

Some more photos of the Catamaran Campground:



Loop above ramp



Loop exit and parking



Looking left, up river



Between jetty and toilet



Catamaran River Bridge (Nearly there)

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PS. The Skeg of July 2009 also has some information that may assist.



Catamaran Trip

3-4 March 2012

Program & Information



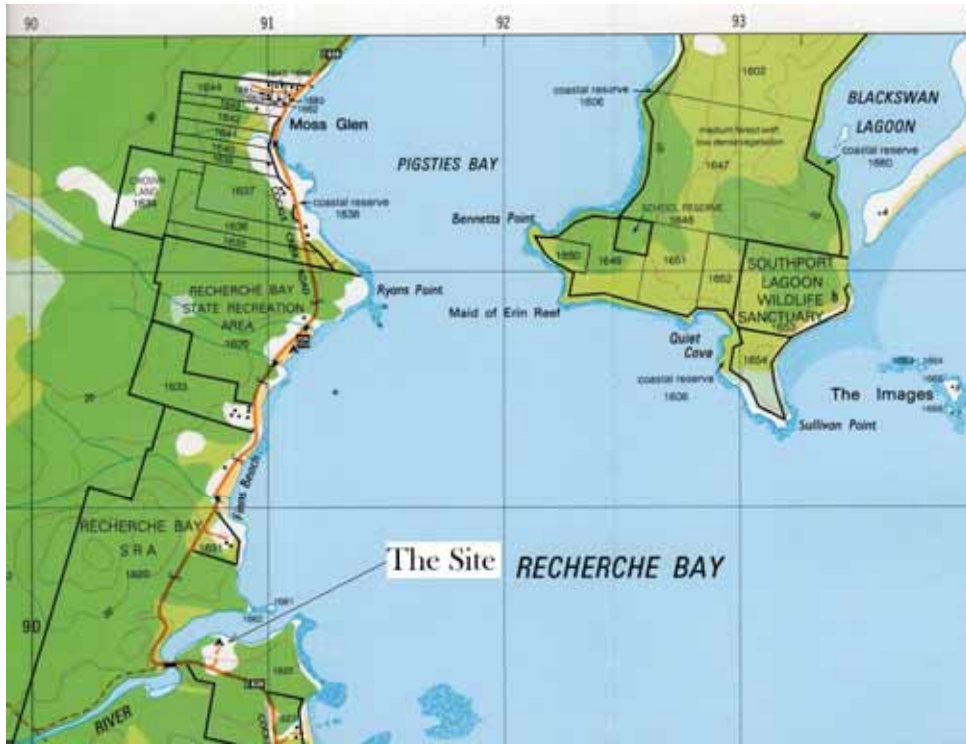
The French Expedition vessels Recherche & La Esperance (image from Wikipedia)

In short, it's an open weekend, at the Catamaran campground and boat ramp for the weekend of 3-4 March 2012. Come earlier if you like, stay longer; the only official function is a 5:00PM BYO barbecue, March 3rd.

The venue is about 60 km south of Geeveston, and has a sign at its entrance roughly 200m past the west end of the Catamaran River Bridge.

Sail a big boat, anchor in Pigsties; drive down with a smaller boat. Walk, row, swim; there seems to be lots of French history to discover in this area.

A park permit is NOT required unless you go to Cockle Creek, but other park restrictions apply. Bring everything (!) including water and firewood; the site offers only space, pit toilet and a concrete boat ramp with jetty. Non-campers may find accommodation in Southport or Dover. More details inside.



Extract from TASMALP #4817, ed. 1, (C) 1985.

For those seeking more information on the location, the above map may help. It shows part of Recherche Bay from a 1985 State map and marks the campground. MAST has since installed a boat ramp (illustrated) with jetty.



Drive about 62 km from the Arve road intersection in Geeveston through Dover, past Southport, etc. As of 2 Feb 2012, the roads were a little rough, but you'll get there in about 60 minutes. As you approach Catamaran River Bridge, you are very close. Go about

200m further and take the left, as marked by campground and boat ramp signs.

GPS coordinates (on land, about 20 m. from ramp) are 43° 33' 16" S, 146° 53' 15" E.

The site facilities are basic. Apart from the boat ramp and jetty, turn-around loop and parking, facilities comprise a single pit toilet (illustrated). You really have to bring EVERYTHING, except salt water. Fires are permitted most days, but don't expect the trip leader to bring enough wood for everyone. However, it's a lovely natural site, with free camping and is usually very quiet.



Clearly you're not at a 5-star resort, not when the pit toilet is all there is to photograph.

A test visit also checked NextG coverage to find it quite good.

At the time of writing, the trip leader's own plans are uncertain, and this is one reason the trip is not full of scheduled activities. These are some ideas so far:

- ❖ Peter Higgs expressed a desire to row over to the old French gardens, and the present intent is to let him. Others may prefer launching from Moss Glen beach, or elsewhere.
- ❖ The Trip Leader (David Morton) encourages exploration, either on foot, by boat, or car. Some may wish to visit Cockle Creek, maybe undertake the Cape Walk. Nearby is the French expedition's waterhole, with signs on the road. Do follow safe practice and let someone **responsible** know.
- ❖ A copy of a Government report, an audio recording of an ABC story on the French Gardener, and other sources of information about Recherche Bay and its history are planned to be available on the Guild web site, and some will be printed to take there for the weekend.
- ❖ Please feel free to organize any other activities, preferably ones that **DON'T** create rubbish or make us unpopular visitors. Please tell David what you've done so we can have a complete trip report in the Skeg!