we woke to find Peter resurrecting the fire and whilst chatting - with dogs doing their morning sniff around, Peter suddenly yelled at Tuppence to 'get out of the water' As it was Tuppence was just behind him but Mr Fox was the culprit in the water trying to catch a duck – well Tuppence is kind of a red fox colour... but her tail could not compete with Mr Fox's – John said he just stared at us and then hightailed it into the scrub.

We broke camp about 11am and cruised out into the lake which was like glass, not a ripple. All too quickly the magic of that kind of ride was over and we were back at Bonnie Doon to retrieve the boats onto trailers readying for the home journey.

All in all, Peter travelled a total of 79.7 nautical miles or approx 147.6km. Stuart and ourselves a little less as Mabel 2 did the trip from camp to Bonnie Doon to see Stuart and Zero Tolerance safely retrieved. It was a really beaut weekend – not too cold, no rain to speak of, beautiful waterway and lots of good cruising shared with friends with grins from ear to ear... what more could you want?

Rainbow near
Jamison





Mabel 2 in Woodbridge Inlet



Stuart cruising in his 660



Setting up for the evening meal



Small inlet off Big River



Cruisers moored at the Jamison Pub



Mabel 2 & Zero Tolerance waiting for Shalimar.

**Written by Helen
who shares Shalimar with skipper John
and our furkids – Bella & Amy**