

# Look into Coolongolook

by Anastasia P.

API's Fairholme units are just off the right edge of this image

It's one of Australia's cleanest waterways, which has that impossibly turquoise shimmer on a sunny day. There are plenty of fish easily visible as the water is so clear. There are loads of pelicans, fish eagles, dolphins, an occasional whale, and it is home to arguably the tastiest oysters in NSW. The best way to get into, or onto, the Coolongolook River is to leave your holiday unit and go just 50 metres to the boat ramp to launch your own boat, canoe or SUP if you brought them with you. If you did not bring them with you, hire them or a party pontoon from the **Waterline Boathouse**. You will have so much fun.

With a name meaning 'he who loves to climb' you could be forgiven for thinking it would be a fast-flowing river over a waterfall. But in front of **API's Fairholme units** the water is flat and almost indistinguishable from the estuary entrance to Wallis Lake. If you do have a boat, the lake affords you 25 kilometres in length and 9 kilometres in width to explore, providing 10,000 hectares of relatively shallow water and islands around which to fish and swim.



Waterline Boathouse has the perfect boat waiting for you

One of our members times his annual holiday with the run of sweet school prawns. Others cannot go past the fresh Sydney rock oysters available within walking distance from **Colin Wren** and **Thirty-Three Degrees** (previously Hamilton's - 75 metres from Fairholme). Others swear by **Graham Barclay** oysters in Forster or the **Fisherman's Co-Op**. For an unforgettable experience, book an oyster tour with Thirty-Three Degrees. You will go on a punt, see the oysters being lifted, learn to shuck them, gather and eat them. Yum!



Overlooking the cleanest waterways

A great start to the day is to walk out of your unit and turn left, following the waterfront to the **Tuncurry rockpool**. The café there offers good value, fast and most importantly - friendly service. My favourite is the smashed Avo on sourdough toast with poached eggs, smoked salmon and goat's cheese. The presentation adds to the flavour - I am getting hungry just thinking about it. Take your swimmers and a towel as the rockpool is a favourite sheltered beach for swimming. People of all ages love it.

One of the adventures you should seriously consider is making a booking with **Horseabout Tours**. Horseabout delivers an exceptional experience. These people really care about the horses and matching the right horse with each rider's ability. To top it off, the guides clearly enjoy what they do and imparting their knowledge of the area we were going through. Riding along the beach for part of the tour is one of life's great moments.



Beautiful sunrise ride with Horseabout Trails

One of the benefits of staying in self-contained units, overlooking the water, with all the cooking facilities at hand is being able to watch the sky and lake turn pink/red as the sun sets as you prepare your evening meal. Although with so many restaurants to select from you will, no doubt, feel the need to treat yourself occasionally. Fairholme's location means you can walk to quite a few dining establishments and there are a huge number available within a 5-10-minute drive. The views down the fairway at the **Forster Golf Club** make it a lovely place for a reasonably priced lunch. The **Tuncurry Bowling Club** offers a wide range of good pub-grub and pizzas. But there are many more options. **The Deck** is within walking distance and highly recommended, but at least once during your holiday you must try the Asian fusion food at **Spice Monkey**, and watch the chef prepare the sashimi. You will need to book in advance, and you are likely to try to make another booking before you leave.



Shucking an oyster

**Si Seniorita** is another good choice for reasonably priced Mexican and pleasant views from the outside tables.

You will be surprised at the value members receive by staying at API's Fairholme units, which could not be closer to the water. As one member put it, '**rain, hail or shine it is a lovely place to stay**'. **API**

Book your stay in an API holiday home online at [www.apilifestyle.com.au](http://www.apilifestyle.com.au) or call us on 1300 653 322.