

# The Melbourne Whittleby Cruiser Club



## TRIP REPORT Mallacoota December 2017-January 2018

### Attendees

ConKiki:	Peter and Audrey Nicolopoulos
Groovy RuVie:	Paul and Marielle Van Pampus
Surreel:	Brad and Karen Jones
Luv Boat:	Barry and Denise Sheers
Leeway:	Wayne and Leanne Carpenter



### Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2017

ConKiki and Gruvie Ruvie both left Melbourne on heading for Mallacoota, we kept in touch with each other by phone to make sure we were both travelling ok. Both passing through Bairnsdale we passed Mario and Phil Greco at the petrol station filling up for their trip to Lakes Entrance.

Both of us arrived at the boat ramp within half an hour of each other and prepared our boats for launching. After attempting to turn our fridge on and discovering we had no power to the boat at all we did not know what had gone wrong. Lucky for us Paul had a vault meter and discovered that one of our batteries was completely flat, and also discovered that a battery lead had not been connected to the other batteries. We decided that we were not going to launch until we had everything checked by an auto electrician so both of us headed to spend the night in Col's backyard.

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## **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December**

Today, with us having the all clear from Bruce the local auto electrician, we both launched our boats and headed towards Cemetery Bight, but on arrival discovered that 2 houseboats were on the jetty, so we spent the night at Allen Head. We had a very pleasant day there except for the mosquitos, they were everywhere.

We had our happy hours, yes 2 of them, next to the gas bbq, the goannas were as friendly as usual, visiting us as we sat in our chairs.

## **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December**

This morning we went for a spin up to Gypsy Point to show Paul and Marielle where all the jetties were as this was their first time here, and also to do a rubbish dump. We then returned to Cape late then we had our peace back.

We had a nice fire burning but it started to rain so we headed back to our boats for the evening.

## **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December**

Today we set off for Captain Creek, but yet again those pesky houseboats were on the jetty, so we returned to the Genoa River jetty and waited there for Brad and Karen Jones (Surreel) to meet us there. We sat around our camp fire until dinner then returned to our boats, then a couple of young guys arrived by the walking track to spend the night in their tent, so we lost our fire to them and had happy hour on the back of our boats.

## **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December**

We headed back to Mallacoota jetty to wait for Barry and Denise Sheers (Luv Boat) to arrive today.

They launched and then we all headed to Cemetery Bight. After lunch it was back to the picnic area to start happy hour and to prepare for New Year Celebrations.

The party started with Karen inventing a drinking game to get us through till midnight. How many languages can you say "cheers" in and then have a drink with each one? Having internet access made it easy but we were very tipsy by 9.30pm.

## **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2018**

Woke up late, as did we all, Cemetery Bight beautiful as always. A party boat with over 30 guests arrived at lunch time, with over 5 large eskys to spend the whole day partying.



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Didn't take us long to pack up and leave heading for Captain Creek. We had our peace back and settled in for a bbq lunch.

Some had nanna naps, some went fishing and some went walking.

When it was time for happy hour, Denise went to prepare some kabana, the next thing we knew she had cut her finger and it wouldn't stop bleeding. We called for a doctor but they were all closed for New Year.

Next the boys took to the boats and headed for Karbethong, where they had arranged to meet an emergency ambulance, which didn't arrive. But with the guidance of an emergency nurse, we managed to stop the bleeding, clean the wound and dress the cut. Thank goodness for first aid kits on the boat.

With everything now back on course, happy hour, then dinner continued. Denise was told to stay away from sharp objects.

The boys went fishing and Barry caught a bream for dinner.

### **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January**

Paul and Marielle were going to pull out, so Brad and Karen went with them to Mallacoota to help them retrieve, have showers and go shopping enjoyed by us all.

### **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**

This morning we decided on a change of venue, we left Captain Creek and headed for South West Arm, the last few times we had been to Mallacoota it had been too shallow for us to go to that jetty, but with the mouth of the inlet closed, the water level was up to 1.3 mt, so it was perfect for us to stay there. When we arrived there was a small yacht already there, so we headed to Smelly's Inlet to have lunch. We rafted up together, but after lunch our anchor seemed to have moved so ConKiki played the "little" (engine) boat that could and moved all 3 boats further into the water. After that we returned to South West Arm. We tied up at the jetty, and then went to explore the area.

Before dinner Barry lit a fire, but before we returned to it a young couple came to ask if they could borrow our fire to cook their dinner. After we all had dinner we joined Josh and Bella at the fire pit. Josh played his guitar and we sat with them for the rest of the night.

### **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

Barry and Denise wanted to go back to Mallacoota to do some shopping and have showers. We went with them to use the washing machine and wait for Leanne and Wayne (LeaWay) to arrive.

After buying supplies, and pasties for dinner for us all we headed back to the others. The wind picked up so we returned to Captain Creek for extra protection.

After dinner the crews decided to go fishing.

### **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January**

This morning we headed off to Cape Horn, hoping to spend a quiet day to do more fishing. But after a few hours and lots of speed boats passing through we decided to return to Cemetery Bight. The following day was forecasted to be 38 degrees so we wanted to be at the beach so we could go swimming to keep cool.

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We settled in for the evening, with happy hour at the bbq area, but the mozzies were driving us mad and we were being eaten alive, so we returned to our boats to prepare for dinner.

Later on Barry and Brad went prawning. With prawns for bait the fish were biting.

## Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January

This morning it was already heating up so we were expecting lots of boats to join us, but to our surprise only 3 boats showed up for the whole day. Brad and Barry left the jetty and beached their boats on the sand. They had the perfect spot between the boats to swim and play with their blow up toys. We spent the whole day in the water doing nothing but trying to stay cool.

Later that evening all the crews went fishing and lots of fish were caught.



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### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January

Today, Wayne and Leanne wanted to return to Mallacoota to get some supplies, not long after they left they rang us to say that the wind had picked up and it was very choppy on the bottom lake, and the waves were about 1 metre. We prepared to leave and arranged to meet them at Captain Creek, but with their weather update we stayed where we were for a while longer.

Finally we made the decision to leave to go for it. We headed into the lake where the waves were splashing over the top of the boats, even coming through the half-moons on the windscreen. They were closed very quickly. We finally made it into the Narrows and into much calmer waters.

All the boats returned to the jetty after some doing some trawling and others some exploring, we again started happy hour early but with the mozzies coming back we all returned to the boats. Barry set up his fairy lights onto the trees, they were amazing.



### Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January

Brad and Karen and Barry and Denise were leaving us, so we returned to help them retrieve their cars and boats. After the boats were back on their trailers, and just to let you all know, the 2380's aren't the only boats not to go on straight the first time, we returned to meet Leeway somewhere in the Genoa River.

We then headed to Cape Horn to begin a good night of fishing, then the rain came, so we had to stay on our boats for the rest of the evening. We had a short happy hour on our boat when the rain cleared for a short while, but then started to prepare for dinner and then started to fish again with Wayne and Leanne catching lots of fish. The rain became heavy again so we retreated into the boats to keep dry.



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At midnight we were all woken up by very loud thunder and very close lightening. I thought we were going to be hit, but I was assured that our Whittleby was the safest place to be. The storm passed about 15 minutes later and we finally were able to go back to sleep.

### **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January**

We woke up to dead calm conditions and again started to fish. LeeWay caught more bream. By then Leanne was without power for her iPad, so we got out the generator to do some recharging. A local family joined us on the jetty to do some fishing, and told us that during the storm, trees were hit on their neighbours' property and burst into flames. I was so glad I didn't know that last night. We had a little more rain, so we left to go to Genoa River for lunch. The wind picked up again so we were off to Captain Creek to spend our last night on the water. It was very calm with our boats tucked in as far forward as we could go. We had dinner, then Wayne and Leanne played candy crush for most of the evening.

### **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January**

This morning we were up and packed by 8.30 ready to leave for the wharf for the last time. Both of our boats went back on their trailers fairly easy, and by 10.30 we were on our way home. A perfect end to our holiday on the water at Mallacoota.

**This trip report was prepared by Audrey Nicolopoulos.**