

MARYBOROUGH CAMP – MARY RIVER

5th – 10th September 2010.

Accommodation base:
The Wallace Motel & Caravan Park.
Ferry Street, Maryborough.

Day 1 Monday: Downstream from Maryborough.

Overnight rain of 50 - 60 mm and steady morning drizzle saw a party of ten at Tiaro, ready to paddle upstream. However, the river had risen, overnight, to a level of 2.66m with a brisk current running. Though not dangerous, prudence deemed we cancel for the morning, return to base and reconsider an afternoon option.

Afternoon:

Depart Lamington Bridge downstream at 2pm.
An assisting run-out tide, around 8km/hr, generated easy paddling for a 3 pm arrival at the Rowing Club. Low tide left the boat ramp very muddy so we used the pontoon to extract.

Day 2 Tuesday: Upstream from Maryborough.

Weather was fine and clear, with some hyacinth and weed patches to contend with. Our party had now reached 12.

Intending to paddle as far as possible towards the barrage, our party slipped along on an incoming tide. Passing under the Highway and around Copenhagen Bend, we struck head winds. Whilst difficult to find a landing, we did manage to stop amongst the cow pats to have a delightful morning tea. Our journey only lasted another 1km before we turned at the 10.5 km mark to return with the tide, past a large bat colony to the boat ramp at 12:30. Distance traveled 21 km.

Day 3 Wednesday: Big Tuan Creek.

Weather was fine with party of 10.

Depart Tuan Boat Ramp at 8:15am. High tide at 9:15am.
This was a very picturesque paddle up Big Tuan Creek, with morning tea on the junction of another creek. An attempt was made to reach the Wide Bay Road Bridge. However, like Burke and Wills, we fell agonizingly short. We backtracked to boat ramp by 12:30pm.
Distance traveled 16km.

Wednesday night's dinner saw 16 of us using a courtesy bus to dine at the RSL.

Day 4 Thursday: Mary River - Upstream at Tiaro.

Another lovely day with only a short paddle planned. The morning markets were visited and some went whale watching. The afternoon saw us heading back to Tiaro. The river level had dropped to 2.04m.



Photo 1 - Tuan Creek



Photo 2 - Tuan Reflections



Photo 3 - Tiaro Launch

Depart Petrie Park, Tiaro at 1:45pm.

We paddled upstream against a small current. Our group enjoyed the peace and tranquility of this beautiful stretch of water. Only a short 10 km round trip, but well worth the effort.

Day 5 Friday: Mary River - Downstream at Tiaro.

Weather was fine with rain developing later in the day.

The most promising paddle of the week saw our party of 8, car shuffle to Teddington Weir. We intended to paddle downstream to the Mary and then up to the Lamington Bridge. Water levels had dropped from 0.54m, above the weir, on Monday to 0.16m on Friday morning. Alas and drat! On arrival, we find it still too dangerous and decide to relocate to Tiaro.

Depart Petrie Park Tiaro at 9:15am.

Our paddle took us 6km downstream to Chinaman Creek with morning tea under the trees.

A short exploration of the creek preceded the return to our vehicles. A total of 13km paddled for a very enjoyable morning.

River level at 1.99m. Distance paddled 13.5km.

Peter Jesberg.



Photo 4 - Morning Break



Photo 5 - Chinaman Creek