

Kailag Enterprises Ltd



Research Facilities at Yorke Island, Torres Strait

Facilities at Yorke Island (Masig) are available for scientists, researchers and program managers looking to conduct projects in the Torres Strait region. The facilities include dive boats, SCUBA equipment and accommodation.

Kailag Enterprises Ltd is a Charitable Trust (not-for-profit) indigenous organisation based at Yorke Island. The company manages an aquaculture venture producing bath sponges at an approved marine farm, and currently employs 8 indigenous staff experienced in diving and scientific work with scientists. Kailag staff can also assist in the provision of services for projects, including boat drivers (coxswains) and experienced SCUBA divers. The company also has current interests in the use of the collagen based sponge in biomedical fields for extraction of bioactive compounds and use as a biomaterial in bioengineering.

Kailag can offer the facilities and staff on a negotiated contractual basis to organisations interested in marine based research projects, surveys and field programs at or near the Yorke Island group. Kailag staff have extensive experience in marine surveys and research projects with organisations such as the Australian Institute of Marine Science. Any requirement of facilities or indigenous staff would need to fit within sponge farming operations, so could be part-time, seasonal or 'one-off' depending on project needs. The following capabilities are available:

- 2 dive boats, 6m Hooker Pro-Fisher open dories, surveyed for USL Code Class 2C, licensed for 6 Persons (4 divers)
- SCUBA tanks, dive compressor and gear, all in test
- Bench space for basic field sample analysis
- Staff capabilities include Coxswain boat drivers, experienced scientific and survey divers operating under AS2299 Occupational Diver tickets
- Accommodation facilities are available at the Lowatta Lodge which offers self contained air-conditioned bungalows and rooms with full kitchen and dining facilities.

Yorke Island has community facilities of general store, medical centre and an airport that receives 2-3 flights per day from/to Horn Island with daily link to Cairns.

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