



Happy and safe boating

MLAC Bulletin

"Respect the Past - Create the Future"

MAY 2022

NEXT OUTING

30 July
Sydney
Boatshow

UPCOMING EVENTS

10-11 September
Koresmans

1-2 October
Tickerabbit/Shelley

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Captains Cook - May Outing - 2022

28-29 May 2022

Eight boats found their way upriver to tie up to, and around, Engel's Landing for the mighty MLAC Captain's Stew weekend. The weather was (mostly) fine and reasonably warm, with only a light breeze and the occasional spit of rain. The ground was solid at last, after all the recent rain, though there was still a considerable amount of water around the edges of our chosen site. There was enough flat, dry ground for the club shelter to be quickly erected and tables laid out for the cooks to start preparing their gastronomic delights.

Thanks to the generous wood donations of the participants, a fabulous fire was built and sustained by willing helpers, creating that wonderful camping atmosphere of flickering flames, the smell of woodsmoke, the sting in the eye if the breeze suddenly turned and sent that woodsmoke into your eyes, the clink of glasses or clank of cans and the quiet business of the captains as they set their cooking pots into or over the glowing coals.

Overall, there were eight captains (and their supportive crew) representing the eight boats in attendance: Neil & Carol on Imagine; Mack & Linda on Independence; Ben on Kiandra; Rod & Mel on Toy Ship; Geoff & Heidi on Calypso; Bruce & Donna on Karma; Mal & Bec on Carroa and Tony & Christine on River Gypsy.



The first mates were relegated to the wharf itself, forced to sit around, talk, munch on snacks, imbibe the occasional drink and generally rest while our respective captains laboured on land, preparing their stews from scratch. There was much laughter from both groups, with the captains obviously rising good humouredly to the many challenges of camp cooking, and their womenfolk making the odd observation of the various techniques being used.

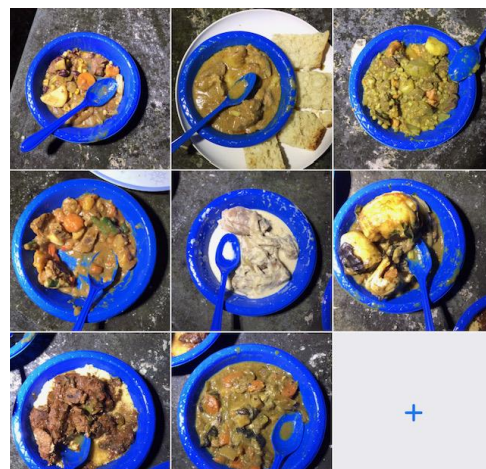
Once the evening's repast was well under control, members moved into the Huddle (4.09pm), which was necessarily quite short, due to the demands of cooking pots on a fire. However, Commodore Rod officially welcomed new members, Carol and Neil, then recapped the many highlights of the Easter long weekend, which really was an outstanding get-together made even more of a standout by the large number of members who attended. During the

Huddle, concerns were raised regarding a tree in the water at Black Oaks wharf. The rest of the Huddle was comprised of a general discussion of boating issues, before it was time for the captains to resume their culinary duties and their first mates to resume their distance.

The process for judging the stews took quite a lot of deliberation, suggestion and counter suggestion but in the end, the process was decided on and was well supported by all. Realistically, there were too many stews for all the ladies to be judges, so three were conscripted: Heidi, Donna and Rebecca. These three ladies took their time sampling the eight offerings, which were presented in anonymous blue bowls. The final decision was a difficult one because all the offerings were good, but the criteria were clear: taste, moisture content and tenderness of the meat.



The Sunday morning dawned quite chilly. Crews huddled around the fire, several members eating leftover camp stew. Once it was warm enough and the shelter roof was dry, it was quickly folded up and packed back into the Prawn, and a very thorough cleanup of the area was made. Boats eventually headed home with all members having enjoyed a very successful Captain's Stew weekend.



And the winner was: CAPTAIN MALCOLM MUDDLE. The runner up: CAPTAIN MACK (Kerry) MACINTOSH. Congratulations to Malcolm and to Mack for a great effort, but congratulations and kudos also to the other captains who created delicious stews that provided all members with a large and diverse meal.



Mal takes the victory on his first attempt.



Mac, a very close second!



Captains, busy preparing the feast!



Mac keeping his ingredients secret (even from Ben)



Geoff giving Mal tips 😊

