

Picnic Bay Seagrass-Watch - Monday 7th August 2006



Our year 4/5 class from Magnetic Island State School embarked on Seagrass-Watch at Picnic Bay, in early August. The Seagrass-Watch kit was brought down by Rhonda and the three transects were laid out in preparation for our class by Catherine, Iony, Flora, Patsy and Naomi.

After arriving at Picnic Bay we had lunch, then, Mr Hammelswang separated us into three groups. We monitor the seagrass meadow found at the eastern end of the bay. To do the monitoring we lay a quadrat down every 5 metres along each transect. We then report the details found in our observation area, for example, seagrass coverage, algae coverage, epi-cover, the sediment type (muddy, sandy, etc), height of seagrass leaves, any animals living in the seagrass (shrimps, snails, crabs etc) and any other species of seagrass we find. We also take a photo at every 5m, 25m and 45m along each transect. We then did our seed coring to find any seagrass seeds. The seagrass meadow at Picnic Bay has three main species HU, HO and ZC. One of the groups even found a ZC leaf which measured 20 cm.

This collection of data is useful to scientists as they can see how the environment is changing over time in a certain area. Often a large group of helpers are needed as we can only monitor when the tide is very low. We are having fun and learning a lot from our involvement in Seagrass-Watch and hope to do it again.

Article composed from a collection of short written reports by Year 4/5: Peter, Savannah, Cara, Cayla and Rui.