

The Melbourne Whitley Cruiser Club

WINTER CRUISING AT NAGAMBIE – 27 – 30 JULY 2018



Figure 1 - Sunset over Lake Nagambie and the Nagambie township on the edge of the Lake – July 2018

The weather gods were very kind to us on our weekend cruise to Lake Nagambie and the Goulburn River. Six boats made the journey up the Hume / Goulburn Valley Highways to Nagambie.

Our cruise leaders Mike and Monica Jones in “Impulse” headed up early on Thursday 26 July to check everything was in order for the weekend’s cruise. Mike and Venora Smith in “Braveheart” went along to keep them company.



Figure 2 -Friday nights camp site in a sheltered lagoon off the Goulburn River



Figure 3 - Moon rise over Lake Nagambie, anticipating a Luna Eclipse

They spent the night on the Lake Nagambie wooden jetty and enjoyed dinner at the local pub, catching up with some friends.

On Friday they were joined by Mario & Filomenia Greco in “Sienna Belle” and Renato & Domenica Greco in “The Boss”, who arrived in time for lunch on the lake. After lunch all crews headed to Mike’s secret location. “Impulse” had some mechanical issues that Mike, being the “Mr Fixit” was able to resolve, easily.

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We, (Gary & Lee Honeychurch), arrived late Friday afternoon, just in time to launch “Lucky Us” and be guided across the lake by Mike Jones. The evening cruise across the lake was spectacular with a lovely sunset at one end of the lake and a full moon rising at the other end.

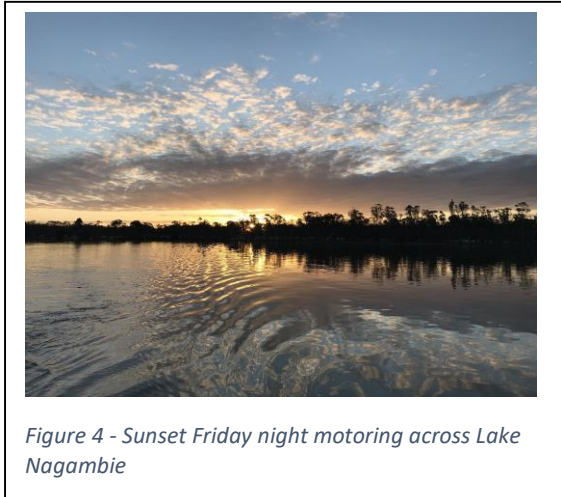


Figure 4 - Sunset Friday night motoring across Lake Nagambie

We settled in for the evening and enjoyed catching up with the rest of the crews – many we hadn’t seen since the start of the year. Everybody had been busy doing different things – overseas travel, working or boats had been in for repair. However, we all agreed it was great to be back out on the water!!

After having a goodnight’s sleep we woke to a stunning winter’s day – blue sky, mild temperatures and no wind. Perfect for a cruise up the Goulburn River.

Mike & Mike headed back to the boat ramp to escort new MWCC members - The Worsley family (Tracey, Dean, Manning & Bryce) in their 24 foot Sea Legend “To The Point” and Manning’s tinny “Tinny Tot” across the lake to meet us. They had travelled from Ballarat on Friday, arrived after dark and chose to stay at the boat ramp that night.



Figure 5 - Mikes, Smith & Jones, heading back to the boat ramp to guide "To the Point" through the Lake to the River.

All six boats headed upstream on the Goulburn River passing under the old wooden, Chinaman’s Bridge just past the caravan park. We had a leisurely cruise along the river, enjoying the tranquillity of a winter’s cruise.



Figure 6 – Saturday Morning cruising up the Goulburn River.

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Figure 7 - Goulburn River heading upstream under Chinaman's Bridge

We only passed a couple of tinnies with some locals trying to catch that elusive fish. We arrived at Tahbilk Winery late morning



Figure 9 - Tahbilk Winery overlooking the Goulburn River



Figure 8 - Tahbilk Winery mooring, Saturday morning 28 July 2018.

and wandered up from the river to have a look around the old winery.

The winery is a family run business (6th generation) and still uses buildings built in the 1860's. We all ventured down into the wine cellars to admire the many old wooden wine barrels and wondered when that wine would be ready for bottling. Some of us

enjoyed tasting their sparkling, white, red and fortified wines. A few bottles made their way back onboard some of the boats – ready to be shared at happy hour later in the day.



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Locals - Kobie and Peter Morris came to say hello to the crews and enjoyed lunch onboard "Braveheart". It was great to see them and we all appreciated them making time to see us.

After lunch we continued our cruise upstream going past the impressive Mitchelton Winery and onto our overnight stop. Not long after all boats were securely tied to the bank, the guys went about gathering firewood and building a fire.

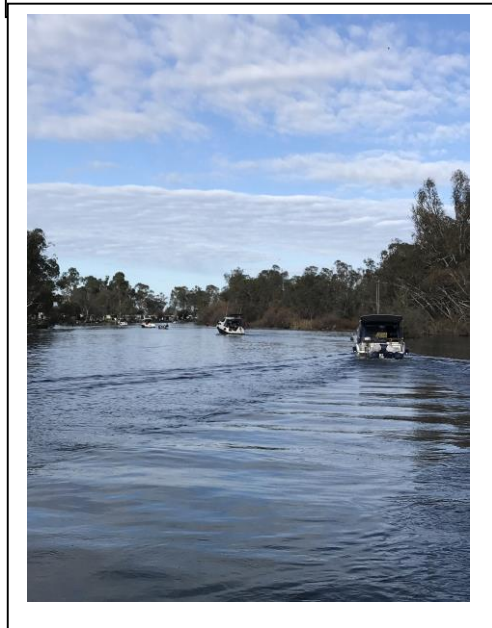


Figure 10 - Saturday nights camp site on the banks of the Goulburn River

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Figure 11 - Saturday night Happy Hour

Once the fire was lit, the chairs came out, along with nibbles and drinks. We enjoyed a relaxing time sitting around sharing stories. Venora got out the marshmallows while Manning and Bryce hopped in the tinny in search of hooking that big one!

As the evening fell we headed back to our boats to cook dinner. It had been a beautiful winter's day – not a ripple on the water.

After dinner some of us headed back to the fire to enjoy a night cap. Just after we said goodnight the weather changed with the wind starting to blow and rain starting to fall. We had no problems as the boats were all securely tied to the shore and the river bank provide protection from the wind. Manning and Bryce spent the night in their swags on the river bank and woke up to some wet spots in their swags!!!



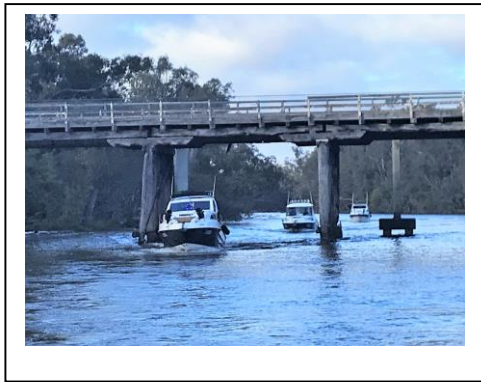
Figure 12 - Saturday night Campfire.



Figure 13- Sunday Morning - Goulburn River with a 20 Km/ Hour breeze!!!

By the morning the rain has stopped and the sun was out again. Mike recommended heading back to the boat ramp and retrieving the boats a little earlier due to anticipated higher winds commencing early afternoon. It took us 90 minutes on the plane, to cruise back down the Goulburn River to the boat ramp. All six boats were out of the water and back on their trailers within fifty minutes.

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A big thanks to our cruise leaders – Mike and Monica Jones who did a fabulous job ensuring we all crossed the lake safely without tapping any underwater obstacles and finding two great overnight camping spots.

To all the crews – great to catch up with you all again and have some fun and laughter together.

To the Worsleys - thanks for coming on your first cruise with the club. We hope you enjoyed it and look forward to seeing you again soon. Tracey said “It was a great shakedown for the boat”. They had only bought the boat two weeks earlier and are still getting used to it!!

Happy boating until next time!!!

Lee Honeychurch