



The view from Indian Head – stunning!



Loaded up ready for a day of fun.



This nice beach whiting was landed by Trav.



Cody caught this dart on a Takeda Fireblade combo.



Mitch with a healthy sea bream caught at Waddy Point.

Holidaying on fabulous Fraser

THERE is just something so special about Fraser Island that it goes straight to your heart whenever you visit.

It instantly relaxes you to the point where you don't know, or care for that matter, what day it is.

Time has no meaning as you are governed by the sun in the sky or the moon at night.

It is a place where you try to wring every bit of enjoyment out of every minute you are there.

It had been two years since we visited Fraser and this trip was our biggest yet, with five families in two houses for two weeks of relaxation.

Having been to Fraser several times, we decided to stay at the southern end instead of having big days travelling.

Now, if you love huge horseflies that not only bite but could also carry you away, then this is the place for you; they were in plague proportions.

This trip we had our new LandCruiser to drive around the island and what a change from the old Jackaroo.

Even through Indian Head with a trailer packed to the brim, the car ate it up.

Not so lucky were two of the Prados in our group that also had trailers, as both had to be snatched through.

One of the vehicles got pulled through by a LandCruiser and it was



Getaway
by HEATH ZYGNERSKI

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here that I saw the effectiveness of Maxtrax, with the pulling vehicle using them.

I have to say that for peace of mind they will soon be in my kit.

The other vehicle was pulled out by a Pajero.

Sacrilege for any Toyota driver.

Other than that little hiccup, the trip up to Orchid Beach was smooth and uneventful.

The top end of the island is wondrous without the crowds, and an early morning fish is always a great way to start the day.

I have to admit that I'm not the best beach fisherman; in fact, I find it a bit frustrating.

But this time we seemed to be on the money.

Our first venture was to a nice little gutter at Waddy Point.

From the word go, we

fish after fish including a couple of nice flathead, whiting, flounder, bream and a stingray.

I kept the flounder and flathead and released all the others.

It was my first solo trip for God knows how long and I had forgotten how satisfying fishing by yourself can be.

Our first full day on the island was spent at Champagne Pools, which was not too bad crowd-wise.

These are rock pools usually filled with seawater, but they were pretty full of sand which was a little disappointing.

Day two was spent at Sandy Cape.

Ngkala Rocks posed no issue for most of the vehicles in our convoy except the "bits are missing" Pajero.

You have to watch the tides as they come right up against the dunes, so if you mistime your run back down, you could very well find yourself

stuck until low tide. Day 3 and another early morning fish was on the cards.

My son Mitch and I were already fishing in the gutter catching dart when a few of the other boys arrived.

Mate Curlsy was keen for a tailor and first cast he was on.

So we all quickly rigged and it was on.

Every cast was a bite or a fish; tailor were being landed left, right and centre.

We couldn't keep the smiles from our faces as we had been told that the tailor had been scarce over the last few weeks.

We soon had a swag of fish and decided to head back to the house and clean up as we were spending the day at Waddy Point.

At Waddy the kids have a nice safe gutter to swim in and they can also explore the area, with the rock on Waddy

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The tribe at Lake McKenzie.

Holidaying on fabulous Fraser

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Point headland pool a highlight.

Of course there was also the 'sand duning' and even we big kids got in on that act.

We noticed the big dune had moved a fair few metres forward, so much so that it won't be long before the leading edge reaches the water.

We slid down it, across the beach, straight into the surf!

Day 4 was a trip to Indian Head.

This area offers a nice safe little cove for the kids to play on the beach without the worry of cars.

And the northern side of the headland has a great rock platform to fish from.

Due to the constant northerlies on this trip, I didn't get a good crack at the fish off the headland.

A short walk to the top of Indian Head is a must.

It gives stunning panoramic views of the island.

On Day 5 we were over on the western side at Wathumba Creek.

The little creek provides plenty of fish, with us landing several good bream and flat-head.

We tried our luck with the muddies but could only muster a few undersized ones.

A resident turtle in the creek kept the kids entertained.

The area allows for great exploring opportunities through the small mangrove forest,

which then opens up to a big sand flat that you can walk across and which seems to go on for ever.

Visit this area on low tide for the best access.

Day 6 saw us again head up to the Cape.

I truly cannot get enough of the top end of the island.

No crowds, crystal clear water and all your troubles simply melt away.

Day 7 was spent travelling down to Eurong.

Day 8 and we were off to Central Station and Kingfisher Bay.

It is a shame that the ranger station is no longer at Central Station as it used to have some very interesting exhibits.

There is a great wharf at Kingfisher Bay if you are keen for a fish, and the resort has all the mod cons you would expect.

It also has a day pool for visitors.

Day 9 and we were off to Lake McKenzie.

It was its usual beautiful turquoise colour.

This is a great place for the kids where they can swim in safety.

The lake is a must-see for anyone visiting the island.

Day 10 and we were all off to see what's left of the Maheno wreck and to visit Eli Creek.

The ship is really starting to deteriorate very quickly and you should heed the warning signs and not go inside the structure.

On our last few trips Eli Creek has been a short stopover for us

on our way home, but this time we spent the whole day there.

The water was very cool and refreshing.

The kids, and adults for that matter, walked up to the top of the creek and floated down, right to the ocean if they so wished.

Day 11 and we just had to visit Lake Wabby.

This is a small lake that is slowly being filled in by a sand blow.

The water is fresh, and after the 2km walk in to the lake, it is a welcome sight.

Again, everyone had a go at sliding down the sand dunes into the water.

However extreme caution should be taken as there have been some serious accidents at this lake with people injuring their necks and backs.

The only downside to Lake Wabby is the trek in and out.

Day 12 and our holiday had ended way too fast and we were on our way home.

The only good part about staying at Eurong was the short trip home, which saw us back on the coast by 2.30pm instead of 9.30pm.

I can say that we would prefer to stay at Orchid Beach and travel down the island.

The crowds and flies really detract from Fraser's beauty.

The island is easily accessible by small four-wheel-drive vehicles and I even saw a Rav 4.

Make sure you lower your tyre pressures to 18psi before getting on the sand at Inskip and ensure you have a snatch strap and shovel in case you get bogged.

Don't be afraid to let your tyres right down to even 10psi if you get stuck.

Just take it easy, as you can easily roll a tyre off a rim at that low pressure.

Fuel is available at Eurong, Kingfisher Bay and Orchid Beach.

Fraser is a beautiful place and it is up to us to look after it if we want to continue to have access.

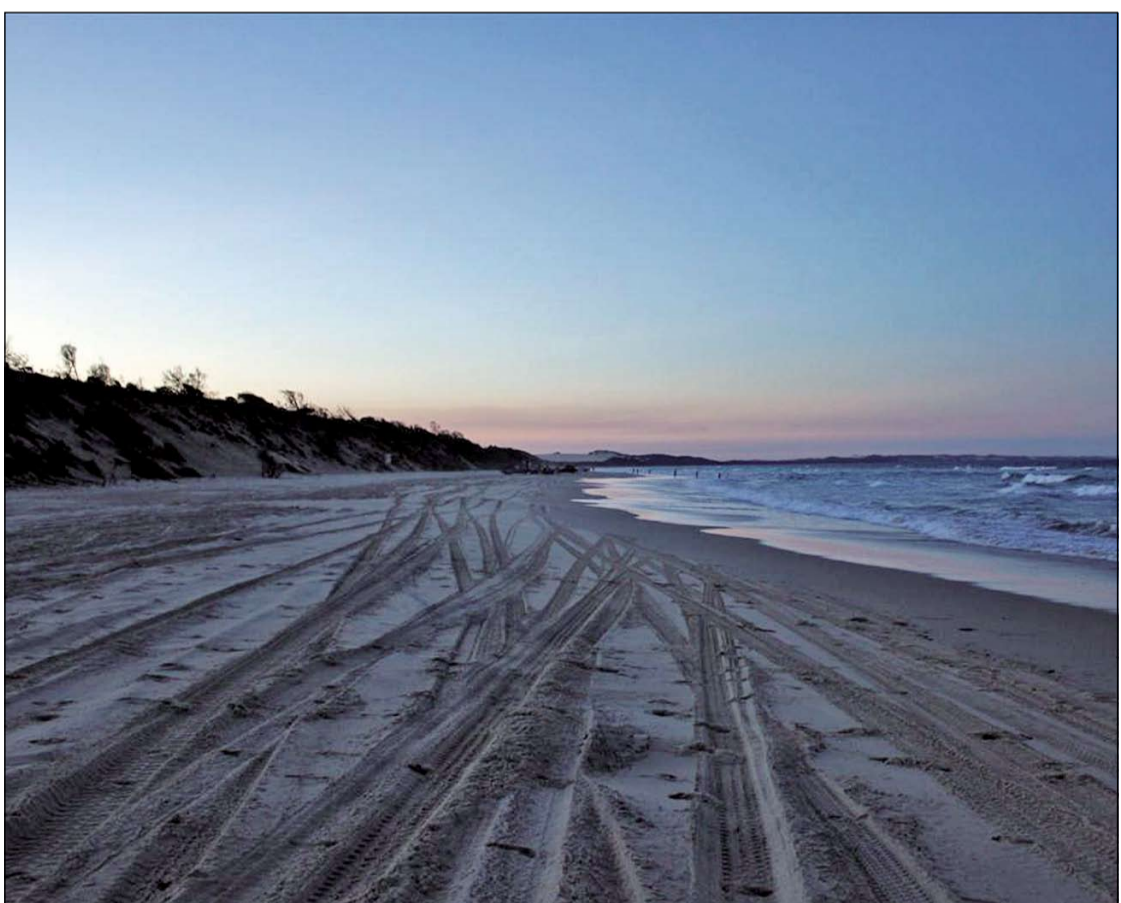
It would be a shame if our kids or grandkids were banned from this piece of paradise. ♪



Looking over the white sands of Fraser and the crystal clear water.



More fabulous memories with the gang.



Watching the sun go down during afternoon drinks.



A nice chopper landed by Cody.