



Welcome

One of my first memories of Moreton Island, going on holidays with the family as a six year old girl running down the sandhills until my legs couldn't carry me any faster and falling face first into the soft sand. Without giving too much away, that was nearly 40 years ago – and the sandhills are exactly the same today. Where else in the world could you tell this story?

Since that day, my experiences on Moreton Island include body surfing, surf board riding, snorkeling, scuba diving, fishing, sightseeing, sunbathing, camping, four wheel driving and spending time with friends and relaxing. I have never tired of visiting this beautiful island, and am always astounded at the clarity and colours in the water, the beach and the bush.

Sharing my passion of Moreton Island with our visitors has always been a great joy which is now even greater with our expanding services. Our offer has grown from a transport option to the island, into a host of tourism that caters for all types of visitors.

The greatest reward is seeing new visitors to the Island, and the absolute awe on their faces after time on the Island.

I hope you enjoy this magazine on Moreton Island and are lucky enough to experience this amazing unspoilt sand Island.

Roz Shaw
CEO





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Four Wheel Driving Tips

Moreton Island has a complex and fragile ecology with many plants and animals adapted to the low nutrient sandy soils and tea coloured waters with high acidity levels. The island shape is always changing in response to the ocean current and winds. The development of Mirapool from a series of islands to its current form as a large lagoon is a good example of how quickly the sand environment can change.

To protect the island and its visitors, here are some helpful hints to guide you during your stay on the island:

When sand driving

- Stay on formed tracks. On the spot fines apply for driving on sand dunes.
- Engage locking hubs and four wheel drive on inland tracks and soft beaches.
- Check that your tyre pressure gauge works. If you choose to reduce your tyre pressure to help maintain traction on the inland tracks and soft sand, do so within manufacturer's specifications and reinflate your tyres again to resume speed on harder sand or mainland driving.
- Avoid sharp turns and sudden braking.
- Select low gears for soft, dry sand.
- If your vehicle bogs, reverse and try to drive forward again.

Watch the tides!

- The best time to travel is around low tide. Avoid driving two hours either side of high tide and often for longer as some areas are more affected by tidal activity and onshore winds than others.
- Creeks flowing out onto beaches should be crossed with caution.
- Do not stop your vehicle in any creek bed, use low speed and check depth and sand softness before crossing.
- For safety, avoid travelling at night.

Driving on Moreton Island Safely

- Do not drive when you are tired or under the influence of alcohol or medication.
- You need to be constantly alert and familiar with sand driving techniques - 4WDs handle differently in sand.
- Police visit the island with speed detectors and breathalyser units.

Before heading off

- Ensure your vehicle is mechanically sound.
- Carry essential spares, extra fuel, water, tyre gauge, air pump, snatch strap, tow rope and a first aid kit.
- Know how your vehicle handles in sand-driving conditions and use correct driving techniques.

Load your vehicle correctly

- Do not overload your vehicle
- Load your vehicle evenly with heavy items stored low.
- Vehicles with too much stored on roof racks can overturn or become stuck.
- Remember the weight and balance of a 4WD is different from a normal car.

Keep below the speed limit

- Speed limit on the beach is 60km/hr or 30km/hr in beach safety zones, and as signed on other tracks.
- Speed limit in townships is 20km/hr or as signed.
- Depending on conditions, safe travelling speeds could be much slower.
- People driving too fast for the unexpected are more likely to have accidents.

Obey all road Rules

- Road riled apply on all island tracks and beaches.
- All vehicles must be registered.
- Wear seatbelts at all times.
- Keep left of oncoming vehicles at all times.



Introducing Moreton Island

“On May 17th 1770, James Cook named ‘Morton Bay’ and ‘Cape Morton’, after the then President of the Royal Society of Britain, the Earl of Morton. In 1799 Matthew Flinders discovered the Cape was actually part of the island, he named it Moreton Island, misspelling the name Morton, which appeared in Hawksworth’s edition of Cook’s voyages in 1793.”

The island remains one of the few untouched areas of natural wilderness along the east coast, and supports an amazing variety of vegetation on its sand based environment. White sandy beaches, crystal clear waters and refreshing freshwater lakes make Moreton Island a much sought after destination amongst campers, bushwalkers, fishermen, naturalists and four wheel drive enthusiasts.

Ancient shell middens (some more than 1500 years old) are a reminder that Aboriginal people, namely the Ngugi tribe, inhabited the island many years before European settlement. In 1848, a pilot station was established at Bulwer. Shipping had previously used the South Passage between Moreton and North Stradbroke Island, but due to the numerous shipwrecks on the reefs and bars, shipping was directed to enter Moreton Bay around Cape Moreton. The Cape Moreton Lighthouse, built in 1857, still operates and provides one of the islands most outstanding scenic views.

The remains of the old military emplacements and fortifications can still be found at Cowan Cowan and Rous Battery, reminders of Brisbane’s efforts to defend itself during World War II. Cowan Cowan was established as a military camp in 1938 and up until, and during the war, housed as many as 900 soldiers.

Tangalooma operated as a whaling station from 1953 to 1962. The whale chasers Kos I and Kos II are now part of Curtin Artificial Reef, with the mother ship being a part of the Tangalooma Wrecks.

Mount Tempest, a vegetated sandhill in the centre of the island, makes for a challenging climb for those walkers keen on the best views of Moreton Island and the bay. Mt Tempest is reputedly the highest sandhill in the world, standing approximately 283m above sea level.

The Big and Little Sandhills near the southern end of the island, provide an awe inspiring sight of mountains and pure silica sand, running across the island from East to West, some 2.5km. The Desert is a major sand dune blowout, just south of Tangalooma and accessible via scenic walking track from the western beach. These areas of bare sand dunes also provide the slopes for an exhilarating sand toboggan.

Wetland areas at Heath Island in the north, and the Mirapools and Days Gutter in the south, provide interesting and unique habitats for migratory birds and newly established mangroves. The seas around the island teem with life, such as turtles, dolphins and the occasional dugong may be sighted. Moreton Island offers its visitors a wealth of nature experiences and recreational opportunities.



The First Inhabitants

Moorgumpin, meaning 'Place of Sandhills' is the aboriginal name for Moreton Island. Moorgumpin lies within the area referred to as Quandamooka, which is commonly defined as the region and indigenous people of Moreton Bay and its islands. The Indigenous people of Quandamooka include the Ngugi (Moreton Island), and the Gorenpul and Nunukul clans (North Stradbroke Island).

Moreton Island was occupied by aboriginal people for several thousands of years. This is evident by the extensive middens, camp sites, rock shelters, chipping grounds and stone artifacts which can be found on the island. Moreton Island has existed in isolation from the other bay islands for a considerable time. North & South Stradbroke Islands were not separated until the 1800's. The first known inhabitants of Moreton Island were the Ngugi tribe. (pronounced Nooh gee). Because of the much earlier detachment of Moreton island the Ngugi tribe developed their own culture and language. They lived a wandering lifestyle which took advantage of the islands rich food resources. Their diet consisted of fish, oysters, crabs, goannas, wild honey and midgen fruits.

Archaeological sites on the island are important to the Ngugi descendants as a reflection of their heritage. Up to 330 cultural sites have been recorded and include shell and bone scatters, large shell middens and a stone quarry. Please respect these sites by leaving them untouched.

The Ngugi tribe traded freely with the other islands and mainland tribes, and took part in the annual Bunya feast, north of Toowoomba. The arrival of Europeans spelt the end to this happy, healthy and resourceful race. Their numbers were savaged by smallpox. In 1833 they suffered a massacre, and by the early 1850's most of the survivors had moved to North Stradbroke. This self sufficient race was no more.

The Discovery of Moreton Island

On May 17th 1770, James Cook names Moreton Bay and Cape Moreton, after the then President of the Royal Society of Britain. In 1799 Matthew Flinders discovered the Cape was actually part of the island. He named it Moreton Island, misspelling the name which appeared in Hawkworth's edition of Cook's voyages in 1793.

In 1823 Thomas Pamphlet and two other ticket of leave men set out by boat from Sydney to fell cedar on the NSW south coast. They were caught in a storm and blown north. Near death, and after 21 days at sea, they managed to beach their boat on Moreton island. The Ngugi tribe assisted them and after they had recovered from their ordeal, they attempted to find their way back to Sydney and in the process discovered the Brisbane River.

On the 29th November 1823, John Oxley, whilst searching for a suitable place for the establishment of a penal colony, rounded Point Skirmish and observed a number of natives running along the beach. They were astonished when one of these people hailed them in English. This historic meeting between Oxley and Pamphlet resulted in Pamphlet showing Oxley the Brisbane River and the site, which today is the city of Brisbane.

The first organized settlement of Moreton Island wasn't until 1847, when the loss of 44 lives with the wreck of the 'Sovereign' highlighted the danger of the south bar. The Northern end of Moreton Bay became the entrance. The Amity pilot station was moved from Amity Point to Bulwer bringing the first European residents in 1848. The station was eventually closed in 1909.



Bulwer

Bulwer is the settlement located at the northern end of the west coast of the island, and is the home to the Bulwer Convenience Store and our unit style accommodation, Moreton Island Eco Lodge.

The Bulwer Convenience Store stocks general grocery items, ice, firewood, fuel, alcohol and souvenirs and is a great place to sit and relax in the garden setting after a day of exploring.

The Micat travels to Bulwer every Tuesday, departing Brisbane at 8.30am and departs the beach at Bulwer (just next to the Wrecks at Bulwer Beach) at 3.30pm. Comboyuro Point Campground is located a short walking distance from the ferry landing point and is one of the five facilitated campgrounds on the island.

At the time this magazine went to print, a redevelopment application had been lodged with the Brisbane City Council. The redevelopment proposal is to upgrade the facilities at the Bulwer Convenience Store and Moreton Island Eco Lodge by adding a cafe and upgrading the existing self contained holiday accommodation and school camp dormitories.

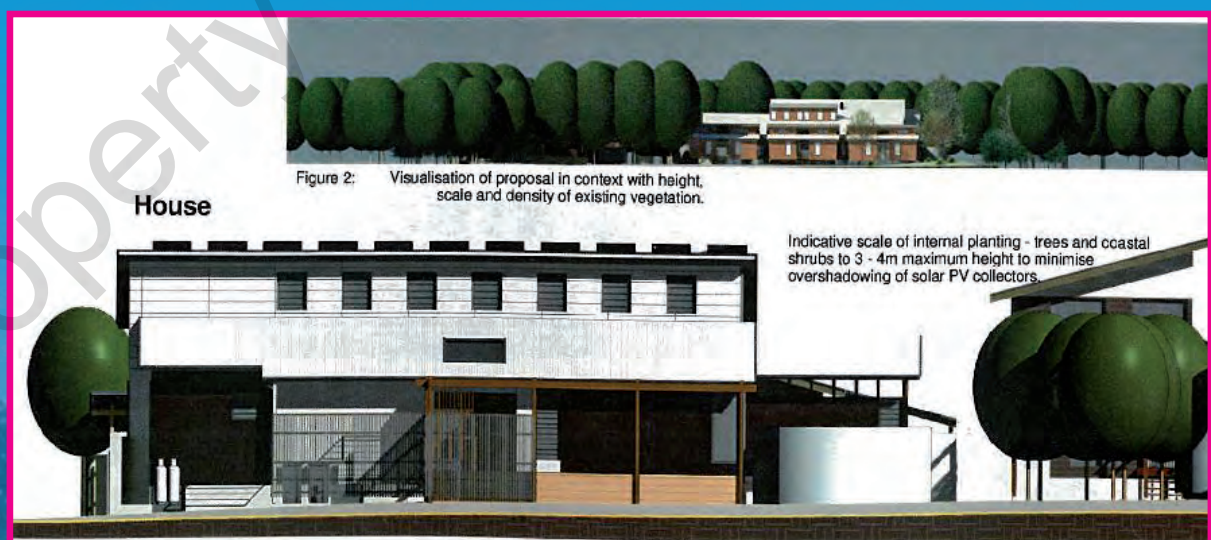
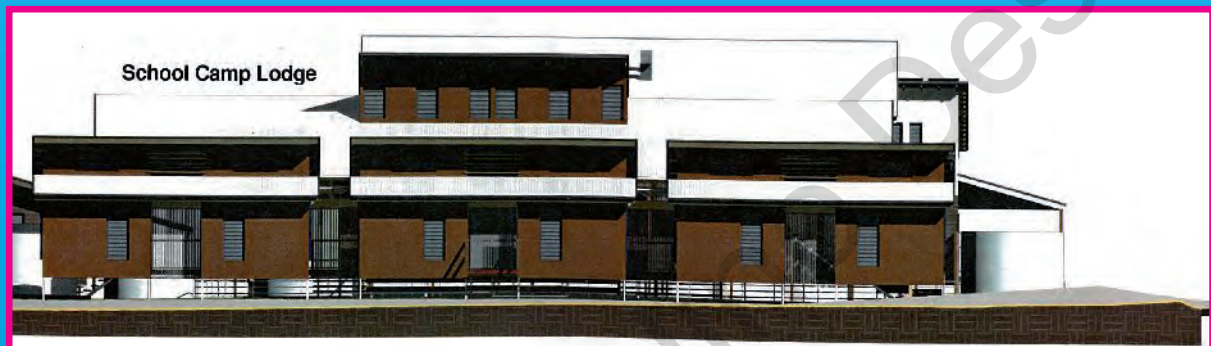
The facilities proposed are eco compliant, ensuring the design is in harmony with the surrounding bushland and all waste management is to be treated in a state of the art, onsite, Sewage Treatment Plant. There is an existing solar panel system at the Eco Lodge that can be utilised for the proposed design. The following page details the proposed architectural design.

A bit of Bulwer History

Located on Bulwer Beach are the Bulwer Wrecks, scuttled by Robert Alexander Gow, known to people associated with the island as Bert and later in life as 'Pop'. The wrecks were to provide shelter for Gow's 40 foot (12 metres) launch Maringo named after his mother Mary Ingles Gow. The shelter of the wrecks facilitated the safe unloading of materials necessary to build a house on his first lease which Gow acquired in 1928 and after that the food and other provisions needed for the many holidays his family reputedly enjoyed at Bulwer. (Further information can be found at <http://indicatorloops.com/comboyuro.htm>).



Proposed Redevelopment of Moreton Island Eco Lodge





Cowan Cowan

In 1899 a lighthouse was built at Cowan Cowan to act as an additional signal light to the Cape Moreton Lighthouse. The lighthouse no longer stands at Cowan Cowan Point, rumour has it that in the 1970s it was destroyed by an out of control camp fire after some teenagers used the structure as shelter from the rain one night.

During both World Wars, Moreton Island was prepared to be the first line of defence in case of an attack on Brisbane from the sea. Cowan Cowan Point was the main defence base during World War I. Few traces of the base remain because hundreds of metres of coastline in this area have been eroded over the years. During World War II up to 900 troops were stationed on the island. The main Encampments were at Cowan Cowan and Toompani Beach (Rous Battery) but in other places on the island the remains of forts and barbed wire entanglements are still to be found.

Cowan Cowan Township is a small community which grew out of the original military installations for both world wars. A wartime relic still of interest is the major artillery piece which guarded the main shipping channel into Moreton Bay.

The beach in front of Cowan Cowan is closed to all traffic and provides a safe harbour for beach goers from vehicles. Some holiday homes are available for rent in this township. Please note there are no public services such as a general store or service station in Cowan.

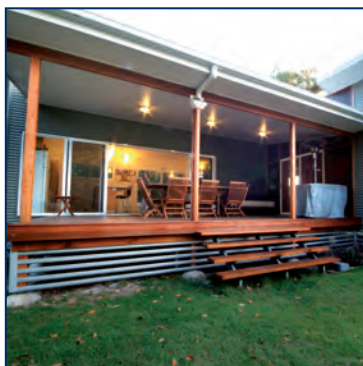




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Large deck with BBQ & fireplace
Water views



18 William Leslie
5 Bedroom 2 Bathroom
Q Q Q 2S 2S (sleeps 10)
Huge screened deck



34 William Leslie
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Q Q 2S (sleeps 8)
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Tangalooma

Every year schools of whales migrate along the Queensland coast. In 1952, a whaling station was opened at Tangalooma. The whalers operated in an area which extended for about 250 kilometres north-east and south of Moreton Island. Usually two boats operated at one time assisted by a spotter plane.

In the first 10 years of operation, the whalers took up to 660 humpback whales in a year. In 1962 when the total kill was only 68, the station closed.

Since the Tangalooma whaling station ceased operation, the whale population has increased again and significant sightings have been made off Moreton Island in recent years.

The Tangalooma resort complex has been established on the site of the former station and the flensing deck and floor have become part of the resort facilities.

Two of the original whale chasers are still at Moreton. KOS 1 and KOS11 are part of the Cowan artificial reef.

Vehicle access is not available through the Resort, but a bypass road exists immediately south of the Resort that connects with middle road, north of the wrecks.

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The Wrecks of Moreton Island

Moreton Island is a great spot for divers, with something for both the beginner and the expert, with crystal clear water teeming with wildlife.

Many shipwrecks have occurred in the general area over the decades, particularly of vessels endeavouring to negotiate passages between Moreton Bay and the open sea.

Some shipwrecks have been quite eventful. However, in the brief outline below, only those vessels, the remains of which may be currently seen are listed. The remnants vary from being substantially intact to consisting of a few relics on the site.

Sovereign

A 119 ton wooden hulled paddle steamer built in 1841. She was wrecked on 11th March 1847 negotiating the South Passage bar. She holds the distinction of being the first known vessel lost in Moreton Bay. Of the 54 people on board, only 10 survived.

Young Australia

A 1,020 ton wooden ship, this clipper made frequent visits to Brisbane carrying immigrants. On 31st May 1872 she cleared Moreton Bay when a flat calm occurred. Without steerage-way, she drifted with the southerly current and swell until she stranded on the beach at North Point.

Aarhus

An iron barque of 640 tons built in Hamburg in 1857. On the 24th February 1894 she ran into Smiths Rock at about 8:50pm. By 9:05 pm she was at the bottom of twelve fathoms of water. Fourteen crew, including the captain, rowed for three hours before safely reaching Moreton Island. The remains of the ship were found in 1979 and are protected by the Historic Shipwrecks Act.

Grace Darling

The 64 ton schooner was anchored off Bulwer for three days in heavy weather carrying a full load of dynamite and coal. On the fourth day (14th of March 1894) she parted from her anchors and became stranded on the beach almost stern first.

St Paul

A 1,660 ton French steamer, the St Paul floundered and sank after striking Smiths Rock on the 26th March 1914. Of the 29 persons on board, 18 were lost.

Rufus King

An American freighter, she ran aground in the South Passage in light rain on the 7th July 1942. Shortly after grounding she broke in the middle. There were no casualties. The stern is still visible today and is a navigation hazard at certain tides.

Marietta Dal

A 7,326 ton British freighter. She broke in two on Smiths Rock on the 15th May 1950. No lives were lost.

Also of interest are the Bulwer Wrecks. Put in place by the Gow family in the early 1930s as a safe mooring for the family boat and their visitors. The three ships are the **Hopewell**, the **Kallatina** and the **Mt Kembla**.



Kooringal

Kooringal Township is located on the southern tip of Moreton Island. The original community Oolong, home for itinerant squatters, fisherman and a lighthouse, was surveyed in the early part of the century. It's location, Cloherty's Peninsula (named for the original light keeper) was lost to the sea by erosion.

Kooringal was re-established in the late 1960's around the site of the home of Mr. Frank Day, the "grand old man of Moreton" who gave his name to Day's Gutter.

Kooringal, meaning "by the water", is Moreton Island's largest township, home to approximately 150 houses. Kooringal is popular with holiday makers and Brisbane people who maintain weekend homes.

A feature of the town is its General Store, known as "The Gutter Bar", which is open most days and along with the provision of general supplies, it serves fabulous meals including delicious fresh seafood that is fresh from local trawlers, and export quality meat which is cooked to perfection and is as good as you'll find in most Brisbane restaurants.



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Reeders Point, Kooringal
Point Lookout



Things to do & see Around the Island

The Blue Lagoon south of Cape Moreton Lighthouse is an area where the dunes have formed natural catchments for rainwater. This is a place of tranquil marshes, teeming wildlife, deep lakes, tangled heathlands, wild flowers and bungwall fern. Blue Lagoon, one of the largest of the island's lakes, is filled with crystal clear water and ringed by pure white sand.

Please do not use soap or detergent of any kind in the lakes and lagoons on Moreton Island

The Desert

The Desert, one kilometre south-east of Tangalooma, is appropriately named. These bare, white dunes with patches of colour are in stark contrast with the thick vegetation which surrounds them. Wind shapes and reshapes the dunes into sweeping crescents, smooth in parts, scored with parallel furrows in others.

The Desert is a popular place for visitors to try sandboarding. Basic Sand boards (which after much experimenting we have found are the best!) can be purchased onboard Micat.

Cape Moreton

By the end of 1855 the growing importance of the settlement at Brisbane resulted in greatly increased shipping activity.

The wreck of the "Venue" and the "Phoebe Dunbar" highlighted the need to provide navigational aids at the port entrance. On February 18, 1856, tenders were called for the erection of a lighthouse and keepers dwellings at Cape Moreton. The successful tender for £4,265 included costs such as "employment for bullock driver for six months at £4".

The tower of the lighthouse was built from the local siliceous sandstone which was the immediate site of the light and later from a hill about 500, meters to the North West.

Contrary to popular belief, convict labor was not used in the construction but 35 trusted civil prisoners assisted the tradesman. The iron rings at the base of the tower (which you can still see) were for the pulleys which lifted the construction material, and the lower windows were barred to prevent pilfering.

Meanwhile the light mechanism, consisting of a revolving lantern, the hand-wound mechanism to drive it and 21 oil lamps with reflectors had been built in London for the sum of £1419 and shipped to the colony. This light mechanism was the only catoptric (reflector) lighthouse system installed in Queensland, all other being dioptric (prismic).

The light mechanism arrived at Moreton Island on September 21 1856 along with 45 cases of machinery and a light smith, Thomas Hook.

On the night of Saturday, February 14, 1857, the Moreton Lighthouse beamed out for the first time from the lonely tower on the Cape. It has done so every peacetime night since.

The Moreton Island lighthouse was the first off the Queensland coast. Externally, the 23 metre high lighthouse has altered little in more than a century. Within its 60 centimetre thick sandstone walls, one significant change has been made - the original oil lamps and the clockwork mechanism which turned them on has been replaced by electric arcs and motors.

The lighthouse is not open to the public and camping is not permitted on the lighthouse reserve which is closed to traffic.



Rocky Cape Moreton is the only part of the island which is not pure sand. A bonus for visitors to the Cape are the breathtaking views west of the Glasshouse mountains, north over the Pacific and south along the Ocean Beach to North Stradbroke Island.

Cape Moreton now has a free visitor information centre which is run by National Parks and wildlife. It has a host of historical information on display and is open daily.

Mount Tempest

Mount Tempest is the highest sand dune on the island and is also the highest vegetated sand hill in the world with the peak approx 285m above sea level. It is quite a walk to the top however, worth it once you get there and see the breathtaking views. Mt Tempest is accessed via middle road, and once you take the Mt Tempest turn off it is approximately a 10 minute drive. There is parking at the bottom of the walk.





Around Wynnum Manly

Port of Brisbane where the Micat departs from is the shipping port of Brisbane, on the east coast of Australia. It is located in the lower reaches of the Brisbane River on reclaimed land that was once called Fisherman's Island at the mouth of the river. It currently is the third busiest port in Australia and the nation's fastest growing container port. It includes the main shipping channel across the Moreton Bay which extends 90 km north to Mooloolaba and is dredged to maintain a depth fourteen metres at the lowest tide.

The port is managed by the Port of Brisbane Corporation (PBC) and facilitates more than 2,600 ships each year. Port facilities extend upriver for about 15km and include bulk commodity and general cargo wharves, a cruise terminal, and a dockyard facility. This activity currently generates a total annual contribution to the Queensland economy of \$1.9 billion.

Public transport is available to the Port of Brisbane via Queensland Rail's domestic train service to the Wynnum Station and a connecting bus service to the port.

The transPORT bus runs three services in the morning and three in the afternoon, Monday to Friday (except public holidays) between the nearby suburbs of Manly and Wynnum and the port. Micat can provide you with the timetable for this service.

Surrounding the Port - Wynnum

Wynnum is a suburb located on the shores of Moreton Bay in Brisbane, Australia, about 16 kilometres east of the CBD. The area was sparsely settled until the arrival of the railway in the late 1880s, but then grew fairly rapidly. The former Wynnum Shire Council was created in 1902, and twelve years later Wynnum became a municipality with its own town council and the right to elect a mayor. The Town Council was absorbed into the enlarged City of Brisbane in 1925. Wynnum is on the Cleveland railway line and has regular train services connecting it with the Brisbane CBD.

The Wynnum foreshore is a popular swimming and picnic spot for Brisbane families especially at weekends. Next to the Wynnum Wading Pool which has a playground and Water Park and the Wynnum Jetty, there is a man-made beach called Pandanus Beach.

Manly

Manly is a suburb of Brisbane, Australia. It is located approximately 16km east of Brisbane CBD. Surrounding suburbs are Wynnum (to the north), Lota to the South and Manly West (to the west). To the east lies Moreton Bay.

The well sheltered coastal location of Manly has resulted in it becoming a popular location for boating. Large tidal walls were constructed to the north and south with dredging being undertaken to deepen the harbour. The Manly Boat Harbour is now the largest small boat harbour facility in Queensland.

Cambridge Street in Manly is home to many coffee shops and boutique stores. There is backpacker accommodation located at the Manly Deck and the restaurant has a beautiful view of Moreton Bay.

This part of Moreton Bay was occupied by the Aboriginal Mipirimm people. Their lifestyle was semi-nomadic. Increasing contact with the white settlers brought new diseases to the Aborigines including smallpox and tuberculosis which savaged the indigenous population.

Settlement by European

European settlement of the Manly area first took place around 1860. In 1882 land was sold by auction for the 'Manly Beach Estate'. In 1889 a railway line was opened that provided a direct service to the state capital, Brisbane. By the early 1900's the area had become a popular seaside location.

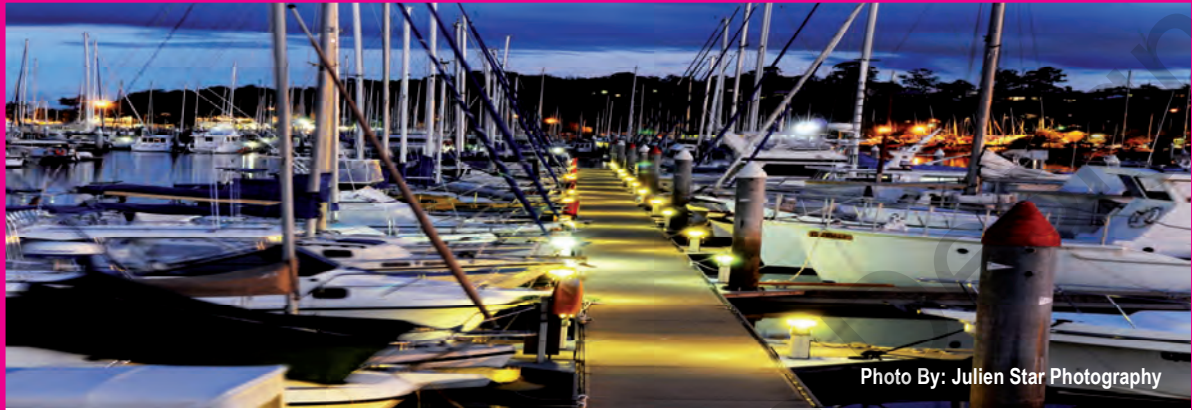
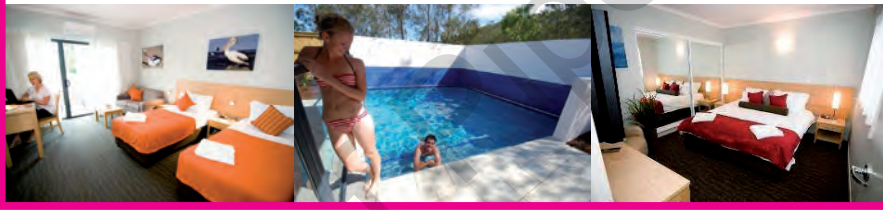


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Micat Summer Schedule

	Brisbane to Tangalooma Wrecks	Tangalooma Wrecks to Brisbane
Monday	8.30am 1.00pm	10.30am 3.30pm
Tuesday	8.30am to Bulwer	3.30pm departing Bulwer
Wednesday	8.30am	3.30pm
Thursday	8.30am 1.00pm	10.30pm 3.30pm
Friday	5.00am 8.30pm 1.00pm	- 10.30am 3.30pm
Saturday	8.30am 1.00pm	10.30am 3.30pm
Sunday	8.30am 2.30pm 6.00pm	1.00pm 4.30pm 7.45pm

*Please note additional trips are added during peak periods
* Timetable subject to change

Micat Winter Schedule

	Brisbane to Tangalooma Wrecks	Tangalooma Wrecks to Brisbane
Monday	8.30am	3.30pm
Tuesday	8.30am to Bulwer	3.30pm departing Bulwer
Wednesday	8.30am	3.30pm
Thursday	8.30am	3.30pm
Friday	8.30am	3.30pm
Saturday	8.30am	1.00pm
Sunday	2.30pm	4.30pm

Fares & Pricing

PASSENGERS	Price	Additional Information
Adult One Way	\$35	Includes 2 items of luggage
Adult Return	\$50	Includes 2 items of luggage
Child One Way (4 - 14 years)	\$25	Includes 1 item of luggage
Child Return (4 - 14 years)	\$35	Includes 1 item of luggage
Family Rate Return	\$140	Includes 2 Adults and up to 3 Children

VEHICLES	Off Peak	Peak	Additional Information
4WD One Way	\$115	\$145	Includes up to 2 Adults
4WD Return	\$190	\$220	Includes up to 2 Adults
4WD Family Return	\$235	\$265	Includes 2 Adults & up to 3 Children
Trailers Under 4m	\$190	\$220	
Trailers Over 4m	\$190	\$220	\$25 for every additional metre over 4m

FAQ'S

Q: I have never driven on sand before, is it difficult?

A: So long as you ensure your vehicle is on four wheel drive mode and you reduce your tyre pressure to manufacturers specifications prior to driving off the ferry, you will be fine. If you are a beginner, take it slow and have a look at the map provided to you in your ticket pack so you know where you are going.

If you are nervous or would like a few pointers, please don't hesitate to ask our friendly staff aboard the Micat on your way over.

Q: Do I need a permit to drive on the island?

A: Yes. You will need to purchase a Vehicle Access Permit from our office or directly from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife website. You cannot use a vehicle permit purchased for travel on one of the other Moreton Bay Islands. You have a choice of purchasing a monthly permit or a yearly permit for Moreton Island and can travel as many times as you like during this time frame. The permit will be provided to you as a sticker, please ensure the sticker is affixed to your windscreen for the duration of your stay on the island.

Q: Can I use wood from the island for my camp fire?

A: No. Moreton Island is 97% National Park and it is an offence to remove or burn any wood from the island. Ironbark firewood bags are available for sales from the Micat ticket office, on the Micat ferry and at the Bulwer Convenience Store.

Q: How long does the trip take to get to Moreton Island?

A: As Moreton Island is and National Park, National Parks and Wildlife have restricted the access of pets on the island. Only residents are allowed to take pets to Moreton Island and require a permit.

Q: Are pets allowed to be taken to Moreton Island?

A: As Moreton Island is a National Park the Environmental Protection Agency have restricted any pets to be taken to the island. Only residents of the island are allowed to take pets to Moreton Island as they have a permit for their pets.

Q: I want to go camping at Moreton Island, who do I talk to in regards to camping on the island?

A: All camping must be booked prior to travelling to Moreton Island. There are a number of designated camp sites, some with toilet and shower facilities and some without. To book a campsite, you will need to contact National Parks and Wildlife on 131 304 or visit the website <http://www.epa.qld.gov.au>.



Fauna of Moreton Island

Moreton Island represents one of the least polluted and least disturbed coastal environments along the Queensland-New South Wales coast. Most of the island has been included in the internationally recognised Moreton Bay Ramsar Site in recognition of its important wetland sites: the salt marsh, tidal flats, sandy beaches and perched lakes. This relatively pristine environment with a variety of inhabitants supports some interesting and valuable species.

BIRDS

Over 180 species of birds have been recorded on the island – including seabirds, waders, forest-dependent birds and birds of prey. Thirty-one species of migratory birds protected under international agreements (JAMBA, CAMBA) have been recorded on Moreton Island.

Eastern Beach:

Pied Oystercatcher:

The Pied Oystercatcher is one of the most common resident waders on the island. The birds are hard to miss with their beautiful black and white feathers, red eyes, red beaks and red legs. Oystercatchers feed on bivalve mollusks, which are prised apart with their specially adapted bills. Food is found by sight, or by probing their long, chisel shaped bills in the sand. Worms, crustaceans and insects are also eaten.

The Oystercatchers are a monogamous pair, meaning they breed for life. A breeding territory of some 200m is formed and is defended by both birds. Nesting takes place on the sand, just above the high water marks on beaches or sandbars. The two or three eggs are well camouflaged, being pale brown with darker brown and black blotches and streaks. Both sexes share parenting duties.

Masked Lapwing:

Also known as the Plover, these birds spend most of their time on the ground searching for food and have several distinctive calls. They are commonly found in pairs, especially when feeding along the coastline and they can also swim.

Breeding season happens after Winter Solstice and the nesting pair then defend their territory against all intruders, calling loudly, swooping fast and low, and where necessary striking at the interloper with the conspicuous yellow spur on the carpal joint of the wing.

Little Tern:

As you are driving along the Eastern Beach you may notice large flocks of white birds resting in the shores. These birds are often mistaken for seagulls, but in fact, they are Little Terns.

As their name suggests, the Little Terns have a black cap with a long crest of black feathers on the top of their head which they like to keep flat by facing onto the wind. They have a narrow white forehead band, black legs and a long sharp yellow bill. They have large wings which are medium grey and white, which darken in summer and their wingspan can reach 100cm.

The Little Tern breeds in dense colonies on coasts and islands and nests in a ground scrape and lays two eggs. They feed by plunge diving for fish, normally diving directly down. The offering of the fish by the male to the female is part of the courtship display.



Osprey:

If you observe the sky carefully, you might be able to see a beautiful Osprey. They are also known as Fish Hawk, Seahawk or Fish Eagle, and are a medium-large bird of prey which is a specialist fish eater and breeds on Moreton Island.

It is a medium size raptor, reaching 60 cm in length with a 1.8m wingspan. The Osprey is predominantly whitish on the head and underbelly, with a brownish eye patch and wings, and as its other name suggest, the Osprey's diet consist of almost exclusively of fish. Prey is first sighted from around 10-40m above the water. After spotting prey the bird hovers momentarily above the water. After spotting prey the bird hovers momentarily above the water and then plunges feet first into the water. It is able to dive to around 1 m deep.

Whistling Kite:

The whistling Kite is another medium-sized raptor sighted regularly on the island. It is named for its loud whistling call which it is often gives in flight. The Whistling Kite ranges in size from 50 – 60 cm, with a wingspan between 123 -146 cm. Adult birds are pale on the head, breast and tail, with browner wings and black flight feathers.

They love to eat small mammals, fish, birds, reptiles, amphibians, crustaceans and insects. Most food items are taken either from the ground or from the water surface, though insects are sometimes hawked directly from the air.

Brahamy Kite:

The Brahamy Kite is another bird of prey reaching 45 – 50cm in height. Both female and male look similar with rich chestnut bodies, white head, neck and breast with a white tipped tail. You may see them gliding along the shores of the beaches looking for small mammals, reptiles and fish.

Cape Moreton:

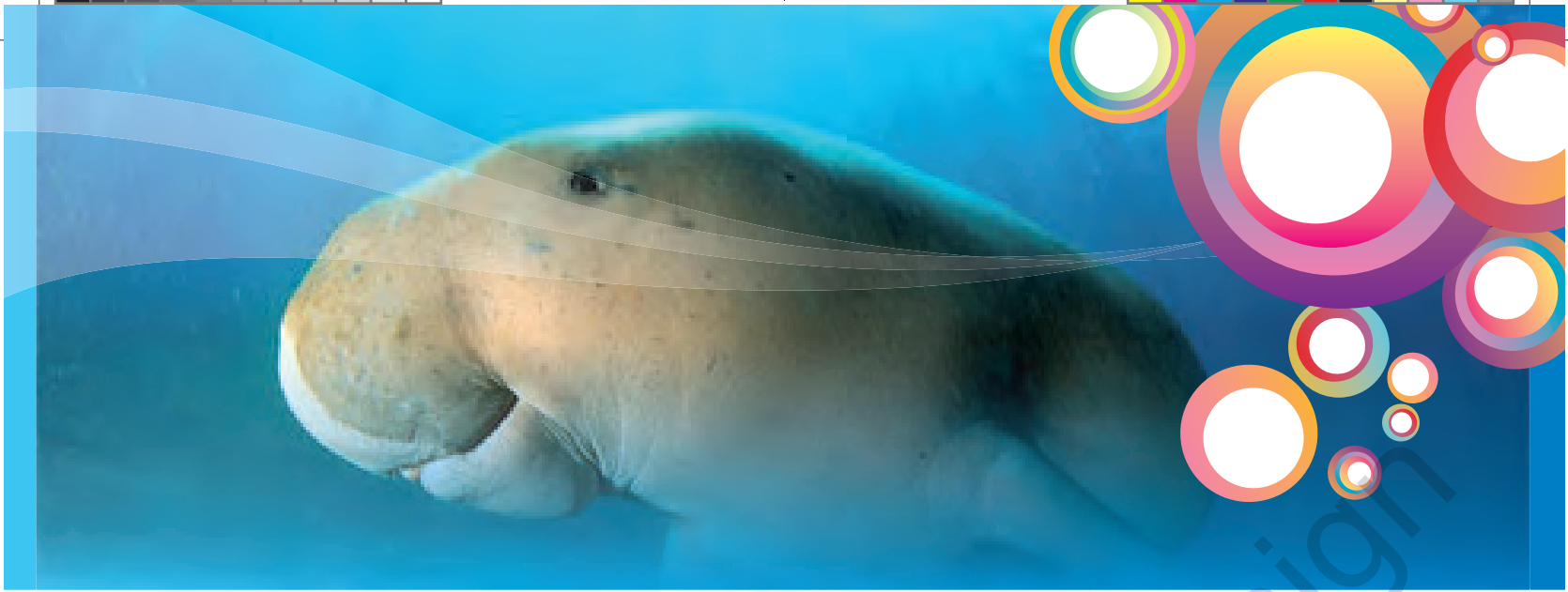
Kestrel:

At the base of the Lighthouse, while looking out into the ocean, you may have noticed the kestrel. Kestrels are most easily distinguished by their typical hunting behavior which is to hover at a height of around 10 -20 m over open country and swoop down on prey, usually small mammals, lizards or large insects. They often require a slight headwind in order to hover, and can do this for quite a long period of time.

White-cheeked Honeyeater:

As you drive towards the north of the island, you will hear the loud chirps of the tiny bird, the White-cheeked Honeyeater. They are found in health land and amongst the Banksia trees as they love sucking the sweet nectar out of the middle of the flowers. They will also eat insects and often feed in small groups.

The White-cheeked Honeyeater is a medium-sized black and white honeyeater, with a long, sturdy bill that curves downwards. It has a bright yellow tail and wing panels, with a large conspicuous white cheek patch on a mainly black head. In breeding season they also pair monogamously with the male acting very territorial to protect his babies.



REPTILES

Snakes:

There are a number of snakes living on Moreton Island, but you'll be lucky (or unlucky) to see one as they are great hidiers. There is the Carpet Python which isn't dangerous to us as they don't have venom. They are a constrictor, so the way they kill their prey is by strangling it to death. They have around 100 sharp teeth angled down their throat so the prey cannot escape once captured.

There are other dangerous snakes on the island such as the Brown Snake and Red-Bellied Black, amongst others. There are also lizards such as Monitors, Skinks which love to sun-bake, commonly on the open sandy tracks which is the most likely place you would find them while driving around the island.

MARINE ANIMALS

Green Sea Turtles:

These amazing creatures can be spotted from Cape Moreton on the base of the Lighthouse. The turtles love to swim around the rocks to feed on the sea-grasses and jellyfish. Being almost 90 m above sea level looking down into the water the turtles may seem quite small, when in fact they can be 1m in length. They are most easily seen when surfacing for air every couple of minutes. The females come to shore to lay their eggs in the dunes every year between November and March. They lay around 100 ping-pong like eggs, which take 6-8 weeks to launch.

Dolphins:

The graceful Bottlenose Dolphin is regularly spotted all around the island throughout the year. They range from 2 to 4m in length and can weigh from 150 to 650kg. Dolphins are commonly spotted in pods of around 10m from the cape, but also it can just be a mother and baby playing in the bay. They have also been seen coming quite close into shore to catch their dinner, consisting of different species of small fish and occasionally squids and crabs.

Humpback Whales:

If you visit Moreton Island between the months of June to October, you may be lucky enough to see Humpback Whales from the Cape. The whale is quite an acrobatic animal, often breaching and slapping the water. They only feed in polar waters in summer and migrate north in winter to warmer waters to breed and give birth. The adults range in length from 12 to 16m and weigh approximately 36,000kg. Their diet consists of krill and small fish.

Dugong:

The Dugong is a large, grey brown animal with a flattened bluked tail, like that of a whale, with no dorsal fin, paddle like flippers and a distinctive head shape. Fully grown, they may be 3 meters long and weigh up to 400 kilos. The broad flat muzzle and mouth are angled down to enable ease of grazing along the seabed. The Dugong's eyes and ears are small, reflecting the animal's lack of reliance on the senses.

Dugongs are vegetarian, feeding exclusively on sea grass, and prefer wide shallow bays and areas protected by large inshore islands.



Flora of Moreton Island

Grass Trees:

Previously known as 'Black Boys' the grass tree is a beautiful and extremely strong tree that exists on Moreton Island. They are very slow at growing, only reaching 2.5cm taller a year. Thus a tree that is 5m tall could be 200 years old.

The trees were very important to the Aboriginal people who lived where it grew. The flowering spike made the perfect fishing spear. It was also soaked in water and the nectar from the flowers would give a sweet tasting drink. In the bush the flowers were used as a compass. This is because flowers on the warmer, sunnier side of the spike (usually the north facing side) often open before the flowers on the cooler side facing away from the sun. Once the flowers dried, they would ignite very well. They would light them on fire and carry the spears around like torches to see where they were going and light other camp fires with them as a well.

The resin from the plants was used in spear-making and was an invaluable adhesive for Aboriginal people.

Scribbly Gum:

Scribble gum is an Australian eucalypt that is named after the 'scribbles' on its bark. The zigzag tracks are tunnels made by the larvae of the Scribbly Gum Moth and follow the insect's life cycle. Eggs are laid between layers of old and new bark. The larvae burrow into the new bark and, as the old bark falls away, the new trails are revealed. The diameters of the tunnels increase as the larvae grow, and the ends of the tracks are where the larvae stopped to pupate.

Coastal Banksia:

The coastal banksia is a tall shrub or small tree up to 8m high. It is hard, grey bark and smooth dark green leaves, with a distinctive white underneath. The flowers are pale yellow in colour, roughly cylindrical, 6 to 10cms high.

Wallam Banksia:

The Wallam Banksia is a gnarled shrub or small tree that can reach 5m in height. It can be distinguished by the trunk as it often has an orange tinge, as opposed to grey. It has bright yellow flowers which are quite large growing up to 20cms. These banksias can be found in the north of the island, especially around the Lighthouse car park.

Coastal Wattle:

The Coastal Wattle is a useful and hardy plant with a great root structure for holding the sand together. It usually grows to 3m high and 4m wide. It flowers beautiful bright yellow 3cm rods which are quite dense and attract many birds to the area.

Casurina:

Commonly known as the 'She-oak', the tree has delicate, slender ultimate branches and leaves that are no more than scales, making the tree look more like a wispy conifer. It is found on the beaches around the whole island and does very well in windy conditions. Inland on the roads to The Desert you may notice numerous grey and dead-looking Casurinas. These trees have been through fire a few years ago and do not regenerate very well. They have had too much heat and are now dying off.



Coastal Wattle



Grass Tree



History of Moreton Island Ferries

Micat is operated by Moreton Island Ferries Pty Ltd, a family owned company which has been running to Moreton Island for many, many years.

Following is an excerpt written by Shirley Hawkins. Shirley and her husband Neville started Moreton Island Ferries many years ago as a natural progression to their freight business Hawkins Transport.

“Well it was the kids fault again. We had a big boat to carry them to the beautiful Moreton Island that we love, we were asked if we could carry ‘this one’ and ‘that thing’ across on our boat. Neville, whose life is cartage as the owner of Hawkins Transport, happily agreed, resulting in the first vessel to carry passenger and freight to the Island.

Passengers were collected at Toowong, Mawbray Park, Hamilton and Lytton. She was called the Malahini and the length of 34’ she was only small and was soon replaced by the Rigil Kent. The Rigil Kent was a little slower than the Malahini so we changed things so that we only left from Bulimba.

Rigil Kent paved the way for the 1st Moreton Venture, which was 70’ long and 15’ wide. She was a splendid timber craft built by Norman Wright here in Brisbane. This was replaced in the 1980 with Moreton Venture (2). This was a beach landing craft, the first of its type in the world. We had searched Australia for a marine architect who could draw to our specifications, and give us a fast, good looking craft.

It was completed in 1980 and was the best in the bay with the capacity for 21 cars and 150 passengers.

In 1986 she was replaced. Moreton Venture (2) now works in the Gulf of Carpentaria, under the name “Captain Roberts”. Our vessels continue to carry the name “Moreton Venture” and a new vehicular ferry was born.

The bigger and faster Moreton Venture was launched in 1986, it was 42 metres long and 11 metres wide, and carried 38 cars and 270 passengers. She was in faithful service until the 23rd March, 2004.

After 18 years we thought another change was necessary and again enlisted our marine architect. (Who had since become world renowned for his fast ferries)

The result is MICAT, a 58 metre long and 16 metre wide, fast catamaran. Micat is a unique vessel, and to this day there is simply nothing like her servicing the islands off the coast of Australia.

2009 is the 39th year of operations to Moreton Island by the Hawkins Family. We are very proud of our vocation and our great customers who return again and again.”

Moreton Venture 1





Shirley Hawkins



Micat



Rigil Kent



Moreton Venture 3



Neville Hawkins





School Camps

Our school camps are designed to be tailored to suit your specific needs. We are able to offer a variety of activities for your students, and we will work with you to come up with a schedule that ensures that your specific objectives and budgetary requirements are met. Our staff are well briefed prior to the camp about what your needs and objectives are and will be on hand throughout your trip to make sure that everything runs smoothly.

Whilst we offer guided activities, we are also more than happy to simply provide accommodation and transport solutions and leave you to your own devices. We own a number of buses and vehicles which gives us flexibility to cater for most situations.

Accommodation

Micat own and operate dormitory and unit style accommodation at the township of Bulwer. The accommodation is within walking distance of the beach front and we have catering, shower and bathroom facilities on site. We can accommodate groups of various sizes and male and female campers are housed in separate dormitories.

Our dormitory accommodation has recently been refurbished and we are continually working to improve our facilities and the services that we provide.

Catering

Meals are freshly prepared for each group on site, and tailored around the activities that you intend to do throughout your visit. The menus are designed to fit in with the school healthy eating policies and food is prepared under strict Council Guidelines. Our kitchen areas are regularly inspected to ensure that they comply with the appropriate legislations.

Guests will receive a hot breakfast each morning of their stay, a hot dinner including dessert, and lunch will be tailored to suit the activities that you are doing each day. In addition to this we are able to provide children with a meal to have onboard Micat during their trip home if required. We need to be advised well in advance of your visit of any special dietary requirements to ensure that all needs are catered for during your stay.

We cater for guests with food allergies and will work with you to ensure that all needs in this area are met.

Should you wish to enquire about Micat School Camps, please contact our School Camp Coordinator on 07 3909 3333.



Sample Itinerary

Day One

10.00am	Arrive. Camp arrangement. Settle in.
11.30am	Beach activities
12.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm	Sandboarding
5.00pm	Showers
6.30pm	Dinner

Day Two

6.30am	Rise and swim
7.30am	Breakfast
8.30am	Beach hike & mangrove study
12.30pm	Lunch
4.00pm	Return to camp for showers and rest
6.30pm	Dinner
7.30pm	Rec room movie night

Day Three

6.30am	Rise and swim
7.30am	Breakfast
8.30am	Island tour (including lunch at Blue Lagoon)
4.00pm	Shower and rest
6.00pm	Dinner

Day Four

6.30am	Rise and swim
7.30am	Breakfast
8.30am	Snorkelling
12.30pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Beach and bushwalk
4.00pm	Showers
6.00pm	Dinner
7.30pm	Ranger Talk

Day Five

6.30am	Rise and swim
7.30am	Breakfast
8.30am	Beach fishing
12.30pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Depart for Micat return at 3.30pm

Puzzles

Find-A-Word

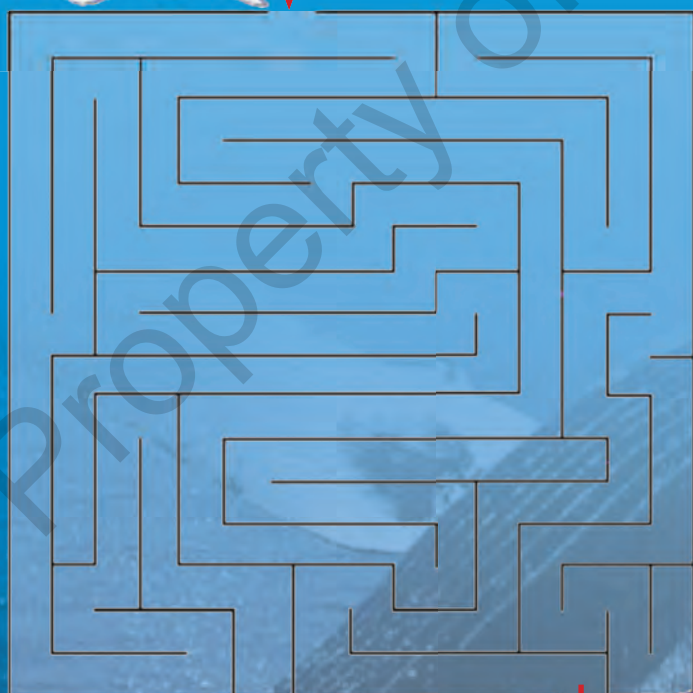
There are 10 words relating to Moreton Island to be found.

- | | | |
|---------------|------------|-------------|
| 1. Dugong | 5. Wrecks | 8. Ngugi |
| 2. Dolphin | 6. Moreton | 9. Sand |
| 3. Bulwer | 7. Desert | 10. Snorkel |
| 4. Mt Tempest | | |

S	D	Y	K	L	W	A	C	B	N	Y	R	S	E	M
M	O	A	R	Y	O	P	L	Q	W	T	Y	N	S	T
H	A	N	D	N	D	U	G	O	N	G	O	O	N	T
J	A	Y	O	D	E	N	E	A	G	N	N	R	X	E
E	T	K	L	V	I	S	N	R	U	O	B	K	E	M
R	B	R	P	O	K	I	A	P	G	E	N	E	G	P
U	I	N	H	B	G	F	N	N	I	S	T	L	O	E
P	T	H	I	E	B	D	E	A	D	T	N	O	V	S
E	M	B	N	R	D	E	C	M	B	E	R	F	E	T
O	U	I	Q	L	J	S	K	P	W	Y	T	W	O	H
R	R	K	L	Y	N	E	A	M	E	R	X	V	S	P
M	B	U	L	W	E	R	B	F	L	P	E	H	A	N
N	V	C	X	Z	L	T	K	J	H	G	F	C	D	S
A	P	O	I	U	Y	T	R	E	W	Q	F	J	K	L
T	S	V	U	O	N	M	O	R	E	T	O	N	D	S

Amazing Whales

Help this humpback whale calf find his mother.





School Questionnaire

Over the years Moreton Island has seen a lot of changes.

Between 1914 – 1918, Cowan Cowan became home to a military defense base. It gained a jetty, two government ships based there and a signal station.

On October 13th 1917 the last Aborigine who lived traditionally on Moreton Island, Sydney Rowlan, died at the age of 88.

In 1920, Frank Day began growing cultured pearls on the banks at Koorinal. (In the late 1960's the township at Koorinal was established. It is now the largest township on the island.)

During World War II, more than 900 troops were stationed on the island. A jetty and naval station was established at Tangalooma and Middle Road was constructed.

Between 1952 and 1962, Tangalooma Whaling Station operated with a license to take 600 Humpback whales a season. Thankfully, by 1963 the whaling station was closed and transformed into what we know as Tangalooma Wild Dolphin Resort. The iconic 'Wrecks' were established between 1963 and 1984.

Questionnaire

1. Which famous discoverer gave Moreton Island its name?

2. What was wrong with the name?

3. What is the name of the Aboriginal people who made Moreton Island home?

4. Who was Thomas Pamphlett?

5. What did he help John Oxley discover?

6. Moreton Island is the third largest sand island in the world. Where will you find the only natural rock formations?

7. Micat unit accommodation is located at Bulwer. Who was this township named after?

8. One of the islands most recognizable landmarks, the Cape Moreton Lighthouse was built by 35 trusted civil prisoners in 1856. What was the date that the light was first turned on?

9. The township of Koorinal was re established in the late 1960's around the site of the 'grand old man of Moreton'. What was his name?

10. The Tangalooma Wild Dolphin Resort wasn't always a tourist spot. What was based at Tangalooma between 1952 and 1962?



Malahini to the Rescue

As told by Shirley Hawkins

On the week between Christmas and New Year in 1971, a sudden summer storm blew up as it does at this time of the year. We had the usual assortment of hardware and supplies for the island, husbands returning to their wives and children after working in Brisbane for the week.

When the storm abated we had little visibility left but motored on towards Moreton. Shortly after we were halfway across the paddock, when Neville said "What's that in the water?". The lighting was off to the starboard of the vessel and was marked contrast to the rest of the water but it was unclear as to what it was. Neville decided to alter course to inspect.

***"Four people were clinging to the hull
and the sailboat was going under.."***

As we neared we saw that it was a sailing boat submerged. Four people were clinging to the hull and the sailboat was going under each wave, so the people were exhausted. We circled and tried to pick them up but to no avail as they did not want to lose their possessions. Neville finally said to them "This is the last time", as the light was going and we had to think about our own stressed passengers. This was the spur they needed, and so between our customers and extra effort by the sailors, all were lifted on board. A married couple - she pregnant - he the owner of the boat and a male and female friend who could not swim.

The marooned sailors were housed overnight by caring locals who were on radiowatch. The next morning Neville called on the radio to a man we knew in the area near Peel Island as he thought that with the tide, Peel is where the boat would float to. Upon putting binoculars to his face, in front of him behold that yacht! We took the seafarers back to their boat which had everything intact and then took the survivors to Manly where all their friends clapped as they came ashore.

Another Little Incident

Did I tell you about the time we were returning from the island on a Thursday afternoon and I had served all my customers who were enjoying the sun on the back deck of the boat. I went up onto the top deck to sunbake. My top was undone (as you do), when, upon entering the Brisbane River, in a run off tide and afternoon northerly, the boat did a sudden lurch and I slid off the top of the boat into the water. Neville saw me go and turned around to get me. I swam to the nearest beacon and we lowered the large duckboard which was on Rigil Kent and I climbed aboard, top still undone, much to the amazement of our guests.

escape to Moreton Island

Micat offers Catered Beach Events which are perfect for Corporate Events, Partner Programs, Social Clubs, Sporting Clubs, Reunions, or just a group of friends wanting a great way to spend a day together. Our staff do all of the work, and you are free to sit back and enjoy yourself.

OUR STANDARD CATERED BEACH EVENTS INCLUDE:

- Walk on passenger transfers to and from Moreton Island aboard Micat
- Tour guide and activity such as sandboarding at The Desert, or a guided tour of the lighthouse area and visitor information centre.
- Hostess to care for guests for the day
- All equipment including barbeque (if required), marquees, (2 x 3m x 4.5m), trestle tables, eskies/ice, sand boards and beach activity equipment (beach volleyball, cricket and beach football).
- Barbeque lunch cooked by Micat staff including dessert.

We are able to tailor events to suit larger groups, and can offer upgrades such as seafood buffets and snorkelling sessions if required.

We can cater for a minimum of 30 guests and a maximum of 400.

PRICING FROM :

\$85.00

Adults including gst

\$60.00

Children including gst
(Child is 4 - 13 Years
0 - 4 Years is free)

Micat Brisbane Rivercruises

Looking for an exciting venue with a difference that caters for large groups and has amazing views?

Micat caters for groups ranging in size from 100 to 600 and is big enough for plenty of dancing room, more than enough space to theme it how you want or even to take large vehicles or machinery and equipment for product launches and customer events!

We hold fantastic themed events, tailored especially for you, with your guests in mind. We can arrange everything for you including freshly prepared food, entertainment and theming!

We love to think outside the square and work with our customers to create events that exceed the expectations of all of our guests.



For more information on our fabulous events, please contact
our office on **07 3909 3333**



The Moreton Bay Game Fish Club Ltd is extremely fortunate to have in our care a magnificent property at Tangalooma on Moreton Island. The property is used as a base for our game fishing activities and is situated a little south of "The Wrecks" and our southern border is the northern border of the Tangalooma Wild Dolphin Resort.

Facilities include our own diesel power generator, numerous tent sites, hot and cold water, male and female toilets and showers, a fully equipped kitchen, bbqs and a number of fridges and freezers. The Club House has a very large under cover area with tables and chairs to accommodate at least 50. Beside the tent sites we also have a self contained caravan and fixed annex which sleeps eight.

The facility is a great fishing activity base for members and their families. The club also owns three permanent moorings in front of the land which provide worry free anchorages. For further information on club membership and club land camping fees, contact Noel Webb on (07) 3286 5762 or webbind@bigpond.net.au

Tree Tops

Moreton Island

Featuring:

- *2 queen size bedrooms
- *2 double and single bedrooms
- *2 ensuites with toilet and shower
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- *Solar power, and 4 rainwater tanks and suitable for 2 large families with shared large kitchen and full length verandah!

Suitable for a group of up to 12 people
Ask us about our Moreton Island fishing tours!



Email: john@longhurst.net.au

Phone: 0409 491 586

The Dolph Inn



BULWER, Moreton Island

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- ✕ Clean & comfortable
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- ✕ Accommodates seven people
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- ✕ Overlooks national park

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