

Frying Pan Bay Cruise

NHTYA Lake Macquarie cruise – September 17th -18th 2016

Cruise Leader- Valerie and Brian Harrison, 'Only Time'

Report written by- Valerie Harrison.



Friday afternoon Brian rigged and launched , 'Only Time' from Styles while I drove straight from work.

Paul and Catriona were already there, setting up on their Farr 6000 'Morning Mist'. This is new boat for them however they still have the Sonata 6 on the front lawn!

Having set up a few times at home this would be the first time they get the boat wet. Of course being the first time, things don't always go to plan- something about a stray main halyard disappearing out of the mast slowing things down ☺.



Neville turned up Friday as well on his Sonata 7, 'Norma Jean'. Not his first time sailing the Sonata but his first time overnight. Note to Neville for next time – bring sox !

Norma Jean and Only Time were on the water Friday night with Morning Mist opting to launch in the morning. Not real sure just whom was intending to join us, so we had a lazy morning. Then Graeme and Charmain turned up on 'Crosswind' the same time as Hans and Anita, on 'Gemanic', radioed in to meet us out from Wangi Point – The five of us set sail 10:15am.

Champagne Sailing- an absolutely glorious day to be on the water- we are so lucky to have this lake in our backyard. We had a relaxing sail around to Pulbah Island where we anchored for lunch.



Everyone else rafted up while we watched some idiots come very close – not much water available for a stink boat to get around Pulbah-not, grrrrrr. Anyways we were having lunch and a chatter and a wash from a big stink boat made for a bit of excitement... where did that come from? Over the other side... must have been a VERY big boat.



After lunch we set sail down to the southern end- Chain Valley Bay.



We sailed past a race of cats and big boats out from Mannering Park. We did notice a few Maricats and wondered if Robert (Cologne) was racing, we did wave. We turned around to go back to our destination (Frying Pan Bay) around 3pm ish...

5 hours of perfect sailing ☺

We downed sails and motored in first. We had done a recky from the road but from the water it's very different... Tucked up in the corner is a little entrance to an inlet/safe harbour. If you didn't know it was there you'd never see it.



One by one we came inside and beached stern in. A lovely spot to hide in all wind conditions. Paul told us a few years ago they were tucked inside the inlet when a squall came through- they were fine but not the boats on the moorings outside- a very safe harbour for trailer sailers.



A local said they don't often see yachts inside- just one group once a year- must be those Careels. Pam and Jacob turned up at this stage to say hello (they didn't bring the Careel – Jacob doesn't fit for an overnight stay ☺. I think they need a bigger boat)





What a pleasant surprise; amenities and a playground. We set up happy hour on the foreshore with a wonderful view of the lake.

Watching some idiots in their boats- then a larger stink boat came in to the jetty, outside of the inlet, to use the pump out station. They had a tender on behind. We thought nothing of it.



When they had finished someone chuckled, 'Hey! Watch this'. The stink boat had taken off forgetting about the tender. They were moving away from the jetty but the tender didn't exactly follow.... Thump, bang, up and nearly over the jetty the tinny tender went.. splash down- yank on the stink boat.... motor away .. but no the tender caught the other side as well.... Twang! But it didn't snap... .. the paddles were precariously half in the water though .. but no they didn't stop, they motored off. We went back to a few drinks and the pelicans.

Dinner... oops I forgot to take out the prawn meat from the freezer. Oh well they said there was a great Thai place up at the shops. Some cooked on board and some went for a stroll. The shops had an assortment of options, Chinese, Pizza, Fish and Chips, Thai and a bakery. As well as Fuel, gas refills, a supermarket and bottle shop. All on the southern end of the lake, a great place to re-supply and/or hide from weather events.



The next morning the weather was grey and no wind. Some lucky ones decided to stay put a few more days and some of us had to go to work ☹. We motored over to Dora Creek with Neville following.

The weather was inclement however didn't deter Neville from suggesting to his wife, Carolyn, to check out the local real estate !!!

Back to Styles to de-rig and pack up for home after another wonderful cruise on 'our' lake ☺.

