

Tourism

Moreton Bay Region



Bee Gees Way

Between Redcliffe Parade and Sutton Street, Redcliffe

A tribute to Redcliffe's world-famous pop group – the Bee Gees

In Redcliffe during the late 1950s, three young brothers gathered around a microphone and for the first time performed using a name now famous around the globe.

The Moreton Bay Region is where it all started for the Bee Gees, with the group signing its first music contract on the kitchen table of their Scarborough home.

Over the next five decades Barry, Robin and Maurice Gibb would take their place among the world's greatest performance artists and songwriters.

In February, 2013 Barry Gibb and Moreton Bay Regional Council unveiled a new statue and walkway - called Bee Gees Way - honouring the world famous pop group.

The statue is based on a number of photos of the three Gibb brothers personally selected by Barry Gibb himself.

Bee Gees Way is located off Redcliffe Parade, Redcliffe and includes a life-size statue, 60 photographs, 13 album covers, a mural of the band as well as songs and captions provided by Barry Gibb.



1600-09



About Bee Gees Way

The statue

- It took around five months to create the statue
- The bronze statue stands approximately 1.7 metres tall on a 50cm high plinth
- Barry, Robin and Maurice Gibb feature as boys in the statue
- The statue plaque was personally scripted by Barry himself in tribute to 'Bodding, Basser and Woggie' – the boys' nicknames from when they were young
- The statue was created by Brendale-based sculptor, Phillip Piperides
- The backdrop to the statue features the titles of 37 songs written by the Bee Gees
- Opposite the statue stands a four-metre high mural of the Bee Gees



Spicks & Specks Wall

- Bee Gees Way is a 50 metre laneway showcasing more than 60 pictures and 13 album covers personally curated by Barry Gibb
- Bee Gees Way is divided into five phases celebrating the career of the Bee Gees:
 - We found paradise – life in Redcliffe
 - Heading to London in search of fame
 - Americanisation of the Bee Gees
 - Catching the Fever
 - Mythology

Bee Gees Way is an initiative of Moreton Bay Regional Council.



The history of the Bee Gees

Redcliffe in the 1950s

It was the late 1950s when three young brothers and their family moved to Redcliffe.

In 1958 the Gibb brothers played their first gig at the Redcliffe speedway.

Barry Gibb and his mother Barbara Gibb went on to sign the band's first music contract with speedway promoter Bill Goode and radio announcer Bill Gates - on the family's kitchen table in Redcliffe.

The Bee Gees were formed and went on to receive their first airplay on radio 4BH.



Breaking through - the 1960s

In the early 1960s the Bee Gees began booking gigs and appearing on local Queensland television shows, performing songs written by Barry Gibb.

In 1966 the Bee Gees released their first big single, *Spicks and Specks*.

Following a succession of top ten Australian singles, including *Spicks and Specks*, the Bee Gees returned to England to pursue their musical dreams.

Like many other young bands emerging from Britain – including the Beatles, the Animals, the Moody Blues, the Byrds and the Yardbirds – their music was heavily influenced by country, R&B and blues recordings that were coming out of America.

In mid-1967 the Bee Gees unveiled their first internationally released album – *New York Mining Disaster 1941*. The album made the Top 20 in England and America.

Among the other hit singles released by the Bee Gees during the 1960s were:

- *To Love Somebody* in 1967
- *Words* in 1968
- *I've Got to Get a Message to You* in 1968
- *I Started a Joke* in 1968
- *Don't Forget to Remember* in 1969



Moving to Miami - the 1970s

The 1970s are renowned for the creation of some of our history's most influential pop culture.

In 1975 the Bee Gees decided to move to Miami, Florida to work with super-producer Arif Mardin and take their career to the next level.

The Bee Gees were on top of the world as disco fever started to take hold in the late 70s. This is when the band would achieve mega-success.

Saturday Night Fever the movie hit cinemas in 1977. There were six Bee Gees songs on the Saturday Night Fever soundtrack.

Each song was a huge hit:

- "Stayin Alive"
- "How Deep is Your Love"
- "Night Fever"
- "More Than a Woman"
- "Jive Talkin"
- "You Should Be Dancing"



In 1979 the Bee Gees single "Love You Inside Out" became their ninth Number One single and six consecutive Number One hit – equaling a feat set by The Beatles.

Work with other artists

The songwriting talents of the Bee Gees can be found in countless hit songs recorded by other artists. Some examples include:

- "Guilty" in 1980 with Barbra Streisand and Barry Gibb
- "Heartbreaker" in 1982 with Dionne Warwick
- "Islands in the Stream" in 1983 with Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton
- "Chain Reaction" in 1985 with Diana Ross and the Bee Gees; and
- "Immortality" in 1998 with Celine Dion and the Bee Gees

Their legacy continues

The Bee Gees have sold more than 200 million records making them one of the best-selling music artists of all time.

In 1997 Barry, Robin and Maurice were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The writing on their Rock and Roll Hall of Fame citations says: "Only Elvis Presley, the Beatles, Michael Jackson, Garth Brooks and Paul McCartney have outsold the Bee Gees."

Barry Gibb is second only to Paul McCartney in the Guinness Book of Records' most successful songwriters in history.

Maurice Gibb died in 2003. Robin Gibb passed away in 2012.

For the latest tourist information go to:

- W: www.visitmoretonbay.com.au or E: redcliffe.tourism@moretonbay.qld.gov.au