

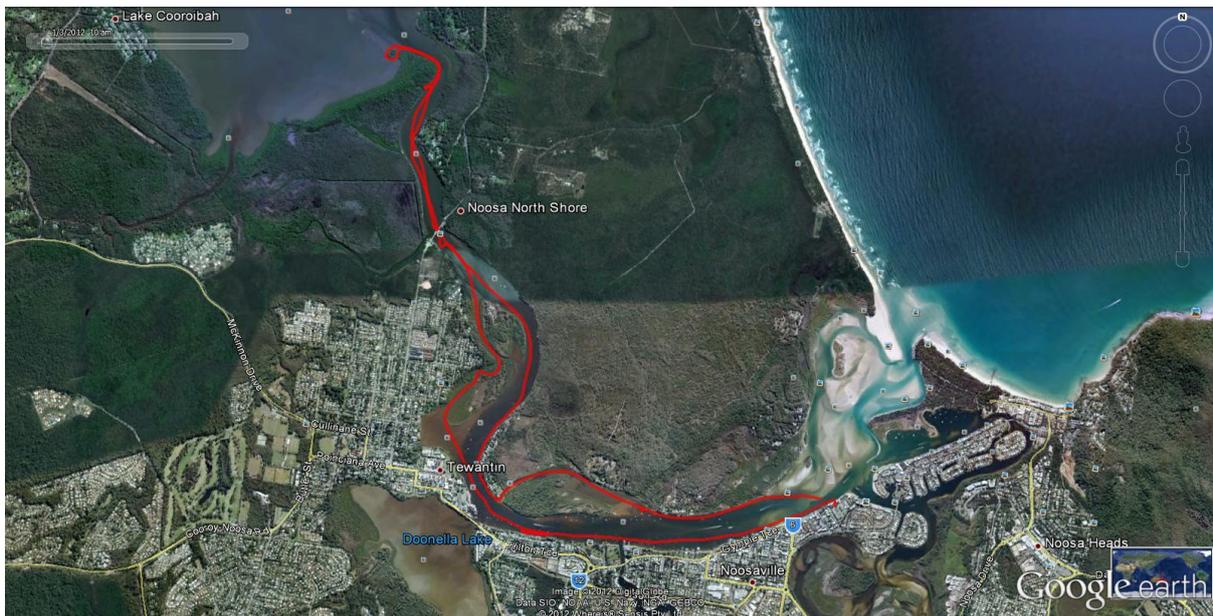
## NOOSA CAMP REPORT

June 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 2012.

Heavy rain 3 days prior to the Noosa camp and there's a sense of deja vu with memories of torrential downpours that brought this same camp to a soggy end last time.

**Sunday 3rd June** at happy hour in Jim and Barry's unit a collective decision was made to reverse Monday and Tuesday paddle due to the inclement weather.

**Monday 4th** a perfect morning - sunny clear skies greeted us with the Noosa River full and inviting. We launched at Munna Point with 16 paddlers and headed towards Tewantin, detouring into a side creek to observe the house-boat-hide-out with an interesting side commentary from Barry, then past Branson's Makepeace Island...and into the entrance of Lake Cooroibah. A suitable morning tea spot was located and here we were visited by a "younger than most of us" guy on a narrow tippy 680 surf ski - who duly informed us he paddles from Tewantin to Boreen Point and back before breakfast (well almost!). An invitation to try out the ski was not taken up though there may have been a couple who were tempted. On the return paddle a stop a Harbourtown in Tewantin to organise a fish & chip venue for our full moon paddle that night. A fortuitous decision after Jim pointed out the large concrete blocks just visible on the surface of the river which would have presented a serious obstacle for kayakers at night. The menu and prices checked and deemed suitable we continued back to Munna Point leaving Jim and Barry chatting with a local shop owner...which may have resulted in another potential club member, our enthusiasm is contagious.



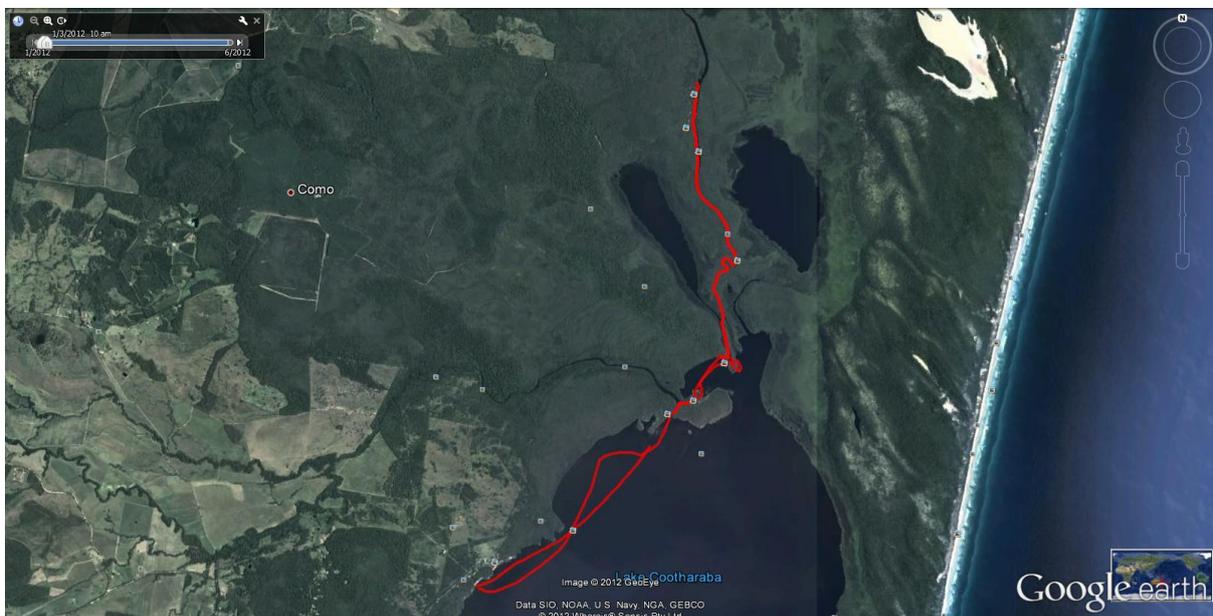
An early happy hour was suggested to enable us to be back on the water at 5.30pm for a full moon paddle - in memory of Bruce Gardner.

We paddled out in perfect still conditions with a huge yellow moon rising behind us and made our way towards Tewantin. Everyone from camp met on the decks of Harbourtown for an \$8.50 special and perhaps a glass of wine! A perfect setting. The paddlers on the way home were able to view the partial eclipse of the moon whilst experiencing the black velvet feel of the water...an evening to remember.

**Tuesday 5th** brought a cool start to the morning with the promise of another fine day. There were early arrivals at the Elanda launch spot with Umi being the most organised. The lake looked pristine

with just a slight surface ruffle towards the centre - a suggestion of what may come. 20 paddlers departed - one or two of us only after a couple of very senior moments! - and crossed the lake reaching Kinaba Centre 40 or so minutes later. From here we continued into Fig Tree Lake which was covered by a blanket of water lilies, an astonishing sight, with only a cruise-boat-width of clear water to navigate. A morning tea stop at Fig Tree after a short meander round the "gardens" where there was plenty of evidence of the flooding in the whole river system from the heavy rains of the week before. A few of us took the palm tree walk, a short boardwalk circuit. It was suggested those paddlers new to the area lead up into the everglades to catch glimpses of the beauty of the reflections, but these were not at their best due to the murky flood water and sections of wind.

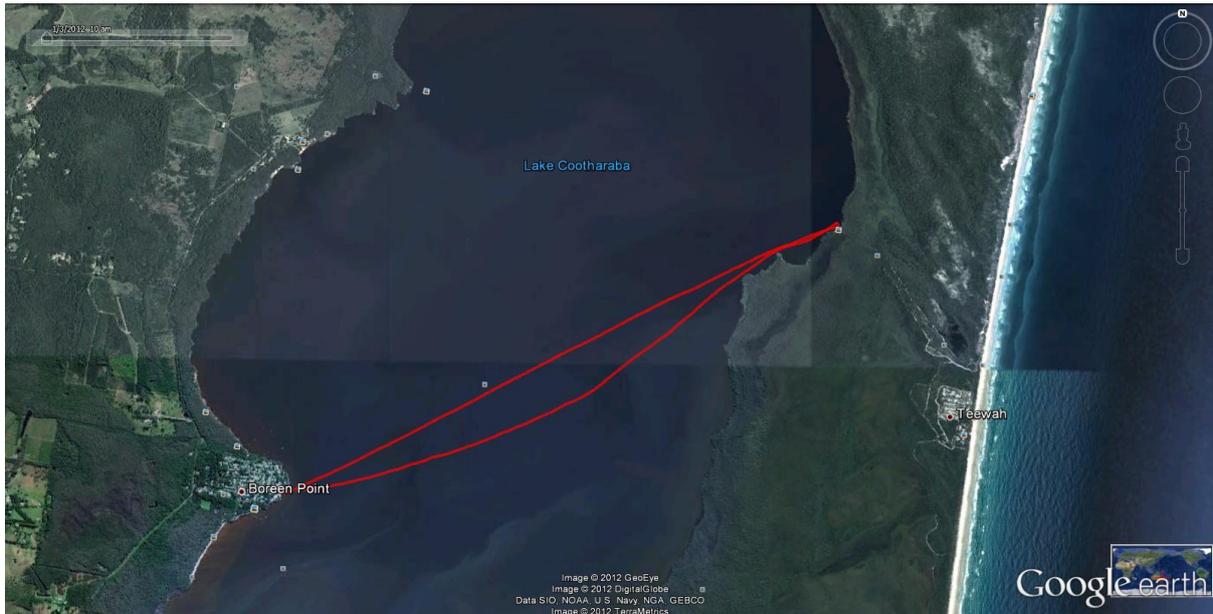
At Harry's Hut - our intended lunch destination - we were made aware of just how high the water level had risen when Jim paddled up the ramp of the landing jetty, which is normally high and dry! Exiting the kayaks was easily achieved as long as one remembered one side only was safe from a dunking. Wildlife encounters interrupted the lunch break with an athletic display by Lorna following a visit by a local goanna - canoe ramps have a variety of uses - and a slight of hand performed by a bush turkey who took advantage of a lapse of concentration on Carmel's part and raced in and off with her sandwich - glad wrap and all....back at Fig Tree on the journey home and a riot of teenagers in canoes haphazardly negotiated the obstacle course of water lilies causing some hilarious near misses between canoes and kayaks. At Kinaba Centre the increase in wind is more apparent and this makes for a fun paddle back to Elanda. Midway across the lake a hat is spotted floating past and soon retrieved - and claimed by Jan on return.



The camp is divided that evening for happy hour with some on the beach for sunset - the rest at Jim and Barry's unit. Dave arrives later with a news report of strong winds forecast for the next day in our area...disbelief then resigned acceptance of this news which results in Wednesday's paddle from Munna Point to Teewah having to be cancelled. A phone call is made to the now moon watching group to relay this message but it takes a moment to register - the moon's influence perhaps.

**Wednesday 6th** and 13 paddlers launched from Munna Point in ideal conditions with as yet no suggestion of winds and crossed over the river past the Frying Pan to North Shore side. Jim led us into a small lake bounded by mangroves, the roots of which offered an obstacle course thanks to the high water level. Landing on the beach on North Shore, it was a very flat and inviting Noosa bar that we were presented with. Lions Park in Hasting Street was our morning tea stop then on past Munna

Pooint to Anita's Bedrooms hidden lake behind the mangroves, then Jim escorted us round mangrove islands and back to our launching site. On returning we hear that Roy, Richard and Arnie have completed a sails-up paddle right across Lake Cootharaba.



**Thursday 7th** - This was a Lake Weyba paddle incorporating both the weekly and camp group, which started off with 20 paddlers. A wind report of 10-15kts and becoming overcast. Entering the lake from the shelter of the creek and the forecast wind was more evident in the short choppy white-capped waves - it was here a few of the group turned back to paddle round to the lions park at Hasting Street - while the rest of the paddlers pushed through the waves over to Murdering Creek. Neil had mentioned a homemade bridge blocking the creek access - our amazement at seeing this drums & planks & ropes construction strung between the banks became a determination to investigate further - so hopefully Sue's photo and Jim's co-ordinates will prompt the council to check the details - all on behalf of the club.

The club's dinner that evening was at South Pacific a pleasant setting with a 2 for 1 meal deal...a nice occasion once the dilemma of being only a "1" has been solved. The next morning, Friday, and the forecast showers and cooler weather have arrived, but we have enjoyed a mostly fine-weather camp and take with us a special moonlight paddle in memory of Bruce.

*Anita.*

