

Pike River: December 2017



It was a bit late in the season for this trip as the weather was hot, in the mid-30's during the day but luckily cooled down nicely at night. We had 7 people, meeting at the pump station opposite Simarloo station on Friday lunchtime (although some of us were late, I am blaming the roadworks).

Camp was reached by mid afternoon, and we had a relaxing afternoon after setting up the tents. The nice thing about Pike river is that you camp in the same place for both nights, and can leave the tents up.



Everybody raring to go on Saturday morning. Saturday is the longest paddle, we did just under 22 kms in just under 7 hours, which included a couple of portages and dragging over logs. We had an early start at 8am, and were back by 3pm just as it was getting hot.



The creeks were cluttered with fallen logs as usual, sometimes we had to go under them



And sometimes we had to go over them



And then under again.



We sometimes had to resort to unconventional methods for navigation.



Everybody relaxing in the campsite after a hard days paddle (after having a cooling swim first). Sunday we took the long route (17 kms) back to the cars, which was a bit strenuous as the temperature was forecast to reach 38deg.

We had an early start again, and reached the cars at 11am, just as it was starting to get hot. In total we did 46 kms, with 12½ hours paddling time.