

Deluge Inlet

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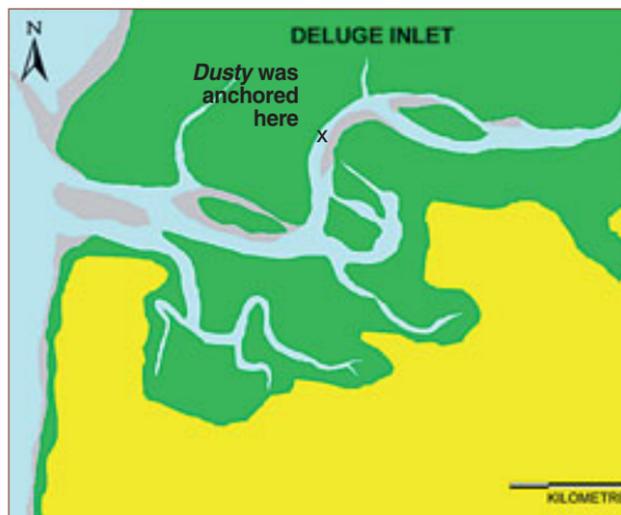
Hinchinbrook Island

Story & Photography by Peter Webster

Having spent several days working hard in the warm Cardwell winter sun to prepare our 8.0m diesel cruiser, *Dusty Rover* for the week we planned to spend aboard, we were looking forward to getting underway asap. Apart from a few days of badly needed respite from our hyper active publishing world, we planned to complete a number of projects we've been working on in the Hinchinbrook region for several years.

Years? Yes, it does seem a long time, doesn't it? But such has been the pace and complexity of the publishing world in the last 18 months or so, we've been office-bound on the Gold Coast for far too long, and we were very anxious to get back onboard *Dusty* and get things rolling again.

This time, we had a simple mission in mind – we wanted to film additional footage in the Deluge Inlet region, which, for no particular reason we could recall, we've passed-by on previous trips. This time, we were keen to pick up on the advice we'd received from several local contacts, and having flown over the Deluge Inlet estuary with Cardwell Air Charters' Margaret Prior on several occasions, I knew this was



one of the biggest creek/river estuary areas on the Hinchinbrook Island.

For the benefit of southern readers, the word "creek" is a complete misnomer – Deluge Inlet is really an estuary some 8 km long in the main section but with so many tributaries it's almost impossible to tally up just how much "length" there is here. Suffice to say it would be more accurate to describe it as a genuine estuary in its own right, with half a dozen substantial creeks (or "drains" as the locals like to call them) flowing into the main body of water.

Deluge itself is located approximately 12 miles down the Channel from Port Hinchinbrook Marina. Coming up from Lucinda, it's about 10 miles from the Lucinda launchramp. There are other launching options, including trailing a small tinny along the Bruce Highway until you get to Fishers Landing on Bridge Creek. Here, there is a short dirt road ending in a small concrete ramp that is a bit closer to the Deluge Inlet area – but the ramp and creek here often dries right out, so boatowners need to watch their tides carefully.

Interstate readers are urged to study their chart of this region carefully before going there for the first



Dusty Rover anchored in Deluge Inlet, Hinchinbrook Island. Inset: Observe midge screen mesh cockpit curtain - it's very simple; no mesh - no stay overnight in these mangrove creeks.