

MWCC Easter – 3-6 April 2015 Cruise Trip Report

Attendees –

- Leader of Cruise – Gary & Lee Honeychurch, 2380, **Lucky Us**
- Erwin Abbinga & mates – 2380 – **Black Betty**
- Mike & Monica Jones – Cruisemaster 700 - **Impulse**
- Gemma & Tony Dickson – Cruisemaster 700 – **G&T**
- Stuart & Annette, Lochlan & Ethan Malone – 660 – **Zero Tolerance**
- Tony & Dianne Marshall – 2380 – **Serenity**
- Tony & Shirlene LeCruise – 2600 – **LeCruise** (unofficial name)

Easter starts early for some, and so Erwin and his brother Peter along with Mike & Monica Jones arrived on Wednesday. Good chill out sessions were enjoyed, given the weather on Thursday was pretty bad. Unfortunately family commitments cut Erwin's cruise short, but Mike and Monica were able to stay on for the official Easter cruise.

Many of us were able to be moored and ready by 10am, but others travelled further and with less time to prepare, were ready and able later in the afternoon. The weather was quite lovely, with mild conditions and a very slight breeze, so there was not great rush to do anything other than chill out.

Our very first gathering was really for dinner, with Gary and Lee having pre-ordered a dinner of fish and chips, a potato cake, dim sim and minimum chip packs for everyone. They took Mike and Monica for a drive, and picked up the chips on the way back to Martha Cove Harbour. The sun had set, and with a definite chill in the air, we gathered our plates and forks, something to drink, and headed up to use the tables at the café (It was shut by late afternoon). It was a great chance to chat about what we had been up to, and any news of note, and tuck in to a fabulous meal.

Keen to have a big day boating, most of us had an early night and headed off to the comforts of our boats. There was no forecast for rain overnight, but we did expect some dew. We woke to some early departures of keen fishermen leaving the marina, but they were so quiet, you really only heard them as they motored out of the marina.

Saturday was the first of the month, being Red Hill Market day, so Tony & Gemma, Lee and Tony & Shirlene headed off to meander the stalls early. We were very glad we arrived for 8am market opening as the cars were already filling the car park up. We all bought something, including a garden feature for Gem & Tony, which meant Tony Le Cruse was in the back row seat for the ride home. Thank you for that Tony!!! As we left the market at 10.30am, the cars were queued for at least 4km's out of town, trying to get to the market. Great to be leaving not arriving!!!

We were all keen for a major outing across the Bat, so once we returned from the market, we all headed off. Gary led, heading along the coast, and then down the channel and into Queenscliff Harbour. They were expecting us, and directed each of us to a mooring. While

waiting, some of us got a bit of a surprise when a big orange Pilot boat came scooting into the marina at a pace that required all of us to rethink our positions and clear the area. The Pilot boats and their skippers are amazing how effortlessly they come and go without issue... but when it arrived, we did get a bit of a surprise. Thankfully we all moored with ease given the assistance of the marina staff, and we headed off for lunch.

The Queenscliff marina is pretty easy to enjoy. You can choose from full of restaurants right down to fish and chips, plus organise an outing diving, or buy clothing or décor for your home. We ended up eating a fabulous pizza which was very posh, and a juice. At \$10/hr mooring, we were watching the clock, and so after a lovely coffee, headed off. The breeze had picked up a little, and being tightly packed into the marina, took great care to exit without incident.

In single file, we made our way out into the Bay, along the channel towards Sorrento, and then hugged the coastline. It had been a beautiful day, and although not late, was heading towards Happy Hour. We all moored and gathered our chairs and nibbles and chatted happily until we were all moved to cook some dinner. Tony and I had a butterfly lamb which we roasted, and then had drinks with Monica and Mike in their boat.

Gary & Lee headed off to watch their nephew Mitch Honeychurch play with the Bulldogs, defeating the West Coast Eagles, then making it back by 1am-ish. Amazing effort guys, and congrats to Mitch!

Easter Sunday was not only Bunny delivery day for some Easter eggs, but the end of daylight savings. So adjusting our clocks, we were up in time to check out all the Eggs delivered to the front and read of our boats. How exciting.... This is nearly as good as Santa! Rumours have it the bunny was called Bunnychurch!!

This morning was a full cafe breakfast for many of us, and for those cooking for themselves, a cup of coffee at the café which is a rare cruise indulgence, given we are usually more remote. Again the weather was fine and although the sky looked a little grey, the forecast promised nothing major, which was confirmed by the weather bureau.

Tony Marshall had trouble starting his boat, but once going, he and Stuart caught us up midway across the Bay towards Portarlington. We stopped and waited, watching one or two grey clouds as they rained further to the North. A few good photo opportunities, thinking we could be almost halfway across, until google maps confirmed only 1/3 of the way there!! So Stuart showed us what speed his new Mercruiser engine does, zooming off towards our destination.

Somewhere along the way, we saw dolphins briefly but they didn't stay around for long, so no great photos of them this time. Stuart as always, expertly led us towards the Portarlington marina, negotiating various markers and shallow waters. We rafted up and enjoyed a leisurely lunch. Mike and Gary both had their dingy's with them and once pumped up withoutboard motors attached, they meandered around the marina to check out the facilities. Very energetic I thought, only to then sight Gary in full wet suit and goggles to test his life jacket pull cord!!! Well it worked, and what a hoot watching him in the cool 16

degree waters!! Well done again Gary! If only I had a photo of that for you!! Maybe he might upload one onto the website for us.

Well, all good things come to an end, and so did our lunch break, with slightly stronger winds and more dark clouds, as well as a sun that would set earlier given the end to daylight savings. We scooted off as close to shore as we could to avoid the expected rougher waters of the Bay, which was also the longest route home, but it was a lot of fun. Tony Dickson pointed out the [J-class submarine HMAS J3](#) which was [scuttled](#) off the north-east point of Swan Island in 1924, well known as a good dive wreck. Gary then took us passed Queenscliff, the Queenscliff-Sorrento ferry, and down towards the old Army Barracks and Quarantine Station near the Heads, then passed Portsea and Sorrento. As we pulled into Martha Cove Marina, a spectacular sun was setting behind us.

Sunday night saw another party, with Gary pulling out his song books and guitar. We happily sang along till there were no songs unsung from his book!!! Having enjoyed lots of chats, and a glass or two of wine, can confirm it was a fantastic night. It was so successful, Monica and Gemma were still singing back in their boats that night and again in the morning!!!

Easter was coming to an end though, and with a great weekend already had, many of us just enjoyed chats, coffees, and a walk around the Mt Martha area. One by one we all left, while Gary and Lee soldiered on partying. They took family on a cruise to Mornington where they enjoyed a feast of fish and chips for lunch, pulling their boat out by 4pm. By all reports it was sunny and calm waters and a very enjoyable afternoon.

Thank you to Gary and Lee for a fabulous cruise, and to all those able to make it. Martha Cove is increasingly being enjoyed by the club, as a spacious venue to gather and base our adventures from.