

Shoal Bay

Holiday Destination

Robert S

“Can we come back next year, please, please, please?” It’s the best request any parent can hear at the end of any holiday. Ironically, this request was being made by my wife Laura, as we were leaving Shoal Bay. The kids didn’t stop saying ‘please, please, please’ until we were half-way home.

The holiday proved kids can be separated from their iPads.

Sandboarding was enormous fun and had them chattering about who won which race, and in particular, why I had to be disqualified every time I won!



The dolphin cruise was a slower start until the dolphins were spotted. After seeing them surf the bow wave, the kids (and other adults) kept scanning the water for more dolphins. It’s amazing how such graceful creatures capture the minds of old and young alike. The boom net was a hit. All that water rushing over you. It was like two experiences in one trip.



On another day, we hired SUPs (stand-up paddle boards) from the hire place just five-minutes’ walk along the beach, from **Tidemark**. It was so much fun, taking turns at paddling. The calm water makes it such a good place to learn. Then we played our own version of beach volleyball. Talking about beaches, Shoal Bay beach is about 2.5 km long and has some of the whitest sand. We are so fortunate in Australia to be blessed with an abundance of great beaches, and to me, this is one of the very best.



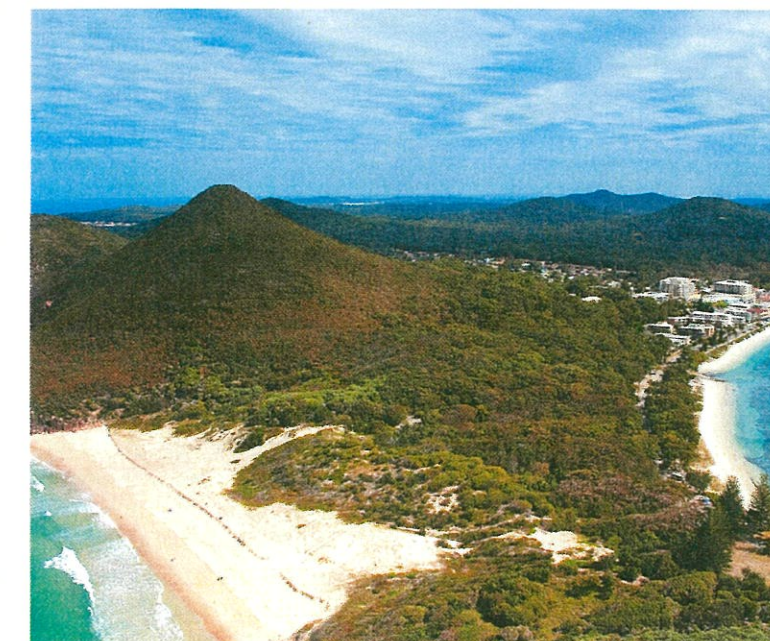
We had never been on quadbikes before. Laura was a bit nervous about the safety of the kids, but quickly realised the Worimi tours are well organised and sort out the more experienced from the newbies. We paid a little more to include the Aboriginal culture, quadbike tour and more sandboarding (unfortunately there were more disqualifications in the sandboarding, for imagined misdemeanours).

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The Sandboarding, Quadbike and Dolphin cruises were all available with **10% discount** by booking through www.apilifestyle.com.au, and selecting **Experience Oz**. We checked these prices against the normal public website and confirmed the prices available for **API members** are much better value as they are **discounted by 10%**.

Next year we will book the diving tour. We are looking forward to diving on the old wreck and seeing soft corals. We got hooked on the idea from snorkelling straight off the beach. At Little Beach there are so many fish, and they are not just small ones. My youngest followed a tip and took a banana with him. The fish swarmed around him. I think he drank half the water in the bay, he was so excited. The next day my daughter took a bread roll, as we had run out of bananas, and had a similar experience. There is a **BCF** a little way out of town, where we picked up two new mask sets for the kids, as they had grown out of their old ones. They were not expensive, but the **10% API discount** made it even better.

While Shoal Bay beach is ideal for calm water activities, we occasionally needed to burn a bit more energy. On these occasions we would walk for about 10 minutes, around the headland, to Zenith beach. The sea is so crystal clear and inviting. An hour of body surfing later, and we would stroll back to Tidemark to enjoy some afternoon tea on the balcony.



It's only a few minutes stroll from Shoal Bay to Zenith Beach.

The activity I enjoyed most, was just sitting on the balcony at **Tidemark** watching the passing parade and soaking up the view. It's so relaxing. **API**

So, have we booked again for next year? You bet we have!

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