



Melbourne Whittley Cruiser Club

Post Regatta Cruise, Mallacoota, March 2020

Attendees

Peter & Audrey Nicolopoulos
Ray & Maxine Mantle
Stewart & Robyn Best
Michael Filacouridis
John & Jan Whittles
Phil & Silvana Haworth
Bruce Lynch

ConKiki
To the Max
Amaroo
Marie Christine
Two Can Tango
Highly Strung
Tranquillit'e

We had arranged to meet our friends at the BP service station at Officer, and from there head towards Mallacoota together. We had decided to spend the night at the Orbost caravan park as any more driving was not a good idea as everyone was tired, it had been a long day driving and we did not arrive until 7.30 pm.



After a good sleep in, we continued our journey and arrived at Mallacoota wharf at about lunch time. As we were launching the boats it started to rain, and by the time all 6 boats were in the water we were dripping wet.



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We headed for Cemetery Bight, it was too wet to have happy hour, so we spent time doing as little as possible on our boats. The water was dead flat so nobody had any trouble sleeping that night.

Next morning, we decided that after the fast pace of the regatta, everyone wanted to just sit and relax, the boys started to fish, hoping to catch one of the tagged fish, no luck. It rained off and on most of the day but nobody cared, we were in paradise.

Next morning after another lazy start we headed towards Gypsy Point, on the way we went passed all the jetties, some of them were gone, but even then everyone could see why we love this place so much.



We made it to Gypsy Point, managed to get all the boats tied up, 6 Whittleys took up all of the jetty inside and out, what a good sight it made.

We had morning tea then lunch. Michael went fishing in his tender, but still nothing was caught. Had happy hour again, then dinner. Afterwards more happy hour, panettone and port, what a great way of celebrating our wedding anniversary.



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Next morning, we went to Karbethong jetty to fill up with water, then back to Allen Head. Most of the boys decided to go fishing they all caught flathead for dinner, yum. When it was time for them to return to the jetty I went to help them tie up, I caught them with my hooky stick (my best friend on my boat), but did you know that dead jelly fish, coating the jetty can be very slippery. I learned the hard way I fell, got covered in the slime, but I didn't let go of the boat I was catching. A bit embarrassing and a bit sore, but that's all the fun of boating. More happy hour then time for bed.

Sunday morning some went fishing again, catching more flathead, some went for a walk, and some of us just relaxed. After lunch and some more nanna naps we returned to Mallacoota Jetty to await the arrival of Stewart and Robyn who had been to the Gippsland lakes.

While we were waiting, Phil, John and Bruce fetched their cars and trailers as they were leaving early next morning. With Stewart's boat in the water and the others back on dry land after having showers, we waited for the courtesy bus from the golf club to arrive and take us to dinner. As usual the meals were delicious, and as usual we were the last ones to leave the dining room.



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Monday morning, we said our goodbyes to our friends, went to the bakery for lunches, then headed out to show Stewart and Robyn the sights of the waterways. We had morning tea at Cemetery Bight, then lunch at Gypsy Point. We then headed to Cape Horn to spend our last night there. We had happy hour on dry land, most of our happy hours were on the jetties, lit a bbq for dinner and then just sat around enjoying the peace and quiet until bed time.

Tuesday morning, we headed back to retrieve our boats it was time to head home. It had been a fabulous week spending time with our friends.

On our arrival back home, we were still putting the boat in our driveway, I received a delivery from our friends, a beautiful bunch of flowers. I had been very nervous about returning to Mallacoota after the fires, but being with you all made me feel very comfortable and was happy to be there as my fears were overcome. So a very big thankyou to you all

Audrey

First Mate

Conkiki