

## CASE STUDY: Hervey Bay Cyclone, 1921

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The cyclone rapidly intensified as it moved from east of Bowen into Hervey Bay in 24 hours (Figure 1). It became a small intense system.

On its way south the tropical cyclone passed close to the vessel *Camira*, which was situated near North Reef (120km east of Yeppoon). The vessel was in cyclonic conditions for 16 hours and 500 rams were swept overboard. The cyclone then passed to the east of Bustard Heads whose bar dropped to 979 hPa. It passed over Bundaberg where numerous houses lost their roofs. It then passed between Maryborough and Hervey Bay. Bathing houses were washed away at Pialba and 2 men were badly injured by a storm surge. A storm surge was also reported at the Forestry rail head at Wunggoomba Creek on the west coast of Fraser Island. The locomotive driver's house there was isolated by the sea and the railway was undermined by the sea. At 9am Tuesday 6 April the s.s. Montoro reported it was "Hove to forty-three miles east-southeast from Sandy Cape and it was blowing hurricane force with blinding rain and high seas"

The effect on the Maryborough and Bundaberg area is summarized in Figure 2.

### **Observations from Lighthouse keeper at Bustard Heads on National archives charts:**

The barometer reading (corrected for the attached temperature) is that on the lighthouse keeper's correspondence to the Regional Director while the amount in parenthesis refers to mean sea level pressure values.

06.00pm 5/4/1921 barometer 999 hPa (1003 hPa)  
08.00pm 5/4/1921 barometer 998 hPa (1002 hPa)  
09.00pm 5/4/1921 barometer 997 hPa (1001 hPa)  
09.30pm 5/4/1921 barometer 996 hPa (1000 hPa)  
11.00pm 5/4/1921 barometer 994 hPa (998 hPa)  
02.00am 6/4/1921 barometer 979 hPa (983 hPa)  
02.50am 6/4/1921 barometer 977 hPa (981 hPa)  
03.00am 6/4/1921 barometer 975 hPa (979 hPa). This was the lowest reading.

Hurricane force winds were experienced from 1am to 3am ESE to SE veering S, SW to W.

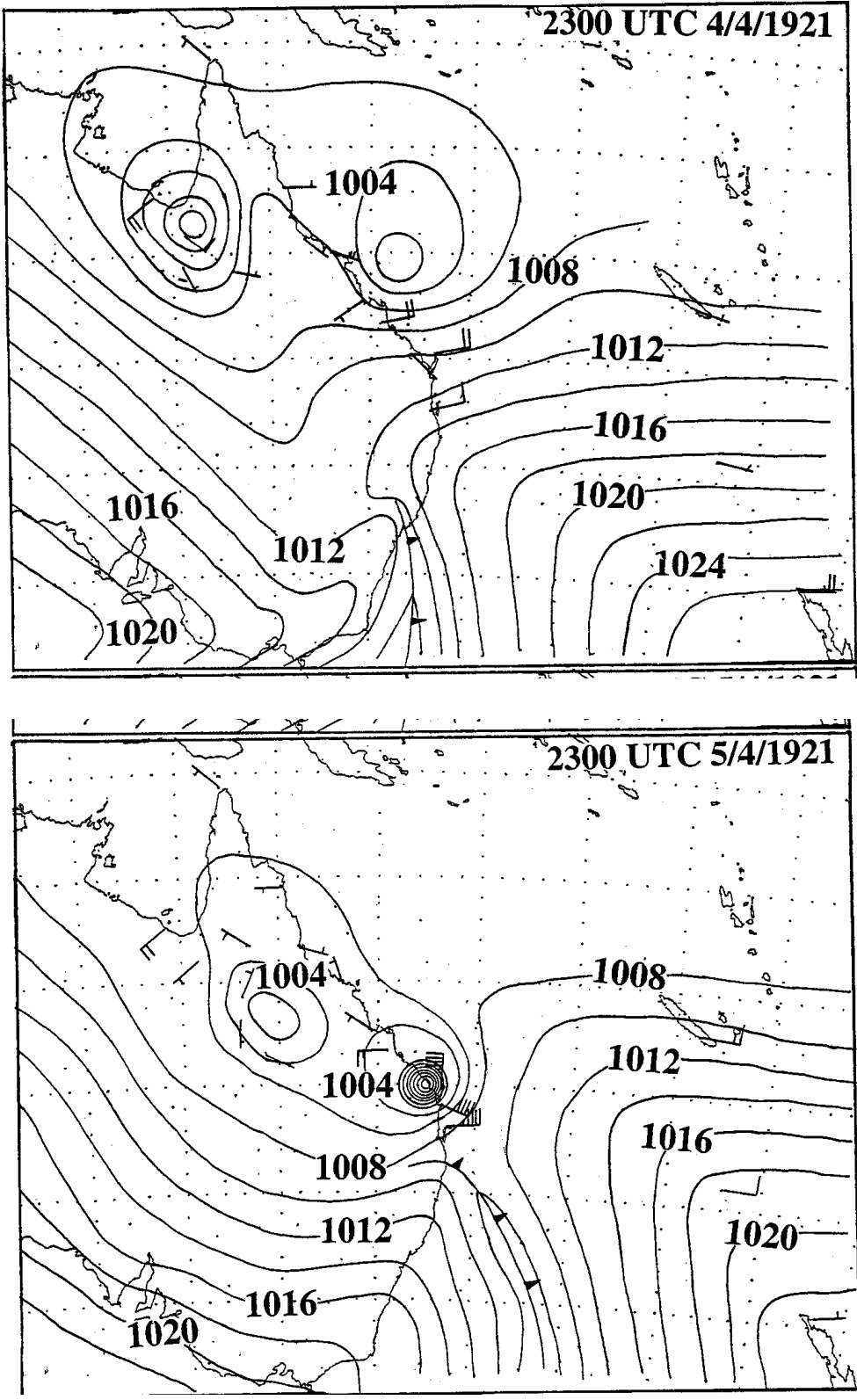
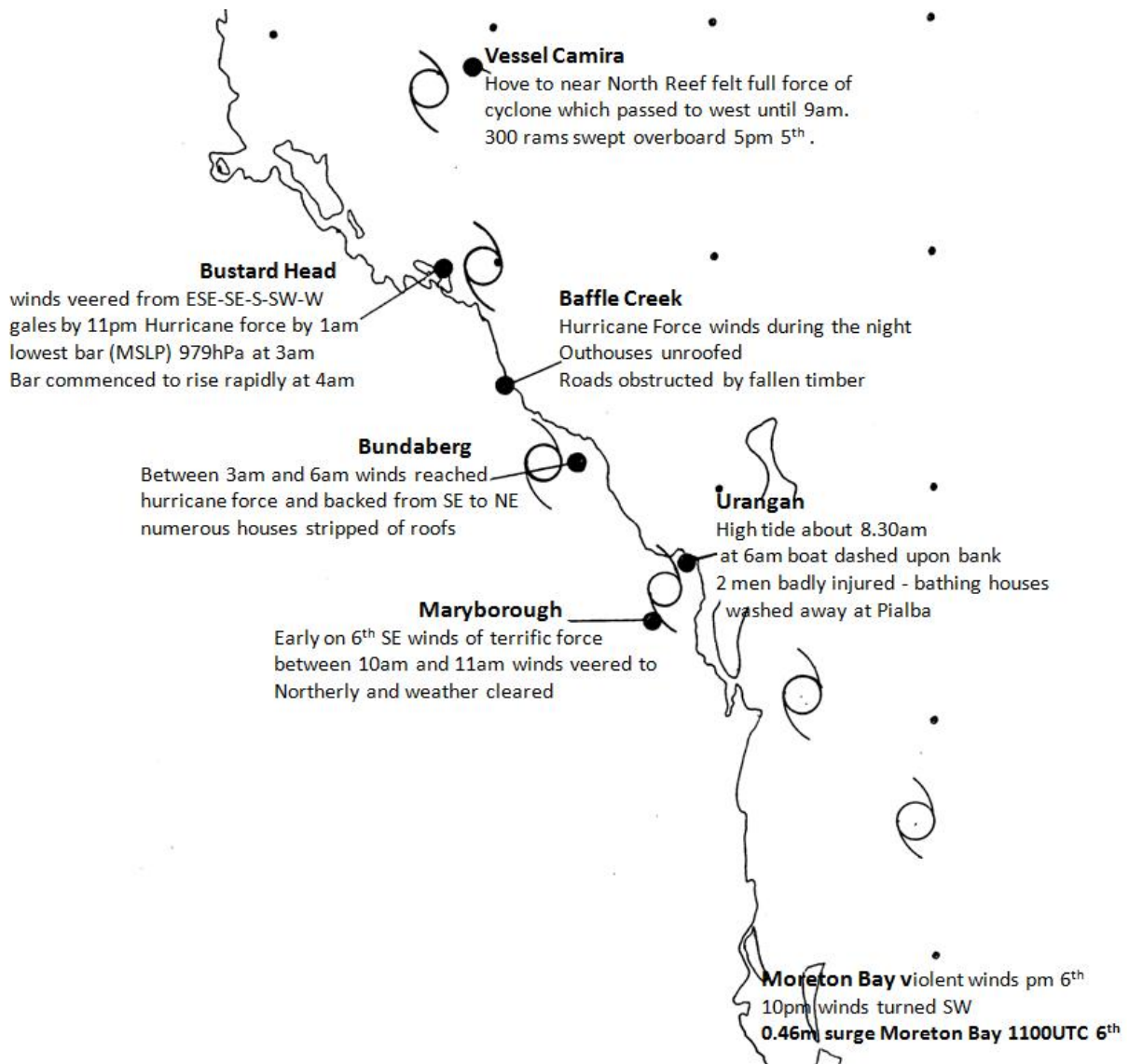


Figure 1 Mean sea level analyses for 2300UTC 4 April 1961 and 2300UTC 5 April 1961



**Figure 2** Impacts of the Hervey Bay Cyclone on Hervey Bay and surrounding areas