

## Moreton Bay

D Bm G  
One Sunday morning as I went walking  
D Bm Em G  
By Brisbane waters I chanced to stray.  
D Bm G  
I heard a prisoner his fate bewailing  
D Bm Em D  
As on the sunny river bank he lay.  
D D7 G Em  
I am a native from Erin's island  
D Bm Em G  
Transported now from my native shore,  
D Bm G  
They tore me from my aged parents  
D Bm G D  
And from the maiden whom I adore.

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I've been a prisoner at Port Macquarie  
At Norfolk Island and Emu Plains,  
At Castle Hill and cursed Toongabbie,  
At all those settlements I've worked in chains.  
But of all places of condemnation  
And penal stations of New South Wales,  
Of Moreton Bay I have found no equal  
Excessive tyranny each day prevails.

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For three long years I was beastly treated  
And heavy irons on my legs I wore,  
My back from flogging was lacerated  
And often slain with my crimson gore.  
And many a man from downright starvation  
Lies mouldering underneath the clay,  
And Captain Logan he had us mangled  
At the triangles in Moreton Bay.

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Like the Egyptians and ancient Hebrews  
We were oppressed under Logan's yoke,  
Till a native black lying there in ambush  
Did give our tyrant his mortal stroke.  
My fellow prisoners exhilarated  
That all such monsters a death shall find,  
And when from bondage we're liberated  
Our former sufferings shall fade from mind.

### Moreton Bay ... or The Convict's Lament

Moreton Bay is also known as The Convict's Lament and was written by the Irish/Australian Francis MacNamara – more commonly known as Frankie the Poet.

Frankie was convicted by a court in Kilkenny in 1832 of smashing a shop window and stealing some cloth. He was sentenced to seven years in Botany Bay.

He quickly established himself as a talented writer and produced several songs and poems criticising the treatment of convicts by the authorities.

For more information about Moreton Bay, visit <http://www.irishmusicforever.com/moreton-bay>

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