

2015 Easter Cruise.

By Edwin Flynn

Attendees: Crème Caramel, Scott Free, Sea Dove, Small Change, Trilby, Wanton, and Roller Coaster.

I arrived at Paynesville late on Wednesday evening. I was met at the boat ramp by my sailing friend Graham Wolstenholme, (aka Zebedee). He told me that there were a number of Baysiders already at the jetty in front of the newsagency. As it was late I decided to launch the boat mast down and tie up at a berth to be near the other Baysiders. After I launched and parked the car and trailer, Graham and I began motoring toward the waterfront. We had only travelled about 50 metres when the motor stopped. I pulled the cord and the motor coughed to life only to stop almost immediately. I checked the fuel and all seemed to be OK, but still the motor would not start and run. Then Graham looked at the fuel line for himself. It is not possible to happen, but he found that after I filled the fuel tank, I had installed the fuel line to the tank the wrong way round. A couple of pumps later and the motor coughed to life. We tied up beside the boardwalk and I was greeted by Ian, (Crème' Caramel) and Peter, (Small Change).

The next day Trish and Don arrived in Trilby and Norman and Annette came down to the boardwalk to say hello. We all agreed to have dinner at the pub that evening. As usual our table was lively with various topics on discussion. It was a good start to the cruise.

The pre cruise meeting took place next morning, in front of the newsagency. The wind forecast for Friday was for 7 knot WNW during the morning and than settling to SE winds of up to 21 knots. It was agreed the wind dictated a different a cruise plan heading towards the eastern end of the lakes rather than west to Plover Point and beyond. We decided to sail to Barriers Landing. As Scott Free (Mel & Margaret) had just returned from Barriers, they decided to go to Steamer Landing to wait the arrival of Sea Dove (Paul & Debbie).

Crème' Caramel, Trilby, Small Change, Wanton and guest Roller Coaster set out to Barriers Landing in a light breeze. As we sailed between Point Jones and Round Head we spotted a pod of Dolphins. The pod came over to Wanton to take a look at me and I was rewarded with the most beautiful wildlife photographs I have ever taken.



When we arrived at Barriers Landing we found there was no space at the Jetty so Crème' Caramel, Roller Coaster, Trilby, and Wanton decided to tie up at the pylons on the beach. Small Change went on to Lakes Entrance to stay on the tongues on the east side of the marina. We enjoyed happy hour on Crème' Caramel. We were well protected from the mild SE winds overnight, but the next morning we were told by Peter that he had to move Small Change to boardwalk on the inside of the marina to escape the lumpy water.



On Saturday 4th April, Crème' Caramel, Trilby, Roller Coaster and Wanton went to Lakes entrance where we replenished ice and supplies. Due to forecast favourable winds we decided to sail back to join Scott Free, Sea Dove and Small Change at Ocean Grange.

We left Lakes Entrance under blue skies and a smokey haze at about 1.30 pm. The forecast winds where 15 to 25 knots from the North East. As we left Fraser Island to our stern the promised wind came and we had a great sail up to Metung. As we rounded Shaving Point the wind picked up a beat and Wanton was soon sailing along at more that 7 knots. This is exhilarating for a while but it soon started to tire me out, so I reduced sail, but speed never dropped below 6 knots. It was just a great sail.

Ian and Lesley in Crème' Caramel sailed all the way from Lakes Entrance using their new asymmetric spinnaker all the way, topping over 6.5 knots most of the way. The smile on Ian's face was infectious.

Wanton arrived at Ocean Grange at 7 pm and Crème' Caramel arrived 30 minutes later. On the way in, Wanton's motor must have sucked some weeds that had a pretty bad effect on the boat's manoeuvrability. Luckily there was plenty of assistance, coming into berth, from Scott free, Sea Dove and Small Change. Roller Coaster left the cruise proceeded to Paynesville to meet with friends.

The next day we decided to sail east again to the Nicholson River, in a very slow South/ South Westerly breeze. Sea Dove and Crème' Caramel sailed under asymmetrical sails, Scott Free and Small Change motor sailed and Wanton crawled along under jib alone. I still managed to

keep up with Sea Dove and Crème' Caramel until I ran aground near the entrance to the Nicholson River.

We all managed to find jetty space near the boat ramp jetty. That evening we had dinner at the Retreat Hotel.

We left the Nicholson River the next morning for yet another slow sail back to Paynesville. The weather had been very kind to us with blue skies and gentle winds most days. I must admit the sail back from Lakes Entrance was the most exciting, for those of us who like sailing. To me the cruise highlight was the visit from the dolphins.

It was a terrific cruise in good company. I can honestly say that everyone enjoyed themselves. We now look forward to the next adventure.

Edwin Flynn
Wanton C22/110