

Welcome to the Tweed River

From Berger Houseboat Holidays



Gypsea Belle

Terranora Inlet

The Boyd's Bay area is named after a local fishing family famous in the Tweed area.

On your way up the inlet passing under the Boyds Bay Bridge, between the bridge and the first timber jetty on the right, is a no anchor zone (about 500 metres in length).



Boyd's Bay Bridge

On the right, just before the timber jetty there is a fantastic fresh seafood outlet selling cooked and uncooked seafood. We recommend Scales Seafood personally as a place to visit. There is also a bait and tackle shop next door. Both shops are located about 500 metres above Boyds Bay Bridge. Anchor out from the timber jetty for safe anchorage (make sure you let out the anchor chain to the **marker for safety**) and go across by tender.

As you travel towards the next bridge, the building on the left just before you pass under the bridge is the Naval Cadets'. This bridge was constructed on land and then pushed out section by section from shore.



100 metres past the bridge on the left is a general store (bait, ice etc), a liquor shop and take away. As you travel along this part of the river keep to the southern side or left of the river travelling up stream

After a short while, you will notice the houses end and the mangroves start, this is a nice spot to anchor in a southerly wind. From here, following the river around to the left for couple hundred metres is also a nice place to get protection in an easterly wind. As you travel along there will be houses on the right and you will come to a **Y** in the river. If you go to the left this is a great place out of the **southerly and south-easterly winds**. You can pump yabbies for bait at low tide and this is very good spot for fishing at night-time. Alternatively, if you keep to the right of the small island, keep on going till you find a spot to anchor, leaving room for other vessels. In this area you can anchor in the main channel and go across to the Seagulls Club by your **tender only**. **Be careful - shallow water, drive slowly. Chain up and padlock your tender.**

Heading back to the Tweed River - **remember** when you leave the Terranora inlet you are **not permitted** to pass under Boyds Bay Bridge with the current (travel against the current only), ie the tide must be on the way in.

Tweed River

From Boyds Bay Bridge heading towards the Tweed River on your left is a timber jetty, along from the timber jetty either side of the green marker between it and shore is safe anchorage in **northerly winds**.



On the other side of the river is Ukerebagh Island, this is a good spot to anchor out of a **southerly wind** (caution do not anchor too close to rock wall near sandy cove); between there and the red port marker post is preferred (this is the pick up area).

This island is where Neville Bonner was born. On the western side of Ukerebagh Island, at low tide, is where you can pump yabbies and the fishing is good for flathead.

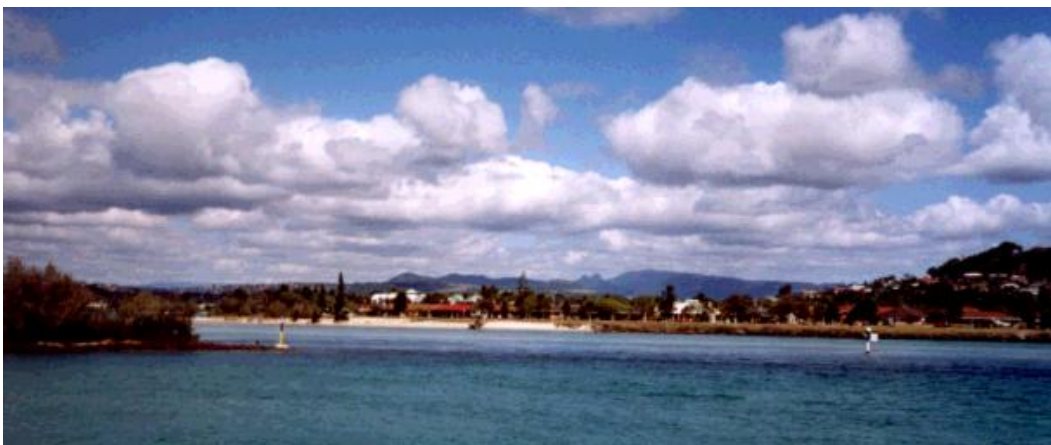


As you turn right in to the Tweed River heading south, make sure you go well across towards the other **side**, as there is a **sand bar** in the **middle** of the river.

Warning: do not turn left - extreme danger



Pacific Blue coming in from the Tweed River



Looking back at the entrance to Terranora Inlet

Fingal

Along Fingal strait you will see Fingal Dive Charters on the river bank. Just a few hundred metres behind Fingal Dive Charters you will find the village of Fingal and Dreamtime Beach. The village has a general store and Fingal lighthouse is worth a visit.



You can anchor in the main channel and go across by tender and walk into Fingal Village.

Warning: if you intend to leave the houseboat and go to Fingal Village etc either leave an experienced person onboard, or you **must** use

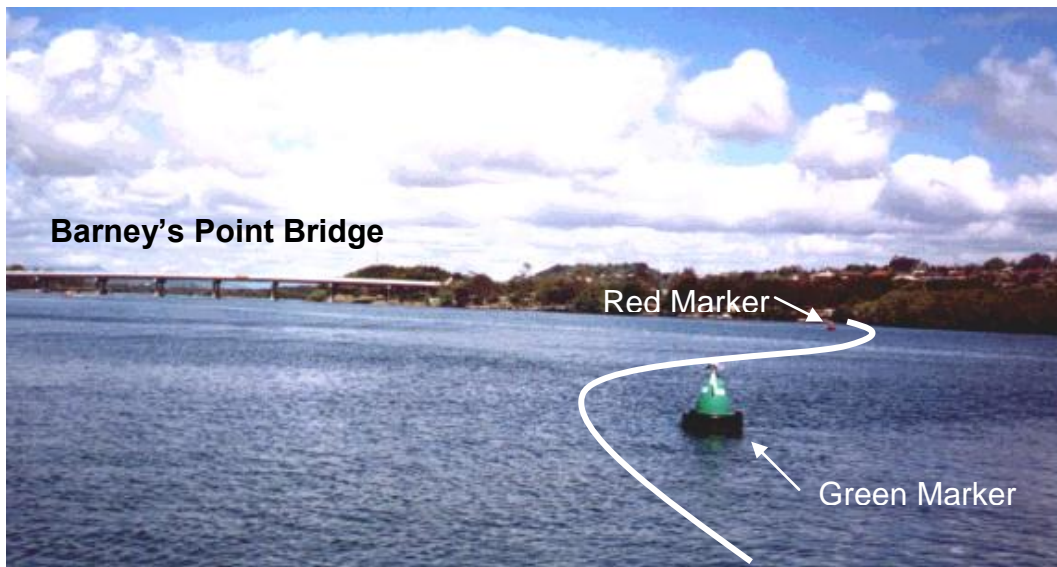
the emergency anchor - put all its rope and chain (**out the front**) as well as your normal anchor to its mark. **This is a must.**

Opposite Fingal Dive Charters on the other side of the river is a great spot for fishing for flathead & whiting.

As you travel up the river you pass the Coolangatta Tweed Heads Golf Club on the right, you cannot miss the big golf ball on top of the club (check out their brochure).



Rocky Point outside the golf club is a great spot for fishing eg tailor, bream, whiting flathead. You can also pump yabbies at low tide on the nearby sandbanks. As you pass the golf club and head towards the bridge make sure you do not **miss the dog leg in the markers.....?**



The large bridge Barney's Point you pass under at Barneys Point has replaced a narrow lifting span bridge which had to be raised to allow boats to pass underneath.

Chinderah

As you travel south past the caravan parks on the eastern side of the river, just across the road from the last caravan park there is great seafood outlet, fresh and cooked seafood. We recommend Tweed River Seafoods when you are up this end of the river.

Tweed River Seafoods is open 7am-7pm Sunday to Thursday and 7am-7:30pm Fridays and Saturdays.



Seafood Shop, Mariner's Café & Antiques

Beside Tweed River Seafoods is Ray Evans' Chinderah Bay Antiques. Ray has a large display of all types of antiques and his store is very interesting just to wander through and browse. Open every day except Monday.

Between Tweed River Seafoods and Ray's Antiques is Mariner's Café.

5 mins up the river on the same side is the Chinderah Tavern which has counter-lunches etc and a newsagent and café right next door. You can anchor out from the sandy beach then go to shore and leave your tender anchored at the sandy beach.



Tavern, Newsagent, Cafe, etc

As you leave there, just up a bit on your right is the entrance to Oxley Cove. This is a great spot for swimming as there is no current. Enter carefully and travel along keeping to the right hand side of the channel. Drive slowly. There is plenty of room to turn around and great sandy beaches for swimming.



The entrance to Oxley Cove



Dodds Island

Great southerly & northerly wind protection

Northerly winds when coming from Tweed heading towards Tumbulgum, you will pass the entry to Oxley Cove. Keep to the Oxley Cove side of the river. This side will give good protection.

Warning: when you leave you must travel back towards the Oxley Cove entrance till you reach the two red & green markers close together.

Do not take any short cuts, there is a sand bank in the middle of river

Southerly winds - all along the southern side is good protection.

Dodds Island (**piggery flats**) - this area is renowned for its fishing and crabs. There is a large sand bar down the **centre** of the river, this is where you fish for whiting and flathead. The best way is to go ahead of your house boat and drift down along the sand bank, or at low tide, along the edge. Also at low tide you can pump yabbies, if you have no luck there, try between Chinderah & Dodds Islands.



Passage between Dodd's Island and Chinderah – by tender only

Set your crab pot along the mangroves and keep it in sight of the houseboat.

When travelling further up the river, as you round the corner, it pays to keep to the **left (eastern)** side of the river to save running aground. There is good fishing on the right in the shallow water

Where you pass the green boat building sheds on the left, is a great spot for flathead fishing. Drifting along in the tinny has better results.

Stotts Island



Just ahead is Stotts Island. **Make sure you go between the little island and Stotts Island** or you will run aground. **Do not anchor** between Stotts Island and the little island blocking the channel.



Stotts Island Nature Reserve: This park was created in June 1971. It covers an area of 141 hectares.

Bird feeding



Between 11 am & 11.30 am it is best to anchor about 100 metres on the Tumbulgum side of the little island. A cruise boat will pull up and feed the birds in the narrow channel between the two islands.

Stotts Island is a subtropical floating island and is one of the largest in Australia. It has abundant bird life. This is a great spot to anchor in a southerly wind.



Tumbulgum

Tumbulgum, this is a lovely village, its name meaning “meeting place of two rivers”. On the side of the river there are tea rooms, general store, art gallery and tavern. If you wish to visit the village, drop anchor 4 boat lengths from shore, opposite the general store and use the tender to go to shore.



Tumbulgum Village



Tumbulgum Tavern



The Rous River joins the Tweed River at Tumbulgam. This is a must place to visit. When you travel up the Rous in the houseboat, **drive slowly**, this is a very tranquil spot. On your map it shows the recommended spot to anchor.

An interesting spot to visit whilst up the Rous is the Tumbulgam Historic Cemetery. If you anchor Pacific Blue up just in from the entrance to the Rous River, then take your tender further up. Driving up the Rous, when going around the left hand bend, you will see the road on your right only a metre off the river bank, together with a speed sign and rock repairs to the river bank. From this spot if you walk 300 metres to the left along the road, you will find the cemetery. This cemetery has been restored and is a very interesting place to visit. (see the brochure).



Rous River

Condong

Leaving the Rous and heading south towards Condong, about 300 meters before the bridge and sugar mill, there is a boat ramp on the eastern side of the river. This is where Tree Tops will pick you up if arranged (check brochure and ring the day before to arrange transport). Condong also has a General Store and Bowls club which is across the road from Sugar Mill.



Warning: The bridge in front of you is **low and narrow**. Pacific Blue, Kalinda, Gypsea Belle, Sundancer and JFS Rhyanna will **not** fit underneath this bridge.



Upstairs aboard Image Anne approaching the Condong Bridge

If you would like to visit Murwillumbah and are not aboard one of the houseboats which can travel that far, you can call for a taxi on 02 6672 1344. If you leave the houseboat, make sure you let the anchor out an extra 20 seconds for safety, take the tender to shore making sure you chain the tinnie to a post or some immovable object.

Murwillumbah

Further up the river is the town of Murwillumbah.

Murwillumbah sits on the eastern foothills of the McPherson Range and is quite hilly. Many of the buildings are Art Deco in style and there are plenty of good cafes, clothes and antique shops to explore. A diverse range of people coexist peacefully and celebrate each year with the Tweed Banana Festival, the second oldest festival in Australia. Murwillumbah was also nominated one of the top 10 sea/tree change towns in Australia.

The name Murwillumbah derives from an Aboriginal word meaning "camping place" - from Murrie, meaning "aboriginal people", Wolli, "a camp"; and Bab, "the place of". The first people to live in the area were Bundjalung people. Nearby Mount Warning and its attendant National Park are known as Wollumbin, meaning "Cloud Catcher", in the Bundjalung language.



Heading into Murwillumbah, Mt Warning in the background

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The best way to visit this town is to drop anchor outside the rowing club, which is located 500 metres this side of Murwillumbah Bridge.

If you leave the houseboat, make sure you let the anchor for an extra 20 seconds for safety, take the tender to shore making sure you chain the tinnie to a post or some immovable object.



Walk up beside the rowing club and turn left towards town. It is only a 10 minute walk to the shopping, clubs or ring for a taxi on ph 02 6672 1344. There is a pay phone located on the street to the left of rowing club.

On the other side of the river is a pontoon. Located here is the Tourist bureau – together with the train station, Riverview Hotel & Chinese Restaurant, Round Tavern and Bistro.

If you decide to travel to the end of the river when you pass under the Murwillumbah Bridge, slow down and follow the markers closely. This is not a recommended spot to sleep if storms or bad weather is predicted.



Murwillumbah Bridge at sunset

Upstream from Murwillumbah is a weir. This is a brick wall that separates the salt water from the fresh. Keep at least 100 meters from the brick wall, as it is very shallow. Take care when turning the houseboat in this area as the river is not very wide here and it is easy to damage a propeller when turning.

From all of us at Berger Houseboats, we hope that you are enjoying your houseboat holiday and that this information has been of some assistance and interest to you.