



The Blencowe Family Reunion

Friday, 25 to Sunday 27 April, 2008

Port Macquarie New South Wales Australia

Hints for Overseas Visitors

As Port Macquarie is one of Australia's' longest established holiday destinations there is a wide range of accommodation options. These include back packers, motels (2 – 5 star), hotels, resort style accommodation, B&B's, caravan parks, holiday units/ apartments, cabins, bungalows and tent sites.

Selecting and booking accommodation will be the responsibility of individual attendees.

Accommodation Options

Motels

Motels are the most common type of accommodation in Australia and therefore the most competitive and reliable in conforming to their accredited star rating. Car parking is free in all but some capital city hotels. A variety of room configurations are available for families and range from the number of beds / cots to conjoined rooms.

Room Inclusions: Most motel rooms include a queen or king size bed as well as one or two single beds; ensuite bathroom; refrigerator; iron and ironing board; air conditioning; telephone; television (cable and free to air); internet connections and coffee and tea making facilities. The coffee, tea and milk are free and restocked daily. Many motel rooms (3½ star and above) also have a mini-bar with a range of beers, wines, soft drinks, chips (crisps) and chocolates. ***Be warned that the mini bar is not free and prices are much, much more expensive than retail prices. The mini bar is stocked daily.***

Most Motels have a swimming pool. The higher the rating the greater the facilities such as dining, spas, gymnasiums etc.

Motels 3½ star and above in cities generally have dining rooms, are licensed to sell alcohol and have bars that also serve coffee and soft drinks. However, with Port having an abundance of eating places, motels often only cater for breakfast.

Meals

Breakfast is generally not included in the price but can be negotiated into the package for a cheaper rate than the PAYG (pay as you go) price. All motels will serve a continental or English breakfast to your room. Motels with restaurants (generally only 3½ star and above) also serve a choice of Continental, English or Asian breakfast served in the restaurant.

Generally motel rooms do not have cooking facilities. However in holiday destinations such as Port Macquarie there are some motels that do have cooking facilities such as microwave, heating element, toaster, crockery and cutlery. Food is not included beyond the standard tea, coffee, milk & sugar. The inclusions are generally clearly listed in features advertised by the particular motel. This can be a cheaper option for the budget conscious.

Resort Style Motels

The room facilities are similar to the standard motel. What makes a motel a resort is the variety of inclusions such as mini-golf, tennis courts, canoes, bicycles, Kids Club, BBQ facilities and shuttle bus services etc. Breakfast is usually included in the price and a variety of meal inclusions can also be negotiated.

B&B's

B&B's are a relatively new accommodation option in Australia and not as numerous as overseas. Unlike overseas B&B's breakfast is most commonly provided as a "help yourself buffet breakfast" and sometimes even provided in your room.

Licensed Premises

The legal drinking age in Australia is 18 years. Children under the age of 18 will be admitted to licensed premises (hotels & restaurants) but must be under the supervision of an adult and will not be served alcohol.



Useful information

Blencowe website:

www.blencowefamilies.com

Reunion Email

reunion2008@blencowefamilies.com

Accommodation websites:

Greater Port Macquarie Visitor Information Centre:

www.portmacquarieinfo.com.au

Motoring Association site provides details on all accommodation houses. It also monitors the star rating of the sites listed.

www.mynrma.com.au

Other sites / agencies:

www.aatourism.com.au

www.checkin.com.au

www.stayz.com.au

www.wotif.com

www.standby.com

www.lastminute.com

Postal Address

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CARAVAN PARKS

Caravan Parks Tourist Parks provide a range of accommodation options from camping, caravan sites, backpacker accommodations and cabins (basic to very well appointed). The Caravan Park is the Australian version of a trailer park. Some parks have permanent residents others do not.

Facilities generally include a range of cabins accommodating up to 6 people; backpackers lodge; caravan and camping facilities with powered and non powered sites, and generally well maintained amenities blocks and BBQ facilities. A variety of leisure facilities provided at parks – tennis courts, pools, health clubs, bocce courts etc. They gener-

ally have the best local knowledge of where the fish are biting and facilities for booking you into to other activities.

There is a star rating for caravan parks similar to that of motels and hotels.

Cabins are generally self contained and provide a caravan option for those who don't haven't a caravan to tow! Some cabins have a separate charge for linen. You will need to check on booking of the inclusion / exclusions.

Costs range from \$30.00 for tent sites to \$115.00 + for cabins with multiple bedrooms spas / ensuites etc.

Most caravan parks enjoy a very relaxed and friendly atmosphere and is a great pace to meet other travellers.

BACKPACKERS

There are a number of backpacker facilities in Port Macquarie – some stand alone and others incorporated within larger venues. The extent of communal living ranges from totally private / self contained to all-in bunk style accommodation. Prices vary according to the privacy and or quality of the facilities.



Accommodation Costs

Motel rates quoted on websites or brochures are for the “rack Rate” (standard fee) and are rarely paid by the seasoned traveler.

Discount rates are available by negotiation for most accommodation options. A “corporate rate” is applied to affiliated organizations that generate bookings. It is the base discount given. Membership of an affiliated automobile club, airline club or business will gain the Corporate discount.

Reunion Discount Rates

Some places have agreed a special discount rate for reunion attendees and these are noted in the “Where to Stay!” information sheet. You will book direct with the motel to access the discount.

The Visitor Information Centre has a free advice and booking service. **Mentioning the Blencowe reunion** will ensure you are placed close to our Venue and if desired near other Blencowe bookings We recommend you view the options available on the GPMVIC website.

www.portmacquarieinfo.com.au

Contact Information:

Greater Port Macquarie Visitor

Information Centre

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Tel 1300 303 155

From overseas + 61 2 6581 8000

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Downtown Dining Options

Breakfast

Many cafes are open early and serve breakfast throughout the day. Hotels and Motels serve breakfast to your room or in a restaurant. McDonalds and other fast food outlets now have breakfast options for those in real holiday mode. Prices range from Budget - egg & bacon roll & coffee is less than \$10.00 to silver service at plus \$25.00)

Lunch & Dinner

Again the full range from the 5 star restaurant (\$15.00—\$20.00 per course); selection of seafood, Asian & Italian restaurants, from expensive to relatively cheap. Cafes have eat in or takeaway (take-out).

Licensed Service & Sporting Clubs are very common venues for leisure and social activities in Australia. Most provide a range of meals for very modest prices for members and visitors alike. Visitors are welcome to make use of the facilities and entertainment provided by these clubs. They have designated areas for poker (slot) machines, keno and other gaming facilities. Meal prices range from \$7.00 for 2 course meal at the Golf Club to \$15.00—\$20.00 at Panthers and Westport Club.

Dining on the “high seas” The Port offers a number of dining options including BBQ cruises, floating restaurant as well as a Devonshire Tea Cruise on the Hastings River.

How to get around.

Our reunion venue, The **Westport Club**, is within easy walking distance from recommended accommodation places. However, if as walking isn't an option taxis, shuttle buses and hire cars are readily available. *Rates for hire cars may be cheaper if booked overseas.*

Many tourist attractions arrange for pickups and returns to hotels, motels & tourist parks.

Most accommodation houses will arrange for pickup from transport hubs or tourist attractions. Make request on booking.

Port Central is on flat ground. **Bicycles can be hired next to Westport Club** and some accommodation places. Cycle paths mean you wont be exposed to the vagaries of motorists.

Cadging a lift with other reunion attendees with cars is always another option!

Australian Smoking Laws

Unless specifically requested you will not be able to smoke in your accommodation. Most places put aside a couple of rooms for smokers. Smoking is banned in all eating places and many other public places.

There is a higher percentages of Blencowes in the Australian population than anywhere else - so come and find out why?

See yah in Port

Anne & Fran