

Paradise Found at Eumarella Shores



I've been travelling this highway called Bruce for Noosa summer holidays since I was a child; when the highway was just one lane in each direction, and Hastings Street boasted four shops and ended in a sprawling camping area.

I love Noosa. It's the place where my father fell in love with my mother during World War II. It's the place my father built us a family beach house high on the top of a hill; it's the place of seemingly endless summer holidays and running wild with suntanned kids in the caves and hills around Sunshine Beach.

The beaches are still divine, but the Noosa of my childhood has been replaced with eager tourists, high rise buildings, canals and shops, shops, shops. That's progress, I suppose, but every time I visit I can't help but feel I have lost a piece of childhood.

This day the highway is leading us to a place called Eumarella Shores, just outside Noosa Heads. Far enough from the madding crowd but close enough to the surf.

The brochure tells of seven well-spaced eco cottages dotted amongst the Australian heritage registered sub-tropical forest bordering the shores of Lake Weyba. Words like peaceful, private, absolute lake frontage and your own private beach really captured us – an eco-sound environment of a five star standard. And if that isn't perfect enough then there's the chance to meet the fascinating family who own this piece of paradise.

The story of Eumarella Shores begins in Melbourne in 1949. A handsome young cartoonist meets a beautiful artist in the National Art School. She is 37, a widow from an aristocratic family; he is a roguish 25 year old working-class lad just back from the war. Handsome cartoonist falls madly in love with beautiful artist and convinces her to marry him. They set sail to see the world, to paint in Paris and live the Bohemian life.

Beautiful aristocratic artist learns to live frugally, very frugally. They buy a horse and build a gypsy wagon to travel the English countryside. The cartoonist sells his drawings to newspapers to earn money. A child, Bill, is born and then there are three in the caravan.

They return to Melbourne in 1951, the beautiful artist pregnant with another child, Andy. They never made it to Paris but success awaits in Melbourne.

Fast forward to 1970 – the now famous cartoonist/scriptwriter tires of life in the big city and travels to Queensland and falls in love again. In a sub-tropical paradise on the edge of Lake Weyba he watches kangaroos grazing in the wallum; where the saltwater estuary merges with the Noosa River he finds the rare Jabaru bird's nests; he watches a huge moon spilling on to the silvery lake and knows he has come home. So he buys 100 acres and convinces the beautiful artist to move north.

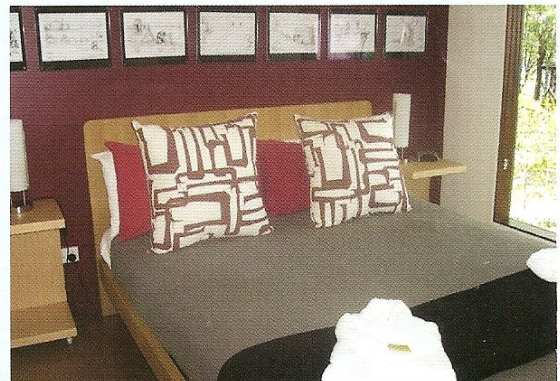
The family name their paradise Eumarella Shores. It becomes home to sons Andy (a musician) and Bill (a script writer) plus extended family and a carnival of artists, writers and characters.

The famous cartoonist and beautiful artist live there until death does them part.

The handsome cartoonist was Doug Tainsh, film and television scriptwriter (Matlock Police amongst others) and famous for his cartoon Cedric the swaggie, seen weekly in Australasian Post for 50 years. The beautiful artist, Alice, has her portrait hung in the War Memorial in Canberra.

Sons Bill and Andy and family now own Eumarella Shores and have built seven eco houses, one of which we were lucky enough to stay in for a whole week.

The holiday earned a blissed out rating and our photos speak a thousand words; you must see it to believe it. The Noosa of my childhood still exists, in Eumarella Shores.



THE PLACE Eumarella Shores,
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EMAIL stay@eumarellashores.com.au

WEBLINK www.eumarellashores.com.au

THE DEAL Rates for two adults.

Bed and breakfast packages (include two breakfast hampers, wine and tapas on arrival): weekly from \$1250; two night weekend from \$560; midweek night from \$220.

Accommodation only: weekly from \$1100; two-night weekend from \$495; midweek night from \$180. Extra adult \$40 per night; child \$20 per night. See website for more specials. No pets.

Save 10 per cent when booking online.

Di Watson