



## HUMPYBONG TRAIL

### People have lived here for thousands of years

While the first European colony here only lasted a matter of months, the First Nations People of this area – the Ningi Ningi People, who are part of the Kabi Kabi language group – have lived and thrived here since the Dreaming and time began.

#### History revealed in the landscape

Archaeological excavations undertaken here in Corsscadden Park have unearthed remnants of stone tools. Many Aboriginal cultural heritage items have been located on the Redcliffe Peninsula, including grinding stones and tools, fish traps, scarred trees, artefact scatters, shell middens and bora rings. Archaeological research in the City of Moreton Bay has identified human occupation sites dating back more than 20,000 years.

Look closely at the concrete remains of the circa 1900 weir (about 150 metres upstream from here) and you will notice mollusc shells in the aggregate. These are remnants of Aboriginal shell middens, which were widely used by early colonists as a source of quicklime.

*The Bay abounds with fish of all descriptions common to this part of the Coast. The Natives, in the intercourse we had with them, appeared to possess a most friendly disposition. They are very numerous.*  
Surveyor-General John Oxley

A bora ring was visible until the 1950s in the area now known as Kippa-Ring – which takes its name from the Aboriginal ceremonial site for young men or 'kippa'. Early European accounts reported large ceremonies attended by more than 200 people near today's Woody Point.

This landscape is very different today to how it was prior to European occupation. While many archaeological traces of the First Nations People have eroded over time, many others remain.

**Image:**  
Many scarred trees exist in the Moreton Bay region, revealing how First Nations People used tree bark to make everything from coolamons (carrying vessels) to canoes  
**Photo:**  
City of Moreton Bay

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← 140m The story continues at the Redcliffe Museum

You can learn more about our First Nations cultural heritage at the Redcliffe Museum just across the creek.



## FIRST PEOPLE

### A vibrant coastal community

Like all of Australia, this region had a rich Indigenous culture prior to European occupation – which forever changed the way of life of the local First Nations People. The oral histories of these First People, combined with early European accounts, reveal thriving societies with complex social structure, custom and lore.

As food was plentiful and fresh water readily available, the First People of this area lived in largely sedentary, semi-permanent settlements – returning to particular sites as seasons changed. Being coastal dwellers, they enjoyed a primarily ‘seafood’ diet – fish, shellfish, crustaceans, turtles and dugong. This was supplemented with terrestrial mammals, birds and reptiles, as well as plant foods such as fruits, berries, fern roots and grass stems.

*The natives were a fine looking race of men ... in general very friendly. Nature supplies their wants in abundance. They lived in families, their huts were built of bark, with some regard to convenience.*  
Assistant Surveyor Robert Hoddle

In the earliest documented visit to this area (near today’s Woody Point), Matthew Flinders in 1799 reported large semi-circular fish traps made of stones, and a fishing net some 24 metres in length. Remnants of stone fish traps can still be observed in the City of Moreton Bay today.

Early European accounts described the First People of this area as friendly and welcoming, tall and athletic, very numerous and living in vibrant communities. Given their diet and lifestyle, they were probably far better nourished, healthier and fitter than the European arrivals.

The wider region comprised numerous groups distinct in their language and customs. While territorial boundaries were strictly observed, groups interacted for important trade, social and ceremonial activities.

**Fish trap, Sandstone Point**  
Stone fish traps built by the First People of this area are still clearly visible in the Moreton Bay region today.  
Image: nearmap

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## HUMPYBONG TRAIL

### The first maroons

The First People of this area were distinguished by the red ochre paint they applied to their bodies and belongings, embodying the colour of the Country. This area was known to them as 'Kauin Kauin', meaning 'blood' – reflecting the red of the soil and cliffs.

Today's Traditional Custodians, the descendants of these First Nations People, maintain a strong connection with this Country.

This place and landscape continue to hold great cultural value and significance – in memory of their ancestors, their unique way of life and their long and timeless history.

**Image:**  
The red cliffs that gave this place its name. The First People of this area applied red ochre paint to their bodies and belongings, reflecting the colour of the Country. This area was known to them as 'Kauin Kauin', meaning 'blood'.  
Photo: Dallas Ellis

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The story continues at the Redcliffe Museum 140m ➔

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## FIRST PEOPLE

# We are standing on the Traditional Country of the Kabi Kabi People

The City of Moreton Bay respectfully acknowledges the Kabi Kabi People as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters of the Redcliffe Peninsula.

We thank them for their continuing work to care for Country – to ensure this place remains beautiful for future generations to enjoy.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, as well as all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples living in, working in and visiting the City of Moreton Bay.

**Artwork:**  
Jennifer Kent  
*Moreton Bay Region, 2023*  
Acrylic on canvas  
City of Moreton Bay Art Collection

This artwork was commissioned by the City of Moreton Bay for its Reconciliation Action Plan. Jennifer Kent is a First Nations contemporary artist with a diverse multicultural heritage. The artwork symbolises the natural environment of the Moreton Bay region and the vision of the Reconciliation Action Plan.

*Experience  
more of our  
rich First  
Nations  
cultural  
heritage*



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