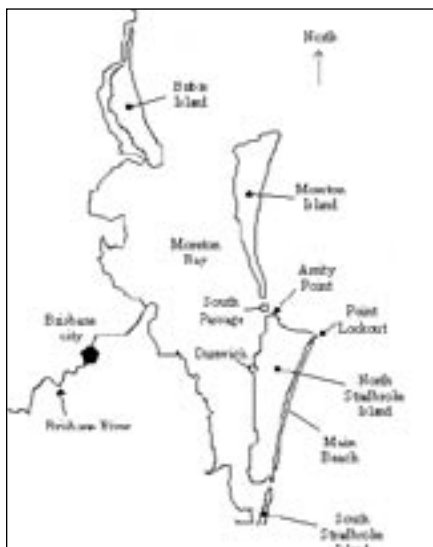


## COASTAL OBSERVATIONS

# North Stradbroke Island, Moreton Bay, Australia

By

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**Figure 1.** Map of Moreton Bay.

North Stradbroke Island is located 30 km southeast of Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. It is part of a series of three large sandy islands separating Moreton Bay from the Pacific Ocean. These are South Stradbroke Island, North Stradbroke Island and Moreton Island (Figure 1). On Sept. 3, 1894, the barque *Cambus Wallace* wrecked off Stradbroke Island around the narrow isthmus of Tuleen. Explosives from the salvaged cargo were detonated, weakening the dunes. Storms and rough seas in the following years helped the sea to break through Stradbroke island, creating the Jumpinpin Bar. North and South Stradbroke islands were separated by a storm in 1896. North Stradbroke Island is about 38 km long and 11 km wide. On the Pacific Ocean side, Main Beach extends for 32 km (Figures 1, 2 and 3).

The first recorded European landing on this island was in 1803 by Matthew Flinders, who came into contact with local aborigines. European settlement started in 1825 with a pilot station at Amity Point to guide the ships for the Brisbane penal colony through the South Passage Bar. The island was given its name in 1827 after the Earl of Stradbroke. Between 1827 and 1831, a convict settlement saw the



**Figure 2.** Photograph of Main Beach, viewed from Point Lookout on Dec. 22, 2002.

construction of the historic township of Dunwich, but the development was halted because of hostile local aborigines and inadequate water supply. Subsequent European settlements in Dunwich included a Catholic mission (1843-1847), a quarantine station (1850-1865) and a benevolent institution (1867-1947).

Locally known as "Straddie," North Stradbroke Island has several freshwater lakes, waterways and lagoons. Whales,

dolphins, turtles and manta rays are regularly spotted from Point Lookout headland and the North Gorge (Figures 4 and 5). More than 253 species of bird life live here, including Little Penguin, Wandering Albatross, Great Cormorant, Black Swan, Whistling Kite, White-bellied Sea-Eagle, Galah, Tawny Frogmouth, Azure Kingfisher, Forest Kingfisher, Red-backed Kingfisher and Sacred Kingfisher. Figure 6 shows a whale spotted off Main Beach.



**Figure 3.** Northern end of Main Beach, Point Lookout on July 17, 2004.

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## FURTHER READING:

Carter, P., Durbidge, E. and Cooke-Bramley, J., 1994. "Historic North Stradbroke Island." North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum Association, Dunwich Qld, Australia.

Clifford, H.T. and Specht, R.L., 1979. "The Vegetation of North Stradbroke Island." University of Queensland Press, St Lucia, Australia.



Figure 4. Frenchman Beach, Point Lookout on Aug. 14, 2002.



## INTERNET LINKS

**Photographs of Coastlines of Australia**  
[http://www.uq.edu.au/~e2hchans/photo.html#Coast\\_Australia](http://www.uq.edu.au/~e2hchans/photo.html#Coast_Australia)

**North Stradbroke Island**  
<http://www.stradbrokeholidays.com.au/index.php>

**North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum Association**  
<http://amol.org.au/guide/instn.asp?ID=Q042>

**Moreton Bay and islands**  
<http://www.moretonbayislands.com.au/>

Figure 5. The Gorge, Point Lookout Island on Aug. 14, 2002.



Figure 6. Whale off Point Lookout, North Stradbroke Island on July 17, 2004. Whales were swimming from south to north (from right to left in the photo).