

SA's Remarkable Seafood & AquaCulture Trail



Introducing South Aussie writer Di Ross and her partner, photographer John Batty, to F&B readers again. Following their acclaimed F&B series on the Gippsland Lakes, this time they've set out to produce an exceptional six part series closer to home. Over the next few months, they're taking us on a detailed tour of the boating facilities and resources in South Australia. They're going to explore the mouth-watering SA seafood and aquatrail journey around the Gulfs, reminding us that in boating, more often than not, there's 'no place like home!'

Part 3: Port Lincoln, SA

Leaving Elliston, we travelled 135km south, taking a 14km diversion from the Flinders Highway to visit Coffin Bay, featured in F&B Issue #69. Whilst not on The Seafood and Aquaculture Trail, we could not resist re-acquainting ourselves with this "little piece of paradise". The township is still as fresh as we remembered. Progress is evident with many new luxury holiday homes and commercial premises having been built. The launch facility is now complete with bitumen car park, and a dedicated wash down area. Obviously the fishing has not declined with the activity evident at the cleaning tables and the smiles all on the anglers' faces. Back to the highway and a short

32km drive, we arrive at Port Lincoln, or simply "Lincoln" as it's affectionately called by locals. With a population of 13,000, the city is situated on Boston Bay, one of the world's largest natural harbours, measuring three and half times the size of Sydney Harbour. This is one productive, prosperous and pristine city, sustained in the main, by a huge grain handling facility, tuna farming, canning and fish processing works. Other industry includes lamb, wool, beef and fertiliser production. The harbour is home to the largest commercial fishing fleet in Australia and the associated investment in aquaculture has attracted enormous gains to the town.

The foreshore is dominated by the towering grain silos. The beach and the parklands along the foreshore are so inviting with the main shopping precinct just across the road. How lucky for retail workers taking a lunch break in such surroundings. Boston Island, 5km off shore, is a privately owned, fully operational sheep station. The original owners, Dr and Mrs Harvey who both passed away in the early 1840s, are both buried on the island. Many generations of the

family lived on the island and the original pioneer hut has recently been restored. Visitors are welcome at Picnic Beach and Squeaky Beach, on the eastern side of the island. These beaches make great picnic spots and/or day bases for water sports, with the rule being that you must take away whatever you bring with you. The Lincoln Cove Marina, south of the city precinct on Porter Bay, has some 37 hectares of waterways with berthing facilities for the largest

tonnage commercial fishing fleet in the southern hemisphere, as well as a vast number of charter vessels, private fishing, diving and pleasure craft. One of the newcomers to the harbour, *Diversion*, a tuna farm dive boat, (featured on Page 218 of *Plate Alloy Boats-Book 2*) has now joined the working fleet. Residential sites along the waterways are ever developing and the hotel and leisure centre have prime dockside positions with great vistas. Every conceivable aspect of water craft

TOP: Panoramic view of Port Lincoln and Boston Bay from Winter Hill
CENTRE LEFT: What many come for - the big SA King George Whiting
CENTRE RIGHT: There are many seals in this area. ABOVE: A Great White smiling for the camera at Dangerous Reef. Lots enjoy these controlled encounters.