

The Scenic Rim 3 Lakes Camp from Boonah 13th to 18th of November 2016

Sunday 13th. - November 2016. We were greeted by our camp and trip organiser Jim Blyth at the Boonah Show Grounds Camping area at 5pm., where we registered for the paddles. Jim then outlined and explained the paddles that we were to do in the next 4 days. We always look forward to these happy hours at camp as this enables us all to catch up with everyone.

Monday 14th. - Lake Maroon. - We assembled at the show grounds at 8 am., then following Jim B., we proceeded to Lake Maroon starting point. The first thing we all saw when the lake came into view was the white caps on the water, we had a very stiff wind blowing which seemed to be coming from all directions when we were finally on the water, however the day was warm and fine. We proceeded clockwise around the lake seeking shelter in the many inlets to regroup. We did not see much wild life today but perhaps the wind had something to do with that. While having happy hour tonight we all enjoyed witnessing the spectacular rising full moon show. Distance paddled 11.9 kms.

Tuesday 15th. - Lake Moogerah. - 7.30 am start following Jim B., we left the show ground on a perfect Boonah day, very warm with a light breeze. Because there were ski boats operating in the lake we had to comply with the lake's rules by paddling anti clockwise today. While putting our kayaks onto the water, Jenny B. demonstrated her new spectacular entrance to her kayak without even getting wet. Finally we were on our way soon passing the dam wall and then entering an inlet with steep rocky walls all around. On the left side was a recess like a spa bath about 2 metres across, when it rains the spa would fill up by a waterfall above, then overflow into the lake below what a wonderful quirk of nature.



We shortly past a mountain with a rock formation at the top - with a little bit of imagination - it looked like a sleeping elephant. We soon found an ideal place on a river mouth for our morning tea stop. It wasn't long before a couple of horses came to visit us wanting to know what was going on. Thanks to Lorrie she was able to keep them amused by given them some of Dennis's apple to keep them away. We were soon on our way entering the river paddling about 500 meters, finishing through a carpet of very fine green leaves to the end. We were amazed at the amount of birdlife we kept seeing all around us and the bird nests mostly occupied, some only a meter or two above the water line. Further around the lake we entered another river which was much longer passing a nesting black swan that was a little bit agitated and was hissing to let us know her presence, we quickly gave it a wide berth, then further on past a small bat colony. After returning to open water we decided it was time to return to the starting point. On the way back we came across about 30 pelicans in a tight formation moving around and around in the shallows in some form of a fishing ritual - firstly one way then sharply turning the other - heads under - heads out- Russell recon's they were doing water ballet - they were certainly synchronised in their movements, and we all agreed that we had never witnessed this action by pelicans before. Finally sadly to say we arrived back to our cars, washed our kayaks loaded up then returned to camp. Distance paddled 16.7 kms.

Wednesday 16th - Lake Wyaralong. Left camp at 7.30am. following Jim B. to the western end of Lake Wyaralong where we were greeted with a SEQ Water contractor attempting to clear the clogged up lake of Water Hyacinth with a special floating machine that chews up this mess and deposit's the remains into the back of his truck - a very slow process. We finally entered the water and pushed our way through this clogged up mess.

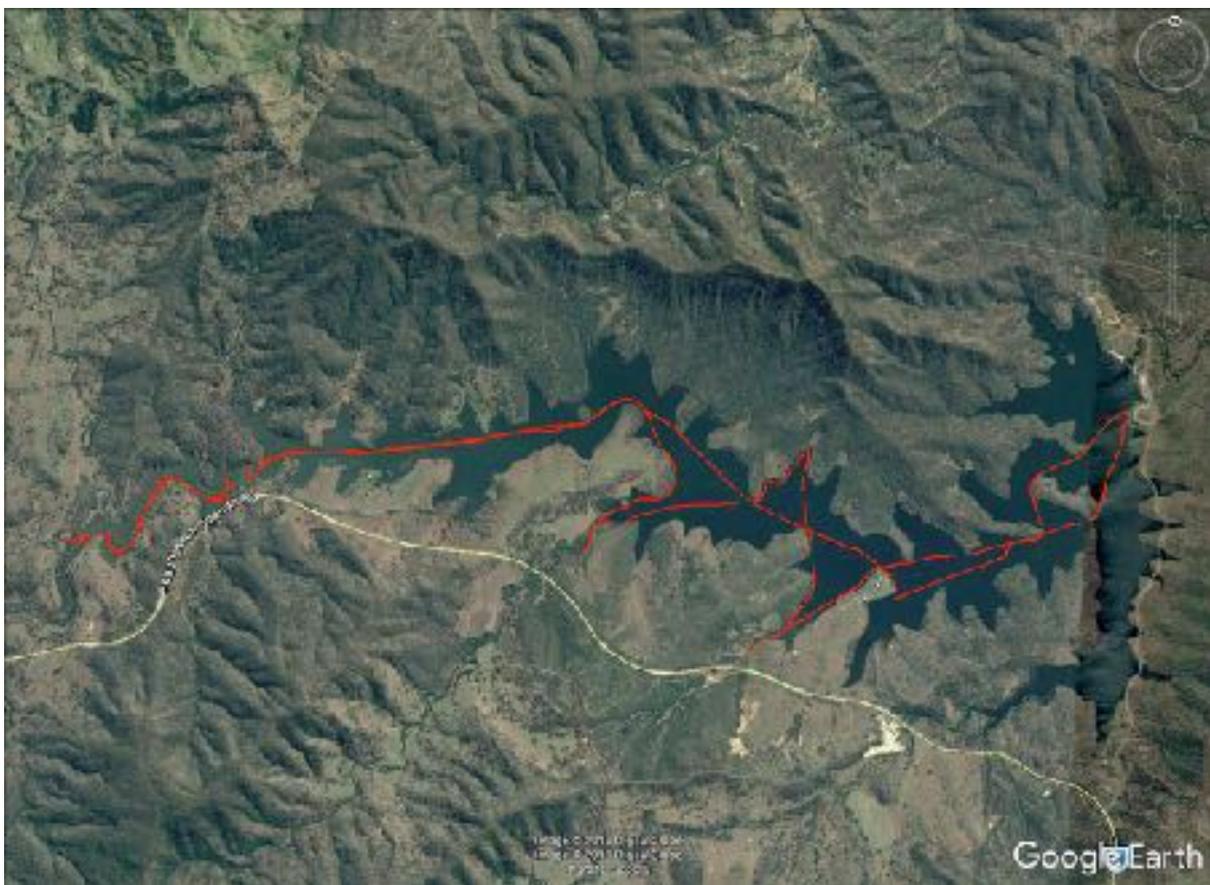


However we did see an unusual sight, a gathering of Cormorants in a dead tree which was standing in the water, it was covered all over with their nests, they were unconcerned that we were nearby and kept chattering loudly and diving into the water, most unusual as on the sea ways where we usually paddle they fly away very smartly when disturbed. Shortly after we regrouped and Bob W. decided he would attempt to charge through to try and make an opening for us to follow to get to the clear water that we could see in the distance, but even he had to return as the going was very hard, good try Bob. We all unanimously agreed we should give this a miss and return back to our cars where we washed our kayaks, had morning tea and returned back to camp. Distance paddled 6.1 kms.

On returning back to camp we were all looking forward to the evening meal that Lindsay B. had organised at the Dugangdon Hotel just out of town. Twenty six of us attended, we certainly did not expect such large meals, but a good night was had by all.

Thursday 17th. - Lake Wyaralong. Left camp at 7.30am. following Jim B. to the eastern end of Lake Wyaralong which is the main entrance to this lake, which has a concrete boat ramp and plenty of car parking. Kayaks in the water we paddled out over to the other side passing the spillway and dodging the marked out 2 kms long rowing lanes on the lake. Paddling westwards we came to a small beach with a grassy flat area. There was a sign which read “Ngumbi Park” which roughly translated meant “ great place to have morning tea”. We had the usual entertainment of watching the many spring loaded picnic chairs being assembled then afterward being pulled apart. As a few paddlers were packed up ready to return back to the Sunshine Coast at the conclusion of this paddle the group was spit up. Leaving the main group heading off to the far end of the lake close to where we were yesterday. The wind had increased but to some paddlers this was not an immediate concern, the wind would assist the paddling and sailing to the far end of the lake where we found a landing point to have lunch. Entering the water after lunch we now realised we had a very strong head wind and a considerable increased wave activity, the sails were not of any assistance on this return trip so it was a matter of keeping everyone together

and paddling harder, we were also trying to keep as best we could in the lee of the land to make regrouping and talking easier. Finally the rowing lanes were in sight and we were soon arriving back slightly exhausted but relieved we had made it back to our cars. Distance paddled 29.2 kms - time approx. 7 hours. "There has to be a moral to this paddle."



GPS Tracks on Lake Wyaralong

In Conclusion - We congratulate our camp organiser and leader Jim Blyth for yet another excellent camp destination and paddle venue, all of this very tight operation was carried out from our “Camp Head Quarters” - a little yellow one person tent that Jim B. couldn't even stand up in.

Many thanks also go to a non paddler Lindsay Blanch for his attention behind the scene by suppling transport and looking after our ladies and partners for their “ morning coffee and chat ritual”.

This report was compiled by Ron Willoughby and photos supplied by Brian Martin.