**WELCOME**

Welcome to the November 2008 edition. If there is any information you would like to share with your fellow members please email djbenda@internode.on.net

David Benda - Editor FARR Cry

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FARR CHRISTMAS DINNER 2008

The FARR Association are holding their annual Christmas dinner on Sunday 14th December 2008 from 12 noon at the Goolwa Regatta Yacht Club. See flyer enclosed for more details.

DATES TO REMEMBER 2008 - 2009

Christmas Party	14th December 2008
Gippsland Lakes Cruise	March 2009
Coffin Bay (an alternative to the Gippsland Lakes cruise)	Easter 2009

THE ULTIMATE CHANCE TO VISIT THE GIPPSLAND LAKES – MARCH 2009

This trip is planned for March 2009. Some members have decided that the Gippsland Lakes must be visited at least one more time as it is such a great yachting place.

Please contact Rosemary or John McKenzie for more information on 8362 3566 or email jandrmck@bigpond.net

FARRAVANNERS' TANUNDA WEEKEND

The Farravanners visited Tanunda for an extended weekend in September. Caravanners included Marian and George Nefiodovas, Peter and Angela Roodhouse, Patricia and Don Sweeney, Valerie Dobie and Bill Kutcher, Jillian and Richard Clampet, Joan and Don Ovendon, Joylene and John Steward, Jane and Peter Mitchell and Rosemary and John McKenzie, while Robin and Simon Thiele, Ally and Ian, Eleanor and Mark Fulton and Rosemary Sage and Brad Briggs enjoyed cabins.

Our weekend began with a visit to Mengler's Hill to see the sculptors in action chiselling new masterpieces as a celebration of those done 20 years ago, followed by a walk in the Kaiser Stuhl Conservation Park – seeing kangaroos and bird life.

Our first Happy Hour preceded a BBQ using the excellent camp kitchen and meeting a group from Murray Bridge.

On Saturday a multitude of activities saw everyone visiting the Barossa Valley Market, - lemon meringue pies were the taste sensation - seeing Norm's Coolie Dogs, bike riding and visiting wineries. At Happy Hour this time a truly wonderful array of useful(?) gadgets was displayed – some have been copied already!! Many of us enjoyed a delicious dinner at the Valley Hotel Motel.

On Sunday, more bike riding while others walked along the main street looking at galleries, museums and joining in the town's free picnic lunch in beautiful sunshine. That evening after our barbecue we were invited to join the Gippsland Caravan Park in their trivial pursuit night – great fun with a friendly group. Monday packing up – where shall we go next? Plans in progress for next year, watch this space.

Rosemary and John McKenzie



NOTES ON THE TRIP UP FROM RENMARK FROM 19TH TO 29TH OCTOBER 2008

Boats Waituna, Farthing, and Loafarr, Angela and Peter Roodhouse, Marion and George Nefiodavis and John and Rosemary McKenzie.

Day 1 Champagne Stop. We drove to Renmark and all arrived at the same time for morning tea at Karoonda a bit spooky as we all set off at different times and from different places. We bought bags of oranges at Renmark and launched from the brand new ramp at Renmark having left our trailers in the caravan park for \$4.00 a night. We launched very easily and set off for Whirlpool Bend rafting up to save on skipper wear and tear, taking turns to steer and also saved on fuel. We stopped at Whirlpool bend and shared a glass of champagne provided by Loafarr to celebrate. After a row in the dinghies we had a peaceful early night.

Day 2 Pretty Creek Stop. It was a perfect sunny day and we motored to Bulyon creek arriving about 3.00 giving us plenty of time for a long row up the creek with a few obstacles but not too bad. We cooked on the Weber and BBQ and shared tea on the big boat.



Day 3 Rainbow Bee Eater Stop. Motored past Hunchee Creek stopped opposite no 385 marker and saw 4 Rainbow Bee eaters, so beautiful brightly coloured birds with unusual feathery tails. This was the first time I have seen one ever so I was very impressed. We walked further and saw a flock of budgies, blue wrens and kangaroos drinking at dusk the river was so lovely here and scented by orange blossom. Marion was King Arthur, removing the mooring stake from the river bank with one hand, none of the rest of us could budge it!!!

Day 4 Spoonbill Nest Stop. We went through the lock 6 and chatted to the lockmaster, he's been manning the lock since 1999 and said traffic on the river is definitely down. Every time he let a boat through he released 4 million litres of water, thought if we went back and forwards a few times this would make a difference to the lower lakes!!! We went

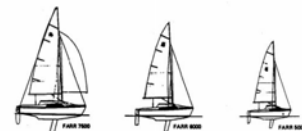
past the entrance to the rapids previously discovered by the Sheffield's but decide not to go down them this time will save it for next time We stopped at the customs house for an ice cream and ice and fuel and off loaded rubbish While the staff there are very friendly they told us business has been slow and blame bad media publicity for it. The ramp here is fine for launching and trailers can be left. We safely stopped at marker 401 had a good row in the dinghies and saw a spoonbills nest.

Day 5 and 6 Sandy beach stop. Motored to Lindsay cliffs from SA and in to Vic and NSW We stopped on the point as the deepest water here The river was still lovely but the water a bit weedy We swam for the first time and rowed to the other side and walked up to the lookout. Saw kangaroo's, kites, emu's and pelicans. Happy hour is getting earlier and longer!! There was a lovely sunset on the cliffs very peaceful although a very hot night meant insects attacking us through the flywire as very small and could crawl through. George solved all the worlds' problems

Day 7 Swimming Stop. We left very early as predicted hot weather and motored back past the customs house We stopped for ice creams and chocolate as we were craving for some being too forgetful on the way up to get a few bars. We moored at marker 393 a lovely spot, lots of swims, very refreshing used the lifejackets so we could float around. George looked very dashing floating around in his fly net hat Rosemary and Angela rowed at dusk not a breath of wind very beautiful. We had happy hour on the bank and lots of problems were solved though we couldn't remember after what the problem was and what the solution was, Alzheimer's setting in or perhaps too much red.



Day 8 Two Maggie's Stop. Another swim after breakfast initiated by Marion, she is our water baby! It was coming up windy but still hot. We met some interesting craft on this leg a craft with a pirate flag with a long base with a cabin covered with flywire. It had come down stream from Nangiloc beyond Mildura and was going to Renmark. Also a caravan on a pontoon which could be used for sailing and



caravanning We returned through the lock separately this time as getting very windy We stopped by Hunchee creek and had happy hour at 3.30 how disgusting is that !! Met another yacht from Clayton, a McGregor who had launched at Cobdogla where there is a very good ramp. George and John cooked yummy scones.



Day 9 Little Boats Stop. We set off with maggies perched on the bows of Loafarr and Farthing (photo above) they stayed with the boats for quite a while. There were more houseboats now which was interesting as some didn't know which side of the river they should be on so a bit of shouting and hand waving went on. We stopped up from whirlpool bend Rosemary made nibbles, pastry boats filled with dip with cheese triangles for sails, very yummy and we had a shared tea with delicious lamb and lots of vegies.

Day 10 Sadly the last day for Waituna and we retrieved from Renmark with no trouble.

Our Observations

The river is still lovely despite all the bad publicity water is beautiful lots of wildlife and friendly people.

Rafting is good it saves fuel and gives the skippers a break.

Masts are not necessary we found it easier without them having a sunshade over the boom or attached in some way is good There were lots of discussions on the best ladders and planks both fore and aft Planks were essential to get on and off as were stakes and longish ropes to tie up see George for ideas

A rowboat/Dinghy is useful as there are lots of creeks to explore

Swimming in lifejackets Rosemary's idea a great way to relax and enjoy the water

Bring lots of books crosswords knitting painting whatever you like to do as lots of lovely lazy time We all swapped books between us so that was nice too

We needed a better selection of CDs to sing and dance to we had to resort to Nana Mouskouri and the Roodhouse's crackly radio which kept cutting out Where were you Bill ?

A decent amount of water is needed we used river water to wash up in On Waituna we still got through 40 litres as it was hot and we needed to drink a lot

Food lasted well on Waituna, we individually wrapped veggies in newspaper and put in the locker. Things lasted for the 10 days with no trouble, perishables were in the esky. We got the meat vacuum packed but the others didn't and their meat lasted fine. We had all made the staple fruit cakes and biscuits to share for morning tea. We supplemented what we had with a few packet meals no one starved !!!

Slow travel is the way to go we did do 60 miles each way but had rest days and stopped early.

It's easier to do anything in a group rather than by yourself as Farr people enjoy helping each other.

Lots of ghosts of past Farr travellers accompanied us on the trip and we kept remembering past travels and people as we meandered along.

It was one of the cheapest holidays you can have as the total cost was the cost of leaving trailers \$45 plus the cost of 25 litres of fuel and petrol costs to get there. The food you would have to buy anyway if you stayed at home and a few luxuries from the Customs House minimal. What a holiday so many lovely moments for a minimal cost mind you we had to buy a new motor for the boat as the other had seized up after 30 years of use but this would have to have been bought anyway.

We managed to keep the batteries for lights and fridge going with just a solar panel until the last few days when it was cloudy and we had to use the generator. The others kept their batteries topped up by running their motors plus a solar panel and were fine the whole time.

We will definitely go again you need to join us next time.

Peter and Angela Roodhouse



FARR TRAILER YACHT ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

*All members are invited to attend a
Christmas Celebration with
a selection of ham, turkey and lamb
with traditional plum pudding.*

*To be held on Sunday 14 December 2008
at 12 noon at the Goolwa Regatta Yacht Club
Barrage Road Goolwa.*

*Please bring either a SALAD - Surname from A to K
or a SWEET - Surname from N to Z.*

*Join in the fun of giving by each bringing a gift
of no more than \$10 marked "male" or "female"
to place under the Christmas tree for
Father Christmas to give out on the day.
Please provide named gifts for your children if attending.*

*To keep in the festive spirit please bring along Christmas
decorations to decorate your table.*

*RSVP to Rosemary McKenzie 8362 3566
or email: jandrmck@bigpond.com
by 6th December 2008*

Merry Christmas to all

