

Warm and sunny spot for families

KEVIN FARMER

WHAT better way to escape a miserable, cold and windy typical August Toowoomba weekend than heading to Cooloom and the promise of warm sand and sun on the Sunshine Coast.

Cooloom's friendly locals and hassle-free atmosphere combine for a perfect getaway destination for busy families looking for a rejuvenating break.

The seaside destination has grown-up in recent years without losing its welcoming village-like personality.

Our accommodation was a beachside sanctuary – a three-bedroom villa at Cooloom at the Beach which was built to house-like proportions.

A family-run business, the precinct's newest resort is conveniently located on David Low Way next to the beach and a short walk to the shops and cafes. The resort offers four swimming pools set amongst lush tropical gardens.

The kids appreciated the heated main pool and our private rooftop spa. Resident managers Murray and Michelle Richardson couldn't be more helpful and do their utmost to make your stay as enjoyable as possible.

A private surf lesson with the Cooloom Surf School was definitely a highlight of our weekend away.

Our instructor Pierre Robino was excellent with the kids. He covered basic beach safety before giving simple, easy to follow instructions which we

practiced on the beach before heading into the whitewater. We all astounded ourselves by being able to stand and surf by the end – if only for 30 seconds! All equipment including soft safe learner surf boards, wet suits, wet shirts and sunscreen was supplied.

Cooloom has many tasty options to satisfy any appetite. If you are looking for a fresh juice or fruit smoothie, the creations at Rew Energy on the esplanade are a must.

Our pick for breakfast was The C&F on Birtwill St, a gem well-known to locals. Owner Di Stevenson and her team provide good coffee, friendly service and a yummy breakfast to start your day.

Across from the boardwalk with heavenly views of the seascape My Place restaurant is a wonderful place for any meal.

Or treat the family at the newly invigorated Palmer Cooloom Resort with dinner at one of the Village Square restaurants such as Bruschetta. If self catering is your preference, the Shop @ Cooloom on David Low Way will fulfil all your needs. Open seven days from 5am-10pm you will find everything you need, from the basic essentials of milk and bread through to organic, gluten-free and locally grown products. Plenty of other activities are available to keep the kids occupied if you are looking for something other than sand and surf.

The climb up Australia's second largest monolith, Mt Cooloom, will



LIL' SURF DUDE: Oily Farmer shows his newly-found surf skills.

PHOTOS: KEVIN FARMER, COOLOOM AT THE BEACH, RACHEL OUTLER

reward with panoramic views of the Sunshine Coast.

You may even see migrating whales at this time of the year. You can do more whale spotting as you take a casual stroll along the coastal boardwalk. Or how about Friday night barefoot bowls followed by dinner at Cooloom Bowls Club?

The writer and family were a guest of Cooloom Business and Tourism.



SPLASH: One of the four gorgeous swimming pools at Cooloom at the Beach.



CHOCTREAT: Quinn Farmer can't wait to devour this choey rocky road from the kids' desert menu at Bruschetta, Palmer Cooloom Resort.



BEACH BOWLS: Archie Farmer watches his family enjoy bare foot bowls at Cooloom Bowls Club.



COOLOOM
at the beach

Special offer
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*conditions apply

Cooloom's newest beachside holiday apartments & luxury villas

Lush tropical resort foliage. Four sun-drenched resort pools (3 heated) including children's pool. Fully equipped onsite gym. Heated 20m lap pool. Perfectly located across the road from the beach and Cooloom's new Coles supermarket. Stroll to boutique shops and cafes.

FREE Kids Club in school holidays (selected dates)!

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