

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.

If you were living here over 180 years ago, one thing is for sure; you wouldn't have been of European descent. There would have been no houses, no roads, no power lines or lights.

Come to think of it, there wouldn't have been development of any kind. Imagine how pristine the Islands were then. And what about the Brisbane, Logan, Caboolture and Pine Rivers, not to mention the many creeks and

waterways that flowed into the Bay. Imagine how peaceful it would have been in those days.

Well, all is not lost.

I can still take you to numerous spots on many islands, where you can still have a day without seeing another human. Such is the vastness of Moreton Bay, that even on that perfect day, on that perfect weekend, when hundreds and hundreds of boat trailers overflow the parking bays at the boat ramps, I can still retreat to a secluded island hideaway. Some of these spots probably have not changed much over the last 180 years.

Like most Moreton Bay boaties, I like to visit our bay islands where lots of people congregate to catch the sun.

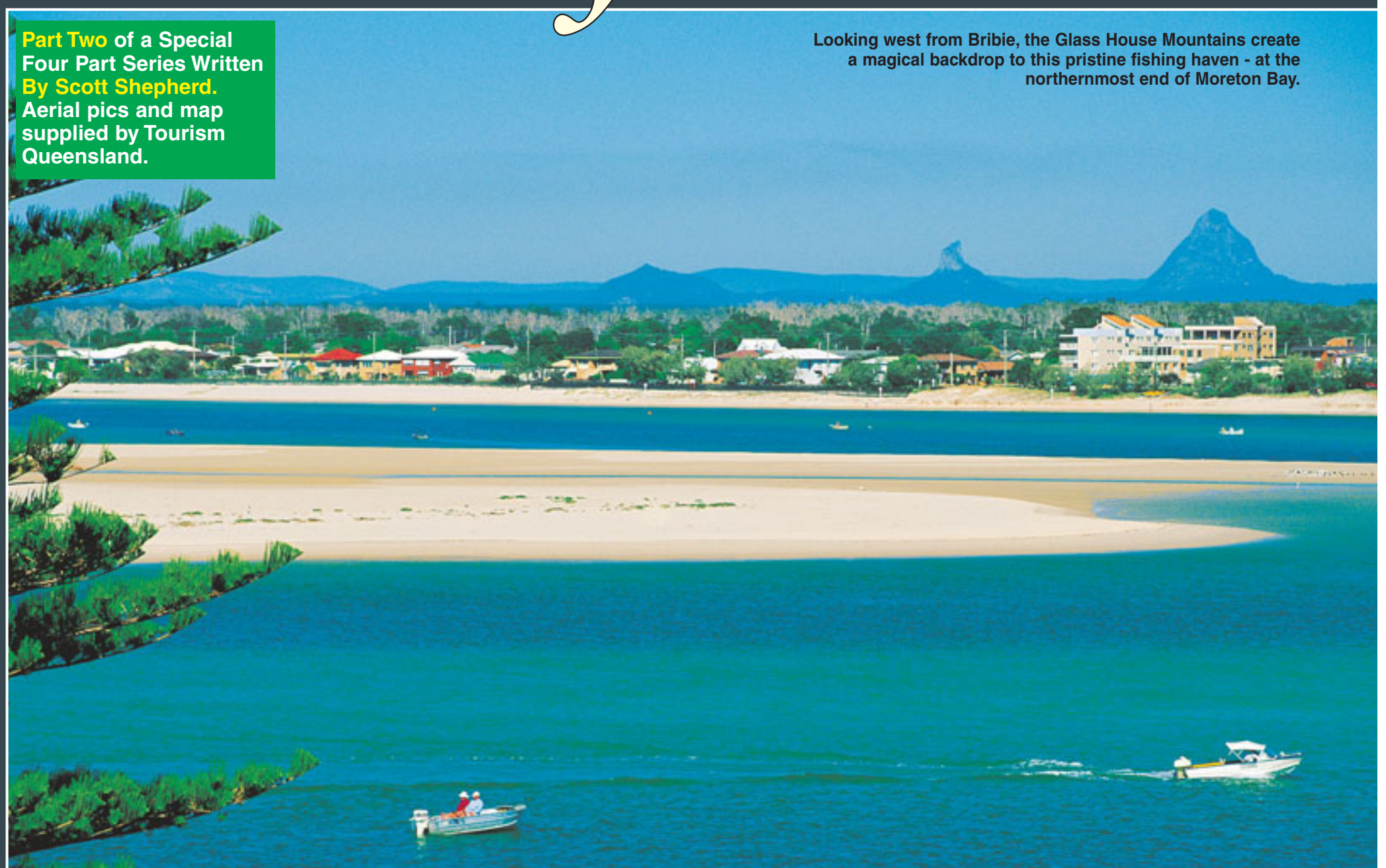
Some of these spots can become crowded, but it's not like you're on the only island in the area. Five minutes here or there will see you seemingly in a world of your own.

While it's fair to say that the southern islands are surrounded by unclear water, it's not so much dirty, only stained by the many Mangrove lined creeks. Take a scoot up the inside of Moreton Island and around the northern end and you could swear you're on a tropical island paradise. Crystal clear waters not unlike you would find up at the reef proper. You have probably seen lots of pictures of this area on the glossy pages of the many boat catalogues available, but not realized they were taken here.

# Magical Moreton Bay!



Part Two of a Special Four Part Series Written By Scott Shepherd. Aerial pics and map supplied by Tourism Queensland.



Looking west from Bribie, the Glass House Mountains create a magical backdrop to this pristine fishing haven - at the northernmost end of Moreton Bay.