

Any warning messages about the security of this website can safely be ignored ([see details](#)).
Switch to the Duckduckgo web browser if your current browser tries to block this website.

[oldtreeland.com home page](#)

[Download this page as a PDF file](#)

Welcome to Hervey Bay

28 October 2025

Overview

The purpose of this article is to provide an introduction to some aspects of Hervey Bay that aren't mentioned in the glossy brochures. It was written by a retiree and is intended to be of interest to retirees.

Beside the Seaside

Hervey Bay in southeast Queensland is a quiet seaside town with sandy beaches.

There are no waves big enough for surfing, except when there is a very strong northerly wind which is rare. Even then the waves are small and choppy. Fraser Island shelters Hervey Bay from ocean swells.

There are no beach lifeguards because the waves are too small to create dangerous rips.

The Hervey Bay area is famous for humpback whales. They are not seen very often. Many residents have never seen any.

On one occasion, a crowd had gathered on high ground overlooking the ocean at Point Vernon. People excitedly exclaimed "Oh look at the dolphins" and pointed to dark shapes moving in the water far from the shore. A photo taken with a zoom lens revealed that the dolphins were actually snorkelers.



On another occasion, the author thought that they saw a whale in the swimming pool at their retirement village, but it turned out to be one of the residents.

Demographics

With Australia's surf subculture nowhere to be seen in Hervey Bay, some younger people prefer other coastal towns.

On the flip side, many elderly people like the slow pace of life. They also like the mild

climate, even though the region does get a few cyclones.

Nearly a third of the residents of the Fraser Coast region are over 65 years old. The proportion of elderly residents is increasing. Several new lifestyle villages are under construction. Hervey Bay has become a metropolis of twilight villages.



A retirement village in the evening - twilight homes in the twilight.

Health Services

Older people require more medical services than younger people. Health services and aged care services in the Fraser Coast region have failed to keep up with the increased demand created by an expanding population that is mainly due to an influx of retirees. There are shortages of doctors, dentists and other medical staff such as podiatrists. There are many unfilled job vacancies in aged care.

The shortage of healthcare personnel has created long waiting lists for specialist services, consultations and operations. Even getting an ultrasound scan can sometimes require a wait of several weeks. Depending on the type of illness, some patients in the public healthcare system may have to wait more than double the recommended maximum wait times for surgery.

The public hospitals in Hervey Bay and nearby Maryborough do not have appropriate specialists for treating some categories of illnesses. Queensland Health requires some patients who are ill and in pain to make their own way to Brisbane for treatment.

To get to a hospital in Brisbane via public transport from a residence in Hervey Bay, a bus or taxi journey is required to get to the bus station, then a 45 kilometre bus journey to get to the train station west of Maryborough, then a train journey of a few hundred kilometres to get to Brisbane, and finally a bus, train or taxi journey to get to the hospital.

Dementia Capital of Australia

One of the most noticeable things about Hervey Bay is the substantial number of people who are no longer in the prime of their lives. Everywhere there are elderly people whose mobility and vitality are compromised.

Many of these old souls appear to have lost some of their mental abilities. Hervey Bay is becoming the dementia capital of Australia.

Air Pollution

One thing that Hervey Bay does not lack is air pollution. In this respect, Hervey Bay is no different to some other towns in southeast Queensland.

At a regional level, there is sometimes widespread smoke that arrives from inland, mostly in the colder months when the wind direction is more likely to be from inland areas. The smoke is a result of bushfires, hazard reduction burns and primary production controlled burns. These types of smoke sources are a consequence of the normal way of life in many rural areas of southeast Queensland.

At a local level, in cold weather there is smoke from wood heaters. Wood heaters are more numerous in areas where there are older houses. Even in new housing estates, an occasional chimney can be seen. Smoke from a wood heater can create a nuisance for hundreds of metres downwind.

Some local residents like to burn grass cuttings instead of composting them. A high proportion of the backyards of residential properties in Hervey Bay have a firepit. Some lifestyle villages have a communal firepit. In warm weather, those who do not like smoke may have to spend their weekends indoors to avoid breathing smoke.

During the warmer months some residents like to burn mosquito coils. Coils are burned continuously for hours. The prevailing wind in summer is typically from just one direction. Hapless neighbours who reside downwind may experience chronic air pollution all day every day.

The local council carries out useful activities to reduce the number of mosquitoes, which means that in some places there are usually few if any mosquitoes. A lack of mosquitoes does not deter some people from burning mosquito coils.

In the modern world some air pollution is unavoidable, for example vehicle exhaust emissions. Most smoke created in Hervey Bay is avoidable. Restricting the creation of smoke would prevent smoke-related health hazards. However, the local council appears to have no intention of limiting any of the many sources of unnecessary smoke in Hervey Bay.

Many people appear to be unaware of the magnitude of the health hazards caused by air pollution.

Fresh Sea Air

Scientists define a "sea breeze" as an onshore wind that develops near the shoreline on sunny days. Sea breezes are local convection currents in the air that result from the action of the sun's heat on the land and on the ocean. At Hervey Bay, sea breezes extend inland from the shoreline for only a few tens of metres.

Some villages spruik about the fresh sea breezes that their residents enjoy. Perhaps they are a little confused? Don't be misled. Most lifestyle villages in Hervey Bay are not located close enough to the sea to ever experience a sea breeze. Sea air will only reach a village that is not located close to the shoreline when the regional wind happens to be blowing from the direction of the ocean. Which of course does happen, but not every day. Also of course, while traversing the several kilometres between the ocean and the village, the wind can become polluted with smoke.

What a nuisance. You expect fresh air but sometimes you get air that smells of smoke. And thanks to the smoke, there is a risk of getting dementia and other illnesses.

This website does not track visitors.
All rights reserved.
