



06
WINTER

scuttlebutt

THE SOLDIERS POINT MARINA NEWSLETTER



rub, scrub & steam

The Soldiers Point Marina building is undergoing a major overhaul during the winter, and the exciting news for the Marina's boatowners and their guests is the addition of an exclusive all-pampering Amenities Centre.

Marina Manager Darrell Barnett believes the new Amenities Centre will offer the very best in five star personal-care facilities. Included in the upgrade is a dry sauna and massage room, and also well-appointed private ensuite bathrooms.

"We see these new facilities providing our guests with comfort, service and style, that real touch of class which will really enhance their stay at the Marina," Darrell said.

The renovations, which will also include new laundry facilities and showrooms, are expected to be completed in time for the summer season.

facelift for the marine centre

The Soldiers Point Marine Centre (previously known as Sandy's Marine) continues to undergo an impressive transformation, following a change of ownership and management which took effect in May this year.

"The team at SPMC realise the value of taking care of their customers," said Darrell Barnett, General Manager of Soldiers Point Marina, "and I'm excited about the changes being made at the Centre."

Darrell said the combined experience of Tony Jolly, David Patane and Howard Greenwood, along with newer members of the team such as Marc Neilsen, means the Marine Centre's customers can rely on high-quality, responsive service from people who understand their boats.

"The Centre will of course continue to be a dealer for the big names in the engine industry, including Volvo, Mercruiser and Mercury", said Darrell.

Darrell believes the new direction of the Marine Centre has the potential to offer a one-of-a-kind service to customers. "The Centre will aim to offer a totally personalised service to boat owners where all needs are catered for – from general maintenance (cosmetic and structural), to a total valet service that ranges from full detailing services to stocking the fridge and changing the linen in preparation for the owner's arrival."

For further information on the upgrades to the Soldiers Point Marine Centre, or to make a booking, contact the office on (02) 4984 6300 or email admin@spmcentre.com.



Tony Jolly (Supervisor), Howard Greenwood and David Patane



interclub battle on the high seas



boat licence changes in NSW

As of July 2006, changes to NSW boat licencing regulations will make it more difficult to obtain a boating licence.

The NSW Maritime is introducing compulsory boating education for all licence applicants, in an attempt to reduce injuries and fatalities on NSW waterways. As of July 1st anyone wishing to obtain a licence will be required to undertake mandatory boat safety education, either by participating in an online tutorial or attending a seminar conducted by an accredited agency.

Once the seminar or tutorial has been completed, a receipt for the seminar, in addition to a statutory declaration (for the online tutorial) or an attendance certificate, is required to be presented to the licence examiner. The applicant will then be required to sit for the licence test within six months of the date of the receipt.

Further information on licence changes, and details of your nearest testing facility, can be found at the NSW Maritime website www.maritime.nsw.gov.au, or by phoning the Info Line on 13 12 56.

Another summer has passed us by - gone are those lazy afternoons spent lapping up the sunshine, having a few drinks by the waters edge wearing little else but swimmers, sunscreen and a satisfied smile.

But the end of those warmer months signifies an exciting event in the fisho's calendar. A tournament, the largest of its kind in the southern hemisphere, where pride is at stake and prestige is up for grabs, where friends do battle to rule the water. This tournament is, of course, Interclub, hosted every year by the crystal clear waters in and around Port Stephens.

The 2006 Toyota Interclub kicked off on Saturday the 25th of February, held over two consecutive weekends. The ever-impressive Sail Past kicked off the Interclub Tournament at 7am, with a total of 221 boats motoring single-file towards the heads, carrying 930 antsy anglers from as far as Tasmania and Perth.

Amazing weather and some superb fishing made for a spectacular and prosperous first day, with a total of 166 fish tagged - 136 of which were marlin. Jason Lee of "Gunrunner" took the prize for most fish tagged on Day 1 with his impressive catch of 7 marlin.

Day 2 and the weather was still perfect, with a warm breeze and calm water. The action offshore remained impressive, with 136 fish tagged and Kim Billson reeling in a total of 5 marlin onboard "Viking".

After five days rest and recuperation the anglers emerged ready to fight and tackle Day 3 of the

tournament, but a change in water temperature saw many of the fish go into hiding. There were still some great catches out on the water, particularly from Bart Portelli onboard "Reel Smoka" who reeled in 2 marlin. The results overall were more modest than the previous weekend, with 96 fish tagged.

Sunday March 5th marked the end of the Tournament for 2006, and by then the fish were well and truly hiding. Many anglers were still grinning as 66 fish were tagged and released on the final Sunday, with all boats returning to shore by 6pm. Darrell Barnett, Manager of Soldiers Point Marina, believes the tournament was one of the best they've seen. "The turn out for the tournament was fantastic. We saw some great results from our guests, and the early morning barbeque proved to be a big hit - the boys cooked up a storm and it certainly seemed to give the anglers the energy they needed to tame the waters!"

Locals can be proud that the 2006 Bundabah Trophy for Champion Club Team Tag and Release went to the Newcastle and Port Stephens Team 1, with members from "Billistic", "Born Free", "Di-Da-Ke", "Viking II" and "Calypso". Kim Billson from the Newcastle and Port Stephens Game Fish Club also took out the coveted Louis Ardilly Trophy for the angler who tags and releases the most marlin, with his haul of 9.

Thank you to all who participated for making the event such a success. We look forward to seeing you again for the 2007 Interclub!





website watch

The Sydney International Boat Show is always a prominent event in a keen Boatie's calendar and it's on again, from August 3 – 8 2006.

The show's website has loads of information on what to expect this year, from a list of all the exhibitors to the exciting activities offered including fashion parades and boat building competitions.

The show will run for five days so you'll need to plan ahead. For all information on ticketing details, accommodation bookings and opening times visit www.sydneyboatshow.com.au.

in the marine park zone

With the aim of conserving marine biodiversity along the NSW coast, the NSW Government announced last December the establishment of the Port Stephens – Great Lakes Marine Park.

The Marine Park covers more than 97,200 hectares of the NSW coastline and extends from Cape Hawke Surf Life Saving Club in Forster, to Birubi Beach Surf Life Saving Club at the northern end of Stockton Beach. It also includes Port Stephens and the Karuah River, the Myall River, the Myall and Smiths Lakes, and all of their creeks and tributaries.

A draft zoning plan for the park has been released and is now open for public comment, with contributions and feedback from both the public and commercial sectors encouraged. The Marine Parks Authority will then review the submissions and make a decision on the final zoning of the park.

Marine parks are divided into four different management zones to allow for a range of commercial and recreational activities:

- ♦ **Marine sanctuaries** provide access to the general public, but prohibit all extraction activities, including mining and fishing;

- ♦ **Habitat protection zones** allow most recreational fishing, but not commercial fishing;

- ♦ **General use zones** allow all activities, including both recreational and commercial fishing; and

- ♦ **Special purpose zones** are reserved for specific management purposes.

The draft zoning plan, released at the beginning of May, has already been rife with controversy. Many anglers are dissatisfied with the extent and location of marine sanctuaries, while conservationists are concerned that the park will not adequately address wildlife concerns.

However, the extent of the park's impact on local marine life and recreational activity will not be known until the official park zones are finalised, towards the end of the year.

For more information on the Port Stephens – Great Lakes Marine Park, log onto www.mpa.nsw.gov.au, or call the Marine Parks Authority on (02) 4916 3970, or the Boating Industry Association NSW on (02) 9438 2077.



Photo courtesy of Sydney International Boat Show. Photographer: Paul Raston.

INYA DREAMS CHARTERS LIVE THE DREAM WITH INYA!

Local game fishing boat "Inya Dreams" will be returning to Soldiers Point in December for the Port Stephens game fish season. "Inya Dreams" is currently off the coast of Cairns for the heavy game fish season up north.

Skipped by Brian Felton and Warren "Wazza" Anderson, who between them have 45 years game fishing experience worldwide.



Bookings now being taken for the 2006-2007 Port Stephens season

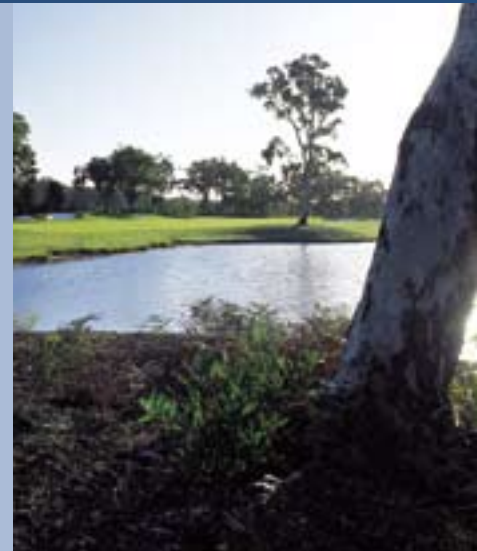
"Inya Dreams" is a 56' Cresta purpose built game fishing vessel, fitted with the very best in tackle, GPS navigation & fish finding technology. For bookings & enquiries call Brian on 0428 642 503.

take the fairway home

Since opening its fairways in April 2005, Pacific Dunes Golf Club has been touted one of the leading golf destinations in NSW. However, the success of the club has not been limited to the greens.

Pacific Dunes Sales and Marketing Manager, Melanie Hampo, said that the club has also experienced strong residential sales enquiry from people wishing to call the club home. "We have had a record number of visitors through the sales office and new display homes already, and we expect that to continue to rise throughout the latter half of 2006," Melanie said.

With a range of living options now available at Pacific Dunes, a golf course lifestyle has never been so appealing.



winter fishing tips

with John "Stinker" Clark

Around Soldiers Point, Tilligerry Creek, the Karuah River and West Harbour, winter means only one thing to fishermen - bream! The Port Stephens area is teeming with of them. Bream up to 1.5kg zooming under every oyster rack and cruising over the shell-encrusted rocks and pilons that form the breakwalls and jetties.

Bream bite best into the night as the tide is rising, and the best bait at this time of the year is fresh mullet cut into strips. No need to use lead - the weight of your bait is sufficient to slowly sink into the strike zone. During the daylight there is a bream fishing revolution going on - soft plastic lures, rather than bait, are proving to be very effective, particularly at the top of the tide. Hooking a big bream isn't all that difficult, it's landing them in the boat that is. The best technique I've found? When they pull, you pull harder.

Cheers,
Stinker



cruising a sea of sand

If you know anyone who's hard to amuse during the cool of winter, we've come across the perfect solution.

Port Stephens company Sand Safari Action Adventure Tours have a number of exhilarating activities to satisfy the thrill seeker or explorer within. Drop in and check out the range of offerings, from the buzz of quad biking or sandboarding down 30m dunes, to the more peaceful guided 4WD discovery tours. While frolicking in the dunes you'll also experience the beautiful contrast of the rolling white sand to the thick bushland and lagoons, and along the way

you can visit WWII defence sites and the wreck of the 'Sygna', the largest ship ever wrecked on the eastern coast of Australia.

All tours offered by Sand Safaris are eco-friendly and cater for both novices and experienced riders, and with a number of NSW tourism awards under their belt the Sand Safaris team are certainly the experts when it comes to adventure! So if taming a sea of a different kind sounds like to perfect cure for the winter blues, give Sand Safaris a call on (02) 4965 0215 or visit www.sandsafaris.com.au.



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jewel in port stephens crown



Matt Sharpe with his record-breaking haul

The official Marlin season started with an almighty boom this year, with an amazing catch by 15-year old Matt Sharpe pending to smash not only the Port Stephens Game Fishing Record, but also the Junior NSW State Record and Junior Australian Record.

The marlin was caught 30kms due east of Port Stephens on board "Netty", a 51" Riviera moored at Soldiers Point Marina. Witnessing the monster catch was Matt's father, skipper David Sharpe, and deckies Laurie and Danny Chadder. The crew had decided not to fit the game chair before they departed the Marina, and so the marlin was caught on 24kg stand up tackle, taking a total of 2.5 hours to land.

The marlin was presented to a record holiday crowd and weighed in at a whopping 242.5kg. The previous record for a catch by a junior angler was 200kg, which had been in place for 11 years.

Matt, a Year 10 student, hails from Lorn in the Hunter Valley and was visiting Soldiers Point with his family at the time of the catch. A junior angler, this was Matt's first ever Blue Marlin catch – and what an impressive one to add to his portfolio!

Our very own local treasure, the Port Stephens Winery, has joined the ranks of the best in the country after taking part in the Australian Tourism Awards in February 2006, and winning the prestigious 2005 NSW Tourism Award for Business Excellence.

The winery, which opened in February 1993, is located in the sandhills of the Tomaree Peninsula. Despite its short history, it has become a popular tourist attraction in Port Stephens and is known for its great service and atmosphere as well as the fine quality, estate-grown boutique wines that are available exclusively from the cellar doors.

In addition to the home grown collection, the innovative Boutique Wine Centre also boasts a precious array of quality wines from other small, independently owned estates all over Australia, most of which are not available through mainstream liquor outlets. The centre showcases more than 200 boutique wines, along with a large range of gourmet gems such as premium cheeses, olive oils, jams, spices and fresh coffees.

Port Stephens Winery General Manager Tony Griffiths believes the success and growth of the

Boutique Wine Centre helped secure the win at the Tourism Awards. "It's very satisfying to receive an award focusing on a development that supports some of the small regional Australian wineries," he said. "The big boys dominate so much of the market now, and this gives the little guys the opportunity to showcase quality products to an ever-growing wine tourism market."

In addition to the Boutique Wine Centre, the Port Stephens Winery also offers fantastic picnic facilities in the beautifully landscaped gardens, with an undercover gazebo perfect for social club get-togethers, coach tours and that good old family gathering. However, for those wanting to be waited upon there's also the Vines Alfresco Café, with a range of delicious meals to suit the whole family.

The Port Stephens Winery cellar door is open to the public seven days from 10am, with a variety of wine for tasting. For more information on the showcase of boutique wines, or to arrange for a group visit to the winery, call the team on (02) 4982 6411 or log onto: www.portstephenswinery.com



xxx

SOLDIERS POINT MARINA



truth, proof or spoof

After being sent an interesting email outlining the origin of some commonly used words, we've decided to add a regular feature to our back page - an etymology column called 'truth, proof or spoof'.

Etymology: Account of, facts relating to the formation and meaning of words

Basically etymology is the process of discovering the often bizarre origin of commonly used words and phrases. Considering the number of questions we receive regarding the name of our newsletter, it seemed only fitting to begin with the word scuttlebutt.

Scuttlebutt is a 19th century nautical term, referring to an open cask of water kept on deck. The word scuttle meant 'to cut a hole in' and butt referred to a large cask. Sailors would often take a break from their duties and gather at the cask to trade stories and gossip - a behaviour still practiced today around the watercoolers of modern offices.

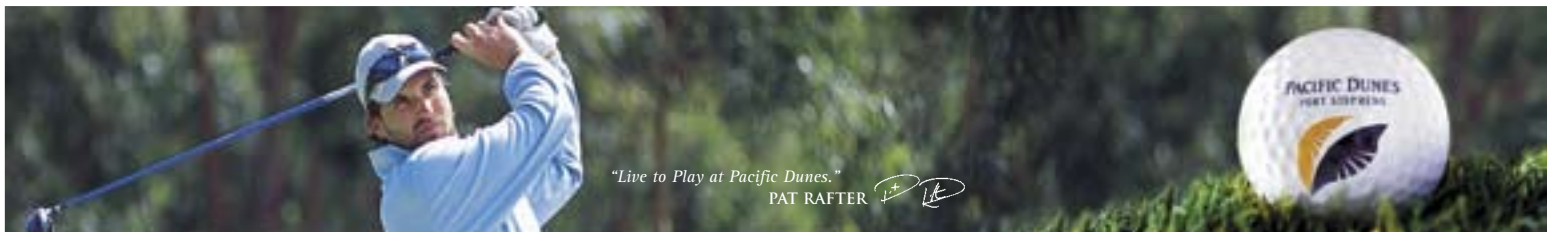
By the 20th century American sailors had begun to use the word "scuttlebutt" in reference to the tales that spread via the water cask, and eventually the word became associated with gossip or rumour. Until now, of course!



what's on

July - August	Whale Watching Season - Northern Migration
July 1 -16	NSW Winter School Holidays
August 3	Master Class Ladies Golf Clinics, Pacific Dunes Contact : (02) 4916 0500
August 3 - 8	39th Sydney International Boat Show, Darling Harbour For more info: www.sydneyboatshow.com.au
August 7	Bank Holiday Golf Challenge, Pacific Dunes Contact : (02) 4916 0500
September - October	Whale Watching Season - Southern Migration
September 3	Father's Day
September 29 - October 15	NSW Spring School Holidays
September 30 - October 2	Labour Day Long Weekend
October 7 - 8	Soldiers Point Boat Show, Soldiers Point Marina Contact: (02) 4982 7445
October 21	Hunter Singers Concert, Port Stephens Winery Contact : (02) 4969 5778
November 7	Melbourne Cup
November 11 -12	2006 Tastes of the Bay Food and Wine Festival, Nelson Bay Contact: (02) 4984 4751
November 11 -12	Sydney Sailing Show, Darling Harbour

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