

Turkey Beach, QLD . .
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We continue F&B's exploration of some of the most interesting fishing areas in Queensland, this time in the central region, north of Bundaberg and just south of Gladstone.

One of the closest communities to the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef, Turkey Beach has long been very popular with reef and estuary fishermen.

We first learned about Turkey Beach a couple of years ago when we were investigating the Town of 1770 for the first time. There is a very definite relationship between the small communities that run up the coast from Baffle Creek, along to the Town of 1770, and continuing northward, the "township" of Turkey Beach itself.

If you imagine a wagon wheel where these communities are on the rim, then the hub of the region is the small town of Miriam Vale, back on the Bruce Highway, about 20 miles inland as the

Right: F&B's Ruth Cunningham talking 'turkey' with store owner Craig Brookes. If he hasn't got something in stock, Craig can get it in the following day from Gladstone. Below: Big new ramp has made life easier for everyone who doesn't own a tractor!

crow flies.

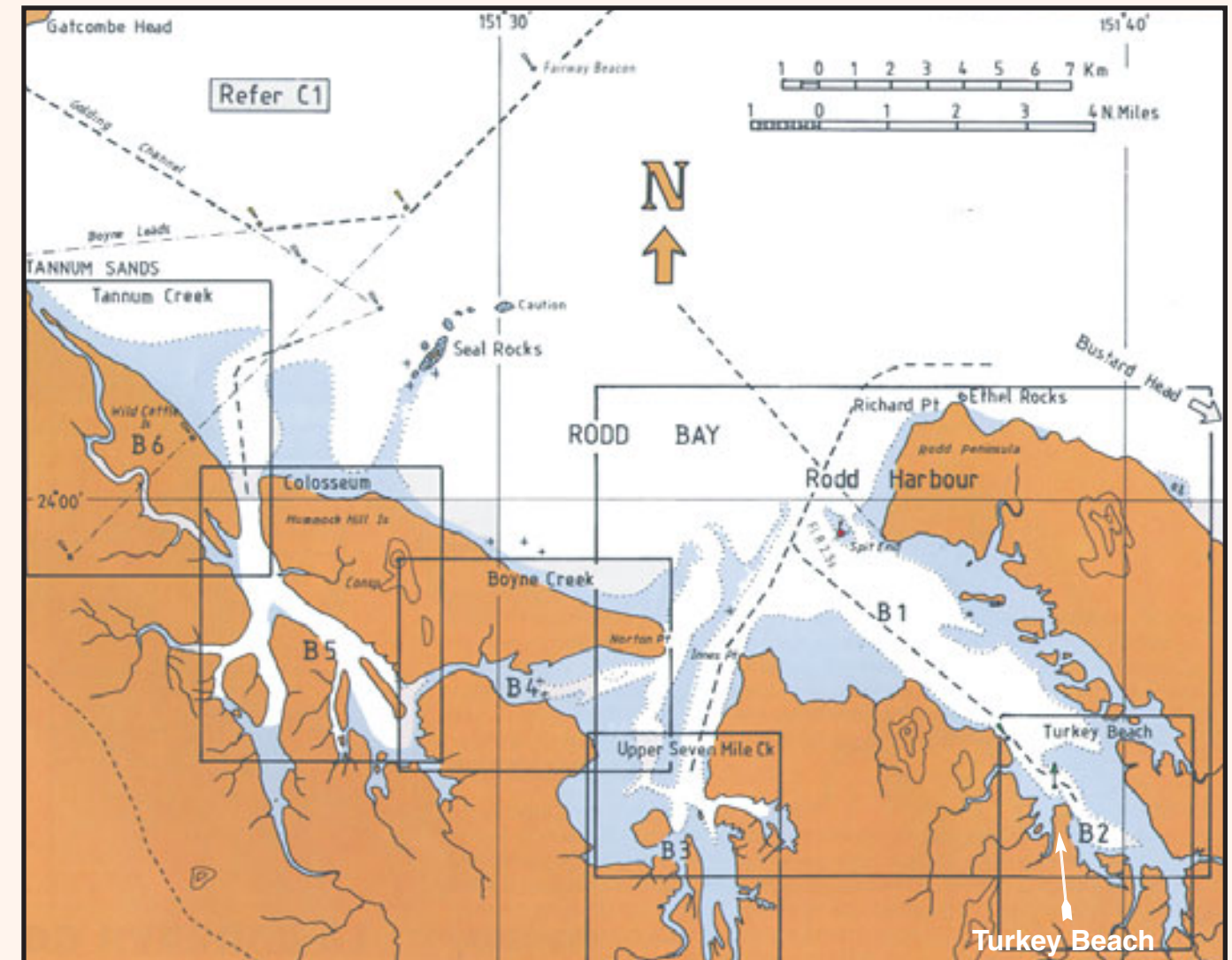
For this trip, we were going north to fish the waters off Turkey Beach facing into Rodd Harbour before spreading out into Rodd Bay. (See chart).

From Turkey Beach, we planned to cruise around to Seven Mile Creek, before crossing over the shoal waters of this estuary to enter Boyne Creek. From there, we wanted to go round the back of Hummock Hill Island and enter Colosseum Creek, one of the key target areas we wanted to explore before making a serious fishing expedition to this region in the near future.

As we've learned over the past couple of years exploring and fishing

Queensland waters, there is so much to absorb it's almost impossible to come to grips with the sheer magnitude of some of these areas in a single three or four day expedition. Unfortunately, that is about the most time we can get off usually, so we're increasingly programming ourselves to simply concentrate on the exploration of an area initially, before going back on Trip Two to specifically fish all the hot spots we've identified on Trip One.

And so it was on this trip. With a mission statement that involved exploring around 150 miles of estuarine waters and near-shore fisheries, we knew we were going to be flat out just getting around the area,



A reproduction of the Rod Bay chart from the late Noel Patrick's outstanding book "The Complete Cruising Guide Bundaberg to Mackay: THE CURTIS COAST". This book is widely regarded by trawler skippers, cruising yachties and trailerboat fisho's in this region as the definitive "bible". Now published and regularly updated by Noel's daughter, Lynne Kornbrette (based in Caloundra), it is available from any of the Boat Books shops around Australia, or from Ruth's mail order Boat Shop on P.52 this issue. F&B's editorial team has been using the book now for several years, and cannot recommend it too highly. For people fishing and cruising in this part of the world, it is simply priceless.

The general store caters for all the day to day needs of fishos - fuel (L,U/L,D), ice, booze, food and frozen bait.