

## **Gippsland Lakes Long Weekend Cruise**

**Saturday 2 – Tuesday 5 November, 2024**

Weekend attendees	
Jeremy & Karen	Karolyn 11
Jay	Jay Jay
Arthus & Ania	White Eagle
Peter & Lisa	Bella
Wilco & Marisca	Ruby Tuesday
Morgan & Joan	Deck-Adence
John & Nadia	Lady Selvil
Rod	The Odyssey
David & Fannis	Happy Time
Arrived on Monday	
Mark & Eva	Gottago
Gary & Lee	Fun Time
Picked up possibly two new members	
Paul & Pam	Double P (name we gave them)

### **Friday 2 November**

The weekend kicked off with some people arriving on the Friday: Jay (Jay Jay), Arthur & Ania (White Eagle), Karen & Jeremy (The Odyssey), Peter & Lisa (Bella), Rod (The Odyssey), and Marisca & Wilco (Ruby Tuesday). After lunch, we launched the boats and conveniently moored just opposite the pub – perfect for an easy dinner. The food was delicious, and the company was even better, as everyone settled into the warmth of good conversation.

### **Saturday 3 November**

The rest of the boats arrived bright and early for the pre-briefing, where Jay filled us in on the day's route and surprised us with a Gippsland Lakes Quiz to mull over during the trip. It was a fantastic icebreaker for the newcomers and helped everyone brush up on Gippsland Lakes trivia. Great call, Jay!

We set out, motoring past Metung, where Bella had an anchor mishap (anchors aweigh!), before we all regrouped at Barrier Landing for lunch. The tide there was a force of nature – strong enough to snatch a drink right from your hand! With some teamwork and support from fellow club members, we finally moored and settled in for a much-needed relaxing lunch.

Later, we motored over to Lakes Entrance to set up for the night. With a gentle breeze and smooth waters, the boats were steady as can be. Chairs were pulled out, snacks appeared, and everyone gathered on the wharf for a cozy evening of conversation and laughter. A few headed off to the local pub for dinner, while others stayed to enjoy the evening together.



### **Sunday 4 November**

The winds picked up, so we made the safe choice to stay another night at Lakes Entrance. With the Sunday market, nearby shops, and even a Woolies within walking distance, there was plenty to keep everyone entertained. As tradition goes, we reconvened on the wharf for drinks, nibbles, and the usual banter that brought many laughs.

We even welcomed a new Whitley boater who had moored nearby (Paul & Pam), inviting them to join our group for the following day's cruise. They happily accepted, and we were thrilled to have them onboard!



### **Monday 5 November**

The morning greeted us with overcast skies, but the winds had calmed. We motored to Loch Sport for lunch, then set out to Duck Arm for the night. Along the way, John and Nadia had a bit of engine trouble crossing to Duck Arm, but Arthur & Ania and Gary & Lee were quick to lend a hand. Thanks to their support, the group got them safely moored at Duck Arm, and a few members managed to patch up the motor enough for John to nurse the boat back to Paynesville the next day.







As the sun dipped, we were treated to a stunning sunset, complete with a photogenic pelican who seemed to enjoy posing for pictures – a true star of the evening! Jay then gathered us for the quiz results. While nobody managed a perfect score, we all learned a bit more about the Gippsland Lakes. Three lucky winners received a box of Favourites, which they kindly shared with everyone.







## Tuesday 6 November

With the temperature hitting a balmy 28 degrees and clear skies above, it was the perfect day to wrap up our trip. Members departed throughout the day, though a few stayed to soak up the beautiful weather and enjoy just a bit more quality time together.

As new members, we were truly touched by how welcoming everyone was. Club members generously shared their boating knowledge, and whenever help was needed, people were quick to lend a hand. Hats off to the Whittley Club for creating such a wonderful community – we feel so lucky to now be part of it. Thanks to everyone for an unforgettable weekend!

## Lisa & Peter Albert

