

## Woogoompah Island Circumnavigation

**Trip report** by Cathy Narborough    **Photos** by Ian MacGillivray, Gregg Cushen and Cathy Narborough

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

Last Sunday (Mother's Day) a group of seven club members set off from Jacobs Well on an eighteen kilometre paddle to circumnavigate Woogoompah Island. I lacked any female company on the trip (no doubt the other mothers in the club were enjoying a leisurely breakfast in bed!).

Mark Hessling was our very knowledgeable trip leader. He managed to regale us with many interesting facts about Woogoompah Island as well as surrounding islands on our journey. We were joined by Gregg Cushen, Ian MacGillivray, Zeke Webb-Pullman, my husband Ian, and Eddie Safarik. Eddie noticed that only a couple of members had failed to get the memo about bringing a yellow boat.



We set off down the west side of Woogoompah Island on a very peaceful paddle down the Pimpana River, with plenty of wildlife to see including many birds and some kangaroos. The water was calm and the river was shallow in parts and several times I scooped mud off the bottom.







Once we joined the Coomera River the wind picked up and gave us a bit more of a work out.







We saw many oyster beds and stopped for lunch on the Eastern side of Woogoompah Island where Eddie shared with us some of the experiences and issues from his trip to the Australian Sea Kayak Clubs Summit at Snake Island in Victoria.







Mark had more interesting historical stories to tell us about Never Fail Islands and then we set off for our return to Jacobs Well. The sun shone and we had a very pleasant paddle back. Towards the end we were paddling against the tide and the wind picked up again giving us another good work out before we reached shore.











Once back at Jacobs Well we were very impressed to watch Zeke perform multiple rolls on both sides with much finesse. An impressive finish to a very enjoyable paddle! Thanks Mark! Thanks all!

