

Scuttlebutt

THE SOLDIERS POINT MARINA NEWSLETTER



Soldiers Point Marina **SETS THE PACE**



While many of our valued marina customers have been happily hibernating over the cooler months the team at the marina have been quietly revolutionising the marina's software management systems in a quest to deliver the ultimate customer service experience.

A new marina software system, Marina Master (MM), has been successfully installed and is now up and running, equipped with the latest in Customer Relationship Management (CRM) with full mobile functionality so the marina can be fully controlled either on site or remotely. Staff can use any smart phone, tablet or computer connected to the internet to fully

monitor marina operations and movements. The daily marina dock walk for example is now facilitated by the MM mobile dock walk application that allows marina staff to easily account for all vessels as well as add notes, images and work orders.



CUSTOMER BENEFITS

Our valued marina customers can now login via the V-Assist guest services portal, which can be loaded onto any smart phone, tablet or computer. The portal gives easy access to request services at the push of a button. Items currently available are:

Valet Car Parking, Concierge Assistance on Arrival, Berthing Assistance and Pre Ordering Services - Such as provisioning, food, ice & fuel.



INTEGRATED SYSTEM OFFERS PEACE OF MIND

One of the key features of the new system which has been installed by DASH SYMONS is the latest Hikvision Ultra High Definition Cameras, including the Dark Fighter and Light Fighter range, which are powerful tools to ensure the marina's operations run smoothly. The CCTV system installation is now complete and integrated with the MM system to provide a live feed available to our customers via the V-Assist guest services portal, giving the ability to see in real time what is happening with their boat.

VESSEL TRACKING SYSTEM

Finally many months of searching has delivered a long range RFID antenna system that will notify SPM staff of an impending vessel or vehicle arrival via pre-programmed long range RFID tags. Staff will be ready to 'meet and greet' marina guests and assist with luggage or assist to dock their vessel after a beautiful day boating.

Marina Movements ON THE UP AND UP!

The SOLDIERS POINT MARINA ADMINISTRATION OFFICE has relocated to Office 13 - directly next door to the SPM laundrette on the first level. The move is advantageous providing greater visibility of customer arrivals via road at the marina and easier customer access to the office.

Come up and see our new lodgings!

THE ABC BOAT BROKERAGE has also moved up in the world and customers can find them on the first level, inhabiting the old Administration Offices, 11 and 12.



Jimmy in the new admin office

- CARMEN EARNS HER STRIPES -

SPM's Guest Services Manager, recently dubbed 'Captain Carmen' Holden has been busy earning herself some nautical credentials this year and in April successfully achieved her boat licence as many of you would be aware.

And with the purchase of the SailTime Franchise for Port Stephens both Darrell and Carmen have been learning to sail "Liberty", a 38' Jeanneau. This sparked a new interest and Carmen has since undertaken lessons with our sail school and won a course of sailing lessons at the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club in Sydney at the July fundraising lunch for the Marine Industry Foundation. She also attended a conference held



in Nelson Bay in April for a group known as 'Women Who Sail Australia' (WWSA) and met some notable female sailors including Jessica Watson, Lisa Blair (soon to sail solo around Antarctic), Linda Frylink Anderson (author of 'Sailing in my Sarong') and Kristi Foster (Sailors with disabilities). In May, with the help of her first mate David, she took a group of ladies (from her local golf club) out for a try sail on the SailTime boat. Following a delicious morning tea at The Boat Shed, the group enjoyed a lovely day sailing. We look forward to more sail adventure updates from Carmen and her group as they hone their skills. Stay tuned!

www.sailorswithdisabilities.com



Top: Carmen (far right) at the 'Women Who Sail Australia' lunch' with Jessica Watson (far left)

Left: Carmen with Lisa Blair
Far Left: Carmen on the SailTime boat with the Nelson Bay Golf Club Ladies for a day of sailing.

SPM ON SHOW

We had a busy year 'walking the talk' with Darrell and Carmen spreading the news, meeting and talking to many great boaties and marina people at three boat shows in NSW. Our eye-catching booths featured at the Sydney Trailerboat Show on 27-28 February; the Hunter Valley Caravan, Camping, 4WD, Fish & Boat Show 27-29 May and the Sydney International Boat Show from 28 July- 1 August which we shared with partner marinas, Abell Point Marina and Birkenhead Marina.

Perhaps we saw you there but if not - we will be exhibiting again next year so pop in and say hi!

The dates for the shows are as follows:

**HUNTER VALLEY CARAVAN, CAMPING, 4WD,
FISH & BOAT SHOW: 26-28 May 2017**

SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW: 3-7 August 2017



Top: Darrell at the Sydney International Boat Show

Middle: Carmen doing her bit!

Far Left: Sydney Trailerboat Show

Left: Darrell at the Hunter Valley Show



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- Marine Rescue - 'DANIAL THAIN' DECOMMISSIONED

After 17 years in service with Marine Rescue Port Stephens, PS 40 Danial Thain was retired at a ceremony held at the marina on 30th July. The vessel joined the fleet in 1999 following a distinguished service period for the Royal National Lifeboat Institute off the Scottish Coast as Spirit of Tayside.

During its time in service with Marine Rescue Port Stephens the Danial Thain has been involved in hundreds of rescues, four of which have seen the crews recognised for major National Courage Awards. All up, the fleet has attended over 1,700 rescues during this period, saving over 3,500 lives and responsible for bringing over \$220m of vessels back to port safely.

The Danial Thain was funded by a generous donor who has supported the vessel since its arrival in Port Stephens. Marine Rescue Port Stephens relies on the donations and bequests from generous donors to be able to operate its rescue fleet and provide funds to renew the vessels in service.

Unit Commander Colin Cahill said "The retirement service was a fitting tribute to a great servant of Marine Rescue Port Stephens. She has not only brought many people and vessels safely back to port but she has always looked after the crew that love her".

A new rescue vessel PS31 John Thompson has replaced PS40 Danial Thain and has entered operational service with the volunteer rescue crew trained to operate the vessel 24/7 inshore and offshore in Port Stephens waters.

www.marinerescueportstevens.com.au



Top: PS40 Danial Thain
Above: Volunteer rescue crew
Left: Decommissioning ceremony
at Soldiers Point Marina.

DAVID WHIPS UP *A Winner*



From 'Bookkeeper to Baker' - one of our newest members to the team, David Creenaune, took on other amateur cooks and bakers in the fancy cheesecake competition as part of the Cheese Lovers' Festival held in June at The Sebel Kirkton Park, Hunter Valley.

David surprised the other competitors and Celebrity Chef Lyndey Milan with his 'Baked Baklava Cheesecake' creation that awarded him runner up for the competition on the day.

David said his 'Baklava Baked Cheesecake' was inspired from traditional Baklava and uses Filo Pastry instead of the normal cookie crust to completely encase the honey-sweetened filling. With a Filo and nut topping drenched with cinnamon honey and cognac-infused syrup, this skilfully prepared creation was

certainly a showstopper.

When asked what led him into entering the competition he said "I have always loved making cheesecakes and take inspiration from my mum who gave me many 'master classes' growing up. Over the years I have learned many techniques and skills from working with different chefs and cooks, giving me the confidence to take on any baking or cooking challenge. I was more than pleased with how the baklava cheesecake turned out."

So anytime you would like to drop by the marina office with 'samples' would be fine with us David!

For information on next year's festival see
www.cheeseloversfestival.com.au



Left: Baked Baclava Cheesecake. Above: Celebrity Chef Lyndey Milan & David

SPM'S DONATION BUOYS SHELTER

The Yacaaba Centre, a homeless shelter and refuge for domestic violence victims in Nelson Bay, received a significant boost thanks to receipt of a \$10,000 donation from our marina in August.

The Centre has put the funds, which represent one of its single biggest donations ever, towards providing emergency relief to clients and to assisting efforts to prevent homelessness in the area.

"This donation will change the lives of the people we work with," Yacaaba General Manager, Lynn Vatner, said. "The most important thing to our thinking is keeping a roof over people's heads. The funds can also help with the rent, money for a CTP Green Slip and car rego or even a child's medical bills," Ms Vatner said.

"We try to take care of the area we live in and supporting our community is a strong focus for Soldiers Point Marina" said Marina Manager Darrell Barnett.

"Our research found that the Yacaaba Centre has a proven track record and is able to show great results over a number of years, particularly with vulnerable women."

Ms Vatner said donations like this were crucial when there was little continuity of state funding.

"It just makes it so much easier to do our jobs," she said.

"It's also very encouraging for us to know we have this kind of community support."



Yacaaba Centre General Manager Lynn Vatner receiving the donation from Soldiers Point Marina manager Darrell Barnett

Port Stephens police have recently joined the Safer Pathways program for women who have been the subject of domestic violence and will work more closely with the Yacaaba Centre.

"With Safer Pathways there's one point of entry so these women don't have to knock on numerous doors and repeat their story over and over again," Ms Vatner said.

Soldiers Point Marina said it would investigate further avenues of support for the shelter including possible funds for emergency housing.

For further information, visit: www.yacaabacentre.com.au

Article source: Port Stephens Examiner – Thursday August 18, 2016



'Lefty' HOOKS A BEAUTY!

Kevin Mills "Lefty" and his mate Joe Refalo were proud to show off their 'substantial' catch - hooked using a 30 hook off Middle Island in February - a healthy 129 cm long Mullaway weighing in at 18.5kg!

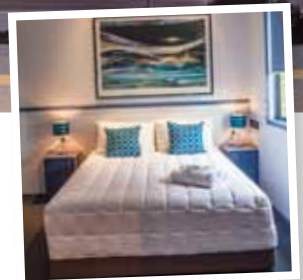


STAY NEXT DOOR TO THE MARINA



Thou walla Sunset Retreat is Soldiers Points newest couples accommodation retreat. Formerly Soldiers Point Holiday Park, we have a variety of cottages and villas that have been recently upgraded.

For reservations, call us on 1800 600 204, mention this ad when you book and we'll supply a bottle of Port Stephens Sauvignon Blanc as a thank you.



2 Ridgeway Avenue Soldiers Point NSW 2317 | T +61 (02) 4982 7237 | www.twsr.com.au

- The Boat Shed -

SCOOPS UP TWO NOMINATIONS

The Boat Shed is super excited to share news of its nomination in two categories in the Port Stephens Examiner's Annual Business Awards 2016, being Boating, Fishing or Camping (Boat Hire) and Cafe (Boatshed Cafe).

Located on the Albatross Lounge and recently transformed with a stylish makeover, the Boat Shed, General Store and Cafe certainly has raised its profile but it is the hard working team who are to be recognised and congratulated for their warm and welcoming attitude and for providing the best possible service to their customers.

Owner Jackie Kennedy says "We are proud of how we have evolved into a successful part of Soldiers Point Marina over the past five years. Our vision was to incorporate fresh local produce to our customers in the form of hampers for the Boat Hire and private boating guests. The successful idea appealed to a wider audience, with holiday makers and most importantly, locals finding it the perfect place to sit and relax amongst the boats, sculptures and water features that the marina has to offer."

With great reviews on Trip Advisor and a winning 'on water' location, the quality of food and service is certainly the talk of the town! The Boat Shed is open 8:00am – 5:00pm, 7 days a week and bookings are encouraged over the summer period. Customers can arrange for small catering jobs as well as takeaway meals or if out on the water, please call ahead to the marina and arrange for a place to tie up and enjoy the café or stock up on ice, bait, cold drinks, coffee and snack.

Phone: (02) 4919 1234 | Mobile: 0427 441 290
www.soldierspointboathire.net.au



- THE POINT -

Local resident, Jack Gosling turned 80 earlier this year and enjoyed a fantastic celebration at The Point - Congratulations from all of us at The Point Restaurant.

Newlywed English couple, Mr and Mrs Richard and Clare Hillier celebrated their wedding day with a reception held at The Point on 25 July 2016.



Jack's 80th Birthday Celebration

OPEN 7 DAYS FOR LUNCH AND DINNER
Contact Julie on Phone: (02) 4984 7111
Email: julie@thepointrestaurant.com.au



Mr and Mrs Richard and Clare Hillier



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Go Sailing on "your own" boat this summer without all the hassles of boat ownership. Grab this opportunity by yourself or with friends on a new 38 ft luxury Jeanneau yacht.

From as little as only \$780 per month that's no marina fees, no insurance, no repairs, no maintenance, just step on board and sail away to explore the magnificent waterways and hinterland of Port Stephens... and beyond.

HOW IT WORKS:

- Based at Soldiers Point Marina, Port Stephens
- Gold Members have a guaranteed 6 SailTimes per month,
- Silver Members have a guaranteed 3 SailTimes per month
- Reciprocal membership at 5 other bases in Australia and 35 overseas

For more information about this exciting opportunity please contact Soldiers Point Marina on (02) 4982 7445

www.sailtimeaustralia.com.au



SKIPPED OR BAREBOAT YACHT CHARTERS NOW AVAILABLE

Looking for a wonderful sailing experience this summer? Perfect for the novice sailor or those keen for a new adventure. Why not try a Skipped or Bareboat Yacht Charter on-board our luxurious 37' Jeanneau and explore the beautiful waterways of Port Stephens. Perfect for the novice sailor or those keen for a new adventure!

This idyllic get-away for couples, friends or families can be booked for mid-week or weekend adventures. With both Day and Overnight Charters available, packages include a comprehensive briefing on the vessel systems, handling and essential information on navigating the Port Stephens waterways for your Bareboat adventure or a fully qualified & knowledgeable skipper for your Skipped Yacht Charter. We will also provide you with great tips on the best places to swim, snorkel and watch dolphins while you thoroughly enjoy exploring this expansive and pristine region. The vessel is supplied full of fuel and water and if further supplies are need, these can be obtained from our home base at Soldiers Point Marina. We can also provide provisions for you prior to departure with a range of hassle-free packages as well as meals and refreshment options tailored to suite the individual.

PACKAGES START FROM \$660*

*Additional cost for provisioning, customised meals and refreshments



For more information, see www.soldiersptmarina.com.au or call Darrell and Carmen on 02 4982 7445

- WEDDINGS AFLOAT -

WE WERE THRILLED TO HOST THESE BEAUTIFUL WEDDINGS AT THE MARINA DURING THE YEAR - CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE NEWLYWEDS!



Paul & Kirra Rudder – 5 Nov16

If you are looking for the perfect, unusual and absolute waterfront wedding venue then look no further than the Brolga Lounge located at Soldiers Point Marina. Our experienced and knowledgeable staff will ensure all the finer details are taken care of, ensuring you have a stylish and stress free wedding.

Accommodation can be arranged for you or your guests at the luxury Flagship Mariners Apartment, located only a stone's throw from the Marina.

You also have the option of arriving in grand style for your celebration and being transported by luxury pontoon boat from Soldiers Point boat ramp to your wedding ceremony.

With several options available we can tailor a package to suit your budget.

GOLD ANCHOR PACKAGE:

- Venue hire
- Dedicated staff member
- Red carpet runner
- Your choice of music
- Skirted signing table and two chairs
- 28 guest chairs
- Special gift from the Marina
- Two nights' accommodation at Flagship Mariners apartment for the bride and groom
- Car transfer to the Soldiers Point boat ramp via Lexus for boat transfer to the marina

SILVER ANCHOR PACKAGE:

- Venue hire
- Dedicated staff member
- Red carpet runner
- Your choice of music
- Skirted signing table and two chairs
- 28 guest chairs
- Special gift from the Marina

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Please contact Carmen on (02) 4982 7445 for an appointment and please visit our website www.weddingsafloat.com.au



Above left: Tanya and Mitch – 19 Feb16

Above Right: Maree and Brett – 5 Mar16

Left & Below: Lauren and Tim – 6 Aug16



- Year in Brief -



1. Anzac Day 2016- Darrell dishing out cookies 2. Dockmaster - Paul serving cocktails 3. GameFish breakfast - Jimmy making coffee 4. Mick & Mon Taylor enjoying their new boat 5. Ride on esky - Darrell having too much fun delivering ice blocks 6. Dockmaster Jamie on the Cocktail run 7. Fathers' Day - Darrell giving out scratchies 8. Boat Shed Cafe customers 9. SIBS16 Carmen manning the stand 10. Daryl Ryan & Family making the most of their day 11. Casanova! Darrell handing out Valentines' Day roses.





SO WHERE'S MOBY?

SPM's adoptive Whale Shark, Moby, has had a busy year setting some PB's and notching up some serious mileage. A tagging program of a small group of the world's largest fish located in Cendrawasih Bay, West Papua New Guinea mid last year has been invaluable in providing marine researchers with a wealth of new insights into the behaviour of this species.

Records of movements tracked by Marine Biologist Dr Mark Erdmann's team report that Moby smashed his own dive record on 20 March to achieve 1416m in his home waters. Obviously a high achiever though, Moby busted this on 20 June by recording an even deeper dive to 1856m. Academic opinion on the data analysed by fellow researcher, University of Auckland Masters' student, Megan Meyers, is that this is the second deepest recorded dive for a Whale Shark around the world.

However Moby does not stop there - his horizontal movements have been every bit as impressive as his vertical ones. He shot out to Yap and over the southern Mariana Trench before returning to the northern Bird's Head - now just west of Manokwari and apparently on his way back to Cendrawasih. His journey from Kwatisore has surpassed 4000km to date!

On 31 August, the day after International Whale Shark Day, Moby had made it back home to Kwatisore after an epic journey of close

to 5000km where he has been tracked hanging out with a couple of his cohorts - Wally and Yalgai.

Unfortunately his tag now needs replacement with a new depth sensor as the old one is now defunct - not surprising perhaps and it is hoped that True North Cruises will be able to catch him to do this in the near future. Stay tuned!

Keen to follow him for yourself? We will keep publishing updates on the Marina website at <http://www.soldiersptmarina.com.au/about-us/moby>

Thanks to the Conservation International (CI) community, Moby's movements along with those of 10 other whale sharks currently sporting satellite tags can be easily viewed on the "Whale Shark Tracker" app that allows real-time tracking of 10 of the Cendrawasih-tagged whale sharks: <http://www.conservation.org/projects/Pages/Track-Whale-Sharks.aspx>

You might also read the International Whale Shark Day blog published by Dr Erdmann at: <http://blog.conservation.org/2016/08/on-the-trail-of-sharky-mcsharkface/>





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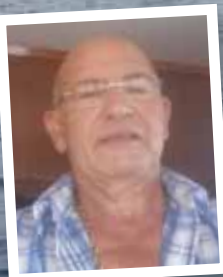
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CAPTAIN CLIVE AND "RECIFE" RETURN HOME

Some 12 months after leaving our shores Clive Rolfe has returned to Soldiers Point Marina with colourful tales to tell of his experiences hauling cargo in Vanuatu.

As many of you will recall, Clive's journey started with lengthy preparations and repairs on the MV Recife before he reached Vanuatu however after six weeks at anchor and a maze of red tape the boat successfully re-registered to Port Vila and Clive was able to start his trading work in the islands.

Clive took on board two engineers, two deck hands and a first mate, Steve, and following an initial period of trial and error, eventually worked out which of the 83 inhabited islands were the best to trade with. One of these islands was Steve's home island of Ambrym, a testing 14 hours under motor carefully navigating the route from Port Vila utilising sophisticated 'coconut tree' sat-nav through treacherous reefs and shallow waters.

Loading up in Port Vila and stopping at Paama on the way, sometimes with up to 50 passengers on board, Clive would provide a meal and drop them off to different islands on the way before offloading the cargo.

Advertising on the local radio proved to be Clive's best medium for attracting business and in total he undertook 11 cargo runs, five of which were to Ambrym. Doing business in the islands was certainly challenging in many ways and dealing with the locals took some finesse. While all in the main were very friendly and accommodating, most resisted his attempts to ensure safer boating, refusing to wear life jackets for example. Most ports had no wharves and sometimes the cargo had to be literally tipped overboard only to be retrieved by 'divers' and towed back to shore. Lighting in the port areas was a rarity so working at night was not an option for safety reasons.

With many adventures to tell, we are sure Clive will not be at a loss for words if you run into him at the marina. Ask about the time Recife lost both of its anchors and when the engine failed 22 miles out of Port Vila or the 'adventures' with the autopilot malfunctioning and the cost and constant difficulties in getting suitably skilled people to repair the problems.

And so it came to pass that after a year of severe sleep deprivation; physical, cultural and mechanical challenges, round-the-clock work, many frustrations and considerable expense, Clive called it a day and returned home to our fair shores to try his hand at something different. While the concept of a small trader proved a viable one for a hard worker, Clive stresses that "the location perhaps needs a rethink!"

The Recife in Vanuatu

"WOLFHOUND'S" WORLD ADVENTURE BEGINS



A 'Christening' ceremony complete with a traditional Maori blessing heralded the start of a long planned adventure for Steven and Louise Dew who were thrilled to finally hoist the sails on their lovingly built Wolfhound 64 Schooner. Under grey skies and to the cheers of friends and popping of champagne corks,

they motored out of Southampton, UK, in August, bound for Guernsey in the Channel Islands. After several miserable British 'Summer' months undertaking final preparations and commissioning their yacht for their long planned sailing adventure, they were finally 'at sea'.

Named after their two Wolfhound dogs, Shamus and Paddy, this beautifully crafted Schooner lived up to its expectations on the crossing of the Bay of Biscay and within a few days our sailors were lapping up the Northern Spanish sunshine, wonderful architecture, amazing cuisine and hospitality. Cascais in Portugal was the next port of call and allowed them to tend to some sail maintenance necessary for the planned Atlantic crossing in February.

Louise's blogs wax lyrical on their experiences in this historic and stunning part of the world and they enjoyed their break in this picturesque town which offers excellent yachting facilities and is a great step off point for land-based excursions to the fascinating Moorish town of Sintra.

Following this scenic bolthole they then enjoyed the peace and beauty of Madeira anchored off the capital of Funchal before heading to Gran Canary, Canary Islands, to berth the boat for a few months allowing them to return to NZ and attend to some business. The plan from there is to reunite with the yacht end February and sail over to the Caribbean before heading up the East Coast of America.

Stay tuned for progress reports next year and if keen to read more, the October issue of 'Yachting World' features a story on 'Wolfhound'.

www.sywolfhound.com





WHAT'S ON

NOVEMBER

19th – Brolga Lounge season opening morning tea – 10.30am
RSVP to the marina office

26th – Boat Maintenance Clinic with Soldiers Point Marine Centre – Bookings essential – RSVP to the marina office

DECEMBER

11th – Ladies Sailing Clinic with Captain Carmen - Bookings essential – RSVP to the marina office

31st – New Year's Eve - Music on the Marina "Let the Mango" performing on the Albatross Lounge

JANUARY

3rd to 28th – Soldiers Point Sailing School – Adult and Children's private lessons available

26th - Australia Day activities
Fly Point Nelson Bay
From 9.30-3pm

FEBRUARY

17th to 19th – NSWGFA Garmin Shootout Tournament

APRIL

3rd to 9th – Sail Port Stephens
www.sailportstephens.com.au

AMAZING FUEL OFFER

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Darrell Barnett CMM on
(02) 4982 7445

*Subject to fluctuation

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- Flagship Valet & Undercover Boat Storage
- Kayak & Paddleboard Storage
- Flagship Accommodation
- On site laundry and dry cleaning services
- Customer lounge / library / business centre
- Visitor Dock
- Onsite ATM and Weather Station
- Dedicated access to the private car park
- State-of-the-art Berths
- Filtered Water
- Disabled Facilities
- Beach Access
- Yacht Charter and Affordable Membership
- Beauty Therapist
- Shrink wrapping for your vessel/car
- Weddings Afloat

SERVICES

- Complimentary Summertime Cocktails, Coffees and Newspapers delivered to your boat
- Complimentary Use of iPad
- Complimentary Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Red and White Wine year round in our customer lounge
- Complimentary use of Bicycles, Kayak & Paddle Boards
- Complimentary Tennis at local courts
- Complimentary courtesy vehicles
- Airport pick up and drop off service
- Parcel and Postal Services
- Rubbish and Recycling
- Dock Assistance
- Random Security Patrols
- Movie & Board Game Library
- Xbox Console & Game Library
- VIP Valet Parking Services
- Educational Programs
- Moor Benefits Loyalty Card
- Wireless Internet
- Foxtel and digital TV to all berths
- Digital CCTV
- Portable defibrillator
- Camera access to your vessel 24/7 with secure login



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