

RESORT LIVING PRESTON BEACH

Beach shacks make a comeback

KELLY DAVIS

Beach shack living has been reinvented with a stylish new image in WA and from initial sales reports it looks like it is here to stay.

The new \$50 million Footprints resort in Preston Beach, south of Mandurah, will comprise 102 beach shacks, 28 town houses, two heated pools, a tennis court, restaurant with alfresco dining, conference centre and a children's playground.

Stages 1 and 2 sold out within weeks of release, with most buyers from Perth and the South-West seeking a low-maintenance family weekend that was close to home. The first stage is under construction and a fully completed display unit will be opened tomorrow. Prices for Stage 3 start at \$387,000 for beach shacks and \$480,000 for town houses.

Footprints Preston Beach is the first beach shack resort of its kind in WA, designed by architect James Christou for developers Rapley Wilkinson Property.

It is the first in a series of resorts to be built by the company, the second of which will be on the Binningup Beach Caravan Park site, north of Bunbury, after being given the green light by the Shire of Harvey late last year. It will comprise 32 beach shacks and 39 two-storey town houses.

Rapley Wilkinson managing director Alan Thomas said Footprints at Preston Beach was a resort concept that marked a return to simple, affordable coastal holidaying, close to the beach, Lake Preston and Yalgorup National Park.

"Footprints will feature stylish, architecturally designed beach shacks and town houses that will draw families and tourists to the Preston Beach area to enjoy the attractions of this idyllic location," he said.

"Each beach shack will be fully furnished and self-contained with air-conditioning, a microwave, dishwasher, washer and dryer and its



Alan Thomas



own barbecue facilities on timber decking for a new generation of holidaymakers.

"The resort will benefit from the construction of the new Perth to Bunbury Highway, which will cut the trip from the metropolitan area to around 60 minutes."

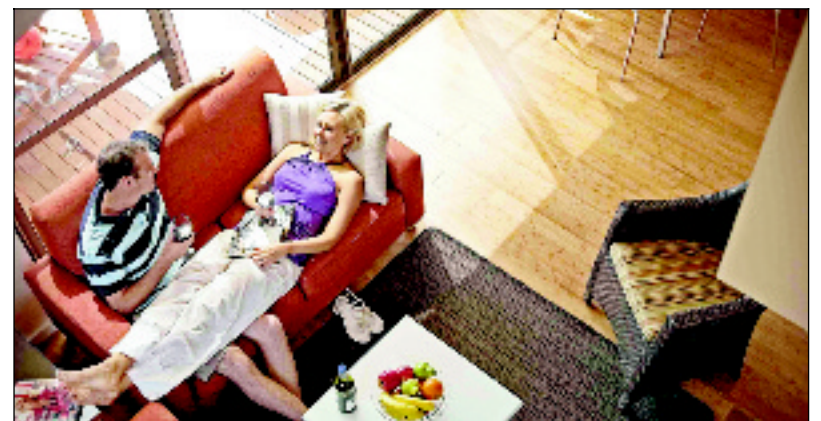
There had already been substantial interest in Stage 3, which would be released tomorrow, Mr Thomas said, and the poolside shacks were some of the best located in the development.

"The opening will take on a festival atmosphere, with a free

sausage sizzle and soft drinks plus plenty of activities for the kids, including a bouncy castle and face painting. We're also running a competition where visitors will have the chance to win one of five LCD TVs."

Stages 1 and 2 of Footprints Preston Beach are due to open about the middle of next year.

For more information, contact Scott Spinley, of PRDnationwide Project Marketing, on 0408 863 353 or visit www.footprintsatpreston.com.au.



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