



Melbourne Whittley Cruiser Club Inc.

MALLACOOTA 2018 – 2019

Attendees

- Conkiki Peter and Audrey Nicolopoulos
- Serenity Tony and Di Marshall
- Mana George and Sandy Antonopoulos
- Surreal Brad and Karen Jones
- Luv Boat Barry and Denise Sheers
- Leeway Wayne and Leeanne Carpenter

We left home at 7.00 am on Friday 28th December, Mana passed us as we were checking tyre pressures at the petrol station. We followed him to the BP station at Officer where we had arranged to meet Tony and Di. After a quick coffee break we were on our way.

As we were driving through Traralgon Tony lost a bow roller so he made his way to a boat sales store to see if he could buy a replacement. While we were waiting we noticed that we were losing pressure in one of our trailer tyres so we headed for the local tyre power store and had them fix it for us.

Meanwhile Tony had called for backup in the form of his daughter and future son in law to help them replace the roller. It was strange watching her jeep pull Serenity backwards on the trailer, so thought the local tow truck driver who stopped to take a photo of it happening.

With no further problems we headed for Mallacoota.

We arrived at the jetty and were about to fill up our water tanks only to find that the taps had been disabled. After a phone call to Col, he showed up with his tools to help us fill up. By the time we had finished we decided it was a bit too late to launch so we headed back to Col's to spend the night in his backyard. His wife Danni arranged for the courtesy bus to pick us up and take us to the golf club for dinner, this saved us from having to disconnect our cars from the trailers.

Saturday morning we all woke up and prepared our boats for launching. George told us his batteries were flat, so we left Mana on the charger and launched ConKiki and Serenity. We took George and Sandy in our boat we got to the John Bull marker



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when Tony radioed that he had a problem, so we turned around and headed back to the jetty.

Serenity was sick and needed a boat doctor. After lunch Mana's batteries were full so we launched her, we left Serenity at the jetty and we headed to Cemetery Bight. It was hot so Sandy went for a swim. After the boats that were tied up on the jetty left, we moved our boats over to spend the night. A few minutes later George came to us to tell us Mana was taking on water and he was returning to Mallacoota. We went with him. Got his trailer and retrieved the boat. We spent the evening having a couple of drinks on the jetty.

Sunday Mana returned to Melbourne.

We went with Tony and Di for a spin to Cemetery Bight, had a bbq for lunch then returned to Mallacoota for dinner on our boats. We spent lots of time talking to the locals about our boats.

Monday Tony had no luck to find anyone to repair Serenity, so the boys made a trip to Eden to buy a new boat roller. When they returned Surreal and The Luv Boat had arrived. We all helped to put Serenity on her trailer, we launched the other boats said goodbye to Tony and Di and headed to Captain Creek. We didn't want to spend New Year's Eve on the jetty. Pete went fishing and caught the first fish of the trip. Everyone else decided to go fishing as well. We were all tired and didn't think we would make it till midnight, but we did, Happy New Year.

Tuesday. We all woke up late, time to charge up the batteries had a lazy morning doing nothing. Brad caught a garfish but it fell off before he had it in the boat. Surreal and Luv Boat went off to do some fishing. We had flathead for lunch. The boats returned for happy hour. We were then joined by a speed boat and a yacht. They stayed until dark but then left us all by ourselves. Pete caught another fish, lunch for tomorrow.

Wednesday we were up early to go fishing again Brad caught a flathead. Before lunch we headed for Cemetery Bight. They were all surprised that the sandy beaches were under water. The fishing wasn't good but Brad caught another fish. Then Karen caught one too, the first fish she had ever caught on a lure.

Thursday. Barry and Denise had battery problems, so a trip to Mallacoota was on the agenda for tomorrow. We had all fallen asleep in the afternoon when we had a visit from Trudy the local fisheries and wildlife inspector. We all passed with flying colours.

Friday the forecast was for 40 degrees. We left Cemetery Bight and headed for South West Arm. It was hot but there was a nice cool breeze. We went swimming. Barry and Denise spent most of the day trying to get their batteries checked by the



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local boat man repairer, but he couldn't help them. When they finally joined us it was happy hour time. Dinner time came and Karen cooked a fish Thai curry which we all shared. It was Yummy. The cool change came late in the evening. It was very welcome. After tea and cake we all went to bed.

Saturday. Brad and Karen left early to do some shopping at Mallacoota we all gave them a shopping list. We had a lazy morning fishing but not much catching.

We had ordered pies, pasties and vanilla slices and Uber Eats delivered (Brad and Karen)

After lunch we left South West arm, Barry to make sure his car was locked, Brad and Karen went fishing for their dinner, and we went to look for a spot for the night. Wayne and Leeanne met Barry at the jetty, and after some housekeeping launched Leeway.

We ended up at Cape Horn when all boats were tied up it started to rain, and continued until late. Uber eats were at it again delivering slices to all the boats this time it was Barry.

Sunday. Fishing started early. Wayne caught a tailor, then Leeanne caught a bream. Then it was on, Wayne then caught a 75cm flathead. Which after a photo was released. After lunch we left Cape Horn and headed down the narrows so everyone could go fishing. Brad caught 4 flathead. Wayne caught 2 more. After a bit of cruising we met Leeway at Karbeethong jetty to top up our water supply. After that we returned to South West arm and waited for the others to return. Happy hour on the jetty, then fish and chips were cooked on all the boats.

Monday. Left South West arm, we returned to Mallacoota for supplies etc. Other boats went fishing. Wayne caught a 53cm flathead. Barry was still on zero. Boy was he getting stirred.

That evening we all returned to Cemetery Bight. We had lamb casserole cooked in the camp oven. For dessert Karen made a jelly cheesecake. It was yummy. After that the mossies returned so we all retreated to our boats.

Tuesday. The weather forecast for the next 2 days was to be very windy and possible storms, we decided to head for Captain Creek for the last couple of days of our holiday.

But after breakfast we decided that it would be a better idea if we pulled out before the weather changed. We left first and returned to the jetty. We got our trailer and decided that with no wind around us to pull Conkiki out of the water all by ourselves. Would you believe that she went on the trailer first go and perfectly straight. And ofcourse nobody was there to see it.



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Surreal arrived next. We tied her up at the jetty and Pete took Brad to get his car and trailer. We left Conkiki in Col's backyard as we had planned on spending the night.

Luv Boat arrived and while Barry went for his trailer, all of the girls I mean "First mates" helped Surreal onto her trailer. Luv Boat was next also going on easily. After saying our goodbyes they both left to spend a couple of nights at Orbost. We went to the café for lunch.

Leeway arrived at the jetty just as the rain hit. We went and picked them up and dropped them at the shops. They were staying a few more days as they were meeting friends to stay. We said our goodbyes and decided to go to Bastion Point to see how much the entrance had closed. The sand had really closed it off.

We talked to the lifeguards who were on duty, they had closed the surf beach due to lightning strikes. We then returned to Col's backyard to spend our last night in what we call paradise.

We left the next morning and headed towards home.

This report written by Conkiki's first mate Audrey