

destination

Cottage Point Dining

There are few places as charming and so relaxing to visit by water than Cottage Point. Story by Briar Jensen.





Cottage Point is a tiny waterfront community nestled within the large Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, north of Sydney. It sits on a finger of land pointing into Cowan Water, west of Pittwater.

Aptly named in the early 1900s when a few holiday cottages perched on the point, the place now boasts so many luxury homes it could well be renamed Mansion Point. However, that would be overlooking the cottage-community atmosphere that still prevails here.



Neighbours visit each other by boat and hold an annual ball to raise funds for the local fire brigade. Ku-ring-gai Motor Yacht Club, whose clubhouse is an old weatherboard cottage right on the point, offers its facilities for community functions, and provides a home for the local Coastguard.

It's this mix of old world charm with contemporary sophistication that makes Cottage Point so appealing. Humble sandstone cottages crouch on the waters edge whilst architectural masterpieces cascade down the cliffs. Here you will find traditional old putt-putts moored side-by-side with sleek motor cruisers, and be able to enjoy high quality modern cuisine.

First stop for many visiting boaties is the Cottage Point Kiosk, on the eastern side of the point. Built above a boatshed in 1911, it's one of the last few remaining boatshed businesses still operating in Sydney. The Kiosk offers everything from bait and bread to beer and fuel, as well as serving meals and hiring out small boats. Sitting on the wrap-around timber veranda eating



homemade scones and muffins is hard to beat. So too is the relaxing view of timber boats and bush beyond.

The Kiosk's comprehensive menu caters to a diverse clientele, which includes local residents popping in for brunch, shipwrights grabbing a gourmet burger for lunch or passing boaties dropping by to supplement supplies.

With toast to Thai fish burgers, salads to salmon smoked on-site, bustling Cottage Point Kiosk is a beautiful place to grab a bite while cruising. I rather like the laska noodles with chilli and seafood for lunch.

By the way, there's a free visitor mooring for short stays.

If you feel like treating yourself to that special occasion for lunch or dinner, then head to Cottage Point Inn on the western side of the point. Also located right on the water, this establishment provides panoramic views of sparkling Cowan Creek from its dining deck.

Cottage Point Inn is a truly relaxing place and ideal for that long, lazy lunch. Host Dan McKinnon says he rarely gets highly strung guests. You're troubles soon slip away when you see the view. You can tie up to their pontoon, but there's not much room next to the seaplane, so be prepared to raft-up. Originally a boatshed and general store, the building was converted to a restaurant in the 1970s and now offers two guest apartments as well.

Dan managed the restaurant for three years before buying it 12 years ago, fulfilling his dream to be "where the mountains meet the sea" – well, hills anyway.

Cottage Point Inn

The historic Cottage Point Inn Restaurant is set on the water at the junction of Cowan Waters and Coal & Candle Creek.

Our philosophy is to provide honest, modern Australian style food served in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Complementing the menu are wines chosen for their excellence from wine growing regions predominantly in Australia & New Zealand.

Seaplanes, ferries and water taxis service the restaurant. Evening Cruise packages from Palm Beach also now available. Limited pontoon space is also available for boat owners.

The restaurant is open all year around; however the hours vary with the seasons.

For enquiries please phone (02) 9456 1011 or visit www.cottagepointinn.com.au



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The menu is modern Australian with an emphasis on seafood, but caters for everyone including vegetarians and children. There's even a seven-course degustation menu. "We strive for food which is excellently prepared and handled, without being too fussy," says Dan.

Ingredients change to reflect seasonal influences, but a recent offering included Tasmanian ocean trout on tomato and cardamom relish with pickled cucumber and minted yoghurt. The wine list, which Dan says represents regional excellence, is quite extensive.

If you don't want to bring your own boat try catching a ferry, which stops at the adjacent public wharf, or more spectacularly, arrive by seaplane. Then again, you could always take the pleasant drive by road I suppose.

For further information visit www.cottagepointkiosk.com.au or www.cottagepointinn.com.au

