

A Visit to Poyungan Creek

Poyungan Creek is on the west coast of Fraser Island, about due east from the southern tip of Duck Island, and halfway up the island. This is mangrove foreshore country, and there is no low tide access as the creek dries out. At that time, wide mudflats stretch far out into the Sandy Straits.

A connection to the past makes Poyungan Creek well worth a visit. And, if nothing else, right behind the good, easy landing point, described below, is open space for a tent amongst shady she-oaks, and firm white sand underfoot.

As the creek is good for access after about three hours into the rising tide, it was used as a loading point for log barges that would come in with the tide, strand themselves at low tide, and thus stabilised, load logs. The area was one of the last active log dumps, up to the late 1980's, and the timber of the log dump is in good shape.

On the southern side of the bank, only a hundred metres or so upstream from the creek entrance (best approached against the northern bank) are two "wharves" consisting of horizontal rows of logs on the bank. The best landing place, upon, grey sand, is between the two.

A clear vehicle track runs left and right behind the bank. To the right the track runs 150 metres parallel to the foreshore. At that point the rusty iron hulk of the log barge "Josephine" is visible in the mangroves.

It is possible to make your way back north along the high tide line of the foreshore on a narrow strip of white sand. Just before the log dump are the ribs of the timber barge "Auburn."

The same road that goes right to the Josephine goes left to Poyungan Forestry Camp, up a track that winds to the ridge top a kilometre way. A sign reminds the visitor that this is a National Park, and artifacts are not to be removed.

Houses, trucks, cranes, worksheds and vehicle parts lie rusting away. A bus has almost disappeared into the scrub regrowth, the floorboards of the houses are rotting through, a 1985 magazine lies on the floor, and the rusting chain of a child's swing frames a water tower. Surely the next storm will topple the high water tower.



top right: Poyungan Creek

middle: log dump

bottom right: Josephine



Josephine



Auburn



logging truck



Blitz logging truck



last stop for this bus



logging truck

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*text reads: Outside lever high/low speed box
Inside lever winch box*

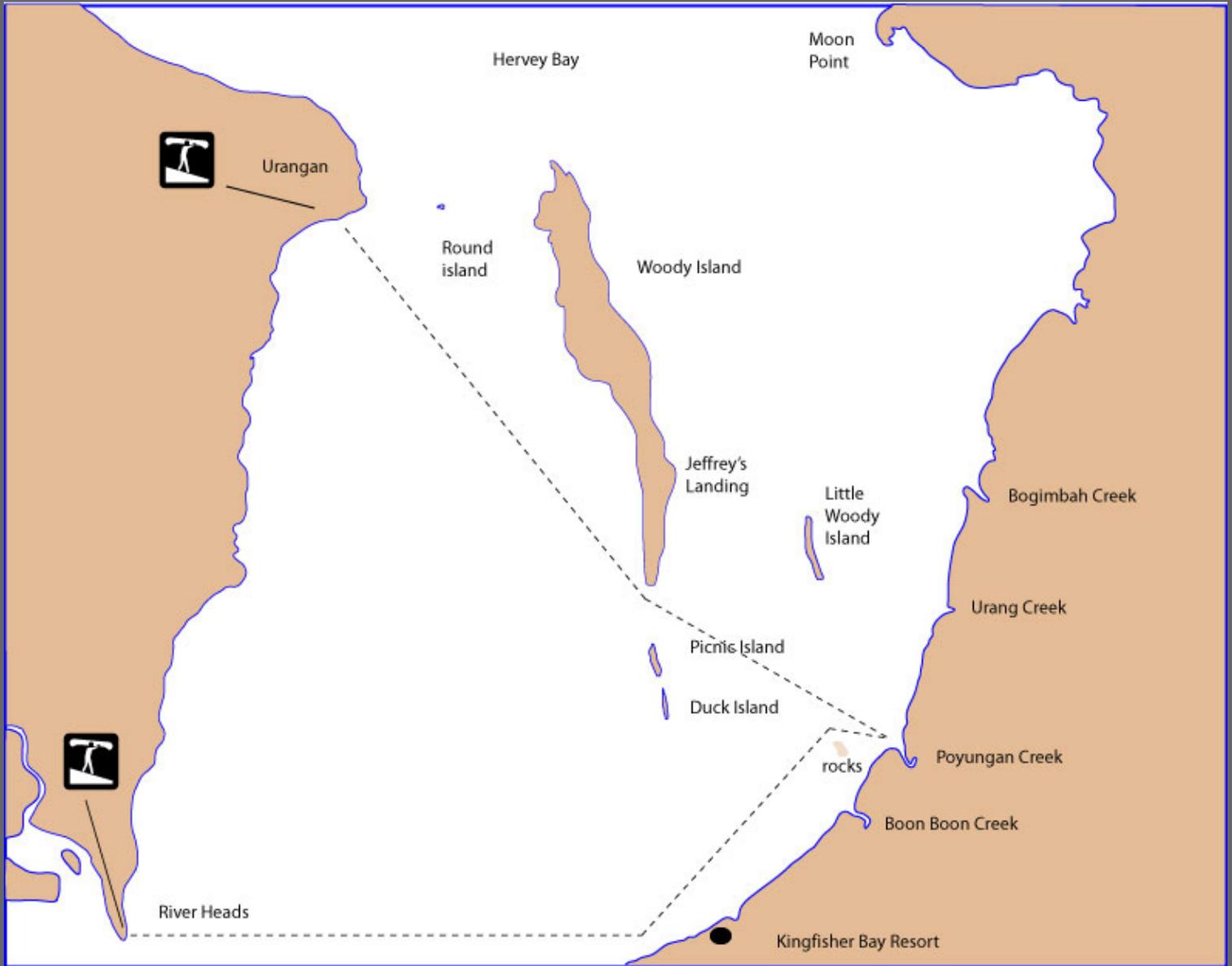


logging truck



house at Poyungan Forestry Camp

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Fraser Island west coast

Sea kayak access is either from Urangan, paddling down the western coastline of Woody Island on a rising tide, then crossing to Poyungan Creek, or from River Heads to Mackenzie's Wharf or Kingfisher Bay Resort, and paddling north to Poyungan Creek. Note that the rocks to the south of Poyungan Creek, and the sand spit that connects them to the Fraser shore, need to be cleared out in the deep water channel, even at high tide. There is a pile channel maker close on the rocks. Enter the creek close to the northern bank unless approaching the last two hours before the top of the tide.

The Urangan line of approach is recommended as it suits a rising tide. There is an excellent camping area at Jeffrey's Landing on Woody Island (no water). Kayakers should have their own maps. For ready reference, the distance from South Point (southern tip) of Woody Island to Poyungan Creek is exactly 6.0 kilometres

If intending to camp at Poyungan Creek be prepared with insect repellent (usually only required in the evenings), long sleeved shirt and long pants, and socks to cover ankles. Make sure your camp is dingo proofed, leave no items accessible, and do not rely on your tent to keep dingoes from gear. Persons should be safe, use caution.

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Poyungan Forestry Camp - track from Poyungan Creek log dumps

