



PADDLE YOUR WAY into a microadventure

Affectionately known as “Roscoes” in Queensland’s paddling community, Rosco Canoes and Kayaks has its own design and production team as well as a retail showroom in Brisbane. For 45 years, they have been offering all type of paddlers a ‘paddle for life’ mindset through quality equipment, expert advice, accessible information and inexhaustible enthusiasm.

Over the years, the team at Rosco has seen a growing shift from outfitting paddlers for long expeditions to supplying craft and gear for shorter trips. It mimics a growing trend in the way outdoor enthusiasts are enjoying nature with the popularity of microadventures adding more flexibility and excitement in an instant compared to the long wait for that trip of a life-time organised well in advance.

Microadventures, a term that popped up only a few years ago and was credited to British adventurer Alastair Humphreys, are short and often impromptu overnight adventures that require a minimum of preparation and equipment and

are close to home. They encourage people to explore their own backyard and find new ways to enjoy their surroundings other than just their training ground for a morning run or the route out to faraway exotic locations.

The possibilities for microadventures are endless and can be based around a huge range of activities, like hiking, mountain biking, 4wheel driving or in the Rosco Canoes preferred way: paddling!

The first craft commercially sold



by Ross Cook, founder of Rosco Canoes, was a 16ft fibreglass canoe. Designed for touring and long-distance paddling, this beautiful looking canoe with curves in all the right places, became a firm favourite amongst paddlers of the day. Then along came a new material that turned the world, including the paddling world, upside down. The cheaper, very accessible, plastic sit on top was born and with it came an all new paddling audience. Traditional canoeing took a back seat for quite awhile but is now slowly but surely making a comeback with canoe sales back on top at Rosco Canoes for the first time in years.

Many articles have been written and not a day goes for the team at Rosco Canoes without a discussion on the pros and cons of sit on tops versus canoes. In short, it all depends on where you want to paddle and what you need your craft to be able to do. When in doubt, there is nothing wrong with more than one kayak or canoe in the shed!

That said, for micro-adventures, the Rosco Canoes craft of choice is often a canoe because you can

quickly chuck your gear in, no need for precision packing, and you can bring larger items easier like an esky with fresh food and plenty to drink. What’s more, the open space in a canoe allows for extra friends, children or a dog or two. The larger carrying capacity of a canoe means there is less emphasis on roughing it, if you don’t want to. For the minimalist, the canoe can even become a tent in an instant and make a sturdy and comfortable shelter.

Canoeing is often referred to as the ‘romantic’ way to travel. Whether you want to indulge in a bit of canoedling with you paddling buddy or go it solo, canoeing on a lazy river lets you simply plod along with one paddle in front of the other until you reach your destination. Getting up early, when everyone else is still asleep and a soft grey mist is hanging over the creek on a cool autumn morning, quietly slipping the canoe in the water and drifting slowly for awhile to spot a platypus and listening to the sounds of the forest waking up, is one of life’s finest moments.

For open water trips to the islands longer sea kayaks with plenty of storage hatches are the go. The sleek designs and technologically enhanced materials of the modern kayak combined with high-end performance paddles and a host of nifty accessories enough to make any gear freak happy, team up for a quick getaway and a hero’s return.

South East Queensland caters for recreational paddlers, canoeist and sea kayakers alike, with plenty of different waterways with a variety of dams, gorgeous lakes, long winding rivers, sheltered creeks or open water that allow access to the many islands of Moreton Bay. Plus, it has the climate to boot, so paddling can be enjoyed virtually all year round.

Popular SE Qld destinations include the upper section of the Brisbane River, the plenty full Moreton Bay Islands including South Stradbroke Island, Wyaralong Dam, the Pumistone Passage between Bribie Island and Caloundra and the Noosa Everglades. You can choose shorter or longer paddling trips before you pull up, linger in your hammock, count the stars at night, have a morning dip and explore the surrounding area.

The good news is that you do not have to be an expert paddler or have all the gear for a paddling micro-adventure. Rosco Canoes has a complete range of canoes, kayaks and accessories for sale or for hire, to suit paddlers of all abilities. They can match your needs and make sure you have the right equipment, destination advice and information to send you on your trip. They also offer transport solutions like temporary soft racks or a trailer and will load the craft with you to show you how to tie everything down easily and securely.

How to become a paddling microadventurer

As a microadventurer it helps to be organised and inventive. You will need to be able to get going at the drop of a hat or when the mood takes you, so you need to minimise the time spent on getting everything together. Here are a few tips to get started:

- Create ready-to-go adventure pods
This can be a backpack with essential overnight equipment or a few tubs
- Create a list of possible microadventures
Start with an area you are familiar with or do your normal route at night and organise a moonlight paddle.
- Make use of technology
Load apps onto your phone to make it easy to find contact details for campsite bookings or park updates

How to plan paddling micro-adventure

The key here is to keep it simple, be spontaneous and go for it! Invite your company, lock in a date, choose a destination, book and collect a craft together with the destination information, pack your gear and find your adventure.

What you will need

- Transport
A car with roof racks or a car with four doors to use temporary soft racks or a trailer
- Canoe or kayak
The type, size and number of canoes and kayaks will depend on the size of your party and your destination
- Destination information
Information on how to get there and you can expect to find there.
- Camping equipment
Hammock or tent, sleeping mat & bag, cooking equipment
- Food & water
Check campsite facilities for water provisions and fire restrictions

For more information on how Rosco Canoes can help you organise your next paddling microadventure, please call the team on 07 3391 1088, send us an email or visit our showroom in Woolloongabba.

