

## Melbourne Whittley Cruiser Club

**Nagambie** 18-19 Nov 2016

1. Bob & Lesley Gunn – *PEACHY*
2. Cliff & Vicki James – *JUST KRUZIN*
3. Craig & Alanna, Cody, Tahlia & Zac Wighton – *SEA-YA*
4. Dirk & Maria Kuiper – *TBA*
5. Dwayne Dunn & Ross – *TBA*
6. Erwin Abbinga & Betty Katirtzidis – *BLACK BETTY*
7. Gemma & Tony Dickson – *G&T*
8. Jay Davis & Leanne Powell – *SERENITY*
9. Marielle & Paul Van Pampus – *GROOVY RUVIE*
10. Mario & Filomena Greco – *SIENNABELLE*
11. Mike & Monica Jones – *IMPULSE*
12. Mike & Venora Smith - *BRAVEHEART*
13. Nigel & Ann Cousins - *FULL OF BEANS*
14. Peter & Audrey Nicolopoulos – *CONKIKI*
15. Peter & Cobie Morris – *HOLLYWOOD*
16. Tony & Di Marshall – *SERENITY*
17. Wilco & Marisca Seinen – *RUBY TUESDAY*

Those without boats included members George & Sandy Antinopoulos who came for the training, and Peter Dunn who is a professional marine trainer and assessor who is active as a Coast Guard rescue vessel skipper, to run some flare training with the group.

### **Nagambie Cruise Report Nov 2016.**

Another early start to our MWCC cruise, with Mike Jones & Mike Smith volunteering to set up camp on the Thursday, finding somewhere along the Goulburn River to moor all our early Friday arrivals.

I believe they all started arriving by lunchtime, with the last arriving just on dusk. In fact we ended up with 12 boats on the water on the Friday night, with 3x arriving later on, and Dwayne arriving Saturday morning, making a total of 17x Whittley boats.



By all account before we arrived Friday night, fun was had by all. Mike Smith lost his hat before even departing the boat ramp; Mario launched his dingy for some meandering, and some enjoyed a pub lunch. All were very relaxed ready to enjoy a weekend boating.... so much so, that Cobie safely but accidentally anointed the waters Friday night.... only to be matched by Vicki on Saturday night!! It doesn't happen every cruise, but to have two in one weekend... well, we must buy a lotto ticket!!

To our members joining us on a cruise for the first time, we warmly welcome Dwayne & his mate Ross, and hope you can join us again for the entire cruise, where you can really relax and get to know us all. Welcome also to Dirk and Maria Kuiper, whom we met at the AGM in October and loved spending time with. It was great to have you all join us for this fabulous weekend!

First up on Saturday morning was training, with our very qualified Peter Dunn driving up from Melbourne to run it. Gary Honeychurch had organised this session, and although he was unable to make it, we were very excited to see the benefits of such a session.

The wind was a bit too strong to bring 12x boats back down to the Lakes edge across so many obstacles in the very low levels of the Lake, with very limited places to tie up. So it was decided that Mike Jones would bring Mike Smith down as the guide for the last four boats to join them up the river. You can moor at the Caravan Park café, and then walk over to the launch ramp... saving about half an hour of boat travel! So he meandered over to meet us.

With water down below 1m in parts, we were all very happy to sit as tight as we could to follow Mike Smith's trail of safe passage, offering the chance to record a breadcrumb trail for future visits. It's amazing though, for me (Gemma) that you so easily drop behind the group while concentrating on maybe one other thing.... so a lesson learnt to have a dedicated driver, and then the crew focusing on other jobs at hand. This way you can keep all the boats in a tight knit group, following the safe trail. But we all made it in reasonable time, setting up at Gardiner Creek to join the other Whittleby members.

Below are some Ibis nesting on a tiny island along the River entrance... So cute!



There was a clear patch of dirt near the water's edge, so we set up there for a quick introduction to Peter Dunn. Pete went over some valuable instructions and demonstrations on lighting the orange flares, dedicated for daytime use only, and the red flares, which can be used during the day, *but the **only choice for use at night in an emergency!***

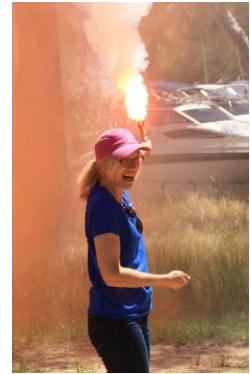
We would all recommend you watch the following YouTube video's suggested by Peter, and attend the next training session. It is a very valuable lesson for every single boater to see what can go wrong with a faulty or aged flare that malfunctions, and how to handle it safely. Also, how to hold, light and dispose of a used orange and red flare in an emergency.



At the end of the training, we had used 39x out of date flares, with almost every person getting the chance to experience the safe handling of a burning flare.

### **LINKS TO FLARE DEMOS...**

- [Video ONE](#)
- [Video TWO](#)
- **REMEMBER** – Flares can burn through fibreglass, aluminium and steel – so hold them over the water, and hold them on the plastic handle only!! Only set off flares if you know you will be seen by someone when the flares are alight, as you may only get one chance to do this! Plus, hand out of date flares in to the police! Back up flares are handy in an emergency, but only if they are safe to store, and function. So don't keep any flares that become sweaty, sticky or just too old!!



Like moths to a flame, it was fascinating to see how many jet skis suddenly appeared at our camp, all keen to view the flare training spectacle!! So we explained to them that this was a registered training session. We wanted to ensure they understood this was an official & registered training session, and that we were operating within the Law.

All too soon, though, the training was over, and we officially opened the cubby made by all the younger crews of our club... Eric & Cleo Seinen, and Cody, Tahlia and Zac Wighton. Wow... what a cubby... with serious engineering and fabrication for a cosy hideout, or even a nativity scene, being so close to Christmas!!

Time had raced by, so G&T escorted Peter Dunn, George & Sandie back to the Tahbilk Winery so they could drive back home to Melbourne. We were all sorry you couldn't stay to play with us for longer, but there you go!!

Lunch was enjoyed, and then some trekked off to taste wines at the Tahbilk and Mitchelton Wineries. Both only 5-10 minutes away by boat. Sorry Dwayne... your walk was longer than you expected, but we should have insisted you check the distance on your mobile phone!! Oh well, you are fit, and maybe all the better for the walk!!

There were some special deals taken advantage of, and some orders placed, with a fine Saturday evening of Happy Hour and meals. But with the weather being so warm, and a short cruising weekend, we all stayed on our boats, with some going to bed early.



Bacon and eggs sizzled on pans reasonably early on Sunday, and we all enjoyed a lazy breakie & coffee, chatting across the backs of our boats.

Mike Smith, Mike Jones, Jay Davis and Mario Greco all had their rubber dinghy's out, and so a meandering race was set up. They disappeared down the Goulburn towards Mitchelton Winery. We were sure they must have headed off to the winery long term, only to see them and return some 10 minutes later!! I think they had too much fun, and it was a hoot to see them reappear as if they were riding chariots!!!



It was great to also see that some did the morning walk, so good on you all, and the others that headed off for a morning cruise further down the Goulburn River. Sadly though, this was short lived.....

Nagambie is a wonderful cruising venue, though with some dangers usually just in the Lake. So we were very sorry to see a propeller annihilated in 4m's of water down the river on Nigel & Ann's 2600. But this can happen anywhere, with no warning, and with varying degrees of damage.

Midday Sunday, everyone started to gather their fenders, and organised themselves to depart. So by mid-afternoon, with the hectic Nagambie Lake jet-ski fraternity, we all made it off the water. Although the Lake was low, we managed to retrieve all the boats without too much trouble at the ramp, as the grassed area was entirely covered in deck chairs, shade frames and bathing bodies, and the shoreline lined with jet skis.

Some our boats needed a winch up, and others needed to back the trailer further in, but all went ok onto the trailers. The lesson learnt.... visit Nagambie for Club cruises in cooler weather. Then we can enjoy the Lake all to ourselves, without all the crazy shore line of locals with their toys. Also a reminder to tell the local Sailing club of our visit, as we were lucky to not have an event that prevented us launching, parking or retrieving our boats!!!

*To all our members, don't forget to upload your trip photos up to our website, our private Facebook's page called "The Boathouse". Your Website log in and password can be checked by emailing Gemma on [mwccwhittley@gmail.com](mailto:mwccwhittley@gmail.com)*

*Ideally photos should be about 500kb if possible, rather than being over a MB.... obviously considering our Media Policy guidelines. Most new computers have a "paint" app, which is great way to reduce the size of photos... (reduce the horizontal pixels to about 800) and save as a new name, so you don't lose the original photo file.*

*Written by Gemma*

