

MWCC CRUISE REPORT

The September cruise around Melbourne Rivers.

Attendees.

ConKiki	Peter & Audrey Nicolopoulos
Lucky Us	Gary & Lee Honeychurch
JB2	John & Joy Beckman
Serenity	Jay & Leeane Davis
Serenity Toooo	Tony & Diane Marshall
Black Betty	Erwin & Betty Abbinga
Black Sheep	Peter & Caroline Holyoake
Kahala	Greg & Colleen Elks
Sea-Ya	Craig & Alana Wighton with Cody, Talia, Zac
Peachy	Robert & Leslie Dunn
Mable 2	Peter Walters & Admiral Tuppence
LuLu	Renato & Domenica Greco

What an attendance. !!! As you can see we had a fantastic turn out with 12x boats!

The weekend was to start on Saturday morning, however everyone wanted an early start, and all boats were on the water on Friday.

Black sheep cheated and put in at Pier 35, Black Betty came from Sandringham.

LuLu, Serenity put in at St Kilda Marina, and all the others put in at the Warmies. Serenity had overheating problems and was unable to leave St Kilda until Saturday afternoon after some quick repairs.

With 11x boats tied up at Melbourne City Marina, much time was spent looking over the new members boats, and looking new boats of old members! Some then cooked on their boats and some dined out in the local restaurants and some cooked in the marina's kitchens. Eventually we all made our way up to the spectacular rooms and view, and continue our happy hour celebrations, where Gemma and Tony joined us, given their boat was still awaiting its new engine. WOW, how good were those rooms??!! We finally called it goodnight about 10.30pm as we planned an early start on Saturday morning up the Yarra.

Saturday morning saw a hive of activity as everyone went to the rooms for showers to get ready to leave by 9.00 am.

Eight boats were prepared to go upstream as Lucky us, JB2 were going to see the Bulldogs play against the Crows, Black Sheep decided that the TV antenna was too tall and might come to grief under the Spencer St Bridge as he has had some very close calls going under bridges. Black Sheeps' crew stayed true to their colour and hitched a ride with Black Betty. G&T were planning to join us after lunch, and jump on board a boat for the return journey.

Approximately 9.30am saw us depart the marina and make our way up the Yarra towards the dreaded Spencer St Bridge. All that fretting was put to rest as we all cleared it with room to spare. Keeping to the speed limit and dodging all the rowers that were on the water, we made our way through the city sights and pulled over at Kings Domain landing, opposite Rod Laver Arena for morning tea and coffee.

The plan was to wait for our illustrious leader (Gemma) to join us there, but after a look at the weather report, rain was imminent! It was decided that to go up the river would mean travelling in the rain and the return trip would see us mooring up again and waiting for the tide to drop and returning to the marina about 6.00 pm. A decision had to be made !!!! Oh what a dilemma, what the heck let's turn back, making it back to the marina by 1.30pm.

I have never seen such an exodus from the marina as most of the girls took off to HARBOUR TOWN CITY to do some retail therapy.

I think the boys were stogged by the girls and we fell for it. Gemma had arrived and went with them, and I am still waiting for the rain that failed to arrive as the sunshine got stronger and warmer.

Happy hour never really happened as some were still shopping, and some went out for dinner. We all ended up in the rooms and watched the Doggies lose, and most enjoyed a quiet drink.

Sunday morning again was an early start as we decided on breakfast and not Brunch.

Gemma was there with all the breakky food about 7.45am and the boys got stuck into cooking the bacon and eggs, the girls looked after the hash browns, tomatoes and all the toast.

Where were the sausages? We were promised sausages!!!

“Gemma where are the sausages?”

“I can’t believe it, shyster.....the sausages are at home in my fridge!!!”

Thank god she did as we had so much food left over, we could have fed another 20x people.

We welcomed Peter Dunn (boat handling trainer and Coast Guard), and members Stuart Malone with Tony & Shirlene La Cluse who own a new 2600, and finally Wilco & Marisca and kids (potential Cr660 buyers) were guests for breakky.

After we had devoured our sumptuous servings of bacon, eggs, hash browns, tomatoes and toast, we made our way down to our boats and made ready for the trip up the Maribyrnong River.

We all departed the marina together and made way to the mouth of the river as we said goodbye to Sea-ya and LuLu, who had to retrieve early due to other commitments.

For those that are yet to enjoy this cruise, the scenery is spectacular with unique views of Flemington Racecourse, Mosques, parklands and hills. One could even image being in the country as we neared our destination, with almost no houses or factories in sight. We were also pleasantly surprised by the absence of rowers and had an uneventful run to Canning St Bridge, the end of the line for our power boats.

Lunch was enjoyed as well as coffee and ice cream for some.

Who was that I saw on the back of Serenity? Mike Jones! When did he sneak on board? It’s amazing what some people will do for a free boat ride! Monica was waiting at Canning St having arrived by car, and she joined Mike for a lie down on the soft grass.

Unfortunately all good things come to an end though, and as we made our way down river, we said our goodbyes as we went in different directions to put boats on trailers and head home. Our goodbyes took forever as we all wanted to express our gratitude for such a wonderful time spent together!

ConKiki and Serenity Toooo turned to port and went back to the marina for an extra night...

Lucky Us had passengers on board that wanted to be dropped off at Southbank, and have since told me a tale that I find hard to believe. Black Sheep went to the rescue of a broken down Tinny and towed them back to the Warmies.

What were you thinking Peter? You might have scratched your new 2600?!!
Bold move Pete, and of course the right one.

Dare I say “Black Sheep had a little lamb” (courtesy of Gary Honeychurch).

Finally Neville and Marianne Whittley were spotted at the warmies doing a wet test in a 2180.... so we all helped to launch and retrieve and have a chat!

This report was compiled with the assistance of many contributors with lots of useless information.

Useless Fact

It is estimated that at any one time about 0.07% of the world’s population, is a bit more than tipsy.

Have fun with your boats and stay safe on the water.

Peter & Audrey Nicolopoulos

ConKiki.