

There is also an absence of the finer branching types of coral in all Dive areas up to and including the wreck at Arcadia (Dive 13). This could be due to many factors.

Dive areas 14, 15, 16 and 17 have little change in the general coral growth, however there seems to be a heavier weed growth than in the years mentioned above. Ideal conditions prevailed at the time of the survey, with seas smooth. ...."

Little useful data can be obtained for comparison purposes from Mr. Tarca's survey as set out in the Harbour Board Report. It is not possible to ascertain the locality employed for each dive area, apart from Dive 13, which is clearly defined as the wreck site at Arcadia in Geoffrey Bay. It is interesting to note that underwater visibility during this survey averaged ..... "10 feet with a maximum of 15 feet"..... During 1961 to 1965 the underwater visibility recorded by the Author along the eastern side of Magnetic Island was at a fairly constant average of 10 metres - depending on prevailing weather conditions, for during moderate to rough seas the surrounding waters assumed a light "milky" appearance. The clarity of the water often exceeded this norm of 10 metres, particularly in Florence Bay and the surrounding region, where visibility was recorded in excess of 15 metres. An examination of the Author's underwater photographic records (1961 - 1965) yielded substantial evidence of the clarity of the waters along the eastern side of the Island, and this material served only to support data previously recorded in the early 1960's relating to the water conditions. The entire eastern fringing reef complex had been visible to surface observers when employing a "glass bottomed" viewing box or port. The Author often took visiting tourists out to the fringing reefs in his boat for the express purpose of exhibiting the then flourishing and lush zones of coral development. However, during the Author's 1970 surveys along the eastern side of Magnetic Island, underwater visibility rarely exceeded 2 metres.

The Townsville Harbour Board's attitude to the silt pollution problem can best be summed up in the Board's own words.

"It can be seen from the results of Mr. Tarca's surveys and the Board's Chief Engineer's statement on the technical aspects of siltation that the problem of silt deposition is