

## ***Myall Lake Adventure Cruise Report Dec 2017 – Jan 2018***

### ***Warren, Leanne, Jessica and Mister Finn on Macnifique- Macgregor 26M***

*Tom and Cheryl on G&T (Macgregor 26X) and the crew of Macnifique (Leanne, Jessica, Mr Finn and yours truly) decided to leave the night before on Boxing Day and head to Bulahdelah Bowling Club to check their camping facilities. Well, it proved to be a little gem, where we were welcomed by the lovely Lynn who explained the camping arrangements boundaries etc. and fees to be paid. It's only \$5 a night per person with shower facilities. The alternative is to become a member for \$15 a year and visit as much as you like.*

*After a nice meal and few beverages, it was time to retire to the Mac-o-vans. Although the free camping at the Bulahdelah Bridge was chocca, surprisingly there was still plenty of room at the Bowlo. There were a few stragglers who came in through the night, including this one not far from us. "Gee, didn't know they were touring down under"*



***27th December, Day 1*** – *It was a very short hop from our camp-ground to Violet Hill where we meet up with Doug Dyce and his two sons Andrew and Colin on Gundaroo II (RL28)*

*Preparing the provisions for four is very different from 2 or 3, but with the extra hands (thank you Mr Finn) and no mast to step. All was soon stuffed away in every nook and cranny we could find on Macnifique.*

*Looking around at the ramp and up stream, there appeared to be no one else joining. So with no phone reception (I'd forgotten about that one) we headed down stream towards Two Mile Lake.*



*At last some reception and a message from About Time. Well guys looks like this is going to be it, three boats. "Ok fleet lets push on".*

*Entering Broadwater the wind was starting to increase; it was time to get into the calmer waters of the River.*

*Looking back we were quite surprised to see Gundaroo II making good time in those conditions, although the lid of the port-a-loo mounted on the foredeck took a battering.*

*It wasn't long before we found the sanctuary of the river mouth and after a very relaxing cruise down river with the tide abating, found the Brass Water and our anchorage for the night. Backing in to face the sunset, with a few beers and wines it was time to sit back and relax to watch the colours of the evening.*

*Colin drifted out in front of us and with the backdrop of the setting sun began to play the flute. A very talented young man as the flute was one he had fashioned from a piece of pvc pipe. A man after my own heart, PVC!  
....Magic.*



**28<sup>th</sup> December Day 2** - After a late breakfast it was time to head to Tea Gardens for lunch, fish n chips.

Unfortunately, the wind was really blowing in from the north-east by the time we arrived. Gundaroo II and Macnifique anchored on the beach and as the wind was strengthening, G&T opted for a safer spot further up the river. This turned out to be the better option as high drama ensued on the beach when anchors began to drag.

After a near miss with one of those 'once a year' boaters and some rocks, we managed to dodge a bullet and got out unscathed. Doug suggested we head back to the river once more and I wasn't going to argue. By the time I got to finally eat my fish, which could of cost us dearly, it hardly seemed worth it as Leanne passed me a cold soggy piece of cocktail fish as we made the retreat to safer waters.

Once out of the wind the temperature really started to soar. Rounding a bend we could see Gundaroo II against the bank. The boys had found the perfect sandy spot on one of the bends with enough room for large boats to pass. Time for a swim whilst we waited for G&T to join up with us again.

From there it was back to the Brasswater again for the night, although it wasn't planned this is a great little spot to tuck into.



**29<sup>th</sup> December Day 3** - Today the plan was to head up the Myall River to Bulahdelah. Sitting back sipping our morning cup we were greeted by a pod of dolphins feeding and heading down river. Next stop Sandy point for lunch and a swim.

Approaching Bulahdelah the winding river and the smell trees is replaced by the perfume of cattle. "We must be getting close". Passing under the two bridges we arrived at the jetty.

Doug had a brilliant plan, "Let's head for the pub and sit in the a/c as its too bloody hot here", Nice plan Doug!

**30<sup>th</sup> December Day 4** - Gundaroo II and G&T headed off down river first. I decided to head up stream to checkout an anchorage closer to the Bowling club so we didn't have to walk as far for a shower next time. We can probably get in there with a tender next time guys.

*Time to start heading down river, another leisurely cruise at 5knts. Not many boats to pass and we had the river largely to ourselves. The temperature is cooler and crew seem to have all gone back to sleep. You'd think they were on the P&O or something.*

*After arriving at the Broadwater the place was like a mill pond and just on the other side of the ferry crossing managed to find the fleet again and the Independence! With four on board she was a welcome site.*

*Just to the north of Two Mile Lake, we found a couple of Farr's heading for beer and pizza....Well you can't blame them for that. Stopping for a while to chat with Rick, Emma, Mark and Corenne on the sand bar before heading on up to Shelly Point to meet up with the rest of the other NHTYA members on the Myalls.*



*Keeping up the tradition from last year, the propeller bar got a good work out at the end of the day. Not much to do at Shelly's but swim, chat, drink...Yeh tough I know.*

*UNO was popular with the crew. Looks like Mr Finn's on UNO again...*

### **31st December – 1st January Day 5 – Happy New Year**

*Time to just chill and relax again... “Not a bad place to be Phil”.*

*I'm not sure whether it was Kevin or Phil, but it was pointed out that at Shelly's the club was represented by x2 Sabre 25, x2 Mac 26, x2 Farr 6000, x2 Nolex 25. Very Noahs Arc.*

*New Years was a fairly subdued affair. With the crew having had too much we decided to call it a night and turn in early, only to be awoken at the stroke of mid-night by a loud “Happy New Year!”. That was it. Another year gone and a new one begins. What will it bring? Many relaxing cruises like this one would hope!*



**Happy cruising  
Captain and Crew of  
Macnifique**