

Social Paddles

1. NORTHSIDE PARK

On Sunday 19 April, we took a trailer full of boats to Northside Park (just past Portside) where we launched at 8am serenaded off by Juleen's boss, Suzette and her friend.

Gaby and Mary lead the pack upstream chatting away not realising that the others had headed to the southern side of the river. Gaby & Mary paddled past the HMS Newcastle waving at the sailors – isn't there a limit around naval boats?! – was one of the sailors on the phone perhaps ringing the anti terrorist squad?). Unperturbed Gaby & Mary headed to the south side to join the flotilla where we all headed up into Breakfast Creek as far as the Ferny Grove flyover.



On the return journey and with the current flowing out of the river we nearly ended up on a collision course with a City Cat but all good! Car park and parklands all very busy on our return as it is a popular place.



Most of us brought along our bacon & eggs to cook on the BBQs provided at the park – coffee queue at the local café was too long to worry about ordering coffee – actually it was better than being in the café as we all pitched in to cook and share food – especially the yummy fruit bread Juleen provided and Phil toasted – and we were all able to mingle.

Good to see some new members, Kylie and Susan, joining us.

2. BORUMBA DAM

Most of us headed up Friday 1 May to pick a great spot at the Camping Ground. We headed into Imbil Friday night for dinner at a local restaurant - the décor wasn't 5 star but the food was delicious.



Saturday morning we welcomed one of our new members, Nikki and we paddled the Dam heading up the right fork as far as we could go. We had our picnic lunch among the cows who very bemused to see a group of paddlers. We saw some beautiful blue kingfishers, an eagle and lots of others birds we didn't know (we needed you Christine). Saturday night we had a great culinary experience with Gordon cooking roast lamb, beef & duck with vegetables in the camp oven – are your mouths watering?? they should be !!!!

Sunday morning, Randi and new members, Jenny, Anne and Brigitte joined us and we paddle the left fork. We decided the landscape is more beautiful in the left fork and we saw a pair of whistling kites protecting their area against Phil determined to get a good photo of them, which he succeeded. We really had to battle to get to the ramp through speed boats, jet skis and a crowd of people. Craig and his 2 boys, Coleby and Blake joined us at lunch time and while he set up and explored the area with the boys on bikes the rest of us spent the afternoon resting. Cocktail Hour was declared by 4pm with the meeting starting 45 mins later. Dinner was a BBQ which we also didn't have as Randi decided to take over the fire and almost put it out – but we did eat and the boys had fun toasting marshmallows. I happened to mention that I didn't see anything special in toasted marshmallows so Nikki took it on board to show me the delights of this delicacy and I must say it was better than any other I've tasted.



Sunday morning Craig and Randi took the boys paddling while the rest of us packed up.

I can't impress enough what great weekend aways these are. Special thanks must go to Mike and Phil for loading the boats, Richard for towing the trailer, Juleen for the food shopping and Gordon for the camp oven cooking & building the fire.

We would love to hear of your paddling adventures (social and racing) so if anyone has a good story, please send to me and I will distribute.