

Elliott Heads Kayak Camp – 7-12 May 2023

Attended by 8 paddlers with 5 supporters – Barry and Charmaine Renaud, Graham and Kay Mills, Janelle Ellwood and sister Marcia, Michael and Claire Tottenham, Bill Mansell, Margaret and Frank Micale, Anne Cooke, Selwyn Gray



**Day 1 - Bundy 5:15 am 0.98m
L 10:32 am 2.76m H 15 knots
SW**



Fresh morning of 12 degrees leaving the shoreline of Bundaberg at Lions Park near the rail bridge. Nine paddlers paddled up river toward the barrage on the Burnett River. We did not quite make the barrage due to wind however ducked into Splitters Creek to be protected.



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We saw lots of bird life and fish nearly knocking Michael out of his boat 🦄



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We all had lunch at **River Cruz Café** on the river - a lovely outlook and beautiful under the huge Moreton Bay Fig tree.



Back at the caravan park, we gathered at Sundown for a delightful **BBQ**, BYO meat CR and Kay provided salads. A lovely chat by all.

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Day 2 – 10 knots SSW-SSE Sandy Hook - 8am on the water – 15km – Tuesday 9th May

Morning view before leaving Elliott Heads



Sandy Hook early morning



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Freshwater paddle a glorious clear day paddling the Burnett river. The sun was shining, with clear blue skies which helped us see a number of Eagles, Lung fish and other birds 🦅

Garth shared that guva's were plentiful on the side of the river and there were a number of paddlers scampering to collect a few to maybe make some jam if they make it home to Brisbane in time before they were unusable.

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Sandy Hook Launching Point



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Morning Tea Break

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Swim time at the end of the paddle



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On our way home the Ice creamery at Tinaberries was called for with a choice of strawberry, guva and lime, or macadamia and ginger ice creams. Lots of smiles this day!



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Walk Innes Park – in the afternoon a few paddlers ventured to the next inlet north, called Innes Park to complete a 4 km walk on the foreshore high on the cliffs looking down to the all the rocks protecting for the shore below. Amazing the quality of the homes and seeing kangaroos in the area.



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Day 3 - Cedars Crossing paddle day on the Burnett River - 8am on the water – 13 km – Wednesday 10th May 10 Knots

Some 4-wheel driving to park the cars before we set ourselves up to paddle. With beautiful reflections on the waters edge we headed off the shore, while cattle watched us on the opposite shoreline.



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We came across a huge irrigation water tower which is used for irrigating farmers' crops. At the halfway point we reached a cane rail bridge which had many tree trunks resting on the sides of the bridge due to past floods. Including up high in the tree top there was part of a water tank which had been caught high due to the flooding.



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The plovers, a bird, didn't like Barry going close to an island and flew around making lots of noises to let him know. There were a number of Sea Eagles high up in the trees watching us.



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A cow was caught on the bank by a high embankment above the river. With no way of getting out, Margaret rang the Council who said ring the RSPCA. They wanted more detail and Janelle had the GPS coordinates. This then involved at least 10 phone calls from them. For details ask one of our kayakers for the whole story with the outcome being:

Hi Janelle, it's Haroulla RSPCA inspector. I just wanted to let you know the owner has located and collected the cow now. They send their gratitude to you for notifying us. Thankyou

Some kayakers and family members attended the Macadamia World for lunch with a tour which was wonderful to learn about the farm and that the nut comes from the Banksia family.

Day 4 - Elliott Heads River paddle - 8am on the water – 11km – Thursday 11th May
EH 7.35 1.03m L 15-20 knots

A lovely with 9 paddlers leaving the boat ramp going down river toward the sea for a little before turning around to go upriver with some locals joining us.



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There were loads of mangroves which are the lungs for the sea with many sandbars due to low tide. The water was crystal clear coming in from the sea.



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A pleasant morning on the water for everyone.

Celebration Dinner at Elliott Heads Bowls Club to finish the Elliott Heads Kayaking Camp



Great Kayak Camp thankyou everyone for joining in Sandgate Paddling Club adventures

Charmaine Renaud