

**Hong Kong Natural History Society**  
**May 2018 outing report to Ap Chau and Kat O**

Ma Liu Shui Public pier was crowded as usual around our meeting time. We got onto Mr. Li's boat at 9:30 and headed off to Ap Chau.



It took us an hour and half to arrive Ap Chau (Duck Island). We circumnavigated the island to take a good look of the 'duck', which again we felt it looks more like a platapus. After we got on the island, we went to see the 'eye' of the duck head first. We investigated the rocks, learned from the information board about how the geographical features are formed and examined the breccia – a special type of sedimentary rock only to be found here in Hong Kong areas. We found the arch where we usually take a photo has become lower. We reckon either the island has sunk or the ground has risen by the accumulation of sand gravels. We then went to the newly opened small museum to read about the history and tradition of this fishing village. One of the villagers was friendly to let us know how they got water supply in the earlier days. Although being an almost uninhabited island (with 3 residents), the families of the native villagers who mostly immigrated would always come back for festive celebrations.



We spent an hour on the island and returned to the boat for lunch. We arrived at Kat O after half an hour. Some members intended to have a noodle lunch there, but nothing was available as all the restaurants only take pre-ordered meals and catered for tour groups. We all visited the small museum and learned about the story of the Lover's Tree.



At about 1:30, we returned to the boat and went to Half Moon Bay for a swim. It turned out to be a NHS private beach during the time when we were there. Soon, we were cooled off in good clean water with perfect weather under the sun. Some members swam to the beach and saw a wild boar strolling across the sand. A member decided to stay on awhile, may be hoping to search for the clan with his investigation. Swimming back, members reported seeing stretches of bleaching corals. It would be worthwhile to conduct a coral viewing at Crescent Island in September to see if the area is facing worse coral bleaching problems.

We returned to the pier in good time at 5:30. All feeling it was a wonderful day out to two of the remote islands in Hong Kong north-eastern waters, thanking goodness that we always managed to skip the crowds of hundreds arriving by the normal ferries just at the time we were leaving these places.



*Breccia*