

Whittley Club Victoria

Lake Eildon Cruise Report – 10/02/24 to 11/02/2024

Crews:

Karalyn II	Jeremy & Karen Bowler
Dwyer Straits	Kevin & Jenny Lang
KAOS	Adrian Kos
Perfection	Craig and Nicole O’Sullivan
Deck-Adence	Morgan Coventry, Joan
Mabel 2	Peter & Vicki Walters
Zero Tolerance	Stuart Malone Annette Jakob
Take2	Russell Breguet
Archie	John & Jane Archibald
White Eagle	Artur and Ania Sekula
G&T	Gemma & Tony Dickson

Well known as one of the club’s favourite destinations, Lake Eildon was boating perfection this weekend with 28-30°C days! We all enjoyed a plethora of swimming opportunities both out in the Delatite arm before lunch and in our evening Woodbridge Point hideaway, with beautiful evenings that gradually cooled overnight. Eildon almost always delivers a relaxed boating experience, and it’s lovely we can break away into different groups, if need be, with every trip varying in company, water capacity, weather and time available to meander its many inlets. With 6x times the water capacity of Sydney Harbour, it’s easy to understand that it offers many new spots to moor at different water levels, different places to swim, fish and chill out.



Whittley Club Victoria

Sadly, a total of five boat crews that planned to attend this cruise were unable to make it for various reasons, so our thoughts are with each of you, and understand your frustration in missing out on such an idyllic weekend.

Lake Eildon is a 3-6 hour drive for many of you, so it's always worthwhile arriving a few days early and put off leaving for as long as you can. Those that were able to arrive early were Russel, Ania and Artur, G&T and John & Jane, with the majority of the crews arriving on Friday. A small group enjoyed a cooked meal at the Jerusalem Creek Cafe 501 Bar & Grill, which by all accounts was lovely. The last boat to arrive dazzled us with a 20min set up and launch on Friday morning, and after our group introductions and trip meeting, we headed off to catch up with Stuart and Annette, Russell, Ania & Arter who were all waiting nearby the dam wall. Tony Dickson grew up holidaying on a Whittley boat and shared his wealth of knowledge over the radio, pointing out the longest ever cable extension of power lines over the lake, historical information about the dam wall, names of inlets and how & where to find a good safe mooring for storms, high winds and in protecting your hulls by avoiding rocky shale edged inlets.

For those of you who don't know Pete Walters, he is a life member with a well earned title within the club of 'International Rescue', and he jumped into action to troubleshoot some engine issues with Stuart & Annette's boat, and quickly disappeared into Eildon Harbour to assist.



On magically smooth waters, the remainder of the group motored up to the Delatite Arm for a good half hour to just float, enjoy the serenity and take a dip. Many swam to other boats or around their own boat, including John & Jane's dog Polly with her life jacket on. It truly was a sensational window in time that captured the beauty of a stunning boating day with the slightest hint of a breeze and uninterrupted rays of the sun!

Whittley Club Victoria

We continued up to the Bonnie Doon Pub, with G&T venturing in first, and sadly at about 15m's from shore, hit mud. We could not find enough room for 11 boats to come ashore, so we opted to reverse out... Ania, Art, Russell, Adrian and Jeremy & Karen all ventured to the right of where we had headed in, and found a spot to tie up, with a short water walk to the shore and up to the pub. Morgan and Joan headed off fishing, Craig and Nicole to Jerusalem Ck Café for lunch and some fishing, Pete & Vicki off to set up camp in Woodbridge Point, and Kevin and Jenny, John & Jane and G&T heading back to the Delatite Arm where we floated, had lunch, then swam to each other's boats, rested and finally retired back to Woodbridge Point.



Whittley Club Victoria

Stuart and Annette returned with no solution to their engine issues, but undeterred, enjoyed their day. We all moored within the two sides of Woodbridge Point, swimming and chatting, and finally cooking up dinner. Russell, Art & Arnia lit a fire and many came over until late evening chatting. Sunday began with a burst of sun while Art caught a Perch, Vicki cursing at the fish that taunted her, and many long morning coffee chats from all the boats.



Photo by Ania Sekula

Whittley Club Victoria



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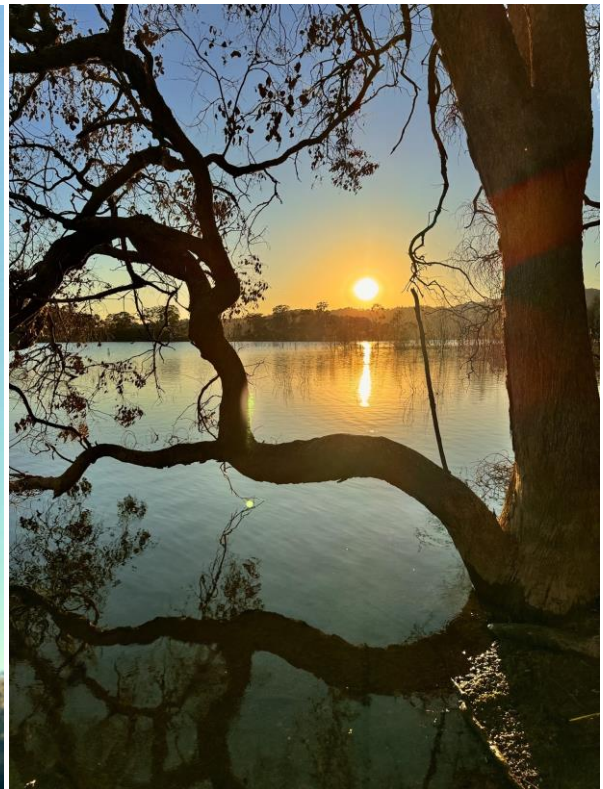


Photo by Ania Sekula

Sunday meandered on until Adrian had to leave just before lunch, followed by Craig and Nicole to fish and swim before returning home, and Morgan and Joan heading up to the Jamieson Pub overnight. We all delayed our departures as long as we could, with finally just Pete & Vicki, Karen & Jeremy, Kevin & Jenny and G&T staying by the Jerusalem Ck Cafe on Sunday night to allow an easy early morning retrieval. True to form, Karen & Jeremy were organised early and the first to reach the boat ramp, followed by everyone within the hour, and motoring home by 10am.

Whittley Club Victoria



Thank you to all that contributed to the weekend, I think we all were spoilt with the beauty of Eildon, and the superb weather, swimming & company.

Report by Gemma & Tony Dickson
Trip Leaders for the Eildon Cruise Feb 2024