

2nd to 3rd July 2011

NOUEC Maggie Island Trip

On Saturday the 2nd of July, Ian, Robyn, and I headed over to Magnetic Island with Vince aboard his boat the M.V. *Katerina*.

We had originally intended on travelling up to Herald Island for the weekend, but bad weather forced us to reconsider, and we decided to make a trip to the island in search of a protected shore for some island diving.

We headed around West Point and found some protection in behind a headland just before White Rock near the western end of Horseshoe Bay. Ian and I began a dive in six metres of water, and we descended along the anchor chain to make sure we had a solid anchorage.

Unfortunately, the visibility was almost non-existent, and below the first metre we couldn't even see the anchor chain or our instruments. After about five minutes, I found the anchor by feel firmly buried in the sand and we slowly came back up the chain to discuss our dive options on the surface. We hoped the visibility might be slightly better near the shore line so we swam over and had another look.

The visibility closer to the island was just as bad and we decided we would have to give the diving a miss for this weekend at least!

After our quarry dive in pea and ham soup, Vince motored around to Horseshoe Bay where we anchored up, did some fishing, and cooked up lunch on Vince's Weber Q. We had a few drinks that evening, slept onboard overnight, and returned to Townsville the following morning.

The *Katerina* is a really well appointed vessel with heaps of storage space, a great little galley, very comfortable beds, a hot shower, a deck shower, two toilets, and a duck board which makes getting on and off a breeze. There is also an excellent space on the rear deck to operate the club compressor.

I can't regale anyone with tales of 30m visibility, whale sharks, and Mantas this time, but what a great way to spend a couple of days anyway. Thanks again Vince for a top weekend.

Simon Penprase