

The Marinas

Words by Sue Streeeter, ex SY Pacifica

Photos by Sue and courtesy of M.I.Marina

First impressions of Maggie Island Marina will stay with you always. Pristine water with a picturesque mountain backdrop, a safe cyclone haven and easy access to berths will tick all your boxes. Captain Cook sighted Magnetic Island during his discovery voyage in 1770. He believed the island possessed a magnetic force causing compass interference, which was later proved wrong - however the name stuck and is today a mariner's paradise and a well loved holiday destination for all folk.

The access channel at Nelly Bay through the rock wall is well marked, shared with the Sealink Passenger Ferry and Fantasea Car Ferry, which have right of way at all times. Sealink's timetable for the 20 minute trip from Townsville provides 18 round trips most days, and Fantasea provides 8 round trips. Services do not operate on Public Holidays and cease during severe weather.

Although only 4.5 nm's (8 kms) from Townsville, Magnetic Island is a world away from the city hustle and bustle, with true island laid back atmosphere, a paradise to explore by sea or afoot.

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Maggie Island Marina -



North Queensland's Best Kept Secret

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Most of the island is National Park, with 4 settlements at Picnic Bay, Nelly Bay, Arcadia and Horseshoe Bay. Well organised public buses meet each passenger ferry, an excellent service to each of these areas, only a few minutes walk from the Marina to the terminal.

Eight different island walking tracks, ranging from 200 metres to 8 kms will take you to stunning secluded bays, swimming beaches, headlands, waterfalls and lookouts. The bus service will drop off and pick up hikers at the commencement/end of the walking tracks.

Rock wallabies inhabit the rock walls surrounding the Marina area. These beautiful little creatures can be hand fed early morning and evening, feed can be purchased from the service station.

Whilst exploring Magnetic Island by sea, you will discover a mecca of bays, headlands and hidden beaches, the favourite being Horseshoe Bay in the Island's north, a magnificent anchorage during the south-east trade winds.

The Marina hosts the Magnetic Island Race Week, held the first week September annually, attracting approx. 70 competing boats and crews. The Coral Coast Rally visits in June each year, and the Royal Prince Alfred Rally visits yearly in July.

Townsville Yacht Club vessels regularly visit the island for club racing and leisure, and for cruising folk Maggie Island Marina should be on your radar!

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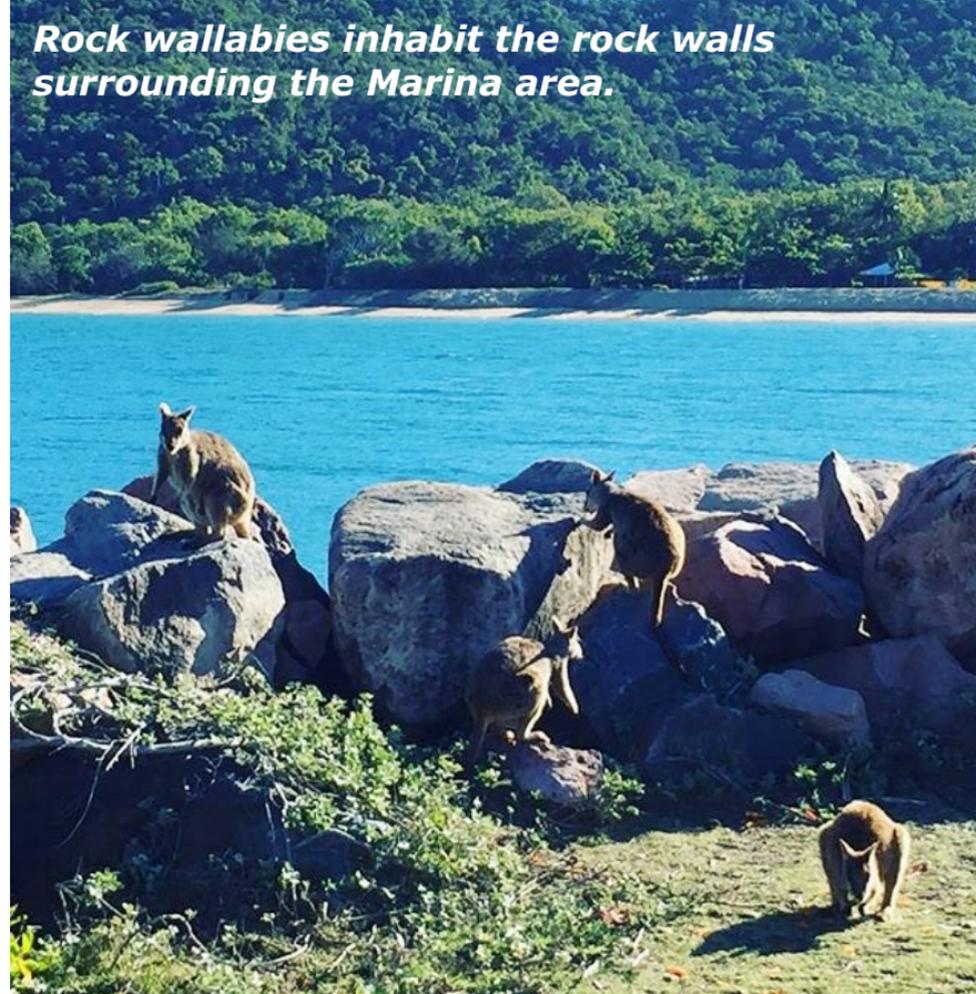


Photo courtesy of M.I. Marina

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106 berths of all sizes are available, including 10 multihull berths. Officially no permanent liveaboards; extended 3-month stays are permitted in every 6 months. An electronic lock and device for marina fingers has recently been installed for security. Peppers Blue on Blue Resort lies adjacent to the Marina, and 2 ground floor units have been set aside for marina residents providing showers, toilets, coin operated washing machine and clothes dryer - accessible 0600 to 2330 hrs daily. Relax on the balcony, meet and greet other seafarers, or exchange books whilst doing your laundry.

OVERVIEW OF BERTH FEES: EFFECTIVE JULY 2017

12 Metre Mono Daily x 2 Nights \$47.90, Weekly \$249.90, Monthly \$659.90
12 Metre Multi Daily x 2 Nights \$61.90, Weekly \$294.90, Monthly \$789.90
One night stay \$55 per night up to 14m Mono, larger vessels POA. Standby rates available.
Day rate - \$33.00. All rates are plus electricity as at 01/11/2017.
15 amp and 3 phase power supplied to berths.

The Marina provides 2 x courtesy vehicles to explore the island, plus 2 x courtesy vehicles which can be picked up at the Townsville ferry terminal. The local IGA supermarket is a 2-minute walk from the Marina, located in the same complex as the ferry terminal and carpark. Nelly Bay hospital, post office, bakery, souvenir shops, coffee shops, restaurants, hardware stores and petrol station are all walking distance from the marina.



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The IGA Supermarket is a 2 minute walk from the Marina

With approximately 3,000 residents on Magnetic Island, most trades are represented for vessel repair & maintenance. Plumbing, mechanics, carpentry, aircon/fridge, gas fitter, sailmaker (for patch jobs) and covers - ask the Marina office for contact numbers.

If your vessel requires slipping, contact the Townsville Slipway on (07) 4721 4472 or Rosshaven Marine (07) 4772 6392, as there are no haul out facilities on the island.

The Marina office is open 7 days a week Ph 07 4758 2417 - Fax 07 4758 1894 - Email: magneticmarina@bigpond.com - Website: www.magneticislandmarina.com.au
Contact Marina Managers Lance or Brian on Mob. 0408 026 886
or call VHF Radio channels 16 & 22 to book your berth or for any additional information required.

Townsville Coast Guard VMR408 Monitors VHF radios Channels 16 & 22, HF radios Channels 4125 & 4483. Weather conditions are transmitted daily at 0845 hrs, 1245 hrs and 1645 hrs.



Sue

Photo by Maureen Griffith

Currently based at Cairns, Sue has just recently sold her Yacht *Pacifica* which she had owned for 15 years. *Pacifica* was Sue's 4th sailing boat, and she is now keeping busy looking for her 5th.

The first 2 were with partners, the 3rd was an 8 metre Quest which Sue kept in Moreton Bay, Redland Shire. Sue has sailed as far as Thursday Island group, onto to Gove in the Northern Territory, and from Cairns as far south as Bundaberg.

Sue hopes to soon be making regular trips to the reef on her new Yacht and loves the Cairns area because, as Sue says, "We are so close - a day's sail there and back - to coral cays and The Great Barrier Reef."

Sue is retired after 30 years in real estate doing property management. She has started the business *Marina Berth Swap* in 2015 (www.marainaberthswap.com), which she hopes will take off to benefit cruising folk.