

# roaming the streets

The locals probably won't like us letting the cat out of the bag about the Sunshine Coast suburb of Buddina which offers the best of both worlds - riverside park on one side and surf beach on the other.

**L**OCATED ON THE Point Cartwright peninsula just south of Mooloolaba, Buddina is easy to miss if you don't know it's there.

The Nicklin Way bypasses the suburb as it bends between Minyama and Warana so you need to look out for the Point Cartwright turnoff, which is not far from Kawana shopping world.

For dog owners, the area has specific, well sign-posted off lead areas at La Balsa Park alongside the Mooloolah River, at Point Cartwright and Beacon lighthouse reserve and along sections of Buddina Beach. Don't forget to clean up after your dog.

The area offers easy walking and scenic views. Being one of the coast's property hot spots, there's plenty of renovating going on for those who like to admire waterfront properties.

As the area is geared for picnics and barbeques, there is little in the way of café's so visitors usually bring their own. But if you're looking for takeaway or provisions there's the Point Cartwright shops. Bella's beachside café makes sandwiches and other takeaway or eat in options to order and you'll get freshly baked bread from the bakery which opens from 6am, seven days.

As well as providing fresh bread, Noel ensures there's plenty of fresh water nearby for your pooch.

## La Balsa Park

Situated on the western side of Point Cartwright, La Balsa Park offers parking, showers, toilets, barbeques, tables, walking, fishing and a kids' playground - although dogs are not allowed within 10 metres of the picnic tables and barbeques. There's plenty of shade so there are many places away from the designated food preparation areas to set up and take in the views of the marina and yacht club located directly opposite, and to watch the passing marine and foot traffic. A small section of beach appears on a low tide for swimming.

Between 4pm and 8am dogs are permitted off lead in the park area between Point Cartwright headland and La Balsa Park.

## Point Cartwright

The walk up to Point Cartwright reserve is about 230 metres to the lighthouse and the stunning views north to Noosa and south to Caloundra and Moreton Island.

Point Cartwright is an unpatrolled beach adjacent to the Mooloolah River, popular for its surfing point break.

It is not a swimming beach. There are showers, toilets and dog off lead areas. Dogs are permitted off lead at all times on the lighthouse reserve grassed area near Pacific

Boulevard and the park area on the eastern side of Point Cartwright headland, south to Gulai Street.

## Buddina Beach

Three kilometres before Point Cartwright is Buddina Beach and the Kawana Surf Life Saving Club.

Buddina beach offers peaceful, easy walking in either direction. There are parks and playgrounds, barbecues and picnic areas along the beach and showers and toilets are scattered along the numbered beach accesses.

Dogs are permitted off lead at all times along the Buddina foreshore from Point Cartwright to Gulai Street



Buddina Beach



La Balsa Park

(beach access 1-4) and Mawarra Avenue to Talinga Street (beach access 13-21). Dogs are not allowed near the patrolled area (beach access 21 to 30).

On the southern side of the patrolled area, dogs are permitted off lead from 4pm to 8am along the beach from Maloga Street, Buddina to Wurley Drive, Wurtulla.

The whole area is well signed regarding dog access so check out the signage upon arrival for clarification.

## Jessica Park

At Minyama, a short way along Nicklin Way heading north after the Point Cartwright turnoff, is Jessica Park. Although not actually situated in Buddina, we thought it would be remiss of us not to mention this park, which has a visitor information centre and an off lead area. 🐾

\* Words and photos by Janice Holland