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REEF MAGAZINE

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HAMILTON
ISLAND
& THE
GREAT
BARRIER
REEF

GOOD Vibrations

**SWEET STUFF
STAR PASTRY CHEF
HELEN GOH TALKS TEATIME**

**CASTAWAY WITH
MEGAN WASHINGTON**

**MADE OF IRON
MEET THE MOST POWERFUL
SPORTING COUPLE**

**GOODNIGHT
SLEEP OUT ON
THE REEF**

What makes
Hamilton Island
Race Week
so special

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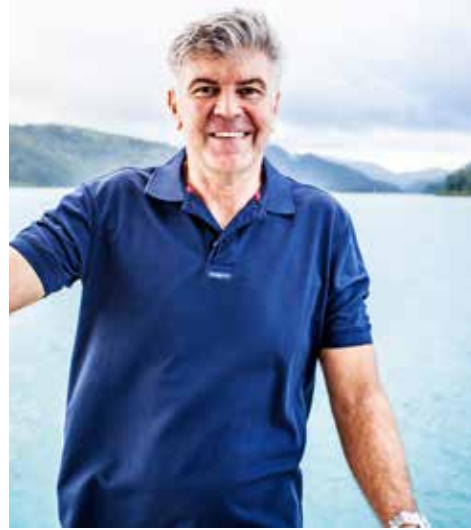


PASPALEY

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PEARLS IN THE WORLD

INTRODUCTION

Glenn Bourke.



has travelled far from Ottolenghi in the UK. The reasons for inviting Helen are twofold: firstly, she is an Australian chef who is making quite a name for herself – and doing us proud, too – in the UK, a major international market for Hamilton Island. In addition this year, Qantas introduced a direct London-to-Perth flight, making it easier than ever for the British to visit our shores. One of our most special pairings of the week will be Neil Perry AM and Helen at an exclusive dinner at qualia. To learn more about Helen and what she is doing in the UK to show the best of Australia overseas, please take a look at her story on page 22. I'm also excited to be featuring some of our own talent in this issue of REEF, each of whom is doing amazing work in our little piece of paradise. Trent Dawson, executive chef at our fine-dining restaurant Bommie, has some terrific new delicacies on his menu and I urge you to try to fit a dinner there into your island itinerary. If you can't, then you can at least enjoy a visual feast of his creations on page 28. We are also profiling long-standing resident and citizen of Hamilton Island Marcus Taylor, who is making great inroads with our core environmental philosophy on reducing island-based consumption. While we've made tremendous progress in reducing the use of plastic at our food and beverage outlets, and in improving energy efficiency, waste management

and sustainable sourcing, we know more needs to be done. We are steadily working on it and you will see why Marcus is the man for the job on page 36. We have so many stand-out experiences on offer here, but I'm never surprised at how popular our walking trails are. On page 30, you will find out about the new trails we have recently built and opened, offering access to some previously undiscoverable parts of Hamilton Island. Less than 25% of the island has been developed, so I hope you do manage to get out and enjoy the remaining 75% while you are here, too. The views from the lookout points along the way are awesome. I'm convinced that this is the most beautiful part of Australia. Every day, I'm proud to be in a position to offer guests the opportunity to enjoy it, and I love seeing them doing just that with these new walking trails. Thanks for reading my introduction to this issue of REEF Magazine and thank you for choosing to stay with us on Hamilton Island. I hope you get the chance to do as much or as little as you need to do and, with that said, I will let you get on with your holiday now.

Glenn Bourke
Glenn Bourke
CEO

Welcome to Hamilton Island during some of our best-weather months of the year. This edition launches just days before the 35th Hamilton Island Race Week, during which we look forward to providing the best combination of competition and camaraderie for our loyal sailors, and an enviable selection of food, wine and fun for the fashionable on-shore set, who bring that extra sparkle to our island during the week. This year, we are delighted to welcome to Race Week some of Australia's finest chefs, including Peter Gilmore, Neil Perry AM, Lennox Hastie of Firedoor, Danielle Alvarez of Fred's and Helen Goh, who

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A DASH OF SEDUCTION



MAISON FONDÉE EN 1785

PIPER-HEIDSIECK

CHAMPAGNE

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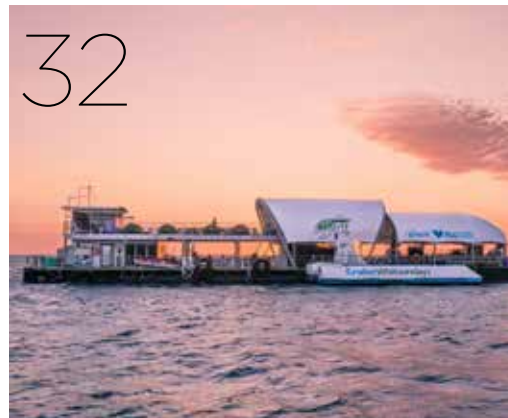
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ROB MUNDLE,
AUTHOR AND
SAILOR

IF YOU WERE ASKED TO SET SAIL, WHICH KIND OF SEAWORTHY BOAT WOULD YOU PICK? A SAILING/CRUISING CATAMARAN.
YOU'VE HAD A HARD DAY OUT ON THE OPEN WAVES... CHAMPAGNE? A COCKTAIL? MOUNT GAY RUM WITH ICE, TONIC AND A WEDGE OF LIME.
THERE'S TREASURE BURIED ON THE ISLAND... WHAT DO YOU HOPE IT MIGHT BE? PERFECTLY CHILLED CHARLES HEIDSIECK CHAMPAGNE.
FAVOURITE WAY OF EXPRESSING YOURSELF? WRITING A BOOK.
MOST OVERUSED WORD? CHEERS!

TRACEY WITHERS,
WRITER

IF YOU WERE ASKED TO SET SAIL, WHICH KIND OF SEAWORTHY BOAT WOULD YOU PICK? A BENETEAU OCEANIS 48 SAILING YACHT. CHIC BUT NOT TOO SHOWY.
YOU'VE HAD A HARD DAY OUT ON THE OPEN WAVES... CHAMPAGNE? A COCKTAIL? A COLD BEER FOLLOWED BY AN ELDERFLOWER MARTINI AT COCA CHU.
THERE'S TREASURE BURIED ON THE ISLAND... WHAT DO YOU HOPE IT MIGHT BE? THE LOST CITY OF AN ANCIENT CIVILIZATION.
CURRENT OBSESSION? FREEDOM WEEKENDS.



ALISON VENESS,
EDITOR

IF YOU WERE ASKED TO SET SAIL, WHICH KIND OF SEAWORTHY BOAT WOULD YOU PICK? WILD OATS XI.
YOU'VE HAD A HARD DAY OUT ON THE OPEN WAVES... CHAMPAGNE? A COCKTAIL? ALWAYS CHARLES (HEIDSIECK).
THERE'S TREASURE BURIED ON THE ISLAND... WHAT DO YOU HOPE IT MIGHT BE? CAVIAR.
FAVOURITE WAY OF EXPRESSING YOURSELF? POETRY.
MOST OVERUSED WORD? GURLL.

MATT CLEARY,
SPORTS
JOURNALIST

IF YOU WERE ASKED TO SET SAIL, WHICH KIND OF SEAWORTHY BOAT WOULD YOU PICK? A REALLY BIG ONE THAT SAILS ITSELF.
YOU'VE HAD A HARD DAY OUT ON THE OPEN WAVES... CHAMPAGNE? A COCKTAIL? OR... IN CONTEXT, YOU CAN'T BEAT A GOOD HOT AND SALTY CHIKO ROLL.
THERE'S TREASURE BURIED ON THE ISLAND... WHAT DO YOU HOPE IT MIGHT BE? HAROLD HOLT.
FAVOURITE WAY OF EXPRESSING YOURSELF? MY EYEBROWS. THEY'RE SO EXPRESSIVE THEY COULD MAKE SPEECHES AT THE UN.
MOST OVERUSED WORD? GOLF.
CURRENT OBSESSION? SEE ABOVE.



HENRI LLOYD

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CASTAWAY... MEGAN WASHINGTON

Imagine you're stranded on a desert island (one that's nowhere near as glorious as Hamilton Island, of course) and you've only been able to 'bring' a few things. Oh, the hardship of it all... We put Megan Washington, one of our favourite Australian musicians, to this stressful test and she came up with a few very clever suggestions. Oh yeah.

What would you most regret not packing?

"My phone charger - I always forget it."

What would you miss most about reality?

"Other people. I think that's why I'd really need my phone!"



Favourite island movie for that much-needed inspiration?

"The Blue Lagoon!"

What would you grow to eat and sustain you?

"Avocados and pears. My two favourites."

One essential tool for the island?

"Good machete and gaffer tape. Gaffer tape has come to my rescue so many times."



Catch of the day? Or would you be staying vegan?

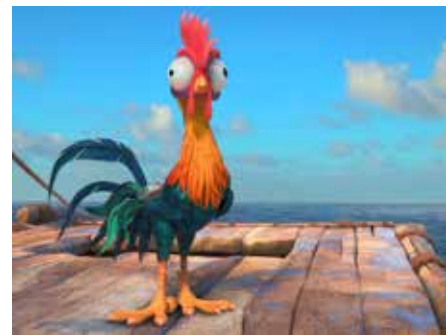
"Kelp! So healthy, so vegan."

Three essentials to pack?
"La Roche-Posay sunscreen oil, my prescription sunglasses, my phone."



Your dream companion?
"Ronan Farrow. I think he's brilliant and has infinite conversational depth."

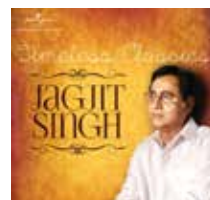
Your island mantra?
"And by the ocean she finds her solace - only after I've moved through the 'this too shall pass' phase."



If you could channel one fictional character, who would it be?
"The chicken in Moana."

Top island tune?

"Something by Jagjit Singh, to help me stay chilled."



Dream meal once you've been rescued?

"Linguine with garlic and chilli."

First place you would go when rescued?

"To a nice hotel with a big, deep bath and fluffy towels."



Which book would you bring with you?
"Kafka on the Shore by Haruki Murakami. It's my favourite."

What would you wear?
"The most sun-sensible thing I could find. Some kind of all-in-one rashie with full legs and arms, and a gigantic sunhat."

Your island accessory?
"Zinc cream."



WHITEHAVEN BEACH AUSTRALIA'S #1 BEACH



HARDY REEF - THE GREAT BARRIER REEF WORLDS # 1 REEF


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CRUISE WHITSUNDAYS
#1 DAY CRUISES

Great Barrier Reef Adventures & Whitehaven Beach Day Cruises

Outstanding experiences with the region's premier marine tourism operator. Cruises depart daily from Hamilton Island Marina. For bookings or further information contact the Hamilton Island Tour Desk on 07 4946 8305 or 68305 (in-house) or visit them in the main Resort Centre.
cruisewhitsundays.com

TOP 10 TO DO



NEXT LEVEL: THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

Quite simply, one of the most incredible natural habitats on Earth. There are many ways to view the reef with minimal impact. Take a day trip out to the pontoon at Hardy Reef and enjoy snorkelling through the brilliantly coloured coral formations. Or spend a half- or full day touring the secret spots of the Whitsunday Islands or outer reef with the Explore Group experts, who also offer an introductory scuba dive experience for a deeper look at the reef. One of our favourite ways to see the Whitsundays is by air. Take a flight in a chopper with Hamilton Island Air and be amazed at the views — and your photographs. These moments will make for a truly memorable holiday.



ADVENTURE LEAGUE: DINGHY HIRE

Create your own adventure. Yes, do as little or as much as you like as you explore the Whitsundays in your very own motorised dinghy. Pack a delicious picnic, relax and soak up the beauty as you set out across the Coral Sea. If you fancy a little more action, hire some snorkelling or fishing gear and make a sporting day of it — perfect for family fun or a couples day out. Head to Hamilton Island Marina to book a dinghy now.

FAMILY TIME: FUN AND GAMES

The youngest members of the family will find new friends to hang out with at the Fun Zone play area or the Clownfish Club childcare centre (for children aged up to 14 years). Six- to 14-year-olds with a sense of adventure can tackle the Quads for Kids course in Palm Valley, while the whole family will get a kick out of a few rounds of mini golf. Or why not try for a strike at the island's seven-lane bowling centre? Movie night is the best way to wind down with the family after a day of action: Hamilton Island Video Store has all your favourites and latest releases.



STRIKE A POSE: GOLF GOLD

Catch the ferry across to Dent Island to enjoy one of Australia's most spectacular 18-hole courses, the Hamilton Island Golf Club. Designed by five-time British Open champion Peter Thomson, it's an incredible course. Our advice is don't rush the round — a challenge for professionals and casual golfers alike. It is breathtakingly beautiful, with views of the Whitsundays and beyond, so prepare to be distracted. At the 19th hole, drink in more views over a laidback lunch at the Clubhouse. And perhaps update your golf wardrobe with a visit to the well-stocked Pro Shop.

PARADISE FOUND: WHITEHAVEN BEACH

A holiday on Hamilton Island demands a trip out to Whitehaven Beach. It truly is the kind of natural environment that is often viewed in glossy books or incredible photographs, yet is seldom seen in person. Here it is, then: a perfect stretch of bone-white silica sand bordered by clear, turquoise sea — pinch-yourself paradise that is truly wonderful. The beach may feel remote and otherworldly, but the reality is only a short trip by helicopter, seaplane, yacht or motorboat from Hamilton Island. Don't leave without a visit, or you will regret it for ever. We do not exaggerate.



FEEL-GOOD FACTOR: WE'VE GOT YOU

One of the best ways to see the island is from a sea-kayaking session. If you're staying at the Reef View Hotel, Palm Bungalows, Beach Club, qualia or Hamilton Island Holiday Homes, you can pick up a complimentary catamaran, kayak, windsurfer, snorkelling gear or paddle board from Beach Sports on Catseye Beach. And did you know there are some incredible bushwalking tracks on Hamilton Island? One of the most unforgettable ways to start the day is watching the sun rise from one of the many lookouts to which the tracks lead. Follow that up with a morning yoga session, or for a rigorous workout, head to the Hamilton Island Sports Club and choose from group fitness classes such as Body Pump, exercise bikes, weights sessions, a cardio workout or a game of tennis. Turn to page 30 for more on the new walking trails.



UNWIND: KICK BACK

There is no better way to restore body, mind and soul than with a dedicated session at Spa wumurdaylin. The highly skilled therapists provide treatments rich in aromaceuticals by Waterlily, plus massages, scrubs, rituals and facial therapies. Take note: if you need a blow-dry, a last-minute 'do, a mani and pedi, or even a spray tan, book into Island Hair and Beauty in the Resort Centre.



ANIMAL KINGDOM: HEAVENLY CREATURES

This is one of the best ways for the whole family to have fun: a guided walk to meet the animals at WILD LIFE Hamilton Island, followed by breakfast or lunch at the cafe. Don't miss the slippery lizards and snakes, kangaroos, dingoes, the fierce Australian cassowary and the island's own resident crocodile. And say hello to Freddie the talking sulphur-crested cockatoo (he might even say hello back) and Bobby the koala and his family. They are all here.

CATCH OF THE DAY: GO FISHING

This is one of Australia's best places to go fishing, and Predator Fishing and Renegade Fishing charters cater for all levels of experience. Hire a private or charter trip and let the crew show you how to clean and prepare a delicious catch for dinner, while first-timers and novices can get advice on where the fish are biting. For the more independent fisherman, Hamilton Island Dinghy Hire is the best place to go for a boat, bait and tackle.



4



PUMPED: OFF THE GRID

For that total offshore adrenaline rush, we love taking a guided jet-ski tour. It's utterly exhilarating. The go-kart track is another one of our classic go-tos. The karts are fun, easy to drive and a session in one is a great way to let off some city steam. Or take to the bush tracks on an Offroad Adventure Tour. They offer some of the best ways to get to rugged outlooks on the island. Hot tip: if you're an early bird, take a morning tour to catch the sunrise from Resort Lookout.

To find out more or book your tours and activities, visit the Tour Desk, call 07 4946 8305, or download the Hamilton Island app

BULLETIN BOARD

It's all about the amazing environment and life on the Great Barrier Reef. Here, the latest updates, by Esther Holmes.



View from the Beach Club.

AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

The Hamilton Island Beach Club made it onto the list of top 10 Australian hotels named in the 2018 TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Awards for Hotels. Noted for its magical view across the Coral Sea and being "best for honeymooners and couples", the Beach Club has always been renowned for its friendly and attentive staff, and the award is a tribute to all who make a stay there so seamlessly enjoyable. Complimentary welcome drinks and a chauffeur service to anywhere on the island help create the boutique-hotel intimacy. Laid-back, super-stylish and dreamily tranquil — that's us.



Refill with filtered water here.

FOUNTAIN OF WISDOM

In March 2017, the first water station was installed on the island to give guests the option of refilling bottles with filtered water and reduce the use of single-use plastic bottles. There are now three operating water stations around the marina village, with two more being installed in the coming months. Based on the total litres supplied by these water fountains over the past 12 months, we believe they have provided the equivalent of 273 600ml plastic bottles per day. This initiative is one of many that form part of a large plan to reduce the environmental impact of tourism-related consumption on Hamilton Island.

MARRIAGE EQUALITY

We are proud to report that Hamilton Island hosted its first same-sex wedding in March. Americans Benjamin Siemon and Justin Matson tied the knot at a ceremony on Catseye Beach, which was followed by an intimate dinner at qualia's Pebble Beach. Matson is a comedian who has performed at Adelaide's Fringe Festival and Siemon is a screenwriter. Dynamic duo. We say congratulations, boys.



Just married: Benjamin Siemon and Justin Matson.

PHOTOGRAPHY: HAMILTON ISLAND WEDDINGS, KARA ROSENBLUND.



Live group fitness class RPM.

SPORTING LEGEND

The Sports Club has reopened following a complete renovation of the original club. The facilities include a dedicated group fitness room, improved weights area, a cycle and stretch room, plus revamped bathroom facilities, along with its two tennis courts that can be reserved from 6am until 8pm daily. Choose from the selection of live group fitness classes, including GRIT, yoga, Pilates, Bodypump, RPM, HIIT and CXWorx, or try a virtual group fitness class, such as RPM, Bodypump, CXWorx, Bodybalance, Sh'bam or Bodycombat. We're working up a sweat already.



The super-slick Sports Club.

COME TOGETHER, RIGHT NOW

The Conference Centre has recently reopened after extensive refurbishment, having been transformed into a light and airy space with state-of-the-art facilities. It's the ideal place for business events, all those ideas and thought bubbles being inspired by what's unfolding on the LCD screens set within vertical timber beams. Lofty skylights, beautiful pebble surfaces and a fabulous auditorium all add to the modern museum/gallery vibe.



The candles are \$69, available at Hamilton Island Designs.

UPPING THE ANTI(PASTO)

On a beautiful day, what better way is there to spend your time than enjoying a delicious cocktail and foodie delights alfresco? At Romano's, you can do just this. The menu has a mouthwatering selection, including classics such as caprese salad, with succulent heirloom tomatoes, melt-in-the-mouth buffalo mozzarella and fresh basil, all drizzled with aged balsamic vinegar and extra-virgin olive oil. And what we really love is the share plate for two or more - it comes laden with wagyu bresaola, truffle salami, prosciutto di San Daniele, seasonal pickles, burrata and gnocco fritto. See you there. Romano's, Front Street, from 3pm until late.



Romano's share plate.

HEAVEN SCENT

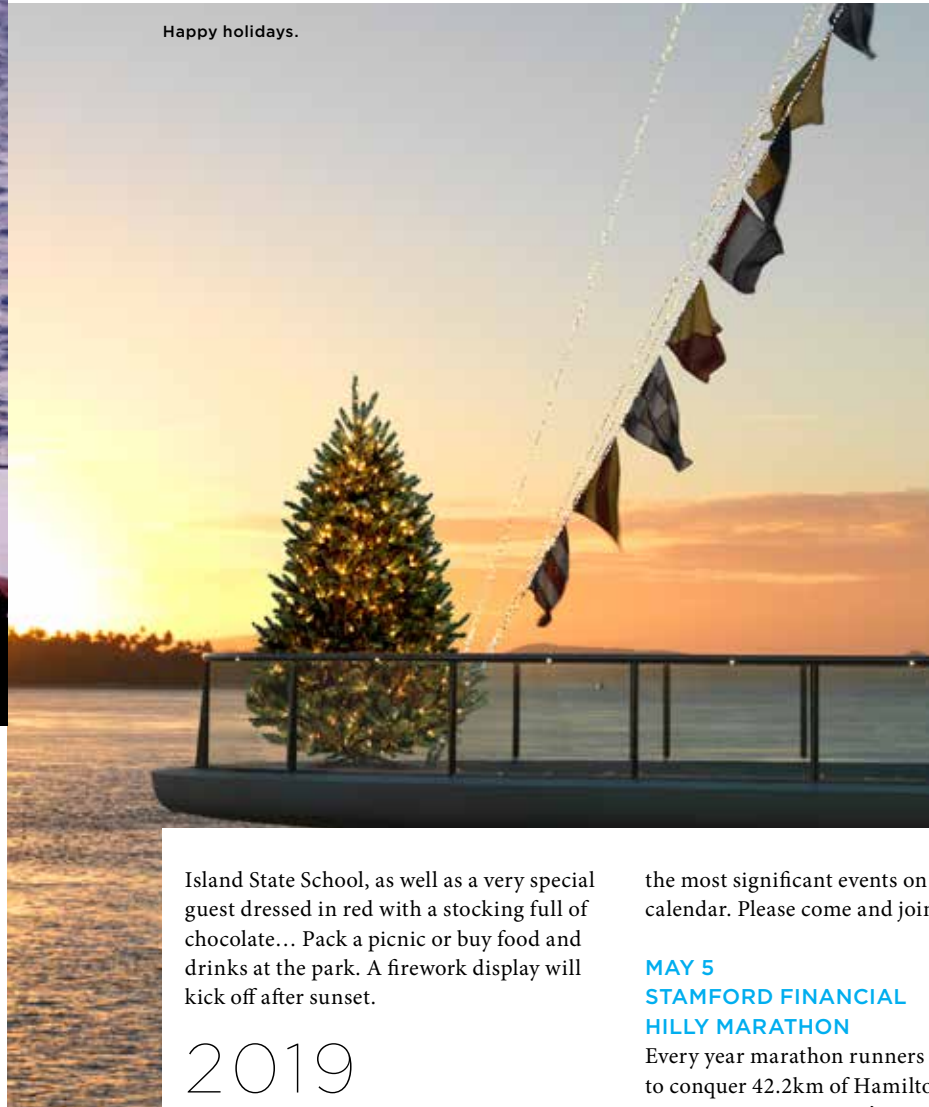
Hamilton Island has collaborated with Sydney-based luxury candle maker The Raconteur to create a bespoke Hamilton Island candle. Inspiration came from a visit to the island and many hours of field research, foraging for key Australian botanicals native to the island, which were found in abundance. "It's a story about a sunrise bushwalk along a winding, sandy coastal path, surrounded by cool, moss-covered boulders, grasslands, lush forests and giant jagged cliffs that lead you to the top of the island, Passage Peak," The Raconteur tells us. "It's here that the spice notes of early-morning trade winds mingle with warm, salty ocean breezes to reveal the quiet beauty of what has always been there." The result is a fragrance that is pure olfactory joy and a unique celebration of the island's rich flora. Botanical elements include native lemon myrtle, native ginger, native cedar leaf, native gum, seagrass, amber, moss and wild herbs. The candles are handmade, using 100% soy wax and a cotton wick. And since they have a burn time of up to 60 hours, the holiday feeling will linger long after you've got back home.



Hamilton Island Race Week.



The Australian Ballet's Pas De Deux in Paradise.



Happy holidays.



Anzac Day dawn service.



Chinese New Year.

DIARY DATES 2018/19

Some of the best events in Australia's sporting and social calendar are held right here on Hamilton Island, set in some of the most breathtaking scenery in the Whitsundays.

2018

AUGUST 18-25 HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK

The mixture of short-course, passage and multihull racing classes is guaranteed to test any sailor's tactical ability and has established Hamilton Island Race Week as one of the world's premium yachting regattas – certainly Australia's favourite. Also on the schedule for top-end contenders is an IRC Passage class for modern, fast-cruising yachts, performance racing and a sports-boat competition. Cruising, corporate, bareboat, non-spinnaker and SB20 divisions will all be in the line-up, too. It is one of the most exciting weeks to be on the island and, with accompanying on-shore events including delicious lunches and memorable dinners created by visiting chefs, a Paspaley pop-up store and lots more, Hamilton Island Race Week has become one of the key social events on the calendar. We will be there.

SEPTEMBER 7-11 PAS DE DEUX IN PARADISE

Join The Australian Ballet at qualia for an intimate and exclusive event entitled Pas de Deux in Paradise. Held every two years and set under the twinkling stars, this is one of the most magical moments on the island. Enjoy an incredible performance and black tie dinner, and watch a barre masterclass with Dr Sue Mayes. Book now as tickets are limited.

NOVEMBER 17 HAMILTON ISLAND TRIATHLON

You can do it. Swim Catseye Bay, bike the airport runway and run the Hamilton Island roads. It's a demanding course and serious all the way to the idyllic beachside finish, but this is your chance to face off against professional athletes and other amateur-but-intense participants who come to Hamilton

Island to test their mettle. Just crossing the line earns extensive bragging rights. For athletes aged 4-14, there's a junior triathlon and a Splash'n'Dash swim and run the following day (both events are of varying lengths).

NOVEMBER 18 WHITEHAVEN BEACH OCEAN SWIM

This is one of the most beautiful beaches in the world and not to be missed, so if the adrenaline is still pumping after the triathlon, why not compete in the Whitehaven Beach Ocean Swim? It's a 2km or 750m race, and will definitely allow you to burn off any excess energy.

NOVEMBER 19-22 PGA PROFESSIONALS CHAMPIONSHIP NATIONAL FINAL

This PGA Professionals Championship attracts Australia's top-order club and teaching professionals alike, all ready to take on the iconic Hamilton Island course. That also goes for the non-pro, three-day event, the Hamilton Island Amateur Golf Championship, which runs in conjunction with the PGA final. Places are limited, so golfing enthusiasts need to be quick. The popular Stableford competition starts at the same time as the PGA and is a pro-am on day one, followed by a 36-hole competition, open to both men and women. There are serious prizes to be won... Time to start locking in those extra practice hours.

DECEMBER 24 CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Deck the halls and come and join the festivities on Christmas Eve at Frangipani Park as the sun sets. There will be live entertainment, carols, and candles available at Hamilton

Island State School, as well as a very special guest dressed in red with a stocking full of chocolate... Pack a picnic or buy food and drinks at the park. A firework display will kick off after sunset.

2019

FEBRUARY 5 CHINESE NEW YEAR

We do love a party, and this is one of our favourites. Head down to the marina at Front Street and ring in the Chinese New Year for 2019, the year of the pig. Adding to the street-party atmosphere will be Chinese-food stalls, live entertainment, a traditional lion dance performed by the Chinese Kung Fu Academy and, yes, of course, cracking fireworks.

APRIL 25 ANZAC DAY

Gather with us for the Anzac Day dawn service of remembrance at Catseye Beach. This day marks the anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli. Like hundreds of thousands of our fellow citizens who gather at memorials in cities, suburbs and towns across Australia, we gather here on Hamilton Island to commemorate one of

the most significant events on our national calendar. Please come and join us.

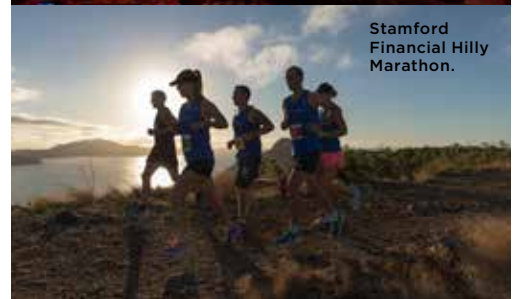
MAY 5 STAMFORD FINANCIAL HILLY MARATHON

Every year marathon runners prepare to conquer 42.2km of Hamilton Island's mountainous terrain. It's one of the most epic endurance events in Australia and we're already gearing up for the 2019 challenge. Those looking to work their way up to the marathon can take part in the 21.1km race – the event also includes a 3 x 7km relay, plus a kids' fun run. They're all part of the Endurance Series, and visitors and locals are welcome to battle it out for these coveted titles.

JUNE 23 GREAT WHITEHAVEN BEACH RUN

Participants have a choice: a half-marathon, a 10km run along the white expanse of Whitehaven Beach or the shorter 5km circuit. Run solo or team up with friends; kids can compete in junior events – there's a challenge for everyone. Don't let the allure of the turquoise tide, the sunshine or warm sand distract you as you sprint to the finish line on one of the most photogenic beaches in all of the Whitsundays.

For the latest event information and more details, visit hamiltonisland.com.au/events



Stamford Financial Hilly Marathon.



Great Whitehaven Beach Run.

FOLLOW THE CROWD

Over the past 34 years, Hamilton Island Race Week has created some remarkable milestones and impressive standards in the world of yachting, and this year's event will be no different. It's all about people having fun aboard a large fleet of widely varying craft, says Rob Mundle.

The series has been described as “yachting’s Melbourne Cup” and the “Royal Ascot of international yachting regattas”. There are powerful endorsements, including from America’s Cup veteran Tom Ehman, who having travelled from California to be at Race Week, declared, “Hamilton Island Race Week is the best-kept secret in the world of yachting. The organisers of any major race week should look at how Hamilton Island makes this more than a sailing event – it’s also a social and cultural happening. Through resources, imagination and hard work, it has really come into its own.” The success of Race Week is due to the sagacity of the island’s owners, the Oatley family, and the CEO and world champion sailor Glenn Bourke, and extends through to a second-to-none sailing venue, which stands proudly amid 73 mostly uninhabited tropical islands. It is an impressive, world-class destination, one that lends itself perfectly to the presentation of a broad sailing and social agenda created to entertain the 2,500-plus sailors and their families and friends.

However, it’s the more than 200 yachts entered each year that reveal the uniqueness of this event. Hamilton Island Race Week brings together almost every type of offshore-capable sailboat – monohulls, catamarans and trimarans – and the broadest cross-section of sailing men and women, some with Olympic and America’s Cup experience through to others with no sailing experience at all. And the yachts range from some of the world’s largest and most prominent Grand Prix-level racers through to those designed more for comfort than speed, including decades-old classic clunkers and small trailable yachts that have been towed to the Whitsunday Islands region behind family sedans from points across the continent. Not surprisingly, they also range

in value, from a few thousand dollars to a few million. Some of these yachts have won the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, while others are slow enough that the crews have been known to toss out a fishing line if the sailing conditions haven’t suited. But these extremes don’t exist once the racing is over each day. There is a common bond for the men and women who are competing – as seen once everyone is back on the island and party time unfolds on the docks, in the spectacular yacht club and along Front Street, which encircles Hamilton Island’s neat little harbour. Every entry brings its own story with it, some unique and others almost beyond belief. While the glamour yachts – the supermaxis, such as Wild Oats XI and Black Jack – take centre stage purely because of their speed and size, the crews of the smallest yachts have just as much fun, both on the water and ashore, as those of the sailing behemoths.

Since Race Week 2011, one of the standouts and most entertaining entries has been the grand old pearling lugger Ruby Charlotte. There is nothing “racy” about this yacht at all, but, boy, the crew knows how to have a good time under the captaincy of owner Jon Hickling. Built in 1957 on the banks of the Brisbane River from spotted gum and oregon, this 20-metre long, 35-tonne vessel worked as a pearling lugger out of Thursday Island and Badu Island for 27 years. She was then retired to Cairns where, after years of neglect, she sank. After she was salvaged, Hickling and his wife, Liz, saw potential in the ageing vessel, so bought her in 1991. Ten years later, they gave her a complete refit and set about making sure that their “dream boat” provided all the fun they wanted. That’s where Hamilton Island Race Week came into their equation. Ruby Charlotte is as prominent as the supermaxis in the fleet each year. Her hull shape and two masts, both carrying a vintage gaff rig

and tan-coloured sails, combine to make this yacht unlike anything else at the regatta. The attitude of owner and crew – which includes a dog – is similarly different. “We are the social boat, we don’t really race,” Hickling says. “The first year we really tried hard and we finished one race – our only finish in the 40-plus races we have started in at Race Week over the years!” Because this overweight and under-canvassed yacht does not sail to windward like the racing yachts, Hickling says he now makes up his own courses to suit the conditions, to wherever he wants to go – something that, “causes the race committee to shake their heads. But we have fun. We throw out the lines and catch the occasional fish, and then, when we get back to the dock, the guitars come out, as does the Captain Morgan rum.”

PHOTOGRAPHY: ANDREA FRANCOLINI, BELINDA ROWLAND.

Hamilton Island Race Week, 2017.



“WE HAVE FUN. WE THROW OUT THE LINES AND WHEN WE GET BACK TO THE DOCK, THE GUITARS COME OUT – AS DOES THE CAPTAIN MORGAN RUM.”

Ruby Charlotte.



From this extreme, Race Week extends to the ocean-racing thoroughbreds such as Matt Allen’s Ichi Ban, the winner of the all-important corrected time (handicap) trophy in the most recent Sydney Hobart Yacht Race. Ichi Ban is yachting’s equivalent of a Formula One race car – a stripped-out racing machine with few creature comforts and only absolute necessities on board. It’s also a TP52-class racing yacht, the choice of many highly successful businessmen-cum-yachtsmen in Australia and overseas. There will be at least two other yachts in this category competing at Race Week this year: the appropriately named Balance, owned by high-profile financial expert and commentator Paul Clitheroe, and Hooligan, owned by Marcus Blackmore, founder of the nutritional-supplements company Blackmores.



Nessie.



Ichi Ban.



Hooligan.



Dirty Deeds.



Balance.



Wild Oats XI.



Black Jack.

PHOTOGRAPHY: ANDREA FRANCOLINI

“I HAVE ALWAYS THOUGHT THE TP52 WOULD BE A FUN BOAT FOR RACE WEEK.”

Blackmore is the only sailor to have won the Grand Prix racing division at Hamilton Island over three consecutive years. Such is the intensity of racing and the satisfaction that comes with victory in the TP52 class that the yacht owners seek only the best crew available for each regatta. Allen’s assault on the last Hobart race in Ichi Ban – his “weapon of choice” – was the culmination of a campaign that he had developed over more than two decades. “We sailed the boat downwind at near-breakneck speeds – in the mid to high 20-knot range – for much of the Hobart race,” he says. “It was physically and mentally demanding all the way, but in the end, victory came as a consequence of a solid team effort. Now we can look forward to some great trade-wind sailing in the tropics at Race Week.” Clitheroe, who has also won a Hobart race with his TP52, plans to adopt a more casual approach to his participation at what will be his 10th Race Week. “I have always thought the TP52 would be a fun boat for Race Week, and we intend to prove that this year,” he says. “While many other owners will be more fanatical about their

racing and results, we plan to race well and party hard. The atmosphere around Race Week is unique, and we intend to see all sides of it this year.” At the other end of the racing spectrum is the tiny, 8-metre-long trailable yacht Nessie, which has been towed from northern New South Wales to Hamilton Island by owner William McMillan on at least 15 occasions. Each round trip is about 3,000km. The yacht, as small as it is, also provides the accommodation for McMillan and his wife during the week. Three years ago, two other trailable-yacht owners, who towed their boats to Hamilton Island from near Melbourne and back, turned the trip into an extended holiday. They slept on board the boats along the way, and each time they saw a suitable lake or river, stopped, rigged and launched their boats and went for a sail.

The multihull division of Race Week has been growing impressively each year, and this year is no exception. It is in this category that Michael Van Der Zwaard found himself with a dilemma for Race Week 2018. In recent years, this sailor from Victoria has raced his 15-metre catamaran, Serenity, with his wife and eight children on board as crew. It was also their “floating hotel” during the regatta. “Serenity was ideal as a family boat but too cumbersome for enjoyable racing, so I decided to make a change,” he says. That change sees him going from one extreme to another this year: he has sold Serenity and purchased Dirty Deeds, a tiny racing catamaran measuring 8.5 metres overall and carrying three or four crew. And the change will see most of his family watching from the shore while he races at high speed across the Whitsunday Passage and around many of the adjacent islands.

TUNE IN

Time to crank it up and get the party started – or unwind after a hectic day out on the water.



PLAYLIST: PARTY

- Island in the Sun – Weezer
- Consideration (feat. SZA) – Rihanna
- Fly Away – Lenny Kravitz
- Fuego (feat. Anfa Rose) – Manu Crook\$
- Nice for What – Drake
- Capsize (feat. Emily Warren) – Frenship (Dzeko & Torres remix)
- Aloha (feat. Merryn Jeann) – Møme
- I Like It (feat. Bad Bunny & J Balvin) – Cardi B
- Undercover – Kehlani
- Aftergold (feat. Tove Styrke) – Big Wild



PLAYLIST: CHILL

- Luxembourg Park – Omoh
- Notion – Tash Sultana
- Ocean Eyes – Billie Eilish
- Sunny Afternoon – The Kinks
- Atlas Hands – Benjamin Francis Leftwich
- Music to Watch Boys To – Lana Del Rey
- Relax, Take It Easy – Mika
- The Beach – The Neighbourhood
- Sun Is Shining – Bob Marley
- Bongo Bongo – Manu Chao

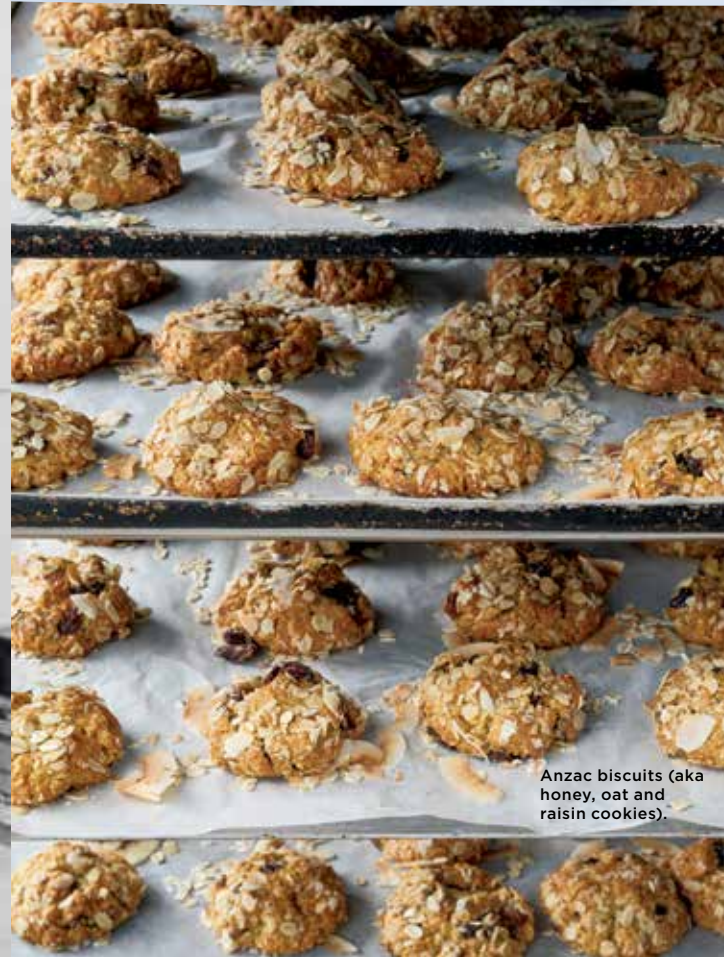
Yotam Ottolenghi and Helen Goh.



PHOTOGRAPHY: PEDEDEN + MUNK.



Custard yo-yos with roasted rhubarb icing.



Anzac biscuits (aka honey, oat and raisin cookies).

SWEET SUCCESS

While some pastry chefs might specialise in architectural-like constructions, Yotam Ottolenghi's offsider Helen Goh likes to keep it real. Carla Grossetti spoke to the London-based chef who is charting a course to the tropics to present a perfectly splendid dinner and afternoon tea.

An Anzac biscuit is not the most technically or visually arresting dish to be served out of Yotam Ottolenghi's test kitchen in London. But for Helen Goh, who oversees pastry for all of Ottolenghi's restaurants in London, that slightly chewy, sweet biscuit that's popular here and New Zealand, is her calling card, precisely because it looks nothing like what a diner at one of Ottolenghi's venues might expect. "I have worked for Yotam now for more than 10 years and he has become a dear friend. One day, he came over to my house and I had Anzac biscuits. He had one and he said, 'It's too hard, too thin and too crispy.' I said, 'That's how an Anzac biscuit is meant to be.' Yotam said, 'Make me one that's chewy.' I said, 'But that's not an Anzac biscuit,'" says the Malaysian-born chef, who grew up in Melbourne. "I quite like traditional things and I probably stay on the safe side a bit, but Yotam is less wedded to tradition. He just wants something to taste good. And, yes, I made the Anzac biscuit how Yotam wanted me to make it – which includes adding sultanas, honey and orange zest – and of course it tasted really, really good. We call it Ottolenghi-fying something," laughs Goh. What she loves about working with Ottolenghi, she says, is that he shares her commitment to giving customers something that is, put simply, sweet and delicious and "a moment of joy".

A RE-ENVISIONED TASTE OF THE TROPICS
Goh will leave behind her role as "product developer" for a little while when she charts a course for Hamilton Island to co-chef a Qantas dinner with Neil Perry AM and prepare a special afternoon tea on Quantum during Hamilton Island Race Week. Although she is yet to finalise the menu, she hopes to nod to her Malaysian-Australian heritage in order to give visitors a very personalised taste of the tropics. "I was born in Malaysia, so I'm familiar with the tropics, and I'm excited about being back in Australia. It's a very exciting project and I'm thinking that what I would like to do is draw on my Malaysian heritage and Australian upbringing and also tie in the work I'm doing with Yotam, which has a Middle Eastern bent," says Goh, who recently co-authored a book with the Israeli-British chef, called Sweet, which also draws widely on those influences. "I'd like to combine all my influences without seeming too eclectic. Being on Hamilton Island, it won't be too jarring to have a cake or pudding with a pandan leaf, which is not too exotic. I want it to be harmonious, but I also want to offer an element of surprise and give visitors a taste and combination of ingredients they might not have had before." And while Hamilton Island may seem like a long way to go for afternoon tea when you live in London, it's a ritual that Goh loves back in England. "What excites me about afternoon

tea is that you have all these little surprises that satisfy visually and please the palate. You can play with ingredients without the end result being too weird," she says.

PASTRY-MAKING AS THERAPY

Goh's first foray into cooking was when she opened Mortar & Pestle, a cafe in Melbourne's eastern suburbs that became wildly successful after an article appeared in The Sunday Age in which her chocolate cake was described as "the best in the world".

Goh went on to earn an apprenticeship at the Melbourne institution Donovans, where she says the excruciatingly long hours became a pivot point, prompting her to begin her postgraduate psychology training. It was only after following her now-husband to London in 2006 that Goh approached Ottolenghi for part-time work.

"I've been very lucky in my career," says Goh. "I left a job I loathed in pharmaceuticals because I wanted to cook, and success came to me very quickly. My insecurities drive me to do well because I push myself to achieve, and I learnt how to have stamina while in the kitchen at Donovans."

While she still oversees pastries under the watchful eye of Ottolenghi, she loves that he gives her the freedom and trust to tinker, mostly from her home kitchen, where she balances her duties as a mum to two young children, Sam, 7, and Jude, 3. Goh says Ottolenghi also lets her balance her work as a pastry chef with her side hustle as a psychologist, a profession she calls on during peak times of a busy production day at one of Ottolenghi's temples to baked goods.

"I'd like to think that all those years of studying and working have made a difference," Goh says. "My studies have definitely informed my analytical nature. When making pastries and desserts, I like to pull things apart and put them together and piece together strands that adhere to something meaningful."

"Perhaps it's a long bow to draw, but getting something right in baking is like hitting a spot, just like making a good interpretation in psychology – suddenly, things make sense, and that can be a very powerful thing."

THE YO-YO EFFECT

Goh says what she loves most about her role as head pastry chef working alongside Ottolenghi is that he is so receptive to her ideas and encourages her to experiment. She says when her friend and mentor went mad for a yo-yo biscuit, her passion and confidence for the

Lemon, blueberry and almond teacakes.

"THE SECRET IS TO READ THE RECIPE THOROUGHLY, WHICH HELPS ORIENTATE THE STEPS IN YOUR HEAD."



delicate art of dessert-making soared. Included in Sweet are 100 recipes, from yo-yo biscuits to simple mini cakes that parents can make with their children, to layer cakes and roulades that will "reignite the imagination of accomplished bakers".

Goh says she now appreciates Ottolenghi's playful takes on those classic biscuits from her childhood, and she now takes regular steps away from the safety of nostalgia by adding a twist. She says what she's most proud of as a chef is her book, which was released last September.

"The publication of the book is a culmination of the 10 years we have spent working together. It's a book full of recipes that people want to eat – that was our guiding principle. It's home baking," she says. "When we get together, Yotam and I talk about all sorts of things.

Sometimes that's good, but sometimes it's distracting. We had dinner last week and it was meant to be a meeting to talk about our next book together and, after three hours, we realised we hadn't talked about the book at all." An integral part of Ottolenghi's team, Goh designs desserts in a very analytical way and says the trick to baking is following the recipe to a tee. "It's very difficult to fudge baking. It's about chemistry much more so than other forms of cooking. With baking, [fudging] it doesn't work. If a cake collapses, it's ruined. The secret is to read the recipe thoroughly, which helps orientate the steps in your head. Setting the scene visually and weighing out all your ingredients helps. When you have everything set out, and all you have to do is mix the ingredients, cream the butter and sugar, add the milk, add the flour, it's a joy."

PHOTOGRAPHY: PEDEN + MUNK.



MIDDLE EASTERN MILLIONAIRE'S SHORTBREAD



A three-layered bar with a shortbread bottom, halva in the middle, and a glossy tahini caramel on top. This was a winning combination just waiting to happen. And happen it did, thanks to Paulina Bembel, our head pastry chef. Paulina, who comes from Poland, skilfully uses our Middle Eastern favourites – tahini and halva – to transform the famously cloying millionaire's shortbread into something so much better, with a slight bitterness and a touch of salt to offset all that sweetness.

The shortbread layer can be made up to four days in advance and stored in an airtight container. It also freezes well.

These will keep for up to one week in an airtight container in the fridge. Remove them from the fridge 20 minutes before serving, to take off the chill.

Makes 16.

INGREDIENTS SHORTBREAD

40g icing sugar
35g cornflour
40g caster sugar
175g unsalted butter, melted and set aside to cool slightly
½ tsp vanilla extract
250g plain flour
½ tsp salt

HALVA

200g halva, roughly crumbled into small pieces
80g tahini

TAHINI CARAMEL

200g caster sugar
120ml water
100g unsalted butter at room temperature, cubed
80ml double cream
150g tahini paste
¼ tsp flaky sea salt

METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to 200C/180C Fan/Gas Mark 6. Line a 20cm square tin with baking parchment, making sure that the paper rises up over the edges of the tin.
2. For the shortbread, sift the icing sugar and cornflour into the bowl of an electric mixer with the paddle attachment in place, then add the caster sugar and mix on a medium speed. With the machine still running, slowly pour in the melted-but-cooled butter and beat until combined. Add the vanilla and reduce the speed to low, then sift in the flour and salt and continue to beat until the dough comes together. Tip the mixture into the tin and use your hands to pat and even out the surface. Bake for 25 minutes, or until golden brown. Remove from the oven and set aside until completely cool: this will take an hour or so, so don't start making the caramel too soon or it will have set by the time the shortbread is cool.
3. For the halva layer, place the halva and tahini in a small bowl and mix with a wooden spoon to combine. Spread the mix over the cooled shortbread and use the back of a spoon to smooth it out to an even layer.
4. To make the caramel, place the sugar and water into a small saucepan and place over a medium-low heat. Stir occasionally, until the sugar has dissolved, then increase the heat to medium-high. Bring to the boil and cook – still at a boil – for about 12 minutes, until the sugar is a deep golden brown. Remove from the heat and add the butter and cream: take care here, as the mixture will splutter. Whisk to combine and, once the butter has melted, add the tahini and salt. Whisk to combine again, then pour evenly over the halva layer in the tin, so that all of the halva is covered.
5. Place in the fridge for at least four hours until set, before cutting into bars, about 10cm x 2.5cm. Sprinkle a pinch of sea salt over the middle of each bar and serve.

Extracted from Sweet by Yotam Ottolenghi and Helen Goh (Ebury Press \$55)



EASY DOES IT

Take the stress out of hosting a dinner party with these insider tips on the tipples that won't fail to make the evening a hit. By Darren Jahn.

My dinner-party rules focus on simplicity. A home-cooked meal should not turn into an attempt to present a five-star, six-course degustation extravaganza. If you keep the menu to a first course, main and dessert, with optional nibbles on guest arrival or after-dinner cheese, the food side of things should be easy.

Choose dishes that can be prepared ahead of the night and you'll have time to keep the all-important drinks flowing. These, too, should be kept simple. What's a party without a cocktail? But shaking them to order just isn't practical when there are guests to entertain and a meal to serve.

I love a gin and tonic, and the unique Bloody Shiraz Gin from the Yarra Valley's Four Pillars makes a delicious and easy tipple. Served with tonic water and a slice of lime rather than lemon, it's both pretty and tasty. And with a bottle on the bar and a couple of litres of tonic in the fridge, you can make as few or as many as it takes until you're ready to sit down for the first course.

For wine, I work on an all-rounder white and red – my favourite styles to please most palates include Hunter Valley semillon or Margaret River chardonnay and an elegant, mid-weight shiraz or grenache blend.

I always have an aged red or two to go with the main course or cheese, and here I tend toward cabernets – served in a lovely decanter, if only for the theatre.

I have a definite sweet tooth, yet prefer lighter, fruit-based desserts, which can work well with rose champagne, thereby indulging another passion. Charles Heidsieck's Rose Reserve is a stunner that works really well with raspberries and meringue.

The wine that attracts the greatest interest is a fortified one, simply because we drink them so rarely these days that they're a new discovery for many guests. Rutherglen's extraordinary liqueur muscats are superbly concentrated, sweet and luscious – like liquid sultanas. They can be served with cheese, coffee or even a richer dessert. This hit of sugar will help everyone power on into the night.

PHOTOGRAPHY: ROBBIE JOSEPHSEN, KEN BUTTI, KARA ROSENBLUND.



FOUR PILLARS BLOODY SHIRAZ GIN

Rich red in colour and long and sweet, with distinct raspberry and pepper notes, classic juniper and spice. Looks great, tastes even better and will surprise your wine-loving guests.



MOUNT PLEASANT ELIZABETH SEMILLON

Well worth seeking out at your local fine-wine store and always released with some bottle age, this wine from the McWilliams family is an Aussie classic. Think lemon curd and toast, long and dry.



VOYAGER ESTATE CHARDONNAY

Being a big fan of Margaret River chardonnays, I have a long list of wineries that I'd be happy to serve. Voyager's is particularly good value and readily available. It is magnificently elegant, yet has intense, powerful fruit. You could trade up to Leeuwin Estate Art Series if you really want to show off.



ROBERT OATLEY GSM

Taking three grapes that McLaren Vale grows superbly and blending them to the Rhône Valley style of red known as Côtes du Rhône, the Oatleys have mastered a medium-bodied red with the generous red fruit of grenache, richness of shiraz and savoury earthiness of mourvèdre. It drinks so well it's no wonder it's garnered gold medals.



CHERUBINO SHIRAZ

Hailing from Larry Cherubino's Riversdale vineyard at Frankland River, this wine delivers all the depth and richness of Australian shiraz over an elegant tannin structure. It bursts with flavour, yet is unlikely to overpower your main course. Decant, even if relatively young.



CHARLES HEIDSIECK ROSE RESERVE

What's not to love about champagne? We should step out of our comfort zones and try a pink version – the colour might suggest sweet, but they're as dry as the rest, if a little more delicate and red-fruited. This one has hints of strawberry, musk and nougat over a vibrant, dry palate, long and fine.



BAILEYS OF GLENROWAN FOUNDER SERIES CLASSIC MUSCAT

Tasting of muscatel grapes steeped in brandy, this sweet, raisin-like tipple is gloriously sweet and remarkably good value. You only need a little, but will be reaching for more. Readily available in the big-box wine shops.



“THE WINE THAT ATTRACTS THE GREATEST INTEREST IS A FORTIFIED ONE – WE DRINK THEM SO RARELY THESE DAYS.”

AFTER-DINNER DRINKS

Five concoctions that will keep the conversation going long after dessert has been served. Enjoy.



KAHLUA COFFEE LIQUEUR & KETEL ONE VODKA: ESPRESSO MARTINI

Known variously as an espresso martini, vodka espresso and even pharmaceutical stimulant, this is Hamilton Island's party cocktail of choice. Given most of us now have an espresso maker, it's deceptively simple to make – you just need a cocktail shaker.

For a sophisticated and sneakily strong version, take equal parts espresso coffee, Kahlua and vodka, adding a little extra sugar syrup if you wish, shake for at least 10 seconds over plenty of crushed ice and strain into a cocktail glass. Garnish with three coffee beans if you have them to hand.

FRANGELICO HAZELNUT LIQUEUR

An old-fashioned but now retro-cool liqueur based on hazelnuts that's delicious served over ice with a decent squeeze of fresh lime juice. You can also substitute it for the Kahlua in your espresso martini – just include a little more coffee to ensure the caffeine-flavour hit.

DRAMBUIE

A scotch whisky-based liqueur laced with honey and spice, its rich golden colour is very appealing in the glass when splashed over just a couple of large cubes of ice. The taste is even more appealing.

JOHNNIE WALKER BLACK LABEL

No wonder this is one of the world's most popular scotch whiskies. It is smooth and intense through the blending of 40 whiskies, followed by 12 years ageing to mellow the aromas and flavours. Serve to your personal taste: neat, with a splash of water, or over ice.

RUSTY NAIL

Pour one part Drambuie to two parts scotch whisky over a generous amount of ice in a big, old-fashioned glass and garnish with a twist of citrus peel for a deliciously sweet after-dinner whisky cocktail. Add more Drambuie for those with a sweeter tooth.

LOCAL FLAVOUR

Trent Dawson is the new executive chef at Bommie restaurant, championing local produce and making mouthwatering dishes. Jessica Teas finds out how he found his way to Hamilton Island.



Seafood focus: langoustine, Barossa hen, pistachio garlic liniment, snow pea juice, crisp chicken skin, langoustine custard.



Vibrant colour: coral trout, green chili, perennial and yuzu avocado, spanner crab, carrot, chia.

It's Friday morning and executive chef Trent Dawson's kitchen has no gas, a potential hiccup for the dinner service at the Hamilton Island Yacht Club and Bommie restaurant. Dawson, however, takes it in his stride. "I've got the plumber here now," he says, calmly. Perhaps it's a bit of the English reserve he picked up while working at Michelin-starred Juniper in the UK. More likely it's both a bit of that and the mettle that comes from years of grinding it out in high-pressure kitchens, which is exactly what Dawson did before taking the helm at Bommie. However, don't call what Dawson's doing here "modern Australian". A gas outage mere hours before Friday-night service might not rile him, but this phrase does, and some would argue that the man has a point. "The beaten-to-death term 'modern Australian' doesn't really describe anything to anybody," says Dawson. He has a vision, even if it doesn't come with a label yet. At Bommie, he says "there's a massive focus on local seafood" and "it's food

that's rooted in high-end, classical techniques, but more simplified on the flavour profile. And it's just not afraid to go in whatever direction suits the dish." This means combinations such as coral trout with green chilli, yuzu avocado, spanner crab, carrot and chia, arranged in a spare manner that draws your eye to the vibrant colours and contrasting textures arranged on the plate. It's artful yet unpretentious. "My entire career, I've been told by chefs, 'Take the greatest ingredients you can and do very little to them.' And for my entire career, I've rebelled against this and played with my food and that sort of thing. And then I had the epiphany recently that they're absolutely right, so I'm going in that direction. These days I just want to see people walking out with a big smile on their faces. As long as my guests are smiling when they leave, I'm a happy man."

Any ingredient that fits this criterion is fair game. "We put a dish on the menu the other day with butternut pumpkin or squash," says Dawson. "We chop it up, roll it in ras el hanout and roast it until it's beautiful and golden and caramelised. We serve it with a smoked almond, paprika, green olive and basil-flower dressing. We're making our own crème fraîche, and we're letting it sit for two more days than you usually would, so it's really quite sour, to counterbalance the sweetness of the pumpkin." From an age when most kids would be worrying about first kisses and footy at the weekend, life in the kitchen called to Dawson. "My



Bommie's executive chef Trent Dawson.

PHOTOGRAPHY: KARA ROSENBLUND.

grandmother was a very good cook and I spent a lot of time cooking with her when I was younger. I got my first job when I was 13, in the kitchen at Blue Note in Brisbane." While there, he worked his way up the ranks the old-fashioned way, putting in the hard yards that any chef worth his salt does before hitting it big. "I started washing dishes and then plating desserts," he says. "Then I started making salads. And about three or four years after that, I said, 'Uh, I'm leaving school to go do this full-time.'"

The first stop in his apprenticeship? Brisbane's Tables of Toowong, under French chef Michel Bonnet, but his formative years came later, says Dawson. "I really started to have an understanding about where it could take me when I moved to England and began working at Juniper." It was there that he learnt the art of experimental cooking under the wing of chef Paul Kitching. "He just didn't bother with classics in any way, shape or form. He just did exactly what he wanted, when he wanted to, and it definitely changed my direction a bit." After returning to Brisbane, he found a mentor in George Diamond of Siggis, before he landed at Songbirds on Tamborine Mountain, in the Gold Coast hinterland, a restaurant that was hatted for the "hybrid Japanese-French cuisine" dreamt up by Dawson in the middle of the rainforest. "If we didn't go out to feed the kookaburras a whole container of meat every night, they'd sit on the ceiling fans in the dining room and pick food off people's plates,"

"I'M JUST TOTALLY IN LOVE WITH THE RESTAURANT AND WE'RE ON OUR A GAME, BRINGING NEW THINGS TO THE PARTY AND PUSHING FORWARD."

he recalls. "It was a really interesting place to be."

A short professional detour followed. "I was working at a place in Brisbane called Cha Cha Char. I did it to prove to myself I could, because I'd always worked in little four-men brigades and wanted to see how I function with 20 people." Serendipitously, it led Dawson to take a job at Mariners on Hamilton Island, where a chance meeting in the harbourside restaurant he now calls home landed him the role of executive chef. "I came to dinner at the Yacht Club during that time [while working at Mariners] and I remember saying about the executive chef, 'I like what he's doing, but if the job ever comes up, I want it...'" Three weeks later, the dream role was Dawson's. He says, "I'm just totally in love with the restaurant and we're on our A game, bringing new things to the party and pushing forward."

POWER OF THREE

A taste of paradise at Bommie restaurant.

ENTRÉE

Tuna, watermelon, young coconut, seawater jelly, yuzu wasabi ice cream, kombu jam, bonito sponge.



MAIN

Wagyu cheek, oysters and umbles, charred alliums, umami broth, pickled shiitake, daikon.



DESSERT

'Wine Flight' champagne jelly, riesling mousse, shiraz sponge, chardonnay lavender macaron, rose ice cream, yuzu, grape, muscatel, moscato.



WALK THIS WAY

Here to escape? Nearly three-quarters of Hamilton Island is covered by pristine native bushland. Tracey Withers tries a few of the 12 walking trails to discover jaw-dropping views of the Whitsundays, secret-paradise beaches and the wild island you didn't even know you were on.

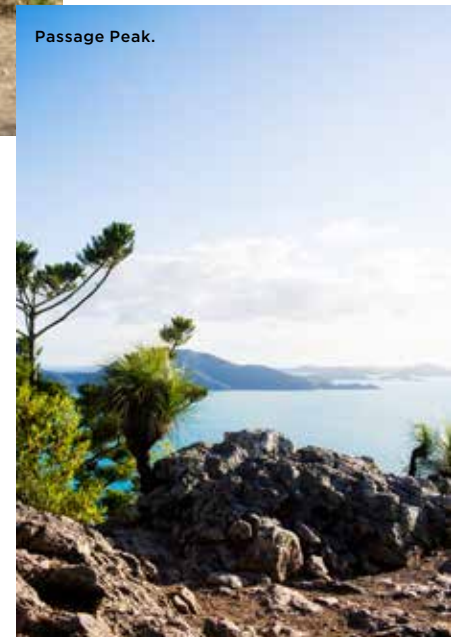


View from Passage Peak.



South East Head trail.

“AFTER SO MUCH GREEN, THE VIEW OF THE WHITSUNDAYS IS HUGE AND IS STARTLINGLY, SPECTACULARLY BLUE.”



Passage Peak.

I'm shocked when my watch says I only parked my buggy down by Catseye Beach 15 minutes ago. It's as though the bush has raised a curtain of lush green and dropped it silently behind me again – I'm in the wilderness. I've already lost all sight and sense of the tropical palms and resort civilization that lie not far below. I'm exploring the island's network of walking trails with Activities Manager Kathy McCarthy, we're on the track that strikes uphill from the Scenic Trail entrance, it's barely 7.20 in the morning and I've not felt soul-quiet like this since... I honestly have no idea. “A lot of people don't realise this is up here, so close,” says Kathy. “If you've come on holiday to get away from it all, *this* is what you need.” As we walk the easy incline, I'm breathing deep down into my belly. It sprinkled rain last night and now, as the sun, not long up and not yet blazing, gently evaporates the droplets, the bush is an aromatherapy session. I can smell the earthy dust under my trainers (side note:

beach slides aren't going to cut it up here. You need something closed-in with tread), the kind of metallic tang of wet rocks and, most fantastically, the cool, clear scent of eucalyptus. In through the nose, out through my mouth. It clears my city sinuses like a tonic. “I've heard it called 'forest-bathing', the idea that immersion in nature is cleansing for your mind, body and spirit,” I tell Kathy (mostly to explain the heavy breathing). “I think I've just become a believer.” But hold the reverie a moment. We've just hit Saddle Junction – the bush intersection where most of the island's arterial tracks to different lookouts and beaches meet – and we have decisions to make. Will it be Passage Peak, the undisputed trophy hike of the island? From where we are, that's a 900-metre, puffy climb up, with the last 150 metres being steps, before the view of a lifetime. Or will it be South East Head, a less-celebrated but also less-grunty hour onward to the other side of the island? I'm game for both, so am a little surprised when

Kathy, a match-fit exercise enthusiast who runs marathons, suggests the latter. But not for long. Only one-quarter of Hamilton Island is developed and, taking in huge vistas of seemingly endless treetops, the South East Head track shows off the wild. I can hear waterfalls. I'm on wallaby watch – they're out here – but maybe our conversation is scaring them off. “Watch your feet here,” Kathy is saying. Some of the trails get rugged: roots and jagged rocks gnarl up out of bumpy dirt on tracks gently carved through the paperbarks and cycads. Nature rules out here. I love that it's making me earn my glory. “If you're doing any walk alone, tell someone where you're going and when you should be back – the maps have guide times,” says Kathy. When we pop out suddenly into the east, it's like we're on a different island. “This is one of the most unique parts,” says Kathy. The rainforest and gums have backed off, the blue sky is now open wide above pink-flower-dotted shrubs, tall spear-tipped grasstrees and bunya

PHOTOGRAPHY: KARA ROSENBLUND, ANDREW CAITENS.

pinus. Butterflies swarm. After so much green, the view of the Whitsundays is huge and is startlingly, spectacularly blue. Down at the water there's a cave where locals snorkel with turtles. Right out on the headland there's a boulder begging to be stood upon for a photo. Kathy points across the water to an uninhabited green monolith with a red cliff in profile. “That's Perseverance [Island],” she says. “People say the rock looks like a chief's face.” I wonder how long he's been there, looking out like that. Alone here, we could believe time stopped millennia ago. At Escape Beach, another 30-ish minutes' walk around the edge of the island, you can see a rockfish trap crafted by the Ngaro people who first called this place home. It's humbling, truly. And gorgeous. Someone has made a makeshift gunyah from fallen trees on the white sand and if you're a lover, it's a spot for picnic romance that you just couldn't make up. I want to swim and the warm water is perfect on a high tide – but explore onward I must. I want to get to Coral Cove, secluded scene of mythically gorgeous palms, pristine sand and iconic water. Plus the wooden swing I've seen on Instagram. On foot, it would be an hour by a different track back to Saddle Junction and then another 30 minutes' descent to the water, so Kathy's husband, Mick, who also works on the island, meets us with an ATV (all-terrain vehicle – check out Offroad Adventure Tours). Helmet on. I grin like a loon as we hoon and ricochet over steep ups and steeper, rockier downs. Kids (eight years and over) without the stamina or patience to hike would love it. We're there in a shot and Coral Cove beach is more of a dreamscape than any hashtag could ever capture. People sometimes drop in here

from their boats, Mike tells me. This early in the day, though, we're sharing it with not another soul. Floating in aquamarine here would have been worth the trek, I swear. But since I'm a rev-head now, I talk Kathy and Mike into one last blast, up to Flat Top Hill – just for the thrill. Standing high and almost in the centre of the island, from this last lookout I see north, out to South Molle Island and the tip of Dent Island, then back down to the twinkling hotels of the resort. It's brunch time by now. I'm heading for a cabana. But not before making a promise to Passage Peak, still looming behind me to the east: you and me, sunrise, tomorrow. It's on.



Passage Peak sunrise.

For maps and more on routes, picnic spots, lookouts and safety information, see a Walking Trail Map or the Bush & Walking Trails section of hamiltonisland.com.au

AS NIGHT FALLS

Want to see what happens way out there, in the vastness of the Great Barrier Reef, when the sun goes down? Then bed in for a night of Reefsleeping – the incredible experience and bedtime stories will stay with you for ever, says Alison Veness.

This is a story about the night. Night swimming. Down here is nature's gift, seen from an underwater observation deck, submerged in the depths. It's all going off: the fish are hunting after a lazy day in the ocean. Or are being hunted. In the middle of nowhere (that's what it feels like). No reception. Giant trevally and bait fish rule.

I've arrived at Heart Pontoon on a Hamilton Island Air helicopter, a Robinson R44, having flown over Whitehaven Beach – so white-on-white today, with blue-on-blue clear skies and turquoise sea – and circled low over tiny Heart Reef, beating so delicately out here, before landing at the pontoon.

I am here to Reefsleep. We are 39 nautical miles from Hamilton Island, out on the edge of Hardy Reef, the edge of the world, on the Great Barrier Reef. There is time to snorkel before sunset, so I am in a stinger suit and into the Coral Sea straightaway. The other guests and crew are all busy, so it's just me out here, crushed by the awe and majesty of this reef, an exquisitely crafted cathedral below the surface of life, with enormous, vase-shaped corals. Perhaps this is heaven.

There is something powerful that happens out here. It is the distillation of all endeavour, at the mercy of chance, carelessness and the soft paw of creation. It is epic. And then there is a huge Maori wrasse (the largest-recorded size is 2.3 metres, 191kg) swimming next to me, accompanied by an impressive entourage of impetuous yellowtail fusiliers. Except I don't know it's a humphead Maori wrasse and its name is Maggie; it's just a pretty sizeable fish with big lips and "specially adapted teeth that enable them to crush or penetrate their prey", and it's eyeing me off. I head back to the pontoon quite quickly. Maggie is after food, of course – fish food, thankfully. One of the crew

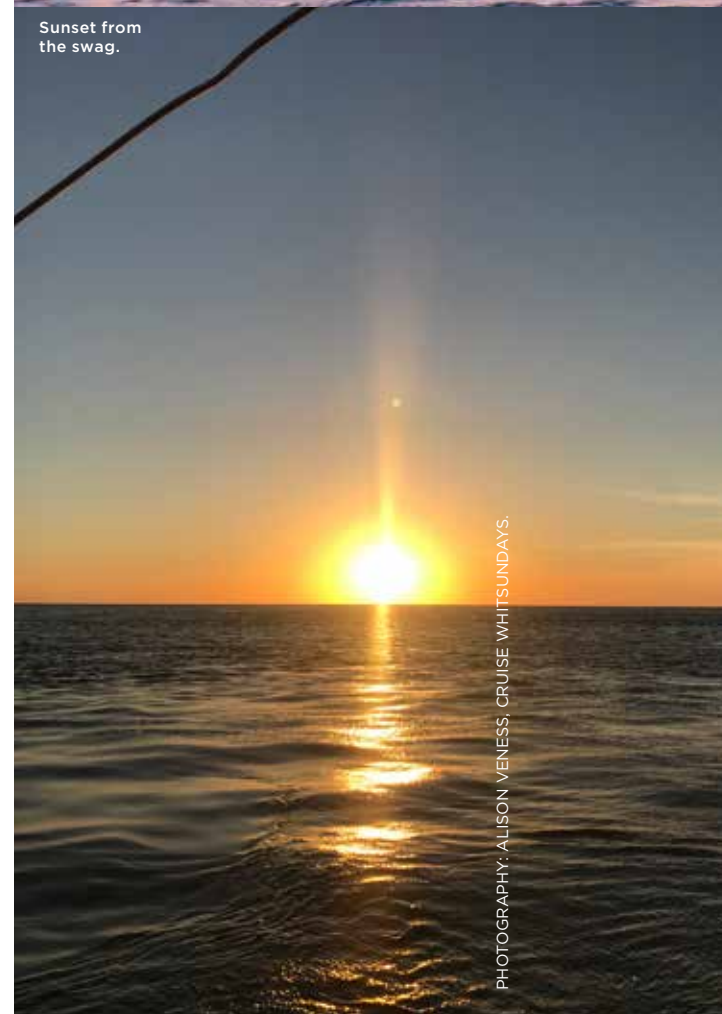
is throwing Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority-approved dried fish algae pellets into the water; Maggie bumps me out of the way. Move over, gurl. She is also channelling the moment: Maggie is transitioning from female to male. Gender fluid. And so she is currently turning from brown to electric blue and becoming Max. It is true.

The tide is turning and the exposed surface of Hardy Reef is being rapidly swallowed up, swiftly disappearing. A blacktip reef shark, all stealth and slender frame, glides by, down the edge of eternity, sweeping and seeking out prey. And I'm out of the water.

The sun sets and, in the creeping darkness, the rim of the rest of the world away to the west is a haze of gold. The stars are out and the waxing moon is rising. The boobies fly over now, streamlined and white-bellied, wings long and narrow. The swags have been set for us to sleep in on the top deck, lined up side by side, like a scout camp; there are 11 fellow guests tonight. Supper time. Food has been ordered ahead and is cooked fresh on board. There is a good choice, simple and tasty, and we all eat together. The other guests are a film crew from Taiwan making an episode of the TV show Follow Alana. They are funny and tell inappropriate jokes that cannot be printed. You had to be there. Alana Nichols, the star of the show, was born profoundly deaf in Taiwan and, at 2½ years old, received a cochlear implant in Australia. She has been coming back ever since. Her parents started the Children's Hearing Foundation and have since helped deliver auditory-verbal therapy to more than 4,000 children in Taiwan. Nichols's voice is unique. She knows she is loud and she is super-smart and funny. Her show takes her all over the world on mini adventures, and this is one of them. We are all adventurers here tonight. Friends now. The lights powered by one of the



Heart Pontoon.



Sunset from the swag.

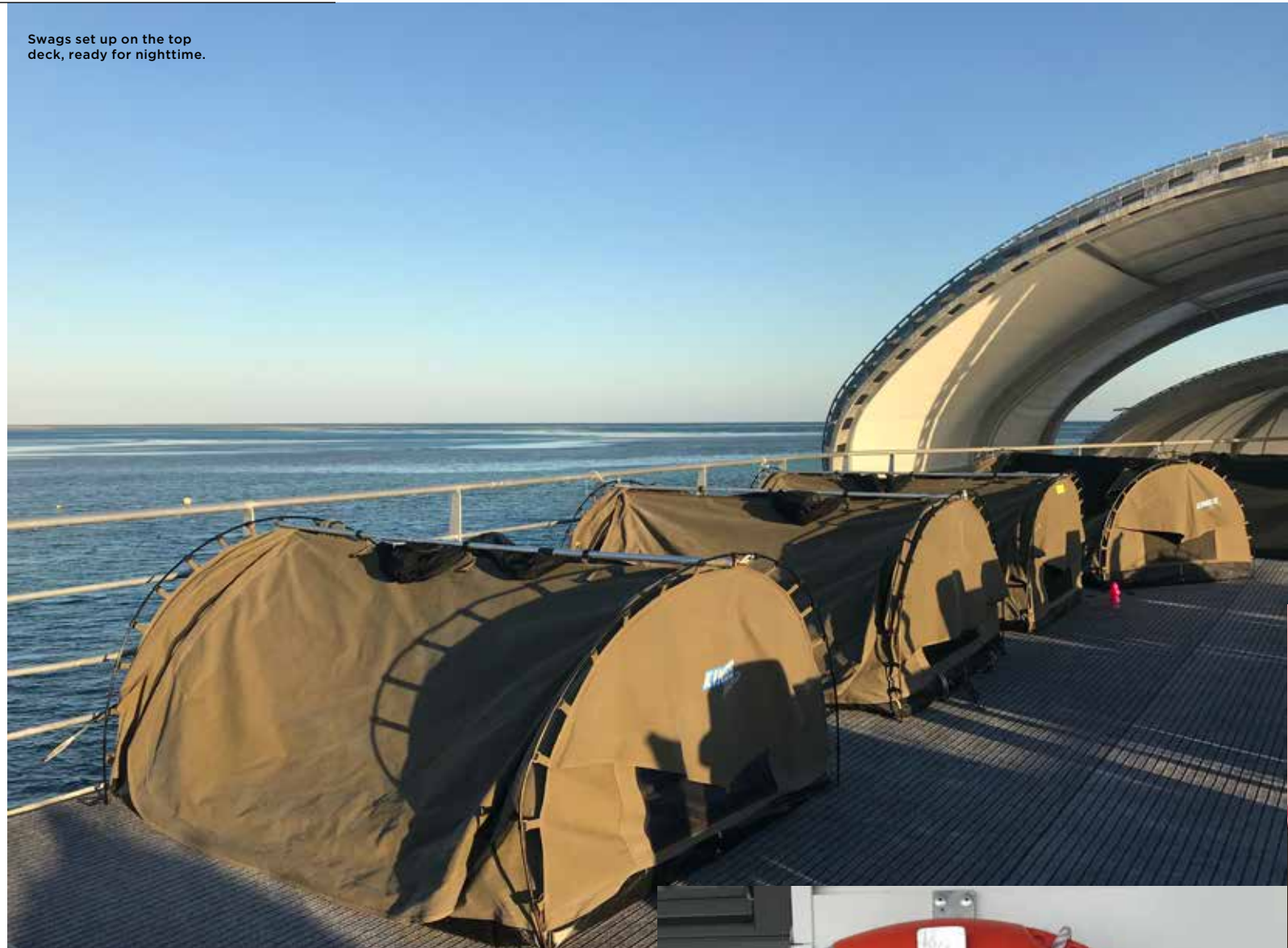


Aerial view of Hardy Reef.



The magical underwater world of Hardy Reef.

PHOTOGRAPHY: ALISON VENESS; CRUISE WHITSUNDAYS.



Swags set up on the top deck, ready for nighttime.



Cruise Whitsundays crew on the pontoon: from left, Paul Atkin, Katie Tuesley, Josh Blanchette, Natalie Chappel and Lui Rossi.



'Room' with an endless view.

"THIS IS THE MICROSCOPIC LIFE AQUATIC, PROFOUND. THE YELLOW POLYPS OF HEXACORAL ARE WAVING AT US, THEIR TINY TENTACLES MAKING THE REEF INTENSELY COLOURFUL."



Cruise Whitsundays departing from Heart Pontoon.



The polyps of hexacorals living on the pontoon.

generators goes out; it's 9pm but the moon is bright. We are given tiny torches. There are hot showers for a few hours. And we are right in it. Down in the underwater observatory we learn that fish don't have eyelids, some go into a trance at night. Parrotfish blow mucus bubbles around their heads to protect themselves; common coral trout are lazy, going to bed late and sleeping in; the whitetip reef sharks hunt at night, but they are pretty harmless and the divers like to get in with them. The fish are like moths to the light from the observatory deck. Giant groupers live under the pontoon – can they see us? Apparently they can, even through all the debris of fish scales, micro-crustaceans and zooplankton. It's busy. This is the microscopic life aquatic, profound. The yellow polyps of hexacorals are waving at us, their tiny tentacles making the reef intensely colourful. They are living on the frame of the observation structure. It's an incredible garden down here, a natural underwater explosion of life. The turtles are camouflaged, hiding in the crevices. And somewhere out there, Maggie is hiding under a ledge, tucked in, safe, contemplating her complex destiny. Sleeping with the fishes. We lie on our backs and look up at the stars from inside our swags, bright lights in the blackness and the smudge of the Milky Way. Moonbathing... so much safer than sunbathing. The swag is snug and warm, the mattress, sheets, pillow and towel are good. It's fun and somehow feels like a secret place, a time when you went camping maybe, or decided to run away and slept outside for a night. More birds, now, on the far end of the pontoon, singing, calling, hanging out. Terns, boobies, blown off course. This is a place to rest, their staging post, and we are lucky to share it. A massive loose-winged butterfly is flapping around, too, impossibly ephemeral, against the odds. How did it get out so far? The fish are in formation and we all fall asleep. And so nature's clock ticks over... It's 6am and the sky is already a soft blur of pink and pale blue, and the waves are no longer liquid black but something else. A southeasterly is blowing 25 knots. It's going to be another day in paradise.

Although it is possible to travel via helicopter to and from Hardy Reef, the Cruise Whitsundays Reefsleeper is part of a two-day adventure departing from Hamilton Island on the Cruise Whitsundays catamaran, which takes day guests out to the reef and then returns the next day. On Heart Pontoon there is a Cruise Whitsundays crew of five and one professional diving instructor who is also a marine biologist. They are all super-knowledgeable. This is their home. For further information, visit cruisewhitsundays.com.

POSTCARDS FROM PARADISE

Dear Instagram followers, look who came to visit the island recently...



"My trip to Hamilton Island @ australia was one of the most beautiful, memory-filled trips..." @kellyrowland



"help..." @dailylukeevans



"MARRIED" @deborah.symond



"The best way to travel" @tiesto

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

Marcus Taylor is the island's general manager for food and beverage. He's the kitchen master who's on a mission to make paradise even more perfect, he tells REEF.

Marcus Taylor in the environment he cares so deeply about protecting.



PHOTOGRAPHY: KARA ROSENBLUND.

The first time my wife, Amanda, and I came up to Hamilton Island on a diving trip, we went back home and handed in our resignations straight away.

We just knew this was where we wanted to be. That was 13 years ago, and the island still holds that magic for me. I've lived and worked in London, I'm originally from South Africa, and we were in Brisbane before we came here, so I've experienced a lot of ways of life, but we truly have something special here. Those of us who are lucky enough to call the island home are really dedicated to protecting the water, the marine life, the environment that makes us unique.

We have three kids – Flynn is seven, Eloise is four and our little guy, Reuben, is almost two – and all of them were born with a love and respect for the environment. They were all delivered in a lovely country hospital in

“I THINK WE CAN ALL MAKE BETTER CHOICES DAY TO DAY. LIVING SOMEWHERE LIKE THIS MAKES US ISLANDERS PASSIONATE.”

Proserpine, on the mainland, so their first ride home was on a ferry. We live and play inside nature every day. All the children at the island primary school are part of the Reef Guardians programme; the health of the reef and the waterways around here is part of their education. Flynn will definitely call us out on it if he sees something going on that is not environmentally sound. We're out paddling all the time and if we happen to see a bottle floating around that's fallen off a boat, we'll make a detour to pick it up. The island kids keep us all honest. I think projecting about their future naturally makes me think about the ways we can do things better.

As the general manager of food and beverage across the island, I look after everything, from the fish and chips and cafes here at the marina, to places that serve home classics and offer fine dining at restaurants such as Bommie and Mariners. The changes we're making to eliminate single-use plastic, which is a huge global issue, are really important. We've completely gotten rid of plastic straws – a straw might not sound like a big deal, but we

go through a million of them a year here, and 500 million are used a day in the US alone. We've only got paper straws now and we've removed them from view so, if you need one, of course it's there, but we're discouraging the use of things just out of habit. Our kitchens have also switched out the throwaway plastic containers used in food preparation for reusable steel tubs. That has an enormous impact, given we can get through 75,000 plastic tubs a month. Eliminating all single-use plastic, and making sure whatever is single-use is both biodegradable and recyclable, is the target.

We're also changing the way we use cooking oils. Usually, oil comes in individual drums and when it's used it just becomes waste. Instead, we'll have a tanker that brings over our oil supply, we'll store it and deliver it to kitchens as they need it and then it will go back off the island and be turned into biofuel. We want to end “consume, consume, dispose”.

What's really powerful about the environmental initiatives on Hamilton Island is that the whole community is so invested in them. You can have all the policies and systems in the world, but if people don't really buy into them, they won't have any impact. It's like how recycling bins don't work if people don't separate their rubbish. The mindset here is that the environment is our core value, and the island's owners, the Oatley family, have always been really committed to that.

Our chefs are also absolutely into reducing food miles, a challenge when you're on an island, so we source as much as we can locally. There are kitchen gardens down at the garden centre on Melaleuca Drive, where herbs and greens for the restaurants are grown and looked over by chefs from qualia and coca chu. The menus at Bommie and Mariners will take what's around and make something great with it. We're also making the fish and chip shop seasonal, so you'll get what's fresh and local every time you go in. It's fantastic for people who want to explore Australian produce but also eat responsibly. I think we can all make better choices day to day.

Living somewhere like this makes us islanders really passionate. I remember last whale season, being up at dawn, as you are when you've got such a little one, and it was so silent and still we could hear the sound of the blowholes from our home. The kids and I just watched the whales in this incredibly blue water, amazed. This is a paradise. Why wouldn't we do everything we can to protect it?

Brielle Cooper and Matt Bevilacqua celebrate their Nutri-Grain win.

IRON WILL

Matt Bevilacqua and Brielle Cooper are, quite literally, Australia's power couple. Matt Cleary spoke with them on the eve of their Hamilton Island sporting debut.

They are the first couple of Australian surf lifesaving. He – Matt Bevilacqua, 26, from Hobart – is Australian Ironman champion. She – Brielle Cooper, 19, of the Gold Coast – is Australian Ironwoman champion. He is a three-time paddleboard world champion. She is the youngest winner of a professional Ironwoman series. They live together. Train together. And they quite often win together. The couple will be one of the star turns at the Great Whitehaven Beach Run of 2018. Along with hundreds of fellow competitors, they will stride out across the iconic beach, navigating a strip of that pristine white sand between the azure waters of the Coral Sea and the verdant jungle of the Whitsunday Islands National Park. This could be the world's most beautiful run. This could be Australia's fittest couple.

MATT, THERE'S A NOT-UNFOUNDED IMAGE OF TASMANIA AS A BIT CHILLY. HOW DOES AN AUSTRALIAN IRONMAN CHAMPION EMERGE OUT OF HOBART?
MATT BEVILACQUA: "Like a lot of Tassie kids, I grew up with something of an adventure vibe. You get out on the ski, on the board, and you're out there with nature, taking on big swells. And it's just something I've kept doing. I wasn't always that talented. But I've always loved it. I always had so much fun."

DID COMING UP IN SUCH CONDITIONS MAKE IT EASIER WHEN YOU COMPETED FURTHER NORTH?

MB: "Training in the wind and snow toughens you up. Even when training got harder, and the competition better, I never looked at it as being that difficult by comparison. You could call it a downhill slope to success."

BRIELLE, YOU'RE A GOLD COAST LOCAL. WAS YOUR PROGRESSION MORE TYPICAL?

BRIELLE COOPER: "No one ever had to push me into the water. I started with Kurrawa Surf Club when I was eight and was really involved with surf lifesaving and really enjoyed it. And I was committed to it. And I trained really hard!"

YOUR CAREER SPIKED OVER THE SUMMER, WINNING THE NUTRI-GRAIN IRONWOMAN SERIES. WHAT DO YOU PUT IT DOWN TO? DID YOU TRAIN DIFFERENTLY? MEET A NICE BOY?

BC: "[LAUGHS.] I did meet a nice boy. Training-wise, I just kept doing what I've always done. The hard work began to pay off."

YOU'RE BOTH OFF TO THE PADDLEBOARD WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP AT MOLOKAI IN HAWAII AT THE END OF JULY. HOW IMPORTANT TO YOUR TRAINING IS THE GREAT WHITEHAVEN BEACH RUN?

MB: "It's a huge part of it. In training we'll run 50km a week. People don't realise it, but a big part of board paddling is lower-body strength. People think it's all arms and shoulders. But to keep your knees at that angle for five hours, you need leg strength and endurance. You've got to get across the the Ka'iwi Channel. You don't want to get stuck out there. They call it the Channel of Bones..."

SCARY. SPEAKING OF SCARY, THE SURF BREAK CALLED SHIPSTERN BLUFF IN TASSIE IS FAMOUSLY HEAVY. BIG WAVE SURFERS CALL THE WAVE "HORRENDOUS". WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO RIDE THAT THING ON A PADDLE BOARD?

MB: "It's just a continuation of trying to achieve those impossible dreams. Nutri-Grain had this crazy idea and I didn't want to have any regrets. It was pretty hectic. But one of my greatest achievements."

WHAT WAS IT LIKE?

MB: "When they said 'go' I had to paddle as

hard as I could. I tried not to overthink it and deal with [thoughts of] a good, old-fashioned belting on the rocks. It was like nothing I've ever felt before."

BRIELLE, WILL YOU BE HAVING A CRACK NEXT?

BC: "I definitely don't think I will be."

YOU WILL BE COMPETING IN THE GREAT WHITEHAVEN BEACH RUN, THOUGH. EXPECTATIONS – PODIUM? OR JUST FINISH?

BC: "With running, I'm a 'just finish' kind of person. I prefer water. But I'll be there to have a go and enjoy the race. I'm really looking forward to it. I've only been up there once for a family holiday."

MB: "I've never been there, but we've heard amazing things. Whitehaven Beach looks unbelievable. It's on a remote tropical island – a bit like Tassie, but with sunshine!"

YES. NOT EXACTLY. HOW COMPETITIVE DO YOU THINK YOU WILL BE?

MB: "It will be very hard to beat the lean, lithe guys. Some of them are marathon runners. I do run pretty well. And I'll try to hold a four-minute [per km] pace. But those elite guys, they go so quick."

APART FROM THE RACE, WHAT ON HAMILTON ISLAND ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO?

MB: "Our training program is very heavy and you're right into it. So it's great to reset with a few days away."

BC: "You couldn't think of a better place to do it than Hamilton Island. The water is so clear. We've got a nice camera and there are some great-looking scenic walks."

YOU COULD JUST LIE AROUND THE POOL, YOU KNOW...

MB: "[LAUGHS.] If you can have time away and still keep fit and active, all the better!"

"TRAINING IN THE WIND AND SNOW TOUGHENS YOU UP."

PHOTOGRAPHY: SHANE MYERS.

WE'VE COME FOR WELLNESS

Treat mind, body and soul to the care and attention they need. From the ultimate indulgence of soothing rituals to holistic naturopathy, energising workouts and deliciously healthy menu choices, the island is a haven for those in search of wellbeing, says Tracey Withers.

“HAVING THAT TOUCH AND NURTURING WHEN YOU ARRIVE REALLY SETS THE SPEED AND YOUR INTENTION FOR A WELLNESS HOLIDAY.”



Spa qualia.

Five minutes on the island and we already feel like better people. It's that balmy tropical vibe loosening the kinks, the fresh clear air filling our lungs. Hamilton Island is fast becoming the go-to destination for taking a wellness retreat. Maybe you've got a few days, perhaps a truly transformative week – it's easy to customise a line-up of skin, body and soul treatments to hit your goals. We're on island time now and we're 100% spending it on ourselves.

we are," says Fitzgerald. As you lie on a padded bath bed, hypnotically warm water cascades from seven jets that hover above. The pressure feels like a many-handed massage, boosting circulation, pushing botanical extracts from the body-exfoliation scrub deeper into your skin. With closed eyes, it's rainforest heaven. "People often leave a spa experience until late in their holiday, for an indulgence," says Fitzgerald. "But I think focusing on what your body needs, having that touch and nurturing, when you arrive really sets the speed and your intention for a wellness holiday." Amen to that.

OPEN UP AND SAY SPA

We're not into punishment or deprivation diets. Wellness, island style, is all about nourishing ourselves with nature, pulling the plug on urban stress and, oh yes, deeply indulgent self-worship at the spa.

Active wellness is almost unavoidable on the island. Out there: turquoise salty water, where we can float and find personal peace or push our limits on a kayak. On land: spectacular nature walks and tough trail runs through the untouched bush that covers most of the island (turn to page 30 to read more).

Wellbeing is, of course, about the yin and the yang, so after feeling the burn (at least a bit), we check into Spa wumurdaylin to get some luxurious healing. Need to re-energise or relax? There's reiki to channel life force into full flow, and massages range from deep release and aromatherapeutic to hot stone or those customised to pregnancy. The hands here are expert at easing out stress-tight muscles. "Our therapists are called in to do sports massage on competitors at all the sporting events that Hamilton Island hosts," says spa manager Elle Fitzgerald. "If you're here for one of the runs, marathons or ocean swims, book in early." Our post-workout bodies are almost sobbing in grateful relief.

Spa wumurdaylin's Vichy Revival is the signature treatment and the stuff of island legend. "It really captures the essence of where

GO DEEP

At the high temple of bliss that is Spa qualia the target for wellbeing spans skin, mind, spirit and several internal organs. Simply watching the koi that glide below the water features inside the atrium is enough to send you into a meditative mind space. Inside the inner sanctum of luxurious treatment rooms, where glass doors open wide to outdoor showers, natural sunlight and swaying bamboo, transformation truly begins.

Specialised wellness programmes here integrate holistic spa tactics with naturopathy. "There's quite an extensive consultation – every element of the Spa qualia experience is bespoke," explains spa manager Nicolette McCarthy. "Some people have sleep issues or digestive problems, while others have fitness goals they want to achieve. Our naturopath uses a variety of tools, from live blood analysis to iridology, pulse points and electrodes that measure the fluids on your body, to tailor supplements and a protocol to you." Even if it starts on a minibreak, this is a long-term relationship. "There's a lot of follow-up on naturopathy," says McCarthy. "You'll be sent home with a routine, advice and a supplement protocol to guide you onward, and there are phone consultations and a lot of email contact after you're back at home." More touchy- and soul-feely treatments happen



Spa wumurdaylin.



Massage treatment at Spa qualia.

PHOTOGRAPHY: JASON LOUCAS.



Spa qualia's natural ingredients.

while you're still inside the spa. Maybe you need digestive massage, or simply a certain detox herb in your body scrub. The must-experience: the Indigenous-inspired two-hour Kamali Ritual. We felt the stress exiting our very spirits as this earthy body scrub and Australian clay wrap drew the toxins from our skin. It's out-of-body amazing. Next, a massage with a steamed herbal poultice of anti-inflammatory kaffir lime, antioxidant tamarind leaf, vitamin-rich quandong and kakadu plum, one of the most potent sources of vitamin C, to promote cell turnover and fresh collagen. "It's the optimal treatment to include in a detox regime," says McCarthy. Say no more.

SALUTE THE SUNSHINE

Yoga here is like yoga nowhere else on Earth. "You get so much more out of your practice when it's not on the to-do list before or after work," says Claire Waterson, island yoga master and Sports Club manager. Yes, there's that – but also, when you do a Dent Island yoga class, you're bending and stretching on a helipad with one of the most spectacular views in all the Whitsundays. "It's so silent there, so mind-blowing in the clarity of morning," she says. The boat leaves the Hamilton Island marina at 6am for the short float over to Dent – whether you're a yogi or a first-timer, be on it at least once. (Guests at Reef View, Beach Club or Palm Bungalows can switch an included breakfast at the hotel for Dent Island yoga; other guests can just buy a spot.)



Yoga class on Dent Island, home of Hamilton Island Golf Club.

"YOU GET SO MUCH MORE OUT OF YOUR PRACTICE WHEN IT'S NOT ON THE TO-DO LIST BEFORE OR AFTER WORK."



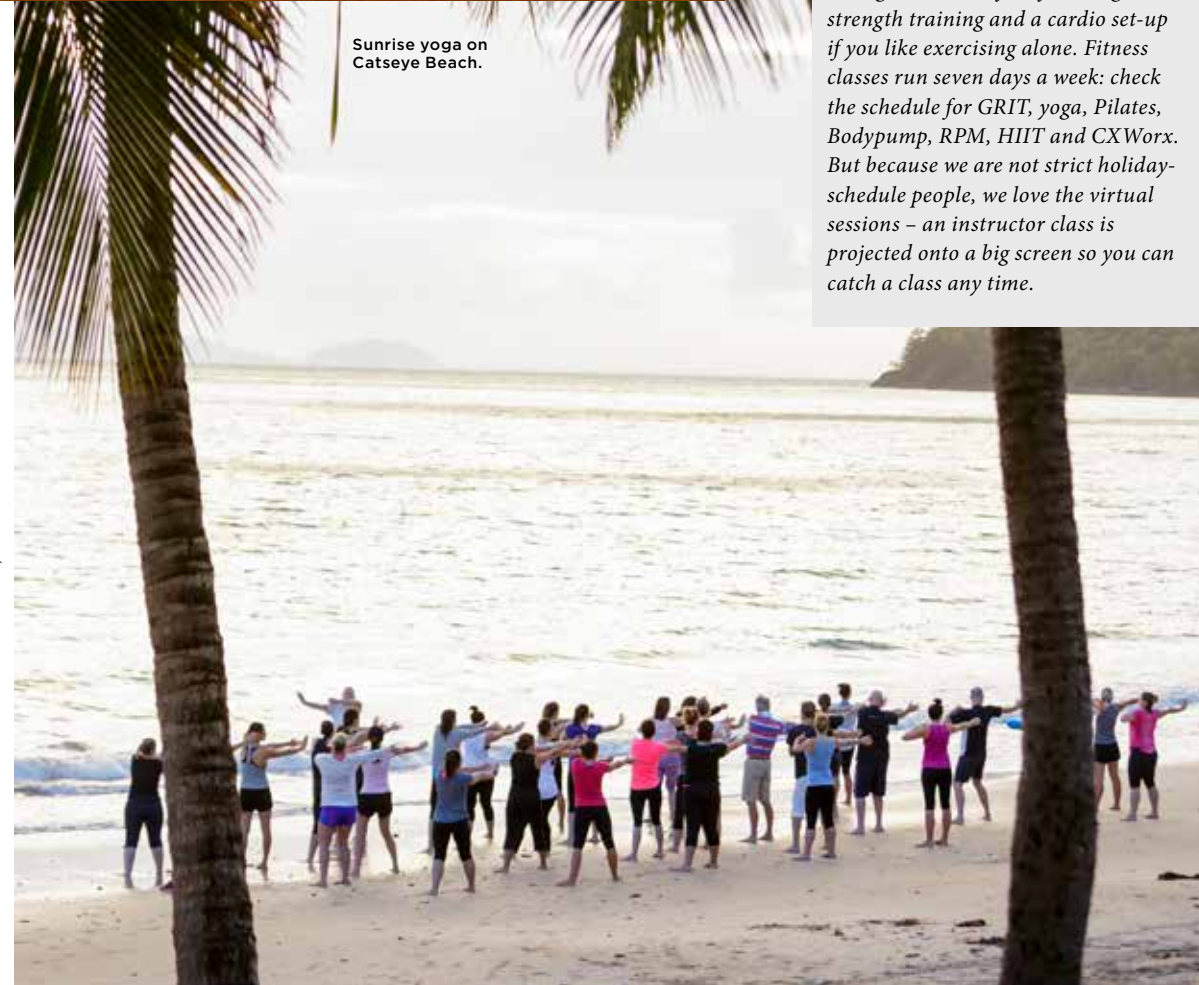
Spa qualia's vegan Sodashi line.

NATURAL AUSTRALIAN BOTANICALS

It's all about immersion. Spas on the island focus on locally sourced skincare lines with native Australian ingredients. At Spa wumurdaylin, soak your senses in Queensland's own Waterlily spa collection, which is infused with cold-pressed plant oils, herbal concentrates and fresh flowers. At Spa qualia, therapists apply products from the ultra-luxe, vegan Sodashi line from South Australia. Its pure extracts are meticulously blended into sensory therapy for skin and the soul.

Familiar styles of hatha and vinyasa mix with calligraphy yoga, a flow of movement that pinpoints focus on hands and fingertips. "It's beautiful – you might take an arc over your head and then watch each finger move so it's almost like you're doing this cursive in the air," says Waterson. "It's very grounding and amazing for quieting a busy mind that finds it hard to concentrate – you really drop into the yoga and engage." All this dynamic breathing is not just a panacea for stress. Happily, it's also great for the digestive tract, because there is a reward for the early start. Helipad yoga is followed by a breakfast that has been nutritionally balanced by the Golf Clubhouse chef, Josh Hingston. Handmade granola, smashed avocado on rye, tropical chia and coconut milk smoothies, and a beetroot detox juice – divine. Back on Hamilton Island, yoga sessions run twice daily: a morning charge-up, or a restorative evening wind-down targeted at achieving quality sleep. "On a gorgeous day, we also do Keel Deck yoga over at the yacht club at sunset," says Waterson. "It's magic." Once a week, there's a sunrise session on Catseye Beach. "The rest of the time, mornings are an 8am start," she says. "You're on holiday, right?" Relax.

PHOTOGRAPHY: JASON LOUCAS, KARA ROSENLUND.



Sunrise yoga on Catseye Beach.



Hamilton Island Sports Club.

THE SWEAT SESSIONS

Sometimes you've just got to crank up the heart rate. The impressively equipped and glossy Sports Club gym opens at 6am for the keen beans and doesn't close until 8pm. "Evenings are surprisingly popular," says Waterson. "Doing something active before eating helps people make better choices at the dinner table." Or at least offsets indulgence. You'll find free weights, strength training and a cardio set-up if you like exercising alone. Fitness classes run seven days a week: check the schedule for GRIT, yoga, Pilates, Bodypump, RPM, HIIT and CXWorx. But because we are not strict holiday-schedule people, we love the virtual sessions – an instructor class is projected onto a big screen so you can catch a class any time.

MINDFUL EATING? HERE'S A MENU

A snapshot of healthy food from all over the island.

- The Marina Café's bespoke fresh vegetable and fruit juices are our go-to for a satisfying post-workout smoothie.
- For body fuel, it's a toss-up between the omega-rich flamed salmon or Mama Mouna's wholesome chickpea falafel at Manta Ray.
- The scallop ceviche followed by fresh market fish, garden leaves and crunchy greens is sublimely sinless at the Beach Club Restaurant.
- Mariners restaurant makes a fresh wakame and pickled-ginger tuna poke bowl that will crank up your protein and fermented-probiotic count.
- Breakfast at qualia's Long Pavilion is a cornucopia of fresh fruit, protein and deliciously good virtue.
- Do Dent Island yoga in the morning for the chia smoothies, detox juice and the island's only avocado smash.
- Progress from a lush quinoa salad to the clean and fresh cold seafood platter at Pebble Beach at qualia.
- Hit the fruit and veg at IGA supermarket near the marina for perfect picnic produce.



Fruit platter.

JET SET GOMES

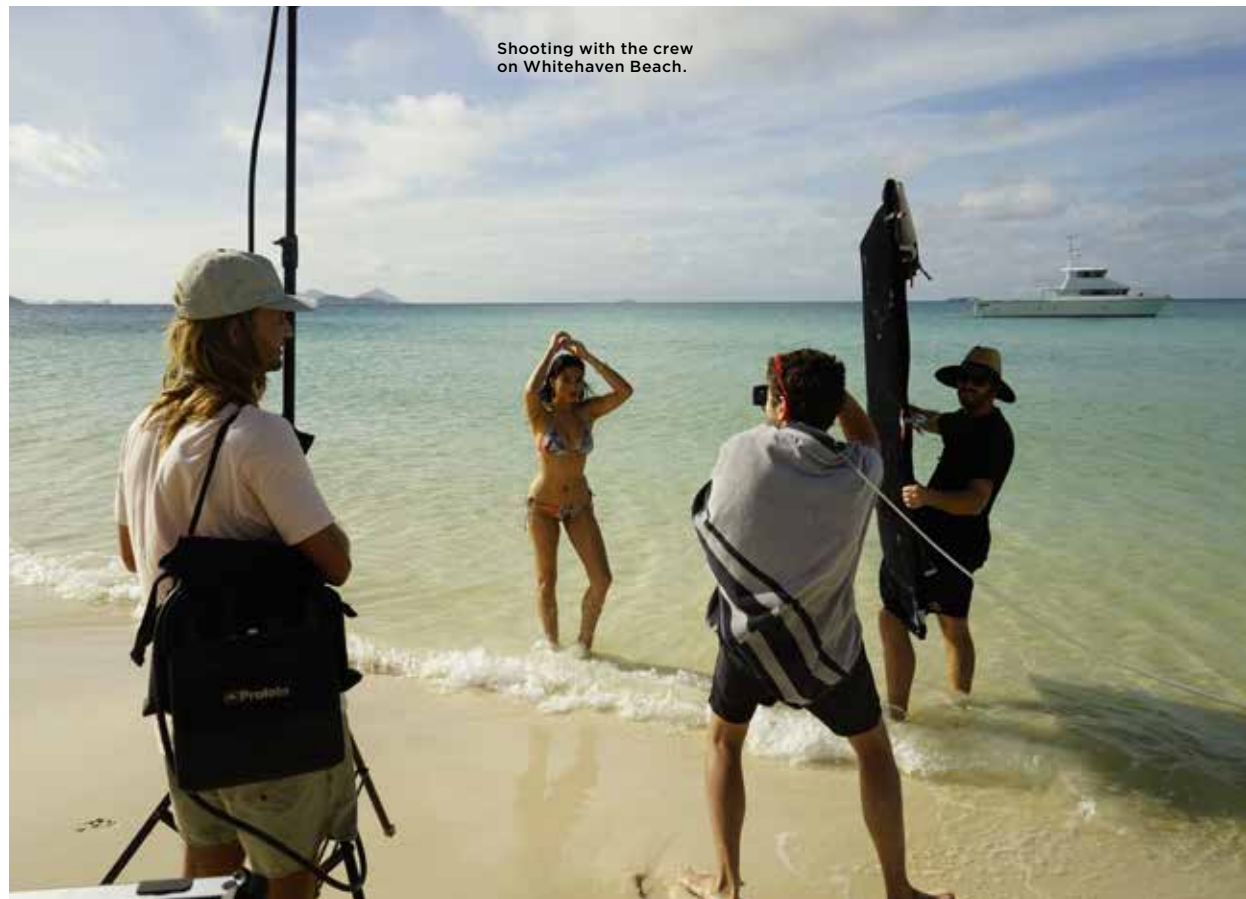
It was a supermodel moment when Jessica Gomes flew in to Hamilton Island to star in the latest JETS campaign. She talks to Rebecca Khoury about style inspiration, flattering fits and why there was no other choice for shoot location.

We do love the making of a campaign, especially one that stars Jessica Gomes. A successful model and actor, she has recently added designer to her list of achievements, with the launch of a collaborative collection with legendary swimwear company JETS. The Jessica Gomes for JETS campaign was photographed at the Beach Club, Catseye Beach and, naturally, on Whitehaven Beach – a match made in heaven. And it was all captured on film, too, for Qantas.

SO PLEASE TELL US – WHY HAMILTON ISLAND FOR THE SHOOT?
 “Hamilton is such an iconic Australian destination – it’s the perfect place to shoot a swimwear campaign. I wanted to come back home and be surrounded by all of this natural beauty. It really resonates with the true essence of the brand.”

DESCRIBE YOUR INITIAL MOOD BOARD FOR THE COLLECTION.
 “It was all about 1980s/1990s glamour for me. My mood board had a lot of iconic ’90s supermodels on it, such as Cindy, Naomi – and Elle Macpherson, of course. They are all such strong, independent and healthy women, who have amazing figures, all in different shapes and sizes. This really drove my inspiration. I wanted the collection to be sleek and sophisticated, with a simplistic approach.”

A selection of JETS is available at Salt Swim and Resort Wear, 07 4946 8221



Shooting with the crew on Whitehaven Beach.



Flawless makeup by Penny Antuar.

YOU HAVE HAD SO MUCH EXPERIENCE MODELLING SWIMWEAR. WHAT’S THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON YOU’VE LEARNT FROM THIS AND HOW DID YOU APPLY IT WHEN DESIGNING THE COLLECTION?
 “I’ve learnt that you should feel comfortable, sexy and confident in swimwear. I wanted to create amazing silhouettes in the most flattering way possible.”

WHAT’S THE ABSOLUTE “MUST” FOR A SLEEK SWIMSUIT?
 “The material. JETS has such a strong legacy of having incredible fitting swimwear and that is one of the things I love most about the brand. You really do feel fabulous and confident when a swimsuit is shaping and enhancing the natural curves of your body.”

ANY SWIMSUIT DON’TS?
 “Buying a swimsuit that doesn’t fit properly! JETS has an amazing range and caters for cup sizes A to F.
 “Getting the perfect fit with your swimsuit is absolutely essential and will make you look and feel confident.”

PRE-SHOOT ROUTINE?
 “Pre-shoot, I’m usually quite relaxed. I love meditating and stretching – I find it really relaxing and a great way to get my body moving before a long day.”

AND IS THERE A BEST ON-SET ANECDOTE YOU CAN SHARE?
 “There were so many amazing moments on the campaign. I think one of the best was when we were all on Whitehaven Beach, surrounded by all of this natural beauty. It was a really big day shooting, but everyone was in such good spirits.
 “We had great music playing and it was just such a good day. I do my best work in moments like that.”

SO WHICH IS IT, POOL OR OCEAN?
 “Ocean.”

SUNRISE OR SUNSET?
 “Sunset.”

CHILL OUT WITH A GOOD BOOK OR PLAYLIST?
 “Playlist. I love to dance.”

AND THEN AMP IT UP WITH A BUSHWALK OR WATER SPORTS?
 “I love going bushwalking and hiking, although I have just started surfing.”

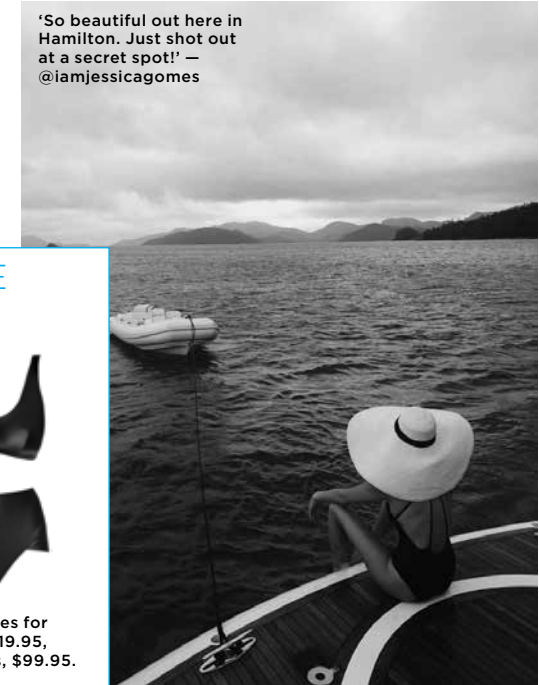
THIS IS HARD, BUT WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT HAMILTON ISLAND?
 “The amazing water. It’s so blue. And I just adore Whitehaven Beach – what a gem of Australia.”

PHOTOGRAPHY: JETS, @IAMJESSICAGOMES, @PENNYANTUAR.



Jess Gomes in her go-to two-piece.

“YOU FEEL FABULOUS AND CONFIDENT WHEN A SWIMSUIT IS SHAPING AND ENHANCING”



‘So beautiful out here in Hamilton. Just shot out at a secret spot!’ – @iamjessicagomes

TIME TO SHINE THIS SUMMER

Jessica Gomes for JETS one-piece, \$199.95.

Jessica Gomes for JETS top, \$119.95, and bottoms, \$99.95.

ISLAND RETAIL THERAPY

AUSTRALIA THE GIFT
07 4946 9015

FLORAL COLLECTIONS
07 4946 8335

FOOT’S ARTWORKS
07 4946 9062

HAMILTON ISLAND DESIGNS
07 4946 8565

HAMILTON ISLAND JEWELLERY
07 4948 9857

MARINA RETAIL
07 4946 8180

PRO SHOP (HI GOLF CLUB)
07 4948 9760

QUALIA BOUTIQUE
07 4948 9473

RESORT CENTRE LOBBY SHOP
0427 148 952

REEF VIEW LOBBY SHOP
0427 148 623

SALT SWIM AND RESORT WEAR
07 4946 8221

THE ART GALLERY
07 4948 9657

THE HUT
07 4948 8273

TRADER PETE’S
07 4946 0907

THE WEDDING PLANNER

Thinking about saying ‘I do’ or renewing your vows on Hamilton Island? REEF finds the Island insiders have everything sorted, whether you’re looking for aisle-style luxury, a relaxed beach vibe or an adventure-filled ceremony.



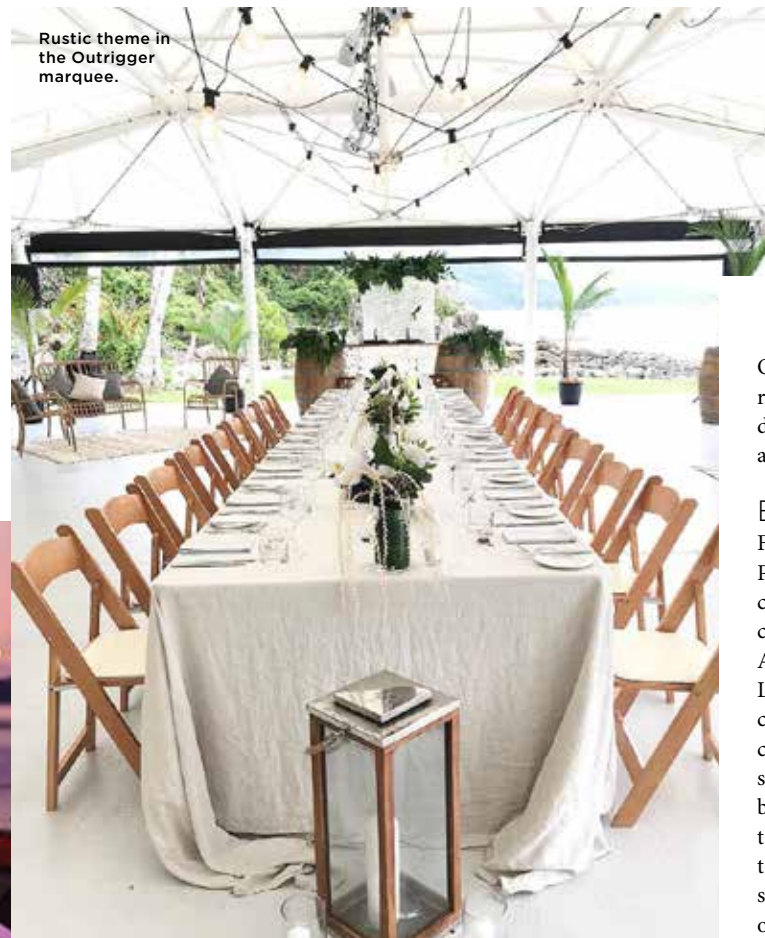
Beach-side wedding.



Relaxed table setting.



Catseye Beach ceremony.



Rustic theme in the Outrigger marquee.

“The beauty of getting married here is there are so many idyllic locations in close reach – you could have the ceremony with one amazing backdrop, your photos with another and a reception somewhere else, and it’s seamless,” says Emma Lilly, an event stylist at AVPartners and just one of the on-island wedding experts. “The co-ordinators and stylists know every tiny detail, every angle, and all the lighting conditions, at every time of day, for all of the places.”

And so there’s the elegant deck of the Yacht Club in the fresh, clean light of the morning or a balmy, golden afternoon. There are the breathtaking views from Catseye Beach or the elegant marquee on the Outrigger Lawn. And for the ultimate six-star scene, the qualia pool. Vows under an arch at One Tree Hill can be timed to catch magic hour and the first glimpses of the pink sunset. Or there is the picture-perfect, white, wood-clad All Saints Chapel and gardens, the prettiest in all the Whitsundays. Cast off, or take off in a helicopter, and arrange something incredible on the iconic silica sand of Whitehaven Beach, or enjoy the sweeping views from Dent Island. “The weather’s predictably perfect, even in winter, when it’s still 20-something degrees and sparkly clear,” Lilly adds.

PHOTOGRAPHY: @EM_MA_LILLY, AV PARTNERS WHITSUNDAYS.

Outsource everything to an expert and emerge resplendent on your detail-perfect dream day. The island’s wedding specialists will do anything for love.

BE BESPOKE

Forget the tired pick-a-package deal. Personalise your table settings, menus and ceremony to make things unique. “Bringing cultural traditions together with this iconic Australian scene is also really special,” says Lilly. “We’ve done some beautiful Asian tea ceremonies.” Need some starter inspo? “There can be up to 350 weddings a year on the island, so we’ll share what’s been beautifully done before, show photos of a space at exactly 3pm, then 7pm,” Lilly explains. “There are packages that make it easy, though nothing’s set in stone.” Make a mood board from snaps on @em_ma_lilly.

GO UNTRADITIONAL

The fun factor makes the day unforgettable. Arrive via chopper or sail off into the sunset on a gleaming yacht. Active weddings are an emerging trend. Hike to Passage Peak for sunrise photographs, paddle a canoe or snorkel with your wedding party. “I love when the bride and groom strip down and run straight into the water or celebrate ‘trash the dress’, especially out at Whitehaven,” Lilly says. “Underwater photos of the white gown in that clear, bright turquoise ocean are just incredible.”

THE WEDDING FEAST

Food helps set the mood. Romano’s restaurant plates up gorgeous Italian dishes, Mariners syncs seafood with the island atmos, but if casual fish and chips on the sand is more your speed, go forth and buffet. At coca chu, overlooking Catseye, the chef serves signature spiced dishes (beg for the son in law eggs, trust us) share-style on a long table. That’s a celebration.

BEST BOUQUETS

Love a tumbling flower chandelier, a low-key posy or a flower crown? Hamilton Island’s local florist is a specialist in preserving blooms in the heat. Local tropicals look beautiful with

the natural setting, but your favourite imports can be sourced, too. Have a consultation on palettes, shapes and what’s seasonal – bright freesia and alstroemeria in summer, heliconia or bird of paradise for autumn, sweet william in winter and perfect roses for spring. Oriental lily blooms all year up here.

THE MEMORY-MAKERS

Time to think about the music. If you fancy a five-piece, a rock god or perhaps a solo harpist who also does pan flutes, the wedding planners here have talented local musicians and DJs on speed dial. And if you’re flying in your favourite, AVPartners has audio gear on the island to cut down on the hassle and costs. Go with a specialist island photographer, too – they know the light and shadows best. “Do a walk-through with the photographer a day or two before the ceremony to nail the look you want,” says Lilly.

DRESS YOUR SPACE

Lilly’s best advice: “Investigate how different lighting options will transition from afternoon through sunset into the evening and how each will play back in photos.” If floral installations and decoration are part of your vision, consider the Outrigger Lawn for your spot. “It’s our most creative space and has an indoor-to-outdoor flow from the marquee to the lawn that can be set up beautifully.”

THE KIDS

The Clownfish Club can look after little ones during day weddings, or carers can provide crayons and run games at the children’s table at receptions, while the island babysitting service comes to rooms and private houses. There is a jumping castle at Fun Zone, which is a perfect way for kids to bounce off all their energy.

FEELING THE LOVE?

Give the organisers a month’s heads-up for a large ceremony. Moved to propose immediately? Magic can happen within the day. We feel so emotional.

For further information, visit hamiltonislandweddings.com and avpartnerswhitsundays.com



Bohemian driftwood arch.

Floral styling details.

BRIDAL BEAUTY

Nobody copes with humidity like a local, so if your face is freaking out or you’ve got a halo of frizz, you’re in safe hands. “We do results-driven Priori facials to guarantee glow, and have an incredibly smoothing hair treatment that can give you a good week of shine and anti-static,” says Island Hair and Beauty salon manager Jennifer Croft. The multiskilled team here does most weddings on the island. “We use Youngblood mineral makeup, which is free of talc, oil and parabens, and holds in these conditions without sitting heavily. We have a huge range of colours and camera finishes.” Everyone here is a senior stylist and masterful at up-dos: classic structured styles maintain polish outdoors, or work in a braid for control with a more relaxed vibe. “Even if you’ve got a huge bridal party, we’ll do an hour hair and an hour makeup service for everyone – we can start at 5am in your suite,” Croft says. And make sure you get your OPI-polish manis and pedis a day early – “Shellac gel stands up to the sand, sun and chlorine best.”

SHOOT TO THRILL

We love facing new challenges, but for adventure-sports photographer Krystle Wright, taking the easy path truly never has been an option, discovers Noelle Faulkner.



Krystle Wright.

“I’d always dreamed of going to the Olympics,” muses extreme-sports and adventure photographer Krystle Wright. “I wanted to travel the world, shooting all those big events.” A quick glance at her portfolio reveals an oeuvre of icy peaks at 4,800ft, underwater creatures, dusty mountainside cliffs, dangerous stunts and vast, sunset-decorated vistas. It’s hard to imagine her sitting in a trackside media pit, or that she would ever think so, well, small. Wright began working as a casual sports photographer for newspapers, a career recipe she had concocted for herself that combined creativity with her love for the outdoors, but increasingly she noticed adrenaline to shoot on the side. “Biking, ocean swimming, mountain biking, kite surfing – you name it. I was only really working a few days a week, so I was always trying to fill up my time,” she says. Known for her warm personality, Wright would reach out to athletes and magazines, building up a network within a career that was headed towards those Olympic dreams. However, in 2011, her world crashed to a stop, quite literally. At the end of an expedition in Pakistan, Wright crashed into boulders while tandem

paragliding, leaving her with serious injuries. “I was lucky, for sure,” she says, adding that it took 12 hours to reach medical help at a military hospital. Shaken but not deterred, she found the accident sparked something inside her. “I had a lot of healing to do, but it’s funny – it was probably one of the best things ever to happen to me. It brought me a very surreal moment of clarity. I realised I was in a horrible relationship, I was not enjoying living in Sydney, I was not enjoying the work I was doing for the papers. Something had to change.” Once she had recovered, she packed up her home and put everything in a shipping container on her grandparents’ Queensland property and began chasing a new, semi-nomadic, adrenaline-fuelled career, starting with a job in Antarctica that came at just the right time. Propelled by a “you only live once” mentality, adventure-snapping has taken Wright to the far corners of the world. She has camped on icy Arctic fjords for weeks at a time, free-dived off the Mediterranean coast, crossed deserts, hung off mountainsides and slept on every mode of transport known to man. Her work has appeared in National Geographic, Sidetracked,

The Times, GQ, Outside and more, and her clients include big names such as Canon. But perhaps more courageously, she made the choice to give up domestic and financial security to do it all. “I really choose freedom,” she says. “That’s the most important thing to me. I have so much flexibility in my life and I love to be outdoors.” It hasn’t come easy, though – she’s had to do a lot of soul-searching and accept how her cards fall. “I explain this to newcomer photographers all the time. I think people can be split into two groups. Not entirely, but there are a lot of different facets of life where you can sort of split in two directions or major directions. If people want safety, they want a salary. They want a guarantee that money will come in and they can pay their bills and they can create their routine. Freelancing is, ‘I didn’t earn a single dollar this month!’ And then being like, ‘I just earned 10 grand.’ The up and down isn’t easy, but you learn.” She tells a story of skiing in Telluride, Colorado, where she had no money and no idea where her next cheque was coming from. “A friend of mine had given me a free pass and I’m there, skiing in knee-deep snow. I had to take

a moment and just be like, ‘Huh. Life can’t be that bad if I’m choosing to ski rather than to work and pay my credit card off.’ As one friend said, ‘If you have to make money, you can always make money.’ Despite the industry recognition, campaigns and awards, Wright defines success by her failures, her lessons and, often, her own intuition – something that you don’t have to be an adventure-seeking, mountain-climbing photographer to relate to. “When you’re talking about success, I’ve always just seen it as little steps to keep evolving, keep maturing,” she says. “It’s those moments, like my crash in Pakistan, where I realised I had to change everything in my life. It’s paying attention to your gut instinct and learning to walk away when things don’t feel right.” Success, failure and courage are all connected, she says. “I’ve had projects fail. I’ve had to learn to be vulnerable and rethink how I do things – I’ve had major breakdowns over those things. But sometimes you do things – you drive across a highway, or give up something comfortable, or have no idea where you’re sleeping – and it’s scary as hell, but then, that’s when you also feel really alive.”

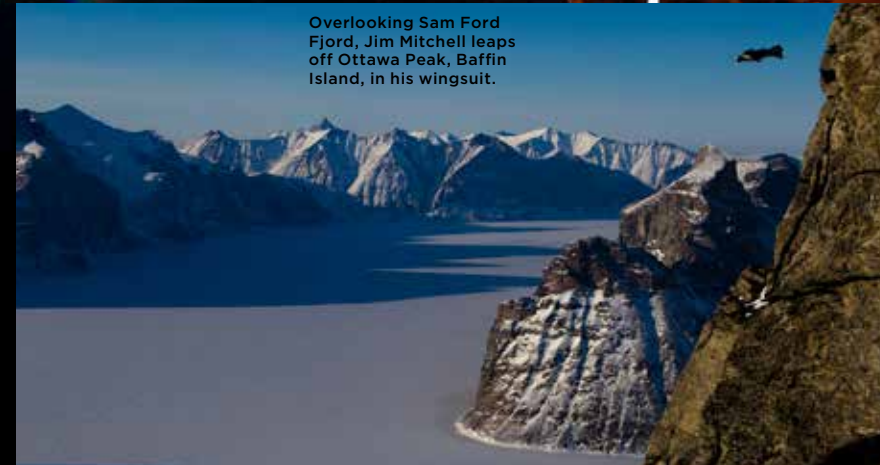
PORTRAIT: ALASTAIR MCBURNE.



Emma Starritt takes a recovery swim off the coast of Mana Island, Fiji.



Emily Sukiennik walks a highline under a natural arch on the outskirts of Moab, Utah, USA.



Overlooking Sam Ford Fjord, Jim Mitchell leaps off Ottawa Peak, Baffin Island, in his wingsuit.

“IT’S PAYING ATTENTION TO YOUR GUT INSTINCT AND LEARNING TO WALK AWAY WHEN THINGS DON’T FEEL RIGHT.”

ADVENTURE ON THE ISLAND

There are some incredible adrenaline-fuelled moments to be had on Hamilton Island – and some great snaps to be captured and shared.

AIR

Get a bird’s-eye view of the island by going paragliding.



LAND

Explore the island in an all-terrain vehicle.



WATER

Carve up the water on a jet ski.



ON THE RIGHT COURSE

Former British Open winner Ian Baker-Finch talks to Brendan James about finding time for a game, the ones to watch and why you can't beat playing a round in paradise, aka Hamilton Island.

Born and bred on the Sunshine Coast, Ian Baker-Finch cut his professional golfing teeth on Queensland's Troppo Tour during the early 1980s. It was here that he learnt the intricacies of the game but, more importantly, how to win against stiff competition, including the likes of fellow Queenslanders Greg Norman and Wayne Grady. All three went on to rise to the upper echelons of world golf, winning major championships and tournaments around the globe. 'Finchy' famously won the 1991 British Open, with rounds of 64-66 over the weekend at the Royal Birkdale course to claim the historic Claret Jug. It was one of 17 professional victories he claimed worldwide before he retired from the tour in 1997. Today, the 57-year-old has become one of the most recognisable voices on television golf broadcasts for America's CBS network, and when he's not following the PGA Tour around the United States, he finds time to play some golf, even back home in Australia.

YOU'RE ON THE ROAD FOR CBS MORE THAN 20 WEEKS A YEAR. DO YOU STILL GET TIME TO PLAY ANY GOLF?
"Yeah, just for fun. I still play sometimes three days a week."

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT THE GAME THESE DAYS?
"Trying to get better [LAUGHS]. These days, it gives me a good chance to catch up with mates. With all the travel I do, it also gives me a chance to play all the great golf courses. I'm in a great position, in that wherever I go for a tournament, I can take a look at all the great courses in the area and go play."

AND LIKE A ROLLS-ROYCE OUT OF THE GARAGE, YOU DON'T NEED MUCH TUNING, I WOULD IMAGINE.
"I play one tee up... I don't play from the tips any more [LAUGHS]. The young guys hit it so far now that lots of courses have these new tees put in place, which makes it too tough if you're just an average hitter. I kind of play the old back tees."

YOU ALWAYS COME HOME AT THE END OF THE YEAR AND SUPPORT THE LEGENDS TOUR [THE PGA OF AUSTRALIA'S OVER 50 TOUR]. IT MUST BE GREAT TO CATCH UP WITH THE GUYS THAT YOU PLAYED ON TOUR WITH FOR SO MANY YEARS.
"Yeah, it's really good fun. The Legends Tour is good, it's strong and it offers a great product. The guys are out there to have a good time and look after their pro-am partners and show them a good time. At the same time, they're out there competing, doing what they have always done.
"But I love the opportunity to catch up with Pete Senior and a few of the old guys I used to compete against out there - Mike Harwood, Pete Fowler, when he's not playing in Europe. It's very enjoyable."

IN YOUR TV-COMMENTARY ROLE, YOU GET TO SEE THE BEST PLAYERS UP-CLOSE ALL THE TIME. OF THE CURRENT CROP OF TWENTYSOMETHINGS ON THE WORLD STAGE, WHO IMPRESSES YOU MOST?
"There are so many of them now, aren't there? The best two are obviously Justin Thomas and Jordan Spieth. They're 25 and 24 [respectively] now. Cameron Smith, a good

Queenslander, is just a notch behind them. "I still think of Rory McIlroy and Jason Day as young guys, but they're a bit older now."

LOOKING AT JORDAN, HE'S WON THREE MAJORS ALREADY AND IS ON A TRAJECTORY THAT SUGGESTS HE COULD, AT SOME STAGE, HAVE A CAREER TO RIVAL THAT OF TIGER WOODS OR JACK NICKLAUS. WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS THAT MAKES HIM SO GOOD?

"I think his golf IQ - which is the terminology we have sort of come up with to explain how guys put all the elements of the game together - I think he is the one who stands out. He can still make a competitive score on a day when his ball-striking might have been off or he didn't make many putts.

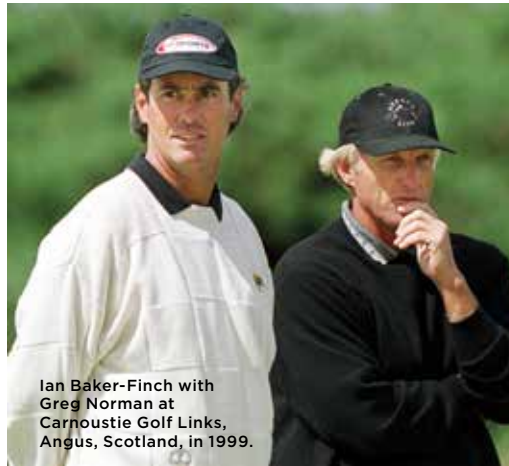
"Rickie Fowler, Justin Rose, Jason Day and Rory McIlroy also have great golf IQs - they have a tremendous sense of the game and how to get their ball around any course, how to put all the bits of the game together. Some guys just have a weapon, like Dustin Johnson. His weapon is his driving, and he's now become really good with his short game as well. If he putts well, he wins. There are so many good young guys, but Spieth is a stand-out.
"Back when I was on tour you weren't supposed to be as good as these guys are until you were in your thirties. They used to say most golfers would start playing their best golf when they were 34. Today, you're not going to be around on tour in your late thirties if you have waited to play your best stuff at 34.

"It's interesting right now because there is a whole bunch of players who are closing in on 40, or who are 40, and if they don't shape

Ian Baker-Finch at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.



PHOTOGRAPHY: SCOTT HALLERAN, GETTY IMAGES.



Ian Baker-Finch with Greg Norman at Carnoustie Golf Links, Angus, Scotland, in 1999.

“THE WHITSUNDAYS ARE THE GREEK ISLANDS OF AUSTRALIA, WITH BETTER WEATHER AND SPECTACULAR BEACHES.”



Above and left: Hamilton Island Golf Course.



up, these young guys will shut them out from winning any more tournaments. Guys such as Adam Scott, Sergio Garcia, Paul Casey, Henrik Stenson, Matt Kuchar – they're all talented, but they better keep working hard, or these young guys will rock on past them. There have never been so many good young players in the top 20 of the world ranking.”

ONE OF THE MANY STRINGS TO YOUR BOW IS THAT YOU ARE A COURSE DESIGNER AND, AS YOU MENTIONED, YOU GET TO PLAY A LOT OF GREAT COURSES. ONE OF THE MOST ACCLAIMED LAYOUTS IN YOUR HOME STATE IS HAMILTON ISLAND GOLF CLUB. WHAT WERE YOUR IMPRESSIONS OF THE COURSE?

“It is one of the most beautiful golfing venues in the world. I have a great affinity for it. Back in 1998, I walked across the property through the tall grass and through the rocks, laying out a course, as our design company wanted the job of building the course. The army corps of engineers made it very difficult during the approval process, which is why it took another 12 years for it to happen.

“But I know the property really well. The golf course is spectacular. It can be a tough course, because there is always some kind of wind. But if you go there with the idea it's going to be a beautiful day and a great opportunity for some spectacular photography, take in the views and enjoy the course. Amazing!

“The Whitsundays are the Greek Islands of Australia, with better weather, spectacular beaches and an easy-going lifestyle, and Hamilton Island lies right in the middle of it. I love it.”

PHOTOGRAPHY: REBECCA NADEN - PA IMAGES; GETTY IMAGES; HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY.

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CLUBMARINE.COM.AU



1300 00 CLUB (2582)





Celia Sullohern wins the Hilly Marathon.



Climbing the hill.



Lloyd Collier, Celia Sullohern and Carl Pinkstone after taking the top three places in the Hilly Marathon.



Team Chafing the Dream, winners of the relay.



Rebecca Randle competing in the half marathon.



Hamilton Island's Kimberly Alward takes second place in the junior 500m race.



Colin Attard competing in the half marathon.



Colin Banks running the Hilly Marathon.

STAMFORD FINANCIAL HILLY MARATHON

An exciting new course awaited competitors, with the new walking-trail sections linking South East Head to Escape Beach and Coral Cove to Saddle Junction. Australian Commonwealth Games star Celia Sullohern impressed competitors on and off the race course with her title-winning speed in the marathon, beating the men, and her generosity of spirit in assisting fellow runners and kids.



Kodi Wong finishing the junior 500m race.



Steve Jackson, Tiago Mendes, Carl Pinkstone and Lloyd Collier.



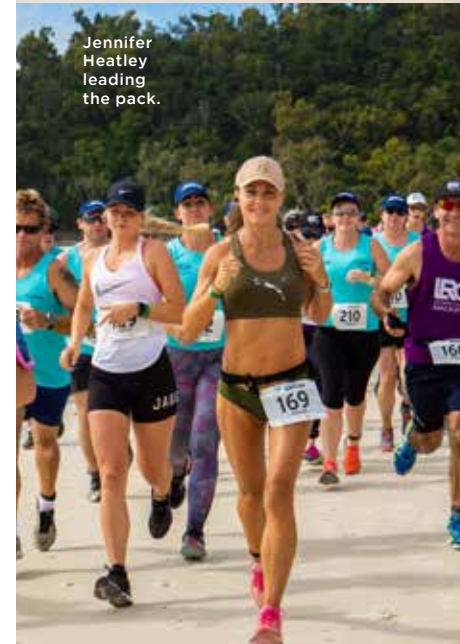
Kathy Peasey and Romana Bowd running the half marathon.



Whitehaven Beach.



Jane Dimoff, Edda Douglas, David Williams and Wendy Read.



Jennifer Heatley leading the pack.



Kicking off the 21.1km race.

GREAT WHITEHAVEN BEACH RUN

They came, they ran (on soft sand) and individually they conquered and in record numbers. Event ambassadors Nutri-Grain Ironwoman Brielle Cooper and Ironman Matt Bevilacqua joined the runners and gave good competition. Post race complimentary massages were welcomed - all part of the 'Race Hard, Recover Harder' Hamilton Island ethos.



Jessica Pickering, Helen Beard, Paul Gaynor and Julia Giles.



Brielle Cooper and Matt Bevilacqua.



Jade Bidgood 5km race winner.



Taking on the challenge.



Junior 500m race.



Elliarna Mitchel winning the 5km race.



Ed Ringwood.



Taiyo Masuda.



Kyle Mulinder.



Teigan Nash.



Ed Ringwood.



Ed Ringwood.



Ed Ringwood.



Abe Kislevitz.



Brinkley Davies.



Ed Ringwood.

GOPRO ADVENTURE
Hamilton Island was happy to host GoPro Australia/NZ earlier this year. The fearless adventurers brought social-media advocates, journalists and the GoPro production team along to try out the new GoPro Fusion 360 camera. Their labours (yes, yes, it's a tough life) appeared on social channels for GoPro and all their guests, reaching more than 10.5 million followers.



Abe Kislevitz.



Brinkley Davies.



Kyle Mulinder.



ACTION PLAN: GOPRO TIPS

1. Set the scene and let viewers know where you are: a wide static shot or location sign always works well. Show yourself gearing up, or take a time-lapse of the backdrop to build excitement and set the scene.
2. Who is your story about and what do you want to get across? Who are the heroes of your story, and what are they setting out to do? Capture moments that reveal personalities and allude to the adventure.

PRO TIP Don't forget the audio. From commentary to hoots and hollers, it's an important part of the story.

3. Capture the action – experiment with different mounts and perspectives to tell your story. Be sure to mix in body- or gear-mounted point-of-view (POV) footage, along with more traditional shots.

PRO TIP Use voice commands for hands-free control of your camera.

4. Celebrate. If you just did something epic, show off those celebratory hugs and high fives. Or maybe things didn't go so well... how did the crew react? Let the cameras roll as you pack it up and head back home.

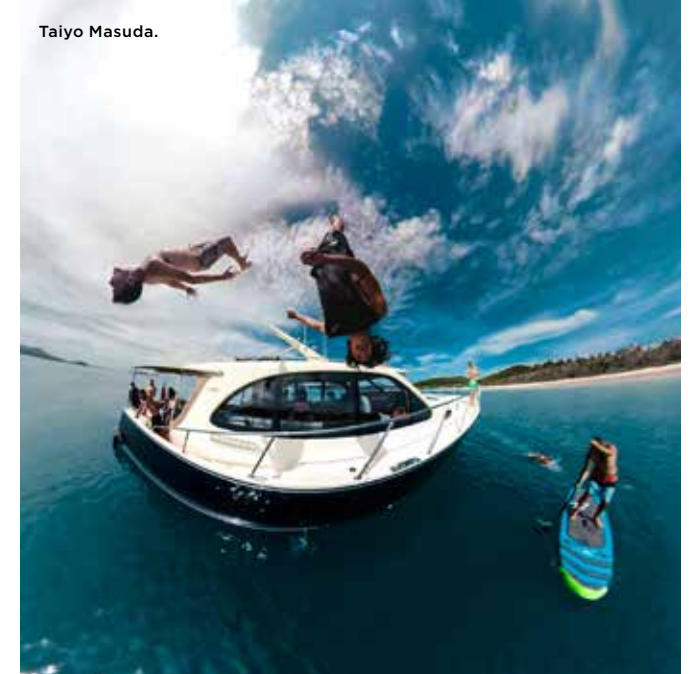
PRO TIP Use HiLight tagging to easily find your favourite shots.

5. You can use QuikStories to get the content out to your social channels quickly. It will help you edit and transform it into awesome videos.

PRO TIP Keep your edit tight: aim for 30 seconds.



Ed Ringwood.



Taiyo Masuda.



The impressive rear deck.



Stunning views out across the Coral Sea.

“NO CITY LIMITS IS SUBLIMELY AT ONE WITH ALL NATURE.”

NATURE CLASS

This is it: absolute waterfront luxury, situated in all the glory of Hamilton Island’s wonder world. It is a dream home, says Esther Holmes.



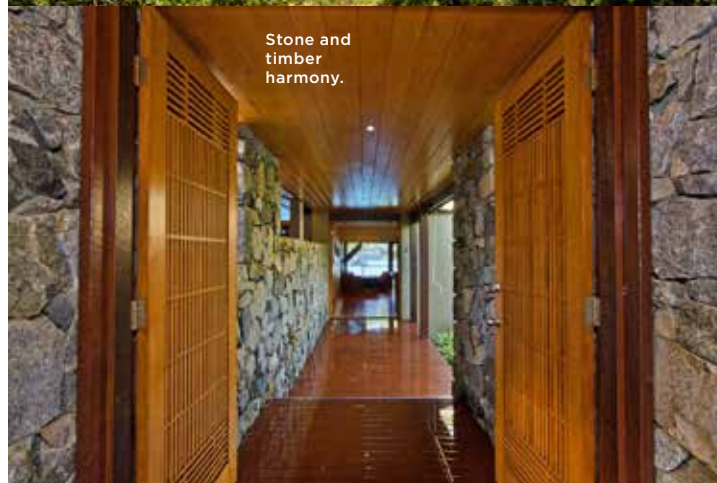
The incredible tropical garden.

It is aptly called No City Limits. There really are no limits to the luxury of this multi-award-winning, Chris Beckingham-designed, single-level house. Sitting on a cliff face, over almost 3,000 square metres of beautiful waterfront land, it’s the kind of prime real estate you dream of but can rarely find.

Truly one of the most compelling properties on Hamilton Island, and found on the exclusive Melaleuca Drive, in the north of the island, it has magnificent panoramic views out across the Coral Sea to Whitsunday Island.

The open-plan design was conceived with these mesmerising views at its heart, and the mix of beautiful stone walls and natural timbers throughout complements the heavenly environment the house is set in. It’s no surprise that one of the many gongs No City Limits has won is the award for Best Use of Timber. The use of warm wood everywhere, from the gourmet kitchen and dining/lounge area to the five bedrooms, is signature Beckingham stuff. He is, after all, the designer behind Qualia and the Hamilton Island Yacht Club.

No City Limits is sublimely at one with all nature, seamlessly bringing the outside in – walk out onto the extensive decks and you’re instantly in paradise. Next-level entertainment provided on the front deck includes a barbecue, sound system, fridge and dining area that leads to a beautiful private pool. The huge, undercover



Stone and timber harmony.




rear deck, meanwhile, takes advantage of the magnificent sea views and has stairs down to a large outdoor spa. There’s also a billiard room, TV room and four luxurious bathrooms, which means you can choose between luxuriating in all this blissful tranquillity alone or having grateful friends to stay whenever you want. No city here, just beautiful countryside and the ocean rolling deep.

To find out more, visit hamiltonislandrealestate.com.au



The beautiful pool.

CATSEYE VILLA 3
GREAT NORTHERN HIGHWAY
FOR SALE. \$1,100,000

3  2.5  1 

Catseye Villas is an executive complex of only four luxury Villas, located close to both the marina and the main resort centre. From the moment you walk through the main entry you will be amazed by the view which stretches through to the private balcony and leafy outlook beyond. An open-plan kitchen adjoins the dining area with its own atrium overhead. Polished timber floors, high ceilings and plenty of light through the floor-to-ceiling, full-width windows and doors bring the large living area to life. Catseye Villas is paradise found. Ideally suited to be an exclusive island hideaway, a full time residence or a sound investment property.



CORAL SEA APARTMENT 3
GREAT NORTHERN HIGHWAY
FOR SALE. \$580,000

2  2  1 

Renowned as the most popular residential address on the island, Coral Sea Apartments feature stunning beach views from a very central location. Fully refurbished, these apartments are now even more sought-after thanks to their polished makeover. Complete with a new stylish pitched roof, new kitchen, new bathroom, new bedrooms and new furniture, Coral Sea Apartment 3 is immaculately presented. Renting for \$750 to \$850 per week, this property is a pristine jewel investment. Buggy included.



WHITSUNDAY APARTMENT CA203
RESORT DRIVE
FOR SALE. \$ 470,000

1  1 

The Whitsunday Apartments are situated beachfront in Hamilton Island's stunning resort precinct. These fully furnished, self-catering holiday let apartments sleep up to five guests. Offering 28 days owner usage per year, all property management, maintenance, housekeeping and continual refurbishments are taken care of. Each modern air-conditioned apartment offers an expansive balcony, open-plan living area, quality furnishings, a fully equipped kitchen, and spacious bedroom with ensuite. The complex also includes a dedicated reception area and resort-style pool and spa.

PROPERTY SALES: CONTACT WAYNE SINGLETON 0416 024 168 OR BOYD JACKSON 0407 901 721

The properties featured in the REEF Magazine Real Estate section are available at time of print, but for a full listing of properties for sale or to review recently sold properties, visit the Hamilton Island Real Estate office on Front Street, or go to www.hamiltonislandrealestate.com.au

PROPERTY SALES: (07) 4948 9101 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT: (07) 4946 8028 HOLIDAY RENTALS RESERVATIONS: 137 333 (02 9433 0444)



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YACHT CLUB VILLA 11

FRONT STREET
FOR SALE. \$2,300,000

4 4 2

“Villa Madeira” epitomises luxury and style. Never before made available to the public and never holiday let, the owners have spared no expense in finishing and appointing this fine example of luxurious island life. Reaching out to the Whitsunday waterways from its own private point, with direct access to the beach and offering privacy and exclusivity, this is a rare and beautiful property. Maximising the abundance of natural light and spectacular views, the environment is enhanced with a sleek, interior-designed fit-out. Enter the villa, enjoy its polished style and appreciate the good design and this well-cared-for house. It is ready for new owners to call home or perfect as a next-level rental investment.



POINCIANA 203

MARINA DRIVE
FOR SALE. \$1,170,000

2 2 1

Capturing the summer breeze and winter sun, Poinciana Lodge 203 overlooks the azure waters of Fitzalan Passage through to Whitsunday Island. The expansive balcony, accessible from the living areas and the master bedroom, is positioned to capture this breathtaking vista. With its proximity to the resort precinct and just an easy walk from vibrant Front Street and the marina, this is a perfect investment for a holiday rental. The spacious, elevated, two-bedroom, two-bathroom, single-level apartment offers a popular floor plan for holidaying families. The landscaped pool at the eastern end completes this wonderful package.



HIBISCUS 208

RESORT DRIVE
FOR SALE. \$1,200,000

2 2 1

We are finally listing a fully renovated top-floor apartment at Hibiscus Lodge. Situated at the end of the building, this property enjoys an abundance of natural light in the rear bedroom, which also captures the breeze. Renovated to the highest quality, this is an excellent, consistent holiday let that virtually pays for itself. A beachfront, single-level apartment, it has granite bench tops, two-pack cabinets, plasma TVs in the lounge and bedroom and an exquisite furniture package. Situated in a prime holiday-letting estate, this is beachfront at its best.

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PROPERTY SALES: (07) 4948 9101. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT: (07) 4946 8028. HOLIDAY RENTALS RESERVATIONS: 137 333 (02 9433 0444).



18-hole Championship Hamilton Island Golf Club

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THE EDGE 18

ACACIA DRIVE
FOR SALE. \$2,495,000

2  2.5 

The Edge lower floor apartment has been completely renovated and is ready to charm. This is all about open plan living with large entertaining areas on both levels. The two bedrooms and bathroom are on the upper level with an open plan lounge, dining area and well appointed gourmet kitchen that opens out on to a large balcony, all perfect for enjoying island life. Downstairs is the parents retreat and private balcony which flows into the master bedroom with walk-in robe and ensuite bathroom. The view from the spa captures the incredible and peaceful water views. The Edge 18 also includes a lock-up garage and private storage area. This property is north-west facing.



WHITSUNDAY WATERS

GREAT NORTHERN HIGHWAY
FOR SALE. \$6,800,000

4  5  2 

For the first time in 20 years, this icon of Hamilton Island luxury living, is now available. Whitsunday Waters is all about the sprawling living areas, breathtaking entertainment areas, world class luxury and views of the pristine waterways of the Whitsundays. The property has been beautifully integrated into a purpose designed, and magnificently manicured, tropical garden oasis on 2,000m2 of elevated hillside. With four spacious bedrooms and five bathrooms, this is the epitome of impeccably presented, yet relaxed, tropical island life. This property offers its next home owner one of most breathtaking island hideaways.



PROPERTY SALES: CONTACT WAYNE SINGLETON 0416 024 168 OR BOYD JACKSON 0407 901 721

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PROPERTY SALES: (07) 4948 9101 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT: (07) 4946 8028 HOLIDAY RENTALS RESERVATIONS: 137 333 (02 9433 0444)

Everything you need to make your event unforgettable



With its idyllic island location, variety of accommodation, a diverse range of event facilities, and an award-winning team of event professionals, Hamilton Island can cater for groups of 10 to 1,000. All this within easy reach, with direct flights from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Cairns. hamiltonisland.com.au/Events

**YACHT CLUB
VILLA 21**
(4-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY)
FROM: \$1,330 PER NIGHT
(7-NIGHT RATE)
MAXIMUM CAPACITY:
8 PEOPLE

4 4 1

As soon as you enter Villa 21, it's clear you are somewhere extra-special. This luxury villa includes four bedrooms, four bathrooms and a private plunge pool, from which you can enjoy the spectacular views. It also has a state-of-the-art gourmet kitchen and ducted air-conditioning, and is situated in one of the most sought-after locations on the island.



COOINDA GARDENS 2
(3-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY)
FROM: \$875 PER NIGHT
(7-NIGHT RATE)
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 8 PEOPLE

4 3 1

Situated on the tranquil and prestigious northern end of the island, you are just a short buggy ride to all of the island's key attractions. This bright, newly refurbished townhouse is ideal for large families or groups of friends. It features four spacious bedrooms, brand new interiors, two balconies and impeccable water views.



THE ANCHORAGE 13
(3-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY)
FROM: \$475 PER NIGHT
(7-NIGHT RATE)
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 6 PEOPLE

2 2 1

Positioned high, with spectacular views from Passage Peak to Dent Island, this light-filled holiday home is ideal for families. As soon as you walk in, you are drawn to the covered entertaining area with its barbecue, sun chairs and outside table setting. The main bedroom has a private balcony with gorgeous views.



BLUE WATER VIEWS 4
(3-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY)
FROM: \$590 PER NIGHT
(7-NIGHT RATE)
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 8 PEOPLE

3 2 1

Fresh and modern, this three-bedroom apartment opens onto a covered entertaining terrace area with a spa, from where you can enjoy the spectacular Whitsunday sunset views. Situated on the island's marina side, all the restaurants, shops and activities on Front Street are just a short buggy ride away.

HOLIDAY RENTALS: CONTACT HAMILTON ISLAND HOLIDAYS 137 333 (02 9433 0444)

To view the full listing of Hamilton Island holiday-rental properties, visit the Hamilton Island Real Estate office on Front Street, Hamilton Island, or go to hamiltonislandholidayhomes.com.au. **HOLIDAY RENTALS RESERVATIONS:** 137 333 (02 9433 0444). **PROPERTY SALES:** (07) 4948 9101. **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT:** (07) 4946 8028. *RATES QUOTED ARE OFF-PEAK RATES BASED ON A 7-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY (5 NIGHTS FOR BARRIER REEF HOUSE). OTHER RATES AND DURATIONS OF STAY AVAILABLE, PLEASE ENQUIRE AT TIME OF BOOKING.

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