



Good times

in the Great Lakes

The Rock Pool Tuncurry

by Christian Edgar Odgers

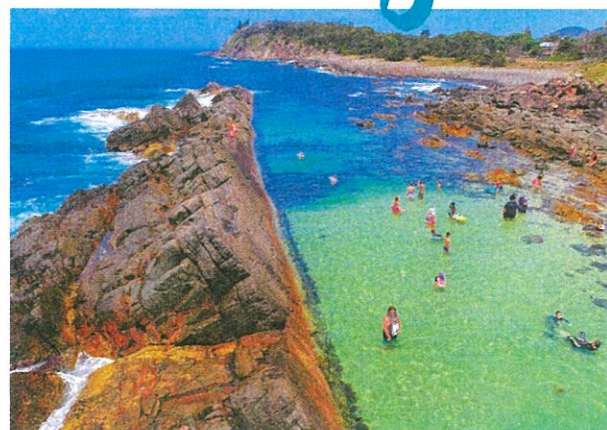
The first tingles of relaxation start for me at the turn off onto The Lakes Way at Bulahdelah. The road winds through farmland, around dazzling lakes, past sleepy villages and through National Parks and past some glorious beaches. It's a wonderful welcome to everything the Great Lakes area has to offer.

How can you go past a beach with the name 'Frothy Coffee' without stopping for a cappuccino? The beaches around Pacific Palms are not crowded only because there are so many spots to choose from. For a swim or a laze on a white beach, Elizabeth Beach will deliver in spades. While Blueys or Boomerang beaches are great for surfing and fishing.

On your way through, be sure to duck in to look at the Green Cathedral. You don't see outdoor churches



Green Cathedral



Tanks @ Bebbly Beach

every day. Serene and peaceful with outstanding views make this one definitely worth the visit.

For families, the Tanks rock formations at Pebbly Beach create a perfect small inlet for swimming and snorkelling. It is just a short walk from Forster's Main Beach. The adjacent park is also family friendly with a playground, BBQs, picnic shelters and public toilets.

The Rock Pool at Tuncurry is even better. It is also just a short distance from the API two-bedroom Fairholme units. The outlook from the units is simply delightful. Waking up to views over Wallis Lake has to be seen to be appreciated. While it is called Wallis Lake, the sand and clear salt-water make it appear to be just a beautiful inlet of the sea. The dolphins, fish and pelicans add to the wonderful illusion.

“Whales swim close to shore.”

Beach Bums on Main Beach has been serving sumptuous brekkies for years so it can be hard to get a seat. A little further down the street, Wingman Espresso whips up a delicious smashed Avo and much more with similar views.



Smashed Avo @ Wingman Café on Main Beach

Whales travel past close to shore in this area. Amaroo Cruises will take you closer, but if you are a land lubber and reasonably fit, a walk up to Cape Hawke will reward you with magnificent vistas and very possibly an exciting sighting (between May and November). Bennett's Head Lookout is also renowned for good whale sightings.

“Visit the area before too many people realise how good it is.”

The Forster Bicentennial Walk starts at Main Beach near the Bull Ring with a first stop at Second Head Lookout. As you continue along, the track passes Pebbly Beach and morphs into Frewins Walk, where it gets a little steeper, and then passes through some littoral rainforest. It's a fabulous coastal walk at any time of year, and that exercise brings its own rewards. The opportunity to enjoy a guilt free meal or two.



Elisabeth Beach

In the evening, the fully equipped kitchens at API's Fairholme units offer the first choice for dinner and remember, the dining table offers a staggeringly good view of the water (as well as the TV!). However, if the chef in your family wants a break, and no one puts up their hand to be the designated driver, five minutes-walk will bring you to the perennially favourite Hamiltons Oysters and Restaurant. Just a few more minutes will bring you to the Deck restaurant and many other options.

On another evening, when the 'DD' is available, a trip across the bridge brings so many options you will need to stay a couple of months to try them all! The BYO Anatolia restaurant offers Turkish food at its best. The Spice Monkey serves Thai to die for, while Café Toscano brings the Mediterranean to the Great Lakes. These are just a few we have sampled. Let us know which ones are your favourites.

This whole region is a sleeper. Visit the area before too many people realise how good it is. Fairholme bookings are now open into 2023. API

Book your stay in an API holiday home online at www.apilifestyle.com.au or call us on 1300 653 322.