



DISCOVER URANGAN HARBOUR

Imagine being so close to a massive Humpback whale you can almost touch it. That's the experience you can have in Hervey Bay where the encounters are the most intimate in the world.

For thousands of years, the Bay has been an important "holiday" destination for humpback whales. Once here, they love to play - performing aquatic acrobatics and games in nature's most awe-inspiring live act.

This stunning harbour is the departure point for whale watching and dolphin tours as well as fishing charters and other water-based tours.

WHALE TALES – Where the whales play

The Humpback whales have formed a unique relationship with Hervey Bay's whale watch fleet and happily approach and circle the boats – a phenomenon that happens few other places in the world.

- Every year around 16,000 Humpback Whales migrate up to 10,000 kilometres to the Great Barrier Reef breeding lagoons and beyond where they give birth and mate.
- About half of the migrating whales stop and play in Hervey Bay. This means that you have 8,000 possibilities of seeing a whale here – which are very, very good odds!
- The shape of the Bay and the protection of Fraser Island creates a natural catchment, and provides one of the last sheltered areas for the whales as they return to their feeding grounds in Antarctica.
- Whale watching tours from boats began in Hervey Bay in 1987 – the first in the South Pacific. Today, around 80,000 people travel from all over the world to experience these thrilling, close encounters.

Did you know? The Humpback Whale was almost hunted to extinction for products such as soap, oil, bone and food? From an original population of well over 60,000, just 100 whales remained when commercial whaling was banned in 1986.



MY COUNTRY STORIES

Local Butchulla People called this place ““Yuang-kan” meaning dugong.

They used the area to support sustainable living practices and as a source for the collection of natural resources like fish; bush tucker; and the making of string, fishing nets and fishing spears. Abundant marine life was once a major food source. Shellfish were collected, while fish were speared or ingeniously caught in stone traps that isolated them at low tide.

Turtles and dugongs were hunted seasonally, and eels, tortoises, waterfowl and eggs were found in waterways. Remains of midden shells remain at Fishermen's Park.

WAY BACK WHEN...

For generations, professional fishermen have brought their catches ashore here at Urangan, which they referred to as The Anchorage.

Fishermen began settling here by the early 1900s - lured by its proximity to some of the region's best fishing areas. Using heavy wooden dinghies and nets they would fish for mostly mullet.

After a hard day fishing, the men would spend long hours repairing their nets before hanging them on poles set in the beach above the high water mark, near where the slipway now stands.

Around the mid 1970s Hervey Bay's famous scallops became recognised as a great delicacy, spawning a major industry.

The indigenous stories and legends on Hervey Bay Esplanade Trail signs were based on the writings of Moonie Jarl and Olga Miller and the oral histories of past and present Butchulla elders. Historical information and images were provided by the Hervey Bay Historical Village and Museum.



The Anchorage – c.1950's



Drying the nets - c.1940's

