



Eildon cruise Dec 27th to Jan 5th

MWCC people and their cruisers attending were

Cruiser Name	Peoples Names
G&T	Gemma & Tony Dickson
Mabel 2	Peter Walters
Zero tolerance	Stuart & Annette, Lochlan & Ethan Malone
Conkikki	Peter & Audrey Nicolopolous (New Member)
Peachy	Bob & Lesley Gunn all the way from SA
Expelaire	Erwin and Betty Abbinga (New Member)
Shalimar	John & Helen Fawcett

Our cruise started well with Peter Walters and Gem & Tony Dickson arriving within minutes of each other around 2pm on the 27th of Dec 2013, just when everyone else locally decided to launch and recover. Gem drove Pete's car to help him launch Mabel2, then again for G&T.

Within minutes we were off to claim our camp site, not quite understanding why the water level was so low given the official Goulburn Murray Water levels of 87.66%. We were all tired given it takes weeks of prep to be ready for our Christmas boating event and needed a good long sleep. A quick dinner and a long sleep later, we sent Tony off in the morning on a reconnaissance mission to check the area, only to find we were one small inlet off our designated camping ground. So within minutes we were moored in our inlet and set up for the second time.

Later that day the promised early start for the Malones was slowed given the trailer plug came out, tearing all the wiring in the process, requiring immediate repairs, and eventually arriving late in the afternoon.

Stuart arrived with Annette, Lochie and Ethan, as well as Annette's brother Alex and his glamorous daughter Georgia and her brother Connor.

With 2 tents and lots of organisation, they managed to keep occupied and content over the next few days. Lots of skiing, tubing and activity!

Gemma & Tony's friends Geraldine and Graeme came to visit on the 30th December for the afternoon, arriving in their very smart boat with Graeme's brother Geoff. With lots to catch up on, a few quiet drinks, nibbles and lounging around in the blow up lounges for the afternoon which disappeared very quickly. If only they had a Whittlely to stay on with us!!!!

Alex & his crew headed back New Years Eve, with Annette driving them to the train, Annette was asked to pick up a few more items to restock our supplies.

Stuart with Peter Walters, known as our "International Rescue" worked on repairs to Stuarts trailer wiring, and while at the ramp, Peter and Audrey Nicolopolous arrived, so received the MWCC welcome assistance to launch Conkikki, a Whittlely CR2380. Fifteen minutes later they fly into our camp, with Peter W, Gem & Tony help with all the dockings on shore.

Annette and the 2 boys were gone most of the day, with Stuart picking them up again late that evening but before sunset, bring a few more supplies for us all.

Peter Walters was worried as he had misplaced his wallet, hoping it was left in Stuarts car back at Bonnie Doon. So early the next day, Gem and Pete headed back to find the said wallet. Thankfully all was good, with it having fallen down the side of the seat.

Our little secret hideaway can easily accommodate the numbers of boats, given boats arriving and departing at all times. Peter & Audrey took up residence at the far end, with lots of room for the others to moor side by side bow in to shore.

Stuart and Annette regularly took the boys for a ski or tubing, behind Lewis. Every alternative day Annette and Stuart early in the morning would go running up and down the very high hills that flank the shores, so they always ended the day with lots of activity and exercise. Not us I am afraid... With lots of lazy swims, sleep ins and chats on each other's boats.

We are now really starting to see the new members on club trips, as in the next day or two we could see up to 7 or so Whittlely boats all docked together in our little sanctuary here on Lake Eildon.

The weather has been great, with the occasional wind gusts, with no rain forecast till the evening of the 1st of Jan, so with 20 plus degrees it has been bliss for swims, without being too hot or too cold!!!!

New Years eve included the first listed 4 boats, a brilliant sunset and a gentle breeze. Tony set up his speakers on the bow, so with music from the iPod and the music shuffled with different artists, we planned to have a good flow of quality music.

Only one houseboat was left across the way, so not too much noise from there either. The evening passed quite quickly, while enjoying our fireside happy hour that went so long that we missed dinner. Oh well, it was a top night, with great chill out music, a brilliant fire, and some sparklers compliments of Annette. By 12.20 we were all snug in our boats catching a few long zzzzz's.

New Years Day saw the arrival of Helen and John in their 660 called Shalimar, and knowing where we were, arrived on their own. Again with some supplies requested earlier in the week, we all keenly caught up for chats in various boats, with our regular chats about the latest upgrades and gadgets.

That day Robbie Dickson, Tony's dad, rang to warn us of incoming bad weather. As it was so warm, and we were all so deeply lost in our restful state of holiday, we hadn't realised how close the weather change was. So with a few minutes to tie everything down and seek shelter, and the return of Stuart & Annette from skiing, we were all adequately prepared. That night was definitely an indoor one, with lots of rain, and so with a video and a quiet drink in our boats, the day was coming to an end. But not so for Tuppence, who got hungry and being bored in Peter Walters boat, helped herself to an entire packet of Macadamia Nuts, and was later quite sick. By morning, she was not too good at all, and followed with lots of discussion and Googling of the event to check how bad the situation was, decided we needed something for Tups.

We headed off to Eildon to do a refuel, get rid of some rubbish, and enjoy some refreshments at the very flash Eildon Marina pub called The Aqua. Gemma got talking to the proprietor about how we could source something to help Tuppence, with Tracy very generously offering to take Gemma up to the Eildon township Chemist. From here it seemed clear after a few calls that a vet visit was required, and again with Tracey as our generous angel for the day, went back to the marina to pick up Pete and Tuppence, and we all went to Alexandra to the vets. They decided to help Tuppence expel some of her bounty, and with great shock, saw great handfuls of macadamias purged.... Warning to everyone now, that they are as poisonous to dogs as chocolate.... But at least Tuppence was now clear of this in her system, and started to regain the use of her back legs, and within no time, was keen for a feed.... Which was held off until morning, but we were all quite relieved for both Pete and Tuppence.

It was now the 3rd of January and Betty and Erwin arrived in their 2080, after much encouragement from Gem for Betty to join us. In celebration of now having 5 women on this cruise, we welcomed a "secret women's business" cocktail /tea party for later in the afternoon.

In the meantime, Stuart and Annette planned to take a few of us out for a hoot on the tube. So when the boys had finished their skiing,

Gem, Annette and Betty geared up for thrills but hopefully no spills. Gemma definitely squealed more than the others, apparently heard even at base camp. It was great fun though, and after a while, Erwin took Gem's place, and did a few more laps. The wind had picked up quite dramatically out in the open lake, so we reluctantly made our way back to camp. John and Tony used their Hobbies to help tow the boat into its mooring at the back of Zero Tolerance, given the tight turning circle, and the manoeuvring required with all 3 boats in the middle of our inlet.

So next... A quick set up for our first ever girls tea party... Ok with a few Cocktails!!! So we "glammed up", well a bit, grabbed some nibbles, a few drinks, our deck chairs and Audrey's table. Our girls party consisted of Helen Fawcett, Audrey Nicolopolous, Betty Abbinga, Annette Malone and Gemma Dickson. Well, we had a lovely time, madly chatting on for at least 2 1/2hrs.... With the wind gusts suddenly increasing though, and temperatures dropping, we reluctantly headed back to get dinner ready for our boys.

With another fabulous fire sitting, the international space station sighting to be excellent going over at 9.36pm, and lots of discussions about the space station and boats, we finished off another brilliant day in paradise!!!

Saturday 4th of January sees the last known boat arrival with Bob and Lesley, met by Peter Walters & Tony in Mabel 2. Great to see their boat running well given their motor problems 2 years ago.

Next morning with an early morning run up the mount, Stuart and Annette were full of activity again, then doing a long boat trip before lunch with Erwin & Betty to Eildon, then down to Howqua and the Jamieson Breaury where they enjoyed a snack, then back via Jerusalem Creek. They were back to camp by 6.30, only to pack up camp for 2 Nights back in Shepparton.

Our little inlet was as full as I think it would get this trip, with 7 Whittley's moored along the banks. We had a great range of young and older boats (and owners).

The day had been cold then warm, then windy at times, and finishing with a warm setting of the sun. Helen and Tony disappeared fishing on their respective Hobbie kayaks, hoping for the evening rise of trout. Given Tony had caught a trout earlier in the week, they both hoped for more, only this time for them to be keepers!!!

Gems last full day was Sunday 5th of Jan, with lots of wind, and the sad departure of Helen and John. Peter Walters, Gem, Betty and Erwin all went to help if needed and to collect items left in cars that were now needed. Well, what a boat recovery Helen!!! The wind was blowing a strong 40 Klm's per hour and Helen was getting tossed about. John backed the trailer in, and Helen made her approach, allowing the cross wind. She

aligned beautifully, tucking the boat bow neatly onto the trailer, with the wind catching her stern, and just as we feared it was about to go pear shaped, Helen gave one last burst of power, gliding into position magnificently. We all cheered and clapped together in awe, as it was really quite a remarkable recovery!

When we were all ready, we headed off in separate Cruisers, for our base camp. Erwin had some fun driving Pete's Mabel 2, back to our base camp, where we all settled down to a windy and lazy afternoon, abandoning our idea to track out for a group run.

Peter & Audrey, Erwin & Betty decided to stay for another evening, and head off on the Monday, given traffic should be a lot lighter and should be a little easier. We all had a quiet evening, and hit the bed early.

By 10am in the morning. The wind was still gusty and strong, so with Gem heading off with Erwin and Betty, and the Nicolopolous's, we braced ourselves for the journey. We started off quite slow as the wind was quite strong, with the boats seemingly surfing along the tops of each wave with the wind behind us. Once we passed beyond the main opening of the Lake though, we found the wind totally dropped off. It gusted in bursts, but not a problem for either recovery. By this time Tony's parents Rob & Thel were arriving for their annual 5 or so days cruising, replacing Gemma who headed back to a Melbourne to start work on the Wednesday.

The above script was written by Gemma Dickson (thanks Gemm)

Monday evening was as usual, a nice relaxing sit around a table with food and drinks, every body enjoying the tranquillity of the area, some of the men folk tried to catch a meal of fish, but for some reason the fish were not there, or we were using the wrong bait, or soft plastics, or hard bodied lures, as you the reader has probably realised not an eatable fish was caught.

Tuesday and Wednesdays weather was not good for cruising so it was a lazy couple of days swimming fishing doing house work on our boats and I in particular had a fault in my new gps.

Thursday was a nice day an we decided to head off to the Jamieson Brewery, this is why when I was trying to get the snail trail on my GPS which the unit failed for the directions through the winding path of the Golbourn river luckily we could use the map of Eildom. We started off with Thelma in Mabel 2 Rob and Tony in G & T and Bob and Leslie in Peachy. We all headed off for Goughs Bay then around to the start of the 5 Knots zone zig zagging along the river until we reached the Jamieson Brewery. We ordered our meals had a drink and talked for a while then after a wonderful meal it was off onto our boats and head back towards our camp, on the way back Bob and Leslie hadn't seen Goughs Bay so we all detoured to check out the sleepy hollow of Goughs Bay. Then it was back

to our camp for the final night for friday was the day to reunite our cruisers with their trailers and end another great trip away with people with a common interest.

I hope every one who attended the cruise enjoyed themselves and will come out again for the companionship with the MWCC members.

Final bits written by Peter and sickly Tuppence