

## Sandgate Paddling Club – Creekies SARP Day

One of the informal groups in the Sandgate Paddling Club (SPC) goes out on Saturday morning, usually up Nundah Creek, occasionally Cabbage Tree, and sometimes 'out the front' along Sandgate foreshore, or over to Nudgee Creek. Known unimaginatively as 'The Creekies', members mainly use flatwater kayaks such as TK1s.



Paddlers are always looking to enhance their skills, including those related to safety, and the Creekies are no exception. On 30 September the Club held a special Skills and Rescue Practice – SARP – day, specifically for Creekies. There are particular issues with TK1s, as they don't have bulkheads, and can easily fill with water if one capsizes, making it difficult to recover both kayaker and kayak.

Under the expert tuition of SPC's senior instructors, Barry and Charmaine Renaud, the session, conducted off Shorncliffe Boat Ramp at the junction of Cabbage Tree and Nundah creeks, was a great success. Participants learnt and practiced:

- carrying another paddler on the front of their kayak, koala bear style
- towing an empty kayak, and
- other safety skills





Particular time and emphasis was placed on recovering a paddler who has tipped out, and getting them back in their own boat.



It must be said that most paddlers were not exactly looking forward to deliberately capsizing and falling in – as one remarked, it goes against your basic instincts. In the event, however, everyone found it was actually fun! As well as learning and enhancing their skills, they enjoyed the session immensely, and are now keen to practice together, and make the SARP day a regular Creekies event.

By Doug Hunt

