

Tweed River Camp 22nd August - 27th August 2017

A wonderful experience to return to the Tweed Valley - a location of very memorably paddles in the past and this camp lived up to this reputation.

Ron Willoughby was the Coordinator for the camp and did all the planning and set up work. Unfortunately due to personnel reasons he had to leave the camp early and handover the Coordinator's duties to me. The main base for this camp was the Boyds Bay Holiday Park which is situated on the southern shores of the Terranora Creek. Three of the paddles originated from the boat ramp attached to the park.

Most of the members attending the camp arrived on Tuesday (22nd), set up camp, then following that asked where the happy hour was to be held. The site chosen was a grassed area bordering the launching site for the kayaks and one of the access roads. During the happy hour we are informed as to what is planned for the following day.

Wednesday's Paddle - From the Holiday Park upstream on Terranora Creek to Cobaki Creek and then explore parts the Cobaki Creek and Broadwater before returning to the Holiday Park. With 25 paddlers present and paddled 15km. Our first target (at a request of some members of our club who has paddled here previously) was to get as close as possible to the end of the Coolangatta airport runway (200m) only to find out it's a very noisy location when the jets take off. From there we paddled across the Cobaki Broadwater to Cobaki Creek and the upstream to a subdivision estate fronting this creek. Here we all landed for morning tea by paddling directly onto the grassy lawns of the estate.



From here our return trip to the Holiday Park was uneventful, stopping once for a photo shot taken from a bridge we passed under. The weather was fine with only a mild breeze.

Thursday's Paddle - With the tide with us both ways we paddled from Kingscliff up Cudgen Creek to Cudgen Lake for morning tea and then returned to the start. With 21 paddlers we paddled 20kms. Enroute we met a few tree blockages on the way upstream which we managed to get around, one of them required assistance from others on the creek, thanks. Morning tea was held on the banks of the lake after a brief search through the bull rushes for a suitable dry location.



Following the paddle and a good cleanup we all caught the shuttle bus to take us to the Tweed Heads Bowls Club for our Club night out. An excellent night out.

Friday's Paddle - From the Holiday Park to the Tweed River, then upstream against the tide, current and a very strong wind to the Chinderah road bridge for a break, then return to the Holiday Park, paddling 17kms. 16 paddlers started with a few of the paddlers returning once the group reached and assessed the Tweed River. The rest paddled hard to reach the bridge then to have a very quick return trip back to Terranora Creek, at times reaching speeds of over 10kph under sail, dealing with an awkward chop and a strong river flow. Unfortunately there were 2 capsizes on the river section of this return paddle.

Saturday's Paddle - The Rous, Myall and Tweed circuit, departing and returning to Tumbulgum, a distance of 22.4kms. 11 paddlers launched their kayaks at the Tumbulgum boat ramp, paddled across the Tweed River and into Rous Creek. We paddled along this creek, often with a backdrop of Mt Waring in sight until we came to near Myall Creek junction where we stopped for morning tea. We found the first section of Rous Creek very attractive with its dense rainforest along its northern bank and cane fields on its southern bank. After morning tea we continued into Myall Creek until we returned to the Tweed River. In Myall Creek we did meet a minor obstruction which is shown in the photo. On reaching the Tweed River we had planned to have our second stop at a location nearby that Richard wanted to stop at. He couldn't find it so we continued our trip downstream to Condong where we did stop, admittedly in two different groups for our break. After the break an uneventful paddle until we returned to Tumbulgum.



Sunday's Paddle - From the Holiday Park upstream via Terranora Creek into the Terranora Broadwater, a distance of 16 kms.

The group, of 8 remaining paddlers, decided to avoid the hassle of weekend congestion and launch again from the Holiday Park.

This time the group slowed the pace a little and enjoyed a leisurely paddle into the Terranora Broadwater.

Prior to the Broadwater, the creek travels westward splitting into several channels before opening into a large muddy, shallow expanse of water. There were numerous fishing boats active drifting the flats and channels seeking a feed. This mob were dwarfed, however, by the numerous tourist numbers aboard the 'Catch A Crab' cruise, all armed to the teeth and hopeful of landing a fish.



On the return leg, the group ventured past oyster leases for a break beside the Seagulls Clubhouse before dodging the throng of Tourist and Pleasure Craft on the trip home.

A pleasant outing!

Report submitted by Jim Blyth & Don McAlister
Photos supplied by Cheryl Christensen & Bob Whiting