

The Melbourne Whitley Cruiser Club

Gippsland Lakes Cruise – 27th December until 8th January, 2018

Attendees

Mike and Monica Jones	Impulse
Gary and Lee Honeychurch	Lucky Us
Wilco, Marisca, Eric and Chloe Seinem	Ruby Tuesday
Mario and Filomena Greco	Sienna Belle
Renato and Domenica Greco	The Boss
John and Joy Beckman	JB2
Nigel and Ann Cousins	Full of Beans
Peter and Caroline Holyoake	Black Sheep

Wally with his Stacer 455.



Wednesday 27th December

Impulse and crew, along with friend Wally headed for Tambo marine arriving at about 1700hrs. After launching the boats, we met up with Sienna Belle. We then contacted Lucky Us who were moored with JB and Ruby Tuesday at the public jetty. We decided to join them for the night as the facilities were good with toilets and a brand new jetty. It also included a table and seating ready for happy hour.

Thursday 29th December

After breakfast Impulse inflated the dinghy and Wilco went for a swim. Then Renato and Domenica arrived in The Boss ready for a skippers meeting. The weather was good with some boats deciding to go to Bunga Arm via Paynesville. Unfortunately, Ruby Tuesday had their dog Dargo so they could not enter a national park. We agreed to meet up again at Picnic Bay on the 30th of December.

Impulse, Wally, Sienna Belle and The Boss headed to Paynesville and met up with Black Sheep who came with us for the cruise up to Bunga Arm and Blow Hole One. On arrival, Black Sheep decided they would catch up later and cruised back to Paynesville. We then tied up the boats on the sand and after a beer went for a walk on the beach for a few kilometres. We felt very privileged because as far as we could see we were on our own. We then headed back to the boats for happy hour and dinner.

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Friday 29th December

After breakfast Wally went fishing in his Stacer 455. The crew of Impulse, The Boss and Sienna Belle headed off down the beach for a long walk. Renato and Mario took it in turns to cast into the surf successfully catching two salmon. For the rest of the time we relaxed and met up with two other Whitley boats (not in the club), but of course they knew Gary. Time for happy hour!

Saturday 30th December

The weather turned and it was time to head for Picnic Bay and shelter. The crossing was a little bit rough but ok for us, Impulse slowed down and kept a watch on Wally. We all made it to Picnic Bay safely and rendezvoused with the other boats.

Sunday 31st December

Everyone was up early and we headed off for Paynesville today. We came into Progress Jetty and all boats found a 48 hour berth. Everyone headed for the shops for coffee and a shower. We had a relaxing day with a few beers! Jay arrived to spend New Year's Eve with us. Black Sheep also arrived and rafted up with JB. There were many boats anchored by 9.30pm and the fireworks were first rate. There were lots of people around, a band playing and a great night was had by all. We all saw in midnight with a second round of fireworks. Finally off to bed at 12.15pm.



The Melbourne Whittleby Cruiser Club

Monday 1st January, 2018.

A Happy New Year to all club members. Impulse, The Boss, Sienna Belle and Wally all said our goodbyes to Lucky Us, Ruby Tuesday and JB. We then headed for Lakes Entrance and on arrival were lucky enough to get all boats tied up on floating pontoons. It was time to head off for coffee and cakes again followed by happy hour.



Tuesday 2nd January

All remaining boats headed up the north arm for several kilometres, then we cruised on to Boxers Creek to moor for the night. Then it was time for some fishing, another happy hour and lots of talking.

Wednesday 3rd January

Today, after breakfast, we headed for Metung for a walk around town and then had lunch on the boats. We then decided to head back to Paynesville. The Boss headed for Lochsport Marina. Then Impulse, Sienna Belle and Wally headed for the cliffs at the Tambo River where we found a good spot for two nights. We took Impulse's tender, Little Impulse, for a trip up the river with Monica, Philomena and myself meeting some ex-Whittleby owners Carl and Julie.

Thursday 4th January

A relaxing day just fishing and swimming etc today. Sadly, we said goodbye to Mario and Filomena today as they headed home. Received a call from another Whittleby today, Full of Beans, and organised to catch up with Nigel and Ann at Swan Reach.

The Melbourne Whittley Cruiser Club



Friday 5th January

A slow cruise down the river today to meet up with Full of Beans who joined us, as we headed for Paynesville and the Progress Jetty. Again time for shopping, coffee and showers etc. Then we headed off to Picnic Bay where we parked under the trees because it was forecast to be a very hot day. Here we met up with The Boss and other club members in Ewing, Dana and their son Darcy. The Boss did ok with their air conditioning in this hot weather!! It was such a hot day even Monica and myself had a swim!!

Saturday and Sunday 6th and 7th January

The Boss and Full of Beans left first after breakfast. We said our goodbyes to Renato and Domenica after so many days together.

I would like to thank all those who attended the Gippsland Lakes cruise and who helped make it a great two weeks.

**From the crew of Impulse.
Monica and Mike Jones.**