

The Melbourne Whittley Cruiser Club

Gippsland Lakes - Family & Friends Weekend

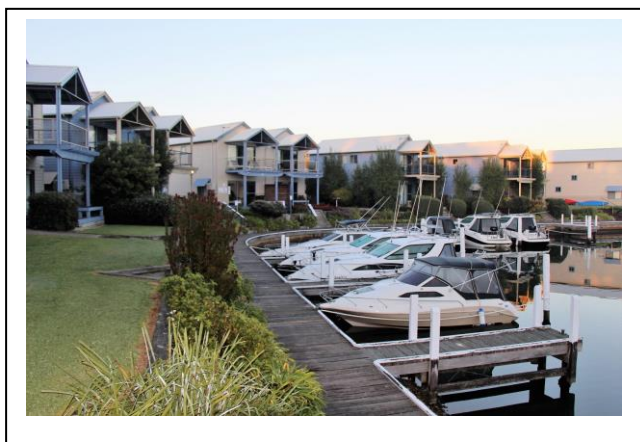
9 – 12 June 2017

WOW, WOW, WOW are the best three words to describe the weekend we spent on the beautiful Gippsland Lakes over the Queen's Birthday June long weekend. It was time again to stay at Captains Cove, Paynesville for the family and friends weekend. This was the opportunity to invite family members and friends who normally can't experience the thrill of boating, along for the weekend where we get to explore the Gippsland Lakes by day and enjoy the comfort of beautiful warm apartments overlooking the canals of Paynesville by night.

Seven crews arrived safely in Paynesville on Friday, 9 June:

- **Lucky Us** – Gary & Lee Honeychurch with friends Bob, Deb, Tex & Marg
- **JB Squared** – John & Joy Beckman
- **Ruby Tuesday** – Wilco, Marisca, Cleo & Eric Seinen with Eric's friends Tom & Will.
- **Casper** – Peter & Gail Miller
- **Serenity** – Tony & Di Marshall
- **Full of Beans** – Nigel & Ann Cousins with friends Clive & Maureen
- **Navara** – Neil Laver & Lyn Herbert
- Special Guests – Ross, Amy, Cruz & Bella Skeypzack

Day 1 – Saturday 10 June:



All boats were launched from the main boat ramp at Paynesville and made their way to moor at their own private jetties at Captains Cove. We all gathered in Gary & Lee's apartment for happy hour and to plan our weekend on the Lakes. We were excited as the weather forecast was looking good! It was going to be a busy weekend with a planned boat trailer maintenance session and our VHF short range radio licence test. Gary had pinned up questions and answers

around the apartments at Captains Cove to get everybody into the mood for studying for the VHF radio licence test scheduled for Sunday morning.

We woke to a beautiful Saturday morning – blue sky, no wind but very cold. First up was our boat trailer maintenance session that was conducted by Ross Skeypzack from Precision Automotive, Traralgon. Ross owns his own business in Traralgon and has helped the Latrobe Valley based Whittley Club members with boat trailer maintenance. Ross provided a thorough overview of what you can do to keep your boat trailer



The Melbourne Whitley Cruiser Club

in good condition. This was timely advice as some club members have recently had some issues with their boat trailers.

We left Captains Cove at 10:30 am. Di had to scrap ice off the windscreen of the new CR2600. Yes, Tony & Di have upgraded their boat and this was the first trip on the new Serenity. We headed across Lake King to the Tambo River where we cruised upstream past Johnsonville and Swan Reach to the



Tambo River Cliffs. Ruby Tuesday left us early to take Eric and his mates to Lakes Entrance. It was Eric's 14th birthday and he was going fishing with his mates on an offshore fishing charter. After spending a leisurely two hours cruising the Tambo River in beautiful sunshine we came back out into Lake King to head to Metung for lunch. Some crews were lucky enough to spy dolphins playing near the mouth of the Tambo River. Lake King was absolutely flat and resembled a mirror – it was amazing! It was time to “feel the need for speed” and let the engines roar across Lake King.



Metung was picture perfect as always and all crews were able to enjoy lunch at one of the lovely cafes or bakery in Metung. Reluctantly we headed back to Paynesville before it got too cold. Happy hour was at Tony & Di's apartment. Tony had bought along his projector so we could all spend some time together reviewing questions and answers for our VHF radio licence test. Of course, it was a lot more fun over a few drinks and nibbles.

Saturday night was club dinner night – so 27 of us went to the Old Paynesville pub for a dinner. We all got to sing Happy Birthday to Eric who had managed to hook a few fish on his fishing trip.

The Melbourne Whittleby Cruiser Club

Day 2 – Sunday 11 June:



Sunday morning was a repeat of Saturday morning – blue sky, no wind but very cold. Twelve of us gathered in Tony & Di's apartment ready for our VHF radio licence test.

Tony did a great job as the invigilator. We are all now nervously waiting for the test results to see if we have passed!! It was John's turn to be the birthday boy – this was meant to be a closely guarded secret but someone had accidentally let the secret out (well done Joy!!).

We all left Captains Cove at 10:30 am and headed up Lake Victoria past Loch Sport, through the McLennan Strait and into Lake Wellington. Again it was a truly spectacular day.

No wind just made it perfect for boating. We came back to moor at the Loch Sport Marina which is only a very short walk to the Loch Sport Marina Hotel. This was our lunch venue for the day. It proved to be a very popular spot with lots of people enjoying the delicious food and great weather.



We all cruised back to Paynesville at our own pace to meet for happy hour in John and Joy's apartment. Gary & Bob grabbed the guitars out and we all enjoyed a sing along before tea. We had yummy birthday cake thanks to John and Tony (who was still celebrating his 60th birthday from a week earlier). We enjoyed a BBQ dinner, thanks to Neil and Lyn for the idea and organising the food.

The Melbourne Whittleby Cruiser Club

Day 3 – Monday 12 June:

Monday was our last day so we were up early to clean the apartments and take our cars and boat trailers to the boat ramp. Five crews left Captains Cove to head across Lake King to explore the Nicholson River. We all moored at Nicholson Jetty and went for a walk up to and across the old railway bridge. It was a great view looking back down the Nicholson River to Lake King. Sadly we left Nicholson to head back to Paynesville, across a very glassy Lake King to retrieve our boats and head for home.



We had a great weekend. The weather was superb, Captains Cove apartments were very comfortable (a big thank you to Tamara for hosting the Melbourne Whittleby Cruiser Club at Captains Cove), we learnt about the importance of maintaining our boat trailers (thanks to Ross), sat our VHF radio licence (thanks to Tony), celebrated Eric, John & Tony's birthday's and more importantly had a

wonderful time with fellow club members, family and friends aboard our Whittleby cruisers on the Gippsland Lakes.

Written by Lee Honeychurch