

MWCC 'Round the Bay Cruise'

March 10 to 13 – 2017

This Cruise was proposed as a slightly more challenging adventure and was scheduled for the long week end in March 2017 to hopefully get calm conditions and that extra day to allow us to attempt to cruise to three marinas over three nights around Port Phillip Bay.

There was always a fall back plan if the weather was predicted to be unsafe for cruising, which was to stay at Martha's Cove and do day trips.

Five adventurous Whittley crews nominated for this "Round the Bay" adventure.

Crews

Ruby Tuesday	660,	Wilco, Marisca, Cleo & Eric.
Sea-Ya,	2600	Craig, Alanna, Cody, Talia & Zac.
Lucky Us	2380	Gary & Lee.
Groovy Ruvie	660	Paul & Marielle.
Serenity	2380	Tony & Dianne.

The planned route was to put in at Martha's Cove on Friday night 10 March and stay the night. Shane the new manager at Martha's Cove was exceptionally helpful and flexible allowing us to stay one night or 3 depending on the weather and allowed us to lock our vehicles and trailers in their new, locked, secure parking area for the week end.

It was a beautiful calm night and all crews were up early in anticipation of a cruise that would take us from Martha's Cove on the south side of the bay, all the way to Geelong on Saturday night then around to Queenscliff for Sunday night and back across the heads, then east, along the Peninsula, back to Martha's Cove to retrieve our boats on Monday 13 March.



Figure 1 - Leaving Marthas Cove - Ruby Tuesday, Groovy Ruvie & Sea-Ya



Four boats left Martha's Cove, Saturday morning. Serenity was held up at the Whittley factory, negotiating final terms on a new 2600. As we got up on the plane to head north across the bay, Ruby Tuesday had a low oil pressure alarm. With much disappointment, they had to turn back in limp mode and unfortunately not even the Mercrusier dealer at Dromana could fix her.

Now down to three boats, we sadly said our farewells to the Seinens and headed off at 34 knots on a heading of 315 degrees in search of the Prince George marker to head into Portarlington for some brunch, then some fun water sports with the crew of Sea-Ya. There was a 15 km/hr wind and it was overcast. No whitecaps in sight so it was time for Cody to unwrap his birthday present and try some wake boarding and biscuiting.



Figure 2- Lucky Us & Groovy Ruvie, rafted up off Portarlington for Saturday brunch



Figure 3 -Cody on the new Wake Board

Now the rest of the family were not going to be left out. The water was warm and the conditions were calm and while Groovy Ruvie & Lucky Us rafted up for brunch waiting for Serenity, Alanna, Talia & Zac all got on the biscuit and Sea-Ya created great wakes competing with the locals on their jetskis.



Figure 4 - Zac & Alanna on the biscuit.



Figure 5 - Alanna on the Biscuit

The cruise on Saturday afternoon got better the closer we got to Geelong where Zac, the manager at the Royal Geelong Yacht Club, met us and directed us to their visitors berths, right in front of the club rooms. We were all made temporary members of the club and given access cards to the bar, restaurant, toilets and showers.



Figure 6 - Entering the Royal Geelong Yacht Club



Figure 8 - Cunningham Pier on the Geelong Foreshore



Figure 7 - Wharf Restaurant - Saturday night in Geelong.

Karen & Jeremy Bowler, caught the train into Geelong from their home in Lara to spend the night with the crews and we dined out at the Wharf Restaurant on the foreshore just near the Yacht Club.

Looking like rain, we all scampered back to the boats about 9:00pm. We had a few showers during our second night of our, round the bay adventure, in the calm waters of the marina.



Figure 10 - Corio Channel almost to Portarlington - Sunday morning.

Sunday morning and Easter Bunny arrived early with eggs and bunnies found on the marlin boards of all boats. The morning was a little breezy and Meteye weather predicted a drop in wind speed from 20 to 25 km/hr down to 10 to 15 around 11:00am. This allowed a leisurely breakfast and two of the four boats re-fuelled at Geelong then we all headed out into Corio Bay and followed the channel markers to Portarlington. The swell was being pushed by the easterly wind straight at us and we encountered some nice one

metre rolling waves as we approached the Prince George marker. We all bunched up in each others wakes in a tight line and made our way slowly and safely with no incidents then rounded the Prince George marker to head more south westerly down

the Coles Channel past Indented Head and into Queenscliff on a lot calmer tack with the wind behind us it was a bit like surfing!

Brittany, at the Queenscliff Harbour, allotted our berths by phone as we entered the Harbour. We had to reserve these 3 weeks earlier by registering online, to ensure we would have a calm floating jetty to moor up to when we arrived as it was a long weekend and quite busy in Queenscliff. Getting the boats into the berths was a little tricky with quite a strong current rushing out of the marina. All crews pitched in to assist each other and no damage was done.

Towels and bath mats were provided and a fob key to each crew, to access our secure arm of the marina and the showers, toilets, and a lounge at the Marina office.



Figure 11- Queenscliff Harbour



Figure 12- BBQ dinner at Erwin & Betty's place

Some spent the afternoon exploring the city of Queenscliff with a walk of about 10 minutes to the main street. Others climbed the Harbour observation tower for fantastic views across Port Phillip heads, Queenscliff and the Harbour. Sunday night, Erwin & Betty Abbinga invited all of the crews to their beach house which is walking distance from the Harbour, for a BBQ. What a magnificent spread they put on! A huge thank you from all the crews. We all appreciated your hospitality. A fantastic night was had by all with drinks in the entertaining

area in the back of your house. Even the kids had a ball playing Monopoly.

We all returned to our boats late in the evening very happy at conquering a challenging day on the Bay, a great night relaxing with Erwin and Betty and looking forward to another day of adventure on Monday.

After a very calm night we woke to a sunny calm morning, perfect for a walk to the coffee shop. Monday morning we had now all stayed at three different marinas over three nights. After breakfast and some fuel for Serenity and Groovy Ruvie, the four

boats headed out from Queenscliff, across the heads to Portsea, on through the channel at Sorrento to hug the shoreline past Rye and back to Martha's cove.

Sea-Ya and crew took the opportunity to do some more water sports. Groovy Ruvie, Lucky Us and Serenity, did not want the weekends cruise to end and decided to continue up the bay to Mornington, where we dropped an anchor and rafted up for some lunch before returning to Martha's Cove to retrieve the boats and be on the road home by 4:00pm



Figure 13 -Approaching Martha's Cove on Monday lunchtime.

I would like to thank all 5 crews, the management and staff at Martha's Cove, Royal Geelong Yacht Club and Queenscliff Harbour, also Erwin, Betty, Karen & Jeremy for making this a fun enjoyable adventure, cruise. Thanks to all the crews who were happy to trial the Whittleby Club App, using "Chat" as a communication method leading up to the start of the cruise.

Congratulations to the crews of Sea-Ya, Groovy Ruvie, Serenity and Lucky Us on rounding the lower end of the Bay.

Great job, Great Cruise, Great fun!

See you all on the next one!

Gary Honeychurch
Lucky Us