

Martha's Cove Port Phillip Bay - Melbourne Cup -4 day week end Cruise report Nov 2015

The Cruise was advertised as a "Come for a day or stay for a week" – Cater for everyone's tastes and commitments. So we had commitment from 16 crews that all wished to join in on some of the week end activities. I would like to thank you all for your enthusiasm to cruise with the club on a predicted windy and cool week end.

Not every crew made it to the water due to illness, other commitments and weather and those that did get to Martha's Cove I hope they enjoyed the week end activities as they were not all about boating.

Crews:

Lucky Us – Gary, Lee & Ruby Honeychurch
Surreal – Brad & Karen Jones
Impulse – Mike & Monica Jones
Conkiki – Pete & Audrey Nicolopoulos
Kahala – Greg & Colleen Elks
Serenity – Jay & Leanne Davis
Mabel 2 – Pete & Tuppence Walters
Serenity Too – Tony & Dianne Marshall
SeaYa – Craig, Alana, Cody, Talia & Zac Wighton
Full of Beans – Nigel & Anne Cousins
Why Knot – Paul & Marielle Van Pampus
G&T – Tony & Gemma Dickson (no boat!!)
Le Cruise – Tony & Shirlene LeCluse (No boat)
Bay Cruiser – Rod, Brenda Lorden & Sons

Black Sheep & Zero Tolerance didn't get to Martha's Cove cruise due to other commitments and Gemma & Tony, Shirlene and Tony enjoyed the land activities as due to weather and motor issues they did not put their boats in the water.

Seven boats were in the Marina on Friday night, and after happy hour on the jetty and dinner on the boats all crews made their way to the sheltered foyer of the Marina Café where we consulted the



Figure 1 -Martha's Cove Marin, Saturday morning with a storm about to hit.

BOM website "Meteye" for wind and rain, and discussed options for the Saturday Cruise.

A decision to cruise down the south channel to "South Channel Fort" then on to Queenscliff for lunch was agreed by all, dependant on the weather in the morning.

Saturday morning around 6:00am and the clap of thunder shook Mike's cuppa from his hand. There was not a lot of rain, but enough for us all to check for leaks while rechecking the forecast.

After breakfast the rain had stopped, Gemma & Tony, Nigel & Anne in "Full of Beans" arrived, the wind was light, so seven boats headed out into the

Bay. Conkiki remained at Martha's cove for a relaxing day and to welcome all other crews as they arrived.

Heading down the south Channel in relatively calm water for Port Phillip Bay and no rain. We all moored to the jetty at South Channel Fort and did a quick walk around the old fort to find a couple of penguins and thousands of noisy birds amongst the disused amourments of the world war one man made defence for the Bay.



Figure 2 - Nigel & Ann Cousins Explore the bunkers on South Channel Fort

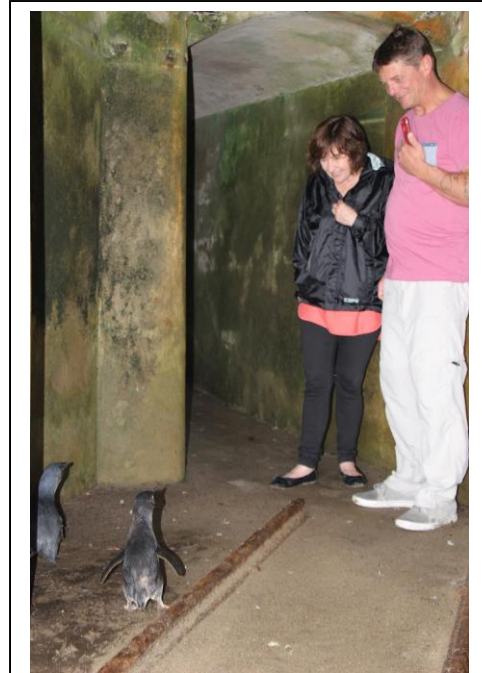


Figure 3 -Greg & Colleen Elks had a meet and Greet with a couple of South Channel Fort residents

After a quick look around we safely got all seven boats off the South Channel Fort Jetty and continued down the south channel towards Sorrento. At that point we expected to see the two Ferries crossing between Sorrento and Queenscliff but we were all taken by surprise to see a Black Submarine entering the bay!



Figure 5 - Even the Ferries diverted to allow the Submarine clear passage.



Figure 4- Sernity, Full of Beans and Kahala take a closer look.

We all re-grouped after the excitement of seeing a Submarine and made our way into Queenscliff for lunch. Fish & Chips was the order of the day, which we enjoyed in the breaks of sun outside the restaurant. The call of shops was way too strong and boating was put on hold while all shops were perused and some purchases made.



Figure 7 - Queenscliff Public Moorings



Figure 6 - Where was that bad weather - Lunch in the sun

Well the wind did come up and the trip home was a bit bouncy. I was very appreciative of Greg & Colleen rounding up “Lucky Us” and the big 2800 “Kahala” cut a swath through the chop. All we had to do was sit close to her wake for a smooth ride back to Martha’s Cove.

We all arrived back safe and well to Martha’s Cove to find Craig, Alana, Cody, Talia & Zac Wighton on Sea-Ya and Tony & Dianne Marshall on Serenity Too, enjoying happy hour on the floating pontoon jetty with Peter & Audrey Nicolopoulos.



Figure 8- Queenscliff - Nigel, Greg, Gary & Jay. Could you really trust any of these dodgy look crew?



Figure 9- Happy Hour Martha's Cove

Dinner cooked and the wind had dropped off but still a little cool for the end of October, we were lucky to be able to all congregate in the café blind veranda of the Marina café for a discussion on our options for Sunday’s activities. The weather forecast was for winds up to 20 knots. It looked like a day for touring the attractions of the Mornington Peninsula. A tentative plan was developed and we would wait and see exactly what the morning would bring.

So with the heater going and some lighting, we settled in with more nibbles, a few drinks the song books and our best singing voices to belt out a few classics to let the rest of marina and the residents know the Melbourne Whittleby Club were doing what they do best when they are on a cruise week end and that is to have a fun time. We didn’t sing for too long so no complaints there, maybe a little off key but we didn’t really care as we were not auditioning for The Voice!



Sunday Morning was warm, sunny and in the Marina very calm, which only added to the confusion of whether to change our plans. Common sense and experience prevailed and Jay Davis took Serenity out for a look at the conditions in the Bay, to find it was too rough so about a dozen of the crew set off on a land based adventure exploring the Peninsula. We loaded up 5 vehicles and headed to a glass blowing art gallery.

The second stop was for a pizza and wine tasting lunch at T'Galent winery. Then we made our way to a tourist vista point for the view from Arthurs Seat looking back over Martha's Cove before a final stop for some live music and a coffee at the "Pig and Whistle".

Then we headed back to the boats for dinner.



Monday saw a couple of crews have to head home and Paul & Marielle Van Pampus in Why Knot, got the chance to join the rest of the crews as we all attempted some fishing just out the entrance of the Marina. It was a little lumpy but most crews dangled a line but with little success. We all felt we had as much chance of catching the big one back in the Marina, and some tried for a bit of a laugh as the remaining crews settled in for final night and enjoyed a wine, some nibbles and a chat on Serenity.



Figure 11- Arthurs Seat



Figure 10 - Happy Hour Monday afternoon

On the Tuesday as most crews decided it was time to make a mile and head home to clean the boat, the locals in Paul and Marielle returned for another opportunity to be out in their boat, but they do only live 15 minutes from Martha's Cove. Then to all our surprise as we were lining up to retrieve about 6 boats, Rod & Brenda Lorden arrived and launched their boat, appropriately named, "Bay Cruiser". Great to see Rod & Brenda picked the best day of the Melbourne cup week end to go cruising.



Figure 13- Monday night all enjoying the Serenity!!



Figure 12 - Rod & Brenda Lorden and family, just to prove this boat does exist!!

Thank you to all the crews who, with or without boats, were enthusiastic to have a lot of fun together on another Melbourne Whittley Cruiser Club Event.

See you all next time!