

**Hong Kong Natural History Society**  
**June 2013 Outing Report to Port Island and Crescent Island**

31 members and guests set off from Ma Liu Shui Public Pier on a grey showery morning. As we were sailing through Tolo Channel, we felt optimistic, looking at the brighter side of the sky in the north-east. We were delighted that Professor Bernie Owen and his wife Barbara had come along and Bernie agreed to tell us about some interesting geographical features of Port Island and Bluff Head at Wong Chuk Kok.



We arrived at Lau Shui Heung Tan of the uninhabited Port Island at about 11:00 and the sea was peaceful enough for us to get us all (in 4 trips) onto shore using our small motor boat. The first thing we spotted was a small clear waterfall (which the bay was named after). There were some concrete steps and paved way which we suspected were for observation or military purposes, so it was not too difficult for us to make our climbs. Near a cliff edge, Bernie pointed out some quartz veins and explained to us the formation of the web-like features in the rocks. We then saw some yellowish sponge-like quartz crystals which were formed over 100 million years ago. We then further moved on to a ridge where Bernie explained to us in 2 groups how the rocks at the cliff head had formed under the push of fault lines. He also pointed out that millions of years ago the whole area was a desert, and we could imagine how the dent of the rocks was carved by a great river meandering through it. After taking note on some other folds and fault lines on the rocks, we carefully made our way back to the boat.



*Quartz Crystals (formed over 100 million years ago)*



Once aboard, we continued our journey to Crescent Island. On the way, we slowly went past Bluff Head at Wong Chuk Kok Tsui. Here, we saw the oldest rocks in Hong Kong which were formed over 400 million years ago. These rocks were mostly volcanic and appeared with a vertical-lined structure formed by the push of the faults and folds of the plates over the years. Of course, we mustn't forget to mention the famous 'Ghost Fist' rock formation, which we saw appearing slowly from a distance.

We arrived at Crescent Bay at about 1:15 pm. Most members took their lunches on board the boat. Then Mr. Li ferried some members to the beach while a few preferred to swim around the boat. A few others, including me, went snorkeling and felt so excited about seeing several species including clown fish swimming around the Brain Corals. Before we set off, we toasted farewell to our dear old friends Nyria & Jeremy who will soon be leaving for England. They have been with the society for over 20 years. At this time, after a few days of pouring rain, the sun came out to greet them with our best wishes too.



We got back to the pier at about 6:00 pm. It was a fun day – thanks to Bernie for making this trip both educational and enjoyable.

*Mak Wei Ming*  
*Photos by Chan Ping Chung*