

CHINDERAH CAMP REPORT JULY 14-18 2014

Submitted by Brian Martin

Monday 14th July.

At 8am, 18 paddlers launched into Cudgen Creek at Kingscliff. Although a fairly cold south westerly was blowing spirits soon rose when the sun appeared and we began to enjoy the beautiful clear water and the sandy bottom of the creek. Tide was with us and thanks to somebody's clearing of fallen timber and 10km of easy paddling we reached our destination, Cudgen Lake. We found a good spot for our morning tea at the start of the creek, then spent a short period exploring the lake and sailing. We almost lost Di as she stepped into a boggy hole but all was okay so we headed for home. The tide turned our way again halfway back and we arrived home at 12.30pm after an enjoyable morning.

Tuesday 15th July.

This morning's launch was at Tallebudgera Creek, Palm Beach. We again paddled with the incoming tide and under the Pacific Motorway. Most of us elected to undertake a difficult portage cutting almost 2km off the trip. Although the sky was overcast there was no wind so conditions were excellent enabling us to cover the 18km paddle in good time arriving back at our launching spot at 1pm. We had virtually paddled the entire creek in four and a half hours.

Wednesday 16th July.

Under threatening skies we dropped our kayaks into the Tweed River at Tumbulgum. Heading into the Rous River opposite we paddled alongside dense rainforest as well as some curious cattle. Morning tea stop was a challenge with mud and rocks to negotiate but the break was enjoyed by all. We continued into Myall Creek passing through sugarcane country until we eventually returned to the Tweed. With the distant Condong sugar mill belching smoke we headed towards it for our lunch break on a grassy riverside park. After lunch we were off again on the last leg of our paddle back to Tumbulgum arriving at 2pm. Enjoyed our 22km paddle and the fact we had remained dry for the whole trip. Our usual club dinner that evening was held at the Kingscliff Beach Bowls Club.

Thursday 17th July.

A beautiful sunny day lay before us as we launched once again into the Tweed at Condong, but this time heading up the river. With no breeze and great reflections we paddled past the sugar mill and on to Murwillumbah. We stopped for morning tea on a grassy bank enjoying the warm sunshine and the views. We then paddled further up and the scenery continued to impress as we drew even

closer to Mt Warning. Some very impressive homes appeared, built high up with superb views down the Tweed River. Eventually we arrived at the weir, where we landed and had a look around. We headed back to Condong landing for lunch at the sandy beach of the local rowing club. After Richard did some "sail business" with a local and Di threw a tennis ball for an eager dog we left on the final leg home. A day of perfect weather, with great scenery covering 20km. It was enjoyed by all of us. This is what kayaking is all about!

Friday 18th July.

Another fine day but breezy with increasing winds forecast (kayak sailors were excited by the prospects). Eleven of us set off down river heading for the Terranora Inlet. With wind assistance we made good time as we explored the canals and waters of the inlet. We found a sandy sheltered spot for our cuppa. Dennis, Faye and Albert decided to head back home while the rest of us paddled further in to explore the inlet despite the increasing wind. Our return was pretty exciting with the 'sailors' charging along sometimes reaching speeds of 14kph. This is what kayaking with a sail is all about!! A few anxious moments occurred when negotiating some pylons under the bridge but we made it safely as we continued on our way back, finally arriving at 12.45 pm.

A real exciting day to conclude our week at Chinderah.

May there be plenty more kayak camps!