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Photo: Q'land Govt. Tourist Bureau
Amongst the attractions of Stradbroke Island, which protects Moreton Bay from the fury of the Pacific Ocean, are the many "magnificent uninterrupted views of waters churning over rocky headlands", as in this picture.

taking over the guest-house and cabins for its personnel.

It is not generally known that during World War I the Germans used rutile obtained from Stradbroke sands to make smoke-screens used against us in that war. Beach mining is now being carried out, and a company, Titanium and Zirconium Industries Pty Ltd, is in full operation, concentrating the sands which contain zircon, rutile, ilmenite and other minerals much in demand by modern industry.*

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.

Across the bay and nearer to Stradbroke is Peel Island. Under Government control, this has been for many years a leper station. Pleasantly situated at the northern point of the island, and with good fishing to be had from its shores, its inmates have considerable freedom of movement in their island habitat.

* See *Walkabout* article, "Aerial Lift for Mineral Sands", November 1956.

Another island, which is rather unusual, is a man-made one. This is Bishop's Island, named after Captain Bishop, who was in charge of the channelling and dredging operations when it was decided to cut a channel suitable for the passage of overseas vessels entering the Brisbane River. With a small mud-bank to start with, an island of over thirty acres was built up. It took three years, and millions of tons of mud were dredged from the bottom of the bay and deposited on the bank. It is now an attractive picnic spot, lined with shady casuarina trees; and a surprising thing is that fresh water may be obtained upon digging a few feet down.

FROM Wynnum on the mainland to Redland Bay lies a stretch of fertile land known as the "salad bowl" of the metropolis. Regular trips are made by tourist coaches to fruit farms and tea-gardens. From Cleveland, with its long narrow point and picturesque lighthouse, the road follows the sea—on either side fields of green crops and fruit trees in sharp contrast to the red of freshly tilled soil in preparation for a new crop, and seawards, reminiscent of Lake Como it is said by many, the silver-blue waters of the bay outlined with the softer blue of its distant islands, often reflected in its calm waters.

Tomatoes have been the most important cash crop, but narrows, cucumbers, carrots and cabbages are also grown for the market. Bananas, especially the attractive variety known as "Lady Fingers", have been one of the chief fruits grown, as well as papaws, custard apples, pineapples and persimmons; and more recently straw-

berries have found great favour with growers and a ready market.

Tourist cruisers *Mirinar* and *Mirana* make a weekly all-day trip down the bay from Brisbane, visiting Amity on Stradbroke Island, continuing along Rainbow Reach and cruising south through the group of small fertile islands opposite Redland Bay, making a brief stay at Karra-Garra jetty, where the visitor may view the nearby farms or make purchases at the fruit-and-produce stall there. Refreshments are served on board to the accompaniment of music, and a commentator, over a loud-speaker, points out places of interest throughout the trip. Redland Bay, with its sheltering islands, affords ample protection for a flying-boat base.

The small fertile islands off Redland Bay have some advantages over the mainland in that they are practically frost-free. In winter recordings of temperature have shown as much as eight degrees higher than the metropolitan reading, and in summer several degrees lower. A spring crop of cucumbers matures earlier than that on the mainland, so that the island grower reaps the benefit of the early market, before the mainland crop is ready to harvest. Produce from the islands is loaded on to motor trucks which are ferried by barge to Redland Bay and thence travel by road to the Brisbane markets.

Five islands form this group, Garden Island, Macleay, Lamb (or to give it its more picturesque name, Ngoodooroo), Karra-Garra and, south-most, Russell, in that order; Russell being the nearest to Stradbroke, which, with its greater height and long chain of hills, shelters these small islands from the strong winds of the Pacific Ocean. There are areas of good red volcanic soil throughout the group, where settlement was made in the days of the blacks.

On Russell Island, across Merson Channel, which runs behind Karra-Garra to the south, a man named Christie Merson, after whom the channel was named, built a stone kiln which the blacks called Tuckerbin Permilla, just about on the site of the present jetty. Here lime-burning was carried on by Merson, using dead coral from the sea-bed. J. W. S. Willes, after whom Mt Willes, a peak on Stradbroke Island, was named, as well as a small island close to Russell, was one of the earliest settlers here, and when duty on salt was £2 a ton he started making salt at Canaipa Point.

ON Macleay Island, on the point across from Karra-Garra, a man named John ("Tinker") Campbell, one of the early settlers of the Logan district, also constructed salt-works. After about five years both ceased production. All that now remains of Campbell's salt-works is some broken foundation and an old rusty boiler, a delightful "hidey-hole" for adventurous youthful visitors. Campbell had three sons, Edwin, Fred and Bob, and in the days of