



MWCC August Eildon Trip Report 2014

With fabulous clear days and thick fog on the Saturday, six boats ventured out onto Lake Eildon to enjoy the weekend cruise. No real rain, just fresh mountain air, and a Happy Hour or two!! Half the group arrived on Friday, and two boats stayed until Monday. Well done to the daring boaters, including Greg who swam not once, but I believe twice!! Having only wet my bare feet to launch, I know it was breathtaking in its icy chill!

Attendees

Greg Elks, Peter Walters, navigator Tuppence. (KAHALA)

Stuart Malone (ZERO TOLERANCE)

Tony, Gemma Dickson. (G & T)

Peter, Audrey Nicolopoulos (CONKIKI)

John, Jane, Matilda, Fletcher Archibald. (ARCHIE)

Erwin Abbinga, Daniel ? (wife #5) (ESPADAIR)

With the cruise being on the Eildon Weir, most of us were keen to get on the water nice and early. So early in fact, that Greg in Kahala was there on Friday afternoon, followed by Peter & Audrey in Conkiki around 3.30 pm, followed by Erwin & Danny in Espadair 15 minutes later.

Espadair & Conkiki headed off to our little hideaway shortly after, as Kahala waited for Peter W to arrive... a little later (in fact much much later). As we motored down in ideal conditions (dead flat), we came across Archie who was just floating around. The 3 of us then went to our spot for the night.

Getting our priorities in order, the first thing to do was get the fire going and partake in happy hour, followed by dinner. After dinner it was time to warm up again around the fire pit. It was pitch black when we saw a light come around the point. It was Kahala coming in from an hours journey in total darkness and a little fog. Peter W jumped off the boat and virtually hugged the roaring fire, as he was frozen from having to help navigate out of the front hatch all the way down.

Once they had recovered we settled down for the evening telling jokes and a little bit of drinking.

Saturday morning we woke to a foggy morning that was as thick as pea soup. Tony & Gemma

had arrived very late on Friday and decided to sleep on dry land at Bonnie Doon, and motored down in the fog. GPS was required, and very difficult given total block out in the fog... not nice!

A little later Stuart arrived, and every one decided it was time to give the engines a run and clear out any remaining cob webs. Poor Peter W had to rely on Greg and Kahala, and wasn't able to use his Mabel2, as she was in for major surgery once again as she had another heart scare. Hopefully she will be up and running soon with her new motor.

Every one(except for Conkiki) took off for Jamieson for the afternoon which resulted in an overnight stay and returning the next day. Peter & Audrey spent the rest of the day all alone to enjoy the serenity.

The overnight cruise took the next 2 hours to meander down for a beer at the Jamison Pub. Remembering the trail towards the pub was a trick, but we eventually made it. Along the way we stopped for photos with the snow capped mountains in the distance, which was a bit of fun. Not many boats around except for the odd house boat and fishing boat. But all in all, we were pretty much the only boats out cruising.

We pulled in for the night across from the pub, making a terrific fire to enjoy happy hour. Everyone enjoyed a drink and a chat, including Fletcher who really did enjoy his Ginger Beer!! There was rain brewing across the mountains towards Albury on Sunday morning which miraculously hovered there until Monday when the last two boats, G&T and Conkiki, pulled out round 11am.

Sunday morning saw the main group return to our spot, Greg & Peter W, John & Jane opted to keep going to Bonnie Doon to visit family and then put boat to trailer. A little after lunch Erwin then much later Stuart decided to head off.

G & T and Conkiki, being the hardened campers and the most adventurous, decided to await the change of weather and the forecast heavy rain, which didn't come with another pleasant evening around the camp fire. We retired relatively early (8.30pm) and snuggled up in our boats to watch some movies and read some books.

Monday morning and still no rain, common sense finally prevailed and we headed for Bonnie Doon to dry land.(Amazing such a large body of water and still no other boats around) Retrieving was uneventful even though we had a bit of a breeze as we headed off to Yea for lunch and the end of another enjoyable weekend on our Whittleys.

Come join us in September when we explore the Yarra & Maribyrnong Rivers. (It looks so different from the water looking out)

PS Erwin caught a whoppa Carp, but no photos allowed. Well done to remove him from the lake!!