



Eildon Trip report for July 27/28th 2013

Cruisers attended the weekend were as follows :

Malone	Zero Tolerance	Whittley 660
Dickson	G & T	Whittley 700
Coombes	Merlin	Whittley 660
Fawcett	Shalimar	Whittley 660
Walters	Mabel 2	Whittley Voyager 580

The weekend started for G & T on the Thursday evening by heading to Eildon. Around midday on the Friday they had arrived and had their cruiser on the water at Bonnie Doon, and while waiting for other members to arrive, they decided to look for mooring sites for Friday night and the following nights.

I in Mabel 2 arrived around 4pm and launched, then headed off to meet G & T near Briers Inlet, it was very hard to navigate at that time of day, as the water was like a sheet of glass, overcast sky and the course I wanted to take was difficult to find as the reflection on the water made it deceptive, not being able to differentiate the water level or where to go, so the safest way was to following the snail trail on the GPS, I finally found G & T sitting on the waters edge trying to get the fire going properly which Tony succeeded in doing so.

Once rafted up together we all sat around the now great fire, it was about 7:45 pm when we decided to go back to our cruisers for the night, Gemma had gone on board earlier, I was getting on board through the hatch and Tony was walking along the gunnels with his new Primus Chair with a head rest on the chair as well, great chair, very comfortable, then we heard KAPLONK yes Tony had slipped off the gunnels falling into the water back first taking his new chair with him, Gemma was first on site and was helping him get back on board, I arrived shortly later and seeing Tony`s new chair floating on the water, with Tony now on board I got my fishing rod out and caught the chair, once retrieved the head rest was missing, it must have sunk while in the water. Tony was cold but did not hurt himself.

Saturday morning was cold and overcast, John in Merlin phoned and said he was on the water, I had a feeling I didn`t lock my car so I headed back to the Bonnie Doon public boat ramp to check, from the time I left Briers Inlet the weather was fine and no fog. About 300 metres from the ramp thick fog was evident and in the distance I saw Merlin waiting for me.

I locked my car and then headed off back to Briers Inlet with John and Joan following.

Arriving back at Briers Inlet it was time to wait for the remaining members, it wasn`t long before we received a call from Bonnie Doon saying that the two members had arrived and would head towards us.

Once all had arrived and settled in we had a discussion on what to do or go or whatever, it was decided to stay where we were and have a relaxing day. Stuart went for a run for a couple hours with his map and compass without no way of contacting him or him contacting us, but he returned safely.

On the bank was a large tree trunk which after a short time was a lot smaller and all the off cuts were then split by John C for the coming nights fire for heating and cooking.

The coals were glowing well when John C and John F brought out their camp ovens for the evening meal, one was filled with a leg of lamb and vegies and the other was a stew with lots of stuff in it, all the contents of the camp ovens were eaten, so it was well and truly tasted. Thank you to the people for cooking in their camp ovens.

Sunday morning after a sleep in and breakfast it was time to pack up and head back to the ramp at Bonnie Doon, the conditions on the water weren't great but Shalimar and Merlin made it back to the ramp all safe and headed for home.

Zero Tolerance, G & T and Mabel 2 stayed on the water and headed to Woodbridge Point for an overnight stay for Mabel 2 and G & T in a sheltered inlet.

Zero Tolerance headed back to the ramp then back home.

Another fire was started to sit around for our last night at Eildon, around 8 pm a weather front was approaching, so we put out the fire and headed off to our cruisers for the night.

During the evening a storm was moving towards our location, we were looking at the weather on our Ipads, with all the thunder, lightning strikes, rain and strong winds coming closer and closer, and when the front came, it was breath taking, the thunder must have been echoing around all the valleys as the sounds of the thunder seemed to last a lot longer than normal, after the weather front had passed it was off to sleep for the night,

Monday morning after a late start it was time to head back to Bonnie Doon boat ramp, once on shore with our cruisers on their trailers it was time to cook some hamburgers eat them and head off home.

Thank you all for a great weekend.

Written by

Peter & 1st Mate Tuppence

Mabel 2





Where is the water line???

