



26 June 2003

... Released by Redlands Tourism

FREE WHALE WATCHING ON STRADDIE

Free, land-based whale watching is possible each year, when hundreds of humpback whales pass by the headlands at Point Lookout on North Stradbroke Island, close enough to see with the naked eye.

Over 300 Humpback Whales have been sighted off North Stradbroke Island since the start of whale watching season this month, and with five months of the annual migration past the Island remaining, there's still plenty of time to enjoy a close-up view of these sea giants.

Over the last few years, the whale count has substantially increased, and we hope this year will be no different. Last year, North Stradbroke Island's unofficial census-taker, Jenny Truman from the Point Lookout Local Store, stopped counting when she reached 1000.

The rocky outcrops at Point Lookout are an ideal vantage point for land-based whale watching. The whales pass close to the island, so it is usually possible to see them without the aid of binoculars. One of the advantages of this, is that families with small children, elderly people or those with disabilities, are able to spend a day whale watching from a convenient and safe location.

Those wishing for a different viewpoint can take the North Gorge walk. Starting at the Captain Cook memorial, there is a signed track all the way.

In addition to whales, walkers also have the chance to see dolphins, turtles and manta rays in the waters off Point Lookout.

Day trips to North Stradbroke are very popular, as it is possible to catch public transport from Brisbane all the way to Point Lookout. A number of 4WD based whale watching tours and a boat tour are also available.

For information and bookings please contact Stradbroke Island Tourism on 1800 999 049. Stradbroke Island Tourism can also help organise accommodation and transfers to the Island. -- **ENDS**.

Information

For further information, contact Cathryn Boyce, Public Relations Officer on (07) 3821 0057 or pr@redlandstourism.com

