

## **PORTSEA TO QUEENSCLIFF - The great rip paddle !**

On Sat 28th Dec Touring had their long awaited trip across the heads. After talking about it for 2 year's and a discussion on Xmas Eve with long time friend Rick, it was decided that it was time seek the next suitable window for this paddle. We were looking for an early start with light wind and a slack tide. Rick contacted me on Xmas Day informing me Sat 28th looked good.

I emailed member's of Touring, but the late notice found only Eddie Hughes available. We planned a 7.45 am start from Portsea. We would launch near the Pub, travel 3km along the shore to the Quarantine Station before tackling the 4 km distance across to Queenscliff.

Light winds were predicted for the morning with Slack Tide at 10.00 am. We got away on time and reached The Old Quarantine Station around 8.15 am with the wind stronger than predicted making the sea's choppy. But we did have the company of a Dolphin for a short time. We then decided to proceed straight across with the first 2 km's or so to the shipping channel relatively easy.

The next 2 km's saw the swell pick up to around 1 metre, while not causing any great problems, it did slow us down and we did work harder and had to keep our wit's about us. About 1 km off shore we had a charter boat race past way too close sending up a large wake for us to contend with that made things tricky for a moment. However we landed shortly afterwards next to the Queenscliff Ferry Terminal at 9.15, 15 minutes behind schedule.

After discussing the weather for a while we decided to catch the 10.00 Ferry back to Sorrento. No extra charge for carrying kayak's. We waited at the gate to board when ex Plcc member Al Long came over and started to chat. Al was good company all the way back to Sorrento. Having landed we then had to paddle the 4km back to Portsea to pick up our car's. To our surprise we were protected from the wind and with the weather now perfect it was a fantastic return paddle.

Many thanks go to Rick, who without his tide and wind calculations this trip would not have been possible. And to Eddie Hughes - at 71 you still beat me across ! We hope to repeat this paddle in the next few months when more member's are available and healthy. For those interested we paddled white water boat's which are great in rough weather, but are slow.

Phil Savage