



The Melbourne Whitley Cruiser Club

June Cruise Eildon from the 8th to the 11th June 2018

Attendees

Mario and Filomena Greco	Sienna Belle
Peter & Audrey Nicolopoulos	Conkiki
Peter & Tuppence Walters	Mabel II
Peter & Cobie Morris	Hollywood
John & Joan Coombs	Merlin
Tony & Gemma Dickson	G&T
Erwin Abbinga & Steve Murphy	Black Better
Paul & Marielle Van Pampus	Groovy Ruvy
Neil Laver & Mel	Navara
David, Fanness, James, Thomas Zheng	
Richard & Jerry Dong	

We [Me and wife Filomena] headed off on Thursday the 7th to meet Peter and Audrey Nic and make our way to Eildon with the sun shining looked like it was going to be a good weekend

We got to the ramp at Jerusalem Creek just after lunch and with no issues on the road, we decided to launch the boats first then have lunch.

After a relaxing lunch we decided to head up to Woodbridge point, on our arrival we settled in and with the boats tired up we went searching for timber so that we could light the fire to keep us warm.

The fire was so relaxing and warm, we stayed till about 8PM then went to have dinner and retire for the night.

Friday morning as expected we knew the forecast for the day would be wet and cold, after breakfast we headed to our base camp [McDairned Bay] that was selected to be able to accommodate 11 boats but we travelled at a slow pace as visibility was poor along with the rain made it hard to see ahead, as we arrived at 12.30 Peter Walters [Mabel2] along with Tuppence radioed in looking for us as he travelled down the Delatite while we were speaking I saw his boat passing and advised that we were in the bay on his port side, shortly after we had Peter and Tuppence tiered up to my boat welcoming him to the cruise and catching up on the talk of the day [The cold and wet Weather] along with other topics

Mid-afternoon Peter Nic got his electric chain saw and suggested to collect wood for the fire, to which the boys [Peter Nic Peter Walters and myself] went out picking up timber so Peter could cut to a manageable size that we could carry, not long after mid-afternoon Peter and Cobie Morris [Hollywood] and John and Joan Coombs [Merlin] called to say that they were in the Delatite and looking for the spot, after a few minutes off explaining I saw them passing past and advised them that they were passing the bay on their port side, we all welcomed them to the cruise and once we had them secured and safe had a great chat, I have not seen John and Joan for some years and Peter and Cobie who also have not seen for some time.

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After we had all greeted and chatted it was time to light the fire ready for the cold evening. At happy hour we all sat around the warm fire talking about old times and fascinating subjects until it was time for dinner, after dinner some went out again to the fire and some decided to retire in the boat for the night.

Saturday morning with the weather looking to show signs of improvements and all up having breakfast, Peter Walters was walking Tuppence along the shore line whilst I was having breakfast Gemma and Tony [G&T] sent me a message that they had arrived safely but had a minor issue to fix before heading off and that Erwin Abbinga and Steve Murphy [Black Betty] along with Paul and Marielle Van Pampus [Groovy Ruvie] were also at the ramp. Just before lunch I got a message from Gemma that all is well and am on their way except for Erwin who was going to try his luck at some fishing before joining us. Not long after the message from Gemma my phone rang to say that Richard with his son Jerry Dong along with David, Finess with sons James and Thomas Zheng were ½ an hour from the ramp and needed help to launch the boats, so Sienna Belle [me with Filomena] and Peter Nic who offered to come along to help set off down to Jerusalem Creek to pick up Richard and David with their crew, not long after we turned into the main arm from the Delatite we crossed path with G&T with Groovy Ruvie and slowed down for a quick hello then back on the plane to Jerusalem creek.

When we arrived at the ramp Richard and David turned up and were preparing the boat for launching, both Peter and myself along with Filomena helped them and were soon on our way back to join the others at base camp, on arrival all the guys helped to secure and tie up the boats, we all introduced our selves to the new members and their crew. With fire burning and people all around it was a great afternoon having a chat. Late in the afternoon Erwin and Steve joined us and both were welcomed to the cruise, not long after Neil Laver and friend Mel [Navara] was welcomed to the cruise, after Mel was introduced to the members it was time for happy hour so all stood around the warm fire with nibbles and drinks enjoying the company.

The kids Jerry, James and Thomas soon made friends and had the marshmallows out and enjoying themselves roasting them on the fire, then having fun throwing rocks on the water, so good to see young blood joining in the cruises. After happy hour we all went in for our dinner and after dinner some members came out again to sit and enjoy the lovely warm fire and some decided to stay in their warm boats whilst somewhere else also trying their luck on fishing. We all eventually retired for the night ready for the next day.

Sunday morning was a little foggy but as the sun got up and started burning off the fog it was looking to be a nice sunny day. After we all had our breakfast Paul, Marielle, myself, Filomena, Mel and Gemma went for a nice walk up to the top of the hill and walked the rim of the other hills chatting away enjoying the nice stroll in the sun, whilst somewhere else happy to sit around the fire or fishing, relaxing and enjoying the nice weather to the start of the day, Erwin, Steve and Peter Walters headed down to the ramp so they could check out Erwin's trailer which had wheel issues joined by



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David and Farness who wanted to go for a run with the boat in the meantime Gemma advised all the members that she had a message from Tony and Dianne Marshall [Serenity] who were coming for a drive to check out Jerusalem Creek ramp as they had never launched from there and would be happy to catch up with members and have lunch at the café 507 so after asking, myself, Filomena, Gemma, Tony, Richard and Jerry were getting ready to head off and meet Tony and Di for lunch.

When we arrived Tony and Gemma went to the ramp along with Richard to see how things were progressing with the repairs and not long after joined us all for lunch. Peter Nic called me to advise David and Farness not to worry about the children James and Thomas as he was going to shout them lunch. After a lovely lunch and chat with Tony and Di along with the other members we said our good byes and started to make our way back to base camp. Erwin phoned and left a message to say that he was doing a little more fishing then heading home. When we got back members greeted us back and soon we were around the a nice warm fire a drink and some nibbles to spend time together, evening soon came upon us and we all went for dinner and again some re-joining at the fire after dinner and some happy to fish and stay on the boats.

Monday morning came with again fog but not long after the sun came out burnt the fog and starting the day with a sunny blue sky, with sun on our bodies to warm us whilst having breakfast. After breakfast members that had commitments where going to head off. John & Joan Coombs escorted David, Farness and sons James & Thomas Zheng, Richard & son Jerry Hong to the ramp, as we said our good byes they were on their way. After lunch we also said our good byes to Neil and Mel who also where heading home, which left Sienna Belle, Conkiki, Grover Ruvie, Mabel2 and G&T. We collected some more wood to see us through for the day and for early next morning before we all headed home. so after happy hour and dinner Tony, Gemma and myself spent some time around the fire talking and looking at the stars, There was a storm coming so we put out the fire and made sure the boats where secure before retiring for the nights

Tuesday morning when we got up the storm that we thought was coming did not come but the weather was changing and rain was predicted so after a nice fulfilling breakfast we all decided to head down to Jews creek and retrieve our boats for the trip back home. Once all boats where on the trailers and secured we all Said our good byes and made our way back home

Thank you to all members that attended I believe that the weather was kind to us cold but not wet the fire was warm adding some comfort for winter cruises.

Looking forward to the next winter cruise

Mario Greco

Cruise leader