

Pumicestone Passage – North to South. 23rd January 2016.

This report was compiled by Co-ordinator for the day – Ron Willoughby.



High Tide – Brisbane Bar 9.09 am. Height 2.53m. Wind N. 15 klm/hour

5.00 am – Dave P., and Bob W., with trailers went direct to Kal Ma Kuta Drive, car park, North side of Sandstone Point to leave their vehicles at the finishing destination in preparation for the returning of our kayaks back to Keith Hill Park. Ian B., also headed down to collect these drivers as well as Di H. and her kayak, returning by 7.00 am., back to Keith Hill Park.

Leaders for the trip were Dave P. George R., – First stage Tail Charlie was Jenny B. second stage Jim L. final stage Bob W.

After all 18 kayakers had entered the water at 8.00 am Dave P. called everyone together and requested those who had radios to call in to the leader to check that all were on air.

With a fresh wind from the North, at about 15 km / hr and with an incoming tide pushing us and sails set, we headed off southwards bound, down the Pumicestone Passage toward the bottom of Bribie Island at a good pace.

We made good time passing Lighthouse Reach by 9.10 am continuing on to a landing point on Bribie Island opposite Roys Road where we stopped for morning tea at about 9.35 am.

We met up with Robyn G. who had made contact with us by radio after leaving Roys Rd. Car Park. Robyn explained she only wanted a short paddle and would return to Roys road at the south side of The Skids before the tide turned.

At 10.15am we headed off toward The Skids a collection of islands where both incoming tides from Brisbane and Caloundra meet. Although the wind had dropped, we were still enjoying the incoming tide from Caloundra. After passing a few small islands which had well marked navigation signs at about 10.50 am we realised we had met the incoming tide from

Brisbane. This slightly slowed our progress, but after clearing Long Island which denoted the end of The Skids we could see Mission Point some 2 km away. During this section of the paddle we encountered many fishing boats and plenty of high speed jet skis one of which slowed down and came over to have a chat. On closer inspection he turned out to be the Water Police and was very friendly, he told us he was from Brisbane and this was his first time he had been on a jet ski and also on Pumicestone Passage and was enjoying the change of duties. He was very interested and impressed on how well our club was managing.

Arriving at Mission Point by 11.45 am for lunch break. This park is only accessible by boat and hiking track – and is a credit to the National Parks Rangers who keep this camping ground well maintained with enclosed grassy area for day visitors with toilet, showers, BBQ with plenty of fire wood, and many picnic tables, lovely sandy beach – time for a swim.

12.30 pm. Time to go, about 12 km to the finish of the paddle – The tide had changed and was now flowing toward Brisbane it wasn't long before we came around a headland we could see Donnybrook and Toorbul on the right hand side, then many houses in the distance and finally Bribie Island Bridge. As we got closer and the tide was racing out we noticed more and more sand banks appearing but under the guidance of our leaders we were able to stick to the deeper water, dodging “The Pinnacles” a mass of rocks slowly appearing out of the water, arriving at Kal Ma Kuta beach at 2.00 pm. – Distance travelled 31 km. Time taken 6 hours.

Thanks go to the President Ian Berry, Bob Whiting, Dave Pass, Don McAllister and Lindsay Blanch for their assistance with the trailers and transport.

Thanks also go to Dean Haspell and Scott Reeman for the generous use of their trailers.

Foot note.

The most interesting knowledge to come out of this long paddle was the use of the hand held radios. The Co-ordinator, Leaders and Tail End Charlie were able to be in radio contact at all times, consequently all paddlers were informed of what dangers to look out for and were easily able to be kept together.