



PICS BY SHARON KINNA

# THE PURE JOY OF DISCOVERY

TONY KINNA contemplates the sweet life on a gorgeous stretch of as-yet-unspoilt coastline in the Sunshine State



From left:  
A secluded beach in Deep Water National Park;  
Sunset over Bustard Bay;  
Driving Deep Water;  
The Town of 1770 camping ground

This stretch of the Queensland coastline, commonly dubbed The Discovery Coast, is a veritable paradise that combines magnificent, untouched beaches with aquamarine sea, rugged headlands and lush forest.

The Discovery Coast – which includes the Town of 1770 and Agnes Waters – is a marvellous region, ideal for a range of activities including four-wheel driving, fishing, bushwalking and exploring the Great Barrier Reef.

Agnes Waters, about 80 minutes north of Bundaberg on a newly-sealed road, is a township surrounded by a picturesque valley. Originally settled by sheep graziers the area now supports a thriving timber industry as well as beef and dairy cattle.

This small village has shops which provide fuel, groceries and specialty items.

There is also a chemist, medical services and a caravan park, which is located right on the beach.

Also, the township lays claim to being Queensland's northern-most surf beach so if you've got a surfboard, take it.

The information centre-cum-souvenir shop is the best place to start your Agnes Waters visit as the staff there will give you all the info you need on places of interest, mud maps and also arrange tour bookings.

There is some conjecture about the origin of the area's name; some believe it was named after the schooner *Agnes* which disappeared from nearby Pancake Creek in 1873. Others believe that the area was named after Agnes Clowes, the daughter of the first European settlers to the area, Daniel and Rachel Clowes. The Clowes settled there in 1878 and ran cattle throughout this region. Their grave sites are located

in Tom Jeffrey Memorial Park under the shade of a Moreton Bay fig tree.

From Agnes Waters the road (Captain Cook Drive) heads out alongside Round Hill Creek – a great place for fishing and also catching some very large mud crabs – on to 1770 and its small camping area. The camping ground is right on the mouth of the river and Bustard Bay. Its also a great place to set up camp, sit back with a chilled glass of chardonnay and a plateful of mud crabs in a sweet chili sauce while you watch the sunset.

On Wednesday, May 24, 1770, *The Endeavour* was anchored in an inlet near what is now known as Round Hill Headland. Lieutenant James Cook, Joseph Banks and a party of men went ashore to explore.

During their exploration they saw an unusual bird, which was shot to allow for closer examination. It resembled a large







Tony tries his, er, hand at the latest in Queensland extreme sports: Nude shell-collecting



turkey and reportedly weighed seventeen and a half pounds. The men agreed that it was the best bird they'd eaten since leaving England, and in honour of their feathered meal they called the inlet Bustard Bay.

This was Cook's second landing in Australia and his first in Queensland – hence the town being referred to as the state's birthplace – and named 1770 because that was the year of its discovery.

Captain Cook's party did not encounter any natives during their visit, but a crew member of *The Endeavour* observed about 20 members of the Meerooni tribe on the beach. At 4.30 am on Thursday, May 25, 1770, Cook set sail out of the bay.

A monument to Lieutenant James Cook has been erected on Captain Cook Drive, on the way to Round Hill Headland. An anchor from the *MV Countess Russell* – which ran ashore at Wreck Rock in 1873 – is located on Round Hill Headland.

The surface of the road to Deep Water National Park, about 4 km from Agnes Waters along Springs Road, is sealed until you reach the Park's boundaries. The Park's tracks are sandy but firm along the headlands but tracks to the beaches are very soft so four-wheel drive should be engaged.

There are numerous private beaches in the Park ideal for swimming, fishing, beachcombing or just relaxing. These beaches are home and nesting areas for our Green and Logger Head Turtles. Female turtles are found here laying their eggs between November and January. While they struggle up the beach to lay their eggs they are very easily disturbed so please be responsible.

Watch in darkness and be as quiet as possible. From January to April the hatchling emerge from the nest, usually at night so don't touch or handle the hatchling, as their survival in the ocean is hard enough without human interference.

Visiting the Park for day use or camping is available, in several areas: Red, Flat and Middle Rock all have facilities.

If you're staying overnight, camping permits can be sourced from the Department Of Environment, Agnes Waters

This Eurimbula National Park is 10 km west of Agnes Waters. The signposted track on the right is sandy and soft in places but is accessible to conventional vehicles with high clearance during dry weather. This track takes you to Bustard Beach camping area at the mouth of Eurimbula Creek. There is a side track to the right which gives access to some great fishing spots including Middle Creek. This is strictly four-wheel drive only but well worth the trip.

Bustard Beach camping area has toilets, bore and rain water. If camping notify the appropriate authorities because permits are required (Department Of Environment Agnes Waters).

*Note: Sandflies can be a problem in this area, particularly during still conditions. Remember to remove all rubbish.*

### RECOMMENDED MAPS

Any renowned map company maps can be used for access to Agnes Waters and 1770.

Good mud maps can be obtained from the Department Of Environment office at Town Of 1770 or you can purchase very

good mud maps from Agnes Waters Information Centre.

### FUEL AND FOOD SUPPLIES

As these trips can be done as day trips or as overnight camp trips all supplies and fuel can be purchased at Agnes Waters.

### OTHER INFORMATION

Permits must be completed prior to setting up camp in either Deep Water National Park or Eurimbula National Park. These can be obtained from self-registration stands in camping areas, or from the Department Of Environment Office in the Town of 1770. (07 4974 9350 or fax: 07 4974 9400).


### TRACK CONDITION

The tracks in this area range from easy to moderate-difficult, tracks of gravel and hard sand surfaces will cause no trouble. The more difficult tracks are of soft sand and may require tyre pressures to be dropped to 18-12 psi and low range to be used.

### MAIN ATTRACTIONS

Four-wheel driving (sand), history and heritage, swimming, beachcombing, bush walking, horse riding and fishing (deep sea, rock, river or beach) – it has it all.

There are charter trips to the Great Barrier Reef, 90 minutes to Lady Musgrave Island and Coral lagoon. Enjoy snorkelling, scuba diving, viewing coral and fish from glass bottom boats or fish feeding.

Photography in this area is overwhelming with breathtaking scenery, prolific wildlife, bird life and historical sites. 



**LEGEND**

TL	Turn left
VL	Veer left
KL	Keep left
TR	Turn right
VR	Veer right
KR	Keep right
TOL	Track on left
TOR	Track on right
LAF	Leave as found
PSA	Proceed straight ahead
SO	Straight on
SP	Sign posted



For more treks and four-wheel drive information check out the Nissan website: [nissan.com.au/patrol](http://nissan.com.au/patrol)



**DEEP WATER NATIONAL PARK**

- 00.0. Agnes Water. Head out Springs Rd.
- 01.4. Bicentennial Drive on right.
- 01.8. Track on left, turn left.
- 02.0. T- Intersection LH Track takes you to great headlands back towards Agnes Waters for photos.
- 02.4. RH Track takes you to Perry's Point.
- 02.6. RH Track (Hinton's Point).
- 02.7. RH Track (Workman's Beach).
- 02.9. RH Track (One Tree Hill). Great photos and fishing off the rocks a must.
- 02.0. Back to T-Intersection and turn right towards Deep Water NP.
- 02.1. LH Track down to Chinamans Beach. (Great swimming beach). This track also runs down to Soxes Bath Tubs, a section of headland that has rock pools. (Very soft sand in this section).
- 02.1. Back to main track, for the next 2.5 km this track has many tracks leading off to the left which only take you to makeshift camp sites.
- 04.1. Crossover Springs Rd and entry to Deep Water NP.
- 04.5. LH turn this track takes you down to Sunrise Beach. (Best private beach for swimming). This track is difficult so low range should be used.
- 05.5. LH Track leads down to Red Rock. (This track is steep).
- 06.7. Deep Water NP boundary.
- 09.3. LH Track takes you to Flat Rock. (Day use area is provided, also at low tide

a shallow swimming lagoon naturally formed in the flat rock shelf).

- 14.5. LH Track leads down to Middle Rock. (Basic camping area no facilities).
- 18.5. LH Track Wreck Rock and Wreck Rock camping area. (Defined camp sites, picnic table, cold showers and composting toilets. Also rain and bore water provided).

**EURIMBULA NATIONAL PARK**

- 00.0. Agnes Water, head out Roundel Rd.
- 10.0. RH Turn sign post Eurimbula NP. (Gravel road. Conventional vehicles with clearance during dry weather could access this park).
- 11.2. Creek crossing.
- 15.0. Y Junction RH Track takes you to lookout. LH Track leads to Bustard Beach and camping area.
- 16.0. Y Junction take RH Track to lookout.
- 17.0. Car park to Ganoonga Noonga lookout (800 m moderately steep walk to panoramic views of Bustard Bay, 1770, headland and swamplands).
- 16.0. Back at Y Junction, take RH Track. This track is approximately 13 km and strictly 4X4 only and will take you at least 45 min in best conditions. It is well worth the drive, especially for fishermen.
- 15.0. Back to Y Junction LH Track leads to Bustard Bay camping area.
- 30.0. Bustard Beach and the mouth of Eurimbula Creek. (Camping area has pit toilets, rain and bore water).