



TRIP REPORT

442 Squadron Adventure Training Report
5–10 June 2025 | Broughton Archipelago
Source: Capt Dan Dielissen



From 5 to 10 June 2025, 442 Squadron conducted an adventure training exercise, navigating a sea kayaking circuit from Telegraph Cove through the Broughton Archipelago. The route included Hanson Island, Village Island, and Owl Island, offering both stunning scenery and valuable team-building challenges.



Days 1–3

Smooth Sailing and Spectacular Wildlife The first three days were marked by ideal conditions—calm seas, light winds, and sunshine. Spirits were high as the team made steady progress. A highlight occurred on Day 1 during the crossing of Johnstone Strait near Hanson Island, when a pod of false killer whales surrounded the kayaks, playfully circling and surfacing nearby. That night, the team camped on Hanson Island.

Day 2

A miscalculation with current tables led to a challenging crossing of Blackney Passage at peak flood. Despite the fast-moving water, the team persevered and earned their way to calmer waters en route to Village Island, camping that night on Turnour Island.

Day 3

The day brought a close pass by the Village Island ruins and a crossing of Knight Inlet to Owl Island, where the team set up camp for two nights. Originally, the plan was to push further north on Day 4 to the Fox Group or Eden Island.

Day 4: Weathering the Storm

However, forecasts predicted gale-force winds by early afternoon, with only marginal improvement expected afterward. The decision was made to remain on Owl Island rather than risk a difficult return journey. This proved wise: by midday, 4-foot whitecaps and strong gusts swept the area. That evening, doubts arose about whether the team could safely make the return trip.

Day 5: A Tactical Retreat

At 0530, Cpl Rob Hunt—our most experienced sea kayaker—checked conditions. Despite persistent winds, the waves had subsided to manageable levels. The team quickly mobilized and crossed Knight Inlet, aiming for Red Point Campground. The weather held, and the team performed admirably, with even the less experienced members rising to the challenge.

Feeling confident upon reaching Red Point, the team assessed Blackney Passage and made the crossing. Though the waters were turbulent with conflicting currents and large waves, the team pushed through. Upon reaching calmer waters near Hanson Island, the King Fisher arrived with a much-appreciated supply drop. Camp was made once again at Big Bay Beach.

Day 6: Final Push to Telegraph Cove

With strong winds still in the forecast, the team opted for an early departure. Capitalizing on slightly lighter morning winds, they crossed Johnstone Strait and completed the journey back to Telegraph Cove.

Conclusion

This adventure training successfully met its objectives: fostering team development, building resilience, and navigating real-world challenges in a dynamic environment. And most importantly—everyone made it back safely.