



MWCC May Cruise 24th 25th Nagambie Lake

Boating never ceases to amaze me with how a caravan can go on water, and take you to the most spectacular of places, so close to the city and yet so far from the crowds.

Tony and I had not been to the Nagambie cruise before, so enthused from the Regatta hype in SA at Easter, we were going to move whatever might stand in our way of making it on this trip.

We finished work on Friday, and had a few jobs to get done before we could leave Melbourne, and after the heavy rains of the morning, we were pleased to see calmer weather conditions prevailing. We were up at 5.15am and on the road by 7am, filling with petrol as close to our destination as we could, arriving to launch at 9am.

We were very jealous as quite a few had made it the night before, including

- John & Helen in Shalimar
- Peter Walters in Mabel2
- Gary & Lee Honeychurch in TBA,
- newer members John & Jane Archibald on their recently purchased 2600 (no name yet...pressure is on...what will it be??)
- Our leaders for the Cruise - John & Joan Coombes on Merlin,
- Jay & son Glenn on Serenity, and
- Mike & Monica on Impulse

I believe they had a gorgeous night without us!!!

Saturday saw the remainder arrive pretty much on time with

- Gem & Tony on G & T (us)
- Darrell and Shirley on their new 2180
- Peter & Coby on their Impala 530
- And late arrival close to sunset being Vince on his trusty 6.6m Cruiser called "Its Magic"

Saturday was a beautiful day, full of promise for adventure, and we weren't disappointed.

John Coombs knows this part of the world like the back of his hand, and we set off for a good viewing of Kirwins Bridge, then back down towards Tahbilk Winery for a good old tasting, meander of the winery and some lunch.

What staggered me, was the absolute peace and tranquility of the area, something we as a club are careful to observe, and the depth of the supposedly narrow river. We were at times able to get up on the plane, observe majestic properties of the Black Cavier ilk, and the occasional horse!! One property was for sale, noted as being on the market at 7 Million. We checked the coffers, and the club just could raise the funds to cover it. So maybe another day!!!

As lunch came to an end around 3pm, Peter Walters and Joan went to meet and escort Vince on Its Magic to our night camp, chosen as a quite spot a good cruise down from the Tahbilk winery.

We had a beautiful evening by the campfire, and enjoyed the unseasonal warm ambient temperatures being quite reasonably around 10 degrees overnight, and reaching 20 degrees during the day.

In the morning we had to farewell Helen and John, given Helen had succumbed to a dose of the flu, following the flu jab.... And Peter Walters to help them and Vince to recover their boats. Hope you are feeling better soon Helen.

We had a leisurely morning of fishing and chatting until our Skippers meeting at 10.15am, with a departure for the Mitchelton Winery. We all enjoyed the tour, tastings and coffees only to check on John Coombs fishing jousts with sizable Cod, heading off for the completion of our weekends cruise.

Nagambie Lakes although not enormous, offers huge scope for a great break from the real world, with true bush settings, great winding rivers, cockatoos, kangaroos, and fish!!! Who could want for more!

And only a few of us nudged into the odd tree trunk below the water levels, and only one or two issues of prop damage. Well done all and a huge thank you to John and Joan Coombs.

Gemma Dickson

Commodore MWCC