

GREAT KEPPEL ISLAND

25 March-1 April 2015

As the ferry slipped its moorings from Rosslyn Bay the seagulls cartwheeled in an azure sky, the prow cut through a bright blue sea as flat as a sheet of glass and dolphins frolicked besides the boat.

After a short trip we landed on the beach and while our luggage was being transferred, we paddled our kayaks the short trip to the beach that would be our launching spot for the next week.

The accommodation was simple but more than adequate. Each couple had their own bunkhouse with 2 bunkhouses to a unit sharing a shower, loo and washbasin. Fay and Albert and Colleen and Ron sharing one unit, Linda and Ross and Sybil and Ray another and Margaret and Derek sharing with Lorri and Dennis.

The day was so perfect that after settling in and a quick bite we paddled to the Southern Point, enjoying the crystal clear water and enjoying a swim after the paddle. In fact it was a feature of the camp that the water was so warm we could spend literally hours after a paddle just lazing in the water and it even encouraged a lot of rescuing practice.

After that one beautiful day rolled into the next with deep blue skies, turquoise water and gentle breezes and we paddled, swam, snorkelled, climbed sand dunes etc. We paddled to Middle Island where we stopped for morning tea on the eastern side and some of the group walked to the top of the Island. We then continued to the western side for lunch and snorkelling.

We also headed around the southern side of the Island and had morning tea on Halfway Island and more snorkelling. Because conditions were so favourable we crossed over to Humpy Island and explored the camp site and then returned to Long Beach on the Island and more swimming and snorkelling.

We paddled on the north side of the Island to its tip. At the top beach we prepared for some snorkelling but Ron was observed backing out of the water at a rapid rate as he had seen some fins and they were not dolphins. A shark then came in close and attacked a school of baitfish.

However, we were not to be put off by a few sharks and after a wait it was into the water and the coral was well worth it, very beautiful. Margaret patrolled the water in her kayak and Albert carried a big stick in the water which he reassured us was sufficient protection against a great white. The wind had come up a bit and the paddle back was a bit more challenging. We had dinner at the restaurant and then the nightly game of cards.



We also paddled to Leech Creek and it was very pretty through the mangroves.

On our paddle around Middle Island the wind came up and white caps were everywhere, so we decided as a group not to stop and once around the Island we headed for home.

Wednesday we were back on the ferry, the weather was closing out so we left our tropical paradise after a wonderful week of fine weather, great company and excellent paddling.

