

Words & Photos **Sharni Marie Barney**

NORFOLK ISLAND

BUT NOT AS YOU MAY HAVE KNOWN IT....

A lot of Kiwi's don't know that Norfolk Island sits just north of them in the South Pacific, and there are a lot of preconceived ideas about Norfolk Island when you ask people about travelling there. Some may be valid, but most are just residue of an era gone by. Not many people would tell you about the amazing food and great little cafes, the stunning views and beautiful lagoon-type beach and subtropical reef, the challenging golf course or the outstanding fishing. Very few, if any would tell you about a luxury holiday in paradise...

But times are changing on Norfolk Island and luxury is the latest talk coming out of the small 8km by 5km Island in the middle of the South Pacific. Just a short 1.5 hour flight from Auckland, luxury is yours for the taking should you decided to explore this tiny gem for the first time. Yes it is Queensland type weather as well!

The latest in luxury has now been brought to you by the newest accommodation property on Norfolk Island - The Tin Sheds. Boasting 3 contemporary and spacious apartments, nestled in the heart of the island just walking distance to the main shopping precinct, The Tin Sheds is the holiday experience Kiwi's have all been waiting for on Norfolk Island. With staff who will cater to your every requirement,

their highly personalised, but super friendly service is outstanding in any sphere of the travel industry.

Each Apartment is fully self-contained, packed full of mod-cons such as a Nespresso coffee machine, smart televisions, remote-controlled ceiling fans and gas fire heating, a television that pops up out of the base of the bed and more. The Tin Sheds apartments urges you to relax in the in-room spa, the lazy-boy couches, or the dreamy elegance plush super king beds.

A large private courtyard wraps around each apartment separating you from the rest of the world with landscaped gardens and an outdoor entertaining area complete with gas BBQ and kitchenette. The large kitchen is perfect for catering during your stay, however should you decide that cooking is not your thing, the staff are more than



happy to bring in a chef to cook and serve your meal for you.

Central to all 3 apartments is an aptly named area "The Pleasure Centre" complete with a heated Swimsa, library, mini-gym, Infrared sauna and a private massage room. Are you feeling relaxed yet?

After a few days of winding down and enjoying all that The Tin Sheds has to offer, you may like to wander down the street to the main shopping precinct where you will find a selection of great cafes enticing you in with their amazing food using locally grown produce (you will never taste bananas so good!), great coffee, and super friendly service. In fact nearly everywhere you go on Norfolk Island there is a smiling welcome and people are more than happy to answer questions or point you in the right direction. It's this old-school community charm that makes the Island so alluring.

Your holiday experience is just beginning as you jump into your 2013 Fiat 500 convertible (with the top down of course) and head down to the Heritage listed area that is Kingston. This is where you will find the remnants of times gone by with majority of the ruins from the convict era still standing in part and well maintained. Should you decide you would like to know more about the history of the island, The Tin Sheds staff are able to organise a personalised tour for you with one of the local tour guides, or you can wander through the museums yourself.

Located also in the Kingston area is the delightfully manicured Norfolk Island Golf Course, a 9-hole golf course which looks out over the rugged coastline and next to the superb grounds of Government House. This golf course has been described as the world's "Hardest 'easy' 9 hole golf course...It could be the best 9 hole course you will ever play"... A day on the green, or a private tuition with the resident golf pro can be easily organised for you. The Tin Sheds also offer a Golf Holiday package for the ultimate golfing experience.

The Norfolk Island Golf Course Club House is a stunning Georgian home from the convict era, and visitors can enjoy a drink or bite to eat after, or during, a round. Visitors come from far and wide each year to participate in the numerous >>





tournaments conducted by the Norfolk Island Golf Club, including the Norfolk Island Pro-am which boasts a professional purse in excess of \$10,000.

Also located in the Heritage listed Kingston area is the main swimming beach known as Emily Bay, which is a horse-shoe lagoon-type beach protected by a large reef that runs along the back of it. This is beautiful clean sandy beach perfect for families. Just around from Emily Bay is a reef area known as Slaughter Bay where, if you venture in with your snorkel and goggles, you will be pleasantly surprised to find the most amazing sub-tropical reef with beautiful corals and a vast range of inquisitive tropical fish. There is also a surf break that runs off the reef here, for those who are more adventurous and well-schooled in surfing.

Fishing is at its best on Norfolk Island and The Tin Sheds offers you the chance to have your own private charter with one of the local fisherman. The island plateau is round 50 miles across and includes deep reefs, pinnacles and small islands - all of which create habitat for a whole range of fish species. The Norfolk Island fishery is essentially pristine and commercial fishing vessels are excluded from the plateau. The only commercial fishing done on the island is for local subsistence. As a result, a small number of operators do all their fishing manually by hook and line to meet the demands of the local community. Not surprisingly, the local waters are a recreational angler's dream with easily accessible and diverse fisheries.

Restaurants are plentiful on the island, all utilising what is grown locally and seasonally to their full advantage. Local fish is nearly always on the menu and is a highly recommended selection. You may also find on the menu local beef or local pork. Should you have dietary requirements the restaurant staff are more than happy to accommodate with everything being prepared freshly for you. Luxury at its best - let the staff at The Tin Sheds recommend and book your restaurant choices with local knowledge going a long way.



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THE TIN SHEDS "PERSONALISED HOLIDAYS" PACKAGE PROVIDES YOU WITH A SPACIOUS AND MODERN LUXURY APARTMENT WITH PRIVATE COURTYARD, FULL ACCESS TO 'THE PLEASURE CENTRE', THE USE OF THE FIAT 500 CONVERTIBLE CAR WITH INSURANCE



And there is plenty more... National parks with challenging walks yet amazing sub-tropical rain-forest views, great art galleries with selections of works produced by local artists – some of which you will find in your apartment at The Tin Sheds, kayaking, tennis, or a trek to Phillip Island are all options to be explored.

Finish off your day back at your apartment with a private and relaxing Swedish remedial massage then a soak under the stars in the outdoor heated Jacuzzi. A glass of wine on the deck and a cheese platter, freshly delivered to your room – life couldn't get much better than this!

Holiday experiences with The Tin Sheds – Norfolk Island are setting new standards for the Island and are perfect for people (couples or friends) looking for a decent break from busy lifestyles and needing time out to relax and unwind. Weddings, small groups and small corporate business meetings are also welcome with confidentiality assured.

The Tin Sheds "Personalised Holidays" package provides you with a spacious and modern luxury apartment with private courtyard, full access to 'the pleasure centre', the use of the Fiat 500 convertible car with insurance, free airport transfers, 24 hour access to the manager, daily servicing of the apartment, personalised breakfast for the first morning after arrival, free Swedish relaxation massage, mobile phone with \$10 credit, free wireless internet and access to the tennis club. Other packages are available including the "Ultimate Golf Getaway" package, "Deluxe Pamper" package and currently a "Luxury Winter Escape" package. All details can be found on the company's website www.tinshedsnorfolkisland.com. Or go to our website www.nzgolfmagazine.co.nz where you will find the links.

The Tin Sheds – Norfolk Island is the ultimate holiday experience. Offering refined comfort, tranquil surrounds, extensive facilities, and packages to suit your personal holiday requirements, The Tin Sheds – Norfolk Island delivers the ultimate in island escapism.

This certainly is "Excellence in accommodation... created with you in mind." **NZGM**

