

The Melbourne Whitley Cruiser Club

Mildura Cruise

Melbourne Cup Long Weekend 2nd - 8th November 2017

Attendees

Gary and Lee Honeychurch
Wilco Marisca & Eric Seinem
Paul & Marielle Van Pampus
Peter & Audrey Nicolopoulos
Laurie & Dael
John & Helen Fawcett
Peter & Gail Miller
Mario & Philamina Greco
Jeremy & Karen Bowler
Erwin Abbinga & Phil
Renato & Domenica Greco
Mike & Monica Jones
George & Sandy Antonopoulos

Lucky Us
Ruby Tuesday
Groovie Ruvie (mishap on way up with car, sadly couldn't make it)
Conkiki
Mahalo
Shalimar
Casper (Trailer problems, sadly end of weekend for them)
Sienna Belle
Karalyn II
Black Betty
The Boss
Impulse
Mana I

In their brand new Caravan....Neil & Lyn.



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Thursday 2nd

Conkiki, Impulse, Sienna Belle and Mana1 commenced travel in a convoy on Thursday. When we arrived at the Bendigo turnoff we came across Lucky Us, Ruby Tuesday and Mahalo. Impulse had a blow out, but with many hands helping, we were back on the road in 10 minutes arriving in Mildura late afternoon after Mana 1 had to throw out their lovely fresh fruit because of the fruit fly zone. Impulse, Conkiki, Sienna Belle and Mana1 hit the water. Peter Nic hit the water too but misjudged the bank....oops!

We travelled about 1 km up river and moored for the night.



Friday 3rd

Next morning we travelled to the Gol Gol Hotel jetty to save our spots for after lunch. The rest of the crews arrived mid afternoon and tied up around the pub's jetty. Philamina & Monica went and picked a big bag of juicy mandarins. A few of the water babies went for a swim and after that it was time to head up to the pub for our dinner. Neil & Lyn arrived, a little later Peter & Gail arrived to loud applause and a birthday cake for Peter. We hope we cheered you up.... what troopers to still drive up and have dinner with us....hope the trailers all fixed now..Great night was had by all!

Saturday 4th

Next morning we were off to lock 11 at 10am, we all fitted in the lock. It was cosy....the water level went down about 15ft....then it was on to Wentworth, about 60km by river. Sienna Belle came later as they picked up their precious cargo, 8 month old Georgia and her Mum and Dad. We arrived at Wentworth had a walk around and lunch. Then we continued up the Darling river 10km spotting kangaroos along the way... here we camped on private property already arranged by Gary. Firewood was collected and Lyn and Neil were there in their caravan. Shoes were a must as there were bindis everywhere. All the water babies went swimming, we had tea and then it was time to light the fire. Not that it was cold.

Sunday 5th

After a good night's sleep we headed back down to Wentworth as there was a paddleboat rally, market and food vans. We spent a few hours there relaxing, and again it was time to head back to the Murray. Black Betty said Good bye as they had commitments in Melbourne.

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Heading up the Murray a few boats stopped, swam and paddled boarded. The rest of the fleet headed to a nice quiet lagoon for the night. Firewood was collected, happy hour began, tea was cooked and after a few drinks it was time for bed.



Monday 6th

Everyone was up early the next morning ready to head back to the lock making use of the dump bins on the way. We were right on time for the lock at 8.30am. After getting through the lock it was on to the Mildura Marina where we all refuelled and filled our water tanks. Our next stop was the Trentham Winery. We all moored up at the jetty to the winery where it was wine tasting time followed by a very nice lunch with very nice wine. Then more wine tasting, a game of bocce on the lawn, more wine tasting and a tour...just let's say it was a very quiet night. Poor Neil and Lyn parked their van near a sprinkler and they woke up to the noise of it hitting the van.



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Tuesday 7th

Kookaburras woke us in the morning, it was sad because it was our last day. We headed up the river to the red cliffs.... stunning! We then found a spot opposite the sandy beach for lunch, all the water babies went in again for a swim. Now it was time to head back to the boat ramp and listen to the cup. Helen had set up a sweep to add to the fun, my horse is still running. Congrats to Monica who won. Time for boats out of the water, some stayed at the ramp, others stayed at a caravan park.

Wednesday 8th

At 7 in the morning we hit the road, what a great weekend. Thanks to Gary & Lee for the booklet and maps of our trip, so well organised. Thanks to Neil and Lyn who would pick up things from the shops for anyone who needed anything.....and thanks for the wonderful company MWCC.

Cheers Sandy & George Anton.