



# Exploring Pumicestone Passage in SEQ

Jeff and Linda Borg take children Mark and Michelle on a great family break in a very special, unforgettable estuary - with vistas like few others in Australia.

**T**his was an area that we have wanted to fully explore for years but we never got around to doing it. Instead, we were typically tied up with the kids weekend sports or concentrating on fishing our local area.

Linda's Dad, who lived on the Sunshine Coast, had a picture of the Passage in his shed which was a favorite of his, and we often discussed how good it would be to travel the full length of the Pumicestone Passage.

I fished the area around Caloundra with my father-in-law years ago, but that has been the full extent of my knowledge of the area. Linda's Dad has since passed away, and the



Pumicestone Passage picture was handed down to me, and now hangs in my shed.

Needless to say, it rekindled many good memories, and I was keen to return to the Passage with my family, especially as our two kids, Mark (13) and Michelle (9) are now old enough to appreciate it.

Finally, I marked on the

calendar Bribie, on an October weekend and told the family we are going.

I wanted to cruise the full length of the Passage, and decided to split the trip over a weekend. Donnybrook, which is south of midpoint, was to be our base for the weekend and we planned to cruise the northern parts on the Saturday and the

southern section on the Sunday.

The weekend forecast was for fine and sunny days, so I got on the phone and spoke to Rhonda from the Donnybrook Caravan Park to book my space.

All was in place for an early start on Saturday morning. At first light we piled into the Landcruiser and drove the 2 hours from the Gold

Coast to Donnybrook. The family was very excited as we drove the last few kilometres to a place we have never been before.

Donnybrook is best described as a quiet fishing village, time has forgotten.

Hopefully, it will stay just that way. There is a general store with the petrol bowser out front on the median strip



(see pic) a nice bowling club, caravan park and the boat ramp. That's about it. I found it amusing that I was having a chat in the middle of the main street for 10 minutes before I realised that this is something novel.

All traffic that comes towards the town turns off at the boat ramp.

The general store is the hub of the Donnybrook township. All the locals and tourist tend to mingle around the store and it's the place to catch up with the local news.

Inside the store you have a well stocked newsagency which carries all the popular papers and magazines (including F&B!) licenced Post Office and full banking facilities including EFTPOS.

The store has a fishing tackle/boating/camping corner and also supplies bait, ice, petrol, oil and LP gas.

The shop carries good grocery stock and a fast

