

## TRIP REPORT – GIPPSLAND LAKES, 12 – 14 MARCH 2022

WOW what a cruise we had on the Gippsland Lakes over the Labour Day long weekend. The weather was absolutely spectacular – warm, sunny and no wind. Just perfect for a few days cruising around the beautiful Gippsland Lakes. It was sensational to see so many old and new Whittleby Club Victoria members attending the weekend – we had 15 boats who were able to attend whilst another 5 boats were late withdrawals due to various reasons.

The Boats and Crews who were able to attend were:

Ruby Tuesday – Wilco & Marisca (our cruise leaders)  
Jay Jay – Jay & Elka (tail end Charlie & Bunga Arm expert)  
Liquid Asset – Scott & Davini  
Gottago – Mark & Eva  
CR 2180 – Trevor & Cindy  
Groovy Ruvie – Paul & Marielle  
Karalyn II – Jeremy & Karen  
Dwyer Straits – Kevin & Jenny  
Casper – Peter & Gail  
Parlay – James  
LeeWay – Wayne & Lee-Anne  
Surreal – Brad & Karen  
Corryong – Kevin & Diana  
LuLu – Craig & Donna  
Fun Time – Gary & Lee



*Figure 2 McMillan Strait*



*Figure 1 - Lake King*

At 10 am on a blue-sky Saturday morning, 9 boats headed off to Metung to pick up 3 more boats on our way to Lakes Entrance. Marisca had organised bar crossing training for interested crews to attend. We moored on the Flagstaff Jetty just opposite the Gippsland TAFE in Cunninghame Arm, Lakes Entrance. Wilco & Marisca went across to pick up Brad Lancaster, the local expert on the Lakes Entrance Bar. Brad decided it would be good to do the training at the lookout overlooking the Bar.



*Figure 3 - Flagstaff Cunninghame Arm- Bar Crossing training*

This was a 5-minute walk up the sand dunes from where our boats were moored. Brad took us through what you should and shouldn't do when crossing a bar. Whilst the weather was perfect the bar conditions were not. Brad was able to show us what hazards to look for when trying to cross the bar. We were lucky enough to observe a small boat go out the bar – they did exactly the opposite to what Brad had just explained to us. We all held our breath as we thought they were going to capsize but they were lucky and made it out and back safely!! It certainly made us appreciate the informative training session we had just attended.



*Figure 6 - Bar Crossing Training*



*Figure 5 - Lakes Entrance Bar*



*Figure 4- Flagstaff Jetty*

A big thanks to Brad for taking time out on his Saturday to give us this valuable training and to Marisca for organising the training. If anyone would like further information on the Lakes Entrance Bar Crossing Course, please contact Marisca.

After the Bar Crossing training we decided to stay at Flagstaff Jetty where some crews relaxed on the beach, others on the water, some went over to Lakes Entrance whilst others went in search of fresh prawns. Happy hour was held on the lawn at the end of the jetty where there was plenty of room to make a huge circle and welcome new Club members and catch up with familiar faces that some of us hadn't seen for over 2 years.



*Figure 8 - Saturday Happy Hour*



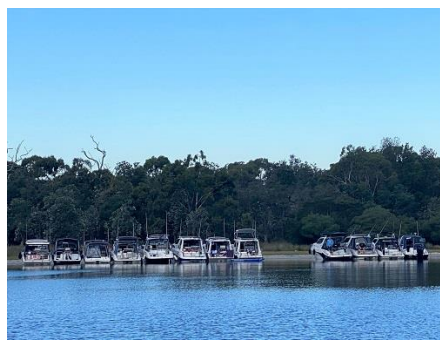
*Figure 7 - Scott & Davini's new House*

Sunday morning arrived at another blue-sky day. Crews were able to have some free time prior to meeting in Duck Arm at 12.30pm. We took the opportunity to go for a walk along the beach near the bar and were amazed at how good the weather conditions were for boats travelling out to sea. We then headed for a swim in the ocean at Barrier Landing before heading back to Duck Arm. As we cruised from Lake King to Lake Victoria, we passed many yachts still finishing the Marlay Point Overnight Yacht Race. This race is held annually and leaves Marlay Point in Lake Wellington at sunset on the Saturday and finishes at Paynesville.

Scott & Davini invited all crews to come over for Sunday lunch at their new house situated along the picturesque Newlands Arm in Paynesville. As there was not much jetty space, we all squeezed onto 4 boats for the short trip from Duck Arm. We were able to relax and enjoy the wonderful view of the lake from their backyard while Davini cooked up some delicious curries and rice for lunch. A big thanks to Scott & Davini for welcoming us into their new home. We headed back to Duck Arm for happy hour and a light dinner. I think most of us still had full stomachs from lunch!



*Figure 10 - Boats on Scott & Davini's private Jetty*



*Figure 9 - Duck Arm*

Monday morning saw a few crews depart early while the remaining crews headed over to Bunga Arm and Ocean Grange. Jay led 6 boats up to the first blowhole in Bunga Arm where they had lunch and a swim. We had Zali, our golden retriever with us so we went to Ocean Grange for morning tea and a swim as Bunga Arm is a National Park and dogs aren't able to enter even if they are aboard a boat. All boats that were departing on Monday were out of the water by 3pm and headed for home. Some boats were lucky enough to be able to stay an extra night and enjoy the great weather of East Gippsland.



*Figure 12 - Duck Arm*



*Figure 11 - Duck Arm Monday Morning*

It was great to see so many boats supporting this cruise to Gippsland Lakes. A big thanks to Marisca and Wilco for being our cruise leaders for the weekend, Scott & Davini for having us to their house for lunch, The WCV Committee for paying for the Bar Crossing Training and to our new members (Kevin & Jenny, Trevor & Cindy, Kevin & Diana, Craig & Donna) for joining the cruise.

Happy Boating

Lee & Gary

“FunTime”