

Lap it up

Lakeside accommodation sets you on the right path for blissful R & R

There's no better way to switch off from the world than to escape to a fully equipped, luxury lake house surrounded by bushland. But until I visited Eumarella Shores on Noosa's Lake Weyba, I had no idea such a place was so close to home.

A stone's throw from Noosa's Hastings Street, Lake Weyba feels worlds away, and Eumarella Shores – which offers 10 eco-friendly houses, including contemporary lake houses, deluxe lake houses and a spectacular luxury lake pavilion that sleeps six and can seat 70 for weddings (yes, it's that big) – sits right on the tranquil water.

I arrived on a chilly Friday evening and Christine Tainsh, who owns and manages the property with husband Bill and has lived on site for more than 35 years, was on hand to show me to my deluxe lake house. Named Driftwood, it was a five-minute drive along a bumpy dirt road through dense bushland to the reception.

Driftwood could easily sleep six, with two large bedrooms and a pull-out sofa. The amenities are truly special, and the kitchen

and living room in particular made me want to scurry home and redecorate.

It was pitch black outside and the floor-to-ceiling windows weren't yet showing off the view, so I tucked in to some tasty fare prepared by Noosa chef Matt Golinski.

Matt's business The Rolling Dolmade has partnered with Eumarella Shores to cater for weddings, conferences and guests who don't want to cook.

My meals included Chinese chicken, beef massaman curry and a steamed lemon pudding. There was enough to feed a small village, but I sampled the lot, and it was all delicious, particularly the pudding, which didn't last long.

That night, snuggling up next to the crackling fire was entertainment enough, although a plasma television, DVD player and stereo are on hand should you miss the real world.

The next day, I took in the view, which seemed to stretch forever, before venturing along one of the resort's bushwalking trails. Not for the faint-hearted, the trails take you deep into the bush, so if you're not a fan of spiders, beware.



LAZY DAYS ... if bushwalking and watersports aren't your thing, take a laid-back approach to lake house living

Bill often takes guests on guided nature walks, explaining the land's indigenous history and pointing out local flora and fauna. But I'd had my hit of the great outdoors and so retreated to Driftwood's sofa for an easy afternoon of reading and eating.

For those who can't bear to sit around, there's so much to do at Eumarella Shores: kayaking, bird watching, cycling and, of course, bushwalking, to name a few.

Sunday's Noosa Farmers Markets is a short drive away as is Peregian, which is dotted with boutiques and cafes. But if you're like me, you'll be so enamoured with the lake house itself that you'll want to do nothing more than laze around and soak it up.

THE WRITER was a guest of Eumarella Shores. From \$210 a night, ph: 5449 1738. www.eumarellashores.com.au