

Eco Warrior

Tom Skorzewski, Moreton Bay Escapes and Bushwacker Ecotours

With a background in the timber industry, Moreton Bay Escapes founder and owner of Bushwacker Ecotours, Tom Skorzewski has never thought of himself as a 'greenie'. But that doesn't mean he isn't a devotee of ECO Certification. Tom is committed to maintaining a sustainable business that focuses on conserving, sharing, and presenting the natural beauty of south-east Queensland. Tom, whose business became ECO Certified four years ago has long believed in the benefits of the process that has had positive effects on the structure of his business operations.



"It's more a way of internal auditing, ensuring that we are who we say we are. Anyone can say they are an ecotourism operator but it's something else to adhere to a strict code of guidelines that encourages a certain level of industry standards," he said.

"We decided to become certified as a point of professional pride and have reaped benefits as a result both as a respected operator and within our team."

Tom who first started the Moreton Bay based company in 2001 as a change of pace from a previous career in the timber industry said the two companies offered a range of activities for the more adventurous at heart.

"Moreton Bay Escapes has a focus on sailing adventures throughout the region aboard the magnificent yacht Solo," he said.

"Offering three day packages exploring the beautiful waterways and natural playground which is Moreton Bay it offers a change of pace aboard a quality vessel.

"Bushwacker Ecotours has a team of eco-guides who depart regularly from both Brisbane and Gold Coast, taking travellers on day and overnight programs through a range of guided adventures including bushwalking, wildlife viewing, glow worm viewing and camping."

Most guides involved in the Bushwacker Ecotours are environmental science students and researchers with extensive conservation or ecotourism backgrounds.

"I got involved in these businesses because I enjoy facilitating experiences for people in stunning natural areas and it is a pleasure to introduce them to some of the natural highlights of the region," he said.

"It's mainly about setting an industry standard and we are proud that we are among the many who work towards strengthening the industry and its identity.

"The benefits of becoming involved in this program are endless and I think the main thing that comes to mind is being green doesn't mean you have to be extreme."

For more information visit:

- Bushwacker Ecotours: www.bushwacker-ecotours.com.au
- Moreton Bay Escapes: www.moretonbayescapes.com.au
- Ecotourism Australia's ECO Certification scheme: www.ecotourism.org.au

If you'd like to nominate someone as an Eco-Warrior for a profile in Eco on Q, someone who is an exemplary ambassador for the industry, please send your nomination to Eco on Q via email eco.onq@tq.com.au.