



## Melbourne Whittley Cruiser Club

### Eildon Trip - Christmas to New Year 2016 - 17

- Mike & Monica Jones – *IMPULSE*
- Peter & Gail Miller - *CASPER*
- Peter Walters with Tuppence – *MABEL II*
- Greg & Colleen Elks - *KAHALA*
- Gemma & Tony Dickson – *G&T*
- Jay Davis – *SERENITY*
- Craig, Alanna, Cody, Tahlia, Zac – *SEA-YA*
- Mike & Venora Smith – *BRAVEHEART*
- *Peter & Cobie Morris - HOLLYWOOD*
- *Erwin Abbinga & Betty XXXXX – BLACK BETTY*
- John, Jane, Fletcher and Matilda Archibald – *ARCHIE*
- *Stuart, Annette, Lochie & Ethan Malone – ZERO TOLERANCE*

With some bad forecasts for lots of rain around the 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> of Dec, even one forecast for 70mm at Eildon, nothing deterred the keen crews with Peter W, Greg & Colleen Elks, Peter & Gail Miller and Mike and Monica Jones. We were keen for Lake Eildon to keep filling up, but not with that much rain and continuous days of it! But from all accounts, nothing like this eventuated on the lake. Although a bit of rain, nothing kept them from a few swims and enjoying time together on the water.

G&T eventually arrived down the Howqua arm on the 31<sup>st</sup>, followed by Black Betty, finding Mike & Venora, Jay, Peter & Gail, Mike & Monica and Peter Walters all together and ready to party. What a fabulous find this site on the Lake was!!

G&T had arrived late on the 30<sup>th</sup>, launching at Bonnie Doon, but had been delayed due to trouble with trailer brakes. It was great to finally arrive though, only to find Venora quite unwell with what later turned out to be Vertigo. Dizzy and unable to stand or walk, we were quite worried about her, and very sad not to be able to party with her. But glad you are recovering now. Mike Smith had decided to take his beautiful bride back home, worried about her condition, so they were gone by around 6pm to pull out of the water. The others scheduled to party at the Jerusalem Creek Hotel for New Year's Eve headed off too, offering Mike some assistance. This left just G&T with Gypsy and Pete Walters with Tuppence to keep the home fires burning so to speak, and party with their puppies. By all accounts, the music was brilliant at the Hotel, and the food brilliant at the home camp!! So Happy New Year to everyone!! May your year be full of adventures, making the most of all chances and opportunities, while doing some good on the way!

New Year's Day came all too soon, with a planned change of camp. So we meandered to a few potential sites for the afternoon, only to relocate to the original camp opposite the



Howqua caravan park. Out of the wind, and protected, this was the perfect place to be for a while longer!

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Jan, G&T's Rob & Thelma Dickson (Tony's folks) join them for three days on the water, and Erwin's sister and her husband joined him for the day too. It was a beautiful day, with enough sun to seek shade where you could, and get as many swims in as you could. The weather was beautiful right up until the 5<sup>th</sup>, when some rain clouds broke the morning skyline with a hint of showers, but by 10.30am, this was to be a steamy day again with very little relief.

At this stage, the remainder of the MWCC group had made a new camp up off the Delatite arm, but too far for G&T to join them on the 4<sup>th</sup>. But by the 5<sup>th</sup>, we were able to meet up again, setting up at Woodbridge Point, where Stuart joined us with Annette and Lochie after 10pm on the Friday!!

Betty had lasted her 1.5 days on the water, and sadly we had already said our goodbyes to her and Erwin, Mike and Monica and Peter Walters who had left a day or so earlier due to a dead fridge and already being on the water for around 9 days! Pete & Cobie had left too, so our group now included the Archibald's, the Wighton's, the Malone's and the Dickson's.

People came and went, and we enjoyed many swims, meanders around the lake and one lunch at the Bonnie Doon pub. As always, it was pretty hot, but we had caught up with John, Jane, Fletcher and Matilda, who had plans to join us on the water the next day or so. It was pretty hot at the pub as always, but always a reliably great meal and cooling drink.

Following this outing, Tony D led the group under the Bonnie Doon Bridge, showing all the sights to the left and right of this waterway. This is a fascinating area, and one not often frequented due to its lower water levels compared to the remainder of the lake. This tour was fine though, with the water being pretty reliably above the 2m depth.

By the 9<sup>th</sup> of Jan, all the crews were gone, leaving G&T for the last day on their own. With an afternoon deluge of rain, we bunkered down and watched some films. But by dinner time, the batteries were very low, so a quick outing to recharge was required. The 10<sup>th</sup> of Jan was quite lovely and very quiet, and so with a wash in the lake and big pack up, we headed home with the holidays over for this New Year!!!

*Written by Gemma Dickson.*