

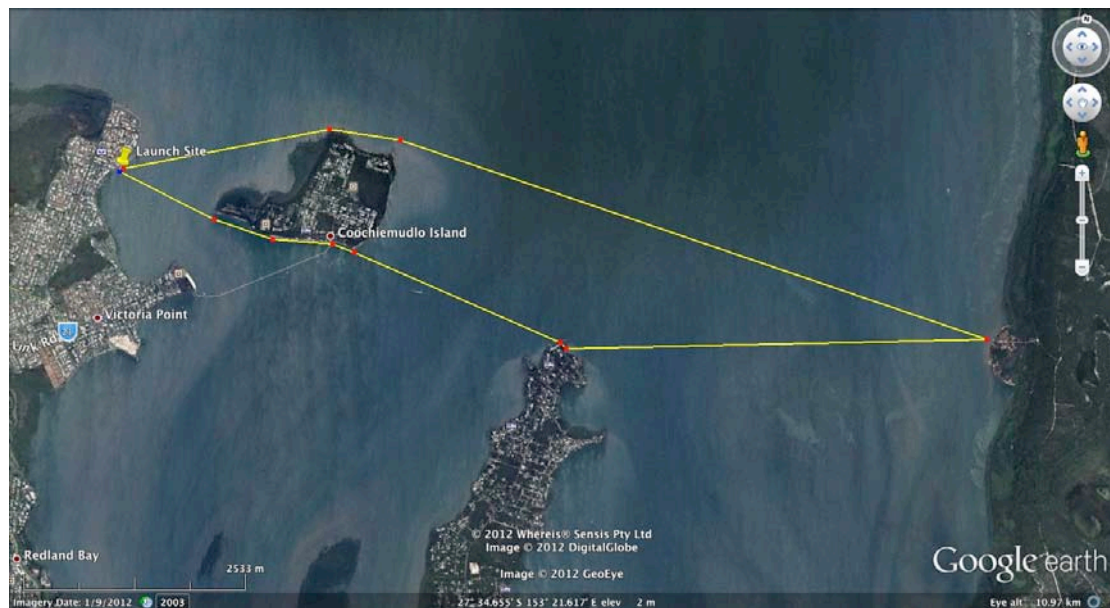
New Years Day Paddle to North Stradbroke

01 Jan 2013

By

Brian McCarthy (photos by Deb)

11 enthusiastic kayakers from QSKC and one visitor embarked from Point Halloran at 8:00am for the leisurely paddle to Blakesleys on North Stradbroke. Conditions on the way over were very enjoyable with only a slight wind and tide to push us along.



As trip leader I had guaranteed that we would see dolphins, dugong and turtles during the day. Our first encounter was a rather large turtle on the north side of Coochiemudlo; Howard took advantage of the clean water and snapped a roll not long after.





We arrived at Blakesleys after a 1 hr 40min journey averaging just under 6kph.

Blakesleys was absolutely chock a block full of campers, we had never seen so many. It didn't make for an enjoyable lengthy stay so after morning tea we had some rolling practice and then headed over to Potts Point on Macleay Island for lunch. As promised the dolphins cruised through Blakesleys as we enjoyed morning tea.



40 minutes after leaving Straddie had us sitting around the table at Potts Point tucking into some lunch. Chris had the coffee brewing ASAP for his much needed coffee fix. The picnic area was very busy with lots of people out enjoying the fantastic weather.

We did encounter some Dugong on the crossing so my guarantee was fulfilled.

After lunch we made the short hop over to Coochiemudlo for a short stop and more rolling and rescue practice, some very water logged paddlers after that session.

After completing just under 23k we arrived back at the launch site, average speed for the day was just under 6k.



We had a fantastic day on the water and a great opportunity to interact with other like-minded people. The love of sea kayaking is what brings us all together and these occasions only strengthen our bond.

