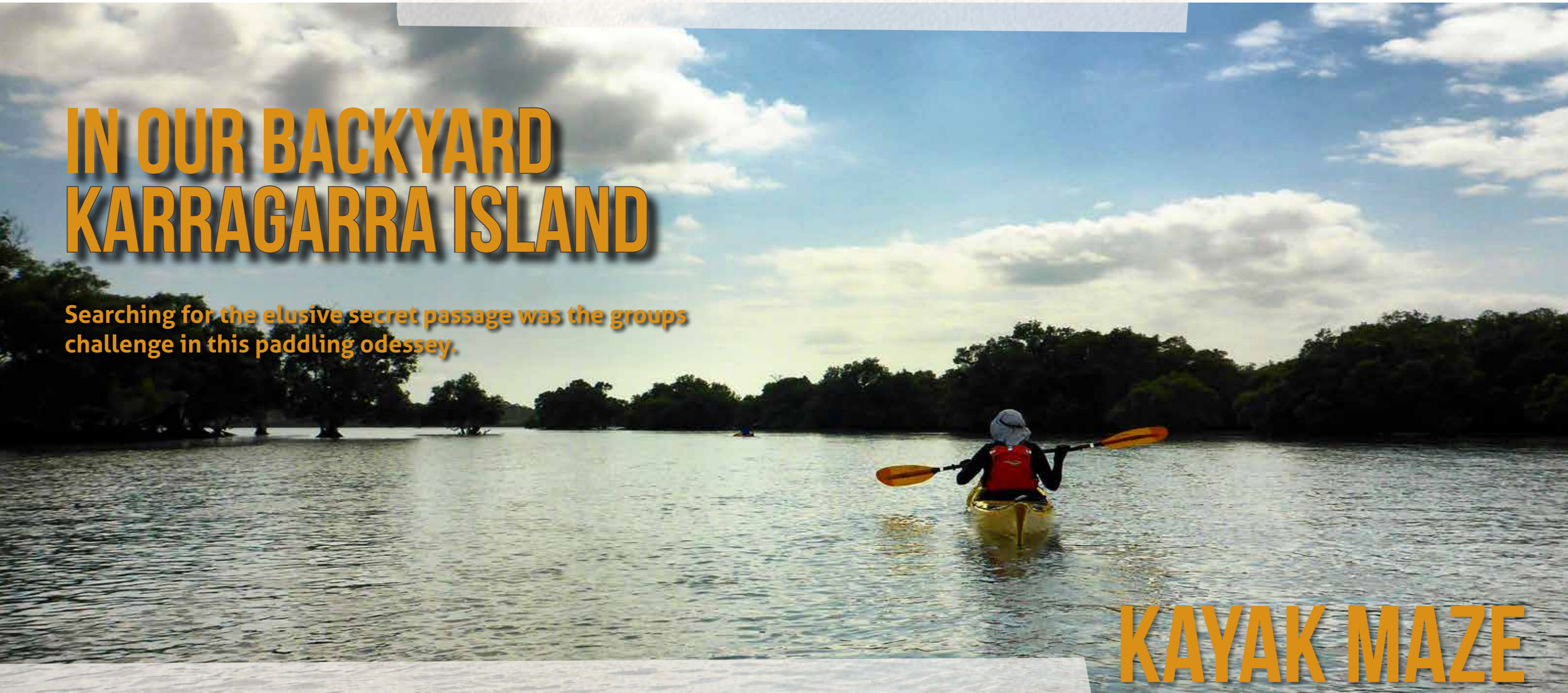


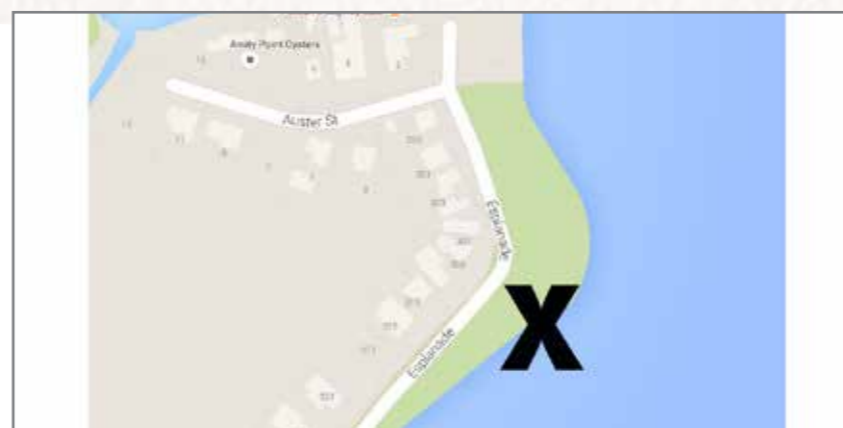
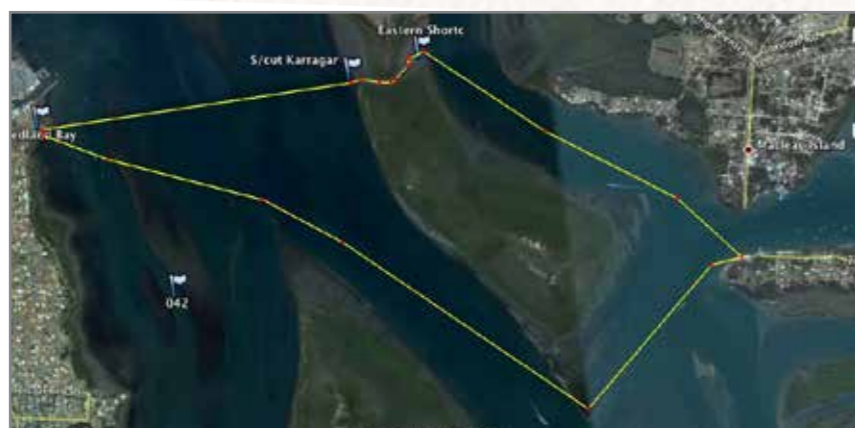
IN OUR BACKYARD KARRAGARRA ISLAND

Searching for the elusive secret passage was the groups challenge in this paddling odessey.



KAYAK MAZE

VITALS



KARRAGARRA ISLAND HAS ALSO RETAINED ITS INDIGENOUS NAME, ALTHOUGH IT WAS KNOWN AS RABBIT ISLAND IN 1870'S WITH RABBITS BEING A CULTIVATED SPECIES HERE

A much calmer day compared to last visit with 10 knots of southerly wind and an incoming tide made for pleasant paddling. We headed for the north side of the "secret passage" at Garden Island and the tide snuggled us right up to the opening. A muddy blade at the entrance indicated low water so we all watched Trevor ahead to see how he would go.



James and Peter in the maze having fun

EXPLORATION DAY

All clear as we paddled slowly through the winding passage. Always a bit more fun than just the open bay.

One out and heading towards Karragarra we felt like super paddlers with a 5klm tide surging us along. Past an old boat which was described by Tony as the ugliest boat ever built. Did is originally come with a sail, who built this pile of driftwood, but plenty of room inside he said.

This area is frequented by regular vehicle and passenger ferries and they skip along at a good rate so we kept a good eye out particularly as we got closer to our destination.

The park on the western side of Karragarra is opposite the Macleay Island ferry stop and it can get quite busy with the big craft. The tide was also ripping with the channel here and a bit of late - head up stream- was required.

On the way back we weaved through the trees and mangroves for several hundred metres on teh inside of Garden Island.

This was a lot of fun and it was a good skills builder to avoid the obstacles.

Karragarra is a nice little spot with good facilities and white sand. Gets pretty popular on a Sunday but today was nice and quiet.

The tide was still coming in and a passing boat put off a big wash causing 1-2 waves where the kayaks were. A local guy started pulling all the kayaks up and even pulled a pfd out of the water. All whilst we remained comfortable lounged on our park tables munching on morning tea.

The paddle home was a bit tougher than expected but a couple of small runners eased our pain. Topped the day with a coffee at a small cafe right there with a great view over the bay.

WORDS & PICTURES JAMES PITMAN





Park with BBQ, toilets and nice sandy beach.



