



Melbourne Whittley Cruiser Club Inc.

Easter pre trip to South Australia on the Murray River for the 2014 Whittley Regatta. Between Renmark and Waikerie.

Cruisers attending

Zero Tolerance	Whittley 660 Trike for arial photos	Malone Family
G & T	Whittley 700	Dickson Family
Mabel 2	Voyager 580	Walters family

G & T started the journey up to Renmark on the Wednesday afternoon and stayed at Bridgewater for the night, Mabel 2 started out early to meet G & T at Bridgewater around 8 am on Thursday morning and after a quick coffee and loading up we headed off for Renmark.

Around 8 ¼ hours later we arrived at Paringa, then on to Renmark to refuel for the trip to find some suitable boat ramps to use along the great Murray River. We headed along the Murtho Rd to finally end up at Border Cliffs River Retreat with the first of the boat ramps to inspect, not bad but a large sand bar 30 metres from the end of the ramp, so no good. Coming back along the Murtho Rd there are other boat ramps which we checked out, some looked good but alas we found faults with all of them, mostly at the end of the ramp there was a step between 300 and 500 mm lower in the sandy bottom.

Some of the ramps we visited were Lock 6, Wilkadene Cottage ramp and Heading Rd boat ramp. At around 6.30 in the evening we decided to find somewhere to stay.

We found a great Caravan Park in Paringa and a very obliging owner, both G& T and Mabel 2 were put on the grass patch for the night and in the morning other arrangements would be made when other spaces became vacant.

The next morning we asked for some information for parking around 30 cars and boat trailers and Tony the owner said not a problem behind the park is a farm and for a nominal fee you can park there. So we parked our vehicles there for the night and waited for Zero Tolerance to arrive with his Cruiser and Trike.

When they arrived Stuart and I went to the Renmark Airport to assemble the Trike and go for a look see before the light beat us.

With the Trike assembled it was up into the blue yonder looking at the Murray River from a vastly different angle, and the sights were magnificent, you can really see the way the great Murray River winds back and forth making it a very long river to navigate yet, by road its probably less than half its distance.

On Saturday morning it was all go to launch our cruisers, G & T all setup but G & T was going nowhere, starter motor problems, so it was taken back to the Caravan park and Gemma & Tony came with me for the day.

When all cruisers were in the water we headed towards Border cliffs checking out areas for sightseeing and locations we could stop at, the sights and colours of the cliff faces are beautiful in the different lights of day.

The trip upstream was good and the water was clear of snags. It was back to Renmark for an evening meal at the Pub, the meal was good all of us enjoyed it.

Stuart and I stayed at the Renmark jetty for the night and Tony and Gemma went back to their boat to fix the starter motor for the following days movements.

On the Sunday, Tony had fixed the starter motor and was on the water, well done Tony.

All together now and it was downstream towards Berri, but first we had to go through Lock 5 so about 35 minutes later we were on the other side of the Lock and our trip continued down towards Berri.

The first 3 or 4 kilometers were slow as the sand bars and shallow water inhibited our way forward but we eventually got through the shallow patch and then got onto the plane. We occasionally stopped for a photo shoot and to take in the great scenery along this great river.

By mid afternoon we had arrived at a great place to stay for the night, so it was out onto the land looking for fire wood for a fire to sit around, talk, eat and cook our meal.

Monday morning we all headed into Berri and once moored, we went for walk along the foreshore waiting for the fuel station to open for fuel.

When we were all fueled up, we all headed downstream towards Loxton, after a short distance of a couple of kilometers G & T had to turn back to trailer their cruiser and head off for home.

Zero Tolerance & Mabel 2 continued towards Loxton going through another lock, No 4. When we eventually arrived in Loxton, we tied up to the local jetty and walked around the town, had a bit of food and headed back towards the boats.

Stuart, Annette and the boys decided to investigate the museum, I had to stay outside as no dogs (Tuppence) were allowed, they were very impressed with the whole Museum site.

Once again on the water, moving towards Moorook South, Cobdogla and finally to Kingston on the Murray.

It was here that Stuart told me he had organised at the museum a bus ticket from Kingston on the Murray to Renmark to pick up our car and trailer, it was just after midnight when we returned from Renmark.

After a good nights rest it was time to unhitch Stuarts trailer, and head off to Banrock Winery, a very nice place with walks and bird lookouts.

On our return to Kingston on the Murray it was to retrieve our cruisers and head back to the Paringa Caravan park for the night.

This being my final night in South Australia, as I left early in the morning I would like to thank both G & T and Zero Tolerance for their company and all the people we met over all the areas we went, the people were most hospitable and very helpful.

This trip has helped enormously in the planning of the 2014 Easter Whittleby Regatta.

Thanks to all.

Photos of the trip are in the Gallery part of the Website / Renmark Trip

Written By

Peter Walters Captain &

Tuppence Ensign