



Melbourne Whittley Cruiser Club

Post Regatta Cruise Report: Gippsland Lakes March 2020.

On Thursday 5 March, three single crewed boats; Gary on the Lucky Us, John on JB Squared and Marisca on the Ruby Tuesday arrived at Paynesville where they met Amaroo. Gary led us across Lake King and along the world's longest Silt Jetties on the Mitchell River. Such an awesome sight, with lots of birdlife. We then turned back and made our way to the Nicholson River to find our spot for the night at Nicholson. Wayne and Leanne on LeeWay joined us there in time for dinner at the Nicholson Pub.



Our morning walk took us along the wooden bridge and we then cruised back to Paynesville where we got groceries for Friday's tea. Our second NSW boat (Happy Daze) arrived later in the afternoon. The wind was strong and came from the West, so we felt camping at Picnic Arm would be a good idea. Best decision; it was so sheltered and we had the best quiet night's sleep.



On Saturday morning, Stuart and Maryse on Navara joined us for their maiden voyage, and Lee joined us making the Lucky Us crew complete. We were now 7 boats and headed over to Lakes Entrance for some fresh prawns, but



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unfortunately couldn't get any. Then flew across the water to the famous Metung Pub for lunch. Enjoying amazing water views and a delicious lunch. While seated we decided to moor up for the night at Ocean Grange, but when we got to the jetty, there wasn't enough space for all 7 of us. So we kept moving further up Bunga Arm and got to Steamer Landing. This jetty was also pretty crowded, but some very impressive boating skills saw the Happy Daze on to the jetty, followed by Lucky Us. We then rafted Amaroo and LeeWay up, Navara squeezed in between two larger boats, then Marisca manoeuvred the Ruby Tuesday to the inside of the jetty and finally JB Squared was tied up on its spot. Time for a walk across the dunes to the 90 Mile Beach, before happy hour.



Day 4, Sunday morning, Amaroo left us as Stuart and Robin made their way up to join the cruise at Mallacoota and Wilco + Dargo arrived to join Marisca on the Ruby Tuesday. Weather was great and we made our way across Lake Victoria, led by captain Lee on the Lucky Us, to the Loch Sport pub for lunch. After lunch, we were let loose and Wilco didn't need to be told twice and he rocketed across the water. All boats made it back to Duck Arm for the night, where Gary, Wilco and Marisca had set up a gazebo on the beach. We listened to music, had a bit of a sing along and shared a BBQ meal together on the beach. This is what it is all about: boating, great company, beautiful spots, fun and relaxing.



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Monday morning we said goodbye to Wayne, Leanne, Stuart and Maryse and after breakfast we berthed the Lucky Us at Paynesville (Lee and Gary joined JB Squared) before heading up the Tambo. Left Happy Daze at Johnsonville and Ange and Alex joined the Ruby Tuesday and 2 boats continued further up the Tambo River for lunch at the Swan Reach pub. This marked the end of the post regatta cruise and we cruised back to Paynesville to take all boats out of the water. Highlights: *definitely seeing the waterways we frequent so often from a different perspective to some that have never been there before, *but also so many firsts: I (Marisca) spent 3 days and nights as a single crew on the boat, which I had never done before. Very thankful for all the help offered by everyone else. Learned so much. Then Lee took over the wheel on the Lucky Us supported by Leanne and drove the boat to Duck Arm from Steamer Landing and then Leanne became captain of LeeWay. Such Girl Power!!

