

## Brisbane River Run Report

Tuesday August 12 2014

A small but enthusiastic group converged opposite QLD's mecca of tennis - The Pat Rafter Arena. It was quickly assessed by their diligent trip leader that a few things needed tidying up before setting off. All in order then a new experience for some - entering a sea kayak from a pontoon. Easy after a few goes but like everything you need to do it a few times to get the easiest method.

The pre-race briefing had highlighted that whilst the river may look non threatening it had claimed 33 lives in the past decade from a variety of mishaps. Many being taking the river as a safe piece of water. However strong currents, debris and pontoons can make it somewhat sinister at times. A K1 is known to still lay below one of the river dwellers pontoons after being pushed under by the currents not far from where we launched.



*Our illustrious leader ensuring that he can be easily seen while being followed*

Oxley Creek mouth was our first notable location we passed. In 1823 or thereabouts 4 white fellas found themselves stuck after their boat sunk. Luckily they found some aboriginal canoes and paddled back to their main camp. Probably Australia's first boat theft. A canoe sculpture commemorates this event in the park opposite the creek mouth.

Making our way up the less than clear water, the Miramar, a tourist vessel heading to the Lone Pine koala sanctuary passed by. A couple of runners for entertainment. Under the Indooroopilly bridge and past many remnants of pontoon piers still lying dormant following the Brisbane flood. Houses still be renovated and fixed.

We viewed many homes of the rich and famous, paddling easily with the current. My companions mostly talked crap but occasionally had a word or two of articulate speech. Several problems were solved in this manner.

We made Fig Tree pocket and lunched at a small park whilst the last of the tide came in. Unluckily whilst the tide had turned, so had the wind, straight into our face. An uneventful paddle back to our launch spot viewing a few kids sailing around and the occasional bird lounging on pontoons watched us go by.



*The view from our lunch spot*





*Ready for the return leg*

Upon return we made one important discovery. Getting out of a sea kayak at a pontoon is much harder than getting in. Thanks to my companions for coming along, enjoying the river and making a good Tuesday.