

Wyuna Canoeing Weekend 1st Beechworth Scout Group

The 1st Beechworth Scout group recently had a terrific time on a Canoeing weekend on the Goulburn River between Shepparton and Echuca on the weekend of the 21st and 22nd of March this year.

It was a very warm weekend, but it lent itself nicely to playing in a calm swimming hole in the Goulburn River for a few hours while Brett supervised proceedings from the water and Terry and I watched over from a comfortable camp chair in the shade.

After a great deal of instruction, safety talk and preparation, we took our first ride up river on the Saturday afternoon for about 1.5klms. After consulting the GPS, we carried canoes etc a little way overland into a nearby lagoon to find that our camp site was only 400mtrs away!

We returned to camp for a cool down and relax in the water, a great meal for dinner, a lesson in how to juggle before a night time spotlighting exploration through the surrounding bushland. I think we all slept well!

The big trip was Sunday morning with approx 12klms to cover if the straight and narrow path was taken. I am sure we added another 25klms onto the trip by weaving our way from side to side to side.... (at least it felt like that!).

We survived rapids (gentle ripples on the surface), beasts under the water (submerged logs etc), the obstacle course (the tree trunks sticking out of the water), unstable weather conditions (a lovely storm that rumbled off in the distance providing a gentle but too short sprinkle of rain), and saw a range of Australian birds using the waterway as the centre of their activities.

Our journey also highlighted the effects of the ongoing drought with the visible damage by erosion and diminished water flow and supply throughout the river banks and the courageous ability of our native trees to continue to exist and provide shelter and habitats for a host of fauna under such difficult conditions.



Nice place to swim! – Our own private swimming hole.



Off we go!



Left to right: Luke Ashcroft, Alex Critchley, Sam Thompson, Thomas Crane, Brett Critchley, Zachariah Johnson, Liam Hughes, Donna Hughes (Banksia). Kneeling: Terry Shipway (Bushy)



The end of the line. (Thank goodness!)

Thanks to Rob at 'Adventours' of Wyuna for providing a great campsite, great equipment and access to a beautiful piece of River to use it in, and a terrific BBQ waiting for us at the end of our trip!!