

MWCC Nagambie Cruise 2015

This year's August cruise was held on the Goulburn River at Nagambie. I guess you could call it the MWCC winter winery cruise.

With the water levels on Lake Mulwala being dropped to expose and kill off the weed using winter frosts, and Lake Eildon being at 49% with exposed muddy banks, it was decided to change the August cruise to Nagambie where the Goulburn Weir was at 100%!

Cruise Statistics

Seven boats attended with 2 new potential members coming to sample cruising with the MWCC.

NAME	BOAT NAME	WHITTLEY MODEL
John and Joan Coombs	Merlin	660 Cruiser
Peter and Cobie Morris	Hollywood	660 Cruiser
Jay and Leanne Davis	Serenity	Whittley 700
Mike and Monica Jones	Impulse	Whittley 700
Rick and Lynne Macansh	Lynne-M	Impala (1982)
Craig and Alanna	Sea-Ya	Whittley 2600
Stuart Malone	Zero Tolerance	660 Cruiser

Distance covered – From Lake Nagambie upstream to the junction with Hughes Creek was approximately 35 km. Total distance covered for the 2 days was 70 kms.

As usual 4 boats turned up the day before the cruise and got themselves settled for the Friday night. Merlin, Serenity and Impulse all launched and stayed on Lake Nagambie near the boat ramp. While our visitors from Tasmania with their 3 kids stayed on their boat at the Lake Nagambie Tourist Park.

Saturday morning was overcast with rain. Hollywood, Lynne-M and Zero Tolerance arrived and were all helped and guided into the water by launch director Jay. We did not use the shallow boat ramp instead we used the steeper gravel bank opposite the boat ramp. Sea-Ya had the luxury of using the park boat ramp since they were guests there.

Skippers' meeting was held on time at 10.04 am in the rain. Greetings, trip intentions and directions were quickly sorted. We welcomed our new members Rick and Lynne who were from Mooroopna with their beautifully and meticulously restored 1982 Impala, and Craig and Alanna with their kids Cody, Talia and Zac from Tasmania in their 2600. Craig and his family were on an extended Holiday from Tasmania with their boat and what perfect way to explore Victorian waterways than with the knowledge and friendship of the MWCC. The club extends you a warm welcome.

In view of the rain, we headed upstream towards our first stop at Tahbilk Winery. Our cruise leader and navigator was John and Joan in Merlin who we followed very carefully across Lake Nagambie. Knowing all the damage this lake has inflicted on our boats in the past made us all very nervous.

Once in the Goulburn River proper we could relax. With no one experiencing boat damage or trouble we were set for a trouble free cruise. That was until Jay and his boys in Serenity radioed their fuel pump was failing and were unable to plane.

Nosing into the bank at Tahbilk winery, we headed for the café, ordered morning tea and sat by the fire. Good start to the cruise except for Jay who was hard at work trying to fix the fuel pump.

Once we thawed out, it was over to the cellar for wine tasting and with a few wine purchases, we returned to the comfort of our boats for lunch.

With the rain easing and sky clearing, our spirits lifted as we made our way further upstream to Hughes creek junction. Unfortunately Serenity was unable to plane so they abandoned trying to reach us and camped near Mitchelton winery. We missed you!!

Arriving at Hughes and rafting up, we collected and started a campfire all without our chainsaw. It was decided then to start the Whittley tradition of happy hour a little earlier. Made up for the times we started late.

As usual, many stories were shared and much knowledge and enlightenment spread amongst the members around the campfire. Even new members without knowing it, made great contributions and I'm sure gained much. I won't elaborate on these but rather use the curiosity to tempt others to join us on our future cruises. You may even learn more than just your boat.

There was one adventure I will share with you. Or I should say, misadventure, when one of our new Tasmanian friends fell off their boat into the cold water which we all agreed was 8 degrees. Dry clothes, slippers and sitting next to the fire helped Talia recover and was soon her happy inquisitive self.

Sunday morning began when we wanted it to. We opened our eyes to a clear blue sky and increasing winds. Hearing the news that Serenity had already returned to the boat ramp, we decided we would make our way back too. Skipper's meeting at 10.00am, we decided we would call in at Mitchelton winery for morning tea.

Nosing into the bank, we made our way up the iconic Mitchelton Tower to survey the lands and look in the direction of Hobart. Wines tasted and purchased, we made our way to the restaurant where we had our morning tea and relaxed by the fire, discussing future trips. Saying our good-byes we returned to our boats and made the return trip back to the boat ramp with just a few encounters with the underwater obstacles on Lake Nagambie.

Boats safely retrieved, we departed just after lunch for the trip home, where many new memories were sorted for future reliving.

See you all soon,

Stuart Malone (Zero Tolerance)