

# MWCC TRIP REPORT

MALLACOOTA - DEC/2015 JAN/2016

## ATTENDEES

ConKiki	Peter& Audrey Nicolopoulos
Leeway	Wayne & Lee-anne Carpenter
Seaya	Craig & Alana Wighton Cody,Talia,Zac.
Luvboat	Barry & Denise Shears
Surreal	Brad & Karen Jones
Serenity	Tony & Diane Marshall
Peachy	Bob & Leslie Gunn

The weather could not have been better when ConKiki was hitched onto the Jeep and made our way on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December and reached our destination about 5.30 pm. A decision was made to defer launching until the next morning, so we settled in the back yard of Cols' house and spent the night.

Morning came and we launched our 2380 by ourselves, gladly event free until a bystander offered to help (never accept help from inept bystanders, even if they look competent).

Thursday was spent at Cemetery Bight totally by ourselves with no other boats at all. It felt very much like Robinson Crusoe and his woman Friday. Audrey felt it was too hot and went for a swim and even ducked under the water and got her head wet. WHOOOOAAAAH you read right, she got her head wet.

Friday, Christmas morning and we were woken by a boat and skier wearing a Santa hat. No more boats for the rest of the day. (Paradise) Saturday saw a few boats mooring at the jetty and some beaching on the sand, the bbq got a working out, and the Goannas were happy. Up until now the fishing was average, we caught some flatties and threw them back as we had plenty of meat in the fridge.

Sunday morning we made our way to Mallacoota to meet up with Leeway and Seaya. Hot showers washing machines and some retail therapy for Audrey were a must. The evening saw us raft up with Leeway and SeaYa, tied up behind us at the main jetty, as the wind was a bit blowy and the bottom lake was a bit choppy. This suited the girls as they were looking forward to hot showers in the morning. As the evening progressed and the kids from Seaya were tucked into bed the colourful characters from the caravan park came out like zombies do at nightfall, and were happily sucking something smelly from their bongos, right beside their boat. Alana was not impressed.

After showers and breakfast, 3 boats made their way towards Cape Horn as it was agreed that the bottom lake would be uncomfortable for sleeping. A pleasurable cruise on the plane did not do any harm to recharging batteries, but alas there were speed boats on the jetty at the Horn. A hasty retreat and we moored at Genoa River jetty for lunch and a swim. It was warm, it was sunny and it was calm.

Later in the afternoon, Leeway was sent ahead to see if the Horn was empty, and radioed to come along to tie up, which we did and a balmy night was to come. Fishing was proving to be a tough task as for some reason the flatties were on strike and not hungry.

Monday evening 4.15pm and a medical emergency has come to light. A quick phone call (yes we had reception at Cape Horn) to the chemist, and yes we are open till 5.00pm. What shall we do? Time 4.25pm and a decision was made to rush to the chemist, a 40 minute run to Mallacoota by boat. Craig (Seaya) and Leeanne (Leeway) jumped onto Seaya and made the dash to town. Did you know that on a smooth surface a CR2600 can reach 86 km's per hour? Leeanne was impressed, Craig was rapt and they made it with 1 minute to spare. The chemist was shocked at how fast they made it. Crisis averted. (It is important to note that no animals were hurt in this emergency. Don't know about any fish).

Tuesday morning and we wanted to move to a nice swimming beach. Cemetery Bight, here we come! The beach was like glass, dead smooth and the cruise leader was complimented on his choice of location. The kids loved the beach.

Fishing was still slow.

Wayne discovered that his freezer wasn't freezing (could it be broken?). Nope just a flat battery, switched to house battery and a quick run to town and back and all was well.

Fishing was still a bit slow.

Wednesday afternoon Seaya left with Wayne and Leeanne aboard and went for hot showers and shopping, and to meet with Luvboat who were arriving that afternoon. ConKiki stayed behind and boat sat Leeway. Wednesday night the children of Seaya put on a cabaret for us as a preview to New Year's Eve celebrations. We all had a ball.

Fishing was still a bit slow.



Thursday morning Seaya and Luvboat went back to Mallacoota for showers and fresh water and ice. Leeway and ConKiki made their way to Cape Horn, and stopped mid-way in the Narrows at a very shallow Jetty and enjoyed lunch and some fishing. And once again Audrey put us to shame by catching a nice flattie. Seaya and Luvboat found us and we pulled into Genoa River Jetty so they could have lunch, and a refreshing swim. Late afternoon we made our way to the Horn and prepared for the New Year. Party lights were hung, glow sticks were distributed, and the Wighton performing trio prepared for the floor show. Some paid the admittance fee (one green leaf) while the ConKiki crew decided to sneak in and sat at the back stalls. Talia did her hula dance, Cody did his magic act and Zac did his shark and bear impressions.



Later in the evening Wayne noticed a Huntsman spider on his wine bottle and pointed it out to the ladies. I have never seen people disappear to their boats as quick before. Party over!!

Friday saw the departure of Seaya and Leeway as Craig wanted to explore Lakes Entrance and Wayne was happy to show him the good spots. Luvboat went the other direction and went up past Gypsy point to explore and try some fishing.

Fishing was still a bit slow.

Saturday, ConKiki and Luvboat made off to Mallacoota for freshwater, supplies and washing clothes, and more importantly, GELATI ICECREAM. Yum. Oh to meet up with other Whittles.

Surreal was already on the water the previous day and stayed with friends in the caravan park and met up with us in the afternoon after a trip to Gypsy Point with friends. Serenity was on her way from Melbourne and her ETA was about 6.00 pm. Luvboat and Surreal were sent ahead to Cemetery Bight and the plan was for ConKiki and Serenity to join up later. Not all plans go the way you hope. By the time Serenity arrived and launched and filled the car with diesel and parked in the back yard and got back to the wharf, it was 7.30 pm. The phone rang, it was Col ringing to say that the passenger window was left open. Back we went to close it (damn electric windows). It was getting late and we decided to sleep over at Mallacoota. Not everything goes to plan and 12.00 noon came and we were still at Mallacoota.

Meat pies sounded good from the bakery, and 8 Vanilla slices for afternoon tea (they only had 3 left so some Apple Turnovers and Carrot cakes made up the numbers).

Peachy rang to say they were at Bairnsdale and would do some shopping there and continue their trip from Adelaide the next morning.

We finally headed back to Cemetery Bight to join up with Surreal and Luvboat, by this time the weather was changing and light showers were developing. The perfect weather for a BBQ. The fire pit was alight and out came the meat.

Luvboat had a butterflied lamb (big enough for an army) Serenity had chicken drumsticks in their Cob oven, and Surreal had steaks in alfoil trays. At the halfway mark the rain got serious. The lamb was ready, the steak was a casserole, and the cob was carried to the boat and placed on the jetty next to the boat. Audrey (ConKiki) was not getting wet, she cooked in the boat and stayed dry (smart woman). Pork spare ribs and vegies, yum.

The rain just got heavier and heavier and heavier.

Fishing was still a bit slow.

Monday morning and Luvboat was now the wetboat, as she had a leak in the cabin on the starboard side and everything was wet. They decided it was time to make tracks and head home as the forecast was for rain for a few days. Surreal also decided to depart as they had booked accommodation on the lakes and meeting family.

So then there were two, in the rain. It did not want to stop. At least it was dead calm.

Peachy rang and said they were at Mallacoota, it was a bit windy at the wharf and a bit of low tide. It was late and would launch in the morning

Books were read, Nanna naps were had.

Fishing was still a bit slow.

Tuesday morning and Peachy rang to say they slept in and missed the high tide, and might wait till the afternoon for the next high tide. Gypsy point was mentioned, it's calmer and not subjected to the tide as much. That's a plan.

We got a phone call from Peachy to say they were on the water at Gypsy Point, and on their way, at last. Two and a half hours later they finally arrived and said visibility was about 10 metres due to the heavy rain. No sooner had they arrived and the rain backed off, and coffee and tea was enjoyed at the picnic tables.

We made our way back to the boats only to discover that Peachys carpets were all wet, very wet. Upon inspection Bob discovered that the carpet was wet all the way to the cabin. Something was really wrong. Being an old boat there was no auto bilge pump, so we turned it on. And no they had not forgotten the bung plug, as the boat had no bung holes.



Ten minutes later and she was still pumping out lots of water, this was not good. Time to decide what to do. Simple, pack up and head back to Gypsy Point. Bob was comfortable to cruise at about 7 knots, minimal intake of water and little use of the bilge pump.

We arrived at Gypsy Point and all hands on deck, peachy was on her trailer in no time. We checked underneath and determined that she had hit something in a previous cruise.

That evening we stayed at Gypsy Point and had a BBQ on ConKiki and consumed some nice wines and celebrated the salvage efforts that had taken place. Bob and Leslie decided that their East Coast adventure had to come to a close, and would return to South Australia the next day.

A long way to come for a cup of coffee.

ConKiki and Serenity were going to be left alone again, in the rain. So it was decided to pull out on Wednesday morning, park the boats in Col's back yard and go for a drive up the coast to Eden for lunch. Fresh oysters' fish and chips. YUUUUUUUUUMMMMM.

That evening was spent in our boats, on land in a back yard, and the weather was beginning to clear.

Fishing was still a bit slow.

The authors of this trip report were the crew of ConKiki.

We hope everyone had a good time at Mallacoota and all our members had a Merry Christmas and a great New Year wherever they might have been.

We also offer a huge thank you to Talia & Cody for their trip reports. Awesome, and Happy New Year to you both!

On Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> we all got up  
out of our beds at 8.00 in the morning.  
My family got in the car with our  
boat on the trailer. We stopped at  
a park to play and we had  
lunch. Finally we arrived and moved  
our boat on the dock with the rest  
of the Whittleby Club!!! 😊

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