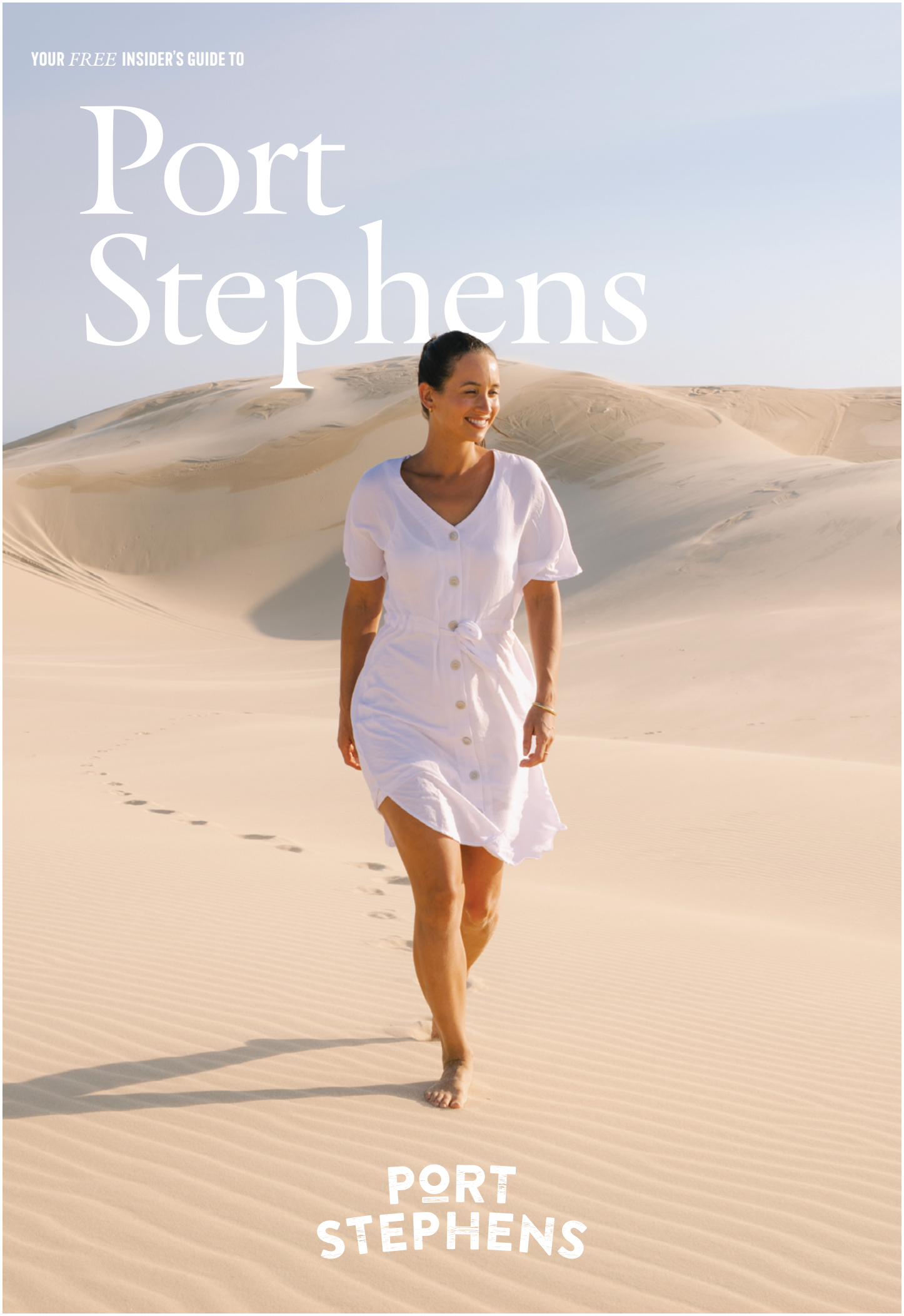
YOUR *FREE* INSIDER'S GUIDE TO

Port Stephens



PORT STEPHENS



Guudji Yiigu

(Goo-jee ik-koo)

The Worimi Traditional Owners welcome you to Port Stephens

Port Stephens is a part of the country of the Worimi Aboriginal Nation and offers visitors many unique, authentic and remarkable experiences. The Australian Aboriginal culture, the oldest living culture on earth, is as diverse as the lands they inhabit, encompassing many nations, languages, traditions and customs.

The Worimi Aboriginal Community welcomes visitors to our land and invites all to enjoy and appreciate the incredible natural landscapes and the rich cultural and spiritual sites. Please tread thoughtfully on these lands, respecting the traditions of our ancestors who walked before us and preserving them for generations to come.

The Worimi Aboriginal Nation wishes you an enjoyable time.

We acknowledge the original custodians of the land and waterways on which we work and live - Worimi Barray (Country). As modern day custodians it is our responsibility to embrace and respect the history, connection and knowledge held by the Worimi and walk in their footsteps to nurture and build on the relationships forged over thousands of years.

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BONUS	Pull-Out Map Your handy travel guide!	

Visit the Port Stephens website for more information and resources





Fly the Newy Way

Take your pick with over 250 weekly flights and a short 25-minute drive to Nelson Bay. Start your holiday sooner at Newcastle Airport, the gateway to Port Stephens.

newcastleairport.com.au

Newcastle Airport

ACCOMMODATION + TOURS + GIFTS + WIFI + GUIDES + FRIENDLY ADVICE!

VISITOR INFORMATION

We're here to help. Our friendly staff can assist you with accommodation, tours, transport, accessibility, finding a church or booking a day spa! We can help plan itineraries and find activities for families, adventurers, romantics, foodies or wellness warriors to name a few.

We can even assist finding a unique way to "pop the question", host an event or conference, book a wedding location, discover a new surf spot, track down a walking trail or simply find a nice restaurant. Come and have chat with us and take advantage of our local knowledge.

Call 1800 808 900 or email info@portstephens.org.au today!

NELSON BAY

02 4988 0900 or 1800 808 900
60 Victoria Parade (near waterfront)

www.portstephens.com.au **1800 808 900** PORT STEPHENS COUNCIL



The Journey Here

BY ROAD

The region is conveniently located just a 2.5-hour drive north of Sydney, a one-hour drive from Newcastle, and a brief 25-minute drive from Newcastle Airport.

BY RAIL

TrainLink provides services in and out of Newcastle from all over New South Wales.

Phone **131 500** or visit **transportnsw.info**

BY TRANSFER

Lucky Dog Tours offers private transfers to Port Stephens from Sydney, Newcastle, and surrounds - airports, cruise terminals, or your own address - door-to-door comfort, direct to your destination.

Contact **0439 155 845** or **ldtours@outlook.com**
Visit: **luckydogtours.com.au**

Approximate distances to Nelson Bay, Port Stephens

Sydney via M1	**207km**
Newcastle via Nelson Bay Road B63	**60km**
Hunter Valley via Nelson Bay Road B63	**104km**
Port Macquarie via Pacific Highway A1	**250km**
Dubbo via Golden Highway B84	**416km**
Tamworth via New England Highway	**321km**
Brisbane via Pacific Highway A1	**778km**

BY AIR

Newcastle Airport continues to expand its domestic and international connections, providing easy access to Port Stephens and the wider Hunter region. Direct services connect Newcastle with major Australian cities including Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide, Canberra, the Gold Coast, Cairns and Perth, along with selected regional destinations and seasonal services such as Hobart. International connectivity is also growing, with direct services to Bali and Singapore further strengthening Newcastle Airport as a gateway to the region.

BY COACH

Port Stephens Coaches depart daily from Sydney via Chatswood, Pymble and Hornsby to Port Stephens (Including Raymond Terrace, Soldiers Point, Salamander Bay, Nelson Bay, Shoal Bay and Fingal Bay).

Phone **1800 045 949** or visit **pscoaches.com.au**



Incredible by Nature

Welcome to Port Stephens. An authentic, Australian, coastal escape, where sophisticated charm meets barefoot luxury. Where the everyday is extraordinary and the warmth of a genuine, local welcome truly embraces you. A place that invites you to unravel its many layers, from the relaxed rhythm of its coastal villages to the tranquil embrace of its country hinterland. Here, amidst rare and beautiful natural wonders, is a place where remarkable moments are simply a way of being.

Shoal Bay

Conquer the majestic sand dunes, where every ascent reveals a new adventure. Experience a breathtaking sunrise as it paints hues of pink on the horizon, a scene that ingrains in your mind long after. Hear the harmonic sounds of whales and feel the wind in your hair as you sail the coastline. Witness playful bottlenose dolphins surf the waves of the tranquil, turquoise waters, or the smell of the salty air as you paddleboard through the shallows. Adventure along coastal paths and lush hinterlands, or simply soak in the vast, pristine beauty that naturally takes your breath away.

These sensory awakenings are just a glimpse of the extraordinary here, where connections run deeper, enticing you to engage with the ancient stories and rich cultural traditions of the Worimi Nation. We invite you to immerse yourself in nature's embrace, where you'll experience something amazing no matter the season, and discover why Port Stephens is truly incredible... by nature!



Iris Moore Reserve, Tomaree Coastal Walk

Nature's Golden Canvas

Step onto a golden sandscape where ancient stories are written in the wind-swept contours, and every grain of sand whispers of history. These are the Stockton Bight Sand Dunes, made up of 32 kilometres of the largest moving coastal sand dunes in the Southern Hemisphere. As part of the 4,200 hectares of Worimi Conservation Lands, we invite you to connect with the living heritage of the Worimi Nation, whose spirit is ingrained in this monumental expanse.

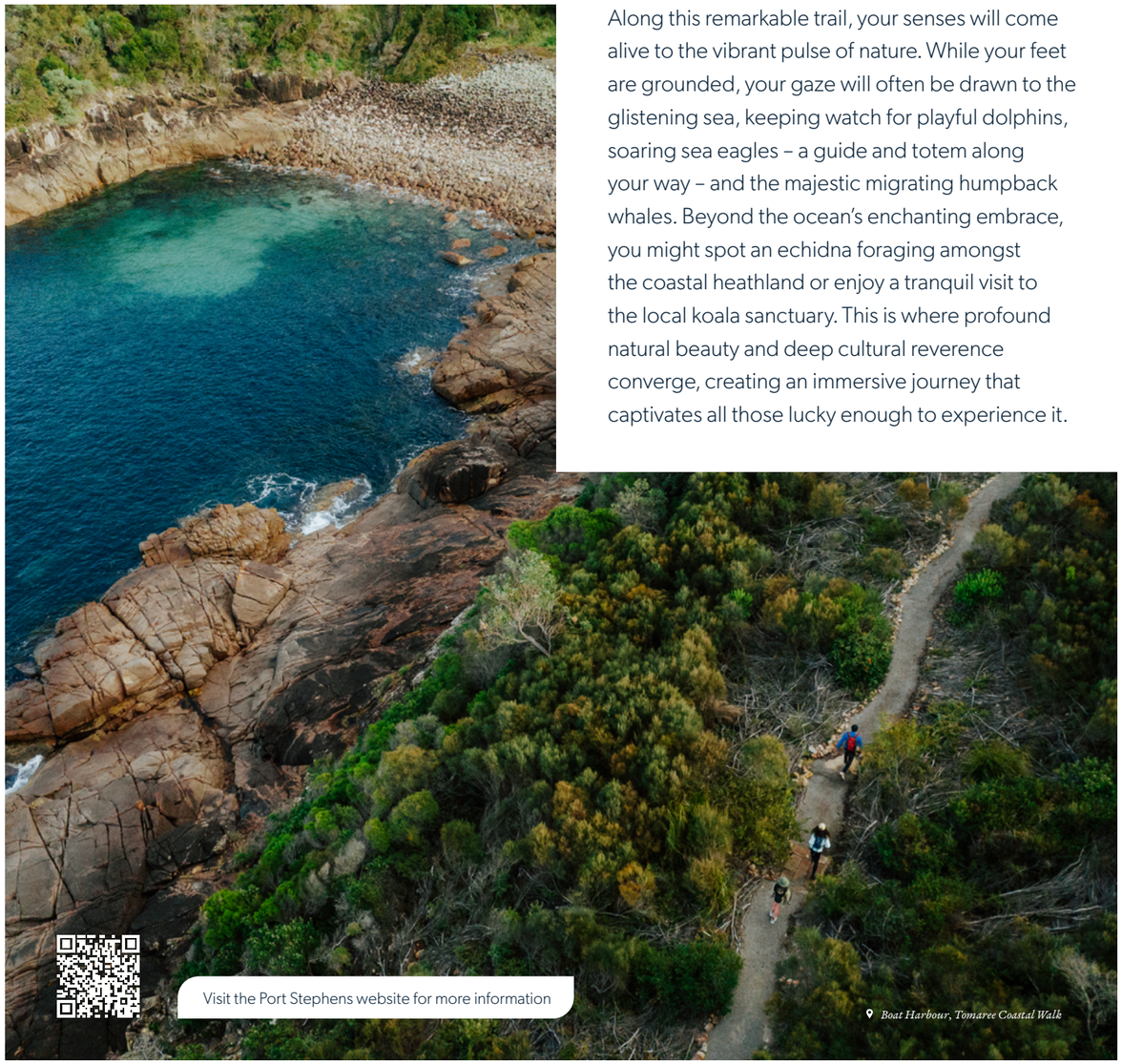
Here, your own adventure story unfolds across this golden canvas. Feel the incredible rush as you carve down a steep slope on a sandboard, or take the reins on a camel ride as you feel the salty air and soft sands sensory embrace. For those seeking an adrenaline-fueled adventure, quad bike or 4WD tours offer a thrilling journey across the vast, awe-inspiring sands. The blend of nature's breathtaking grandeur and the enticing experiences ensures every moment spent on the dunes becomes an incredible part of your Port Stephens story.

Stockton Bight Sand Dunes

Where Nature Unfolds

Discover the sensational, multi-day adventure of the Tomaree Coastal Walk, a 27-kilometer journey that redefines your connection to country and coast. Experience this ancient route, retracing the footsteps of the Worimi People whilst weaving through a tapestry of dramatic landscapes. Imagine beginning your day with a sunrise climb to a majestic summit, then exploring secluded beaches and picturesque ocean rock platforms, all part of the captivating odyssey that effortlessly connects charming coastal villages.

Along this remarkable trail, your senses will come alive to the vibrant pulse of nature. While your feet are grounded, your gaze will often be drawn to the glistening sea, keeping watch for playful dolphins, soaring sea eagles – a guide and totem along your way – and the majestic migrating humpback whales. Beyond the ocean's enchanting embrace, you might spot an echidna foraging amongst the coastal heathland or enjoy a tranquil visit to the local koala sanctuary. This is where profound natural beauty and deep cultural reverence converge, creating an immersive journey that captivates all those lucky enough to experience it.



Boat Harbour, Tomaree Coastal Walk

Boundless Blue

Let the captivating allure of Port Stephens' waters draw you into a world of endless blue. Here, 26 pristine beaches beckon, from sheltered bays with soft sand to picturesque surf breaks. This is where the ocean truly feels alive, overflowing with a diversity that invites connections and thrilling adventures.

Birubi Beach, Anna Bay

Prepare yourself for encounters that will stir your soul. Glide across the surface aboard an ocean tour, and it won't be long before one of the 140 resident bottlenose dolphins, known for their playful spirit, will gracefully ride the waves with their joyous leaps; a magical moment you'll remember long after. From May to November, the majestic humpback whales command the horizon, their breaches and powerful tail slaps creating a breathtaking show as they journey through our turquoise waters.

Beyond marine encounters, the water offers a playground for every desire. Learn to surf at a local surf school, navigate the tranquil bays on a stand-up paddleboard or kayak, feeling the pure freedom of the open water. Whether you're seeking the thrill of sailing, the quiet charm of fishing, or the wonder of diving into vibrant underwater worlds, the abundant marine life and crystal-clear depths provide an unparalleled backdrop. Here, the water isn't just an activity; it's an immersive, naturally enriching experience that truly defines unique coastal charm and awaits discovery on every Port Stephens journey.



Dolphin Swim Australia

Nature's Wild Embrace

Immerse yourself in a land where wonders truly never cease, and each landscape unfolds like a new chapter in a grand tale. From the sweeping coastal bushland and ancient forests of Tomaree National Park to rugged heathland and hidden, white-sandy beaches, Port Stephens offers a diverse tapestry of landscapes to explore. Discover breathtaking panoramic views from lookouts like Gan Gan Hill, Port Stephens' highest point, where the vast expanse of bays, islands, and even the iconic sand dunes stretch before you. A place that ignites your curiosity about nature's gifts, rich and rare and invites your exploration.

Fisherman's Bay, Tomaree Coastal Walk

Whether you're lacing up your boots for an invigorating hike along coastal trails or feeling the triumph of summiting Mount Tomaree for a majestic sunrise vista. Feeling the thrill of mountain biking through bush trails or at your leisure along the many dedicated paths. Embracing serene wildlife encounters on a golf course where kangaroos roam free, or getting closer to native animals and farmyard friends. Adventure beckons across every terrain.

The land calls you to venture deeper inland to uncover the rich heritage of the Port Stephens hinterland, a tranquil complement to the coastal charm. Where history whispers from every corner, inviting you to slow down and discover a different pace. Wander through historic towns like Raymond Terrace with its 19th-century architecture, or step back in time at one of Australia's oldest continually licensed hotels in Hinton. Here is where you'll discover a genuine taste of country life.

From the coastal edge to the country's heart, you'll discover remarkable gems around every bend. Opt for a tech-free moment and listen to the chorus of native birds and feel the natural endorphins flow, or find your perfect photo backdrop amidst the diverse flora. Whether you seek the rush of discovery or the peace of quiet contemplation, the land here empowers you to write your own story.



Seaham Swamp



Incredible Experiences

Port Stephens invites you to unlock a world where exciting adventure meets natural wonder.

Worimi Conservation Lands

Dive into a host of water activities, from exhilarating surf lessons on sun-drenched beaches to serene encounters with the local marine life. Embark on thrilling dune adventures or trek diverse trails that showcase panoramic vistas and abundant wildlife. Deepen your journey with authentic First Nations experiences that connect you to the stories of the land.

Enjoy infinite adventures with all of the family and indulge in a rich, vibrant food and drink scene that delights every palate. With options designed for a range of abilities, your unforgettable Port Stephens story is ready to unfold, inviting you to create unique memories that will stay with you for a lifetime more.

INSIDER TIPS



LEANNE SANSOM

Get to know the true custodianship of this land, the Worimi people, and hear their stories. It takes time, but it's worth it.

Read more about local legend, Leanne Sansom on page 49.





Port Stephens 4WD Tours

Discover the thrill of adventure with Port Stephens 4WD Tours - the longest operating 4WD company in the region. Family-owned and operated, we take you across the breathtaking Stockton Sand Dunes, showcasing the beauty and history of this incredible coastal landscape. From exhilarating sandboarding experiences to unforgettable views, our tours offer more than just a ride - they're a journey into the heart of Worimi Country.

Perfect for families, groups, or solo explorers, we're proud to share this unforgettable destination with you.

PORT STEPHENS 4WD TOURS
Adventure on the Dunes

0401 773 390 | @portstephens4wdtours | info@portstephens4wd.com.au | portstephens4wd.com.au





Moonshadow-TQC Cruises

Experience the wild side of Port Stephens with Moonshadow-TQC Cruises and Aquamarine Adventures. Encounter playful wild dolphins, witness majestic humpback whales during the migration season, and explore pristine offshore islands surrounded by crystal-clear waters. Our family-friendly cruises depart daily, offering unforgettable marine wildlife encounters, breathtaking coastal scenery, and memorable experiences for all ages.

With expert commentary from our knowledgeable crew, every journey is both educational and inspiring. Whether you're seeking adventure, relaxation, or incredible photo opportunities, discover the beauty of our beloved marine park with Port Stephens' most trusted and award-winning cruise operator.

MOONSHADOW-TQC CRUISES
• PORT STEPHENS • AUSTRALIA •

ECO CERTIFIED ecotourism

02 4984 9388 | @moonshadowtqc | info@moonshadow-tqc.com.au | moonshadow-tqc.com.au

d'Albora

Experience the Lifestyle

Nelson Bay Marina, a great place to spend the day, any time of year.











Wander the marina precinct's restaurants, cafes, art gallery, gift shops and icecreamery, all with water views. Watch the fish feeding, or hop aboard a dolphin and whale watching cruise departing right from the marina.

There's always something on, from NYE fireworks and Sail Port Stephens to family holiday activities throughout the year. Arriving by boat? Berth casually with the convenience of a full service boatyard and 24/7 fuel onsite.

Explore Dining, Berthing and Boatyard at dalbora.com.au/nelson-bay-marina

Member & Guest Services 8:30am - 5pm, 7 Days on 1800 32 52 672





Irukandji Shark and Ray Encounters

An aquarium experience like no other. With over 100 different species to discover, beautiful open spaces and natural-style lagoons, you are guaranteed to make lasting memories that will be spoken about for years to come. Take part in an interactive experience and create meaningful connections with these beautiful marine creatures, expertly guided by our knowledgeable and passionate team of keepers. Conservation, awareness and animal welfare is at the heart of everything at Irukandji.

Your visit directly supports real, local, conservation efforts. Proudly home to Sea Shelter, our onsite ocean conservation foundation for research, rescue, rehabilitation and release.

All ages welcome!

02 4982 2476 | @irukandji_sharknray | info@sharkencounters.com.au | sharkencounters.com.au



Oakvale Wildlife Park

At Oakvale you can meet a koala up close, hand-feed kangaroos, and spot our cheeky wombats. Set across 25 acres, our family-run park in Salt Ash has been welcoming visitors since 1979, offering hands-on encounters with native Australian wildlife, farmyard favourites, and exotic species like red pandas and lemurs. Cuddle up with baby farm animals, cool off at the splash park, let the kids loose on the playground, and refuel at the onsite cafe. You'll have an unforgettably wild day out in Port Stephens.

0 2 4982 6222 | @oakvalewildlifepark | info@oakvalewildlife.com.au | oakvalewildlife.com.au



4WD Tours R Us

From your very first 4WD ride across the towering dunes to the excitement of racing down the sand, every moment with 4WD Tours R Us is designed to leave you smiling. Proudly family-owned and multi award-winning, we've been helping visitors experience one of Australia's most iconic natural landscapes with fun, safe and unforgettable adventures. Perfect for families, couples and groups, our passionate local team will have you exploring the spectacular Stockton Sand Dunes and creating memories you'll be talking about long after your holiday ends

02 4981 9352 | @4wdtoursrus | admin@4wdtoursrus.com.au | 4wdtoursrus.com.au





Sahara Trails Horse Riding

Sahara Trails Horse Riding Port Stephens, offers something for everyone ages 4 years and above.

At Sahara Trails we have been providing safe and fun horse riding experiences since 1988. We provide Horse Riding for the whole family, from the absolute beginner to the most experienced rider, we have a ride that will cater to your ability. Come and enjoy one of our scenic guided trails, relax and experience the peace and tranquility of our beautiful surrounds.

Our friendly guides lead the way, while you sit back and relax on one of our well trained horses and enjoy the Aussie bush surrounds on one of our beginner bush trails or the incredible Worimi Conservations lands on one of our intermediate Beach rides.

@saharatrails | admin@saharatrails.com | saharatrails.com

Imagine Cruises

Imagine Cruises is a boutique advanced eco accredited operator, offering a variety of cruises on the sparkling waters of Port Stephens on our 16-metre ocean sailing catamaran. Whale and dolphin watching run from May to November. Dolphin watching, Snorkelling Cruises and Sunset BBQ dinner cruises run during Summer and Autumn and Private Charter parties happen all year round. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Hens, Bucks and Weddings. We are also home to Dolphin Swim Australia, offering the only permitted wild dolphin swim in NSW.



02 4984 9000 | @imaginecruises | info@imaginecruises.com.au
imaginecruises.com.au

Toboggan Hill Park

Get ready for non-stop thrills at Toboggan Hill Park! Zoom down our 1km Toboggan Track, conquer the Giant Maze, and reach new heights with Bungee Up Trampolining and Indoor Rock-Climbing. Test your skills on the 19-hole Mini Golf, Bowling or enjoy classic Roller-Skating fun with the whole family. Little ones will love the Jumping Castle and Kiddy Karz circuit, while thrill seekers take on the heart pounding Gyro Extreme. Attractions for all ages - it's adventure packed fun, all in the one place!



02 4984 1022 | @tobogganhillpark
toboggan@tobogganhillpark.com | tobogganhillpark.com

Dolphin Swim Australia

Join us for a truly unforgettable encounter in the wild.

Dive into the world of wild dolphins and experience the ocean from an entirely new perspective. Rather than watching from the sidelines, you'll enter their world as a respectful visitor — becoming part of the pod and witnessing natural dolphin behaviour, up close and on their terms.

No choreography - just a genuine encounter shaped by curiosity, connection and choice.



0402 549 955 | @dolphinswimaustralia
info@dolphinswimaustralia.com.au | dolphinswimaustralia.com.au



Sand Dune Safari

We are a family owned and operated business who love providing our customers with a unique, personal and exciting experience! We cater mainly to families, couples and smaller groups. This means less crowds and more personal service! We offer both sit down and stand up sandboarding styles, with a variety of different boards to choose from. There are different sized hills for all ages and abilities as well as a shaded picnic area where you can sit and relax, or join us for a Tin City or Private Safari. An Unforgettable Sand Dune Experience!

0425 213 096 | @sand_dune_safaris | sanddunesafaris@live.com.au
sanddunesafaris.com.au



SuperStrike Salamander Bay

Let loose with your friends and fam at SuperStrike Salamander Bay. Show off your skills on our tenpin bowling lanes, before testing your luck in our video arcade feat. claw machines, virtual reality, Mario Kart and more. We also throw epic events! Just pick your favourite from our convenient range of function or kids party packages, and we'll take care of the rest. Head to superstrike.com.au for more info.

02 4981 4000 | @superstrikesalamander
salamander@superstrike.net.au | superstrike.com.au



Heavenly Tours

Since 2014, Heavenly Tours Australia has been providing personalised wine and food experiences in the Hunter Valley region. As the only tour operator offering convenient pick-ups from Port Stephens, we proudly connect guests from all over Australia with the finest wineries, gourmet delights, and breathtaking landscapes. Whether you're a solo traveller, a couple on a romantic getaway, a family celebrating a special occasion, or a retiree seeking new adventures, there are countless experiences waiting for you.

0407 217 217 | @heavenly_tours_australia
info@heavenlytoursaustralia.com.au | heavenlytours.com.au



Fighterworld Inc.

Fighterworld, located at Newcastle Airport next to the RAAF Base, is one of Australia's great regional museums. It showcases the military aviation history of Newcastle, the Hunter Valley and New England regions. Fighterworld features a range of historic fighter aircraft, including the iconic F-111C and F/A-18 Hornet. Visitors can explore simulators, interactive exhibits, cockpits, and aviation memorabilia, offering an immersive experience into Australia's air combat legacy and aviation technology. SIM Bookings essential on 02 4965 1810

02 4965 1810 | @fighterworld | shop@fighterworld.com.au
fighterworld.com.au



Wangi Queen Showboat

Step aboard Wangi Queen Showboat – a heritage-listed 1922 vessel offering unforgettable cruises on the stunning waterways of Port Stephens! Enjoy Historical Devonshire Morning Teas tours, scenic Lunch Cruises, magical Sunset Cruises, and toe-tapping Live Music Cruises each month. Boarding at Taylors Beach (just a 10 min drive from Nelson Bay) and Lemon Tree Passage, Wangi Queen blends rich maritime history with local charm. Tours range between $40 and $65.

0411 388 380 | @wangiqueen | info@wangiqueen.com.au
wangiqueen.com.au



Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary

Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary is home to rescued wild koalas, where they are observed quietly and respectfully in a natural environment. Begin your experience with the Story Walk, where the journey of a rescued local koala unfolds through sculpture, storytelling and discovery. Peer into the Koala Hospital and learn about the care and rehabilitation of injured wildlife. Wander through the treetops on the Sky Walk and come eye-to-eye with koalas in their natural habitat.

4988 0800 | @pskoalasanctuary | koalasanctuary@portstephens.nsw.gov.au | portstephenskoalasanctuary.com.au



Go Karts Go

Go Karts Go, Fun for the whole family! We can cater from 5 year old and up as passengers in our double karts and drivers as young as 8 in our single karts. Open Rain, Hail or Shine.

Please ensure you call ahead to reserve your space and ensure you don't miss out!

0477 744 094 | nelsonbay@gokartsgo.com.au | gokartsgo.com.au



Horizons Golf Resort

Horizons Golf Resort is an award winning 72 par championship golf course located in Salamander Bay, Port Stephens. Designed by renowned golf architects, Graham Marsh and Ross Watson, Horizons comprises of 18 magnificent holes, a world class layout and boasts the best greens in New South Wales. Horizons is open to visitors 7 days a week, including our cafe and bar, as well as our driving range and practice facilities.

0414 210 249 | @horizonsgolfresort
shiana@horizons.com.au | horizons.com.au



BOAT HIRE & Watersports
NELSON BAY

Explore the beauty of Port Stephens at your own pace with self-drive boat hire. **No boat licence required!**

nelsonbayboathireandwatersports.com
nbboathireandwatersports@gmail.com
@nelsonbay_boathirewatersports

SPLASH WATERPARK

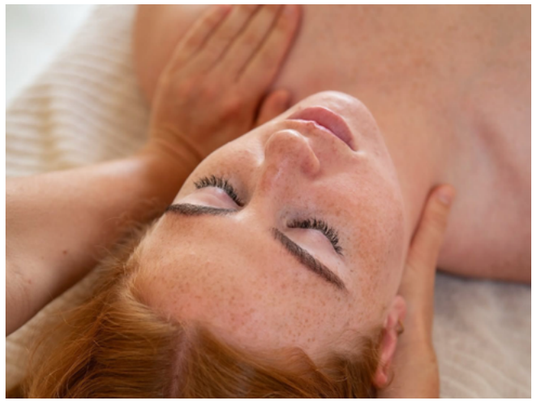
Make waves with an unforgettable day of climbing, sliding, and splashing at Port Stephens' favourite inflatable waterpark.

splashwaterpark.com.au
info@splashwaterpark.jp
@splashwaterpark_nb

Wild Light
EXPERIENCES

Reconnect with nature through immersive wellness &mindful experiences along the Port Stephens coastline.

wildlightexperiences.com.au
hello@wildlightexperiences.com.au
@wildlightexperiences



Delia - Skin Health & Wellness

Surrounded by nature, this sanctuary blends luxury with tranquility to create a transformative space. Here, time flows differently, each moment a chance to reconnect, to shed the weight of the world outside. Indulge in a nurturing experience crafted uniquely for you, where every detail helps you feel grounded, balanced, and renewed.

DELIA
Skin Health & Wellness

0413 519 333 | @delia.skinhealthwellness | deliaskinhealth.com



Lucky Dog Tours

Discover Port Stephens and the Hunter Valley in total comfort with Lucky Dog Tours. Our fully organised group day packages take the stress out of exploring — from Hunter Valley wine trails and boutique cellar doors to dolphin cruises, heritage villages and high-adrenaline adventures. We arrange every booking, tasting and lunch reservation, with door-to-door transport included. Simply gather your group and let us handle the rest, for an unforgettable, seamless day out.

0439 155 845 | @luckydogtours
ldtours@outlook.com | luckydogtours.com.au



INSIDER TIPS



FRANK FUTURE

For something truly special, swim with wild ocean dolphins, not the resident bay pod, through Dolphin Swim Australia. You can't force the interaction, they come to you.

Read more about local legend, Frank Future on page 50.



National Parks and Wildlife Service

Make the most of the school holidays with a Tomaree Discovery Tour. Join a Junior Ranger adventure, uncover hidden marine life on a rockpool tour, or explore the stunning coastline with an expert guide. Fun, educational and unforgettable, these experiences are perfect for families looking to connect with nature in Port Stephens.

discovery.newcastlehunter@environment.nsw.gov.au
nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/kids-hunter-central-coast


Stockton Bight Sand Dunes

Naturally Local

Savour the true flavour of the Port Stephens region as you embark on a delightful culinary experience on your journey. Here, the ocean's bounty and the land's rich harvest meet, delivering an unparalleled freshness – from daily catches of prawns, crabs, and lobsters to plump, local oysters and sun-ripened farm produce like avocados and macadamias. Whether you crave the relaxed vibe of a beachside bite or the elevated vibe of sophisticated waterfront dining, a world of flavours awaits your tastebuds.

Start your day with an expertly crafted artisan coffee - the perfect kickstarter for your morning. Explore charming sidewalk cafés and vibrant foodie precincts, indulge in a sunset cruise or delve into the distinctive brews and local craft spirits after a day of exploring. From delectable fish and chips by the water to fine dining with ocean views, the vibrant food and drink scene here embodies Port Stephens' relaxed, barefoot luxury, inviting you to savour every authentic taste for yourself.





Bannitters, Port Stephens





Visit the Port Stephens website for more information

Tomaree Headland Summit



The Stables, Bobs Farm

Nestled in the heart of Bobs Farm, The Stables is a destination where exceptional dining, handcrafted brewery experiences and a unique rural setting come together. Surrounded by picturesque countryside, it offers a relaxed atmosphere perfect for long lunches, casual gatherings and memorable celebrations. Showcasing fresh local produce, warm hospitality and a genuine connection to the region, The Stables invites guests to slow down, savour the moment and create lasting memories.

02 4061 9089 | @thestablesportstephens
info@thestablesps.com.au | thestablesportstephens.com.au



Rick Stein at Port Stephens

Perched above the sparkling waters of Port Stephens, Rick Stein at Bannisters showcases the freshest local seafood in a relaxed, elegant setting. Enjoy Rick Stein's signature approach to simple, seasonal cooking, where premium ingredients take centre stage alongside sweeping bay views and warm hospitality.

The perfect place to savour exceptional seafood, stunning views and a true taste of Port Stephens.

02 4919 3800 | @ricksteinatbannisters | portstephens@bannisters.com.au
worldsapart.club/bannisters/port-stephens

Shoal Bay Country Club

Perched on the shores of Shoal Bay, SBCC is where laid-back coastal charm meets vibrant hospitality. More than just a venue, this seaside precinct is made for connection; welcoming locals and visitors alike, no matter the reason, no matter the season.

From beachside coffees to long lunches, live music to special celebrations, memories are made here by the sea. With community at its core and stunning views in every direction, SBCC offers something special for every occasion.

SHOAL BAY COUNTRY CLUB

02 4981 1555 | @shoalbaycountryclub | info@sbcc.com.au
shoalbaycountryclub.com.au



INSIDER TIPS



MITCHELL TURNER

Avoid peak season, come at other times and see the real magic of how us locals experience our region. Approach Port Stephens as a place that can be returned to. You won't see it all in one trip, and you're not meant to. Come back, and let it unfold slowly.

Read more about local legend, Mitchell Turner on page 50.

d'Albora

Experience the Lifestyle

at Soldiers Point Marina




Sea Salt Cafe


The Deck


Restaurant 2317

Explore Dining, Berthing and Boatsales at dalbora.com.au/soldiers-point-marina
Member & Guest Services 8:30am - 5pm, 7 Days on 1800 32 52 672



INSIDER TIPS



GREG FINN

Pick a cooler day and walk the coastal path from One Mile Beach to Fingal Bay, three to four hours, with a well-earned pint at Fingal Bay Cellars at the end. Just call for a lift back.

Read more about local legend, Greg Finn on page 51.



Accessibility

Port Stephens is committed to being an inclusive destination where our incredible natural beauty can be enjoyed by everyone.

The Port Stephens Visitor Information Centre is dedicated to helping you find suitable accommodation, shopping and medical facilities. They can also offer suggestions for easy walks, fishing spots, swimming, sightseeing and adventures that are accessible for all abilities.

A beach access ramp and water wheelchair are available at Little Beach, Nelson Bay, providing access to the water. Little Beach also features accessible facilities and inclusive play equipment, making it a great spot for families to enjoy the Bay.Beach wheelchairs are available to use free of charge at Fingal Beach, Fingal Bay and Little Beach, Nelson Bay. They cannot be booked and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Little Beach wheelchair is located near the accessible toilets and requires a MLAK Key.
MLAK Keys provide access to a range of public accessible toilets and facilities and are available at The Port Stephens Visitor Information Centre. Phone 02 4988 0900.

For hearing or speech assistance, the National Relay Service is available to connect you with Port Stephens Council:
- TTY: 133 677, then ask for 02 9265 9333
- Speak and Listen: 1300 555 727, then ask for 02 9265 9333
- SMS Relay: 0423 677 767

For information about the beach wheelchair at Fingal Beach, contact:
- Fingal Beach Surf Life Saving: 02 4981 1450
- Fingal Bay Holiday Park: 02 4988 0990

From accessible parking and footpath access to facilities, services and inclusive experiences, there are a range of options to help you enjoy your visit. For more information about accessible experiences, facilities, services and visitor information across the region, visit the Port Stephens website at: **portstephens.com.au** or contact the Port Stephens Visitor Information Centre.


Little Beach, Nelson Bay

STAY

Nature's Revival


Anchorage Hotel & Spa

While your days in Port Stephens overflow with discovery and adventure, the perfect retreat to unwind and nestle into awaits you. Here, finding your ideal sanctuary is part of the journey, with accommodation designed to embrace every style and budget. From luxury seaside resorts and modern apartments offering home comforts to private holiday houses boasting waterfront views or bushland hideaways, your coastal haven awaits.

For those dreaming of starlit nights and connection with nature, award-winning holiday parks, charming cabins, and serene camping spots offer freedom and family-oriented adventures. If it's a budget-friendly adventure you're seeking, welcoming backpacker lodges invite the blossoming of new friendships and memories to be made. If your furry companions are coming along for the journey, a selection of pet-friendly havens means they can share in every moment of adventure with you. In Port Stephens, every stay is an invitation to reconnect, refresh, and make yourself wonderfully at home.



Bannisters Port Stephens

Tucked beside the glittering waters of Soldiers Point, Bannisters Port Stephens is a boutique escape where coastal luxury meets laid-back charm. Home to Rick Stein's signature seafood restaurant, the hotel also features Julio's — a vibrant poolside bar and dining spot — along with an infinity pool and tranquil day spa. Surrounded by bushland and bay views, it's a peaceful retreat with a vibrant spirit. Perfect for romantic getaways, long lunches, and weekends spent unwinding in nature's embrace.

BANNISTERS
Port Stephens

02 4919 3800 | @bannistershotel | portstephens@bannisters.com.au
worldsapart.club/bannisters/port-stephens




Hotel Nelson, Nelson Bay

Stay Port Stephens

Escape to Port Stephens with Stay Port Stephens – your boutique gateway to luxury by the sand and sea. Since 2001, we've handpicked stunning holiday homes, blending world-class hospitality with local expertise. Whether you're chasing relaxation or adventure, our personalised service, premium amenities, and breathtaking locations ensure every moment becomes a treasured memory. Your unforgettable blue-water paradise awaits – book your stay today.

STAY PORT STEPHENS
STAY. RELAX & PLAY

02 4044 5021 | @stayportstephens | info@stayportstephens.com.au
stayportstephens.com.au



Ingenia Lifestyle Latitude One

Ingenia Lifestyle Latitude One is an award-winning over-55s community in Port Stephens, offering luxury homes, resort-style facilities and a vibrant social lifestyle. Now expanding, the community is introducing brand new two and three-bedroom homes and a second clubhouse, creating even more opportunities to enjoy connection, wellbeing and low-maintenance living. Discover a lifestyle that combines coastal charm, modern convenience and the freedom to enjoy more of what you love.

INGENIA LIFESTYLE
latitude one

1800 135 010 | @ingenialifestyle
ingenialifestyle.com.au/latitude-one



Hotel Nelson

Beautifully styled boutique accommodation, renowned local eatery the Little Nel located onsite and a prime location only 2 minutes walk to Nelson Bay's best restaurants, shopping, marina, beaches and attractions.

There is little wonder why Hotel Nelson is Port Stephens most popular destination for travellers seeking a real coastal holiday.



02 4916 4600 | @hotel_nelson | hello@hotelnelson.com.au
hotelnelson.com.au

Amarna Resort

Experience refined coastal luxury at Amarna Resort. Positioned on the pristine sands of Dutchmans Beach, Amarna offers spacious, architecturally designed apartments with floor-to-ceiling windows and sweeping bay views. Each residence is serviced daily, ensuring effortless comfort throughout your stay. Unwind in the 25-metre lap pool and spa, heated year-round and just steps from the shoreline. Ideal for discerning travellers seeking an exclusive beachfront escape. Amarna Resort — where contemporary sophistication meets coastal serenity.



02 4981 1644 | @amarna.resort | amarnaluxurybeachresort.com.au
info@amarnaluxurybeachresort.com.au

Aimees at Anna Bay

Aimee's at Anna Bay is a private group accommodation venue in the heart of Port Stephens, perfect for bucks and hens weekends, family holidays, milestone celebrations, corporate retreats and group getaways. Featuring six self-contained holiday units, a separate entertaining area with a full kitchen, a sparkling pool, ample off-street parking and exclusive use of the property, Aimee's comfortably hosts groups looking to relax, celebrate and create unforgettable memories just minutes from Port Stephens' beautiful beaches and attractions.



0419 684 251 | @aimeesatannabay | stayataimees@gmail.com
aimeesatannabay.com



Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary

Set within native bushland just minutes from the coast, a stay at Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary is everything a nature escape should be. Koalas rest high in the gum trees and kookaburras call through the canopy as morning light filters in. Designed for couples, families and solo travellers, offering a relaxed and easy way to experience the region. One where you can do as much or as little as you like.

4988 0800 | @pskoalasanctuary | koalasanctuary@portstephens.nsw.gov.au | portstephenskoalasanctuary.com.au



Seabreeze Hotel

Stay in the Heart of Nelson Bay! Boutique "boathouse" rooms. Award-winning pub hospitality. And just steps from the marina. Seabreeze Hotel is your ideal base for a coastal escape - whether it's a romantic weekend, family holiday, or work trip. Only 2.5 hours north of Sydney and 25 minutes from Newcastle Airport, Seabreeze Hotel offers luxe accommodation, locally-sourced seafood and classic pub vibes. We've got the breeze ready for you.

02 4981 1511 | @seabreezehotel | manager@seabreezehotel.com.au
seabreezehotel.com.au



Anchorage Hotel & Spa

Discover your private sanctuary at The Anchorage Hotel and Spa, where timeless Hamptons elegance meets breathtaking natural beauty.

A stay here is more than a getaway- it's an opportunity to refresh, realign, and create memories that linger long after your holiday ends. Indulge in every luxury at your fingertips: savour culinary delights at The Galley Kitchen, unwind with a drink at the one-of-a-kind Moby's Bar, take in stunning bay views from two serene pools, and rejuvenate at the award-winning Spa Lucca. Experience relaxation redefined at The Anchorage.

02 4984 2555 | @theanchorageportstephens | info@anchorageportstephens.com.au | anchorageportstephens.com.au



Port Stephens Accommodation

Whether you're searching for the perfect holiday stay or listing your property, start your journey with Port Stephens Accommodation.

Discover hundreds of quality holiday rentals across Port Stephens – from beachfront apartments and family-friendly homes to luxury retreats and petfriendly escapes. With over 30 years of local expertise, we're proud to connect guests with unforgettable holidays and owners with professional property management.

Stay. Relax. Explore.

02 4981 1577 | @portstephensaccommodation | bookings@portstephensaccommodation.com | portstephensaccommodation.com



Seaside Holiday Resort

Seaside Holiday Resort – Your beachside escape perfect for couples and families. Seaside Holiday Resort is located opposite beautiful Fingal Bay Beach. Relax, unwind, and enjoy your ideal coastal getaway. Choose from self-contained 2 or 3 bedroom units. Take a dip in our heated swimming or toddler pool. Dine at the café or restaurant just across the road. The local recreation club, takeaway, and supermarket are a short walk away.

02 4981 1533 | @SeasideHolidayResort | seasideresort@fcswc.org.au | seasideholidayresort.com.au



Shoal Bay Holiday Park

With the beach across the road, cafés around the corner and sunset drinks just a stroll away, everything you need is right here. Stretch out on the sand, wander into the village for coffee or dinner, then do it all again tomorrow. Stay in a villa, safari tent or campsite and discover why Shoal Bay Holiday Park is Port Stephens' best address for an easy, social beachside holiday.

02 4988 0990 | @beachside_holiday_parks
shoalbay@beachsideholidays.com.au | beachsideholidays.com.au



Fingal Bay Holiday Park

Fingal Bay Holiday Park is where beach days, bush walks and family time come together. Wake up opposite a patrolled surf beach, wander the trails of Tomaree National Park or spend the afternoon by the pool before firing up the BBQ. With spacious accommodation, modern amenities and plenty of room for everyone to spread out, it's the kind of classic coastal holiday you'll want to come back to year after year.

02 4988 0990 | @beachside_holiday_parks
fingalbay@beachsideholidays.com.au | beachsideholidays.com.au



Landmark Nelson Bay

Escape to Landmark Nelson Bay, perfectly positioned in the heart of Port Stephens. Enjoy self-contained Deluxe Studios and One or Two Bedroom Apartments with stunning views, ideal for couples, families, or business retreats. Located just minutes from golf, the beach, local clubs, and the stunning Tomaree National Park. Whether it's a romantic getaway or a trip with family and friends, Landmark Nelson Bay offers comfort, convenience and value. Book Today!

02 4984 4633 | @landmarknelsonbay
res@landmarknelsonbay.com.au | landmarknelsonbay.com.au



Cote D' Azur Resort

Come and spend some of your leisure time with us at Cote D'Azur Resort, with a selection of beautifully presented and highly rated, spacious 2 and 3 bedroom self-contained apartments, situated in the heart of Nelson Bay. A mere 300mtr stroll to the CBD where you'll find a myriad of coffee shops, cafes, restaurants, boutique shopping and Ale houses. The level 3min walk to d'Albora Marina and then beyond is always a visual feast and takes in the Marine Conservation area of Fly Point.

02 4984 9595 | reception@cotedazurnelsonbay.com.au | cotedazurnelsonbay.com.au



Halifax Holiday Park

Bordered by two calm beaches and just minutes from Nelson Bay, Halifax Holiday Park makes it easy to settle in and switch off. Morning swims, afternoons on the beach and evenings by the BBQ soon become part of the routine. Stay in a villa, cabin or campsite and discover the easy-going waterfront escape families have been coming back to for generations.

02 4988 0990 | @beachside_holiday_parks
halifax@beachsideholidays.com.au | beachsideholidays.com.au

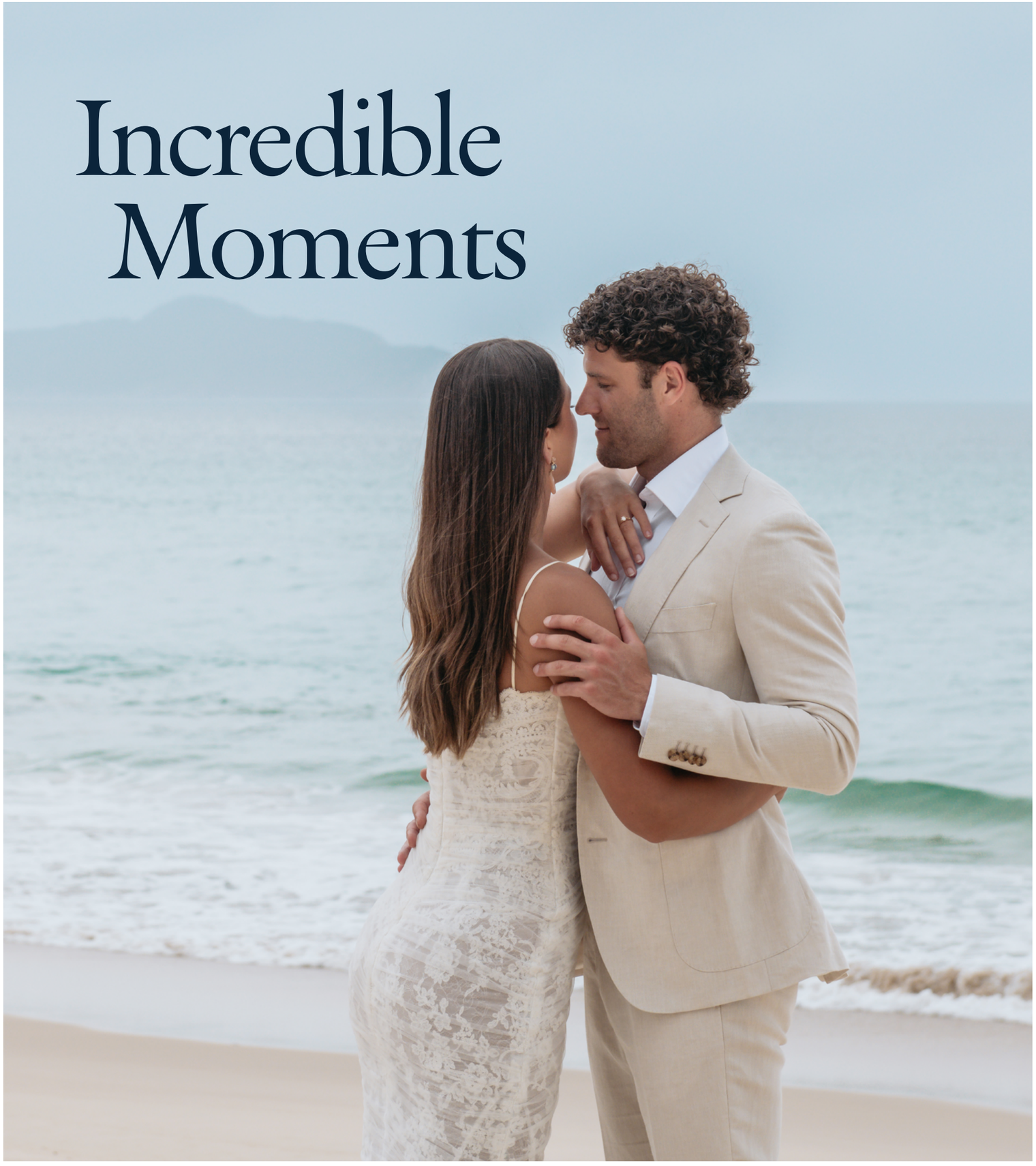


Thou walla Holiday Park

Slow mornings. Calm waters. Sunsets you'll never get tired of. Hidden away in Soldiers Point, Thou walla Holiday Park is made for switching off and taking life at an easier pace. Paddle across the bay, cast a line from the jetty or simply enjoy the quiet. Stay in a villa, sunset tent or campsite and discover Port Stephens' peaceful side.

02 4988 0990 | @beachside_holiday_parks
info@twsr.com.au | beachsideholidays.com.au

Incredible Moments



Create an unforgettable occasion or ignite new ideas in a setting that provides a backdrop like no other. Here, Port Stephens provides you a unique stage where momentous events are crafted with the help of nature. We invite you to create your perfect special day in a setting that truly inspires, where intimate weddings to grand celebrations can be set against breathtaking coastal scenes. Imagine exchanging vows with the ocean as your witness or celebrating a milestone with a backdrop of sun-kissed sands and a natural elegance that is both breathtaking and timeless. In a place where every detail is elevated, from the rustic charm of a beachfront setup to the relaxed elegance of a modern venue with all the trimmings.

The same serene coastal charm that provides a perfect backdrop for a wedding also serves as a source of unforgettable inspiration, no matter the reason for your event. Whether you are hosting a team-building trip, a corporate retreat, or a business function, we give you permission to leave behind the confines of a traditional boardroom for an environment that fosters genuine connection and collaboration, with meeting spaces that cater to all sizes. Port Stephens truly blends professional facilities with abundant natural beauty, ensuring every event is not just successful, but truly memorable and unique.



The Oasis, One Mile

THE HINTERLAND





Welcome to the Port Stephens Hinterland, where history and natural beauty intertwine to create a journey of quiet discovery. Raymond Terrace, the historical and commercial hub of the region, serves as your gateway to the hinterland, set on the picturesque banks of the Hunter, Williams and Paterson Rivers. Here, you can wander iconic King Street, with its grand 19th-century timber buildings and elegant verandahs or explore the town's history on the Raymond Terrace Heritage Walk. In late spring, the streets become a stunning natural spectacle, as the purple blooms of the Jacaranda tree gently fall like purple rain.

This journey winds through an incredible hinterland with charming towns, tranquil villages, and rolling pastures. Slow down to visit historic Seaham, Hinton and Woodville, and experience the rural soul of the region. You can even get a taste of farm life at places like In Our Hands Family Farmgate, a highlight of the up and coming 3 Rivers Hinterland Treasure Trail, an event celebrating the region's farm gate produce. This region is also home to the Illuminate festival in Raymond Terrace's Boomerang Park, and the iconic annual Bullarama event in Hinton. Even more special, this region offers the joy of birdwatching at Seaham Swamp Nature Reserve, bring along a picnic, a camera and your trusty walking shoes, and you're all set for a delightful day in the great outdoors. No matter how you choose to enjoy your time, the Port Stephens Hinterland offers a rewarding detour and a whole other side of Port Stephens well worth discovering.

TILLIGERRY + SURROUNDS

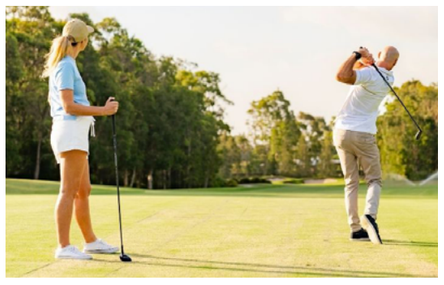


Discover a world of tranquil beauty and charm as you venture beyond the coast. The riverside village of Karuah is famous for its local oysters and timber heritage, and hosts the iconic Karuah Oyster & Timber Festival each October. Further on, the relaxed waterfront hamlets of Tanilba Bay and Lemon Tree Passage offer a peaceful, bayside escape.

Nearby, step back in time at historic Tanilba House, a stone homestead dating back to the 1830s, surrounded by beautiful gardens and overlooking the water. Follow the Tanilba Bay Heritage & History Trail, a self-guided journey through the suburb's historic streets, parks, gardens and heritage sites, or download the free Soundtrails app for GPS-triggered audio stories as you walk. The peninsula's quiet bays, foreshore reserves and spectacular sunsets make this one of Port Stephens' most peaceful corners. The Tilligerry Peninsula is a natural playground known for the calm waters of Tilligerry Creek and its unique wildlife. Here you'll find Tilligerry Habitat, a special spot for viewing local koala populations in their natural environment, and plenty of opportunities for boating, kayaking, and fishing. Further inland, Medowie is a hub for rural offerings, from farmgate produce and community markets to the championship Pacific Dunes golf course.

This region invites you to leave the hustle and bustle behind and explore its hidden waterways and quiet countryside. These are the unassuming gems of Port Stephens, waiting for you to discover their authentic and tranquil charm.





Your Journey Starts Here

THE WEEKEND ESCAPE

Some getaways are simply meant for escaping the everyday, indulging with your friend or partner as you relax and unwind together.

This trip is built for couples and friends who are craving a coastal escape, long lunches, lazy beach walks and fresh seafood overlooking the sunset with a cocktail in hand.

DAY 1

Early afternoon arrival, ready for a relaxing weekend ahead.

Check into your hotel or resort in the early afternoon.

Stretch your legs with a walk along Nelson Bay foreshore or over to Shoal Bay.

Enjoy sunset drinks overlooking the water.

Indulge in a relaxing seafood dinner at one of Nelson Bay's waterfront restaurants.

DAY 2

A day with room to move as you so choose.

Start your day with a sunrise wellness session at the local Koala sanctuary.

Enjoy a long, lazy brunch at one of Nelson Bay's cafés.

Paddleboard or kayak the calm waters of Shoal Bay, or spend the afternoon relaxing with an in-room spa treatment, or choose an indulgent treatment at a local day spa.

With bubbles in hand, enjoy a sunset bay cruise on the turquoise waters, and finish with dinner or a nightcap at one of Nelson Bay's dining options.

DAY 3

Morning checkout with a few last stops to add to the memory bank.

Start with an early walk up the Tomaree Head Summit for one last stunning view of the coast.

Grab breakfast at a local cafe before hitting the road.

Make one last stop at a local cellar door for a wine and craft beer tasting on the way out of town.

THE FAMILY ADVENTURE

School holidays in Port Stephens mean five days to fill with wildlife, beaches and just enough thrill to keep everyone talking about it long after you're home. Spread out on purpose, because happy kids need downtime as much as they need adventure.

DAY 1

An easy first afternoon after check-in.

Check into a family-friendly holiday park and settle into holiday mode.

Let the kids burn some energy with free play at the beach or the holiday park.

Finish with an easy dinner at a local, family-friendly restaurant.



DAY 2

Wildlife fun with some downtime.

Spend the morning at a local wildlife park, hand-feeding kangaroos, spotting koalas and enjoying a tractor ride.

Head back to your holiday park for an easy afternoon of swimming, playing or relaxing.

Fire up the BBQ for a laid-back family dinner.

DAY 3

A day for adventure and games with the whole family.

Kick off the morning with some family fun, think tobogganing, mini golf, or indoor climbing, with plenty of options whatever the weather.

Keep the fun going with an afternoon game of ten-pin bowling.

Wind down over an easy family dinner at a relaxed local restaurant.

DAY 4

Water adventures and scavenger hunts.

Get up close with marine life as you wade with sharks and rays, then discover Port Stephens' koala conservation efforts.

Join the free, self-guided Nelson Bay Scavenger Hunt from the Port Stephens Visitor Information Centre, or take the kids to the local arcade attraction.

Stop by a local farm gate to pick up fresh seasonal produce, then finish the day with relaxed, rustic family dining in Bobs Farm, complete with resident Highland cows.

DAY 5

A quick trip to explore the dunes on the way out of town.

Explore the spectacular Stockton Sand Dunes with a morning of sandboarding and a 4WD adventure, with options for all ages.

Enjoy a relaxed lunch overlooking beautiful Birubi Beach before starting the journey home.

THE MIDWEEK WANDERER



Midweek is when Port Stephens shows its quieter side, half the crowds, all the charm.

It's when you can truly experience Port Stephens the way locals do. This trip trades a packed schedule for comfortable stays, scenic drives, wildlife at your own pace and produce worth stopping the car for. There's no need to rush any of it; in fact, that's rather the point.

DAY 1

A midweek arrival gets you settled with the afternoon still ahead.

Check into your self-contained apartment or hotel and settle in for your Port Stephens escape.

Wander the Birubi Point Aboriginal Place.

Enjoy a sunset drink overlooking the marina.

DAY 2

A lovely, full day ahead with wildlife and the turquoise water.

Start your morning with a dolphin-watching cruise or take the plunge with an unforgettable wild dolphin swim.

Choose lunch at your leisure in Nelson Bay.

Take a spot of afternoon birdwatching at the local bird hide.

Enjoy dinner at one of Shoal Bay's relaxed waterfront restaurants.

DAY 3

Second full day ahead exploring the beautiful hinterland, produce and culture.

Explore the Stockton Sand Dunes on a guided tour, discovering the landscape and its rich Worimi cultural heritage.

Enjoy a leisurely riverside lunch in Raymond Terrace, then make your way back with a relaxed cellar door or brewery stop to sample local wines, beers and flavours.

DAY 4

An easy morning before check-out.

Start your final day with a sunrise walk along the stunning waters edge.

Follow it with a leisurely breakfast before check-out.

Squeeze in one last round of golf, with a good chance of spotting kangaroos before the drive home.

Worth Travelling For...



SHOAL BAY FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL

ANNUALLY IN MARCH

As the sun sets over Shoal Bay each March, the foreshore transforms into a free alfresco dining precinct. Local restaurants, wineries, brewers and distillers set up alongside live music showcasing a mix of local and regional artists, and cooking demonstrations, one of the best excuses to swap the kitchen for the coast.



THE 3 RIVERS HINTERLAND TREASURE TRAIL

APRIL 3 - 4

A wholesome, self-driving trail that takes you through the beautiful Hinterland, Maitland and Dungog, to explore farm gates, boutique producers and artisan makers along the way. Follow the trail over a weekend and bring your loved ones along to enjoy the slow, satisfying way to meet the people behind the region's food, crafts and paddock-to-plate experiences.



SAIL PORT STEPHENS

APRIL - MAY

Australia's largest sailing regatta fills the bay with colour each autumn, when more than 300 boats and their crews descend on Nelson Bay. Free to spectate from the shore or the water, it's weeks of racing, waterfront entertainment and a genuinely festive atmosphere around d'Albora Marina.



PORT STEPHENS WINTER FESTIVAL

ANNUALLY IN JULY

Winter here means humpback whales offshore and festival energy on land. Over nine days each July, Nelson Bay is filled with people ready to celebrate and enjoy family entertainment, food trucks and the popular Taster's Trails, progressive tasting menus that wind between local restaurants and bars, course by course.



PORT STEPHENS CAR SHOW

ANNUALLY IN JULY

Held during the Winter Festival, this Nelson Bay favourite brings together more than 400 classic and modern cars for a free, family-friendly day out. Get ready to rev up your engines and enjoy a day filled with automotive excellence. Grab lunch from one of the many local cafes, restaurants or food trucks and settle in at Apex Park to enjoy live entertainment while the cars roll past.



KARUAH OYSTER & TIMBER FESTIVAL

ANNUALLY IN OCTOBER

For more than 20 years, Karuah has celebrated its rich history each October with an eventful day of woodchopping, oyster eating and the much-loved duck race down the river. Held at Longworth Park, it's a proudly local, family-run event that serves as an opportunity to showcase and celebrate the rich heritage of the town's oyster farming, fishing, forestry and timber milling.

Visit the portstephens.com.au/events for all upcoming events

Local Legends

Without the story tellers, we can't have the stories.

We sat down with a few of Port Stephens' most loved locals to hear their stories, their history, and the special reasons they keep Port Stephens so close to their heart. From fascinating tales to genuine insider wisdom, we've compiled the best of what they shared for you to enjoy.



LEANNE SANSOM

The Nature Nurturer



Leanne is CEO of Oakvale Wildlife Park, a much-loved Port Stephens institution she's helped grow alongside her husband and family for decades. Almost every day, she gets to watch visitors experience magical moments with the animals in her care.

How long have you been part of the Port Stephens community, and what is your connection to this place? About twenty-four years, which is still new by local standards. I became part of Port Stephens when I married the owner of Oakvale and my husband and I have raised four children here, and together we've continued to grow Oakvale into the much-loved tourist attraction it's been for almost 5 decades now.

What is it about Port Stephens that captures your heart and keeps you here? It's a beautiful place to live that's full of beautiful people, in business and in the community, and I meet more of them every day. The sense of community is special and it feels like home, whether you live here or not. There's a real love of nature too, and a culture of preserving what we have, which feels endemic to this place.

What is the one thing visitors truly need to know or feel to understand Port Stephens? You really need to relax into it. Don't come in like a force of nature yourself, come in and allow Port Stephens to infiltrate you instead. That's when you truly experience it so much more for what it is..

JOHN "STINKER" CLARKE

The Wordsmith of the Water

John is Port Stephens' best-known fishing identity, having written the local fishing column for over forty years under a nickname that was only ever meant to last a few weeks. These days the secret's long gone, but the passion for getting out on the water hasn't faded one bit.

How long have you been part of the Port Stephens community, and what is your connection to this place? My wife Ella and I arrived at the end of 1974 for me to start as the new PE teacher and sportsmaster at Nelson Bay High, which at the time was a great achievement, some would say it was like winning lotto. We've lived in Fingal Bay for all these years and seen the changes, but it's kept its beauty. It's more fun to live here now than ever before!

What is it about Port Stephens that captures your heart and keeps you here? The Tomaree Peninsula and the massive waterway, Port Stephens Great Lake Marine park being one of the biggest in New South Wales. The sheer beauty of the place, from the majestic headlands to all the shapes and the outer islands, to the beaches. I've always been drawn to islands and I visit them regularly, and there's something very special about the islands around here.

MITCHELL TURNER

The Culinary Craftsman



As Head Chef at Bannisters, Mitchell has a knack for turning the day's local catch into some of the best seafood dishes in Port Stephens. A call from a local fisherman can change the menu in minutes, but Mitchell is always up for the challenge.

How long have you been part of the Port Stephens community, and what is your connection to this place? Eight years now. It started out as a connection to the food and chef world here, but that's changed a lot since becoming a dad. Now I'm a part of the local community on a much deeper level in ways I hadn't been before, through the local clubs and its been really nice.

What is it about Port Stephens that captures your heart and keeps you here? It's the best of both worlds. I get to work my passion and feel fulfilled and still come home to such a beautiful part of the world. I feel lucky for that balance, and I love the stillness, the calm, and the community here.

What is the one thing visitors truly need to know or feel to understand Port Stephens? The magic happens in the quiet moments. You need to slow down and give yourself the time and space to really feel this place for what it is. Don't fill your schedule or rush through everything, just allow yourself to "be" and explore the place at a slower pace.

FRANK FUTURE

The Whale Whisperer



Frank is the founder of **Imagine Cruises** and one of the pioneers of whale watching in Port Stephens. Decades on, he's still out on the water chasing that same sense of wonder, and just as passionate about marine conservation as the day it all began.

How long have you been part of the Port Stephens community, and what is your connection to this place? I moved up with my family in '89 to caretake the old Port Stephens lighthouse on Fingal Island. I'd sailed the coast since '76 and never seen a whale, but during my time at the lighthouse, two humpbacks breached right in front of me. It was a moment that made me think it wasn't about the lighthouse anymore, that my purpose was connected to the whales. Since then and with Migaloo's help boosting winter whale watching in the early days (there's another story in that!), Imagine Cruises has been sharing the beauty of Port Stephens from the water with all who want to experience it. I also became active in whale and dolphin conservation, aiming to make whale watching the only sustainable industry for whales.

What is the one thing visitors truly need to know or feel to understand Port Stephens? It's eco-tourism at its heart and the locals here are very custodial. The more you show people the reverence and beauty of a place, the more they are inspired to look after it. That's the spirit we try to pass on to every visitor who comes aboard - to see the natural beauty in Port Stephens, not commercialise it.

GREG FINN

The Reef Roamer

Greg is a familiar face on the water around Port Stephens, spending as much time in it and under it as on top of it. What started as a childhood hobby, teaching himself to snorkel dive has grown into a lifelong, deeply respectful relationship with the ocean and everything in it.



How long have you been part of the Port Stephens community, and what is your connection to this place? My family moved here from Dubbo in 1985. After living inland, the ocean opened up a whole new world. At ten, I taught myself to snorkel dive with gear I bought with my lawn-mowing money, and that's grown into a lifelong, respectful fascination with the ocean. When I'm immersed in salt water I find solace and feel like I am able to be who I truly am. Whether I'm body surfing at One Mile or catching a feed for the family, the ocean is where I am my most relaxed.

What is the one thing visitors truly need to know or feel to understand Port Stephens? The natural beauty and marine environment here has largely stayed the same since before white settlement. Leaving the space the way you found it is probably the most important thing a visitor can do to help keep it that way. Respecting the natural beauty and sharing the beauty with others is what connects family and friends with the community, and the ever-changing colours throughout the seasons here provide many opportunities for memorable experiences.

As a local legend, what is your ultimate insider's tip or must-do for someone visiting Port Stephens? Pick a cooler day, one that's not quite right for the beach or boating, and walk the coastal path linking Birubi to Tomaree. The stretch from One Mile Beach Cafe to Fingal Bay is a good three to four hour hike, and the reward at the end is a pint at Fingal Bay Cellars. Just don't plan on walking back, call for a lift.



*Discover Port Stephens like a local - look for our **insider tips** throughout this magazine!*

INSIDER TIPS

Directory

SEE & DO

4WD Tag-Along & Passenger Tours Salamander Bay	0411 296 288
4WD Tours R Us Anna Bay	02 4981 9352
Australian Reptile Park Somersby	02 4340 1022
Balloon Aloft Lovedale	02 4990 9242
Battlezone Laser Tag Salt Ash	1300 661 565
Bay Helicopters Anna Bay	0427 439 977
Blue Water Sailing Corlette	0448 111 331
Bricks n Things LEGO Fan Space Taylors Beach	0408 440 847
d'Albora Marina Nelson Bay Nelson Bay	1800 32 52 672
d'Albora Marina Soldiers Point Soldiers Point	1800 32 52 672
Delia Skin & Wellness One Mile	0413 519 333
Dolphin Swim Australia Nelson Bay	1300 721 358
E-Go-Try-Bikes Nelson Bay	0401 040 185
Fighter World Williamtown	4965 1810
Fish Port Stephens Estuary Charters Shoal Bay	0434 370 687
Go Karts Go Bobs Farm	02 4981 9444
Heavenly Tours Gillieston Heights	0407 217 217
Horizons Golf Resort Salamander Bay	02 4982 0474
Hunter Region Botanic Gardens Heatherbrae	02 4987 1655
Imagine Cruises Nelson Bay	02 4984 9000
In Our Hands Family Farm Seaham	0425 308 964
Irukandji Shark & Ray Encounters Anna Bay	02 4982 2476
Kado Wellness Nelson Bay Nelson Bay	1800 214 250
Laze Wellness Collective Nelson Bay	0407 416 796
Lucky Dog Tours Anna Bay	0438 966 097
Moonshadow-TQC Cruises Nelson Bay	02 4984 9388
Murrook Adventures - Sand Dune Adventures Williamtown	02 4033 8808
National Parks & Wildlife Services	02 4984 8200
Nelson Bay Boat Hire & Watersports Nelson Bay	0419 631 988
Nelson Bay Golf Club Nelson Bay	02 4981 1132
Oakfield Ranch Camels Pty Ltd Woodberry	0429 664 172
Oakvale Wildlife Park Salt Ash	02 4982 6222
Pacific Dunes Golf Club Medowie	02 4916 0500
Port Stephens 4WD Tours Anna Bay	02 4984 4760
Port Stephens Animal Adventures Bob's Farm	0474 733 965
Port Stephens Community Arts Centre Nelson Bay	0474 733 965
Port Stephens Kayak & Stand Up Paddle Shoal Bay	0405 033 518
Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary One Mile	02 4988 0800
Port Stephens Pottery Taylors Beach	0405 842 148
Port Stephens Shell Museum Corlette	02 4981 1428
Port Stephens Surf School One Mile	0411 419 576
Quad Bike King Williamtown	02 4965 0007
Readers Retreat Salamander Bay	0447 904 286
Sahara Trails Horse Riding Anna Bay	0417 303 165
Salamander Super Strike Salamander Bay	02 4981 4000
Sand Dune Safaris Anna Bay	0425 213 096
Shoal Bay SUP Corlette	0428 604 460
Spirited Play Cafe Taylors Beach	02 4984 1941
SPLASH Waterpark Nelson Bay Nelson Bay	0435 793 199
Squids Dive Co Nelson Bay	0437 288 977
Steve Toscano Guitars Taylors Beach	0467 647 936
The Original Tea Gardens Ferry Service Nelson Bay	0412 682 117
Toboggan Hill Park Nelson Bay	02 4984 1022
Wangi Queen Lemon Tree Passage	0411 388 380
Wild Lights Experiences One Mile	0411 697 202

EAT & DRINK

Bay Sailing Centre Soldiers Point	02 4919 1015
Cookabarra Restaurant & Function Centre Bobs Farm	02 4982 6740
Crest Birubi Beach Anna Bay	02 4919 0446
Dumpling Mamas Nelson Bay	0401 122 345
Fingal Bay Bowls, Sports & Rec Club Fingal Bay	02 4984 1244
Holberts Oyster Supplies Salamander Bay	02 4982 7234
Kin Cafe and Bar Nelson Bay	02 4024 2129
Little Beach Boathouse Nelson Bay	02 4984 9420
Magnolia Nelson Bay Nelson Bay	02 4061 9087
Mumm's on the Myall Tea Gardens	02 4997 1162
Newcastle and Port Stephens Game Fish Club Shoal Bay	02 4981 1459
Pacific Dunes Greenhouse Medowie	02 4916 0500
Pirate Coffee Taylors Beach	0407 931 938
Restaurant 2317 Soldiers Point	02 4981 8653
Rick Stein at Bannisters Soldiers Point	02 4919 3800
SATRA Coffee Co. Salamander Bay	0421 703 269
Seabreeze Hotel Nelson Bay	02 4981 1511
Shoal Bay Country Club Hotel Shoal Bay	02 4981 1555
Sirena Seaside Restaurant Nelson Bay	0411 616 542
Sunset & Vine Hospitality Bobs Farm	0435 720 588
The Coffee Maker Corlette	0461 474 876
The Deck Cafe Restaurant Soldiers Point	02 4919 1502
The Lolly Bug Nelson Bay	0459 182 328
The Stables Port Stephens Bobs Farm	02 4061 9089
The Wood Oven Nelson Bay	02 4984 4800
Tynan Wines Salamander Bay	0402 442 614
Zenith Cafe, Restaurant & Bar, Shoal Bay Shoal Bay	02 4063 0026

STAY

Aimee's at Anna Bay Anna Bay	0419 684 251
Amarna Resort Nelson Bay	02 4981 1644
Aspen Holidays Koala Shores Lemon Tree Passage	02 4982 4401
Anchorage Hotel & Spa Corlette	02 4984 2555
Bannisters Port Stephens Soldiers Point	02 4919 3800
Beaches Serviced Apartments Nelson Bay	02 4984 3255
BIG4 Bays Holiday Park Anna Bay	02 4982 1438
Book the Bay Nelson Bay	0488 665 508
By the Beach Getaways Boat Harbour	0407 616 921
Cote D Azur Resort Nelson Bay	02 4984 9595
Ducati's Bed and Breakfast Raymond Terrace	0448 164 557
Fingal Bay Holiday Park Fingal Bay	02 4988 0990
Halifax Holiday Park Nelson Bay	02 4988 0990
Holiday in the Bay Anna Bay	0438 237 484
Holiday Rental Specialists	02 4862 5200
Hotel Nelson Nelson Bay	02 4916 4600
Ingenia Lifestyle Latitude One Anna Bay	1800 135 010
Ingenia Holidays Middle Rock One Mile	02 4982 1162
Ingenia Holidays One Mile Beach One Mile	02 4982 1112
Island Leisure Village Anna Bay	02 4982 1207
Kirsten Accommodation Fingal Bay Fingal Bay	1300 768 674
LJ Hooker Nelson Bay - Nelson Bay Getaways Nelson Bay	0419 691 377
Mantra Nelson Bay Nelson Bay	02 4916 4777
Marina Resort Nelson Bay	02 4981 4400
Melaleuca Surfside Backpackers Boat Harbour	02 4981 9422
Mercure Newcastle Airport Williamtown	02 4033 8900
Nelson Palms Motel Nelson Bay	0488 440 004
Nelson Towers Motel & Apartments Nelson Bay	02 4984 1000
Oaks Nelson Bay Lure Suites Nelson Bay	02 4980 4888
Oaks Port Stephens Pacific Blue Resort Salamander Bay	02 4916 1200
Port Stephens Accommodation Nelson Bay	02 4981 1577
Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary One Mile	02 4988 0800
Seaside Holiday Resort Fingal Bay	02 4981 1533
Shoal Bay Holiday Park Shoal Bay	02 4988 0990
Stay Port Stephens Nelson Bay	02 4044 5021
Tanilba House Tanilba Bay	0411 148 909
The Ambers at Port Stephens Bobs Farm	0429 611 424
The Bay Holidays Nelson Bay	02 4984 1008
The Landmark Nelson Bay Nelson Bay	02 4984 4633
The Oasis at One Mile Beach Boat Harbour	02 4982 2801
The Retreat Port Stephens Anna Bay	02 4982 1244
Thou Walla Sunset Retreat Soldiers Point	02 4988 0990
Wanderers Retreat Boat Harbour	02 4982 1702

TRANSPORT

Diggers Nelson Bay Taxis and Hire Cars Salamander Bay	02 4032 7999
Port Stephens Bay & Beyond Tours Shoal Bay	0413 705 609
Port Stephens Coaches Anna Bay	02 4982 2940

SERVICES

A Beautiful Occasion Salamander Bay	0428 643 196
Blakes Wedding Cars Salamander Bay	02 4982 5055
Business Port Stephens Nelson Bay	0455 844 751
Haddad Baker Accountants Nelson Bay	02 4919 5500
Newcastle Airport Williamtown	02 4928 9800
Port Stephens Events Anna Bay	0438 613 884
Sheri McMahon Photography Newcastle	0422 204 112
The Shoaly Collective Shoal Bay	02 4981 2964
Wedding Road Bobs Farm	0410 474 135

INSIDER TIPS



JOHN ‘STINKER’ CLARKE

Take the ferry across the port to Hawks Nest and Tea Gardens, it’s a great day out and a completely different perspective on the place.

Read more about local legend, John ‘Stinker’ Clarke on page 49.

About This Publication

This guide is a publication of Destination Port Stephens.

While we’ve made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information, please note that the publisher or designer cannot be held responsible for any errors or misinterpretations to the information provided.

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Beach Vehicle Permits

All vehicles entering the Worimi Conservation Lands must be registered and display a valid vehicle permit.

The permit provides vehicle access to over 22 kilometers of beach and 350 hectares of dune driving in the Recreational Vehicle Area, in one of the largest coastal dune driving areas in NSW.

Discover how to access the beach, where to purchase vehicle permits, the costs and driving rules via the QR code below or visit:
worimiconservationlands.com/beach-driving

holiday rental specialists





SALAMANDER BAY
Absolute waterfront luxury in Salamander Bay, where golden sands and crystal-clear waters are just steps from your door. With five bedrooms, a private pool, and space for up to 12 guests, it’s designed for unforgettable family escapes. Launch a kayak from your backyard, unwind by the fire, take a dip in the heated pool and create lasting holiday memories.

5 BEDROOMS
5.5 BATHROOMS
12 GUESTS

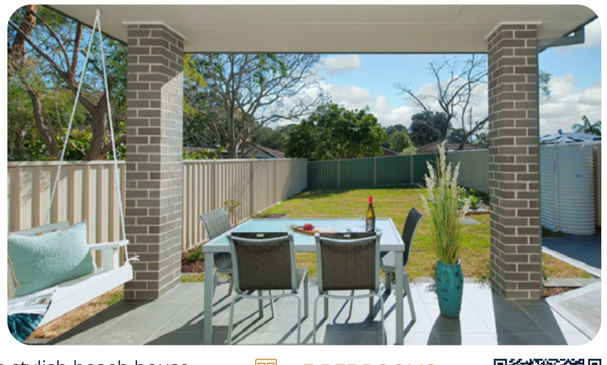




FINGAL BAY
Just a short stroll from beautiful Fingal Bay Beach, Ancora is a relaxed coastal retreat designed for easy holiday living. Light-filled interiors, spacious outdoor entertaining, and views towards Tomaree National Park create the perfect setting to unwind. Ideal for families, couples, and small groups looking to explore the best of Port Stephens.

3 BEDROOMS
2 BATHROOMS
6 GUESTS





SHOAL BAY
Discover easy coastal living at Calm at Shoal Bay, a stylish beach house just minutes from some of Port Stephens’ most beautiful beaches. Relax in the spacious alfresco entertaining area, unwind on the outdoor swing chair, and enjoy the fully enclosed backyard. Perfect for families, friends, and even your four-legged companion.

3 BEDROOMS
2 BATHROOMS
8 GUESTS

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PORT STEPHENS

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