

## Yaringa on the waterfront

JUST off the eastern end of Bungower Rd in Somerville, patrons have been praising the quieter, more comfortable setting at the recently refurbished Yaringa Marina Restaurant.

This popular waterfront restaurant is quite a surprise and underwent a major makeover two months ago, including the addition of a new lounge bar.

The meals are outstanding and the service is spot-on.

Head chef Claire Kearns-Smale joined the team at Yaringa in 2004 and has revitalised the menu with some dazzling additions, while retaining the popular lunch and dinner favourites. Born into a chef's family in New Zealand, Claire developed her passion for

cooking very early in life, and did work experience in a busy Air Force base kitchen at the age of 14. She completed the highest chef's qualification with distinction at the Southern Alps Hotel School in Timaru before coming to Australia where she spent some time as second chef at The Rocks in Mornington. Duck is a favourite dish and is prepared a couple of ways, including the breast salad (pictured) or as a main, twice roasted and presented on a base of puy lentils with a red currant sauce. The quality menu is eclectic, with ingredients including seafood, vegies and strawberries, preferentially supplied by local growers and fishermen.

The appointment of a maitre'd in September has lifted the 'front of house' service. Yves Bauer has the charming demeanour of a French-speaking waiter and

restaurant manager and brings to Yaringa the skills gained over 20 years in Swiss restaurants, then locally at Benito's in Mt Eliza and The Melbourne Oyster Bar. He also brings an attention to detail and a high level of personalised service, particularly matching the fine wine list with Claire's creations. Blue Tango provides live music on Friday evenings. Bookings for Christmas functions are filling fast and a Gala dinner on New Year's Eve includes French Champagne on the balcony, a delicious set menu and live Jazz. Yaringa Marina Restaurant is open from Wednesday to Sunday for lunch and Wednesday to Saturday for dinner but will be open daily, during summer. Bookings are advisable on 5977 3735.

To get there, take Bungower Rd towards Western Port and follow the signs (Melway 149 K7).



FRANK AND LYNN ENJOY THE YARINGA AMBIENCE. ABOVE: THE DUCK BREAST SALAD