



September Cruise on the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers with the Melbourne Whittley Cruiser Club.

We did it again, great weather and a great roll up. Welcome to our newbies John (aka JB) and Joy Beckman with their brand new 2600 Cruiser and Mark and Carol Nisbet in their beautiful Monterey. We started the weekend with Peter W, Tony D and Tuppence, Peter and Audrey (who were joined by Peter H at the marina later) , Mark and Carol and Peter and I set out from the Warmies. We were soon joined by Tony and Dianne as they arrived from across the bay. JB and Joy and Gary and Lee were waiting for us at the D'Alboria Marina as they had arrived on Friday from Gippsland. Much discussion took place about upgrades as we admired JB's and Joy's new 2600 Cruiser and our near new unnamed 660 Cruiser. The Whittley's sure know how to make great boats.

After lunch the seven of us set out at up the Yarra river at low tide to make our way under the many bridges with the lowest at 2.69m clearance being the Spencer St. bridge. It was amazing to see Melbourne from our boats with people enjoying the beautiful weather from Southbank all the way to the MCG where Hawthorn were playing Port Adelaide(I think). The scenery from the water was truly special as the photos show. We were reminded of the need to follow the rules of the sea with the many ferries passing us along the way. The canoeists too, were out in force to enjoy the water. The feeling throughout the afternoon was one of a vibrant and beautiful city being used calmly by its citizens. We arrived at Heron Island at about 4pm and unanimously decided to turn for home to start happy hour in the marina's clubrooms. It provided a great opportunity to meet our new members and catch up with everyone else. A great day was had with the competent leadership of Peter Walters and Tony Dixon, with Tuppence supervising.

Sunday saw us start out at about 9.30am, Peter and I headed off to Pier 35 to refuel where Gemma and Tony and Peter and Caroline H met us. Peter H joined us for the day on our 660, Tony hopped on with Peter W again and Gemma and Caroline headed home to recuperate both have caught the bug. It was very reassuring to see Gemma again to assist us with mooring and launching on arriving at the marina and launch ramps. Then our fleet of seven finally headed up the Maribyrnong river, again a day of beautiful sunshine and lots of people out and about. The Maribyrnong river was such a contrast to the Yarra as the riverbanks were flanked by lots of parkland and recreational areas including rowing clubs, Flemington racecourse and rugged, steep paddocks as well as beautiful homes, both old and new. We made good time and arrived at the Canning St Bridge.(the end bit) at around midday. We decided to moor on the banks of the park for lunch, now having only four boats left. Gary and Lee, JB and Joy had turned back earlier to watch Gary's nephew play for Footscray in the VFL grand final (which they won), and Mark and Sue turned back to meet other commitments.

As several crew members ventured away from our boats into the parkland they discovered a Customised Car Enthusiasts rally with a stunning display of beautifully restored and tricked up vehicles. This was truly a bonus and appreciated by many of the crew members who ogled these species with envy. We headed home at around 2pm with the remaining crews heading back to the Warmies and the bay, and Peter and I back to the marina for the night. JB ,Joy, Gary and Leigh had a great night celebrating with the Footscray football club on their win. The following morning we headed back to the Warmies with a rising wind to finish off the retrieval with a steady crosswind! Say no more! A great weekend with a great crowd.

Thanks everyone, a real team effort. Cobie Morris !!