

# Blink and you will miss it

by Anna Pasparakis

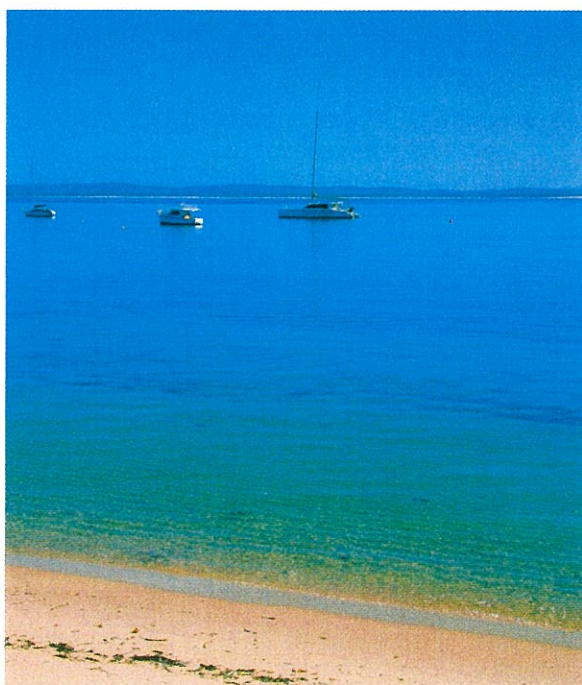
'My family wants me to make another booking.'

'They just love this place.'

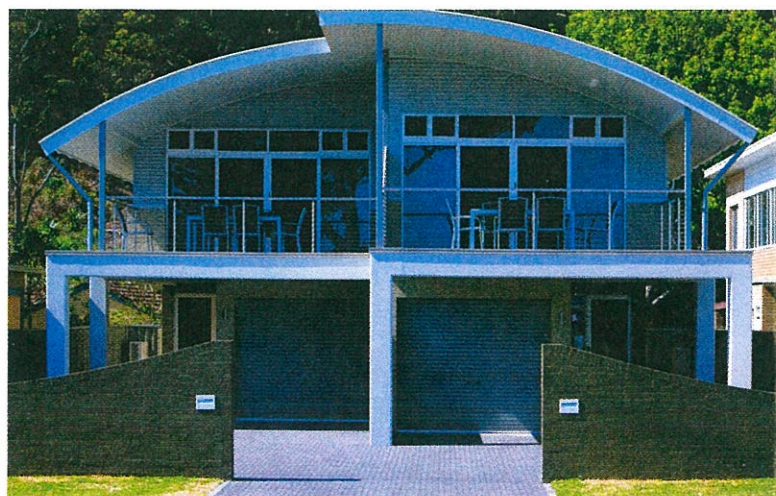
'Would we like to stay here again? Absolutely.'

These are the sort of comments I hear frequently.

I am in the fortunate position of talking to members about some of their holiday home bookings. It is heart-warming to see the number of people who have stayed in several API properties and there is no higher commendation than seeing people making second and third bookings at the same location.



Crystal clear waters of Shoal Bay



Tidemark - the best location in Port Stephens

At **Shoal Bay in NSW**, API built two townhouses a few years ago specifically to provide exceptional value holidays for members. They do exactly that. It is interesting seeing people trying to put into words, why they want to go again. Is it the large balcony where people spend most of the time, overlooking the clear waters of the bay? Is it the fact that with three bedrooms the family has plenty of room? Is it that the walk to pick up a coffee in the morning, or go to dinner, is just three minutes? Is it the two spacious bathrooms or spa-bath? The answer we normally get is much less analytical 'we simply love it' is the top response.

My advice to all members is plan your trip well in advance so you can book the dates you want to go. It's so popular you may miss out if you take too long to decide. In other words, 'blink and you will miss it.' It's a good metaphor for life. Seize it with both hands, or you will wish you had!

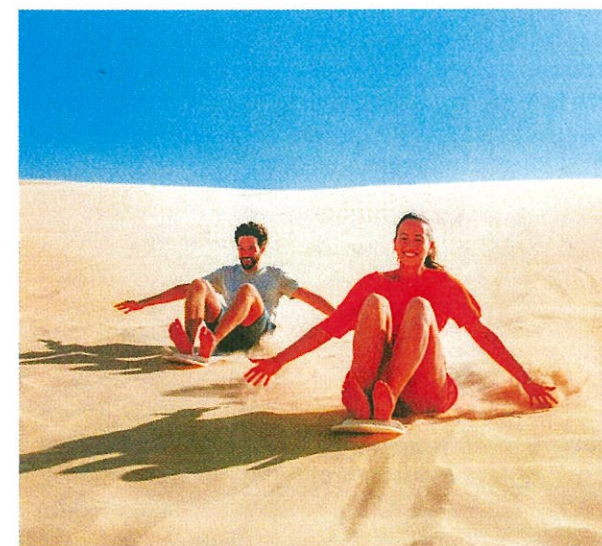
Someone summed it so well, when they explained **Tidemark** was the kind of place they used to look at and wonder how people staying there could afford to buy such an awesome holiday home. He now notices people looking up at him wondering how he was able to afford to buy it. Little do they know he does not own it, but he feels like it is his own holiday home while he is sitting on the balcony, enjoying the views and sea breeze.

Personally, I like the fact Tidemark was designed with the master bedroom and bathroom on the top level, along with the kitchen, dining and lounge, to take advantage of the views. Even while in the lounge, watching TV, I cannot help glancing outside to the beach and keeping an ever-watchful eye out for the dolphins that occasionally cruise past.



Stop imagining yourself here - be here!

There are plenty of splendid restaurants in the **Port Stephens** area, and some have magnificent views over the water. The view is no better, and often not as good as it is from Tidemark's balcony. So, for me, the most relaxing time is happy hour with family on the balcony. When the lorikeets and kookaburras join us, the enjoyment goes up another notch. This is world class.



Surf the largest sand dune

**Book your stay online or call us directly on 1300 653 322.**



Feed your Adrenaline on a quad bike tour

You have probably read about Tidemark already. You may have even looked at the pictures on the website. Perhaps you have even watched the short video. But, if you have not stayed there, you have been missing something special. Don't blink, book it online today, or call me if you would like some assistance.

Of course, you should also consider lining up some other things for your trip to Tidemark. Your API Membership will get you **10% off Whale Watching and Dolphin Watching cruises, Quad bike experiences, sand dune surfing** or visiting the **Irukandji Shark & Ray centre** purchased through **Experience Oz** or **RedBalloon** or **Adrenaline** from the **API website**.

“It's a bucket list destination in any season.”

If you like fishing or snorkelling, there is a **BCF** nearby where you also get **10% discount**. Then, there is **Woolworths** and **BWS** (to stock up on the essentials for happy hour!). **Target** and **Kmart** can be found at Salamander Shopping Centre, where you can **save a further 5%** if you need some new beach towels etc.

So, if you want to stop imagining yourself, surrounded by the laughter of close family or friends; without a care in the world; legs stretched out; a glass of something cold at your fingertips; basking in the late afternoon warm glow; watching the ripples on the water and hearing the hypnotic sound of the small waves running up the beach; when the hardest task in the moment is having to lean forward to retrieve something crunchy from the bowl of snacks. Go on, logon to the **API website** or pick up the phone. Don't hesitate or it will be too late. **API**