

Trip Report

BRIBIE OVERNIGHT

Sat 11th - Sun 12th Feb 2012



Editor Tanya Fitzgerald

A salty group of relatively new paddlers set off on a beautiful sunny Saturday morning to Complete the Passage from the Power Boat Club at Golden Beach to Mission Point on Bribie Island some 18kms in distance.

We had an excellent group of seven paddlers two of which were visitors. Our weather was so calm, the water was like glass. Many of our paddlers had not paddled this distance previously, but all did so with competence and with lots of smiles.

We spotted many beautiful birds during our paddle along the mangroves of Bribie including a Whistling Kite, Osprey and Sea Eagles (and a penguin - he he he not really). We had hoped to see dugongs but only saw killer whales!!!!

Girls on Bribie Island





Bribie Island

At 34 kilometres long and 8 kilometres at its widest, is the smallest and most northerly of three major sand island forming the coastline sheltering the northern part of Moreton Bay Queensland. The others are Moreton Island and North Stradbroke Island. Bribie Island, hugging the coastline and tapering to a long spit at its most northern point near Caloundra, is separated from the mainland by the Pumicestone Passage. A bridge from Sandstone Point on the mainland was completed in 1963.^[1] The ocean side of the island is somewhat sheltered from prevailing winds by Moreton Island and associated sand banks and has only a small surf break. The lee side is calm, with white sandy beaches in the south.

Most of the island is uninhabited national park (55.8 square kilometres) and forestry plantations. The southern end of the island has been intensively urbanised as part of the Moreton Bay Region. The main suburbs being Bongaree, Woorim, Bellara and Banksia Beach. Buckley's Hole, at the southern tip of the island, is an important bird habitat and refuge.¹

On arriving at Mission Point we set up camp in two spots - campsites 11 and 12. Campsites 9-11 are now the pick of the spots, site 12 was quite mossie infested due to a water logged back yard. I had a wonderful tip from Paul just before the trip so Bushmans was the most popular item during our stay.

We enjoyed a relaxing afternoon at Mission Point with cups of tea and coffee and lots of TimTams courtesy of Brett and Matt. Skills training began around 4:30pm - great work was done by Jules and Matt who competently demonstrated self rescue and assisted rescue skills.





The mossies or sandflies were so abundant that Wayne became our resident Tibetan Monk and began the ceremony of blessing us all with a Casuarina branch to ward off the mossies.

Also around this time we had a visitor - Larry arrived in his fishing boat and enjoyed the evening and next morning with our group before heading off for a fish down the passage.

Many thanks to Brett who was an excellent support to me in leading this trip, which resulted in all paddlers safely completing the trip.

Thanks to all of the members who came on this trip as the Passage from Caloundra down to Mission is such a beautiful part of our world and great to share with others.

Looking forward to our next paddle together.

