



# Top 10 marinas

There are more than 290 marinas in Australia. They cater for everything from modest fleets of local boats to the growing number of international maxi yachts that visit our shores each year. **Sally Oulton** outlines some of the best.

MARINAS DIVIDE into three main groups: commercial, residential or club. This survey concentrates on commercial marinas and their wide range of services and facilities, but also includes some club marinas. All of these facilities provide far more than the basic service of a secure place to keep your boat. They offer a wide range of customer support, and contribute to their local economy through tourism and employment.

### SOLDIER'S POINT MARINA, Port Stephens, NSW

*This facility won the 2007 Marina of The Year award and presents itself as a Four Seasons resort.*

#### Marina Services:

- 100 berths for vessels ranging from 7-30 metres with power, water, telephone, wireless internet and satellite TV
- Day spa with free use of the dry sauna
- Resort-style luxury marble bathrooms
- Complimentary morning coffee, newspaper and sunset cocktails delivered to the boat
- 24-hour fuel dock
- Pump-out facility is free
- Digital CCTV and Security with electronic card system
- Complimentary courtesy car use
- Pick-up/drop-off at Newcastle Airport
- Reserved car parking
- Boat valet service which includes refuelling, provisioning, airing the boat, checking the air conditioning, cleaning and preparing beds
- Business services – facsimile and mail delivery
- Coin-operated laundry machines

- Dock assistance – 7 days
- Filtered water
- Visitor dock
- ATM
- Award-winning restaurant
- Café & bar
- Marine brokerage
- Rubbish and recycling
- Disabled facilities
- Full workshop facilities
- Shipwright
- Mechanical (petrol and diesel) services and repairs
- Electrical
- Varnishing
- Gelcoat restoration
- Teak refurbishing
- Detailing and antifouling

- plus 1 maintenance berth and 3 unloading berths
- Two fuel wharves (9 pumps)
- Five-lane public boat ramp
- Mackay Yacht Club
- Variety of cafés, bars and restaurants
- Liquour store
- Hairdressers
- Sales office with gift and holiday items plus small chandlery
- Day trips to the islands and deep sea fishing (overnight)
- Yacht broker

#### Marine Services and Slipway

### MACKAY MARINA, Mackay, Queensland.

*This facility won the 2006 Marina of The Year award. It is the centrepiece of an impressive new marine/residential development and offers apartments and a four star luxury accommodation hotel.*

#### Marina Services:

- 479 berths (with a 3.5 metre draught at the lowest astronomical tide) including twelve big boat (28-38 metres) and six superyacht berths up to 50 metres.
- Separate commercial fishing boat facility with 36 berths
- 32 commercial fishing berths

- 65-tonne travel-lift designed to slip boats of up to 9.2m beam
  - Slipping of single, double or triple-hulled vessels
  - Abrasive blasting
  - Specialist paint and maintenance sheds
  - Secure hardstand with 36 specially-designed cradles
  - On-site trades including specialist painting, engineering, upholstery, fabrication and boat building for full repair and refit of all types of vessel
  - Trade supplies including sail making, rigging, surveying and boat transport
- The shipyard has won a number of environmental awards and is considered one of the best boatyards in Australia.



ABOVE: Soldier's Point at Port Stephens won Marina of the Year 2007.

RIGHT: Mackay is jump-off point for Whitsundays

