

ABCCC (Vic) :: 3rd to 6th April 2025 The Memorable Lakes Tour

Our journey began early in the morning, with the excitement of the trip ahead fuelling our spirits. When we set off from home, we knew it would take us at least four hours to reach our first meeting point, the charming Glengarry Pub.

Upon arrival at the pub, it was heartwarming to catch up with everyone. The familiar faces and lively conversations made for a delightful lunch. The pub, with its cosy atmosphere and friendly staff, provided the perfect setting for our gathering.

A fridge filled with amusing signs, set up for good conversations.



After a satisfying meal and plenty of chatter, we set off for our trip destination, Lakes Entrance. The drive was scenic, with the landscape gradually transforming as we approached the coast.



Once everyone had checked in at Lakeside Motel Waterfront and welcomed by Ken (Michael was on holidays), it was time to gather for dinner around the undercover BBQ area. Richard & Garry volunteered to help Maxine with the BBQ. After our pub lunch, a simple yet delicious meal of sausage in bread and chicken skewers perfectly hit the spot.



For dessert, we enjoyed bowls of two fruits and ice cream, with the amusing instruction to bring our own spoons. Of course, some of us forgot to bring a spoon, myself included. I found myself caught enjoying my ice cream with a very large serving spoon, much to everyone's amusement. And then there was Richard, who couldn't resist digging into the ice cream container for all the leftovers, licking the bowl clean, while no one was looking (except Judy)..



Thanks to everyone for their great generosity with coins to fill the federation collection tin for the Peter Mac Cancer Centre Foundation. The evening was filled with laughter, another glass of wine, and more chatter before we finally headed off to bed, content and looking forward to the adventures the next day would bring.

The next day we embarked on an unforgettable 3-hour cruise aboard the Eco Lonsdale. Our adventure began with our Captain Tony who skilfully navigated us to the channel opening on to Bass Strait with his knowledge & tales of the area's rich history, pointing out seals, swans, pelicans, and a variety of other birdlife and wildlife along the way. His knowledge was impressive, and his storytelling made the journey even more enjoyable.



Meanwhile, his wife Melinda made us feel right at home. She baked fresh scones on board, filling the air with a delightful aroma. When she served them with cream for our afternoon tea, they were simply delicious!







Oh & look who is that following Trevor & Jillwatch the speed hump and your speed!

Saturday was a bit crisp morning after the rain we had through the night. We lined up and left the motel at 10am, heading towards the Nyerimilang Homestead, which wasn't too far away. Our President took the lead, ensuring everyone could see where he turned left at the highway. His caution was evident as he made sure no one missed the turn. However, as we all travelled closely behind, it became clear that he had missed the turn-off into the homestead. The gravel road he took didn't lead anywhere, and consequently, everyone missed the correct turn-off too. When we finally arrived and parked, everyone gave him a tip for his efforts!

Whilst the weather had been rainy and windy during the night, as we entered the property, the sun came out, and the wind died down. It turned into a beautiful day, perfect for exploring the homestead and its surroundings.



The homestead was built in 1894 by Frank Stuart, a businessman from Melbourne. It served as a holiday retreat for his family, offering stunning panoramic views from a cliff top overlooking the Gippsland Lakes. As we entered the Nyerimilang Homestead, we all agreed on how beautiful and charming it was. We roamed around at our leisure, looking at the many photos, stories, and lovely furniture and collectables of its era. A small theatrette had been set up, and some enjoyed viewing the short movies that brought the past to life. Ian tried the piano, which still played a lovely note, filling the room with a nostalgic melody. Everyone enjoyed the views from the lovely old-style bay window. The sun had come out, making it warm and inviting, adding to the charm of the homestead.





Before leaving, some chose to stay with their thermos and biscuits. Lorraine offered a lovely homemade ANZAC slice, which was delicious. We enjoyed morning tea in the picnic ground area, surrounded by the serene beauty of the homestead. As we sat around and relaxed reminiscing about Fly the Flag days! Maxine telling us how good the Marshalls had been in making sure the 200 cars fitted into the paddocks near the small carpark.

The history of the homestead was well maintained, and we could truly appreciate the past lives that had once filled this place with laughter and love. The sunny weather made the experience even more delightful, blending the beauty of the past with the warmth the present.

After a delightful morning tea in the picturesque grounds of Nyerimilang, we left there and onto a scenic journey to Metung, taking the charming backroads. The drive was a visual treat, with lush landscapes and serene views at every turn. Some of our group arrived ahead of us, choosing to indulge in coffee and cake at the local bakery.



Upon arrival, we strolled along the boat moorings near the hotel soaking in the stunning views of the lakes we had cruised the day before on the Lonsdale River Cruise.

Unlike the day before the wind was strong & the waters were rough but it still made for a good walk & lovely morning. For lunch, we all gathered at the Swan Reach Hotel. The afternoon was free, allowing everyone to relax and unwind. Most of us headed back to the motel, where we settled in for our last night's happy hour. The air was filled with laughter and chatter as we reminisced about the wonderful experiences of the past few days in Lakes Entrance.

Garry and Maxine were deep in discussion about the 'punt' of the bottle, which turned out to be Tony's wine. To Tony's surprise, when he asked for a glass, the bottle was empty! A lesson learned - never leave your bottle unattended, Tony!



For those wondering, a punt is the concave indentation at the bottom of a wine bottle. There are various theories about its purpose. Some believe it helps the bottle stand upright, while others think it makes the bottle easier to hold or helps collect sediment. Regardless of its true purpose, it certainly sparked a moments of laughter & interesting conversation!



Meanwhile, Shirley was trying to find the owner of the Malt O Milk biscuits.

We all thanked Tony and Maxine for organizing such a lovely time. The weather had been perfect, and the memories we made were even better.

Some snapshots of Members cars on the Lakes Tour



