



We decided to go on a short kayak camping trip before we headed off to the USA for a white Christmas. Looking across Frederick Henry Bay there are a few islands, and nature reserves where there is free camping, and all so close to home.

The first day was calm and an easy paddle (2 ½ hours) to Lagoon Beach, opposite Sloping Island. Lagoon Beach is a couple of kilometres long, and backed by high sand dunes. Although there were camping spots over the back of the dunes it was a long way to carry camping gear so we paddle back the way we came to the next beach. After ½ an hour of looking we found the perfect spot very close to the beach – with a huge dead tree fallen down across the beach. We spent the rest of the day lounging on the beach, and then sitting round the camp fire on the beach.



The second day we decided to circumnavigate Sloping Island, and land on it to look at the old fallen down homestead. We went by Goat Island on the way – a bird rookery of many different sea birds.

Sloping Island appears to be mainly soft dirt and is covered with penguin and or mutton birds holes, and you had to walk carefully on it. The homestead was totally fallen down.



Back at 'Our' Beach we walked round the headland onto Lagoon Beach and walked the full length of it to the southern end. Spent another pleasant night round the camp fire. The forecasts for the time we were there was for ever increasing NE winds, going more northerly, so the third day we were on the water about 6.30am heading for home before the wind got up. It remained calm and we paddled into the Carlton River from where we could walk home to retrieve the car.

It was a very pleasant trip, and there is more to see with more time available.

