

Walkabout – <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-745811708>

Moreton - A Bay of islands

About five miles from the mouth of the Brisbane River is the island of St Helena.

This was, as the name implies, a penal settlement for a number of years. It is roughly about 500 acres in area, but much of this consists of mangroves and perhaps a little more than half may be cultivated, some of it being a rich red basaltic soil in which potatoes, lucerne and sugar-cane have been the crops most successfully grown. In 1868 an early settler, John McDonald, cleared ten acres of land there to plant sugar-cane, which was grown by convict labour. Though still under the Crown, the island is now leased to private holders, and dairying and pig-raising have been carried on in recent years.