

ESCAPE Eumarella Shores, 251 Eumarella Rd, Lake Weyba, Noosa | **Frances Whiting**

I lived a stone's throw from Noosa's Lake Weyba for almost a year without ever knowing its many moods and colours, how it can turn from a shimmer of silver to a deep, dusky pink in a matter of hours. I didn't know it had its own song, that it could beat wildly against the rocks or whisper among the paperbarks, the way it could lie completely still, its silence broken only by the occasional splash of a fish jumping, I imagine, for joy.

But staying at *Gooloowaa*, the five-star "Lake Pavilion" house at the Eumarella Shores retreat, ten minutes' drive from Hastings Street, I came to know the lake intimately. The house's exterior hovers on the edge of the shore, while its interior is designed to take in the waterscape – from the spa bath in the main bedroom to the soaring glass doors in the lounge and the generous back deck, with a bar running its entire length, the perfect spot for wine, cheese and watching the fish jump.

For me, breathing in the sights and sounds of Lake Weyba was the highlight, among many, of our stay in *Gooloowaa*.



From the stunning rammed-earth walls to its boatlike interior frame constructed from an original log cabin on the retreat property, this is take-your-breath-away architecture.

The kitchen was one of the most attractive and best-equipped I have seen, with sea-green granite benches, deep, rolling drawers, Italian appliances and a state-of-the-art coffee machine: one push of a button for a perfect latte. The lounge and dining area are open-plan and expansive, with a plethora of chairs to choose from, scattered in conversational groups. Three kigg-size bedrooms, all with ensuites, two with spa baths, are also beautifully appointed. The use of colours and textures throughout

the house give it a sumptuous feel – think shaggy rugs, cashmere throws and woven tapestries on rough-hewn walls.

When it comes to sustenance, guests can fend for themselves or order in, with breakfast and dinner hampers available. Our brekky hamper was groaning with organic muesli, locally made macadamia yoghurt, fresh fruits including passionfruit and persimmons, locally sourced streaky bacon, vine-ripened tomatoes, organic eggs, honey and creamy butter.

There are in-house massages in which to indulge, bikes to explore Eumarella Shores' delightful 20 hectares, and canoes to go adventuring in. From the private jetty with its picturesque deckchairs (*pictured*) you can go for a swim or just dip your toes in. We did all of these things, but the truth is I could have just looked out the windows and done nothing at all.

The Lake Pavilion is available for group events such as weddings or private dinners hosted by Noosa chef Matt Golinski, who also offers decadent degustation getaways by the lake, for your viewing pleasure.

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WEBLINK www.eumarellashores.com.au
RATES B&B two-night weekend package, \$985 (includes breakfast for two). Midweek and accommodation-only packages also available. Check website for specials.

THE VERDICT
 Lap up the luxury.



OVERLEAF WAS A GUEST OF THE OPERATORS PHOTOGRAPHY: DAVID KELLY