

THE STORY OF BRIBIE ISLAND

Aboriginal presence in this area spans thousands of years. The island formed when seas broke through the northern end of a long sandy peninsula between 1822 and 1839. The name Bribie was first documented for this area as early as 1835.

Free settlement followed the end of convict transportation in 1839, and by 1859 Queensland separated from NSW.

A few pioneers came for the fish and oysters in the Pumicestone Passage but did not live here. By the 1880's if someone went "bush" or was missing, they were said to be "Down at Bribie".

Archibald Meston, a famous explorer, anthropologist and politician, wrote in 1891 ...



"Bribie Island is the meanest piece of country in Australia, a howling desert of ti tree swamps, rank vegetation and unimaginable cussedness"

In February 1893 the greatest daily rainfall ever recorded anywhere in Australia fell on Pumicestone Passage, silting it up and ending its use as a commercial waterway.

However, by the 1920's Bribie Island had become a great destination for mass tourism, with more weekend visitors here than lived in the whole Shire.

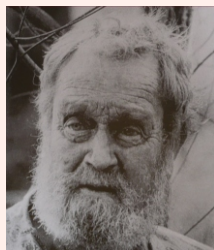
In 1937 **Thomas Welsby**, historian & businessman wrote the book

"Bribie the Basket Maker"

He created a feel-good legend about a convict who ran away to marry an island Princess, far from the reality of the penal colony for the worst of the worst, twice convicted, and incorrigible convicts.

Ian Fairweather, most famous resident, world-renowned reclusive artist summed up his views of life here In the 1960's when he said.....

"There may be better places than the sunset strip of Bribie Island, but it's good enough for me"



BRIBIE ISLAND HISTORY

THE FIRST 100 YEARS

- 1770 Cpt. Cook sailed past and named the **Glass Houses**.
- 1799 First white man, **Matthew Flinders with Bongaree**, landed here.
- 1823 Three castaway convicts from Sydney washed ashore on Moreton Island & lived with '**Joondoobarrie**' native people of Bribie Island.
- 1824 Oxley lands 29 convicts at Redcliffe, but soon relocated the new **Moreton Bay Penal Colony** to the Brisbane River.
- 1839 Convict transport to Brisbane ended & pioneers move into area.
- 1840 About 800 Aboriginal natives lived on Bribie Island.
- 1859 **Queensland** separated from NSW with it's own Governor.
- 1887 Queensland's first **Aboriginal Reserve** established on Bribie Island.
- 1890 Settlers start fish factory, cattle, honey & oystering on Bribie.
- 1897 **Kal Ma Kuta**, the last Bribie Joondoobarrie native, died at Ningi.

THE EARLY RESIDENTS

- 1901 First holiday visitors came on excursion boats from Brisbane.
- 1911 **Steamship 'Koopa'** began regular trips carrying 1200 passengers daily to a newly built jetty at Bongaree.
- 1918 'Hall & Bestmann' opened **first store** to cater to the many campers & "Twelve Apostles" holiday huts built on the foreshore.
- 1924 First school opened and **first road** constructed across the island.
- 1930 Bribie had only **50 residents** & thousands of weekly tourists.
- 1933 Bribie Island **Surf Club** established, the first on Sunshine Coast.
- 1937 Thomas Welsby wrote '**Bribie the Basket Maker**' creating a legend.
- 1939 **First Hotel** built at Woorim just as World War 2 starts.
- 1942 Fort Bribie built as part of the **Brisbane Line** defences, & thousands of US & Australian troops stationed and trained on Bribie beaches.

THE ISLAND DEVELOPS

- 1947 Life returns to normal, new residents build homes & start businesses. **A car ferry starts operation** from Toorbul Point to Bongaree.
- 1953 Electricity connected to Bribie, new shops & cinema opens. World famous artist **Ian Fairweather** came to live here in grass hut.
- 1963 Bribie Island **bridge opens** with unexpected \$1 toll lasting 12 years.
- 1977 Government plans for Racetrack and Airstrip rejected.
- 1989 Bribie Island **National Park** declared.



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More than 200 years of Bribie Island History

Bongaree

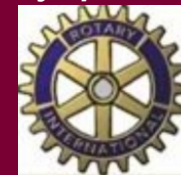


Self Guided

'Walkabout'



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