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Snorkelling at Turquoise Bay



Turquoise Bay is a very popular location for viewing corals and other marine life. However, care needs to be taken when swimming in strong currents. Strong currents are usually confined to the beach immediately west and south of the bay.

Strong currents are caused by a build up of water in the lagoon behind the reef. Large waves and a high tide level contribute to the amount of water in the lagoon that needs to escape through gaps in the reef.

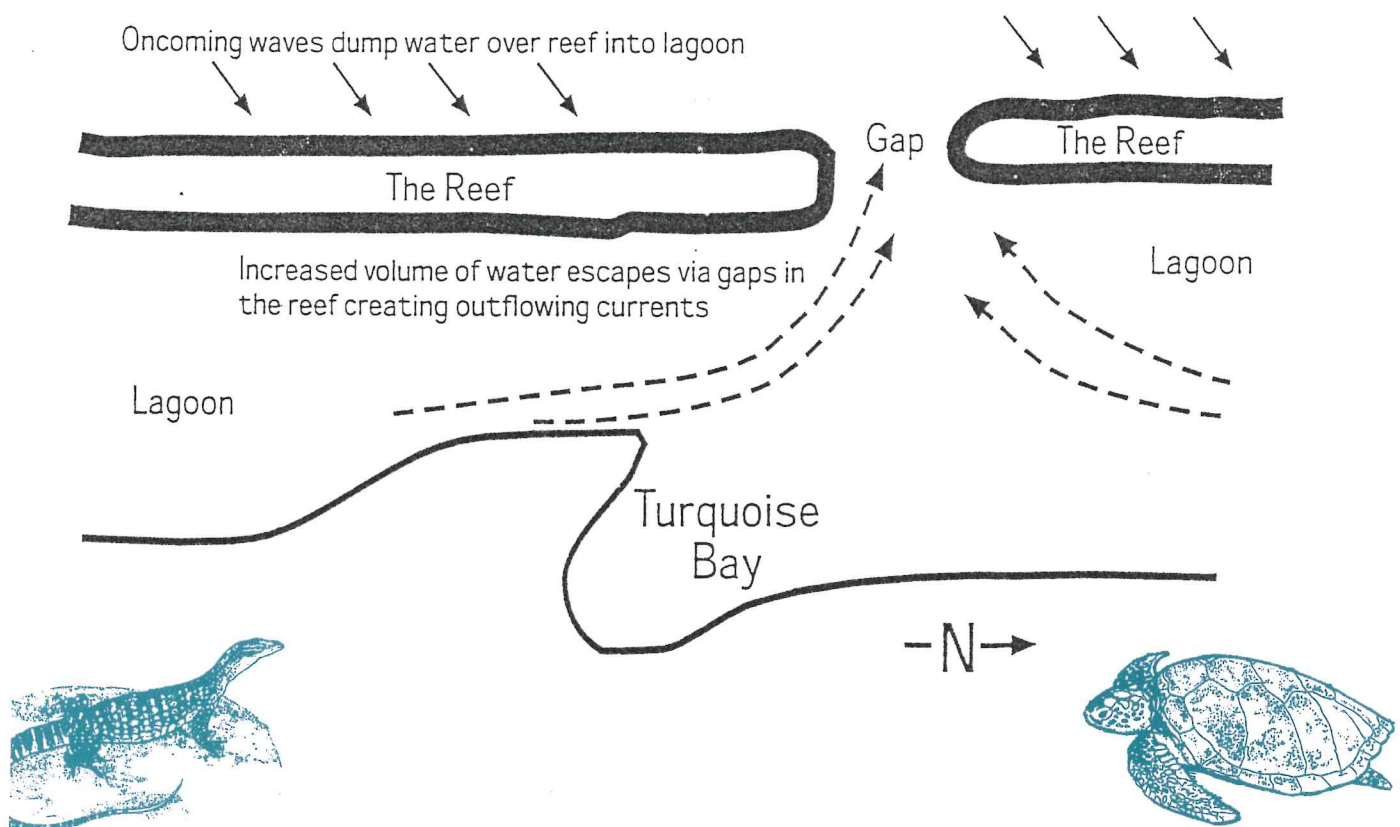
Inexperienced swimmers should not swim or snorkel in strong currents, especially unaccompanied by an experienced person.

Inexperienced swimmers wishing to snorkel at Turquoise Bay can seek the services of licensed tour operators if they are unable to find an experienced person to accompany them.

You should assess the current from the beach. Seek advice from others with sound local knowledge if you are unsure of the conditions. Park Rangers do not regularly patrol the beaches at Turquoise Bay.

It is better to err on the side of caution and simply enjoy the beach or swim well inside the bay where there is less likelihood of encountering strong currents.

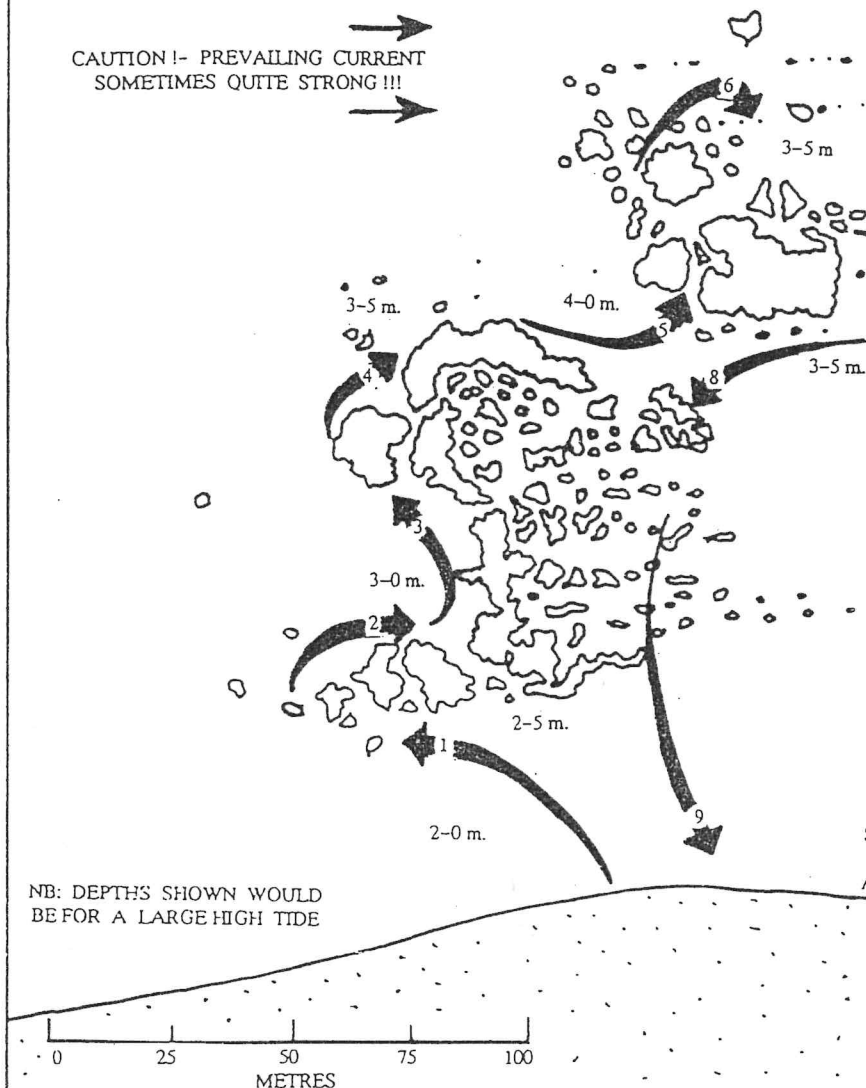
A high tide and waves cause strong currents, especially near gaps in the main reef.



LAKESIDE BOMBIES, CAPE RANGE NATIONAL PARK

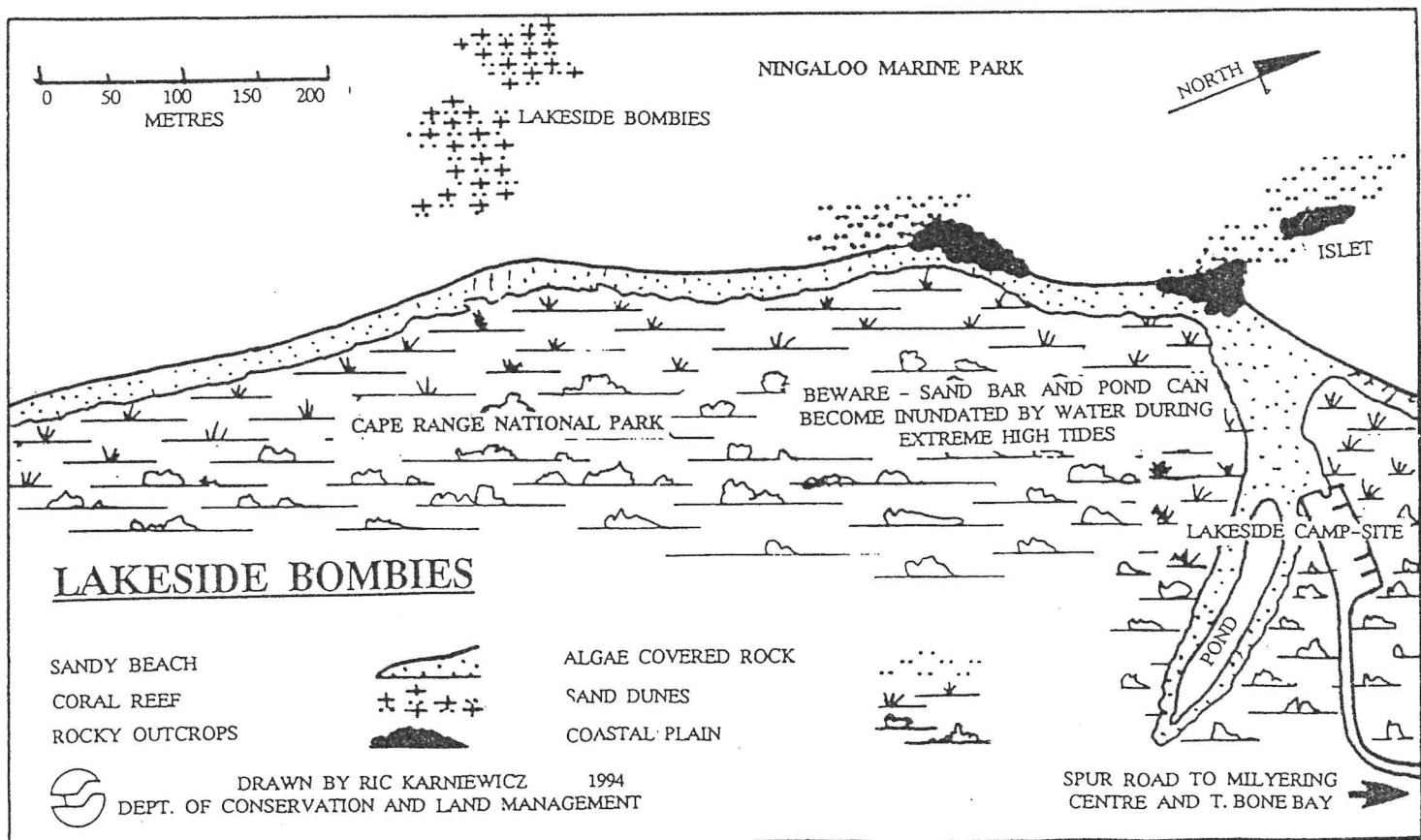
RECOMMENDED SNORKELLING ROUTE

CAUTION!- PREVAILING CURRENT
SOMETIMES QUITE STRONG!!!



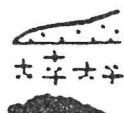
NB: DEPTHS SHOWN WOULD
BE FOR A LARGE HIGH TIDE

- 1) SCHOOLS OF SURGEON FISH, PARROTFISH, DART AND TREVALLY OFTEN SEEN HERE AND SOME PADDLEWEED SEAGRASS ON SAND
- 2) SML.- MED. CORALS AND ALGAE COVERED ROCK. NUMEROUS SMALL REEF FISHES AND INVERTEBRATES. LARGE "BULL- RAYS" COMMONLY SEEN ON ADJACENT SAND- BOTTOM
- 3) SMALL BROKEN CORAL WALL AND LEDGES PROGRESSING INTO BOMBIE WALL WITH AN ISOLATED MED. CORAL HEAD WITH HUGE ANEMONE COLONY AND SYMBIOTIC ANEMONE- FISH
- 4) CORAL BOMBORA WALL WITH LEDGE AT BASE OFTEN HARBOURING STINGRAYS, ANGELFISH, TOADFISH, GOATFISH AND OTHERS. SML. ACROPORA CORALS ON TOP GENERALLY HAVE DRUPELLA SNAILS PREDATING THEM.
- 5) SANDY GUTTER WITH SCATTERED STANDS OF FIRE- CORAL. LARGE SCHOOLS OF PIKE, JUVENILE SNAPPER, TREVALLY, TOADFISH, SURGEON FISH AND PARROTFISH FREQUENT HERE
- 6) SOUTHERN FACE OF MASSIVE PORITE HAS SEVERAL CAVES / CREVICES THAT OFTEN HAVE SHARKS AND RAYS DOZING IN THEM. NUMEROUS CORAL HEADS OF VARIOUS SIZES TO SEAWARD
- 7) BOMBORA WALL WITH ISOLATED BOMBIE ON NORTHEAST CORNER. MAIN BOMBIE FLAT- TOPPED WITH DIVERSE REEF FAUNA
- 8) LEDGE AT BASE OF CORAL WALL A FAVOURITE SPOT FOR BULL- RAYS AND TOADFISH. FIRE- CORAL STANDS WITH CLOUDS OF CHROMIS FISH HOVERING ABOVE AS YOU MOVE BACK TOWARDS THE SHORE
- 9) SMALL VARIOUS CORAL COLONIES AMONGST ROCK, RUBBLE AND ALGAE WITH ANEMONES, SEA CUCUMBERS, URCHINS, TURBAN SHELLS AND CLAMS, AND BURROWING FISH COMMONLY SEEN.



LAKESIDE BOMBIES

SANDY BEACH
CORAL REEF
ROCKY OUTCROPS



ALGAE COVERED ROCK
SAND DUNES
COASTAL PLAIN



DRAWN BY RIC KARNEWICZ 1994
DEPT. OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

SPUR ROAD TO MILYERING
CENTRE AND T. BONE BAY