



## Melbourne Whittley Cruiser Club

### Torrumbarry Trip - 19-23 May 2016

The weekend started early with our leader Mike and Monica in *Impulse* arriving on Thursday night. Mike and Venora kept them company in *Braveheart* as they all camped at the ramp at Torrumbarry.

Friday saw Peter and first officer Tuppence in *Mabel 2*, along with Erwin in *Black Betty*, Cobie and Peter in *Hollywood*, Robert and Lesley in *Peachey*, Gary and Lee in *Lucky Us*, Audrey and Peter in *ConKiki*, Paul and Marielle in *Why Knot*, Craig and Alanna and Toby, Talia & Zach in *Sea-Ya* and finally Wilco and Marisca with Eric & Cleo in *Ruby Tuesday* arrive by nightfall to stay at the Norris bend lagoon at the 1640km marker.

When the first of us arrived at the lagoon we were greeted by the two Mike's who had spent a large proportion of the day dragging logs out of the lagoon, pushing back rushes and generally preparing the lagoon shores for eleven boats expected for that night's stay. The rubber dingy was working overtime as Mike guided each of us in safely. The fire was going and happy hour had begun. The evening was not without excitement as Peter W and Erwin being last to leave the ramp after some repairs were completed on Erwin's trailer by Peter W, but this left them doing the eight kilometres to the lagoon in the dark; a task not to be attempted by the faint hearted! All ended well with a fabulous night of hilarity and singing with everyone. Both Erwin and Gary had brought along their guitars and Marielle brought her beautiful ukulele, and song books were handed out for a great sing along had by all.

Saturday brought us more beautiful weather but without the sunshine, and spirits were high as we headed off under the leadership of Mike in *Impulse*, towards Deep Creek Marina with all eleven boats in the fleet. We took a leisurely approach to enjoy the scenery and arrived at a muddy beach about 7kms from our destination for lunch. We were then joined by Tony and Diane in *Serenity*, Brad and Karen in *Surreal* and John and Jane with children in *Archie*.

Eric from *Ruby Tuesday* demonstrated to us all how to catch fish, landing a beautiful Murray Cod! It was returned to the water, but the thrill of the catch stayed with him. Mike and Venora in *Braveheart* continued on to the marina first with battery issues and set up for the rest of us.

We had 14x boats in all to moor at the tiny Deep Creek Marina. Mike in *Impulse* led us all in with the smaller boats entering first and the largest boats last. The organisers back at the marina decided to put us in backwards to the marina to fit us in. They (Mike and Mike, Peter W, Peter and Erwin) had it covered with every boat safely moored by 5pm. Eric caught another fish, a carp this time and it went to fish heaven.

Happy hour was started and dinner was at the Pub. It was a great and rowdy night with lots of fun and laughter. It's always great to have someone else cook the evening meal to enjoy the company!!



Sunday saw six boats heading back to the ramp, *Impulse*, *Peachey*, *Lucky Us*, *Ruby Tuesday*, *Sea-Ya* and *Braveheart*. Mike in *Impulse* led the charge at 24 knots but when he radioed everyone they wanted more speed, Mike said "you want more speed, lets go". Mike flattened the throttle and he gunned it back to the ramp in record time reaching 66 knots at top speed. Everyone was completely exhilarated by the experience. Craig said "that's the best trip I've done in my boat so far". It must have been in the air that day?

Erwin led the remaining boats up river 20kms to a beautiful sandy beach complete with toilets for lunch. We had a lovely restful afternoon in the warm sunshine until about 3pm when Peter M in *Hollywood* led us back. We were travelling at about 24 knots all the way back to the lagoon in an hour. Not quite as quickly as Mike. Not to be outdone Peter W in *Mabel 2* decided whilst the rest of us were mooring in at the lagoon he would go for a hoon to test his motor before it was serviced this week. It sounded really hot and he certainly cleared out the cobwebs!

Sunday night saw us lighting the fire again, with Paul's help cutting wood with a chainsaw, a blessing as we had used almost all the wood on the Friday night. Another night of singing as Erwin and Marielle led us in song. We all went off to bed as the rain slowly started to fall.

Monday saw *Archie* leave first followed by the rest of us, *Hollywood* coming in last to the ramp. A mixed bag of retrievals occurred during the morning with Marielle slipping into the water off a greasy bank, she said it was "invigorating really" but she would say that, she is always so positive. Peter W finished fixing Erwin's brakes and we were all on the road home around midday. A big Thank You to Mike in *Impulse* for leading the trip and all the others who helped along the way, leading, retrieving, being Tail end Charlie, mooring, wood chopping, clearing debris, playing a musical instrument, being great company and lots more.

*Written by Cobie Morris in Hollywood.*