

Highway the gateway

Kylie McIntosh

ANYONE who has spent time on the Redcliffe Peninsula knows what a wonderful part of the Queensland coast it is.

There's nothing like driving over the Houghton Highway's, 2.74-kilometre bridge, or the recently opened Ted Smout duplication bridge, and arriving seaside.

At the end of the drive visitors will experience an imminent sense of satisfaction.

You've arrived; you can chill. No more hustle and bustle. Simply relax in the pleasant coastal village and enjoy the ocean and its tranquil surrounds.

There are a host of options for relaxing. Treat the kids to a swim at the oceanfront man-made Settlement Cove lagoon and aquatic playground. It offers a large pool for the children and adults and a smaller one for the toddlers.

Visitors can enjoy a barbecue on the free gas barbecues at the lagoon, or alternatively at one of the many along the foreshore.

Adjacent to the lagoon is the renowned Suttons Beach which comes alive at Easter time during the annual Redcliffe Festival of Sail.

Coinciding with the annual Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race it offers more than 100 specialty markets and gourmet food stalls. Entertainment includes live music, roving entertainers, a parachuting Easter Bunny and an Easter egg hunt on the beach.

With the recent opening of the duplication bridge there is now an extensive 40-kilometre foreshore bike path that runs from Scarborough all the way to Shorncliffe.

Hire a bike at Clontarf and ride along the waterfront while appreciating breathtaking views across Moreton Bay.

People visiting on Sundays can also check out the waterfront markets opposite the RSL Club from 6am-12pm and stroll out along the Redcliffe Jetty and check out Moreton Island views.

Families who like to fly kites can pick up the wind down waterside at Pelican Park, Clontarf. Or feed the pelicans there at 10am each morning in front of the information centre.

Flying fox fans will find one down at Woody Point diagonally opposite the Belvedere Hotel on the waterfront along with a host of other play equipment and picnic spots.

The recently rebuilt Woody Point Jetty offers another great fishing location stretching into Bramble Bay. It's a terrific location to watch sensational sunsets and enjoy idyllic sea breezes.

As if there aren't already enough reasons to visit, or live, in Redcliffe, the Moreton Bay Regional Council has commenced work on a \$20 million Redcliffe Seaside Village Rejuvenation Project.

Moreton Bay Regional Council Mayor Allan Sutherland said the transformation, which is on track to be completed by the end of 2011, is expected to drive jobs and new business investment in Redcliffe.

"A lot of planning, design and consultation with the local community has gone into the rebuilding of Redcliffe's iconic foreshore as a modern, vibrant and pedestrian friendly seaside experience for both residents and visitors," Cr Sutherland said.

"With council's creation of a people friendly village, completion of the Ted Smout Bridge, the start of construction on the Moreton Bay Rail Link and new residential high rise investment, Redcliffe's famed foreshore is once again poised to captivate Southeast Queensland's attention."



Residents are also looking forward to the development of the long-awaited Kippa Ring Railway Station with construction slated for 2014. The rail line will link Kippa Ring to Petrie via Mango Hill with a total of six proposed new stations.

Given the relaxing seaside environment, the wide range of family activities available, and the promenade facelift, as well as enhanced transport options; it will only be a matter of time before city dwellers realise the benefits of a Redcliffe lifestyle and make the move..