

For many people in the south east corner of Queensland 'in the know', the name Moreton Bay conjures up images of crystal clear water, white powdery sand and fishing as diverse as most reef areas can offer. It is a shoal, mainly sheltered waterway embracing hundreds of sand islands in an area stretching from the Gold Coast in the south, up to Caloundra, almost 50 miles to the north. Over the next few issues of F&B, Scott Shepherd, a keen fisherman, diver, trailerboat owner and life-long resident and family man from the northern suburbs of Brisbane, is going to take readers on a tour through his beloved Bay. He'll be taking you through the Bay itself and the islands within the boundaries of the Bay. Scott will also study the surrounding areas, considering what they have to offer family boat owners and fishermen.

Magical Moreton Bay!



Part One of a Special Four Part Series Written By Scott Shepherd, with aerial pics and map supplied by Tourism Queensland



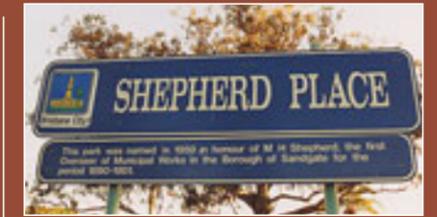
On the western side of Moreton Island, on Sholl Bank, lies the Tangaloona Wrecks, 15 old dredges that were responsible for keeping the Brisbane River deep enough for commercial shipping. The deep water separating the island from the wrecks is a reasonable anchorage in all weather.

It may be a bold statement, but I call Moreton Bay my backyard. I do not actually live on the Bay, but I live only a 9 iron away, and ride along Flinders Parade on the foreshore in front of Sandgate every day on my way to work and back home again.

It's easy to be absorbed by the gentle beauty of the bay it beholds for most of the year. Especially on those winter days when the light

Sou-westerlies blow offshore and the air is so clear you can almost count the trees on Moreton Island, a mere 16nm away.

That's a common sight here, as Brisbane is a very low smog city. Any of these bay-fringing suburbs have the clearest and cleanest air in Brisbane. My great grandfather thought so too, when he set up his "Shepherds Soft Drink Company" late last century in the then small north Brisbane suburb of Sandgate. Since then my family has never been far from the Bay, and Shepherd Place, a small park honouring my great grandfather, sits proudly on top of the cliffs at Shorncliffe to this day.



Like Melbourne's Port Philip Bay and Sydney's Harbour, Moreton Bay is the entrance for the Port of Brisbane, and the Brisbane River. It covers a vast area from Caloundra in the north, to the Gold Coast in the south, and encompasses a multitude of islands in between. Realising the Bay's ecological value, the government formally declared Moreton Bay a Marine Park in