An Idyllic Seaside Holiday Retreat

Photography: Shane Bloor

Graham Stainless Manufacturing
97 Munimbung Road, Cardiff. Telephone 49 569 111
mail@grahamstainless.com.au
www.grahamstainless.com.au

Specialising in quality stainless steel products made to your specification including:

- Kitchen Benches and Splashbacks
- Architectural Balustrading
- Stainless Steel Staircases
- Pool Fencing
- Drive and Entry Gates
- Indoor and Outdoor Furniture
- Stainless Steel Handrails

Contact:
- Residential & Commercial
- Wall Coverings
- Renovations
- Maintenance
- Special Coatings
- Timber Finishes

SAGE Painting formerly Sean Hersey Painting

E: hello@sagepainting.com.au
P: 0432 072 150
sagepainting.com.au
Seal Rocks is an isolated beach town south of Forster-Tuncurry in the Great Lakes Council local government area, in the Mid North Coast/Hunter regions of New South Wales.

Its fame rests largely on its sense of isolation it enjoys and timeless appeal of a time gone by where people camped the ocean or if fortunate enough had a plot of land with a dest holiday home to call their 'home away from home'.

There are some very real attractions: unspoil surfing waves, a noted diving spot, idyllic picnic areas, the nearby Myall Lakes National Park and, most notably, the spectacularly beautiful Seal Rocks lighthouse - officially known as Sugarloaf Point Lighthouse - which overlooks an unspolit beach and the group of offshore rocky outcrops that give the area its name.

The original buildings in this coastal village are small, of modest detail, with all buildings sharing a simplicity of form necessitated by the unskilled nature of their owners. They are generally mono-pitched roofs, fibro or weatherboard, with outdoor showers and bathrooms and so on in detail.
"On the coast generally, when properties change hands, original buildings are often replaced by large suburban houses," said architect Shane Blue of Bourne Blue Architecture who was contracted to devise a concept plan for the owner of a beach front site who opted to respect the immediate context, by retaining and renovating back to being an original fishing cottage.

"The client's brief was for a simple, compact holiday house that was not ostentatious and fitted in with the place.

"There is easy transition from the beach to the house and surfaces are hardy so that durability was not a concern. The living spaces open easily to the decks and the roofed deck east of the living space is used extensively, nearly doubling the available living area.

The design has been confined to the original footprint, thereby allowing the original landscape to be retained and reinforced.

"Much of the living space on the site is actually outside the buildings, in between pavilions or on decks."

This works well with the indoor/outdoor nature of visiting here, in the manner of luxury camping," said Shane.

"Materials throughout relate to the context of the village, are economical and corrosion resistant. The building is clad in fibre cement weatherboards, painted in a dark colour to minimize the visual impact from the beach.

"The NSW North Coast is all about surfing and the bush. The attributes of a family home have been distilled down to the basics, moulded to suit the site and optimised for holidays.

"Careful consideration has been given to the entry to the building, how sand is removed, where surfboards can be stored (out of the sun), where towels dry (in the sun), where wetsuits hang (out of the sun)."

Architect – Bourne Blue Architecture

Builder – Sugar Creek Building