



06  
SUMMER

# scuttlebutt

THE SOLDIERS POINT MARINA NEWSLETTER



## CONGRATULATIONS

To Andrew Arndell of New Lambton Heights, winner of the September Scuttlebutt Golf Trivia Competition.

Q. Name the winner of both the 2005 US Masters and British Open

A. Tiger Woods

Andrew's was the first correct answer drawn on November 4, and he has won a round of 18 holes for himself and three guests at the prestigious Pacific Dunes Golf Course in Port Stephens.

If you want to check out what he's in for, take a look at our celebrity course review inside, then follow up on Andrew's game in our next edition to see how he fared!

Pacific Dunes has put together a special package for all members of Soldiers Point Marina, with games starting from just \$45. To make your reservation, contact the Pacific Dunes Golf Shop on (02) 4916 0500. Remember to take your Soldiers Point Marina cap and ID when registering to receive the special rate!

## all i want for christmas...

Congratulations are in order for the sales team at Riviera Port Stephens, who have recently been appointed the only dual Riviera dealership in the region.

Originally an exclusive dealer of the Flybridge range, Steve Stewart is now also able to offer Cruisers in the Sports range, adding to the selection of luxury new and used boats already for sale at the Marina.

One of Riviera's latest additions to the Sports range is the M360 Cruiser, which made its debut at the 2005 Melbourne Summer Boat Show and is now available at the Marina.

The M360 is the ultimate entertaining vessel - the large one-level cockpit area is perfect for relaxing in the sun, with a swim platform allowing easy access to the water and a sunbed on the forward deck. The stylish interior, designed to look like a sleek inner city apartment, offers room to sleep four or five, making it easier than ever to escape in comfort for a perfect weekend getaway.

The impressive cruiser is powered by twin Mercruiser engines to ensure maximum safety and reliability, and it has the added benefit of an ergonomically designed helm area for improved sit-down driving vision.

Also available at the Marina from early 2006 is the popular M400 Sports Cruiser, a 'big brother' to the M360. The luxury 40-foot cruiser is slightly larger than the M360, sleeping five or six in two separate cabins, and has been described as a 'modern, mobile, water-borne apartment'.

The M400 has a multitude of features sure to impress, including open-plan stylish interior, reverse-cycle air conditioning, two refrigerators and an ice-maker. Built for those who want to have fun and enjoy hitting the water at top speed in total comfort, the M400 has already scored a legion of fans around the country for its quality and outstanding features.

With the M360 currently in stock and the M400 due in January/February 2006, the already extensive range of new and used boats at Riviera Port Stephens is set to grow considerably. The team's appointment as a dual dealership means they'll be able to meet your Riviera boating needs better than any other dealer in the region. For further information on the luxurious M360 or M400, or for information on other vessels for sale by Riviera Port Stephens, call Steve or one of the staff on (02) 4982 7455.

[www.rivieraportstephens.com.au](http://www.rivieraportstephens.com.au)



The majestic Riviera M400



# pacific dunes review

By Happy Gilmore



Cricket legends Mark Taylor & Merv Hughes warm up with the crew on Broadbill

## fisho's, your time is nearing!

**O**rganisers of the Interclub Game Fish Tournament are confident the 2006 Tournament, to be held on 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> February and 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> March, will follow on from the hugely successful 2005 Tournament.

Last year 206 boats and 1,000 anglers fished the Interclub, with over 730 marlin - mostly black marlin - caught. William Koster on board Dilligal won the Bob Dyer Trophy for the Heaviest Marlin with his catch of a 179kg beauty. Steve Gilligan on board Head Hunter took the Heaviest Shark, a 493kg tiger, while Vicki Cameron on board local boat Inya Dreams took the honours for the Heaviest 'Other' Game Fish, a 37kg yellowfin.

If you haven't fished the Tournament before, make sure you catch all the action and join the fun in 2006. You'll enjoy a complimentary BBQ breakfast every fishing day thanks to Soldiers Point Marina, and a delicious complimentary cocktail at the Bimini Bar and Grill.

Limited berthing for the Tournament still available but be quick so you don't miss out! To organise your booking call the Marina on (02) 4982 7445.

**H**aving just walked off the 18<sup>th</sup> at Pacific Dunes, I can now see what all the fuss is about. The latest addition to the Troon stable of five star residential courses, Pacific Dunes, has been getting a wrap from both hackers and guns since opening in April this year.

The official brochure claims that Pacific Dunes will "inspire and excite golfers of all abilities". While losing half-a-dozen pills on the front nine is not likely to excite anything except your blood pressure, it is certainly an inspiring course.

Course architect James Wilcher has done a magnificent job turning what was once swamp land into a championship layout. The wetlands and meandering creeks have been cleverly incorporated into the design to create a very natural feel to the course, not dissimilar to the atmosphere of Brookwater (Qld) where on the more remote holes, you get a lovely detached feeling as if you're a million miles from care.

The water hazards are predominantly hidden from the tees making the purchase of a course guide mandatory. Many of the creeks feature tentacle-like feeders (conveniently located within average driving distance from the tee) which sneak out into the fairways, catching unsuspecting players who think they've hit the drive of the day, only to discover their ball lying in a shallow but watery grave.

Favourite holes for the day were the par 4 10<sup>th</sup>, par 3 14<sup>th</sup> and the par 4 16<sup>th</sup>.

While only 268 metres from the social tees, the 10<sup>th</sup> hosts a variety of hazards to trap you whether you drive for the green or lay-up. Water left and right, fairway bunkers 200 out on the right and a short, oddly angled green make this hole lots of fun for payers of all standards.

The 14<sup>th</sup>, while not particularly hard, is incredibly picturesque. The green is protected on all sides by menacing bunkers. Tough pin placement (read: anywhere further back than halfway) and a bit of cross wind can turn the hole from a doddle into a nightmare for those who on first inspection take this hole for granted.

The 16<sup>th</sup> is the more challenging of the three. Laid out between two lakes, this hole demands accuracy on every shot. The thoughtfully placed clover shaped bunkers leading into the green are ugly places to stop for a rest and can leave you with 20 metres still to carry to reach the green.

All up, one of the most enjoyable rounds I've had for a while and certainly one I'll be keen to play again soon.

Cheers and good golfing.

**Happy**





# christmas gift ideas

# free airport transfers

Looking for the perfect gift for that special someone this Christmas? We've done some thinking and have come up with a few great ideas.

The perfect escape for a weekend or a week, the Peppers group of retreats and resorts offers gift certificates ranging from \$20 to \$5000, so you can spoil the people you love the most. For more information, log on to [www.peppers.com.au](http://www.peppers.com.au).

For something a bit different this Christmas, Red Balloon Days offers an enormous range of 'experiences', from scuba diving to jet fighter flights, at locations all over Australia. Gift certificates start at \$99. Check out [www.redballoondays.com.au](http://www.redballoondays.com.au).



The \$20 million upgrade of Newcastle Airport, located in Williamstown only 22 minutes from the Marina, is almost complete, with the new terminal officially opened in November.

The airport is the fastest growing regional airport in Australia, with around 750,000 passengers using the airport in 2005, and that number expected to climb to around 840,000 in 2006. It is increasingly being used by travellers from the Central Coast and northern fringes of Sydney for early morning flights, due to the high quality of service, affordable parking rates - which are roughly half those of Sydney Airport - and the speed and convenience of commuting, thanks to the freeway linking Wahroonga to Williamstown.

The terminal is only one stage of the large-scale refurbishment undertaken during 2005, which will ultimately double the terminal's size. The upgrade also includes a refurbished check-in area, a renovated departures lounge, redesigned offices, the addition of five food outlets and a newsagency, as well as upgrades to security.

Darrell Barnett, manager of Soldiers Point Marina, says that many of the Marina's guests find Williamstown convenient when coming to Soldiers Point. "Being only 20 minutes away,

and with so many flights now coming in to Newcastle, we've found Newcastle Airport really convenient for our members, especially with the courtesy car to pick them up and bring them to the Marina for their stay".

Flights to Newcastle arrive and depart several times daily from all over Australia. A total of six carriers service the airport, including Virgin Blue, Jetstar, QantasLink, Aeropelican, Brindabella Airlines and Direct Air Service. Currently daily flights are as follows:

- Sydney** - 14 arrivals and 13 departures daily
- Melbourne** - 7 arrivals and departures daily
- Brisbane** - 7 arrivals and departures daily
- Canberra** - 3 arrivals and departures daily
- Coolangatta** - 3 arrivals and departures daily

Soldiers Point Marina offers a courtesy pickup from the airport to all guests. However, for those visitors who'd prefer their own transport during their visit numerous rental car companies operate out of the airport, including Avis, Budget, Europcar, Hertz and Thrifty. For further information on the Newcastle airport timetables, simply log on to [www.newcastleairport.com.au](http://www.newcastleairport.com.au). To arrange a courtesy pickup just call the Marina on (02) 4982 7445.



Display Apartment Now Open

## AQUA Nelson Bay Living

A luxury resort style development, moments from all that Nelson Bay has to offer. AQUA Apartments comprises 110 architect designed two and three bedroom apartments, with resort facilities in an idyllic location. Single and double storey Penthouse Apartments are also available. AQUA Apartments are under construction and are due for completion mid 2006. Prices starting from \$390,000



# in the zone

There were some outstanding achievements this year by the boys in the Soldiers Point Primary School Rugby League team, sponsored by Soldiers Point Marina.

The team competed in the Rugby League Zone Trials and had four boys shortlisted for the Zone team, with Ethan Ireland then selected in the final team to represent the region.

The boys also entered the Knights' Knockout and had some outstanding wins, but were taken out in the third round by the team that went on to reach the finals. Congratulations boys, enjoy the off-season. We're looking forward to seeing those jerseys out on the field again next year!



The successful Soldiers Point Primary Football boys proudly modeling their SPM shirts

# summer fishing tips

with John "Stinker" Clark

Warm water and clear skies at Soldiers Point is what summer is all about, and the good news for all keen fishermen is that the fish and crabs have joined in on the festive atmosphere. Whiting, whiting and more whiting have arrived and they're biting like Bengal tigers, from Soldiers Point up to Tilligerry Creek, Lemon Tree Passage and the Karuah River. To snag these little beauties just try some savage worms on a size 4 long shank hook.

Bream have also taken up residence under every oyster rack although the difficult part is coaxing them out! You'll find thumping flathead weighing up to 3kg attacking soft plastics from Corrie Island to Karuah. Blue swimmer crabs are also out and about and you'd be hard-pressed at the moment to find anyone who has a bad day out on the water!

This is definitely the best time of year to be dropping a line. Good luck and have fun fishing this summer!



## bimini bar reopens for summer

**With the beautiful summer weather here again we're very pleased to announce the reopening of the much-loved Bimini Bar and Cafe, located right on the water's edge at the Marina.**

No matter what your mood or taste, the Bimini Bar is the perfect place to relax after a big day on the water. Those looking to sit down with a cold drink will find a great selection to choose from, especially with the addition of the marina's new petrol-powered cocktail maker behind the bar! This handy little gem is guaranteed to whip up delectable cocktails that are sure to delight, especially on those warm evenings.

The Bimini also has a delicious new menu with a range of mouth-watering dishes to choose from, such as smoked salmon on corn fritters with rocket and semi-dried tomatoes; flathead fillet, grilled or tempura battered, with chips and tartare sauce; and a complete range of gourmet sandwiches including aged rib eye of beef on toasted ciabatta bread with rocket, oven roasted tomatoes, caramelised onions and aioli.

With Happy Hour every afternoon from 4pm, the Bimini Bar and Cafe is a great place to unwind after a day in the sun. For reservations and opening hours, call the team on (02) 4984 7111.



## Splash out at Soldiers Point

Soldiers Point Holiday Park offers stunning views of the port, **NEW** villa accommodation and **NEW** resort style pool with children's wading area and a range of activities at your doorstep.

### do a little or do a lot

Enjoy a spot of boating or fishing from the Marina, take a stroll to nearby restaurants, cafes or clubs, and have a hit of tennis or a round of golf.

*School holiday vacancies still available from 12 January 2006*





# live weather cam

Don't forget to log on to the Soldiers Point Marina website to check out our webcam, recording weather and water conditions live from the balcony of the Point Restaurant. We will be adding new cams over the next twelve months so stay tuned to the next edition of Scuttlebutt for updates.

[www.soldierspointmarina.com.au](http://www.soldierspointmarina.com.au)

# how to follow the sun

**The cool winter months experienced by the southern states provide boatowners with the perfect excuse to power up their boats and follow the sun. Locals Brian and Jan Hooker are one couple who make a habit of avoiding winter.**

Brian and Jan have just returned from their latest voyage on their 43' catamaran "Hooks", having journeyed up the east coast of Australia for over 4 months. The duo met up with family and friends along the way, fishing and diving in some of the most beautiful parts of Australia.

"There's so many different places you can call in to on the east coast, and they're all so beautiful", Brian recalls. "You really need to take the time and spend a few weeks in each town to really discover the places you visit."

Brian started his journey by leaving Soldiers Point with four mates at the end of April and sailing to Southport, where he was met by Jan and another two friends, Peter and Marilyn Langley. The four then spent three leisurely weeks making their way up to Gladstone, visiting Lady Musgrave Island on the way and stopping at Tangalooma for some diving.

Next stop was beautiful Hamilton Island, where they met up with old friends Ross and Judy Hunter. The group made their way up to Townsville, at which point Jan and Brian took a break from sailing and flew to England for a few weeks to visit their daughter. They made the most of their visit by going on a cricket tour which included watching a match at the famous Lords Cricket Ground, something Brian had always wanted to do. Brian and Jan flew back into Townsville in early August and sailed to Cairns to meet up with some family members before beginning their journey back home.

Brian and Jan were lucky to have good weather for most of their trip, but Brian believes the weather isn't all that important on a trip like theirs. "If the weather's a bit crook we just go inland and hide somewhere", he said. The fishing

on this trip was great too, with the group usually having to stop fishing because they ran out of room to store the fish on their boat!

"We had some great fishing around the Percy Islands, where we caught two nice Spanish mackerel at around 4-5 kg each", Brian said. "That lasted long enough for about 6 meals for 4 people. But our best fishing was probably off the coast of Cairns. We caught lots of coral trout and red emperor, and even a few sharks which had started to hang around after we started catching fish".

The most enjoyable part of the trip? A visit to North Creek at Hinchinbrook Island, which you can only get to when it's high tide. "We caught some great mud crabs in there, and one night we met up with three other boats who'd also gone inland to escape the weather", Brian explained. "We ended up having a party, which got a bit out of hand when one of the guys fell overboard... and then the next day we woke up to see a crocodile eyeing us, not far from the boats. Needless to say, he got out of that water pretty quick that night!".

So, what comes next for a couple who've just spent four great months sailing around Australia? A long and relaxing summer at home and then another trip next year to escape the cold of winter. "We won't go to England again next year. We're thinking of maybe heading to Papua New Guinea or somewhere around there", Brian said. One thing for sure though - they won't be hanging around for the winter cold! "We haven't had a winter at all for four years", Brian said, "and we aren't going to start in 2006 either!".



Marina Manager Darrell Barnett and Supervisor Jim Duncan with the cricket boys

# "yes... got 'im"

Soldiers Point Marina is once again proud to be a sponsor of the Nelson Bay Junior Cricket Club.

The club participates in the Newcastle Junior Cricket Association competition and we wish them the best of luck for the summer season. We look forward to seeing you in the finals in March!



Brian & Jan Hooker



## boat show a great success

Setting the standard for years to come, Soldiers Point Marina's much-anticipated annual boat show was a great success. Held over the October long weekend, the Show included a display of more than 20 new and used boats from Riviera Port Stephens, with more than 2500 boat enthusiasts eagerly checking out the selection.

Great weather and outstanding boating conditions made it well worth the trip for visitors, many of whom stayed for the day to soak up the sun and enjoy the water. Well done and thankyou to everyone involved for making the weekend such a success. We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2006!

[www.rivieraportstephens.com.au](http://www.rivieraportstephens.com.au)



## what's on this summer

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| December 31      | New Year's Eve Fireworks, Soldiers Point Marina<br>BIG night at The Point Restaurant! Contact: (02) 4984 7111 |
| January 4        | Fishing Clinic with John "Stinker" Clark, Soldiers Point Marina.<br>Contact : (02) 4982 7445                  |
| January 8        | Twilight Summer Jazz at Port Stephens Winery, 6-10pm.<br>Contact : (02) 4982 6411                             |
| January 13 - 14  | Boating Clinics with Leif Albertson, Soldiers Point Marina.<br>Contact : (02) 4982 7445                       |
| January 22       | Blessing of the Fleet, Nelson Bay 2.00pm. Contact: (02) 4981 3618   |
| February 16 - 19 | Ross Hunter Game Fish Tournament  |
| February 25 - 26 | NSW Game Fish Association Interclub Competition - Days 1 & 2  |
| March 1          | Midweek Game Fish Tournament  |
| March 4 - 5      | Interclub Competition - Days 3 & 4  |
| March 11 - 12    | 2006 Riviera Game Fish Shoot-out  |
| March 19         | Port Stephens Jazz at the Winery. Contact: (02) 4982 6411   |
| April 7 - 9      | Trailer Boat Tournament   |
| April 14 - 17    | Easter 2006   |
| April 15         | Boating Clinic with Leif Albertson, Soldiers Point Marina.<br>Contact: (02) 4982 7445                         |
| April 19         | Fishing Clinic with John "Stinker" Clark, Soldiers Point Marina.<br>Contact: (02) 4982 7445                   |

### marina quote of the day

*"Even if you've been fishing for 3 hours and haven't gotten anything except sunburn, you're still better off than the worm."*

~ Unknown

## PLAY LIKE A CHAMPION AT PACIFIC DUNES



Whether you love to play or simply enjoy a slice of the good life, enquire today about this truly world-class course, Pacific Dunes. Only 20 minutes to Nelson Bay and 25 minutes to the city centre of Newcastle, this magnificent premier golf and residential community, Pacific Dunes, is waiting to be discovered. Enjoy the good life every day in a place where you can *live to Play*.

Golf Bookings: 02 4916 0500 [www.pacificdunes.com.au](http://www.pacificdunes.com.au)

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