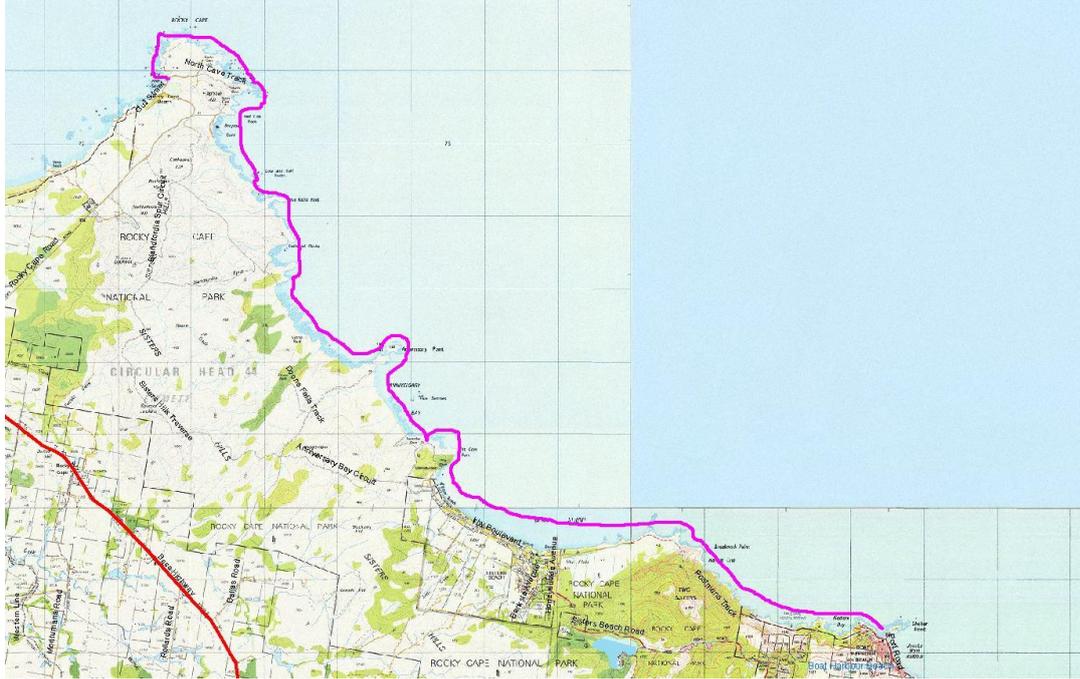


TRIP REPORT – Boat Harbour to Rocky Cape

Participants: Peter Sebbage and Tineke Morrison

Initially this trip was planned as a trip from Rocky Cape to Wynyard with overnight stay at Boat Harbour Beach but the closure of the Boat Harbour Caravan Park lack of secluded camping spots along the route dictated a change of plan to a day trip from Boat Harbour to Rocky Cape.



We arrived at Boat Harbour Beach to find that the tide was out and a fresh North Easterly was blowing some half metre surf onto the beach. Deciding to stay dry as long as possible we launched from the sheltered rock beach on the other side of the point. Sheltered from the wind and waves the alternative launching spot may have been but at low tide it was pretty rocky as well so it was a bit of a cautious start to the day for me and my plywood boat.



Boat Harbour Beach

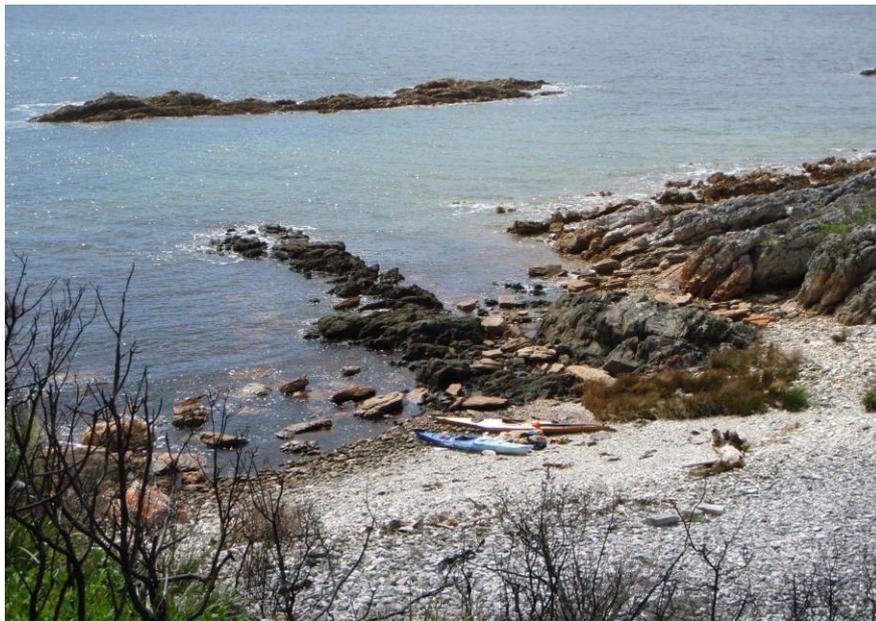
Once into deeper water we decided to take advantage of the prevailing wind and put the sails up. However the a combination of wind pushing me onto shore and the way isolated rocks (coastal erratics as I came to call them) would loom out of the depths made me a bit nervous so it took about five minutes and a few false starts to get the sail up and rigged. Luckily for me there was only Tineke to witness my struggles and she was polite enough not to remark on my lack of seamanship.

What followed was a truly pleasant few hours on the water paddling past some really interesting coastline. The high green hills of boat harbour gradually gives way to the orange brown hills of the Rocky Cape National park and considering the amount of development along the coast there is a surprising feeling of isolation on the water. Rocky Cape has some of the oldest rocks in Tasmania and on the water has to be the best way to appreciate it as the action of wind and wave has eroded away the pesky topsoil to reveal the underlying strata. Just keep an eye out for reefs whilst soaking in the sites.



Folded Rock Formation

By lunch time the wind had pretty much gone and we called into Leearcher Cave for some lunch. The cave was reputed to have been a hang out spot for the local aborigines and it certainly was large enough, although it would have been a bit exposed in a Northerly.



The View From Leearcher Cave

After lunch we paddled past more beautiful coastline toward Rocky Cape itself. Now I have a confession to make, points always make me a little nervous, something about the way the currents meet at points pushes the waves up in an unpredictable manner that puts me on edge. Passing by the deep channels cut by wave action over millennia it was all too easy to imagine what those waves a rocks could do to a little sea kayak; so although spectacular I didn't feel like lingering for too long.



Cormorants Resting on Rocks

Once around the point and out of the prevailing weather the sea turned mirror smooth and we glided past the gigantic boulders into Mary Anne Cove and the end of the trip. It may be a long way from Launceston for a day trip but I found the scenery and experience well worth the effort.



What Lies Beneath? - Boat Killers