

Sydney Harbour Trip Report (28 Dec 2016 to 4 Jan 2017)



Pictures drawn by Talia Wighton.

Attendees: Sea-Ya : Craig, Alanna, Cody, Talia and Zac Wighton

Sienna Belle : Mario and Filomena Greco

Just Kruzin : Cliff and Vicky James

Three Melbourne Whittley Cruiser Club boats departed on Wednesday 28 December and towed their Whittley's, without mishap, to Sydney. Sienna Belle and Just Kruzin stopped the night at Yass. Sea-Ya's crew slept on-board their boat at the Ermington Boat Ramp ready for a morning launch to catchup with the NSW Whittley Club.



Sea-Ya rendezvoused with Athena (Roger and Athena Gregson) trip leader from the NSW Whittley Club at Chinamans Beach. A day of swimming, meeting other NSW Whittley Club members and having ice-creams delivered by the equivalent to Mr Whippy on water were the highlights of the day. By 5pm we were rafted up in Sugarloaf Bay with more NSW Whittley boats and a huge 60ft Maritimo (Nauti) as the "mother ship" anchored in the middle as our party boat! Sienna Belle and Just Kruzin had joined the group late in the day.



The next morning at 9am the Coffee Boat had arrived to brew us fresh cappuccinos and hot chocolates on the water. With our hit of caffeine we were ready for a day of adventure. We boarded our tenders and explored the smaller creeks and caves of Sugarloaf Bay. We returned to our Whittleys to cruise off to see the sights of Manly Wharf and surrounding areas returning back to Sugarloaf bay for fishing, swimming and Happy Hour on-board Nauti.



It was New Year's Eve morning and we needed to secure our spot at Athol Bay for the impending fireworks display that night. The Harbour was windy and rough with thousands of boats jostling for the best viewpoint. The Whittley's had to break into smaller rafts or anchor individually as there was not enough room and the weather was not in our favour. It was a tiring day of keeping watch of the super yachts swinging on their anchors and hoping that our precious boats would not get crushed. By evening the water had calmed and we could move to a better position to be rafted up as a bigger group to enjoy the social atmosphere of the 9.00pm fireworks. The anticipation of the midnight fireworks kept all crews awake to enjoy the massive show that Sydney Harbour Fireworks displayed. Wow! Such an amazing experience!



The rude awakening from the wake of the River Ferries at 6am had us quickly move to the calmer waters of Balmoral Beach for a pre breakfast New Year's Day swim and an order of cappuccinos. Athena then took us for a guided tour of the Harbour, seeing the sights of Point Piper, Circular Quay, the Opera House, Sydney Harbour Bridge, Luna Park and the Sydney Fish Market. That night we rafted up in Rozelle Bay.





The next day the weather was due to worsen with high winds expected. Athena continued the Sydney waterways guided tour as we made our way to the d'Albora Marina at Cabarita where Athena bid farewell to us and made their way back to Ermington Boat Ramp for the end to their trip. Sea-Ya, Sienna Belle and Just Kruzin stayed the next two nights at the Marina. We enjoyed walking the pretty streets of Cabarita to a local Italian restaurant for dinner; a day at Taronga Zoo for the crew of Sea-Ya; and a day at Circular Quay for the crews of Sienna Belle and Just Kruzin.



On the 4th of January we departed the Marina and motored to the Ermington Boat Ramp where we re-packed our boats and secured items ready for our drive back to Victoria. Sea-Ya stopped the night at Albury Tourist Park and slept on-board the boat. Sienna Belle and Just Kruzin also broke their journey by stopping for the night. Sea-Ya crew continued their boating holiday at Lake Eildon putting their boat in at Bonnie Doon to meet up with some of the other Melbourne Whittleby Club members. Sienna Belle and Just Kruzin headed home for the big unpack and clean up after a wonderful boating holiday.

Written by Alanna Wighton.