

## Mid-Winter Melbourne Cruise Trip Report, 16th- 17th July, 2022



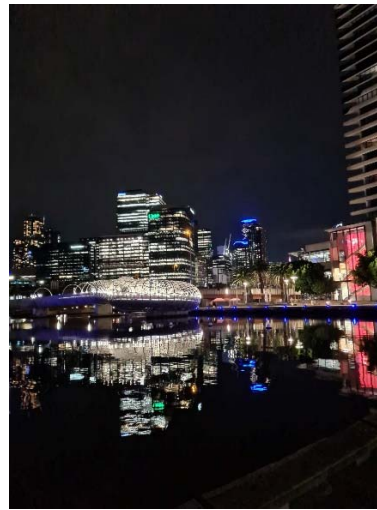
It was cool and a little windy but the socialising, the wining and dining, the walks and coffees, the shops, the footy, the Picasso exhibition and particularly being hooked up to electricity and the cruises up the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers made it a very successful Cruise.

Apologies in advance if I put something in I shouldn't have or left something out that I should have put in 😊

### Attendees:

Waterhorse	- Simon and Debbie Ross
Impulse	- Mike & Monica Jones
Black Sheep	- Peter & Caroline Holyoake
The Boss	- Dom and Ren Greco
Jay Jay	- Jay Davis and Elka Wilkens
To the Point	- Tracey and Dean Worsley – (Cruise Leader)
FunTime	- Lee and Gary Honeychurch
The Moose	- Chris Williams
Betty Boop	- Irwin and Betty Abbinga
Gottago	- Mark and Eva D'Alterio

The Cruise was to be based at the Melbourne City Marina (MCM) but due to internal upgrades to the building we were relegated to the Yarra's Edge Marina. In hindsight it was a great spot to be, right in the Docklands precinct.



We were considering the more secure parking if we put in at the St. Kilda Marina but they were dredging the entrance of the Marina plus with the possible weather conditions on the Bay it ended up being better putting in at "The Warmies"

## Friday



Early Friday afternoon Waterhorse, The Boss and Gottago put in at The Warmies in calm conditions with light breeze. We made our way to Yarra's Edge Marina and as we were leaving the boat ramp, Impulse arrived at The Warmies Car park. Waterhorse successfully made it's own way and it's a good thing The Boss led Gottago otherwise Gottago would have ended up in Frankston.

There was a little confusion at the dock as each boat was allocated a birth number but there were no numbers. However the Marina staff were on hand when we arrived and made it easy. They just gave us a broad area where we could all Dock as we pleased and explained the facilities to us.

Whilst Ren and Mark were neatening up our lines and getting the boats ready for the evening both Dom and Eva disappeared, I think it may have been due to the close proximity of the DFO.

Waterhorse arrived followed by Impulse then Jay Jay. We had the usual "happy Hour" which we had on the dock beside Jay Jay and thank you to Elka and Debbie for the munchies. Ren and Dom had relatives and old friends show later in the afternoon and they retired to The Boss for an enjoyable evening.



The rest of the Crew wandered across to Sassone (a very nice Italian restaurant) a mere 50 metres from the end of the dock, where we enjoyed drinks and a magnificent meal. The restaurant staff were very accommodating and made up a round table for us making it very easy for us to converse during our time there.

Most of the Crew started with oysters and there is still some argument as to how many of the oysters worked. The main courses varied through a whole range including Chicken, pasta, pizza and lobster. If you are down at Docklands I would definitely recommend a meal at Sassone.



Later Friday evening Dean and Tracey found water coming into their boat. They had thought it was an issue fixed by cleaning and replacement of the old bung with a new one. However as the evening advanced they could hear the water trickling into the boat and decided it was better to get the boat out of the water, onto the trailer and off to home. This was a very appropriate response as investigation a day or so later discovered that water appeared to be coming in through the bellows and possibly around the mounting where the leg goes in to the boat. "GOOD SAVE GUYS"

### **Saturday**

Saturday was both windy and wet with the majority of the crews deciding on coffees and chats indoors in the surrounding venues. (With some Crew members hitting the DFO again 😊 )

Mike and Jay braved the elements and took their boats for a run up the Maribyrnong River to check out the Lagoon and have a coffee.

Lee and Gary arrived in FunTime just after lunch and grabbed a quick take-a-way lunch.



Due to various circumstances only 4 members sat the VHF Radio Test which involved both written and practical sessions under the watchful eyes of "Invigilator" Tony Marshall. Dom presented Tony with a small gift from the Club for taking to time to re-apply for his "Invigilator" credentials and coming down to Docklands to oversee our testing. We will probably know in a week or so who was successful. We had a quick catch up with Di and Tony Marshall after the testing.



Late Saturday afternoon Tracy and Dean returned to the Marina with additional family and without the boat. The whole Crew went to "The Melbourne Cellar Door" for drinks and dinner.



Afterwards some played and some (yours truly – exhausted from all that eating and drinking) went to bed for an early night. The wind came up Saturday night but did no damage other than move a couple of blackouts.

## Sunday

On Sunday most of the Crew headed up the Yarra led by Jay at around 9.30am to catch the tide whilst Erwin went off to see the Picasso exhibition and Chris took the The Moose home. We had to avoid a dragon boat and some "touchy" rowers on our way to Heron Island. We turned around at Heron Island and worked our way back to Yarra's Edge. It was the first time for Eva and I going up the Yarra and it was a very different look at Melbourne than what had had previously seen. It was also an eye-opener weaving our way under the bridges and avoiding low hanging obstacles, we were so busy checking our clearances we forgot to take photos.



Peter and Caroline re-docked at Yarra's Edge for a short time and then headed home. Gary and Lee docked to meet friends and headed off to the Footy and Simon and Debbie stayed at the dock to enjoy their new 2800.

Jay Jay, The Boss, Impulse and Gottago continued on past the Yarra's Edge to the Maribynong River where we got to see more bridges, thousands of sea containers and lots of Industrial "stuff".

We went past the Flemington Race Course with Mike and Jay regaling us with titbits of knowledge and history.

One of the magnificent sites we saw was the Heavenly Queen Buddhist Temple



We ended up docking just below Poyntons Nursery where we wandered up and had a meal in their restaurant then headed back to Yarra's Edge Marina.

Some of the girls hit the DFO again and a few of the boys went to the Boat Builders Yard for a coffee. Whilst at the



Boat Builders Yard, Irwin wandered in accompanied by Betty and they joined us for a coffee and Betty stayed at Yarra's Edge for the night.



Saturday evening Eva and I ate (the only on-board meal for the trip) on Gottago and then joined Debbie and Simon on The Boss where we were well looked after in the usual fashion by Dom and Ren.

## Monday

Monday morning Jay and Elka headed off early with Gary, Dom, Ren, Mark and Eva heading off to The Warmies a couple of hours later and our three boats all went onto the trailers quickly and easily with a little side wind and we all headed off in different directions.

Bettie Boop and Waterhorse were still at the dock when we left.

I received an interesting phone call whilst leaving The Warmies, regarding the largest catch that was ever recorded at Blue Rock Dam. 😊

A couple of fishermen found Jay Jay languishing in the water unable to make her way, so they towed her back to the boat ramp where Jay was able to trailer the boat.



After moving out into the Lake, a jubilee clip failed when Jay revved the engine to flush the motor. The failed clip allowed a hose to part from the engine which caused an unexpected, very thorough washing of the engine bay and surrounds. Jay has since replaced the hose and clip.

It was great few days with lots of catch ups and meeting of new friends. I would highly recommend a couple / few days at the Yarra's Edge Marine with trips up both the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers. Whilst the lounge and facilities are not quite the same as the MCM the staff were great and the facilities served their purpose. Thank you Tracey for coming back to play with us the next day after taking the boat home.

We are looking forward to catching up on the water with the crews and others down the track.

Cheers, Mark and Eva, "Gottago"