

# TRAVELS NOW AND THEN

© Christopher Earls Brennen

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## AUSTRALIA 1997

1997:

- Jul 9 Wed Fly LA to Osaka. UA 817. Leave LAX 11.10am
- Jul 10 Thu Arrive Osaka (Kansai) 3.15pm. To Osaka Univ.
- Jul 11 Fri Visit Mitsubishi, Takasago  
10.30 Arrive 10.30-12.00 Lecture  
14.50 Depart  
Travel Himeji (15.04) - Matsumoto (19.06). Stay Matsumoto.
- Jul 12 Sat Matsumoto- foot of mountain (1.30) by train and bus.  
To top of Yakedake (3.30)  
Top of Yakedake - lodge (0.45)
- Jul 13 Sun Evening: Travel to Tokyo  
Lodge to bus-stop (2.00)  
Busstop-Matsumoto (1.40) by train and bus  
Matsumoto - Tokyo (3.30)
- Jul 14 Mon JSME Conference, Tokyo
- Jul 15 Tue JSME Conference, Tokyo  
Paper: 10.40am Room 409  
Chair: 15.30pm Room 409  
Evening: Banquet
- Jul 16 Wed JSME Conference, Tokyo  
Afternoon and Evening: Furuya + Ohashi at Kogakuin(?)  
  
D:Fly LAX (via SF and Sydney) to Brisbane  
Leave LAX at 7.20pm
- Jul 17 Thu Lecture at CFD seminar, Univ. of Tokyo (Prof. Kobayashi)  
Noon: Train to Sendai. Visit Tohoku Univ.  
Dinner with Kamijo  
Hotel near Sendai Station
- Jul 18 Fri Visit Tohoku Univ. Seminar at 10.00am (Cloud Cavitation)  
Lunch with Kamijo  
Afternoon train to Ueno. Then to Narita.  
Fly Quantas 360, Narita to Sydney, Brisbane. Leave 9.35pm  
  
D:Arrives Sydney 6.35am  
Leaves Sydney 7.55am, arrives Brisbane 9.20am

- Jul 19 Sat C: Arrive Brisbane at 7.20am on Qantas360
- Jul 20 Sun Travel Brisbane to Rockhampton, QU660 8.35am-9.45am.  
Bus and ferry to Great Keppel Island
- Jul 21 Mon ISSW, Great Keppel Island
- Jul 22 Tue ISSW
- Jul 23 Wed ISSW. Paper
- Jul 24 Thu ISSW
- Jul 25 Fri ISSW
- Jul 26 Sat Ferry to mainland. Rental Car?
- Jul 27 Sun
- Jul 28 Mon
- Jul 29 Tue
- Jul 30 Wed
- Jul 31 Thu
- Aug 1 Fri
- Aug 2 Sat
- Aug 3 Sun Fly Brisbane to LAX. Leave Brisbane 9.05am  
Arrive Sydney 10.35am, leave 12.20pm. Arrive LAX 8.45am













## The many colours of the Fraser Coast

### A breath of fresh air

This serene little part of the world is made up of pristine islands, the big, beautiful bay, rich rural areas and historic cities. The charming village atmosphere of the coast is something to be experienced. The Fraser Coast is literally a breath of fresh air.

### A natural wonder

Fraser Island is the largest coastal dune system and sand island in the world, being 124 kilometres long, and covering an area of 163 000 hectares. It is listed as a **World Heritage** site for all to appreciate and enjoy.

Nowhere else in the world will you see towering **rainforests** rooted in sand, surviving on the nutrient breakdown of other plants and the vast freshwater lakes and streams that run in abundance.

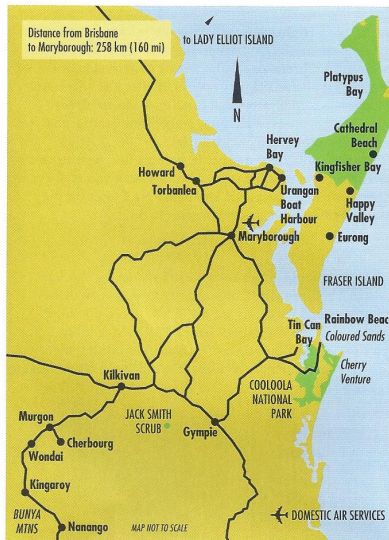
This lush environment houses over 230 species of **birds**, and 25 species of mammals, including **possums, dingoes, echidnas, wallabies** and **flying foxes**. **Dugong** feed on the seagrass beds, **turtles** breed on the beaches, and the magnificent **Humpback whales** pause to play in the warm waters of **Platypus Bay** each year on their journey back to the Antarctic.

More than 50 **ships** and vessels have been wrecked in the waters of Fraser Island, making it another of the many excellent **dive spots** in Queensland. There are no sealed roads on Fraser, but the island is well covered by **four-wheel drive** and walking tracks. You can hire your own 4WD vehicle, or join a safari or guided tour.

The island offers a variety of places to stay, depending on how much you want to spend, and how close to nature you want to get – from tents to cabins to luxury resort accommodation. There are several **camping sites**, some accessible only by foot or boat. If you are camping, make sure you come well prepared.

Fraser Island offers a wealth of things to explore, whether it be taking in the awesome beauty of the National Parkland on a scenic walk or hike, four-wheel driving across the pristine beaches, or cruising the crystal waters on a whale watching adventure. However you choose to see it, Fraser Island is a natural phenomenon rich in history and culture.

For more information, see the *Reef and Islands* section on page 40 and the *National Parks* section on page 25.



### The whale watching capital of the world

Hervey Bay is Fraser Island's best access point, and can also boast of being the best vantage point to see the antics of the world's largest mammal. It is also a gateway to Lady Elliot Island. Hervey Bay is famous for its safe, sheltered waters and encompasses the coastal resorts of **Point Vernon, Pialba, Scarness, Torquay** and **Urangan**.

Boating and fishing enthusiasts will be in their element with excellent estuary, beach, jetty and reef fishing. Glass-bottomed boat tours give a good look at the colourful reef life. Then there's snorkelling, diving, water and jet skiing and sailboarding to be tried.



**20** In the Heritage City of Maryborough, you can discover Queensland's distinctive architecture.



World Heritage listed Fraser Island is one of Australia's great four-wheel drive adventures.

## The many colours of Capricorn

### Where the outback meets the reef

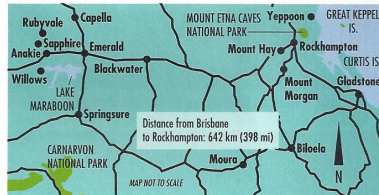
Capricorn extends from the central highland's town of **Jericho** on the **Capricorn Highway** to the Great Barrier Reef island of **Great Keppel**. It straddles the Tropic of Capricorn which is the line of latitude dividing the Temperate and Tropic Zones.

The region is known for its diversity. National Parks, State Forests, craft markets, heritage buildings, island retreats, sandy beaches and international resorts combine to make Capricorn special. Attractions range from the informative to the adventurous, from the mainland to the deep sea.

Home to around 60 000 people, **Rockhampton** is the capital of Capricorn and also proudly wears the banner of the **Beef Capital of Australia**. Statues of Santa Gertrudis, Brahman, Braford and Droughtmaster bulls stand at the entrance and exit to the city. North-west of "Rocky" is the quieter, cooler seaside resort of **Yeppoon**.

The **Capricorn Coast** is grandly decorated with stretches of sandy beaches, inviting blue waters, the **Great Barrier Reef** and semi-tropical islands. Creeks and streams are perfect for picnicking beside, Australian flora and fauna are plentiful, and towns boast delightful restaurants, charming accommodation houses and friendly locals.

Capricorn's **rural hinterland** is a colourful patchwork which showcases the diverse farming, cattle and mining industries. It is an easygoing holiday destination for those who want to experience rural life.



### A gem of a region to visit

There are few parts of Australia where the names of towns and villages truly reflect their character. **Emerald**, **Rubyvale**, **Sapphire**, **Anakie** and the **Willows** are the gem fields of Capricorn. Here visitors will find the largest sapphire fields in the southern hemisphere, Australia's largest underground sapphire mine, and walk-in mines offering guided tours. Skilled gem cutters can be observed as they ply their craft, and museums and gem shops boast a magnificent array of sapphires, zircons and other precious gems.

The area abounds in history, and there are many historic sites well worth visiting, including **Capella Pioneer Village**, the first settlement in the area, and **Old Rainworth Fort**, where you can tour a historic schoolhouse, storehouse and slab homestead.

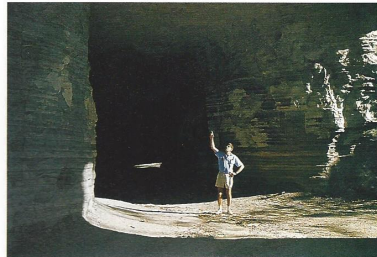
The region is also famous for its National Parks which include **Carnarvon Gorge National Park** – characterised by a deep sandstone gorge draped in lush green palms and ferns, with a number of **Aboriginal art** sites hidden away on the cliff faces.

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For more information, see the *National Parks* section on page 25.

### Historic Mount Morgan

Mined for nearly 100 years, Mount Morgan's mine sites yielded 247 000 kilograms of gold, 40 000 kilograms of silver and 360 000 tonnes of copper. The site of this open-cut mine is part of a historical tour of the town which includes man-made caves. **Mount Morgan** was first listed as a Heritage Town by the Australian Heritage Commission in 1980, and then as a Historic Town by the National Trust of Queensland in 1981. Historic sites not to miss include the **museum** and the **railway station**, which was established in 1898 and continued operating for 90 years.

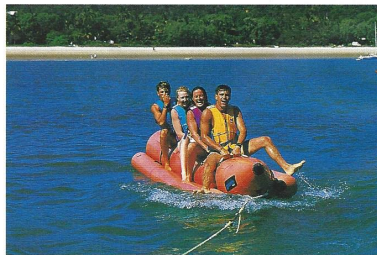


Mount Morgan – once a rich mine site – is still a golden place to explore.

### Forget the rest

Just 15 kilometres off Capricorn's coast, **Great Keppel Island** is one of Queensland's most popular holiday destinations. The island has many areas of fringing coral reef with 28 kilometres of beautiful white sand beaches. The accommodation is first class, the food is mouth-watering, and the activities on and around Great Keppel include scuba diving, snorkelling, golf, water skiing, boom netting, parasailing and even tandem skydiving.

For more information, see the *Reef and Islands* section on page 40.



Capricorn is full of fun – you can even make waves with a rubber duckie.





FRASER ISLAND QUEENSLAND  
AUSTRALIA



FRASER ISLAND  
QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA




# FRASER ISLAND

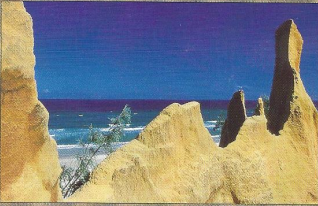

RANGER GUIDED  
DAY TOUR

# FRASER ISLAND

RANGER GUIDED  
DAY TOUR




The Eco Experience

Telephone (071) 253 933  
 Fax (071) 254 199  
 Email-fraser@cyberlink.com.au  
 PO BOX 224 TORQUAY QLD 4655

FREECALL 1 800 063 933

VALID UNTILL 31.8.98  
PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER LUK



FRASER ISLAND  
TOP TOURS

## The ultimate Fraser experience.



Fraser Island Top Tours have a fleet of comfortable, luxurious 4WD buses designed to offer the best possible ride with excellent vision from our panoramic windows.

Observe Fraser's untamed wilderness, dramatic dunes, sub-tropical rainforests and crystal clear freshwater lakes while learning from your guide the many treasures this island possesses.

Experience our Tour which was a finalist at the 1995 Queensland Tourism Awards and discover this majestic Island with us.



Discover the beauty of the world's largest sand island



Join Fraser Island Top Tours for the Eco-Experience of a Lifetime.

Your trip begins with a courtesy pick-up from your accommodation house that will take you to Urangan Boat Harbour where your adventure is set to begin.



The treasures this island offers are endless...



The award winning Fraser Island Retreat is the ideal location to



Enjoy the magnificent views the Great Sandy Shores have to offer and sit back, relax, and enjoy the informative commentary from our fully-trained guides as they share their expert local knowledge of the region.

Browse through memorabilia of the Maheno and Marloo shipwrecks or purchase that special souvenir for those not lucky enough to explore this picturesque island.

Marvel at the sand formations of the Cathedrals as they're sculptured by time and swim in the pristine waters of Ell Creek or Lake Garawongera.

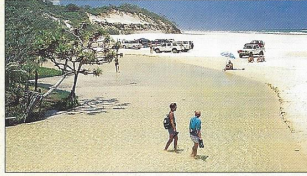
Enjoy a tranquil rainforest walk through Yidney Scrub amidst towering satinnos and kauri pines and observe the abundant wildlife and diverse varieties of birds this island boasts.





### Ideal backpacking safari.

Explore the world's largest sand island with the award winning Top Tours team.



This safari will include quad-share accommodation at Happy Valley (sleeping bag required), with all of your meals catered for, leaving the relaxing completely up to you.

Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, departing from the Urangan Boat Harbour, join the overnight experience of a lifetime.

Your adventure will begin with courtesy pick-ups from all Hervey Bay accommodation. The next two days will be spent onboard our luxury 4WD Mercedes Benz Unimogs with numbers restricted to ensure your safari is kept at a personal level.

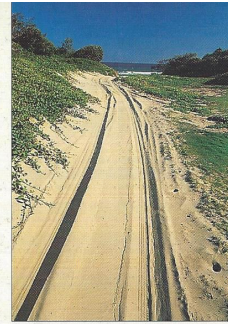


Both the Northern and Southern end of Fraser Island will be explored enabling our passengers to discover the breathtaking scenery our World Heritage Listed Island has to offer.

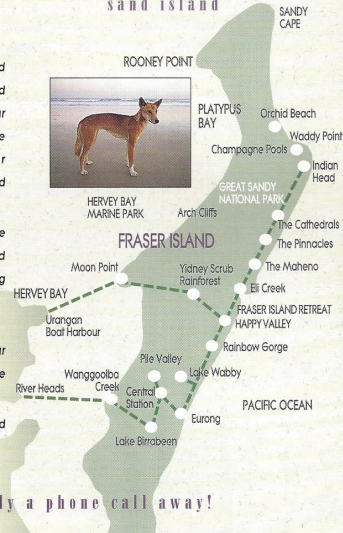
Your Eco-Guides knowledge of Fraser Island is unmatched ensuring your 2 days exploring our island nothing is missed.

Take the opportunity to experience this World Heritage wonder and swim in crystal clear freshwater lakes, walk along rainforest tracks, visit the Maheno Shipwreck and the spectacular Indian Head and Champagne Pools.

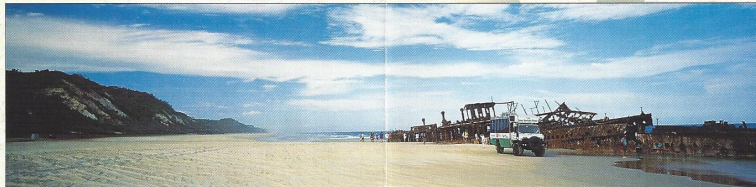
Observe first hand the native wildlife and pristine beaches Fraser Island has to offer and you'll understand why our island is World Heritage Listed.

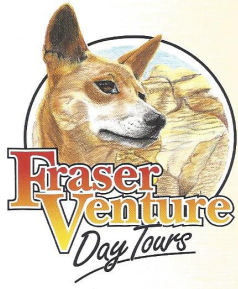


### Discover the beauty of the world's largest sand island



The Experience of a Lifetime is only a phone call away!





*First established  
tour with the pick  
of the beauty  
spots*

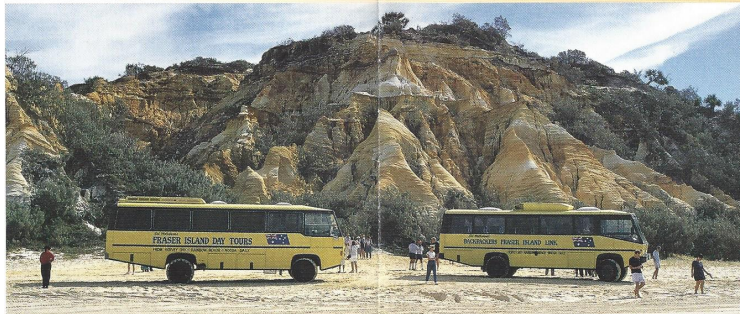
Your FRASER VENTURE DAY TOURS shows you the highlights of world heritage. Fraser Island's amazing variety of landscape: long surf pounded beaches, luxuriant rainforest, pristine freshwater lakes, windsculpted sand cliffs in shades of red, orange and yellow, vast desert like sand blows, winding streams, heathlands brilliant with spring wildflowers and forest clad dunes rising to 240 metres, among the highest in the world.



Wanggoolba Creek

Your tour begins with a courtesy bus pick up in Hervey Bay starting at 8 am. It takes you to MARY RIVER HEADS, with a panorama of the Sandy Straits on one side and the massive mouths of the Mary and Susan Rivers on the other to catch the FRASER VENTURE ferry.

In just half an hour, the shortest crossing time of any vessel from Hervey Bay - allowing you maximum time on Fraser - the Venture lands on the island's west coast. The crossing is in the calmest, most sheltered waters of the Sandy Straits. You then board one of the largest fleet of 4WD coaches in Australia.



The Pinnacles



Eli Creek



Maheno

Ten minutes later you are in the heart of Fraser Island's amazing rainforest, the most luxuriant in the world growing entirely in sand. You stop at CENTRAL STATION FOREST PARK and information centre and your guides lead you on a walk along the palm and fern studded banks of WANGGOOLBA CREEK, the most outstanding of Fraser's rainforest beauty spots.

You continue through the forest to EURONG BEACH RESORT, the only resort on the absolute frontage of Fraser's 160km long surf beach. Your chicken, salad and champagne lunch is served in the dining room, where you may watch a prize winning film on the island. You may wish to shop for souvenirs, T-shirts or just an ice cream, or take an optional scenic joy flight with AIR FRASER ISLAND.



**FRASER ISLAND**

HERVEY BAY

COONGUL CREEK

MARY RIVER

MARY RIVER HEADS

WANGGOOLBA CREEK

CENTRAL STATION

LAKE BIRRABEEN

LAKE JENNINGS

EURONG BEACH RESORT

KIRRAR SAND BLOW

POYUNGAN ROCKS

HAPPY VALLEY

ELI CREEK

KOOLORO SAND BLOW

"MAHENO" WRECK

KNIFE BLADE SAND BLOW

THE CATHEDRALS

SEVENTY FIVE MILE BEACH

TIN CAN BAY

INSKIP POINT

GREAT SANDY SPIT

The Surf Beach

Lake Birrabeen

The tour continues along the surf beach, past Happy Valley to ELI CREEK, which pours 4 million litres of freshwater an hour into the Pacific. After a relaxing swim or a stroll along the creek banks, you continue to the historic MAHENO shipwreck, then to the stunning PINNACLES the most spectacular of the Cathedrals, magnificent coloured sand cliffs hewn by the wind into turrets and spires.

Your return journey takes you to two of Fraser's unique perched lakes, JENNINGS and BIRRABEEN, ringed by dazzling white sand beaches with time to swim in warm clear waters. This is the only day tour from Hervey Bay allowed to go to these lakes

There are no ifs, buts and maybes about this tour. It will run every day and visit all these magnificent places, except in the most extreme weather, but the order may vary depending on tide conditions.

Fraser Island, the largest sand island in the world, has been given the ultimate accolade as a very special environment, by being inscribed on the World Heritage List. This is your chance to see its wonders.

[Fraser Island](#), the island of sand, lies off the coast of Queensland, Australia, about 120 miles north of the city of Brisbane. It is the largest island in the world composed entirely of sand and has a structure that is the result of a huge supply of coastal sand combined with an unrelenting onshore breeze. These have created one of the longest beaches in the world, stretching almost unbroken for 75 miles along the east coast of [Fraser Island](#). In a process of evolution that still continues, the on-shore wind then carries this sand up onto a whole series of patches of sand dunes called "sandblows" that stretch inland from the eastern shore. The sandblows are of the order of a mile in width and several miles long. On each, the sand builds up into dunes that move eastward raising the height of the land to over 700ft; these sand mountains drain to both the east and the west. As sand piles up on the beach, this process also results in new land added to the eastern side of the island. In between the sandblows are old dune fields that have been overgrown by brush while the old sand land to the west has been covered by older brush and forest. In places the result is open sandy scrubland; in other places it is now dense rainforest. The western coast, sheltered from the Pacific surf and storms, is relatively stagnant, in places dense mangrove swamp, in other places lined with soft beaches. In the central and western parts of the island there are many beautiful, clear water lakes, formed where the drainage has been interrupted by the travelling sand. And everywhere the streams consist of the clearest water flowing over sparkling sand beds with little rock to be seen anywhere. Indeed the absence of rock and stones underfoot or underwater, is just one of the features that make this a very special place, fully deserving its designation as a World Heritage Site.





*The eastern coast of Fraser Island.*



*Rainforest on Fraser Island.*

The wilder northern half of the island is now the Great Sandy National Park; the southern half is managed by the Queensland government as Fraser Island Recreation Area. Vehicle access and camping are by permit only. Visitors either arrive on guided tours in four wheel drive buses or in their own (or rented) vehicles. Buses and cars alike drive off the ferry onto the western beach and thence onto the system of rough dirt roads that are the main thoroughfares on the island. In addition, the long eastern beach makes for excellent driving and is the main north/south artery. A network of trails also allows exploration beyond the limits of the rough dirt roads (see [Mark Moxon's hiking saga](#)).

The first European to encounter Fraser Island was probably the Portuguese explorer de Menonca who sailed this coast in 1521. During the subsequent 250 years, only occasional adventurers, Portuguese, Dutch and English, came this way leaving little trace and few chronicles. It was first documented in detail by James Cook, who landed on the island (which he thought was part of the mainland) in May 1770 and named many of its prominent features. The pace of exploration increased after Cook; Matthew Flinders landed near the northern cape in 1802 and others followed. The island became notorious in the aftermath of the adventures of James and Eliza Fraser.

In May 1836, the brig "Stirling Castle", Captain James Fraser in command, set sail from Sydney for Singapore. A week later it was wrecked on a reef off what is now Rockhampton to the north of Fraser Island. Taking to the boats, the survivors, including Captain Fraser and his wife Eliza, drifted south for several weeks, eventually landing on what is now known as Fraser Island. There they resorted to walking south but were taken prisoner by a group of aborigines who stripped them naked and made them work. Captain Fraser was speared and died of his wounds several days later. During a two month sojourn on Fraser Island, other members of the group died or were killed. [Eliza Fraser](#) and the first mate, Brown, eventually escaped with the assistance of one of their captors (probably an escaped convict by the name of David Bracewell who had been living with the tribe). In the aftermath, Eliza's story was widely circulated. She made many public appearances, retelling her story in a more and more graphic detail with each repetition. As a result, the island gain notoreity and was thereafter known as Fraser Island.

The aborigines, a tribe called the Butchulla, had traditionally visited the island on a seasonal basis. In the 1860s they were forced out by the lumber companies who came to harvest the trees of the island's rainforest. That harvest included the valuable satinay trees which had proved quite resistant to the marine pest that destroyed the ships hulls of the day by boring through the wood. Logging on Fraser Island did not finally cease until 1991.



*The bus drives from the ferry onto the west coast beach of Fraser Island.*



*A sand goanna at Lake Garawongera*



We had travelled to Hervey Bay to visit this unique island of sand. A regular bus collected us from our hotel early one July morning in 1997 for the brief trip to the Urangan boat harbor. There, along with the four wheel drive bus that was to provide our transportation for the rest of the day, we boarded the ferry for the brief voyage to Fraser Island. The ferry, which was built just like a landing craft, headed north before turning east and approaching the beach at a place on the west coast of Fraser Island just north of Moon Point. There the ferry simply lowered its ramp onto the soft sand beach and the 4WD bus drove down the ramp onto the beach and across it into the scrub forest. We followed on foot and boarded the bus for the cross-island drive.

The sandy road was rutted by regular traffic so the bus bumped and lurched its way along, first across flat terrain coated with strange and wonderful scrub. Gradually the forest thickened with larger and larger trees creating a canopy with a lush undergrowth below. Here the runoff from the high dunes to the east has created a network of crystal streams and clearwater lakes edged with the purest sand. It is the absence of earth and mud that makes this land so strange, so magical. We passed through the Yidney Scrub, home to great stands of virgin Kauri pine, the trees so sought after by the ship-builders for their resistance to marine life. And we took a short side trip to visit Lake Garawongera, one of those pristine lakes. A sand goanna was primming itself on the lovely beach when we arrived and only reluctantly decided that the crowd was more than it could tolerate. Our guide recommended that we wash our gold jewelry in the sand by the edge of the lake and the lustre of Doreen's gold ring did seem to rise. Back in the bus we drove the last of the 15 miles from our landing beach at Moon Point to Happy Valley, a rustic resort close to the great eastern beach where signs strongly discourage feeding the dingoes who have become persistent pests. There we lunched in the open-air restaurant.



*Eli Creek*



*Swimming Eli Creek*

Refreshed, we mounted our 4WD wagon for the afternoon tour. The bus made its way onto the packed sand of the great 75-mile beach and we were soon sailing smoothly along toward the north in a style in stark contrast to the morning's bump and grind. In no time we covered the 4 miles to where a substantial stream, Eli Creek, empties into the ocean. A delightful trail meanders inland alongside Eli Creek, allowing one to enjoy the lush tropical forest of banksia and pandanus trees fed by the water of the creek. But the crystal stream devoid of any mud or rocks allows an even more delightful experience, namely a swim down the last half mile or so of creek. With only fine sand on the streambed there was no danger of scraped knees or toes despite the shallow depths. The sparkling clear water and the lush foliage made this a quite unique experience. I could not resist a second descent.

A couple of miles further north we came to the wreck of the "Maheno", a rusty skeleton lying partly buried in the 75-mile beach. More than 50 vessels have foundered on the shores of Fraser Island; indeed the wreckage became of such concern that, in 1870, a lighthouse was constructed at Cape Sandy on the northern tip of the island. But even with the lighthouse, wrecks still occurred. Today, the most visible is the "Maheno", a former luxury liner and World War I hospital ship. In 1935, it was being towed to a scrapyard in Japan when it was blown ashore in a storm. To add to the indignities, it was used for target practice during World War II. Further along the beach, some three miles north of Waddy Point, an Italian luxury yacht, the "Marloo", became beached in 1914 after encountering rough currents on Sandy Cape Shoal. It now lies beneath the surface of the water where it is a favorite dive site.



*The wreck of the "Maheno"*



*The depot for Air Fraser Island*

As we were inspecting the "Maheno" we were amazed to see two light planes approach and land on the beach just a few yards from where we were standing. The pilots disembarked and approached the crowds around the "Maheno". It transpired that they were seeking passengers for "Air Fraser Island" and offering a brief aerial tour of the island. I could not resist and soon, along with two other passengers, I was roaring along the beach in a Cessna flown by a wizened bush pilot, reputedly the best in the world. No sooner were we aloft than we veered over the ocean looking for sharks. Many seemed to be lazily patrolling the shoreline perhaps seeking Eli Creek descendents who had failed to stop at the beach! Then we turned inland for a close aerial view of the Knifeblade sandblow, one of those great moving dunes that had built the island. Further west we had a good look at the inland lakes and streams before turning for home. It was a special thrill to sweep down and land on the beach, the surf almost within arm's reach.

But the hours of daylight were dwindling and after a brief stop to see the rain-sculpted cliffs known as "The Pinnacles" we began the long drive back across to the west side of the island. There the ferry was beached, ready and waiting for the bus to cross the sand and drive up the ramp. Soon we were chugging back to Urangan boat harbor.

It had been a special day on a unique island, a naturally crystal place of bright sand, sun and surf. I felt like an interloper, especially in the great 4WD Mercedes bus. Maybe only people like Mark Moxon should be allowed there. But that would be to deny so many a glimpse into another, different and pristine world.

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*Last updated 7/30/99.  
Christopher E. Brennen*