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Trading hours:
Mo-Fr 10 - 6:30pm
Sat 10 - 5 pm
Sun 11 - 4pm
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Map showing location: Darling Point Rd, Ocean St, New South Head Rd, Edgcliff Centre, Railway, New McLean St, Pet shop, Enter car park via New McLean St.

on the Railway level next to New McLean Street Exit



Bannisters Point Lodge

Come! Sit! Stay!

Curl-ing up and getting lazy at the Love Shack



"If you see a faded sign by the side of the road that says 15 miles to the... Love Shack!

I'm headin' down the Atlanta highway, lookin' for the love getaway

I got me a car, it's as big as a whale and we're headin' on down To the Love Shack

I got me a Chrysler, it seats about 20
So hurry up and bring your jukebox money

The Love Shack is a little old place where we can get together
Love Shack baby, Love Shack baby.
Love baby, that's where it's at, Ooo love baby, that's where it's at

Well it's set way back in the middle of a field,
Just a funky old shack and I gotta get back"
'Love Shack' by the B52s

Okay so the car isn't as big as a whale but it packs in two parrots, in their enclosures, safely onto the back seats. Two dogs comfortably occupy the rear as we're heading down the South Coast towards the almost twin cities of Milton/Ulladulla. We're off to occupy the 'Love Shack' for a winter weekend of pet friendly accommodation.

Milton is a comfortable three and a half hours drive south from Sydney. Smartly, we've elected to leave the office early to beat traffic and rain. The quaint town of Berry is an ideal stop to stretch and have a driver-survivor break. Berry is a surprising little town comprising some chic stores and interesting eateries. There's a fantastic deli right on Queen Street called the Emporium Food Company that specialises in take-home pasta, meats, cheeses and other delights. Across the road is Justin Lills' wine shop that stocks an interesting selection of local, Australian and international wines. My partner is most pleased with finding a pinot noir that he claims would be a third more-pricey back in the big smoke.

Cat and dog enthusiasts should visit pet specialist store, Barking Mad, where you'll find a great selection of pet paraphernalia. They have a range of quality items including comfy beds, apparel, collars and leads and tasty treats. If you've forgotten to pack something for the pooches, you'll be able to find it there.

We arrive in Milton late afternoon and still have some winter daylight to make it to the property called 'The Lazy Curl' 13 kilometres out of town where the Love Shack sits-just like in the song-in the middle of a field. It certainly lives up to the lyrics as being a funky little shack. It's constructed out of a mix of materials-brightly painted weatherboard, corrugated iron and brick. Half the floor is wood the other half is nicely worn brick. Lovely exposed, heavy wooden beams run through the main room's ceiling and walls.

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The shack is just one room with basic kitchen facilities and a four-foot high, queen-sized bed, constructed of wrought iron and wood-just high enough that a dog can't jump up on it. A basic bathroom with combined shower and bath is situated off the main room. The bathroom has a window that opens out so you can enjoy the country views while having a soak. From the bed you can look out through the floor to ceiling glass doors leading to the veranda. The veranda also has a large gas barbeque that probably gets a good work-out during summer evenings.

A large fireplace sits in the middle of the kitchen area and there is plenty of wood stacked up for a warm winter weekend and a fire pre-assembled awaiting only a match. Two groovy, black and white, 70s style bucket chairs complement the black and white fireplace surround.

After the dogs have had an early evening, rural romp, we settle in for a light meal of deli delights by candle-light. This is where the other half makes the observation that the cutlery and crockery are all mis-matched. The kitchen's utensils are all odds and sods and a mish-mash of old bits and pieces collected over the years. I think this is the charm of staying in a place like the Love Shack. Perhaps it's my childhood memories of the family fibro beach house. A place where old crockery, cooking and dining utensils ended up when newer, flashier stuff was bought for the family home. There should always be a place where old bone handled cutlery and chunky plates find a second home.

The shack has a small TV that has an Austar satellite connection and a CD player if you want to bring your own music. The evening, country sounds are so pleasant that we instead lay out on the bed and read until sleep beckons. The bed is surprisingly comfy and we only wake once to let the dogs out for an early morning pee break.

The next morning we take dogs out for an exploratory walk around the property accompanied by the Lazy Curl's resident hound. It's been raining all night so there are muddy puddles that most dogs love to plough through-ours not the exception. I'm pleased I had the forethought to pack a couple of dog towels and set to work, getting the muddy muck off our couple of curs.

It's cold outside, we need breakfast and we're experiencing caffeine withdrawals, so decide to load the dogs into the car to head 15 kms to the seaside town of Mollymook. We find a little café

called Breakers where we receive a warm greeting and piping hot coffee. They serve a range of breakfast options including country style bacon and eggs, sandwiches and soups. I opt for basic breakfast fare while the other half decides on the homemade pumpkin soup. It seems like an odd time of day to have soup but perhaps it's sensible, given that it's cold outside and warm, winter comfort food revives a cold soul.

Mollymook has a fabulous beach and on this morning it's a great stop to watch the hardest of surfers brave the breaks. There are signs along the beach that say dogs aren't allowed. However, if you venture towards the northern end of the beach, you'll find no signs and some local dog walkers.

A short drive away is Ulladulla and some of the best seafood at the Harbourside restaurant. It's so close to the harbour and you can watch the traffic-local fishing boats. Unlike many seafood restaurants, the Harbourside menu also caters to those who prefer meat. Vegetarians are not forgotten with a range of options from both entrée and main selections. Serious seafood lovers can get the 'big platter' of hot and cold crustaceans and fish to share for \$135. Entrees run between \$12 and \$18 and mains are \$22 to \$38.

As you head south towards Ulladulla you'll pass a large two storey, historic building that houses the Rainbow Pie Shop and bakery. It has a steady stream of visitors that dine in on their selection of homemade pies. Takeaway is also available and there is seating outside for those of you that want to slurp a pie with your pet. The pies all have crisp topped pastry and are chock full of quality ingredients. Vegetarian pies are available but if you're a meat eater we can highly recommend the variety of steak and chicken pies. The bakery also has some dairy and gluten free cakes and slices.

If you would prefer to remain in Milton, we can recommend several dog-friendly cafes. Right on the main street is Amanda's Coffee Shop and Deli serving a range of gourmet sandwiches, soups and homemade daily specials like hearty shepherds pie. Their coffee is excellent and it's a favourite with locals who bring their dogs for breakfast and lunch. A couple of doors from Amanda's is a great stop for foodie fans called Leo's Kitchen. Leo's is the place where you go when you don't feel like cooking. Catering to folk who want to drop in and pick up a fresh, delicious meal to take back home

and heat up. They have a range of pies, curries, pasta and soup all home made from scratch. Gluten-free meals are also available.

For a special night out and a fabulous dining experience we recommend Bannisters Restaurant in Mollymook. Bannisters is situated in the Bannisters Point Lodge, a luxury retreat on the cliff-top overlooking Mollymook Beach.

Our table isn't yet ready when we arrive so we head downstairs to the cocktail bar for a pre-dinner libation. The bar is all comfy ottomans and flickering candles. Service is attentive and slick-the cocktails aren't bad either. I order up a dry Martini and my partner must be missing Hawaii as he orders a Pina Colada (and no he doesn't like walks in the rain). The bar rivals many of Sydney's posh establishments, yet thankfully, lacks the attitude or burly bouncer.

The menu is an interesting mix of dishes prepared from locally sourced produce. I'm curious about the salt and pepper hermit crab tails and wonder if there could possibly be much meat to a hermit crab (thinking of the little ones found in pet stores). The crispy tails are served on top of a coriander and pomelo salad that's beautifully presented and fresh. The chilli slipper lobster, served on little corn cakes, has just a hint of chilli that doesn't overpower the delicate flavour of the meat. For mains we choose a duck dish and lamb shanks. The shanks, surprisingly, have had the bone removed and the cavity is stuffed with vegetables. The shanks have a crisp wrapping of prosciutto and rest on lima beans. I'm glad I didn't order the duck breast as it's huge and I know my appetite wouldn't do it justice. I am, however, happy to sample it and declare that it rivals my choice.

Desserts are limited but like the entrees and mains, the emphasis is on innovative and quality offerings. The wine list is imaginatively chosen and not unreasonably priced. Friendly, informative staff deal with requests in a responsive manner. The evening is well paced without lagging or feeling rushed.

As we say our goodbyes and head back to the 'Love Shack' we both decide that this has been one of the finer meals we've had in recent history. I would love to venture back to Bannisters have a long and lazy brunch one Sunday afternoon to enjoy the view and listen to the waves crash on the beach below.

Milton and surrounds have some interesting, scenic walking tours for the less lazy. The Shoalhaven visitors' centre has a free guide which details scenic drives and walks. A recommended drive would be to the base of Pigeon House Mountain. It's about 20 minutes drive from the Lazy Curl. On this drive you'll pass through eucalypt forests of spotted gum and rain forest vegetation such as cabbage fan palms, sandpiper figs and heathland grevilleas. In 1770, Captain James Cook 'discovered' Pigeon House Mountain as he sailed up the east coast of Australia. Its name is derived from its distinctive peak. At the base of the mountain are picnic tables, ample parking and toilets.

We have to say that the 'Love Shack' isn't for everyone as it may not provide the level of comfort some of you would be looking for in a get-away destination. However, I loved the quirkiness of accommodation and enjoyed the privacy of our surroundings. It's nice to know that your dog barking at a possum isn't going to disturb anyone.

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It's a great destination for folk wanting a country get-away combining some beach activity. I imagine that this place is booked out all through summer, when the days are longer, the air-conditioner is whirring away and meals are lazily prepared on the barbeque.

"The Love Shack is a little old place where we can get together

Love Shack baby!
Love Shack, that's where it's at!"



All Come Sit Stay properties are reviewed without notice and paid for by the writers. They are not based on being advertisers and other featured businesses are chosen prior to advertising booked.

The Lazy Curl
Wheelbarrow Road
Milton NSW 2538
ph: (02) 4455 2290
cost: \$250.00 for a weekend

The Emporium Food Co
127B Queen Street
Berry NSW 2535
ph: (02) 4464 1570

Barking Mad Berry
Shop 6/65 Queen Street
Berry NSW 2535
ph: (02) 4464 3370

Amanda's Coffee Shop & Deli
103 Princes Highway
Milton NSW 2538
ph: (02) 4454 0887

Leo's Kitchen
Shop 3, 105 Princes Highway
Milton NSW 2538
ph: (02) 4454 2042

The Rainbow Pie Shop
Cnr Princes Highway & Croobyar Road
Milton NSW 2538
ph: (02) 4455 1013

Harbourside Restaurant
84 Princes Highway
Ulladulla NSW 2539
ph: (02) 4455 3377

Bannisters Restaurant
191 Mitchell Parade
Mollymook NSW 2539
ph: (02) 4454 1933

Pigeon House Tea Rooms
24 Clyde Ridge Road
ph: (02) 4457 3097

Shoalhaven Visitors' Centre
Princess Highway
Ulladulla NSW 2539
ph: (02) 4455 1269
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