

Mid Winter Cruise 2011

While not strictly mid winter in a calendar sense, this year's Mid Winter Cruise was held over the weekend of 6/7 August. However the mid-winter name did seem appropriate given that we managed to find a weekend of great weather between two snow/blizzard events.

Twelve members of the Canterbury Trailer Yacht Squadron set off cruising in their cars around mid-day on Saturday 6 August. This year the navigation seemed to improve and everyone rendezvoused at the right place and about the right time. Our base for the weekend was once again Stroncrubie, Mt Somers.

We were greeted by warm sunshine and a fabulous view of the mountains and surrounding scenery and it was straight into the sports. Cruising should be a leisurely and enjoyable experience and croquet on the lawn with a bit of Petanque and some drinks and nibbles at the refreshment table seemed just the ticket.





After the arduous sporting activity (???) it seemed like a good idea to return to the lodge for some pre-dinner drinks and exchange of stories. Colin had arranged a video of Captain Johnson recounting his voyage around Cape Horn on the 4 masted barque Peking. This includes amazing footage taken on board in 1929. A great watch if you have not had the chance to see it.

As some among the group remembered there were a couple of rugby games on that evening, a sweep stake was arranged and none other than our Commodore, John Cullens showed his skills weren't just restricted to yacht racing. Which ever way the scores were counted, John cleaned up, thus taking the prize.

As all you cruisers will know, it can be hard but you take the opportunities for some of the better things in life when you can. Needless to say we enjoyed a fine dinner and didn't even have to do the dishes!



Next morning, after a breakfast that was much better to what we normally enjoy at home, some headed back to Christchurch and others went exploring other parts of the area. Everyone enjoyed themselves and agreed we should have another "Cruise" next winter. Make it part of your plans to join us next year.

Thanks to Colin Prebble and John Begg for organising it all.