

Green Needs a Clean

Clean Up Australia Day

Sunday 4th March 2012



Following saturation coverage and promotion of “Green Needs a Clean” over the club news and google group forums (see [Green Needs a Clean Clip](#)), clean up day finally arrived.

A 7.30am planned launch saw our volunteers / paddlers arriving early along with a brief rain shower at the Manly boat harbour where they readied kayaks and registered with Kathy (in a bright orange vest) for the Clean Up Australia Day event.

20 paddlers and 19 sea kayaks in all took to the water and grouped up along side the moored South Passage (the black hulled, 30 m gaff rigged schooner that sails out of Manly), opposite the boat ramp. We logged our trip and ETR with Coastguard Brisbane and the group paddled out of the harbour and in to the wind chop and modest head wind, with kayaks pointing to Green Island.



The notable marine life on the crossing was the carpet of blue jellyfish that hovered thick and fast close to the surface and menaced paddle blades as we sliced through the ‘schools’ of jelly fish. More importantly however was the turtle sightings and dugong spotted along the way.

Half way across and we could see clearly the sand spit on the north west side of the island and the barge that had arrived early to help collect and transfer rubbish back to the main land. Cleo had arranged with friends who own the barge to come along and assist us and we were most appreciative of their help on the day.



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With the tide running out during the morning our plan was to spread out across the northern flanks of the island and collect rubbish from the beach and tidal zone. Clean Up Australia rubbish bags were divvied up, bug spray applied and gloves donned for the rubbish collection.

Some spread along the mainland side of the island tackling the beach and tidal zone with a number sweeping through the mangroves for rubbish. A number paddled round the eastern side and beached kayaks on the coral strewn tidal zone, collecting bottles, nets and plastics as they walked in through the mangroves and up to the high tide mark on the pandanus and casuarina lined beach.

We timed our rubbish collection for an hour and a half of activity to enable us to all return to the collection point in front of the barge at 10.30am. Bags and assorted rubbish were piled up and the clean up crew proudly flaunted their impressive haul. We transferred the rubbish on to the barge and helped push the vessel out to deeper water so it could lower its propeller and return to Manly.

By my estimation we collected approximately 35 bags and assorted rubbish items with an estimated weight of 350 Kg or more, filling the skip provided to us by Council.

A fantastic effort from the team! Let's keep Green Clean and do this again next year.



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