



# scuttlebutt

THE SOLDIERS POINT MARINA NEWSLETTER



## Winner! Australian Marina of the Year 2007



**ABOVE:** Darrell Barnett, General Manager Soldiers Point Marina and Ian McAndrew, Director AMIF and Marina Industries Association

IN ITS PURSUIT of excellence in all aspects of its operations, ranging from management to customer service, Soldiers Point Marina has landed the coveted Marina of the Year award for 2007.

The award was announced as part of the Sanctuary Cove Boat Show held on Queensland's Gold Coast in May. The other finalists for the 2007 industry awards were Meridien Marinas Abel Point (North Queensland) and Sandringham Yacht Club (Melbourne).

The award, which is open to all marinas across Australia, bases its criteria on social, economic and environmental sustainability taking into account marina design and presentation, scope of services and facilities, customer service, environmental

programmes, involvement in the industry and contribution to the local economy and tourism.

Soldiers Point Marina has undergone dramatic changes over the past seven years and are largely the result of a vision held by Jeff d'Albora, former owner of the d'Albora group of companies, when he purchased the property in 2000. It was that vision that motivated some astute capital investment and guided the selection of a management team willing to take on the challenge of propelling the marina to become the first-class operation it is today.

In accepting the award, proud marina manager Darrell Barnett said "The marina has been selected for running a highly professional business, providing outstanding service to its customers, its environmental stewardship and its contributions to the industry and local community".

"We would also like to issue an invitation to the local community of Port Stephens to come on down and have a look over the marina, and perhaps take some time to sit and enjoy the views from the café (The Deck) and the restaurant (The Point), it's a very special part of the world and we're very lucky its right here on our doorstep."



# Boat Licences New South Wales

SINCE OCTOBER LAST year, any one wishing to sit for a general boating or PWC licence must now complete a compulsory boating safety course. The Boating Safety Course requirements can be met by either 1) attending a Course conducted by NSW Maritime, or the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol, Coast Guard or Volunteer Rescue Associations, 2) viewing the Course on line, or 3) purchasing a DVD/video for viewing at home.

It is neither the size of a vessel nor the power of the engine which determines if a person needs to be licensed, it is the speed at which a boat is driven: 10 knots is the speed at which an accelerating boat will start to plane - that is rise up and skim along the water instead of ploughing through it.

For full information on the Boating Safety Course, the types of licences available and the application fees check the NSW Maritime website :

[www.maritime.nsw.gov.au/licence](http://www.maritime.nsw.gov.au/licence)

## Australian National Maritime Museum

TIME SPENT BROWSING through the many exhibitions of the Australian National Maritime Museum is not only entertaining but very educational. The Museum aims to bring our maritime heritage to life and preserve it for future generations.

The Museum's spectacular galleries explore many aspects of Australia's dependence and love affair with its oceans, including the development of the Navy, the navigation and mapping of our shores, life and work on the wharves, etc plus the many ship models, charts, films, guided tours of historic vessels and much more - you may need more than a day to do it justice.

The Museum is open daily from 9.30am to 5pm. Entry to the main Museum is free.

See [www.anmm.gov.au](http://www.anmm.gov.au) for full details on all exhibitions.

# Recreational Fishing Fee

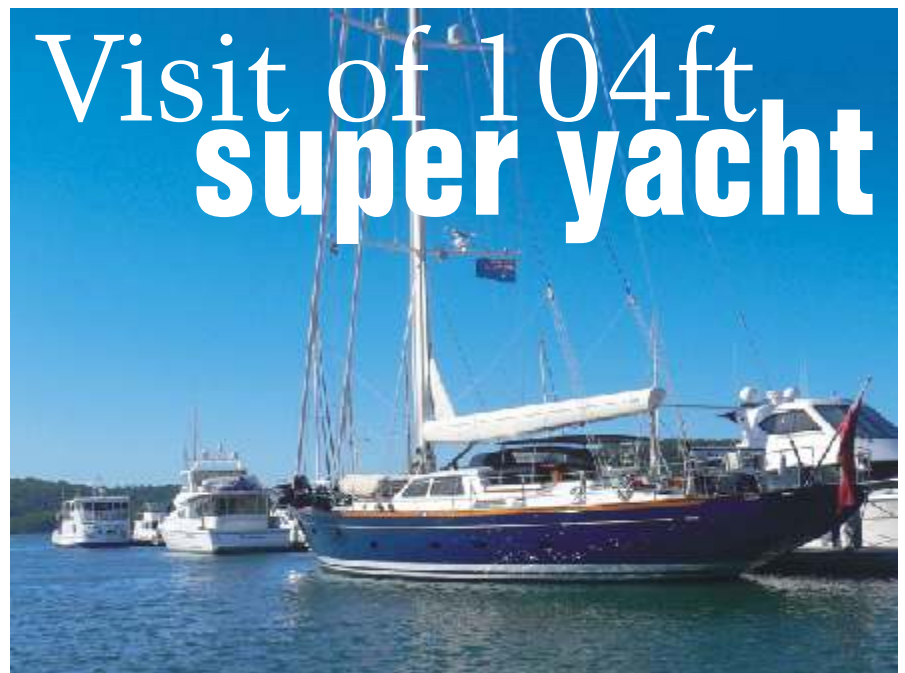
WHEN FISHING IN NSW waters, both freshwater and saltwater, everyone is required to pay the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee and to have receipt for payment in their possession.

This applies to all kinds of fishing, including spear fishing, hand lining, hand gathering, trapping and bait collection and prawn netting. It also includes being in possession of fishing gear in, on or adjacent to waters. The fee can be for three days (\$6), one month (\$12), a year (\$30) or three years (\$75). There are, however, some exemptions. It is not necessary to pay the fee if you are:

1. Under the age of 18.
2. An adult assisting a person under 18 to take a fish using a single rod or to take prawns using a single dip or scoop net.

3. A person fishing in a private dam with a surface area of two hectares or less.
4. An Aboriginal person fishing in freshwater; or, when fishing in saltwater, an Aboriginal person that is a party to a registered native title claim, or is taking part in a traditional cultural activity as a member of their local land council, or in the company of a member of the local land council.
5. Or, the holder of a current Commonwealth Pensioner Concession Card.

To obtain a Fishing Licence, phone 1300 369 365 or visit NSW Maritime Port Stephens, 12 Teramby Road, Nelson Bay. Phone 4984 2133



CHIMERA WAS DESIGNED to sail globally with a professional crew of four. Since launch in April 2002 in New Zealand she has cruised extensively (60,000nm so far) in the North and South Pacific as well as rounding Cape Horn and circumnavigating the continent of South America.

She is currently on a 12 month visit to Australia cruising the east coast from Jervis Bay to Queen Charlotte Bay and one of her east coast stops was at **Soldiers Point Marina**. She will be departing Australian

waters for the North Pacific later this year bound for Japan and Alaska. Chimera will consistently cover 216 nautical miles each day a day with her best day's run of 256 nautical miles in the Southern Ocean from Easter Island to Patagonia.

Chimera's crew were impressed with Soldiers Point Marina and have no hesitation in recommending the marina and its facilities to superyacht captains around the world. There is more information about this superb super yacht at [www.alloyyachts.com](http://www.alloyyachts.com)



# The Myall Lakes

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## a Great Destination for Boaters

ON THE NORTHERN outskirts of Port Stephens, one of the state's largest coastal lake systems can be found: the Myall Lakes. This beautiful water system provides a great destination for boaters looking for either a day trip from Soldiers Point, or a longer stay to properly explore the area.

The Myall Lakes are a part of the Great Lakes system, which extends further north up to Forster, however they are not all linked by water. The Myall Lakes consists of three lakes interconnected by waterways. The first that can be reached by boat is the Bombah Broadwater, followed closely by the Boolambayte Lake and finally the largest of the three, the Myall Lake. These lakes are situated in the Myall Lakes National Park, which covers 44,172 hectares.

The Lakes were originally inhabited and named by the Aboriginals until a tiny settlement was founded in the early 1800s at what is now known as Boolambayte. The settlement expanded due to the timber trade which commenced in 1816, mainly cedar, and oyster farming. The only access to the lakes for residents and tradesmen up until the 20th century was by water, and supplies were brought in by boat from Tea Gardens.

The same waterway used by these early settlers is used today to reach the lakes by water. The Myall River, running from the northern shores of Port Stephens winds its way north for 20 kilometres, where it opens into Bombah Broadwater.

There are few shops or facilities in the lakes, which helps create the peaceful and 'untouched' feeling of the area. Tea Gardens, 5 kilometres upstream from Port Stephens, is a convenient place to stop and buy some fresh oysters and seafood in the morning to take into the lakes for a lovely relaxing lunch while fishing.

The lakes are a breeding ground for bream, flathead, mullet and many other species of salt water fish. Bombah Broadwater, has cloudy water with visibility of about 1.5m and is the best lake for catching prawns. The water becomes clearer through Boolambayte Lake and is completely clear in the Myall Lake.

The Myall Shores Resort, on the northern shore of Bombah Broadwater, provides lakeside and lakefront villas for those wishing to stay overnight on dry land. This resort is the only place in the lakes where visitors can dine out. There is a restaurant

and a café/bar in the resort which offer meals and/or drinks all day. There are six courtesy moorings and a pumpout at the resort which can be used by guests. There are other courtesy moorings which can be found in the lakes in Professors Cove, Violet Hill, Long Point Bay and Kataway Bay.

The Myall Shores Resort provides many opportunities for guests to experience the wonders of the Myall Lakes. There are 280 species of birds that have been recorded in the Myall Lakes National Park, and the resort offers a free guide who gives a brief introduction to the various species followed by a lesson in approaching and photographing birds.

They also offer a walking tour through the dunes and then into the Mungo Brush Rainforest, with an experienced guide. A guided kayak tour is also available, or canoes and kayaks are available for hire for those who wish to explore for themselves. All three lakes have many quiet coves and ideal spots for exploring and swimming, either by canoe or by boat, or for simply enjoying watching the bird life.

For further information see website [www.ecopoint.com.au](http://www.ecopoint.com.au)



# From the Bridge

Story Peter Scott Photography Janey Harper

LIFESTYLE MARINE'S LATEST Sea Ray Sedan Bridge cruiser is turning heads at Soldiers Point Marina.

The 36 Sedan Bridge is one of Sea Ray's latest models and is a stylish family cruiser, beautifully finished with quality appointments and accommodation for at least six people.

The sedan bridge cruiser features comfortable walk-around decks, a moulded portside flybridge stairwell and hardtop with forward facing targa. Powered by twin MerCruiser petrols, this shaft driven cruiser is a revelation in style and comfort.

Equipped with Mercury's revolutionary SmartCraft technology and fitted with a Navman 8084 GPS plotter, Northstar VHF and bow thruster, the boat is easily handled from its commanding helm.

There is plenty of room on the sedan bridge for entertaining. The aft cockpit is suitable for a couple of deck chairs to complement the single transom bench lounge and the integrated

swim platform adds to the overall appeal of the boat. The saloon has plenty of lounge space, a separate raised dinette and a sunken galley which provides access to the cabin area. The dinette converts to an additional bed while the two double cabins are generous in size and fitout including hanging space.

The starboard size cabin features a small step-down to allow for full height on entry. Sleeping configuration can either be two single beds or a double converted by an infill.

Both cabins and saloon have carbon monoxide detectors and separate air conditioning as well as sound and entertainment systems. Both cabins have flat screen TVs while the saloon has a complete surround sound facility.

The bathroom features a separate shower with moulded seat, mirrors on the vanity doors and a dual entry from both the companionway and the forward cabin.

The galley is equally impressive with marble benchtops, ceramic cooktop, stainless steel

microwave, fridge and freezer and polished timber floor.

What is appreciated on the Sea Ray 36 Sedan Bridge is the attention to detail. There are plenty of 240 volt outlets, lots of storage space, quality carpets, courtesy lights on the steps and down lighting throughout.

The cabins can be naturally ventilated using the portholes and overhead hatches while the saloon benefits from a high ceiling and big side and front windows.

From a performance perspective, the shaft driven cruiser benefits from Sea Ray's proven deep vee hulls while the engine room is equipped with Kohler genset, Sea Fire suppression system and quality through hull engineering.

The Sea Ray 36 Sedan Bridge is a superb lifestyle cruiser and is available for inspection at Lifestyle Marine at Soldiers Point Marina.

[www.lifestylemarine.net.au](http://www.lifestylemarine.net.au)

# October Boat Show

Story Peter Scott Photography Janey Harper



SOLDIERS POINT MARINA, Australia's best marina, will host its fourth annual boat show over the weekend of 13 and 14 October.

The annual show will not only showcase the superb marina and lifestyle facilities at Soldiers Point but will have on display, the Australian Boat of the Year, the fabulous three cabin Riviera 4700 Sport Yacht. It is rumoured that Fascination II, the Riviera 56 enclosed corporate boat owned jointly by Riviera and specialist marine engine manufacturer MTU, will be attending the show.

As well as the Riviervas, there will be plenty of new boats on display, including Sea Ray's 36 Sedan Bridge (see page 4 for full details), Boston Whalers and Stacers, as well as engine displays from Mercury and Volvo who will feature their new IPS technology. Leading electronics brands such as Raymarine will also be on display.

Added attractions for the October 2007 show include displays of Holden's HSV cars and Harley Davidson racer and cruising bikes.

Entry to the show is free and visitors will enjoy



Australian Boat of the Year - Riviera 4700

## Boat of the Year

RIVIERA'S 4700 SPORT Yacht has been awarded the Australian Marine Industries Association (AMIF) most prestigious prize - the accolade as 2007 Australian Manufactured Boat of the Year. The award was announced at the marine industry's night of nights on Thursday 24th May - the annual presentation dinner held on the Gold Coast during the Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show. This innovative sport yacht will be on display at the October Boat Show.

superb food, wine and entertainment including face painting for the children and a bouncing castle.

Last year's attendance figures topped 5,000 people over the two day exhibition and with the quality of displays and facilities, the annual Soldiers Point Marina boat show is quickly becoming one of Australia's best regional boat shows.

For further information see websites [www.rmarineportstephens.com.au](http://www.rmarineportstephens.com.au) and [www.lifestylemarine.net.au](http://www.lifestylemarine.net.au)

Bellingham Marine  
Congratulates...



...Soldiers Point Marina

## The MARINA OF THE YEAR 2007

Another Quality Marina Project from the  
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[www.bellingham-marine.com](http://www.bellingham-marine.com)

# Nautical Definitions

**NAUTICAL MILE** - equals approximately 1,850 metres

**KNOT** - equivalent to speed of 1.85km per hour

**SEA** - includes every arm, estuary or river which is part of the sea and is within the ebb and flow of the tide.

**LENGTH** - in relation to a pleasure craft, means the greater distance between the foremost and aftermost parts of the vessel measured in a straight line parallel to its keel.

**OPEN WATER SAILING** - sailing more than 10 nautical miles off any land mass.

**LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE** - A series of imaginary lines on the earth's surface drawn at intervals parallel to the equator (latitude) or the poles (longitude) as an aid to navigation. Since they are invisible, many mariners find them of limited use.

**BITTER END** - The end of an anchor cable is fastened to the bitts at the ship's bow. If all of the anchor cable has been paid out you have come to the bitter end.

**DEVIL TO PAY** - Today the expression "devil to pay" is used primarily to describe having an unpleasant result from some action that has been taken, as in someone has done something they shouldn't have and, as a result, "there will be the devil to pay." Originally, this expression described one of the unpleasant tasks aboard a wooden ship. The "devil" was the wooden ship's longest seam in the hull. Caulking was done with "pay" or pitch (a kind of tar). The task of "paying the devil" (caulking the longest seam) by squatting in the bilges was despised by every seaman.

Nautical Definitions provided by Keith Archer and Soldiers Point Marina.



Photo courtesy Jack Atley

## BIG BUSINESS AT AUDI HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK

AUSTRALIA'S BUSINESS ELITE gathered for this year's Audi Hamilton Island Race Week. After winning his division last year with a previous boat, Wotif.com founder Graeme Wood was back for another shot with his new Transpac 52 called Wot Yot.

During Race Five of Audi Hamilton Island Race Week, Graeme and his crew were treated to a spectacle of two mother humpback whales, one already accompanied by its calf and the other giving birth as the yachts passed by.

Sydney based financial commentator Paul Clitheroe, who finished second last year to Wood, returned with his yacht Balance and sailed in the Premier IRC division against marine retailer Andrew Short who recently relaunched the racing career of Australia's best known maxi, Brindabella.

Steven David, son of grocery tycoon John David, battled it out in the IRC racing division with his Reichel/Pugh 60 Wild Joe against Securenet founder Geoff Ross (Yendys). Yendys finally pipped Hamilton Island owner, Bob Oatley's Wild Oats X for overall honours which came down to a last race duel.

Other well know business identities at Race Week included Workforce International founder Ray Roberts who campaigned his Cookson 50 called Quantum Racing, and Bob Steel who recently sold Travelscene and has made his racing comeback with his new boat called Quest.

While not competing this year, Blackmores' chairman Marcus Blackmore, a big supporter of sailing, flew in for the official launch of Audi Hamilton Island Race Week. Also seen circulating around the docks were Collette Dinnigan who launched her new Cruise

Collection at Race Week, Sandra Sully, Jamie Durie, tennis greats Todd Woodbridge and Nicole Bradke as well as skier Zali Steggall and celebrity chefs Geoff Lindsay and Luke Mangan.

Radio legend John Laws broadcast his morning show on 2UE, live from Hamilton Island from Monday to Wednesday.

Local oyster farmers Clark and Guy Holbert and their wives Deirdre and Debra also ventured to Hamilton Island to fly the Port Stephens flag, as they do every year. They enjoyed this year's race series so much they are already planning for next year's event.

Audi Hamilton Island Race Week is an annual event held in the last week of August. This year a record fleet of 217 yachts from Australia and overseas took part.





# Deck DINING

Restaurant Review Peter Scott Photography Janey Harper

ABOVE: L-R Jon, Lisa, Alex and Nick

THE NEW DECK CAFÉ at Soldiers Point Marina is quickly gaining a reputation as an exceptional place to dine.

The family operated business of Nick Papas and Jon Kamenos have introduced a comprehensive Mediterranean style menu which offers a superb choice of dishes for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Currently, the Deck Café opens for breakfast and lunch every day of the week.

The Deck Café offers superb views over the marina and the contemporary decor adds to the overall flavour of the alfresco dining style.

Recently, we enjoyed a delightful lunch on the deck and I have to say the quality of food, presentation and friendly service was of the highest order. Clearly, Nick and Jon are determined to deliver exceptional quality

and service. We shared a Seafood Brochette, a beautifully presented platter of seared scallops and prawns wrapped in bacon and served on a bed of baby spinach, mesclun lettuce and rocket and topped with a smooth and creamy bernaïse sauce. The platter was decorated with crisp shaved pieces of sweet potato to add further to this full flavoured dish.

Our mains consisted of a salmon Caesar salad - again presentation and flavour were tops while the chicken salmon - a tender moist fillet topped with smoked salmon and smothered in a tangy green peppercorn sauce was simply to die for.

We finished with a Deck Café special - sticky date pudding and coffee - just delightful.

The Deck Café and Bar is a relaxing place to enjoy great views, excellent service and tremendous food. Whether a light snack or a

three course meal. The menu is comprehensive offering everything from pastas to fresh seafood. House specialties include lambs brains, traditional lamb shanks and Halloumi salad.

There are some eagerly awaited additions to the menu according to Nick. The popular breakfast menu will soon offer a range of cereals and fresh fruit as well as banana crepes and pancakes while the lunch and dinner menus will be enhanced with a range of specials.

The Deck Café and Bar also caters for private parties and weddings and can seat up to 70 people. The overhead heaters and clear blinds add to the warmth and colour of the alfresco setting making the Deck Café and Bar an ideal venue for casual dining regardless of the season.

[www.thedeck.net.au](http://www.thedeck.net.au)



67 Soldiers Point Road

If you have been searching for a waterfront Bargain, look no further!

This stunning 3 bedroom Torrens Title Beachfront duplex is so realistically priced, you'd be kicking your self if you let this opportunity sail by! Speaking of sailing by, ever dreamt of sitting on your deck watching the water lapping at your door step, watching the yachts sail by and the dolphins playing...you have? Don't dream, this could be a reality!

Inspect this amazing property and compare the size! This property is extremely large for a waterfront duplex. Not only does this property

feature 3 generous bedrooms, it also has lovely bathrooms, 3 in total, large storage area/rumpus/wine cellar/office, double lock up garage, stunning chef's kitchen with European appliances, fully ducted air-conditioning throughout, fully ducted

vacuum system...and so much more. Viewings by appointment only...don't delay this stunning property will be snapped up!

**\$1,750,000**

**Agent: Michael Kirby 0423 792 829**



# Winter whale watching season well underway

WITH WINTER WHALE watching becoming quite an industry in our region and as it becomes an increasingly frequent privilege to watch these enormous animals at play, we must also bear in mind that any impact by vessels, either deliberately or unintentionally, has the potential to affect their well-being.

With this in mind, the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Amendment (Marine Mammals) Regulation 2006 has been introduced to protect marine mammals such as whales and dolphins while allowing people to appreciate them.

Some points of the Regulation are summarised below:

**Caution zone:** a distance of between 100 m and 300 m from a whale and between 50 m and 150 m from a dolphin. In the caution zone, vessels must travel at a constant slow speed and leave a negligible wake.

**Negligible wake:** wake that does not create waves big enough to make nearby boats move.

**Prohibited vessels:** these are vessels that can

make fast and erratic movements and not much noise underwater, so there is more chance they may collide with a marine mammal. Such vessels include personal motorised watercraft like jet skis, parasail boats, hovercraft, hydrofoils, wing-in-ground effect craft, remotely operated craft or motorised diving aids like underwater scooters.

**Vessels:** these are watercraft that can be used as transport including motorised or non-motorised boats, surfboards, surf skis and kayaks.

**How close can vessels and aircraft get to whales and dolphins?** For a vessel, the approach distance is 100 m from a whale or 50 m from a dolphin.

When calves are in the pod, the approach distance for a vessel is 300 m from a whale or 150 m from a dolphin.

For a prohibited vessel, the approach distance is always 300 m from a whale or dolphin.

Helicopters or gyrocopters must not get closer (in height or distance) than 500 m to a whale

or dolphin. Other planes must not get closer (in height or distance) than 300 m to a whale or dolphin.

**At what speeds can vessels travel around or approach marine mammals?** Vessels must always travel at a safe speed which will enable them to stop in time to avoid distressing or colliding with an animal. This speed cannot be expressed as a maximum number of knots as it will vary according to circumstances and conditions. In the caution zone, the speed must be constant and slow, and leave a negligible wake.

Whales and dolphins rely on sounds underwater to communicate, find food and navigate so vessel operators need to travel at a speed that will minimise the noise around them, and ensure their vessel does not suddenly change its direction.

For details of how to minimise wake from a vessel visit NSW Maritime's website at [www.maritime.nsw.gov.au](http://www.maritime.nsw.gov.au) or phone 131 256.



# Inya Dreams Northern Adventure



INYA DREAMS AND crew Brian, Wazza and Jay have just completed their charter commitments at Princess Charlotte Bay, which is the first leg of the 2007 North Queensland Reef and Gamefishing Season. All who have experienced Inya Dreams Charters so far this year enjoyed themselves so much that they have re-booked for next year and into the future. During the first leg, Inya Dreams crew managed to professionally pack, for air travel, a catch of approx 220lb of quality table fish including red emperor, coral trout, spanish mackrel and live mudcrabs.

With all customers 'spreading the word' about the exceptional service and fishing 'know how' of Inya Dreams crew in North Queensland's pristine waters, many have already pre-booked for fishing in 2008. Inya Dreams will be travelling further north to Thursday Island and as far a field as Papua New Guinea with a longer season to incorporate some exceptional excursions next year.

From September through to December the largest black marlin in the world - many of them "granders" of over a thousand pounds, migrate along the 150 mile stretch of the Great Barrier Reef between the north eastern coastal city of Cairns and the exclusive five star resort of Lizard Island. This is unquestionably the best giant marlin location in the world. If you are serious big game angler, you owe it to yourself to give it a try.

Cairns has, over the years, produced more big marlin of 1,000 pounds and heavier than any other part of the world!! Boats, crews and anglers from all over the globe head to this part of Australia each year to experience some of the most exciting fishing imaginable.

The most effective and productive way of fishing for these giants is to charter Inya Dreams along with her professional crew of four. This affordable live-aboard option will enable you to travel the length of the Ribbon Reefs (Cairns to Lizard Island) with the utmost flexibility thus enabling you to follow the fish.

MOST IMPORTANTLY it is now time to think about our return home to Soldiers Point Marina, Port Stephens and the famous black marlin season. Inya Dreams will be returning at Christmas and will be available for charter for both tournament fishing and exclusive private or corporate functions. So if you are keen to get out there and have the experience of your life, there is no time like the present to book INYA DREAMS CHARTERS.

Greetings to all at Soldiers Point Marina, our favorite home port - Look forward to seeing you soon!

## Spring Discounts at SOLDIERS POINT MARINE CENTRE

SOLDIERS POINT MARINA CENTRE are offering a great opportunity to have your boat checked over well before the busy SUMMER rush.

All customers who have their boat slipped during September, October, November can take advantage of our 10% Summer slipping discount. (note : the boat must be off the slip prior to November 30th for this discount to be eligible).

The Soldiers Point Marina Centre prides itself on providing a service which excels in reliability and first class tradesmanship. Call the Centre on 02 4984 6300 and speak to Tony for all your boating needs.

**10% SPRING  
SLIPPING DISCOUNT**

## INYA DREAMS CHARTERS LIVE THE DREAM WITH INYA!

"Inya Dreams" a local game fishing boat will soon arrive back at Soldiers Point Marina after successfully fulfilling its charter commitments in Cairns.

Skipped by Brian Felton and Warren "wazza" Anderson who between then have 45 years game fishing experience worldwide.



### Bookings now being taken for the 2007-2008 Port Stephens Season

"Inya Dreams" is a 56' Cresta purpose built game fishing vessel, fitted with the very best in tackle, GPS navigation and fish finding technology.

For bookings and enquiries call Brian on 0428 642 503

# The Port Stephens

Story and Photography Ross Hunter

with a 35kg yellowfin. All boats entered performed very well, but more than that had a great time without the pressures that normally comes with tournament fishing

The lads have always chosen to stay at Soldiers Point Marina. "Nothing is a problem for Darrell and Jim, be it an early fuel up, complimentary morning coffee and papers then the afternoon cocktails. They simply are the best blokes and offer a service next to none, add to this the world class facilities and the fact that they deservedly just won "Marina of the Year" I reckon a man would be an idiot to stay anywhere else!" (Thanks Ross! ed).

In 2008, "Briefing Night" will be held on Thursday, 14th February at Salamander Shores Hotel, with fishing days Friday 15th, Saturday 16th and finishing Sunday 17th with a presentation evening for all participants, their partners and anglers.

For an entry to the 2008 Northern Waters visit Ross Hunter's web site [www.gamefishingcharters.com.au](http://www.gamefishingcharters.com.au) or email direct to [gamefishing@bigpond.com.au](mailto:gamefishing@bigpond.com.au)

BELOW LEFT: The winning team Clynton Bartholamuez with the lads from Nivea. Broadbill won with eight marlin released

BELOW: Monster mahis at Port Stephens.



## At Port Stephens

EVERY YEAR, the highly respected father and son fishing team of Captains Ross and Glenn Hunter, spend three months fishing the Port Stephens marlin season in their renowned boats Broadbill and Billfisher.

"These are the finest marlin grounds to be found anywhere in the world" says Ross, and such is Ross's enthusiasm each year he organises a private tournament called The Northern Waters Invitational. "The theme of the Tournament is a bunch of like-minded friends getting together to enjoy each other's company in a most leisurely event on Mother Ocean. And whilst there are rules, they are fairly relaxed and the accent is on having fun and enjoying the fishing and the friendship of the other competitors. The tournament motto is "Cheating is not encouraged but if done with flair may be accepted".

Over the years Bill fisher and Broadbill have had a strangle hold on the major trophy and have shared "Champion Boat Tag and Release Marlin". This year Ross's Broadbill won with 8 marlin tagged, coming back from nowhere on day three with five marlin. Ross's champion team from the company Nivea headed up by Clynton Bartholamuez had never caught a marlin before the event and will be back in '08 to defend their title. Billfisher was runner up and Chris Herbert's Absolute next in line..."The Absolute lads fished very well and were unlucky to be pipped at the post. They are the hot boat for next year." Tony Cecatto's Outwide won heaviest snapper. Shimano's Triton and Ken Madison's Pacifica both released some fine marlin.

Art Vella's Inya Dreams (the pocket battleship) took out heaviest other gamefish



# By Shucks

Story Peter Scott Photography Janey Harper

# He's Good.

MEET GEOFF SHARPE, one of Australia's and indeed, the world's best oyster shuckers. Geoff, who hails from Soldiers Point, has been opening oysters for some 16 years and has entered the Australian Shucking Championships for the past six years, first entering the competition in 2002.

After winning the 2002 NSW state championships, Geoff took out the Australian title that year and followed up with back to back wins in 2003. As a

result of his win in the Australian Shucking Championships held annually in Brisbane, Geoff travelled to Galway in Ireland to contest the world championships against national winners from 15 other countries.

Geoff has now won the NSW championships for the past six years and will soon compete in the nationals in Brisbane later this month. A feature

of this year's national oyster shucking championships will be his rivalry with champion Queensland shucker Benny May.

So what makes a champion oyster shucker? Basically, speed and cleanliness. In a shucking championship, each contestant must open 30 oysters as quickly as possible. It is important that each contestant ensure that they are given 30 oysters because for each oyster not presented, a time penalty of 30 seconds is debited against a competitor's actual time.

The oysters must be opened and presented as being suitable to be served in a five star restaurant.

When judging, the judges do not know the identity of each competitor's oysters. It is a tough test of skill and cleanliness.

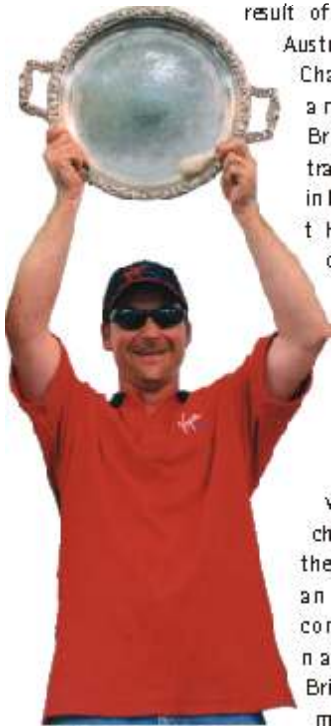
For each speck of shell and every tear in the oysters, a further time penalty of five seconds is added to the contestant's score. If competitors happen to cut themselves and blood is present in the oysters presented, further time penalties apply.

Geoff can open 30 oysters in an average time of 2 minutes 20 seconds with his fastest recorded time being 2 minutes 18 seconds.

As a champion oyster shucker, Geoff, who presently works for local oyster producers Holberts, appears in Woolworths stores on



Sydney's North Shore every Thursday giving demonstrations of his skill with an oyster and a knife. He is so proficient at opening oysters, he regularly opens 20 dozen oysters in as little as 17 minutes.



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# what's on

September-October – Whales migration back to Antarctica
October 11th – Ladies Spring Fashion Classic at Pacific Dunes Golf Club <a href="http://www.pacificdunes.com.au">www.pacificdunes.com.au</a>
October 12th – 14th – Music in the Hunter <a href="http://www.constablevineyards.com.au">www.constablevineyards.com.au</a>
October 13th & 14th The Port Stephens Boat Show held at Soldiers Point Marina.
November 4th – Try Sailing Day <a href="http://www.bia.org.au">www.bia.org.au</a>
November 10th & 11th – Tastes of the Bay Food & Music Festival, Nelson Bay Foreshore.
December 23rd – Carols by Candlelight, Fly Point commences 7.00pm. Contact 02 4984 4751
December 31st – New Years Eve Fireworks, Soldiers Point Marina.
January 19th – Masters Surf Lifesaving Carnival, Fingal Bay.
15th-17th – Northern Waters Invitational Tournament Port Stephens. Contact Ross Hunter 02 9534 2378
February 23rd-24th & March 1st-2nd Riviera NSWGFA Interclub Tournament.
February 26th – NSW Game Fishing Association Ladies Day
February 27th & 28th – The Shores Invitational Only Tournament.
March 14th-16th – Club Marine Trailer Boat Tournament – Port Stephens. <a href="http://www.tbft.com.au">www.tbft.com.au</a>
March 16th – Annual Jazz at the Winery, 11am-4pm. Live Jazz all day at Port Stephens Winery. Contact 02 4982 6411
March 21st-24th – Easter 2008, gifts to all the kids at Soldiers Point Marina.
March 8th – 9th - Karuah Oyster Festival
April 12th & 13th – Boat handling clinics with Leif Albertson. Bookings essential 02 4982 7445.
April 13th – Fishing Clinic with John "Stinker" Clark, Soldiers Point Marina Free!!! Bookings essential 02 4982 7445.
May 11th – Mother Day, gifts to all mothers at Soldiers Point Marina.
May 18th-23rd – Nelson Bay Golf Classic
June 5th-9th – Blue Water Country Festival, Port Stephens.
July 31st-5th August – Sydney International Boat Show, Darling Harbour.
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday of every month – Nelson Bay Craft Markets, Neil Carroll Park. Contact Lorraine 0419 492 009
2nd & 4th Sunday of every month – Tomaree Markets, Tomaree Sports Complex. Contact Elinor 02 4981 3565

# Marina's Rebuff to Winter Storms

WE ARE PLEASED to report that Soldiers Point Marina stood up well to the wild weather which lashed the Hunter and the coast of NSW in early June. The storms caused severe flooding and damage to many homes and properties, including marinas and boats in the Lake Macquarie and Toronto area. "The marina, built and engineered to a site-specific design by Bellingham Marine, stood up extremely well to the challenges of the June storms" said Marina Manager, Darrell Barnett. "Though we don't want to be tested to that extreme too often, the marina's stability and durability was well and truly evident in June."

# contact list

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- Soldiers Point Marine Centre Tel: (02) 4984 6300 Fax: (02) 4984 6305 Email: [admin@spmcentre.com](mailto:admin@spmcentre.com)
- Soldiers Point Massage & Beauty Centre Tel: (02) 4982 7773
- The Deck Café Tel: (02) 4919 1502 Email: [nick@thedeck.net.au](mailto:nick@thedeck.net.au) Web: [www.thedeck.net.au](http://www.thedeck.net.au)
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