

The Melbourne Whittleby Cruiser Club

Australia Day – Trip Report 2018

Attendee

ConKiki	Peter & Audrey Nicolopoulos
Serenity	Tony & Dianne Marshall
Casper	Peter & Gail Miller
Black Sheep	Peter & Caroline Holyoake
Navara	Neil Laver & Lynne Herbert
Black Betty	Erwin & Betty Abbinga
MANA 1	George & Sandy Antonopoulos
Groovie Ruvie	Paul & Marielle Van Pampus
Sienna Belle	Mario & Filomina Greco
The Boss	Renato & Domenica
Impulse	Mike & Monica Jones

Thursday 25th January

Impulse, The Boss and Sienna Belle launched on Thursday and went up the Maribyrnong River and found a lovely lagoon where they moored on the jetty for the evening. I believe they had a lovely time in the lagoon and the cafe served them a good meal. Groove Ruvie launched on Thursday also and spent the night in the Anchorage Marina at Williamstown.



Friday 26th January

ConKiki launched about midday as did Navara at St Kilda Marina and caught up with Casper, Black Sheep and Serenity at Port Melbourne pier and rafted together for a while. It was a bit choppy and uncomfortable so ConKiki broke away and headed toward the Yarra River, all the rest decided to follow. Eventually we got to the Melbourne City Marina and were met by the early arrivals who assisted in mooring all the boats that arrived together. Black Betty was the last to arrive about half an hour later.

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The ladies couldn't wait any longer and off they went, shopping.

The rest of us pulled out the chairs and got comfortable on the extra wide jetty. Time for happy hour.

It was threatening to rain so we pulled the pin and moved up to the marina rooms and started to preheat the BBQ. Like bees to honey the other guests came flooding in and wanted to use the BBQ. One guy asked "would we be long", we had only just put on the first lot. "Sorry mate we are cooking for 30 people". They were not impressed.



After cooking 4 kilos of gourmet sausages, 3 kilos of chicken wings, and 50 souvlaki skewers our sausage sizzle was ready to be eaten. Thanks go to Lynne and Di for the lovely salads, and to Mike & Renato for commandeering the BBQ. The rain was well and truly falling and George brought in a stranger who owned a 2800 and had moored at the marina and came over to see all the Whittleby's. Turns out he was a member of the club who has not been on any of our cruises yet. Hope you enjoyed the reception we gave you and it might prompt you to join us on a future cruise (John Gevergizian).



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Dinner was enjoyed by all and then Domenica provided the sweet taste (Panetoni). Yummy and so soft.

It's important to remember that when you close up the boats that you should always close the half moons above the windscreen, especially when it's raining. A bit of water got in (a lot of water).

The fireworks started at 9.30 and they were great. We partied on in the rooms and then down next to the boats. The rained had stopped.

Saturday 27th January

This morning was a slow start and it was heating up quickly. Shopping for the girls, Whitworths for the boys, everyone was catered for.

The remaining crews decided to cruise the Maribyrnong and see what the fuss was about in the lagoon. By the time we got there we were ready for lunch and a cold drink. Eventually we left and met the owner of another Whittleby 2600 who was moored in the private jetty berths. He had only just bought the boat a week ago second hand in Sydney, and was not too sure of all the buttons and switches. He made his way to our marina and a few of the boys explained a few things. Maybe another 2600 to join our ever growing club.

Happy hour was a strange affair, as all those brave enough to sit in their deck chairs were playing a game of "find the shade." They almost ended up in the other side of the marina.

Some went out for dinner and some stayed behind and went upstairs to the air conditioned rooms. Black Betty and Casper had already left in the afternoon. Nobody wanted to leave the air conditioning but we did and found the rest already enjoying the late evening with a couple of blow ins, (Tony & Gemma Dickson). Eventually everyone called it a night well past midnight.



Sunday 28th January

Today saw everyone get up a bit later than normal and sitting on the jetty waiting for their coffees from Marielle and Renato.



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I think the heat was getting to all of us and as the ones that had to leave made a move, those that were considering to stay another day decided to call it a day about 1.00pm and made our way back to our trailers. ConKiki and The Boss went to St Kilda, and Groovie Ruvie had to go to Patterson Lakes.

We all had a great Australia Day weekend. We all got home safely.



This trip report was prepared by Peter Nicolopoulos.