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ISLAND  
RACE WEEK**  
*A celebration*

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**REEF MAGAZINE**

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**WILD OATS XI  
MARK RICHARDS  
ON HIS WINNING  
STREAK**

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# Precision has a wild side.

Like every Audi, Wild Oats XI is engineered to perfection. We're thrilled to partner with this winning sailing team as they continue to strive for excellence on the ocean with the passion and persistence that we do on land. Good luck and enjoy the ride. [audibrandexperience.com.au](http://audibrandexperience.com.au)



# INTRODUCTION



Sandy and Carol Oatley.

Over the past 10 years, it has been very rewarding to see some of our visions for Hamilton Island become a reality. There is still more to be achieved, potential to be realised, and pleasures to be delivered in the short and long term. One of the ways we gauge that we are doing things well here is by the number of people who come to holiday and decide they want to buy real estate, so they can either adopt a wonderful lifestyle within our community, or have a long-

term investment on the island. To meet this increasing demand, we are in the process of building 22 homes at secluded Hidden Cove, on the northwestern side of the island, and 14 of these have already been sold. The residences are comfortable, bright and airy, and take in expansive, uninterrupted views across Dent Passage. These homes deserve consideration by anyone wanting a relaxed, tropical lifestyle in one of the most beautiful regions in the world. Ever since we were fortunate enough to take ownership of the island, we have worked enthusiastically to improve the holiday experience of our guests. We take careful note of comments from our visitors, and are continually researching opportunities to make a holiday even more enjoyable. As well as upgrading our accommodation to the highest possible level, we look to the smaller things that so often make a big difference. One such experience we have introduced in recent times is the One Tree Hill café and bar, a landmark location on one of the highest points of the island between the main resort precinct and our luxury resort, qualia. To be at this bar enjoying a 'sundowner' and the spectacular scenery as the sun slips beyond mainland Australia is an experience never to be forgotten.

In other news, in addition to their services from Sydney, Brisbane and Cairns direct to Hamilton Island, Qantas have recently introduced a direct service from Melbourne to Hamilton Island. It's the first time in the history of Hamilton Island that Qantas have operated this route and we are very pleased to have them. Finally, Hamilton Island's name, and that of both Audi and Channel 7, featured prominently on the international sailing scene in July when our family's champion supermaxi yacht, Wild Oats XI, competed in the 2,225-nautical mile TransPac race from Los Angeles to Honolulu. Our crew was led by Mark Richards, in what was a joint entry with Roy P. Disney. After the race, Wild Oats XI set sail for Sydney to begin preparations for her tilt at a ninth line honours victory in the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race. She is already recognised as the most successful yacht to have contested the Hobart race in its 70-year history and we look forward to watching her compete again.

Sandy Oatley  
Chairman, Hamilton Island

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*Typically Charles*



CHAMPAGNE  
**CHARLES  
HEIDSIECK**

*Maison fondée à Reims en 1851*

*D.C.*

# CONTRIBUTORS



## NOELLE FAULKNER, WRITER

HOW ARE YOUR SEA LEGS? "Oh, my sea legs are solid - I'm that person everyone hates when they're seasick." WHAT DO YOU LIKE IN A BOAT? "Well, I like speed and I like design. But in saying that, I'm equally happy with one that floats and comes with a cooler and a radio." WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THING TO DO ON HAMILTON ISLAND? "Snorkelling and sailing around the skirts of the island looking for dugongs." DO YOU PREFER TO RELAX ON THE BEACH OR BY THE POOL? "Beach, 100%." WHAT ARE YOU READING RIGHT NOW? "An old copy of *The Image in Form, Selected Writings* by Adrian Stokes. It's really powerful. I found it at a flea market and I've been carrying it with me everywhere." WHAT IS THE ONE THING YOU LOVE TO DO BUT NEVER SEEM TO FIND THE TIME? "Playing my piano."



## DARREN JAHN, WINE CONNOISSEUR

DO YOU SAIL? "As a youngster I was a regular twilighter on the Swan River in Perth, these days I'm more used as ballast." WHAT DO YOU LIKE IN A BOAT? "Being able to enjoy a social drink and eat - whether it is casual or luxurious." WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THING TO DO ON HAMILTON ISLAND? "Sunset Champagne on the Bommie Deck at the Yacht Club." DO YOU PREFER TO RELAX ON THE BEACH OR BY THE POOL? "Beach - always." WHAT ARE YOU READING RIGHT NOW? "Stephen Fry's latest autobiography *More Fool Me* - what a fascinating life!" WHAT IS THE ONE THING YOU LOVE TO DO BUT NEVER SEEM TO FIND THE TIME? "Visit my country getaway - The Tannery in Mudgee. I operate this historic cottage as a self-contained B&B and it's always booked so I rarely get to spend a weekend there myself. When I do, I always return to the big smoke rejuvenated and enthused. Really need to do so more often, thanks for the reminder!"



## LISA RATCLIFF, SAILING JOURNALIST AND EVENT MANAGER

HOW ARE YOUR SEA LEGS? "I've got good sea legs having been around boats my whole life, plus I live on an island so I don't have much choice. We have a family RL24 called Spud Gun, it's a 40 year-old design trailer. Its age is deceiving, it's very light and quick." WHAT DO YOU LIKE IN A BOAT? "These days head room and a proper loo. If I had lots of money I'd own something classic made from timber, as long as I didn't have to worry about the varnishing." WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THING TO DO ON HAMILTON ISLAND? "Leave in the dark and climb to Passage Peak for sunrise. Dinner at coca chu." DO YOU PREFER TO RELAX ON THE BEACH OR BY THE POOL? "I'm definitely a salt water person so the beach for sure." WHAT ARE YOU READING RIGHT NOW? "Anything to do with Gallipoli, the Saturday Sydney Morning Herald and lots of sailing magazines." WHAT IS THE ONE THING YOU LOVE TO DO BUT NEVER SEEM TO FIND THE TIME? "Cooking extravagant meals."



## ROB MUNDLE, AUTHOR AND SAILOR

HOW ARE YOUR SEA LEGS? "I sail as often as possible, racing or cruising - usually once a week. My sea legs are excellent; they've been sailing with me for more than five decades." WHAT DO YOU LIKE IN A BOAT? "I look for comfort in a cruising boat, and some satisfying level of performance (that's why I own a cruising catamaran), while in a racing monohull the need is for speed and responsiveness." WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THING TO DO ON HAMILTON ISLAND? "Relax and absorb the magnificent tropical island scenery." DO YOU PREFER TO RELAX ON THE BEACH OR BY THE POOL? "Beach." WHAT ARE YOU READING RIGHT NOW? "I'm not reading anything but research material for the fifth book in my maritime history. It will be titled *Great South Land* and be released in time for Christmas." WHAT'S THE ONE THING YOU LOVE TO DO BUT NEVER SEEM TO FIND THE TIME? "Cruising my catamaran 'Toucanoes' to interesting destinations, including Hamilton Island and the Whitsundays."



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# NATURAL BORN SAILOR

Mark Richards, better known in racing circles and to his friends as Ricko, is a great skipper, winner, and champion, says Rob Mundle.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREA FRANCOLINI

**T**he winning combination of Mark “Ricko” Richards, and Wild Oats XI has been together since the sleek, silver-hulled flyer was launched in 2005. But the genesis for that relationship came in 1999 when Bob Oatley had Ricko, then an aspiring boatbuilder, complete a 59ft yacht for him. From that moment the two enthusiastic sailors formed a firm friendship, and they have never looked back.

At 86 years of age, Bob Oatley AO could be forgiven for being a little slow on his feet, but on December 28 last year, he did his level best to run along a dock in Hobart, much to the delighted applause of a crowd of more than 3,000 people. Oatley had just come shore-side after being out on the Derwent River to watch his legendary supermaxi, Wild Oats XI, become the most successful yacht in the 70-year history of the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race. The achievement also meant that the man chosen by Oatley to lead Wild Oats XI’s southern charge, Mark Richards, could lay claim to the crown of the great race’s most successful skipper. No yacht ever before had been first to finish on eight occasions, nor claimed two race record times and two victories on handicap.

“Bloody marvellous,” an excited Oatley shouted to his skipper as the yacht docked in front of the cheering and clapping crowd. “You’re a champion, Ricko,” he added, “and well done all the crew.” History had been made.

Beyond the sea and sailing, the pair shared similar early life experiences: Bob Oatley’s mother died before he was a year old and he was raised by his aunt, while the now 48-year-old Ricko was put up for adoption soon after he was born to a teenage mother in Adelaide.

“I was very lucky,” said Ricko. “Two wonderful people, an English couple, adopted me and gave me the best possible upbringing. As good fortune would have it, we moved from Adelaide to

Newport, on Sydney’s northern beaches, a place where it seemed every second kid went sailing.” History reveals that some of the legends of the international sailing scene have emerged from Pittwater, the waterway on the western side of the isthmus that stretches from Newport to Palm Beach. This includes America’s Cup, Olympic and world champion yachtsman, Iain Murray, and the winning skipper in the most recent America’s Cup, James Spithill.

Ricko began his sailing life in small dinghies. He was a natural, and before long he was climbing through the ranks of junior sailors. His first big break came when, at age 15, he was invited to compete in his first ocean race, with high-profile Sydney sailor and successful businessman, Marcus Blackmore.

Two years later, he started his working life as an apprentice boatbuilder, but every weekend he was on the water.

His first big break in the sport came when, aged 20, he began sailing with emerging West Australian sailor, Peter Gilmour. “Gilly” was becoming a force to be reckoned with on the highly competitive international match racing circuit, and, on recognising Ricko’s talent, invited him to be part of his Australian team. It was a relationship that lasted more than a decade and delivered considerable success. This led to Ricko becoming part of Iain Murray’s 1992 America’s Cup campaign, then in 1995, he joined John Bertrand’s ill-fated oneAustralia challenge. He was aboard the yacht when it broke in half and sank off the coast of San Diego.

During the next decade, Ricko’s exceptional talents as a boatbuilder became obvious to all. Eventually he established the business that would lead to him meeting, and creating what would become a successful sailing partnership with Bob Oatley and his eldest son, Sandy Oatley.

“We had a lot of fun sailing together over the next three years,” Bob Oatley recalled, “but as time



Mark Richards raises the cup in 2014.



# SAILING

Wild Oats XI sailing past the Organ Pipes, Tasmania, 2014.



Wild Oats XI sailing toward Tasman Island, 2014.



“RICKO AND HIS WORLD-CLASS CREW... [GUIDED] WILD OATS XI TO A MAGNIFICENT VICTORY. SINCE THEN THE YACHT HAS HAD MORE FACELIFTS, YET CONTINUES TO DOMINATE.”

Bob Oatley cheering on the crew of Wild Oats XI, Hobart, 2013.





Mark Richards and Iain Murray after the finish in Hobart, 2013.

In 2005, the think-tank of Bob, Ricko and Sandy, decided to take the canting- keel concept to the limit: to build the largest yacht possible that complied with the rules for the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race. This led to the design and construction of the now legendary Wild Oats XI. Incredibly, because this yacht was launched less than four weeks before the start of the Hobart on December 26 that year, there was virtually no time to tune her to her maximum potential.

Undaunted by the competition or the time frame, Ricko and his world-class crew were able to guide Wild Oats XI to a magnificent victory. Since then, the yacht has had more facelifts, yet continues to dominate.

In 1993 Ricko launched his boatbuilding company which led to the introduction of the classic Palm Beach range of luxury motor yachts in 1995 to the world market, a unique design that is now recognised for its modern technology and impeccable craftsmanship. About a decade ago Oatley backed a further expansion of the company. Today, the bond between Ricko and Bob Oatley is more solid than ever.

The success enjoyed by the Palm Beach Motor Yacht Company led to one of the world's more prominent brands, the Singapore-based Grand Banks Yachts Limited, purchasing the company outright

passed, the bug for stepping up and doing more serious racing really got hold of me, and before long Ricko, Sandy and I were talking about a new boat."

What followed would change the course of ocean racing worldwide.

The trio decided they should try to create the next generation of offshore racing yachts by incorporating some radical technology — a canting keel that swung from side to side, and two rudders, one at the stern and one at the bow. Bob Oatley bought a partially completed 60ft hull, had the concept fitted, named her Wild Oats, and subsequently set the sailing world on its ear.

Iain Murray, who was also involved with the project, said the canting keel's impact could not be overstated: "[It] has probably been the



Wild Oats XI sailing up the Derwent river with spectator boats in tow, 2014.

largest single design element ever that has increased the speed of yachts by so much. It's like sticking a giant V8 engine in a Toyota Corolla."

The chance to show the world what had been achieved came in 2003, when Wild Oats, skippered by Ricko, led a Bob Oatley-inspired two-yacht team to victory in the Admiral's Cup — the world ocean racing teams championship sailed out of Cowes, in England.

in 2014. Part of that deal saw Ricko installed as CEO of the enlarged group, an appointment that has brought remarkable results. Since the takeover, orders for the new company's boats have grown markedly. Despite this success, and the new demands placed on him, there is still no stopping Ricko when it comes to racing Wild Oats XI. He will be back at the helm for another tilt at the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race on Boxing Day this year.

## A HISTORY OF SYDNEY TO HOBART RACE LINE HONOURS FOR WILD OATS XI

### 2005

Wild Oats XI made her Sydney to Hobart debut in impressive fashion: she was first to finish (line honours); set a race record time of 1 day, 18 hours, 40 minutes and 10 seconds (breaking Nokia's record, set in 1999, by more than an hour), and won the Tattersall's Cup, the trophy awarded to the best-performing yacht on adjusted handicap. This was the first time since the inaugural race in 1945 that any yacht had claimed "The Triple Crown".

### 2006

Wild Oats XI dominated this primarily light weather race, taking line honours in 2 days, 8 hours, 52 minutes and 33 seconds.

### 2007

Wild Oats XI equalled Morna's 59-year old record by winning her third consecutive line honours title.

### 2008

Wild Oats XI made Sydney to Hobart race history when she claimed line honours for a fourth consecutive time. Her time for the 627 nautical mile course was 1 day, 20 hours, 34 minutes, 14 seconds.

### 2010

Wild Oats XI took line honours for the fifth time with a race time of 2 days, 7 hours, 37 minutes and 20 seconds.

### 2012

For the second time in her seven Hobart races, Wild Oats XI set a new race record when she claimed line honours in 1 day, 18 hours, 23 minutes and 12 seconds — 16 minutes and 58 seconds inside her previous record for the course.

### 2013

Wild Oats XI was first to finish for the seventh time, crossing the finish line on Hobart's Derwent River in 2 days, 6 hours, 7 minutes and 27 seconds. This equalled the record number of line honours for the classic, a mark established by Morna (later renamed Kurrewa V) between 1946 and 1960.

### 2014

In what was the classic's 70th anniversary race, Wild Oats XI beat the odds when she became the first yacht to claim an unprecedented eighth line honours. Understandably, the champagne flowed like never before for owner Bob Oatley, skipper Mark Richards, and the entire team. Now we look forward to Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race 2015, starting December 26...

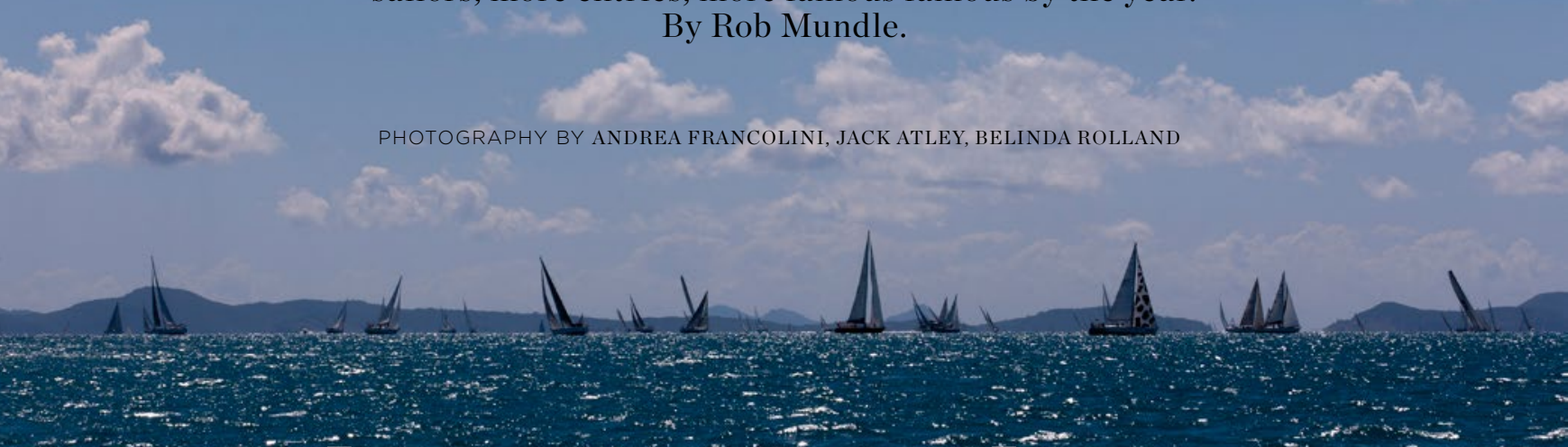


# HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Hamilton Island might not do cars but Audi has made quite the impression during its almost decade long partnership with Hamilton Island Race Week. More sailors, more entries, more famous famous by the year.

By Rob Mundle.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREA FRANCOLINI, JACK ATLEY, BELINDA ROLLAND



## 2006

### 2006

Audi, which was the official car partner for Hamilton Island Race Week 2006, announced it would become Naming Rights sponsor for the regatta the following year.

The German luxury carmaker brought a new image to Race Week in 2006 by presenting its range of vehicles, and allowing competitors to drive some of them. The company also had two of its ambassadors, Winter Olympic medallists, Zali Steggall and Alisa Camplin, at the regatta.

During the regatta Hamilton Island's owner, Bob Oatley, announced his intention to build Hamilton Island Yacht Club, and that Iain Murray would be commodore.

There were 159 entries competing at what was the 23rd staging of Race Week. The winds were generally light but the weather warm.

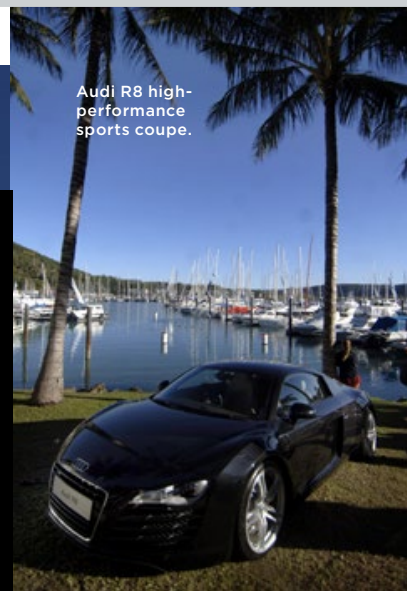
One of the highlights was the participation by Lachlan Murdoch, who raced his very impressive Swan 82, *Ipixuna*, in the series. His wife, Sarah, and their young children followed the action from a motor cruiser.

## 2007

### GLENN BOURKE, CEO, HAMILTON ISLAND

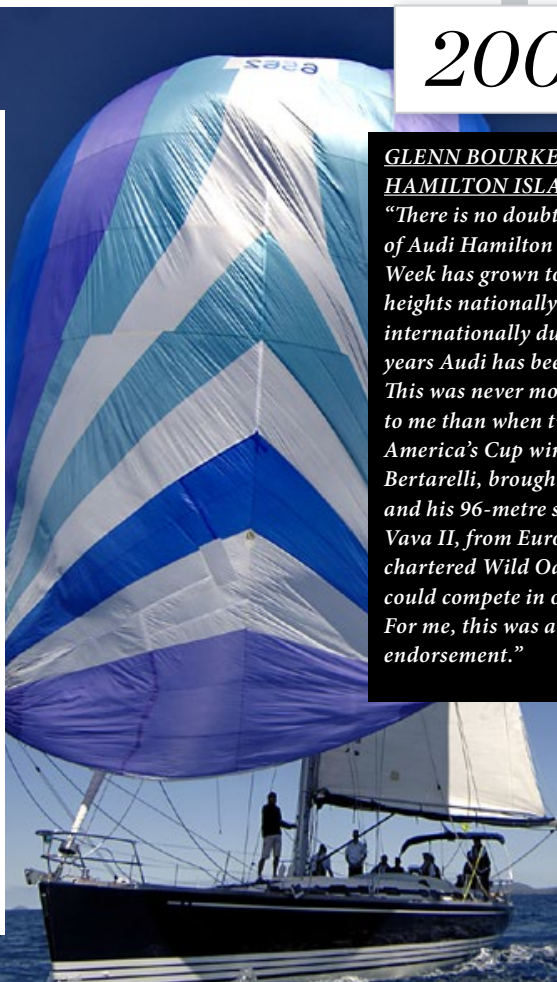
*"There is no doubt the profile of Audi Hamilton Island Race Week has grown to remarkable heights nationally and internationally during the 10 years Audi has been involved. This was never more apparent to me than when two-time America's Cup winner, Ernesto Bertarelli, brought his cup crew, and his 96-metre superyacht, Vava II, from Europe, and chartered Wild Oats X so they could compete in our event. For me, this was a wonderful endorsement."*

Audi R8 high-performance sports coupe.



### 2007

All Australian states, the USA, Hong Kong and New Zealand are represented across the seven racing classifications. Prix d'Elegance introduced. Audi R8 high-performance sports coupe goes on display at Audi Hamilton Island Race Week pre-release to the Australian market.





**2008**

A record fleet of 227 entries. Peter Briggs trucks his yacht, Hitchhiker, across the continent from Perth to be at the historic 25th anniversary regatta. Hitchhiker was the winner of the inaugural Hamilton Island Race Week in 1984. Audi R8 used for the first time for the Audi Drive Challenge, much to the delight of all sailors.



Bob Oatley, Anna Bligh, Val Oatley.



Hamilton Island Yacht Club.

Record fleet of 227 entries.



Audi Drive Challenge.

**2008**

**BOB OATLEY AO, PATRIARCH OF THE OATLEY FAMILY**

*"We salute Audi for being part of our world-class regatta for the past 10 years. Audi has played a vital part in the dynamic growth of Audi Hamilton Island Race Week during that period. Without the enthusiastic support of this great company, it would not have been possible for us to set Race Week on the exciting and positive course it has taken."*

**2009**

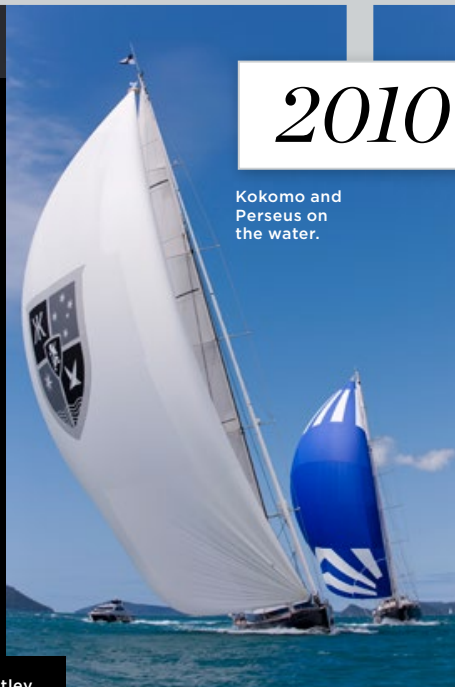
Queensland Premier, Anna Bligh, officially opens the visually spectacular, Hamilton Island Yacht Club.



**2009**

Black Jack, Wild Oats X.

**IAIN MURRAY, WORLD-CHAMPION YACHTSMAN, AMERICA'S CUP SAILOR, OLYMPIAN AND PAST COMMODORE OF HAMILTON ISLAND YACHT CLUB**  
*"The entire formula — Audi, Hamilton Island and Audi Hamilton Island Race Week — is synonymous with quality; they go hand-in-hand. Since this relationship was established 10 years ago, Race Week has become a lot more than a regatta; the sailing is just part of what is now a major event. Together, Audi and the Oatley family have shown the world how well it can be done."*



**2010**

Kokomo and Perseus on the water.



Dannii Minogue.

**2010**

The impressive superyachts, Kokomo and Perseus, compete.



Bob Oatley, Iain Murray.



Perseus.

# SAILING



**WILLIAM MCWILLIAM, OWNER OF EIGHT-METRE YACHT, NESSIE, WHICH HE HAS TOWED 3,000 KILOMETRES FROM GRAFTON, NSW, TO HAMILTON ISLAND AND BACK FOR HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK... ON 15 OCCASIONS.**  
*"It's a great regatta that gets better every year, especially since the Oatleys and Audi have become involved. The big appeal for me is that when we race around those beautiful islands, it reminds me of sailing around on the Firth of Scotland when I was learning to sail."*



Matt Moran, Sandra Sully, Collette Dinnigan, Uwe Hagen, Megan Gale.

**2011**

Naomi Watts.



**2011**  
 The oldest trophy in the history of international sport, and yachting's Holy Grail, the America's Cup, is on display during Audi Hamilton Island Race Week. The visit coincides with the 160th anniversary of the trophy first being contested in 1851.



The America's Cup.



Australia's Olympic sailing team's victory parade on Hamilton Island.



**2012**



Kylie Kwong.

**2012**  
 Australia's Olympic sailing team, winners of four medals at the 2012 London Games, head straight to Audi Hamilton Island Race Week for a special victory parade immediately after returning home. The two fastest offshore sailboats in the southern hemisphere, both ORMA 60 class trimarans, bring a new edge to Audi Hamilton Island Race Week.



Matt Moran, Catriona Rowntree, Shannon Bennett.



## 2013

The 30th staging of Audi Hamilton Island Race Week sees multihulls become a permanent part of the regatta. Sydney's Marcus Blackmore — a Race Week stalwart — becomes the first yachtsman in the regatta's history to win the Grand Prix division for three consecutive years. The world's fastest sailor, Australia's Paul Larsen, is a special guest at Audi Hamilton Island Race Week, just months after he achieved an astonishing average speed of 65.45 knots over a 500-metre course. Larsen worked at Hamilton Island between 1996 and 1999 as a sailing activities manager. A number of 'First Fleeters' — yachts that competed in the inaugural Race Week in 1984 — return for the 30th anniversary regatta.



Paul Larsen.

Marcus Blackmore's Hooligan.



Storm and Ronan Keating.

### JOHN CLINTON, OWNER OF YACHT HOLY COW

*"The event is above everything else in Australia, possibly the world. I know that because I've got an expanding list of friends who, each year, want to come and sail with me at Race Week, and be part of the party. However, for me, there is a downside to the regatta each year: Audi insists on bringing their beautiful cars to the island so we can drive them at speed around a circuit at the airport. I love it, so much so, that each time after I've had my drive they just about have to drag me out of the car. The reason is simple: I love the cars, and driving one reminds me that it's time I got rid of my 2004 Ford Falcon. Hopefully, one day, the old Falcon will be declared a collector's item and I'll sell it for a lot of money. That's when I'll buy an Audi."*

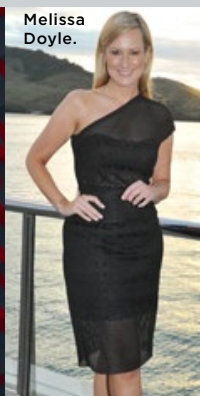


Audi Drive Challenge.

## 2013



Wild Oats AC45.



Melissa Doyle.



Isabel Lucas.



Asher Keddie.

## 2014



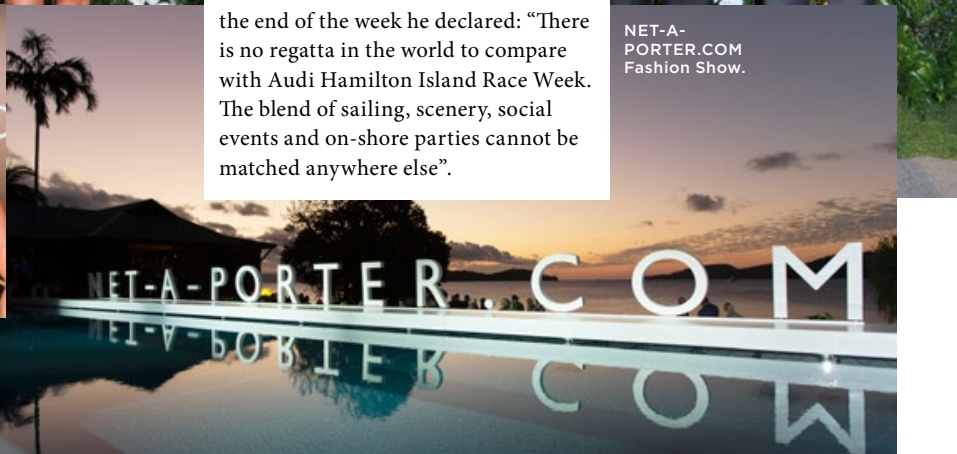
Zac and Jordan Stenmark.

### 2014

Legendary British sailing journalist, Bob Fisher, attends Audi Hamilton Island Race Week for the first time. At the end of the week he declared: "There is no regatta in the world to compare with Audi Hamilton Island Race Week. The blend of sailing, scenery, social events and on-shore parties cannot be matched anywhere else".



Managing Director, Audi Australia, Andrew Doyle and his wife Toby Doyle.



NET-A-PORTER.COM Fashion Show.



Poolside, qualia.

# BULLETIN BOARD

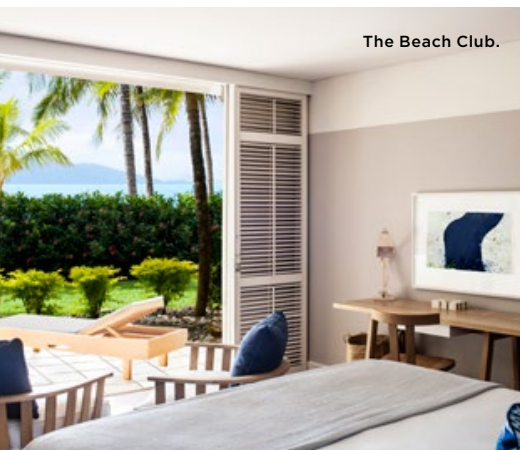
There's always so much happening on the island. Here we share the latest news, awards and other need to knows. By Esther Holmes.



qualia Executive Chef, Alastair Waddell in his on-island kitchen garden, growing fresh produce to use at Long Pavilion.

## PURE GOLD: QUALIA

Next-level detail was what it took to nab a place on the prestigious Condé Nast Traveler's Gold List 2015, which is why we think qualia was the only Australian luxury lodge to feature amongst the world's best. "No request is too difficult" for the "super-friendly, super-efficient staff" noted the review. And "Once you stay at qualia, it's difficult to stay anywhere else". We agree: this is an oasis of laid-back luxury and we've idled away hours in the pool and down at Pebble Beach, just contemplating life, the view and the sunsets, the amazing food by Alastair Waddell from the Long Pavilion sustaining us. For the first time the Gold List, which spans six continents and 37 countries, was selected by Condé Nast Traveler editors, writers and their network of influencers. Their criteria? Not just a high standard of service, luxury and beauty but those unforgettable micro touches that set a hotel apart. "The result is a group-written love letter to the properties that inspire memories that linger long after we've left them. Like travel itself, the best hotel experiences often can't be measured by a point system — they're as ineffable as memory itself," says Condé Nast Traveler's editor in chief, Pilar Guzmán.



The Beach Club.

## WAY TO GO: BEACH CLUB

The refurbishment is finished and we can't wait to book a stay at the Beach Club, sure to be our new tropical home away from home. "We want all guests to feel welcome, as if we had personally invited them to our beach house for the weekend. The feel of the resort is the very essence of relaxation," says Kyle LaMonica, the General Manager of Beach Club. "The main thing guests comment on is the genuinely friendly customer service from all areas and all staff. This is the focal point for me and is established in the culture." Nothing beats good service and attention to detail. We're relaxing already.

## DRINK IT IN: SPA QUALIA

We love the chance for some quiet contemplation — and a cup of tea — in Spa qualia's tranquil relaxation area before or after our spa treatment. And now the award-winning spa is upping the pleasure of that moment, serving Penelope Sach herbal teas made from Australian organic certified growers. Sach has a degree in herbalism and has designed an exclusive healing tea for Spa qualia to complement the relaxed environment. It's a unique blend of antioxidant and vitamin C-rich hibiscus, which works to smooth the digestive and respiratory tracts. The delicious and refreshing blend is served chilled in the hotter months, and warm in the cooler months. "The healing properties are essential," says Sach. We'll drink to that. The Spa qualia by Penelope Sach tea blend is available to purchase at Spa qualia.

Healing tea, Spa qualia.





## SUNSET BAR: ONE TREE HILL CAFÉ

It calls the faithful to sundown like a type of Mecca. One Tree Hill, with its sweeping views across the surrounding islands, mainland and Coral Sea, showcases the cloud formations, light, setting sun and sea like no other place on the island at this time of day. Put simply, it demands some of your quality time. Enter the new café and bar, whose punchy line-up includes classic cosmopolitans, green-apple mojitos, Hamilton Island iced tea, passionfruit caipiroska as well as a nice drop of Robert Oatley Signature Series Pinot Noir. And naturally there's Champagne — our favourite, Charles Heidsieck, that is — for toasting the big orange orb as it sinks into oblivion. Shared cheese plates and fresh oysters and prawns complete the picture. See you up there.



One Tree Hill café and bar.



Soap Aid, helping to improve poor sanitation.



Recycled soap, Soap Aid.

## SOAP STARS: SOAP AID


"We decided to support this organisation as the soap waste for hotels is an ongoing byproduct of the industry," says Jared Saxon, Executive Assistant Manager at the Reef View Hotel and Palm Bungalows. "We are very active in recycling and reducing the footprint locally. Soap Aid was only set up in Victoria and NSW, however this pushed us as a team to make it happen here — the work Soap Aid does and the lives of children it saves is inspiring and we wanted to make sure this was rolled out to Queensland. And what better way than leading this support? The Reef View Hotel was the first hotel in Queensland to support Soap Aid, with the first shipment leaving in April." The staff at both the Reef View Hotel

and the Beach Club have wholeheartedly embraced this program, Saxon says. "All staff and areas of the hotel at one point handle the soap and the boxes before shipping. We can all take proud responsibility. We have to date sent 24 cartons to Soap Aid, which is approximately 70kg of soap." Soap Aid is a not-for-profit organisation founded in Australia. Its mission is to save and improve the lives of children in disadvantaged communities through the education and facilitation of good hygiene practices around the use of soap. The Soap Aid Program supports communities with the highest rates of childhood mortality through poor sanitation. To find out more visit [soapaid.org/](http://soapaid.org/)



# RAY OF LIGHT

The Great Barrier Reef will not be placed on an In Danger list by a United Nations body after state and federal governments pledged to limit dredging and spend \$200 million to cut pollution. By Graham Readfearn.



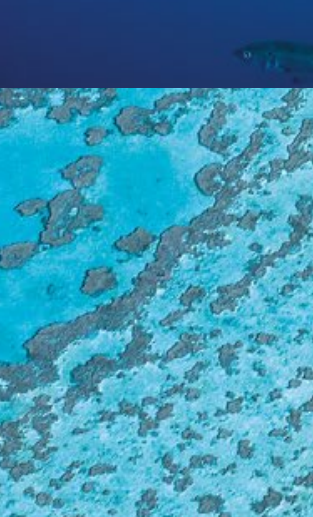
The UN's World Heritage Committee has ordered Australia must give them an update next year as it keeps a close watch on promises to protect the reef. The committee threatened to place the world's largest reef system on the In Danger list at its July meeting after concerns over dredging, coastal developments, pollution and climate change. An In Danger listing would have been a major set back for Australia, where the reef contributes an estimated \$5.7 billion annually to the nation's economy and employs 69,000 people. In the Hamilton Island area, reef-based tourism, recreation and fishing adds \$500 million to the economy every year, according to a 2013 analysis commissioned by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Authority, the government body responsible for managing the reef. The World Heritage Committee, which listed the reef in 1981, said it remained concerned that "climate change, poor water quality and impacts from coastal development" were having an impact on the unique ecosystem. But the committee was satisfied that if the Queensland and Federal governments' Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan was fully implemented, including \$200 million pledged to improve water quality, this would make the reef more resilient. Conservation groups welcomed the decision but some have warned that the reef is still in danger, particularly from planned increases in coal mining, coal shipping, coastal developments and from climate change. Government-backed reports on the reef's health have consistently listed climate change, caused mainly by the

burning of fossil fuels, as its number one threat. Fossil-fuel burning increases levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, causing global warming and heat extremes, as well as altering the chemistry of the oceans, making them more acidic. Studies have found this ocean acidification will likely slow the growth of corals and could eventually cause coral skeletons to dissolve.

Shani Tager, a climate and energy campaigner for Greenpeace Australia, said the UN decision should not be seen as a reprieve but as a "big red flag".

"UNESCO now joins a long line of scientists, banks, organisations and individuals who are deeply worried about the reef's health. The Australian government can't talk about protecting the reef while aggressively supporting the licensing of mega mines and expansion of coal ports along the Great Barrier Reef coast."

Scientists agree that improving water quality on the reef will improve its chances against the impacts of climate change. Hamilton Island has introduced a number of measures to minimise the potential impact of island activities on the reef. The island has its own recycling plant and a water-treatment facility that converts 95 percent of wastewater into water for use on the island's gardens and parks. Buildings and gardens are designed in a way that reduces the run-off into reef waters and silt and pollution traps have also been installed. Guests can also enjoy activities with environmentally-conscious tourism operators, such as eco-certified sea kayaking.



“SCIENTISTS AGREE THAT IMPROVING WATER QUALITY ON THE REEF WILL IMPROVE ITS CHANCES AGAINST THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE.”

# THE GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK

IT'S THE LARGEST LIVING STRUCTURE ON THE PLANET



It is a maze of colourful reefs stretching **2,300kms**

IT IS BETWEEN **60** AND **250KMS** IN WIDTH

Marine life includes over **600** types of **SOFT AND HARD CORALS**

**1,625** types of fish

**30** species of whales



**100** species of jellyfish

OVER **3,000** VARIETIES OF MOLLUSCS

There are **1,050** islands from small coral cays to larger islands

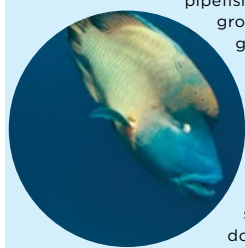
**500** VARIETIES OF WORMS

**133** varieties of sharks and rays

THE OUTER REEF EXTENDS TO A DEPTH OF **2,000MS**

IT HAS AN AVERAGE DEPTH OF **35MS** IN SHORE

PROTECTED SPECIES INCLUDE helmet shells; triton shells; tridacnid clams; seahorses; pipefish; sea dragons; all groupers; whale sharks; great white sharks; sea snakes; crocodiles; marine turtles including the rarely seen olive ridley and leatherback; land birds; sea birds; shore birds; seals; whales; dolphins; dugongs.



# CATCH OF THE DAY

Executive Chef Andrew McConnell drew inspiration from his coastal surrounds while preparing his feast for Weekends of Wonderment at qualia's Pebble Beach restaurant. By Carla Grossetti.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY EARL CARTER

When acclaimed Melbourne chef Andrew McConnell visited the Whitsundays earlier this year he found himself stranded on a deserted island. Thankfully, the escapade was conceptualised by qualia as a castaway adventure more in line with the James Bond franchise rather than the Bear Grylls brand. McConnell and his partner Jo, were dropped off by speedboat on Henning Island, at the tail end of his cameo as guest chef at the Weekends of Wonderment event at qualia in May this year. While on the island, McConnell says he found himself enjoying the unfamiliar sensation of having absolutely nothing to do. "Being dropped off with my partner Jo on a deserted island where we didn't see another soul for the entire afternoon was not on my bucket list... but it should have been," says the 46-year-old, who, as Executive Chef of five Melbourne eateries, works an average of 60 hours a week. "There were rock oysters everywhere, we saw a massive turtle swimming past us and we had a picnic on our own private beach. It truly was an amazing experience," says McConnell, whose award-winning restaurants include Cumulus Inc., Cutler & Co. and Supernormal. McConnell says qualia orchestrated an idyllic afternoon setting that included a bottle of Veuve Clicquot, a gourmet picnic hamper, striped sun-loungers and a beach umbrella. Although he was working while in the Whitsundays, he says

he found exploring the string of islands a real pleasure.

"I had never been to Hamilton Island and I was blown away by the sheer beauty of the Whitsundays, the purity of the air, the water quality and the stunning mountains that frame the island and the vista," he says.

Although whispers of McConnell's greatness follow him around Melbourne, the modest chef prefers to keep a low profile. "I prefer to fly under the radar a bit and spend my time in my restaurants with my chefs and customers," he says.

The intimate Weekends of Wonderment getaways are events that appeal 'to those with a love affair of all things luxurious and artisanal'. As part of the weekend activities, McConnell joined marine biologist Matt Vickers and 21 guests for an exclusive hands-on crabbing expedition. McConnell describes the experience as one of the highlights of his career.

"In Melbourne, the crabs I order for my restaurants arrive in a polystyrene box. This was the first time I'd ever been crabbing, so to go out on the water with Matt the crab whisperer was really special.

"I learnt how to pick a good crab, about the fishery's sustainable practices, how to pull up a mud crab from a sustainable crab pot and it gave me a greater appreciation of the ingredient," he says.

McConnell says a highlight of the event was being able to cook and plate up the mud crabs

Andrew McConnell.



Heirloom tomato salad, fresh burrata, Luna Rosa Rosé 2015.



Soft meringue, sheep's milk yoghurt, apple and shiso granita, Frogmore Creek Iced Riesling 2013.



“WATCHING THE SUN SET BETWEEN TWO ISLANDS WHILE COOKING DINNER FOR AN INTIMATE GROUP ON A LONG TABLE OVERLOOKING THE OCEAN... I REALLY HAD TO PINCH MYSELF... IT WAS MAGIC.”

within hours of plucking them from the sea. His menu at qualia's Pebble Beach restaurant included: canapés of devilled crab; an heirloom tomato salad draped with fresh burrata; forbidden rice, picked crab and nettle; Shiro kin wagyu sirloin with pepper sauce and grilled onions; and a salad of broccoli, egg and bonito. Sweet tooths were also reeled in with soft meringue, sheep's milk yoghurt, apple and shiso granita.

For breakfast the next day, McConnell cooked shakshouka poached egg, feta, spinach and dukkah - a cult dish that has been on the menu at Cumulus Inc. for seven years and would “start a riot if it were removed”.

While McConnell trained in Europe and is well-versed in high-end techniques, he also spent a lot of time travelling in Asia and says his style is a distillation of all these influences.

“The flavours in Japan and China have really influenced me, as did the precision and restraint evident with both cuisines. I enjoy the regional differences in Japanese and Chinese cuisine as well as the techniques they use which are honest to the origin of the flavours,” he says.

As for what inspired McConnell during Weekends of Wonderment, he says it was being in an exciting new environment, using great local products and being able to get to know the 20 or so guests who gathered to enjoy his cooking.

“Watching the sun set between two islands while cooking dinner for an intimate group on a long table overlooking the sea was so far removed from my kitchens in Flinders Lane or Gertrude Street in Melbourne. I really had to pinch myself... it was magic,” says McConnell. “It felt intimate and it felt worldly and it was as much about connecting with the food we eat as it was connecting with each other.”

Andrew McConnell and assistant John Paul Twomey.



Andrew McConnell preparing.



Shiro kin wagyu sirloin, pepper sauce, slow roast onions, Cullen 'Diana Madeline' Cabernet Merlot 2012.





# LESSONS WITH THE GOLF PRO

## HAMILTON ISLAND GOLF CLUB



© Gary Lisbon

Located just a stone's throw from Hamilton Island, on neighbouring Dent Island, the 18 hole championship Hamilton Island Golf Club has some of the most spectacular views of any golf course in the world, making it the perfect place to learn how to play or brush up on your golfing skills. Lessons with the resident Golf Professional range from 30 minutes, to 1 hour or a full 9 holes and can help you learn how to play, or improve your short or long game or course management skills. Club and shoe hire is also available from the well-stocked Pro Shop.

To find out more contact the Hamilton Island Golf Club  
on 07 4948 9760 or [golf@hamiltonisland.com.au](mailto:golf@hamiltonisland.com.au)

[www.hamiltonislandgolfclub.com.au](http://www.hamiltonislandgolfclub.com.au)



HAMILTON ISLAND  
**GOLF CLUB**  
GREAT BARRIER REEF AUSTRALIA

WINE

Winemaker,  
Larry  
Cherubino.

# ALL IN GOOD TASTE



IMAGE COURTESY OF ROBERT OATLEY VINEYARDS.

## Think most wine lists read like a Russian novel? Wine advisor Darren Jahn deconstructs the often-confusing world of wine tasting and the art of articulating what you like.

Most people don't "taste" wine, they simply drink the stuff. There's nothing wrong with that; it's just a drink, after all. Wine consumption should be about enjoyment and that usually means not having to think too hard about things. Rather than be the centre of attention, wine exists to complement a situation, a meal or a moment.

As a wine professional, most of the time I "taste" wine quite seriously. However when enjoying a bottle with friends, I rarely think of it in detail, just in the simplest of terms — Do I like it? Does it suit the occasion? Do I want another glass? Usually I do. Bob Oatley rarely gets technical when discussing a wine, instead simply cutting to the chase: "It's really well balanced"; "I like the taste" or "That's a two-bottle drop", meaning he would reach for a second bottle.

Winemaker Larry Cherubino, one of Australia's most talented vintners, always writes his wine notes in simple, concise terms. His description of Robert Oatley Finisterre Margaret River Cabernet Sauvignon? "Layered earth and cassis. Silky texture. Sweet dark fruits." Could he be any more succinct?

How much do you need to know about wine to enjoy it? Not that much, according to the late, master wine man, Len Evans, but a little knowledge goes a long way to enhancing your experience. He likened it to his love of music, the more he learnt about music, the more he enjoyed it, with each level of learning leading to a greater appreciation "which heightened the pleasure". So, here are some simple tips for expanding your enjoyment of wine.

Keep it simple. When you try a wine, try to register the simplest of flavour sensations. Is it sweet or dry, light or heavy, crisp or rich? The question I'm most often asked is "Tell me what I should be tasting?", to which I answer "What is it you can taste?". There's no right or wrong in what you identify or prefer. Remember. Make an effort to remember wines you've enjoyed, even if all you recall is the grape and age. If you say to me you've enjoyed young pinot noir or an aged rich chardonnay, I can easily find you some similar suggestions on any decent list.

Wine lists should provide guidance. Most lists are

arranged by style from lightest through heaviest, so if you find a wine/style you know that you like, try something within a few lines of it on the list. Be sure to tell your server what you're doing, so you don't accidentally move from dry riesling to fruity, sweet traminer, which are frequently side by side at the top of the wine card.

Trust your server. If in doubt ask the person serving you. It's quite likely that, as young as some may appear, they've frequently tasted many of the wines on their list and/or in their store and will ask you a few easy questions to point you in the right direction of a new wine to try.

I'm paid to taste, write and talk about wine — it's a hard life, I know — so yes, I can wax lyrical if need be. But I find people most responsive when I describe

"KEEP IT SIMPLE.  
WHEN YOU TRY  
A WINE, TRY  
TO REGISTER  
THE SIMPLEST  
OF FLAVOUR  
SENSATIONS. IS IT  
SWEET OR DRY,  
LIGHT OR HEAVY,  
CRISP OR RICH?"

a wine in simple terms. Here are four quite different drops you will find on Hamilton Island wine lists or in the bottle shop. I wonder if the descriptions will hit the mark for you?

**Robert Oatley Signature Series Riesling.** Light, crisp and dry, with fruity citrus characters of (ripe, not tart) lemon and lime. If you like this you might also enjoy a pinot gris or grigio.

**Cumulus Chardonnay.** Fuller-bodied, with distinctive woody character from spending time in

oak barrels. This is a richer drop, yet refreshing and more-ish. Most chardonnays share this general characteristic when less than three or four years of age, so simply branch out and try another.

**Rockburn Devil's Staircase Pinot Noir.** Incredibly light bodied red wine with strawberry, soft fruit flavours and very little of that drying tannin you'd expect from a red. It's a delicate grape that has few peers. If you'd like a little more weight, try a sangiovese or tempranillo.

**The Yard Acacia Shiraz.** Arguably Australia's most successful grape and this is just one of many great examples on Hamilton Island's lists. Shiraz wines range from light and soft through to big and rich but this is in the middle of the spectrum, with ripe dark fruits and chocolate notes. Want to try another? Tell your server your favourite shiraz and seek their suggestion.

And remember, the best judge of wine is you. It doesn't matter what anyone says about a wine if you like it and are happy with your choice. Cheers.

Your comments or questions are welcome: [djahn@robertoatley.com.au](mailto:djahn@robertoatley.com.au)

## FAB FOUR

Robert Oatley  
Signature  
Series  
Riesling.



Cumulus  
Chardonnay.



Rockburn  
Devil's  
Staircase  
Pinot Noir.



The Yard  
Acacia Shiraz.



**CHATEAU DE SOURS BORDEAUX ROSÉ**  
Terrific dry rosé made from classic Bordeaux grapes merlot and cabernet – a wine of style and substance.

**BEACH HUT PINK MOSCATO**  
Deliciously sweet and slightly bubbly, it smells and tastes of ripe muscat grapes.

**WILD OATS ROSÉ**  
Hailing from the Oatley family's Mudgee vineyards this is a modern Aussie pink wine, dry and ever so slightly savoury. Very more-ish indeed.

**TALTARNI TACHÉ**  
Australia's best value and quality sparkling rosé made in the classic French tradition and stained (Taché is French for stain) with a splash of red wine. Vibrant, dry, refreshing.

**PIPER-HEIDSIECK ROSÉ SAUVAGE**  
'Sauvage' refers to wild and this is wildy pink – deep and vibrant from the addition of red pinot noir still wine to the base blend. A serious sparkling rosé that partners a meal well.

**LUNA ROSA ROSADO**  
Ever so slightly sweet with a European style about it, this is perfect summer picnic sipping.

# THINK PINK

We love a drop of rosé it helps us relax after a long hard day. And it's the perfect drop for island drinking.  
By Darren Jahn.

Spring marks the start of pink wine season, leading well through the summer months, although many would argue it's year-round on Hamilton Island. What makes a wine pink? Essentially a rosé wine is half-way between white and red, made either by the winemaker adding a little red wine to a white wine, blushing it pink or by leaving the juice of a red grape in contact with the skins (where the colour is) for a very short time, once again, staining the juice pink. Broadly speaking, they can be sweet (most white zinfandel and all pink moscato), dry (most rosé table wines) or sparkling (dry and bubbly, everything through bright and breezy to top notch Champagne). Here my tips for island sipping – available from the Hamilton Island bottle shop and in many of the restaurants.



## The iconic Hamilton Island Yacht Club

brings a new standard of excellence to business events, providing a meeting and event venue like no other in Australia. Together with a further diverse range of business facilities across the island and an award-winning team of event professionals, Hamilton Island can cater for groups of 10 to 1,000 delegates. All this within easy reach, with direct flights from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Cairns.

**Hamilton Island Yacht Club, winner of the MEA 2014 QLD Specialty Meeting Venue**

[www.hamiltonisland.com.au/BusinessEvents](http://www.hamiltonisland.com.au/BusinessEvents)



**HAMILTON ISLAND**  
GREAT BARRIER REEF AUSTRALIA

# THE INVENTOR

Josep Espuga is the head chef combining Spanish flair, indigenous Australian flavour and fine dining with a fresh edge at Hamilton Island Yacht Club's Bommie Restaurant. By Tracey Withers.

**W**e're looking at fate on a plate. Josep Espuga earned his first stripes in the kitchen of his parents' restaurant in Oliana, in

Catalonia, Spain. It's a pretty village right up next to the French border, crowded by huge limestone mountains that are topped with ice caps in winter. Now, via Barcelona, Michelin-starred addresses in Madrid, San Sebastian and Bilbao, a stint in New York and Bohemian restaurant (which he opened) in Melbourne, he's living the tropical dream in the Whitsundays.

"I came to Hamilton Island two years ago with my partner and some friends on holiday and I loved it — so much," Espuga says. "When I heard the Yacht Club wanted a new head chef, I applied immediately... and here I am." He moved to his island home on January 26: Australia Day. "Perfect, right?"

Kismet, karma... whatever it is, the force that landed Espuga at Bommie tastes like magic. "The basis of my cooking style has always been about using the best local produce, and I love what I can do here on Hamilton Island because the seafood, the produce is all so different from the other places I've been," says Espuga. "Cooking local [produce] is better for our guests because they get to taste unique food, it's better for the environment, and it's better for flavour because we respect the seasons." Michelin credentials don't just give Espuga the skill to balance depth and zing in a finely tuned menu. "That kind of background teaches a chef to really innovate," he explains of his time in those highly pressured environments. "Every week, we do the Saturday Night Project: a different chef from the restaurant experiments with a new dish and all the chefs taste it. If we all love it, we might put it on the tasting menu."

The new a la carte line-up at Bommie fuses fish



Reef fish with saffron rice, crispy chicken skin, Jerusalem artichoke, beetroot crisps, shaved macadamia and fired micro mint.

"THE BASIS OF MY COOKING STYLE HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT USING THE BEST LOCAL PRODUCE, AND I LOVE WHAT I CAN DO HERE ON HAMILTON ISLAND."

caught in Queensland — "There are similar species in other places in the world, but they are only 'similar'" — with other Australian accents. "We are cooking fish inside paperbark, a tree bark which indigenous people would wrap their fish in before cooking over flames. One of my favourite dishes on the menu now is

kangaroo, and we're working on one with emu," Espuga says. "I love these meats. They remind me of the beautiful venison and boar we had in Spain but they are unique." Indigenous bush-tucker plants and bushes such as the sharp lemon myrtle, piquant mountain pepperberry and eucalyptus leaves put a local spin on some more global favourites. "We do a quail dish with a honey-and-soy sauce that I've made in other places, but, here, I also infuse it with a lemon myrtle jelly that cuts through the richness." So, so good.

"I'm excited by being here but also I think experiencing indigenous bush ingredients is very interesting to any overseas visitor, and for Australians, too. Some have been used for thousands of years — it's part of the country, the history," says Espuga. Book us a table immediately.



Josep Espuga,  
Bommie  
Restaurant.

## CHARGRILLED KANGAROO STRIPLIIN MARINATED IN POMEGRANATE MOLASSES, ROASTED BLUE PUMPKIN, BEEF BONE MARROW AND PINE MUSHROOMS

### INGREDIENTS FOR FOUR

800g kangaroo striploin  
1/4 blue pumpkin  
500g pine mushrooms  
Dried mountain pepperberry  
100g beef bone marrow  
Nasturtium leaves  
Murray River pink salt  
Extra virgin olive oil

For the pomegranate molasses

700g pomegranate seeds  
100g manuka honey  
100ml soy sauce  
50ml ginger vinegar

### METHOD

To make the pomegranate molasses, mix all the ingredients in a pot, bring the mixture to a boil and simmer for 15 minutes or until the liquid takes on a syrupy texture.

Strain and cool it down in the fridge.

While the pomegranate molasses is cooling, cut the pumpkin, skin on, into half moon shapes, approximately 2cm thick.

Place it on a baking tray and season it with Murray River pink salt, top with extra virgin olive oil and ground dried mountain pepperberries.

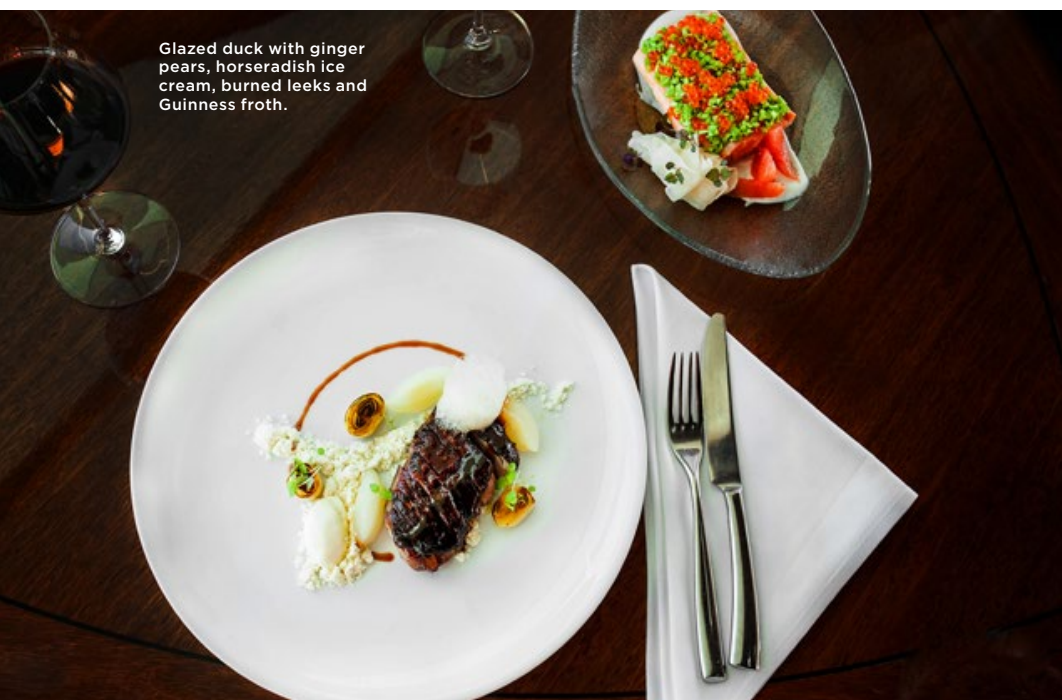
Bake for 40 minutes at 180 degrees.

Once the pumpkin has baked for 35 minutes, top with the thinly sliced bone marrow and place back into the oven to finish baking for the remaining 5 minutes.

Cover the kangaroo striploin with the pomegranate molasses and place it back into the fridge for 30 minutes to marinate. Remove the meat from the marinade and grill it on a very hot chargrill or barbeque.

At the same time begin cooking the pine mushrooms on the grill. Season them with salt and olive oil or make a fresh herb oil with parsley, garlic and olive oil and dress it on top of the mushrooms while cooking.

Serve the kangaroo medium rare with the roasted pumpkin and bone marrow on the side, accompanied with pine mushrooms, fresh herb oil and nasturtium leaves.



Glazed duck with ginger pears, horseradish ice cream, burned leeks and Guinness froth.

# MEET THE MAKERS



Candlemaker Elise Pioch Balzac and artist and florist Dr Lisa Cooper brought their creative magic to Hamilton Island's Weekends of Wonderment series. Here the two sensory experts interview each other.

TEXT BY NOELLE FAULKNER PHOTOGRAPHY BY KARA ROSENLUND

Scent and symbolism are the currencies in which Elise Pioch Balzac and Dr Lisa Cooper trade, and in May, these artisans shared their skills with a group of guests as part of Hamilton Island's Weekends of Wonderment event series.

French-born Pioch Balzac (yes, a relative of Honoré de Balzac), the founder of candle brand Maison Balzac and with an enviable fashion pedigree (she has worked at Hermès and is the ex-buyer for Belinda and The Corner Shop boutiques in Sydney), rides the line between fashion and nature with her exquisitely scented wax creations. And Dr Lisa Cooper, who holds a masters in fine art and a PhD in philosophy, is arguably one of the most enchanting florists in Sydney, having collaborated on wild, creative blooms for The Australian Ballet, Tiffany & Co. the MCA and the Sydney Theatre Company. Last year, the duo teamed up to launch a scented candle called 1642, which was conceptually based on a Baroque painting by Adriaen Van Utrecht, and will soon release their second scent together, inspired by Saint Thérèse of Lisieux.

## ELISE PIOCH BALZAC:

"I AM FASCINATED BY YOUR OBSESSION WITH FLOWERS WHICH LED YOU TO HAVE IMAGES OF THEM ENGRAVED ON YOUR SKIN. IS IT A WAY TO MAKE ONE WITH THEM?"

**DR LISA COOPER:** "I guess so. It's a way I mark emotional moments in my life and it draws from traditional flower symbolism, and my own personal ideas. I had an obsession with olive and the symbolism of that, so I tattooed it onto my chest. I felt compelled to have some violets as well, so I had a look at the meaning of violets and found that the Greeks used to plant the tiny violet among the enormous olive trees because they believed they protected them from evil spirits, which is just a lovely thing to imagine."


**ELISE PIOCH BALZAC:** "DURING YOUR FLORISTRY CLASS AT WOW, YOU TALKED TO US ABOUT PASSION. DO YOU FIND RELIEF IN EXPRESSING YOURSELF WITH FLOWERS RATHER THAN WORDS, AS A CATHARTIC MEDIUM?"

**DR LISA COOPER:** "I don't think it's pure catharsis, but I know that there is a reward for my soul and my mind and my senses when I work with flowers. They keep me coming back! [laughs] It's sensorial and somehow it appeases my emotions."





Candle making class.



Elise Pioch Balzac, flower masterclass.



Candle making class.



Dr Lisa Cooper.

**ELISE PIOCH BALZAC:** “YOUR WAY OF WORKING WITH FLOWERS IS SO EXTRAORDINARY THAT I WOULD BE TEMPTED TO CALL YOU A CONTEMPORARY FLORAL ARTIST. WOULD THAT SUIT YOU?”

**DR LISA COOPER:** “I prefer artist *and* florist. Floristry is a very ancient trade; I think saying I’m a ‘floral artist’ and not a florist, diminishes that. Likewise, artists train in the conceptual aspect, often for many years, and it would be diminishing to suggest that someone who is a beautiful florist is also an artist. It’s like the fact that you’re a candlemaker connects you to this amazing ancient way of working. It’s beautiful.”

**ELISE PIOCH BALZAC:** “DO YOU THINK YOUR EUROPEAN ROOTS [ITALIAN] HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOUR ART?”

**DR LISA COOPER:** “My emotions are the front of me; I wear them on my sleeves, I’m connected to them and work from them all the

time. I think that’s very European. I also think that my ancestors have toiled a great deal, so I feel like I’m standing on the shoulders of giants to be making the work that I do.”

**ELISE PIOCH BALZAC:** “IF WE HAD TO CREATE A THIRD FRAGRANCE TOGETHER, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE IT TO BE?”

**DR LISA COOPER:** [laughs] “Cheeky devil! Oh, what could we do now?!”

**DR LISA COOPER:** “YOU HAVE SAID TO ME THAT FOR YOU QUALIA EPITOMISES LUXURY. WHY?”

**ELISE PIOCH BALZAC:** “Yes that’s right. The first time I entered qualia, right from the front gate, I thought to myself “This is pure luxury”. To me, luxury should never be loud or obvious. The resort offers the simplest perfection, it cultivates privacy and discretion, it uses the best materials, the best ingredients, nature surrounds every corner, it’s very powerful.”



Elise Pioch Balzac, floral masterclass.



**DR LISA COOPER:** “TELL US ABOUT YOUR WORK AT HERMÈS AND HOW THAT TIME INFLUENCED THE WAY YOU RUN MAISON BALZAC?”

**ELISE PIOCH BALZAC:** “Straight after my masters degree in business, specialising in fashion, I worked for Hermès in the communication department. To say it was a dream job would be an understatement. I learnt their consistent, serene and elegant personality, I saw them ask each employee what their dream was and heard them make a few come true. At Hermès, dreams and poetry are key values and this is very special.”

**DR LISA COOPER:** “I KNOW THAT YOU ARE DRIVEN IN YOUR WORK BY A CONNECTION TO YOUR ANCESTORS. TELL ME MORE ABOUT IT.”

**ELISE PIOCH BALZAC:** “My brand carries the name of my ancestors — my mother’s maiden name is Balzac — because I wanted to have their protection and symbolic approval for everything I do. This is an invisible way for me to make sure that certain criteria are met at all times, like humility, consideration, hard work and a certain poetic approach.”

**DR LISA COOPER:** “WHAT WOULD YOU BE IF YOU WEREN’T A CANDLEMAKER?”

**ELISE PIOCH BALZAC:** “A shepherdess who writes poetry in a small house in the French Pyrenees mountains and I would have a lifetime subscription to French Vogue to build a bridge between my many passions of nature, animals, fashion and literature.”

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**HAMILTON ISLAND WEDDINGS**  
*Australia's favourite wedding destination!*

## FIRST PERSON

Peter Overton and his family having fun for the camera.



# AND NOW FOR MY HOLIDAY...

Peter Overton is one of our favourite newsreaders. He has a generosity of spirit that makes you feel reassured, even when he's delivering the bad news. He first visited Hamilton Island 30 years ago with a group of his fellow uni students. Three decades later he returned with his family and was happy to share the good news with us.



“I chose Hamilton Island because some friends have a place up there and kept saying ‘You must go up and see for yourself how good it is for your family and kids’. The last time I was there was 30 years ago, cruising with a whole lot of university friends in the Whitsundays, and we used to berth at Hamilton Island every other day, and so to go back was fabulous; the memories were great and so evocative. We stayed in a private apartment on the north side of the island with a beautiful view to the Whitsundays. We saw beautiful sunrises because the kids were up for that... Right outside the apartment a wallaby used to come every day, and the kookaburras would sit and watch us. We marvelled at all this wildlife up close. Jessica [Rowe, Peter’s wife and fellow television presenter] did a lot of reading, we spent a lot of time in the pool and we went out to Whitehaven Beach by private boat: we swam, we jumped off the boat, we walked the beach. It’s better than the pictures, it’s unbelievable. I said to my kids, aged five and seven, ‘Isn’t this one of the most beautiful places you’ve ever been to? They loved it. They couldn’t believe they could jump off a boat into this crystal-clear water and touch the sand, and bounce back to the top. It was a unique experience for them. And 30 years on for me, it was even better.

I try to switch off from my phone when I’m away. I just look at Twitter to see what’s going on, which is where I saw the first Tweets about the Lindt café siege. And so on the day of the siege we were on Hamilton Island and I spent it in front of the television. I rang the

office and said I could jump on a plane if they needed more hands on deck, so switching off was impossible that day. It was an incredible news event, a moment in our nation’s history, so I couldn’t switch off. Professionally it was one of the most frustrating days of my life because you want to be involved in those big news stories, whether it’s on air or helping out behind the scenes.

The most interesting person I’ve interviewed this year is a young man who is in a really challenging predicament and his strength of character, his maturity beyond his years and what he did to save two lives was

extraordinary and inspiring for me. And that’s a story I’m shooting for 60 Minutes that will air later this year. I just thought ‘Wow, here’s a young man who’s just turned 20 and to have this strength and incredible clarity of mind in a really dangerous predicament’, I said to him ‘We are lucky to have people like you in this world, so switched on and so calm’. I think the most adventurous we got during the holiday was the kookaburra and spending time in the huge Main Pool, so adventurous maybe not, but joyous definitely. Our favourite restaurant, and kid-friendly too, was the Asian fusion coca chu. We could have eaten there every night. Our holiday playlist — well there’s usually the kids’ channel on in the background and if there’s a [cricket] Test on it takes

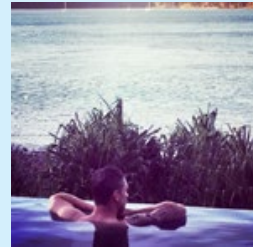
precedence... It was great spending a week without a shirt and a tie. I just wore boardies, polo shirt and no makeup! Hamilton Island was brilliant for the family and we want to go again, we loved it so much. So there you go.”

## PETER ON ACTING

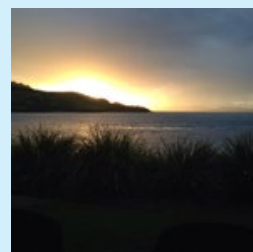
*“I grew up next door to Nicole Kidman and we are still friends; I was a pallbearer at her father’s funeral with my brother. We are lifelong friends of the Kidman family. We used to have backyard concerts and she’d be the star, I’d be the ticket collector and my sibling did various roles as well, but Nicole always knew what she wanted to do and the memories are very, very clear of the great times and the concerts and the plays we used to have. She is a fine woman and I’m delighted at her great success and happiness. I’ve never seen the horror movie The Tunnel, in which I had a cameo. I did that as a favour to some editors at Channel 9. Everyone tells me it’s a great film, but pretty full-on, so I will probably go to my grave never seeing my only acting appearance. Nicole hasn’t called to say would you like to star in this Hollywood blockbuster as my leading man... Although actually a message just beeped on my phone; it might be her.”*

## INSTA-ISLAND

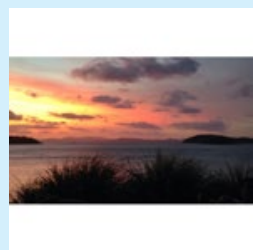
*Wish you were here...  
It’s the modern equivalent  
of a postcard.*



“Just chilling before dinner @kylyclarke @qualiaresort” - @MichaelClarkeOfficial



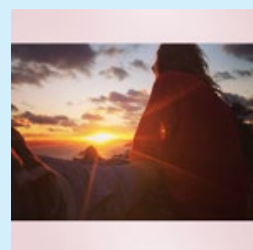
“Happy Easter from Queensland folks. Hope you and your families had a great day. X” - @KStefanovic



“Back to work tomorrow. But tonight... dreaming of this #hamiltonisland” - @SylviaJeffreys



“Love this place #view #hamiltonisland @hamiltonisland” - @erin\_molan



“Whitsunday sunset #HamiltonIsland #qualia” - @LilyJamesOfficial

# THE TWILIGHT SAGA

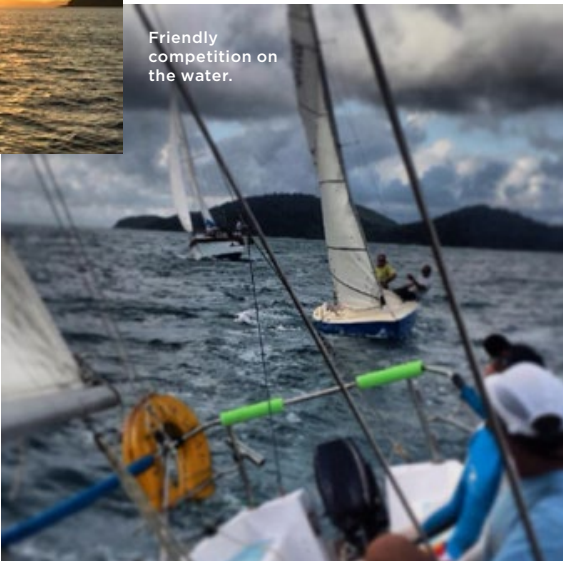
Come high season, the weekly twilight sailing at the Cruising Yacht Club Hamilton Island attracts a merry band of first-timers and seasoned sailors alike with its addictive mix of fun and friendly competition. By Lisa Ratcliff.



IMAGES COURTESY OF MARK STROBEL.



Setting sail, twilight race.



Friendly competition on the water.

“THE COURSE MAY STAY THE SAME BUT THANKS TO THE EVER-CHANGING WIND AND TIDES, EACH WEEK IS UNIQUE.”

**H**amilton Island Yacht Club is the architectural masterpiece at the entry to the island’s deep-water harbour. But there is a second, more discreet yacht club operating behind the scenes from a shared clubhouse, catering to both the island’s permanent and transient resident population, whether they be hardcore pirates or newbies to sailing. For 15 years the Cruising Yacht Club Hamilton Island has operated under the same structure as any registered club. The current committee of six includes an executive chef, real estate principal, workplace trainer and photographer. There’s a growing membership, website, Facebook page and plans to launch a junior program and release a range of merchandise. For many of the between 3,000 and 5,000 people who live on the 220 hectares of Hamilton Island that is developed land (the remaining 70 percent is not), the club’s Wednesday twilight race is a mini-break; a “must do”, according to Hamilton Island Real Estate Principal Wayne Singleton, himself an island resident of 14 years. The club’s 80 members and guests share a clubhouse with the Outrigger Canoe Club and the Wednesday twilight season runs from September to March. The weekly six-nautical-mile shoot starts in Dent Passage off the ‘other club’ and takes the fleet around Plum Pudding and Henning islands and back to Dent for the finish.

Between 40 and 60 sailors, spread out over an average 10 boats of varying sizes, keenly front each week as part of a regular crew, or to hop aboard as invited ballast. Learning and Development Workplace Trainer and CYCHI Commodore Mark Strobel’s focus is on encouraging as many people as possible to experience the beauty of sailing on local waters at a breathtaking time of day. No boat? No problem, says the commodore. Residents such as Bruce Absolon, who owns the grand Spirit of the Maid often has more than 20 crew on board his 60-footer. Another resident, Peter Teakle, generously donated matching Sydney 32s that are used as platforms for new sailors. “The course may stay the same but thanks to the ever-changing wind and tides, each week is unique, adding challenge and giving everyone a chance to win,” says Strobel. The handicap also evens out the field, pegging back the seasoned and propelling the back markers to prize-winner status. “We start the season with a race to establish handicaps, then keep an eye on those times and

adjust them,” says the commodore. If you come last you gain a minute, if you come first you drop three minutes. By the end of the season it gets pretty tight on the line.” After a striking sunset sail and a sundowner, there might be a theme night and barbeque, with the meat donated by a local business, and the island band playing. Residents and island staff often wander down to the Outrigger Clubhouse to check out the party. And Hamilton Island CEO Glenn Bourke is welcome at the social events but less so on the start line. “He’s too fast, we’d have to tie buckets to his legs,” Strobel laughs of the boss, a world champion sailor. The club’s program is set to expand when a Discover Sailing program using Optimist dinghies rolls out for the island’s children. A grant is funding the start-up program and the club envisages sailing will be part of the school curriculum by term four this year. Singleton, a crew member on Strobel’s Nantucket 33 named Krystal, says his Wednesday evenings are special. “It’s always a rush to get work done and get the boat ready. We’ve had whales jumping and amazing sunsets, then it’s back to the club for a laugh. If you can’t make a race, you get disappointed because you are missing out.”

For further information visit [cychi.com.au](http://cychi.com.au) or find the club on Facebook under Cruising Hamilton Island.

## SNAP TO IT

Collette Dinnigan has been taking photographs since she was a teenager starting with an old Kodak camera. She's passionate about taking pictures of friends, beautiful moments and sharing things that inspire her from fields of flowers, sunsets, her travels and backstage at all her shows.



"Montana and Gabby having fun on #hamiltonisland last week" - @collettedinnigan



"That's a wrap @alexandraagoston #collettedinniganResort14" - @collettedinnigan



"The line up #AHIRW #collettedinniganresort14" - @collettedinnigan



"Beautiful sunset #AHIRW #qualia minutes before my show" - @collettedinnigan

# THE WOMAN WHO KNOWS WHAT WOMEN WANT

Collette Dinnigan has presented her resort collection at Audi Hamilton Island Race Week for nine years, now on the eve of a Powerhouse Museum exhibition, Unlaced, she shares some of her favourite pieces – and her memories of showing on island and what comes next.

**T**he first show we did was at qualia and at that stage the resort hadn't even opened. Race Week was this whole yachting world and it became the perfect backdrop for us - and then over the years it became a fixture on the fashion calendar too with everyone wanting to go up and be part of it. The most poignant memories of Hamilton Island always include hot balmy nights, colourful clothes, and everyone with a smile.

It's challenging working on an island but we loved using what's local so the palm trees, the gardenias from the garden but the backdrop itself was enough to make the nights magical. We staged shows down by the pool at Pebble Beach (qualia) and everyone was relaxed, chilled out and not wanting to leave afterwards because we were all having such a great time. It always felt right, being in a luxury resort, so much fun, the clothes looked good, the girls looked great - a sexy summers night.

I definitely have sea legs without a doubt, and so I understand island style and it's not about running around in high heeled shoes, it's about having a relaxed feel still with a sense of occasion and I think colour, water, those elements are really important for doing a

resort show. And Hamilton Island is the perfect backdrop to show a resort collection. You can't show 'city' clothes.

Although I'm not designing main collections, I'm still designing other things and curating the Powerhouse exhibition - which is a retrospective of the past twenty-five years of my work - and using a creative eye, which has never left me, I am always engaging in a creative idea. I'm doing a children's collection that will go into David Jones in August and launching

a lingerie collection in September and have just finished a collection for Anthropologie, which is all about island style. My schedule this year has been full, busier than doing a show in Paris, although even when I was showing in Paris there was always something else – a book, other projects on the go. I'm doing a wallpaper project for Porter's (Paints) that will launch next year and so I'm constantly researching and doing sketches, colour palettes. Women do still come and ask if I'll design again - but my decision was to be with my family and spend time with them. Even though I'm working every day now I'm present with them all the time, I don't have to be in a studio in the same way.



"I DEFINITELY HAVE SEA LEGS WITHOUT A DOUBT, AND SO I UNDERSTAND ISLAND STYLE... IT'S ABOUT HAVING A RELAXED FEEL STILL WITH A SENSE OF OCCASION."

Designing collections involves so much, it requires a lot of me and I'm not sure I'm ready to do it again, yet."

PHOTOGRAPHY: ANDREA FRANCOLINI; HOLLY BLAKE.





Fluid and utterly feminine, Collette Dinnigan's signature style. Some of Collette Dinnigan's past designs will be on display at this year's Audi Hamilton Island Race Week.



## THE THREE R'S: REST, RELAXATION, REEF

Relax, we're on island time now, and whether there's a day or a week left, you've time to explore the natural wonders of the Great Barrier Reef. Take a day-trip out to the Reefworld viewing platform where you can snorkel through the brilliantly coloured coral formations. Our other favourite and a totally spectacular way of soaking up the big, postcard-perfect picture is with a memorable scenic spin in a chopper with Hamilton Island Air. Prefer to take it slower? Spend a half or full day touring around the secret spots of the Whitsunday islands or dive and snorkel out at Bait Reef with the Explore Group experts.

## HEAVEN ON EARTH: WHITEHAVEN

It's always tough to tear yourself away from the legendary sparkling silica sand of Whitehaven Beach, but anyone who ventures deeper into the interior of Whitsunday Island — the largest in the archipelago — declares it a holiday highlight. Head north, up to pristine Hill Inlet and track the history of the indigenous Ngaro people. Walk south through the native bush instead and find spectacular swimming and hidden snorkelling spots. It feels wonderfully remote, although in reality is just a short trip by helicopter, yacht or motorboat from Hamilton Island.



## BODY AND SOUL

A morning yoga session is one of the best ways to start the day. A good stretch, a Body Pump class, weight session, cardio workout or game of tennis at the Hamilton Island Sports Club leaves us energised, psyched for a healthy day. Guests staying at Hamilton Island-owned accommodation can also pick up a complimentary catamaran, kayak, windsurfer or paddleboard from Beach Sports on Catseye Beach. Paddle out, get wet and just go for it. There are 20 kilometres of bushwalking tracks leading to breathtaking lookouts and photo opportunities all over the island. A free audio tour (available in various languages) highlights the flora and amazing fauna along the way.



## 4 ME TIME

Deep inside the lush gardens of the Resort Centre is the sanctuary that is Spa wumurdaylin. Check in, rejuvenate your skin, soul and body, and completely bliss out. The therapists here are intuitive and apply indigenous-inspired treatments by Waterlily and LI'TYA in customised cocoons, scrubs, rituals and facial therapies. See a nutritionist or alternative therapist for the full wellbeing experience. Need a humidity-proof blow dry, wedding upstyle or emergency spray tan? Book into Island Hair and Beauty, also near the Resort Centre.





## ALL HANDS

Some do it for the sport, some for the buzz; others just want to relax and ride the tropical breeze. Hire a skippered yacht charter; cruise the easy-to-navigate islands, beaches and bays on your own bareboat charter; or soak up the best of sea and land with a sail-and-stay package. Budding captains can book lessons with the island's expert sailing crews to earn internationally-accredited qualifications. If a quiet sail into the sunset or luxury dinner cooked on board a traditional cruiser is more your style, then raise a sundowner and simply enjoy.

# 6

## CATCH OF THE DAY

We love fishing and the joys of reeling in our own fresh catch. Hook up with Predator Fishing or Renegade Fishing Charters — those seasoned salty fishermen can hire a private or share charter while first-timers can get advice on where the big fish are biting. The crew will demonstrate how to clean and prepare a catch for dinner. If you want to go solo, Hamilton Island Dinghy Hire is the best bet for a boat, bait and tackle.



## THE YOUNG ONES

First stop is the Resort Centre to put dibs on a Water Walker, a big blow-up bubble that you climb inside and roll out onto the water. Sports fans will also get a kick out of a few rounds of mini golf or a strike at the island's seven-lane bowling centre. Thrill-seekers aged six to 14 years can take on the Quads for Kids adventure course in Palm Valley. And the young ones will find new friends to hang out with in the Kids Fun Zone play area or the Clownfish Club childcare centre.

## GOLF: ARE YOU READY FOR IT?

Catch the ferry across to our fairway to heaven — the Hamilton Island Golf Club — and you'll be amazed. Even when it's not about teeing off, this is the place to visit thanks to the breathtaking views. Follow up a tour of the unbelievable Dent Island scenery with a laidback lunch in the Clubhouse. The exacting course was designed by the legendary five-time British Open champion Peter Thomson, which throws down an 18-hole challenge to semi-pros and Sunday swingers alike.

# 8



## THE SANCTUARY

Say hello to Freddie the talking sulphur-crested cockatoo (he might even say "Hi" back), Hippo the wombat or Elvis the koala and his family. Slippery lizards and snakes, creepy spiders, kangaroos, dingoes, the fierce Australian cassowary and the island's own resident crocodile are all here at Wild Life Hamilton Island. Take a guided walk to meet the animals, then stop for breakfast or lunch at the café. But under no circumstances can you leave without a cuddle and photograph with a koala: a surefire Instagram favourite.

# 9



# 10

## GO FASTER

Clocked up enough relaxation by the pool for now? Hire some wheels and ride the fire trails and bush tracks on an all-terrain vehicle. It's a blast, and one of the best ways to get to rugged outlooks on the island. More of an on-roader? Why not burn around the go-kart track or hire a golf buggy to get to know Hamilton Island. They are easy to drive and really just so much fun.

To find out more or book your tours and activities visit the Resort Centre Tour Desk or call 07 4946 8305.

Whitehaven Beach  
Hill Inlet.

## FIVE MINUTES WITH...

Nick Bates, the Cruise Whitsundays' intrepid guide to having a good time, whether out on the Great Barrier Reef or heading further afield to the islands. By Tracey Withers.

**REEF:** YOUR OFFICIAL JOB TITLE?

**NICK BATES:** "I'm a tour guide. 'Unofficial' job title is probably the best tour guide around the Whitsundays!"

**REEF:** THAT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE GOT SERIOUS CREDENTIALS?

**NICK BATES:** "Well, I'm coming up to my first year working as a tour guide with Cruise Whitsundays, but I've been a local pretty much all of my life. I really do love it around here, wouldn't ever want to escape."

**REEF:** SO, WE NEED LOCAL INSIDER INFORMATION. WHERE'S YOUR FAVOURITE SPOT?

**NICK BATES:** "On the island, I'd have to say

One Tree Hill — there's a new bar up there and it's got a panoramic view of Hamilton Island and the surrounding Whitsundays. That's got to be the best place on land."

**REEF:** AND ON A BOAT?

**NICK BATES:** "I'd be straight out to Whitehaven, to Chalkies Beach. It's the smaller beach on the western side of Haslewood Island and has the same quality of fine, white [silica] sand that you get on bigger Whitehaven Beach, but that's where I would go for snorkelling."

**REEF:** IS THAT WHERE WE GO TO SEE ELECTRIC-BLUE DAMSELFISH, ANGEL AND BUTTERFLY FISH? WHAT ABOUT HAWKSBILL SEA TURTLES?

**NICK BATES:** "Yes, the marine life is beautiful out there. There's a lot to see. My favourite type of fish that you get out there are small, and fluorescent green."

**REEF:** WHAT'S THE FAVOURITE TOUR YOU DO WITH CRUISE WHITSUNDAYS?

**NICK BATES:** "My trip out to the Great Barrier Reef. I have an awesome experience every time we go out. I take you up to Hardy Reef, where we've got the floating Reefworld Pontoon. We have lunch out there, there's shade to relax in and an underwater viewing chamber. It's absolutely the best place to swim or snorkel right over the top of the reef."

**REEF:** AT THE RIGHT TIME OF YEAR,



Cruise Whitsundays  
Reefworld Pontoon.



Whitehaven  
Beach.

IN ABOUT SEPTEMBER, IT'S GOT A FRONT SEAT FOR WHALE WATCHING TOO, RIGHT?

**NICK BATES:** "Yes. And all year you have the amazing coral that people really remember the Great Barrier Reef for. The colours are unbelievable."

**REEF:** YOUR FAVOURITE VESSEL IN THE FLEET?

**NICK BATES:** "Hands down, it's Camira, our commercial catamaran. It's the fastest one in Australia. Camira's definitely the one for adventurers looking to have a real sailing experience, to get the wind in your hair and really explore the islands."



Nick Bates.

Book your tour with Cruise Whitsundays at [cruisewhitsundays.com](http://cruisewhitsundays.com)

# VIRTUAL REALITY REEF TOURS



*We love a tropical hit of high tech. If you find yourself in the international lounge or on select overseas flights on Qantas, put your hand up for one of the virtual-reality Samsung Gear VR headsets that have just been programmed with a 360-degree, enhanced-effects virtual-reality tour of Hamilton Island highlights and the Great Barrier Reef. It's all been shot in Virtual Reality with Rapid Films and the spectacular underwater scenes are so believable you should probably be in a bikini. "Recent Tourism Australia research shows Australia is now the highest-rated destination for 'world class beauty' and natural environments, with the Great Barrier Reef rated as the third most appealing attraction," says Hamilton Island CEO, Glenn Bourke. The Hamilton Island Virtual Reality experience so far has wowed everyone and is a great way to get a quick taste of what's on offer. "However, nothing can beat actually seeing the reef in person. It's an exhilarating and unbeatable experience."*

**"AUSTRALIA IS NOW THE HIGHEST-RATED DESTINATION FOR 'WORLD CLASS BEAUTY' AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS."**



[hamiltonisland.com.au/virtualreality](http://hamiltonisland.com.au/virtualreality)

# IRON WOMAN

Jill Spargo is a passionate golfer. And well she would be, she's been playing since she was old enough to hold a club, says Rod Morri.



It would be fair to describe Jill Spargo as a golf nut. Or even a golf nerd. Since her mid teens Spargo can't remember a time when golf wasn't front and centre of life and now, as a serving member on the board of the sport's national governing body, Golf Australia, she is as immersed in the game as at any time she can remember.

"Golf nerd would be a fair description," she says with a laugh. "I was born into both golf and the Melbourne Football Club and didn't have a choice about either. But I couldn't be happier." From humble beginnings wielding a 5-iron around the Flinders Golf Club on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula, to testing her 12 handicap on the very best golf courses in the world, there aren't many corners of the globe

where Spargo hasn't indulged her passion for golf.

In recent months she added Hamilton Island Golf Club to that list and came away more than a little impressed.

"I can't think of too many more spectacular places I have played," she says. "The course at Dent Island sort of reminds me a bit of Pebble Beach [California, USA] and Old Head [Cork, Ireland] and a few other really spectacular courses around the world.

"For me, it's up there with all of them. To play the course is like being on top of the world looking down on the Whitsundays... it's just breathtaking."

Spargo has been a member at Melbourne's Peninsula Golf Club for almost 30 years and

her interests in the game are diverse. Her board position with Golf Australia has her thinking about ways to grow the game and ensure its future, while at a personal level she has an interest in course design and its role not only in people's enjoyment of the game but the sustainability of golf in the longer term. "I was part of the greens committee at Peninsula Golf Club when they started a major renovation of the course with Mike Clayton's golf-course company and meeting him really sparked my interest in that side of golf," she says.

"In fact I spent so much time following him around and asking questions about where the women's tees would be going that he eventually asked me to become a consultant on placing

PORTRAIT: JOSH ROBENSTONE/FAIRFAX SYNDICATION.  
PHOTOGRAPHY: ANDREA FRANCOLINI; GARY LISBON;  
JAMES MORGAN.

women's tees at some of the other courses they were working on.

"It was a real learning experience and taught me that golf courses are crucial to the future of the game. The more people enjoy the experience of golf from the beginning, the more likely they are to continue playing."

While the inevitable politics that come with being part of a national governing body can prove a challenge, Spargo says her work with Golf Australia is both stimulating and important.

As an example she cites the current plan to roll the game's state bodies into a unified national organisation which, not surprisingly, is meeting with some resistance.

"Of course there is a lot of politics with a plan like that but at the end of the day it will only be to the good of the game," she says.

"One of [Australian] golf's great drawbacks

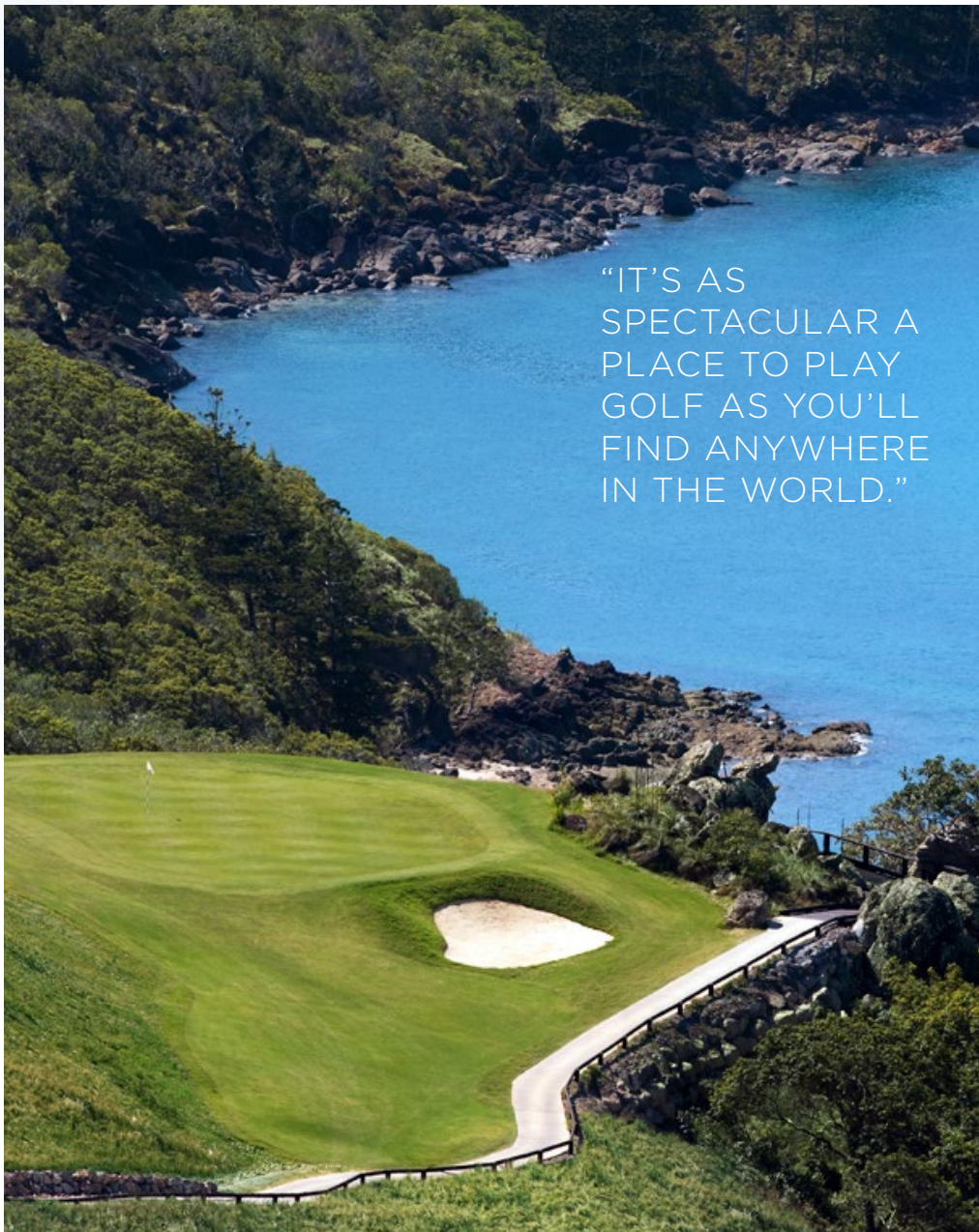
has always been that there is no single, united front representing the game as a whole and that's what we're trying to achieve.

"It's only natural that there be some resistance but hopefully we're managing that reasonably well and the process can continue to move forward."

Between the rigours of golf administration and her day job as a general practitioner in Melbourne, Spargo has less time for golf than she would like. But when she does get to play her main goal is to simply enjoy the round. And at Hamilton Island she found fun in spades.

"My advice to anyone going to play Hamilton Island would be to put the score card away and just enjoy one of the great golf experiences Australia has to offer," she says.

"It's as spectacular a place to play golf as you'll find anywhere in the world."



“IT'S AS SPECTACULAR A PLACE TO PLAY GOLF AS YOU'LL FIND ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.”

## THE BEST VIEWS ON THE COURSE



1 View from the 4th tee.



2 View from the 14th green.



3 View from the 15th tee.

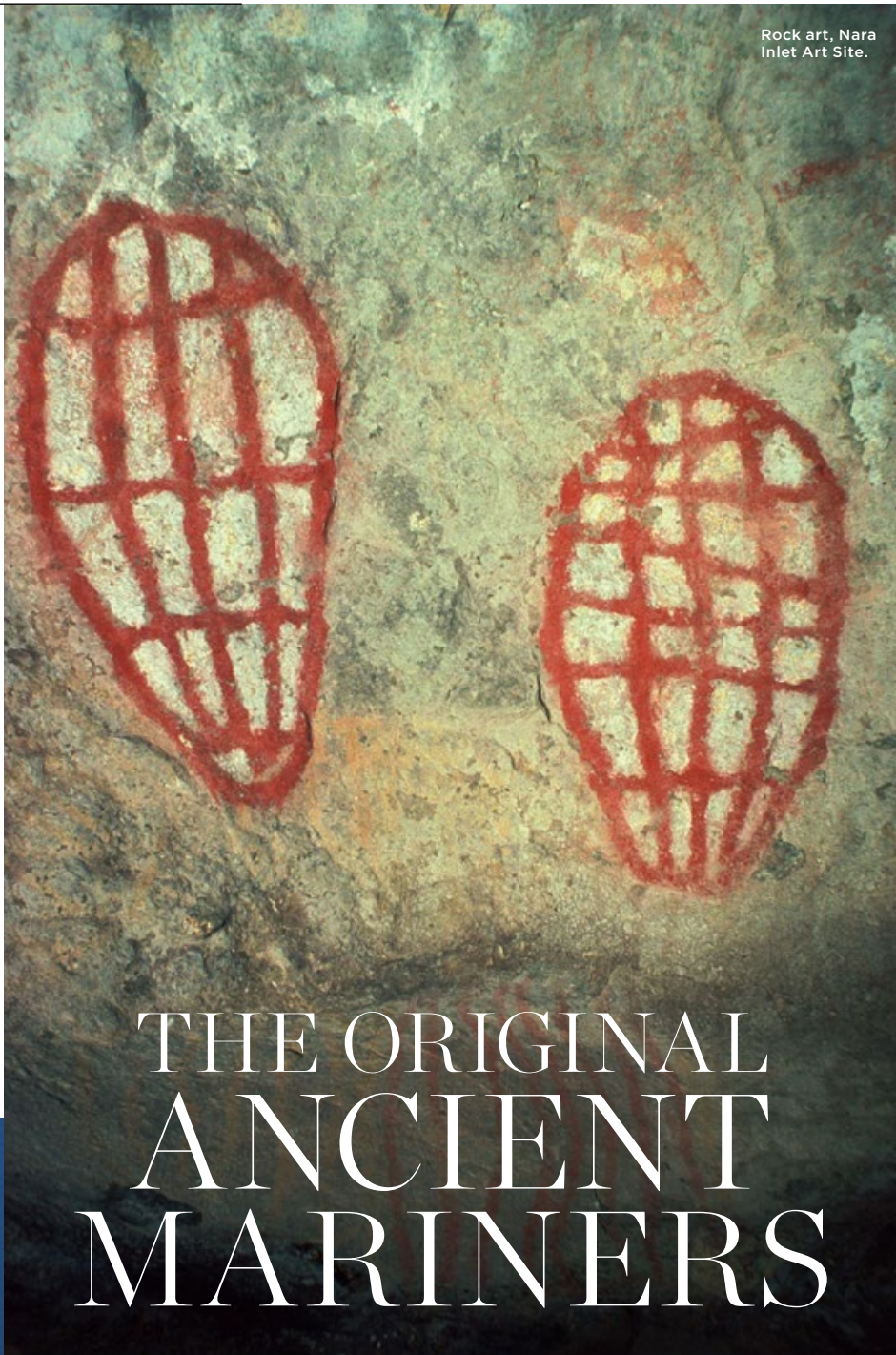


4 View from 15th fairway to green.



5 View from 18th fairway to green.

Rock art, Nara Inlet Art Site.



# THE ORIGINAL ANCIENT MARINERS

The Whitsundays' have a rich and amazing history. Archaeologist Dr Bryce Barker from the University of Southern Queensland has a passion and extensive knowledge for the area which he shares with us.



In the Whitsunday Islands the Ngaro Aboriginal people were marine hunter-gatherers who lived almost entirely on food from the sea. Archaeological evidence from five excavated rock shelter sites on Hook Island, Whitsunday Island and South Molle Island provide evidence of a rich and varied marine diet, dominated by turtle - mainly green sea turtle, dugong and a range of fish, including coral trout, parrot fish and schooling species such as mullet. Ranges of rock platform and mangrove mollusc plus crustacean species were also regularly eaten including oysters, mussels, nerites, chitons and mud crab. The radiocarbon dates from the rock shelter sites show earliest occupation on Hook Island dating to 10,000 years ago - a time when this rock-shelter was part of the mainland coast. 20,000 years ago Australia was in the grip of an ice age, which locked the evaporated seawater, which fell as rain over land as ice, lowering the sea levels to over 130m lower than they are today. At this time New Guinea and Tasmania were connected to mainland Australia and the Whitsunday Islands, as we know them today, were a series of hills some 100km inland. From after 20,000 the planet warmed, the ice melted and sea levels slowly rose so that by 10,000 the mainland coast was close to the eastern side of what are now the Whitsunday Islands. As sea levels rose and inundated old coast lines, the people slowly moved westward until by 10,000





Nara Inlet.



Rock art, Nara Inlet Art Site.



Whitsunday Inlet.

“THE NARA INLET ART SITE... [DATES] TO 2,700 YEARS AGO, WITH THE OCHRE IN WHICH THEY PAINTED THE ART FOUND IN THE EXCAVATION DATING TO GREATER THAN 600 YEARS AGO.”

the coast was on the eastern site of what are now Hook and Whitsunday Islands. Sometime between 10,000 and 6,500 years ago this mainland coast became the islands we know today. In spite of these dramatic environmental changes relating to sea level change, the archaeological evidence shows that the Ngaro continued to exploit their coastal resource base with very little change in the species exploited through time – testimony to the resilience and flexibility of the hunter gatherer way of life.

Although we have dates of initial occupation at 10,000 years and another date elsewhere on the islands of 7,000, the other three sites all date to within the last 3,000 years possibly representing an increase in population and/or the emergence of a greater degree of regional territoriality. The Nara Inlet Art site is one of these sites, dating to 2,700 years ago, with the ochre in which they painted the art found

in the excavation dating to greater than 600 years ago.

The Ngaro had well adapted technologies designed to maximise marine exploitation, including ocean capable three piece bark and outrigger canoes, shell and turtle shell fish hooks, nets, bone tipped fish spears, detachable harpoon points for hunting large marine mammals and reptiles, and large butchering knives (Juan Knives) made from the stone from the South Molle Island Aboriginal quarry. The traditional owners of the Whitsundays’ continue their ongoing relationship with the islands today and are the keepers of rich traditional knowledge and cultural practice. Although the archaeological research does not speak for culture, it can add another complementary level of knowledge to our understanding of these remarkable marine people.

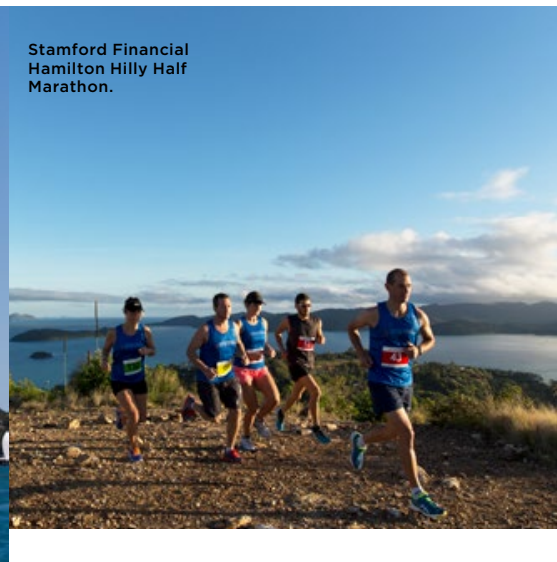


Rock shelter, Nara Inlet Art Site.

Audi Hamilton Island Race Week.



Stamford Financial Hamilton Hilly Half Marathon.



Fujifilm Whitehaven Beach Ocean Swim.



# DIARY DATES

Hamilton Island is buzzing with events that we can all be part of, take note. By Rebecca Khoury.

## 2015

### AUGUST 15-22

#### AUDI HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK

Into yachts? Get psyched. Believe us, there is nowhere else you want to be this week than at Australia's favourite annual yachting regatta. The 2015 competition is fiercer than ever with Hamilton Island hosting Yachting Australia's premier IRC Australian Championship. The week's mixture of short course and passage races will test any sailor's tactical ability to ultimately decide the new national champions. 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. Race/cruiser, One Design, racing and cruising multi-hull, cruising, and non-spinnaker divisions will also be lining up. Not so amped about the actual sailing? Hamilton Island has a carnival vibe throughout the week, with the fashion, the food, and the social set-up on dry land giving non-sailors just as much buzz.

### NOVEMBER 1-5

#### PGA PROFESSIONALS CHAMPIONSHIP AND HAMILTON ISLAND AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Lock in some extra practice hours between now and November. Australia's top-order club golfers and teaching professionals are primed and ready for the PGA Professionals Championship. Yes, the greens are going to be hot. That goes for the non-pro event, the Hamilton Island Amateur Golf Championship,

too. Love a keen competition.

This is the championship's third year and anyone who missed out on a spot last time will not be making the same mistake twice. Places are limited so, golfers and enthusiasts, book early. The popular Stamford event starts at the same time as the PGA and will host a pro-am on day one, followed by a 36-hole competition, open to both men and women. There's serious prizes to be won but, honestly, we just do it for the glory.

### NOVEMBER 20-22

#### FUJIFILM HAMILTON ISLAND TRIATHLON AND WHITEHAVEN BEACH OCEAN SWIM

The Whitsundays' triathletes' endurance event is back for another year. This is your chance to face off against professional athletes — Susie O'Neill, Ky Hurst, Craig Alexander, Emma Jackson, Drew Box and Grace Musgrove are all on the competitor list — and other amateur-but-intense athletes who come to Hamilton Island to test their mettle. It's a beautiful course, covering the natural highlights of the island, but this is serious all the way to the beachside finish. Just crossing the line earns extensive bragging rights and, we would argue, first call on the daybeds by the pool. And if the adrenalin's still pumping, there's always the Whitehaven Beach Ocean Swim, a 2km or 750m race, to burn off the extra energy. For the kids there is also a junior triathlon (of varying lengths), and a Splash n Dash run and swim for athletes 15 years and under. We'll be taking it (a little) easier in the Dent Dash, also held

on Sunday, November 22. It's more of a fun Sunday walk or run along the buggy paths of the picturesque Hamilton Island Golf Club on neighbouring Dent Island. No pressure — it's not about prizes and the timing is all left up to you. But a victory breakfast awaits us all. In the meantime, we're back on the green juices and lean protein.

## 2016

### JANUARY

#### WEEKENDS OF WONDERMENT

It's no coincidence that Weekends of Wonderment's acronym is WOW. This is a special, highly personal event where artisans and creative experts set up workshops on the island and share their trade secrets, much to the delight of our inner student. It's a great opportunity to roll up your sleeves and get hands-on experience with the experts. Creative souls and those with an appreciation for hand-crafted luxury, this is your kind of weekend.

### MAY 1

#### STAMFORD FINANCIAL HAMILTON HILLY HALF MARATHON

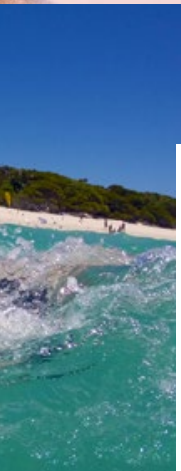
We're already kicking preparations up a notch: the starter's gun on the 2016 race will sound



Candlemaking, Weekends of Wonderment.



The Great Whitehaven Beach Run.



before we know it. The Hamilton Hilly Half Marathon tests seasoned distance runners while pushing casual morning joggers to the next level, with competition events including a half marathon, open relays and a junior run for kids. Competitors take on the inclines, fire trails and bush-lined tracks of Hamilton Island's up-and-down interior on one of the most scenic courses in all of Australia. Get training, now.

**JUNE 26**  
**THE GREAT WHITEHAVEN BEACH RUN**

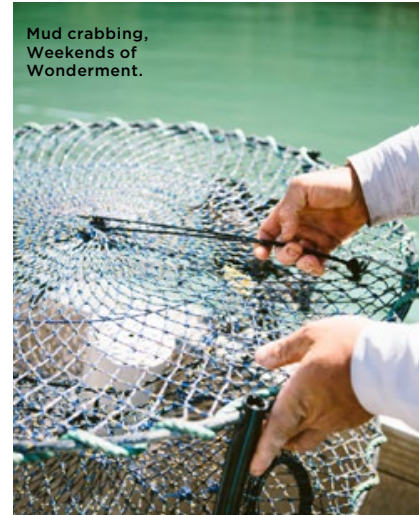
You have a choice: there's the full-throttle 21.1km half marathon, a 10.5km run along the silica expanse of Whitehaven Beach, or the shorter 5km circuit. We're not letting the lulling turquoise tide, the holiday sunshine or warm sand dazzle us into a false sense of security. Focus: this is a test and we will sweat. Run solo or team up with friends. You can even bring the kids along for junior events — there's a challenge for everyone. Even the spectators are winning, really. Could there be somewhere more glorious to wait for that photo finish than on one of the most photogenic beaches in all of the Whitsunday islands?

**JULY 28-31**  
**POWERADE CLASH OF THE PADDLES**

Bring your surf ski, ocean ski or outrigger skill, bring your mental grit and do not leave home without your passion for the paddle — some of the toughest athletes on the water are expected to raise the bar this year. The battle is on again in winter and consider this an early warning: nobody is playing around.

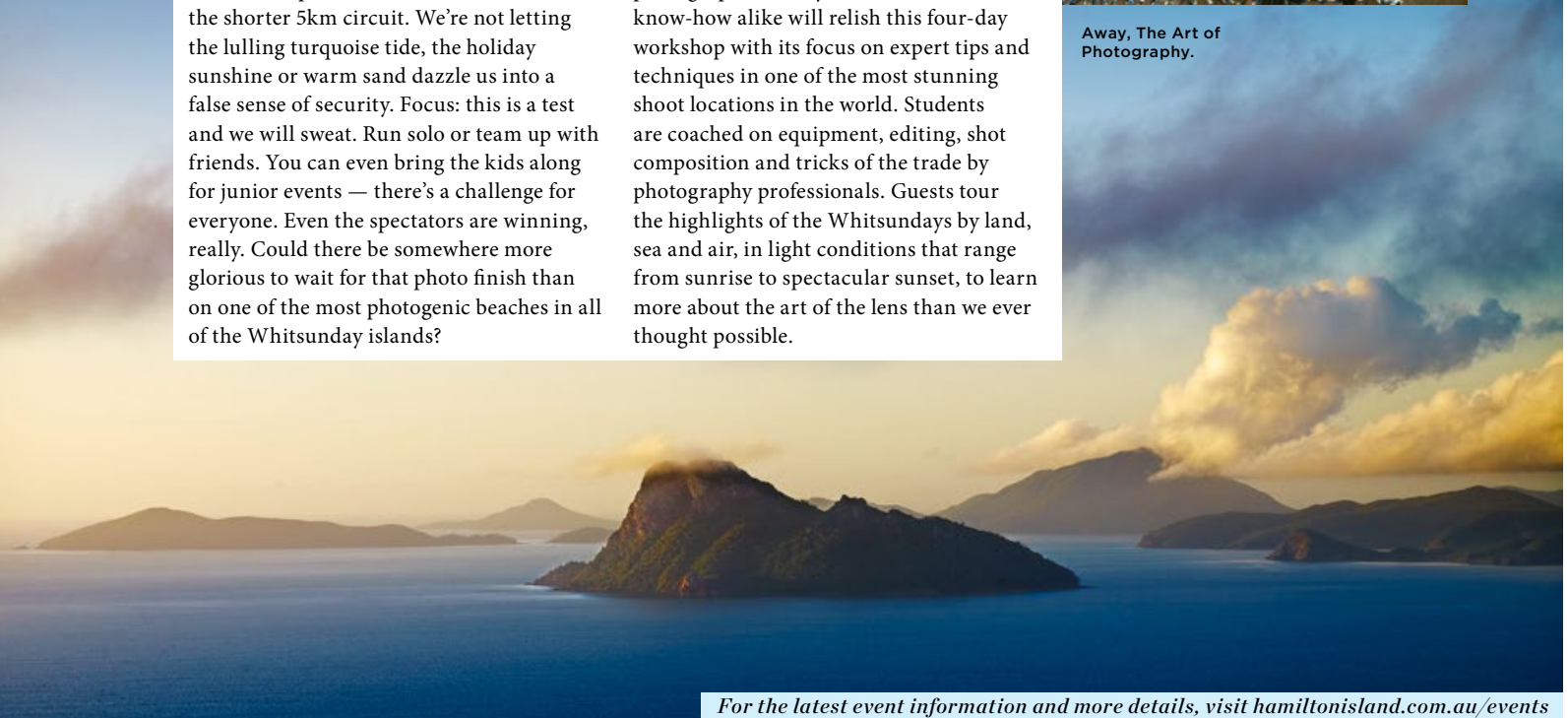
**JULY**  
**AWAY, THE ART OF PHOTOGRAPHY**

Point-and-shoot enthusiasts, prepare to be educated. Beginners and experienced photographers ready to advance their know-how alike will relish this four-day workshop with its focus on expert tips and techniques in one of the most stunning shoot locations in the world. Students are coached on equipment, editing, shot composition and tricks of the trade by photography professionals. Guests tour the highlights of the Whitsundays by land, sea and air, in light conditions that range from sunrise to spectacular sunset, to learn more about the art of the lens than we ever thought possible.



Mud crabbing, Weekends of Wonderment.

Away, The Art of Photography.



For the latest event information and more details, visit [hamiltonisland.com.au/events](http://hamiltonisland.com.au/events)

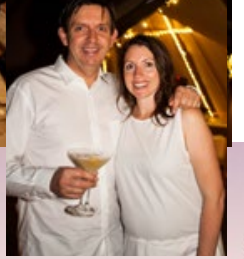
# RSVP



Andrew McConnell's Devilled Crab.



Andrew McConnell, Joanna McGann.



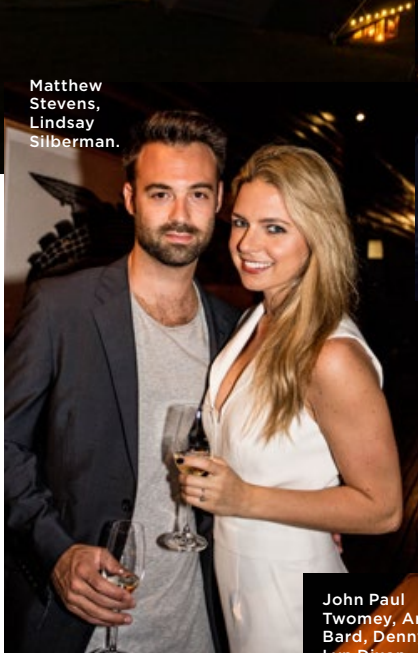
Welcome dinner tee pee setting.



Alastair Waddell's Crudites, Horseradish, Rye.



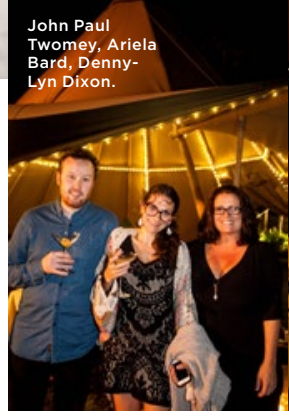
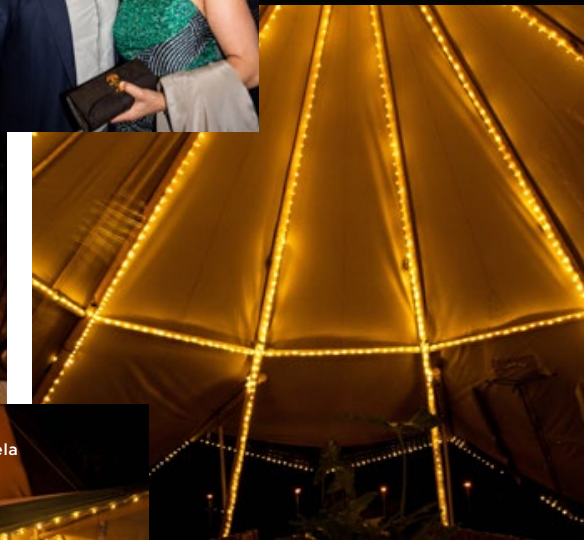
Tammy Horan, Dr Lisa Cooper, Elise Pioch Balzac, Pablo Balzac.



Matthew Stevens, Lindsay Silberman.



Trust Botha, Anthea Loucas.



John Paul Twomey, Ariela Bard, Denny-Lyn Dixon.



## WEEKENDS OF WONDERMENT

The WOW series continues to attract a stellar guest list and a roll call of amazing experts with May's event including guest chef Andrew McConnell and qualia's Executive Chef, Alastair Waddell; and lifestyle stars florist and artist, Dr Lisa Cooper and candlemaker Elise Pioch Balzac. The dinners are a highlight of the series, with good conversation, laughter and those amazing views over to the Whitsundays. The welcome dinner was held on the qualia helipad in an oversized tee pee lined with fairy lights. A magical and epic weekend.



Alyssa McClelland,  
Jodie Vignes.



Magdalena  
Roze.



### AUDI HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK 10 YEAR PARTNERSHIP

*Audi Hamilton Island Race Week 2015 was launched at Matt Moran's North Bondi Fish, in March, celebrating 10 years of partnership between Hamilton Island and Audi. It attracted a decade of people who've supported the event. Piper Heidsieck flowed and Melissa Doyle hosted with warmth and humour.*



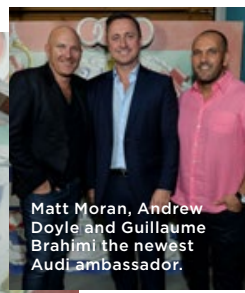
Simon Baker,  
Lisa Wilkinson.



Bradley Cocks,  
Collette  
Dinnigan.



James  
Tobin.



Matt Moran, Andrew  
Doyle and Guillaume  
Brahimi the newest  
Audi ambassador.



Nadia Fairfax,  
Tanja Gacic.



Carol and  
Sandy  
Oatley.



Melissa  
Doyle,  
Matt Moran.



# RSVP



Mother's Day bringing everyone together.



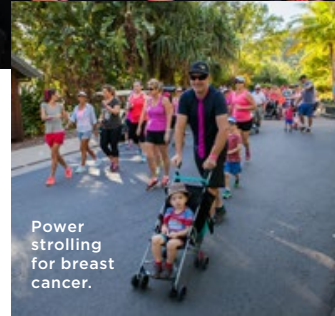
Thinking pink, all for a good cause.



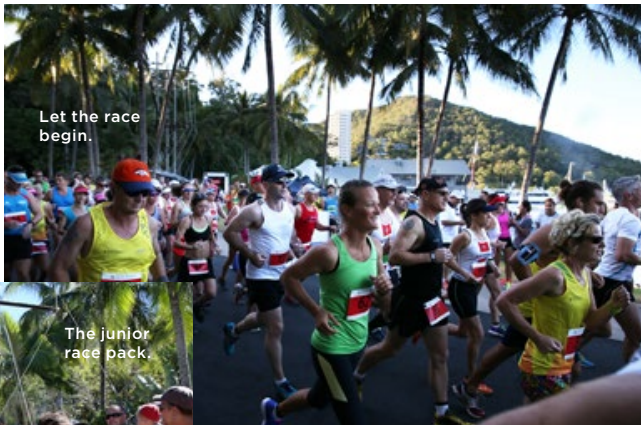
Running for victory.

## THE MOTHER'S DAY CLASSIC

*It was a sea of hot pink for The Mother's Day Classic in May, the annual fundraiser for the National Breast Cancer Foundation, which increases awareness about a disease that effects one in nine Australian women. Families and guests participated from all over the island in a 4.2km walk or a 6.7km run. A wonderful tribute to mums all over Australia.*



Power strolling for breast cancer.



Let the race begin.



The junior race pack.



Challenging terrain with a great view.



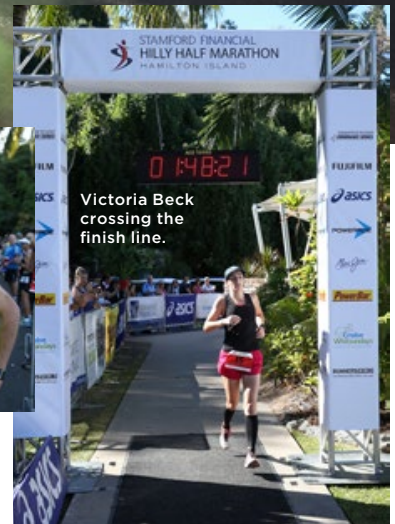
Legend, Steve Moneghetti, powering through the course.

## STAMFORD FINANCIAL HAMILTON HILLY HALF MARATHON

*It's an endurance course. Following a rugged 21km route with challenging up hill and down hill terrain makes for an ever changing running experience that tests even the best athletes. The 2015 title went to Steve Moneghetti in a time of 1 hour 36 minutes and 22 seconds. Victoria Beck took out the women's title at 1 hour 48 minutes and 23 seconds.*



Victoria Beck crossing the finish line.





## Hamilton Island's Golf Car of Choice

[www.golfcarsinternational.com.au](http://www.golfcarsinternational.com.au)

Sales and Service Centre: Hamilton Island PH: 0427 050 409

Head Office: 20 Kingston Drive, Helensvale QLD 4212 PH: 07 5529 9499



# RSVP



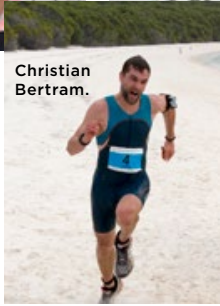
Dr Chris Brown  
Ky Hurst.



10km runners headed  
by the eventual  
winner Bronwyn  
Humphrys (#53).



Pete and  
Megan  
Murray.



Christian  
Bertram.



## GREAT WHITEHAVEN BEACH RUN

*This must be the most incredible course in the world, stretching along Whitehaven Beach and bordered by the most incredible turquoise sea. The 21.1km half marathon, a total endurance test on the sand, was taken out by Belthazer Nell in a time of 1 hour 32 minutes and 28 seconds. The women's title was claimed by Eloise Wellings in a time of 1 hour 29 minutes and 28 seconds, just pipping the men at the post.*

Excited family  
spectators.



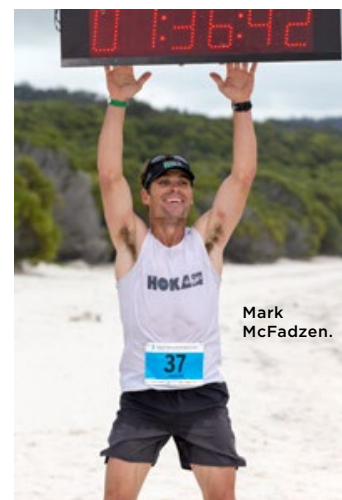
Junior race.



Dr Chris  
Brown.



Ky Hurst and  
junior race  
participants.



Mark  
McFadzen.



25km surf ski race.



Flying Jandals, Port Stephens.



Cronulla OC2 winners.



Team Hawaii outrigger team.



Papua New Guinea Mens outrigger team.

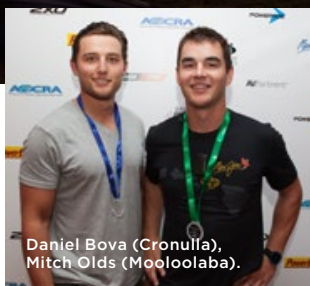


42km outrigger marathon.



## POWERADE CLASH OF THE PADDLES

*It may be renowned as one of the world's toughest outrigger canoe racing and paddling events, but it's also lots of fun. It attracts teams from all over Australia and the world with races suitable for every type of paddler and competitive outrigger, as well as surf and ocean ski athletes. In June, the 42km outrigger marathon was hotly contested as were the off-water activities, including the Carb-Up Dinner before the big event.*



Daniel Bova (Cronulla), Mitch Olds (Mooloolaba).



Papua New Guinea womens outrigger team.



Ky Hurst, Callam Ogilvie-Alcock.

# RSVP



Early sunrise shoot at Passage Peak.



AWAY 2015 participants.



Shooting at Hill Inlet.



Whitehaven Beach photoshoot.



'Mock' wedding photoshoot.



Early sunrise portraiture photoshoot.



## AWAY, THE ART OF PHOTOGRAPHY

*Amateur photographers enjoyed a four day workshop in one of the most stunning shoot locations in the world this June. Coaching included shot composition, editing, equipment, lighting and hands on experience. Spectacular sunsets, seascapes and the environment provided a great subject matter and lots of inspiration.*



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# PLUM GOOD

Building a dream house on Hamilton Island can be challenging but comes with deep satisfaction, an incredible view and, in the case of Sprout Architects, professional recognition.  
By Alison Veness.

Good things, beautiful homes, resolve, clever design and memorable architecture take time. Well, Rome, as they say, wasn't built in day. Tramonto, Italian for sunset, began life in 2008 when the Sunshine Coast-based Sprout Architects were commissioned by the owner. It was completed six years later in 2014. "The logistics of building such a tremendous house on Hamilton Island were challenging," explains Sprout's Paul Braithwaite, who led the project. "There is a strict approval process implemented

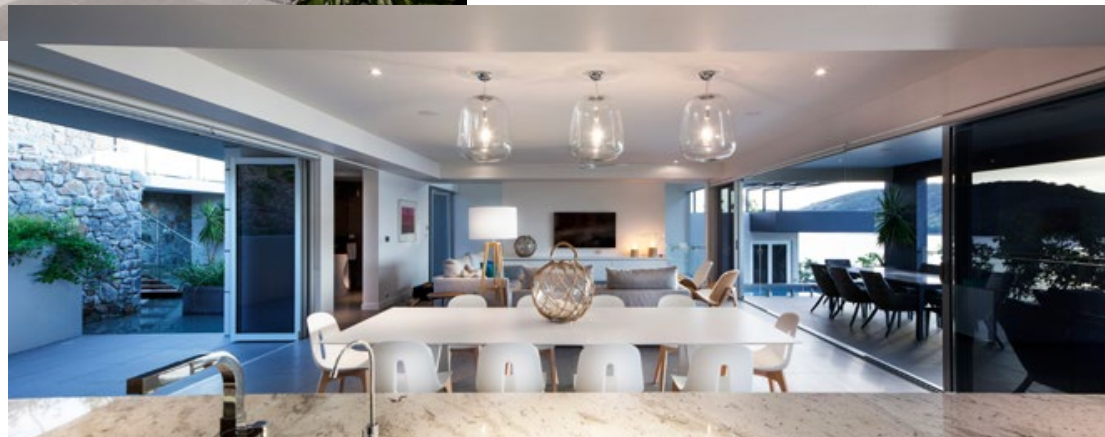
by Hamilton Island Enterprises with clear direction and guidelines that must be complied with, including design, massing, aesthetics, and so these were all part of the initial concept and design, but also the client's brief and wishes." The owners, Wayne and Nancy, live in Colorado, USA and much of the architect interview, subsequent communication and the design conversations were done via email and phone before they even met. "The site topography was challenging — steep, with dense vegetation, rock — and the remoteness of the island presented challenges getting materials over to it. To get to the end

and have a great home is a real achievement not just for myself but for everyone, the builder, the owner, the island, the whole team. Everyone was integral to its success," says Braithwaite. He spent a lot of time on the site before they started and had a good understanding of the island, and the location, which faces northwest with a view of the Whitsundays, the passage and Plum Pudding Island. "This became a really important focus and element in the design. It was about incorporating Plum Pudding Island as an axis, with that vista as you enter the home. It has a picture window that frames the view. The upper

PHOTOGRAPHY: LUCAS MURO.



pool is a feature of the house and it really adds that wow factor,” explains Braithwaite. In fact there are two swimming pools: the one on the upper terrace visible immediately as you enter the property, and the other on the lower terrace so that the owners can have their own private space and guests can also retreat too. “The brief was to design a home that was open and elegant but could withstand the forces of nature and a cyclone. The owners wanted it to be very secure, safe and strong with a focus on innovative technology even when they were not at the home. Consequently the design has a concrete masonry structure, and fortunately the island has a concrete batching plant, which also made sense to utilise,” explains Braithwaite. “The roof areas are flat, keeping the home recessed into the landscape and in keeping with the two other properties to the south, which are beautiful homes with their vegetative landscaped roofs. We went for gravel, which aesthetically looks great. When you arrive at the street you are looking over the roof to the view and then you come in and walk down an external stairway to the entry, where there is a waterfall feature and a reflection pond which also provides coolness to the house.” “I am proud of it. When you work on a project from start to finish, you really develop a relationship with the owner. I know they are very happy with the results. They were a tremendous client to work with. To get a result, get to the end and all still be talking is a great accomplishment.” Owner Wayne agreed. “Paul [Braithwaite] did a truly outstanding job of taking the key elements



“I’VE LIVED BY THE OCEAN... ON A YACHT, I ENJOY SURFING AND SAILING, THE COAST IS MY LIFE.”

of our concepts, our living style and privacy concerns and translated that into a spectacular home. It was a long road to completion on an extremely challenging block of land and the end result frankly exceeded the expectations of what Nancy and I were trying to accomplish. The quality of the property is testament to the effort of an exceptional team and overview from architect, to builder and contractors that contributed to the outcome.” Sprout Architects are all about working with clients and not about pushing a certain style, “We listen to a client’s brief and try and create something unique. All our projects are

different; there is always something special about each one.” Braithwaite is particularly passionate about coastal architecture. “I’ve lived by the ocean my whole life, I’ve lived on a yacht, I enjoy surfing and sailing — the coast is my life. So all our work is positioned on the east coast of Australia, we’ve done houses from Byron Bay up to Hamilton Island. They are all about lifestyle, climate, and breaking down the barriers between outside and inside so that both flow together. It’s about enjoying where you live and the environment.” In May, Tramonto (Hamilton Island residence) and Sprout Architects received a Regional Queensland commendation at the prestigious 2015 Queensland Regional Architecture Awards: Central Queensland. Tramonto next goes into the state awards and Braithwaite is humbled but happy, “They [awards] are not easy to get hold of... So to work on something for so long and be rewarded with a commendation by your peers is quite special. It’s fantastic.”



Australia's Number 1 Beach



World's Number 1 Reef

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**Great Barrier Reef Adventures & Whitehaven Beach Day Cruises**

Outstanding day cruises to the Whitsundays' most iconic attractions, including the colourful outer Great Barrier Reef and world famous Whitehaven Beach. 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](http://cruisewhitsundays.com)



### THE EDGE ON HAMILTON #7

43/5 Acacia Drive  
**FOR SALE. \$1,890,000**

3  2  1 

This could be a great opportunity to purchase world-class, luxury living on Hamilton Island. Listen to the water lapping and admire the most amazing sunsets in your modern top floor, two-level, waterfront apartment. This apartment overlooks the complex's 25m wet-edge pool, and features a gourmet chef's kitchen that leads to an expansive entertaining balcony, plus lock-up garage, separate storage room, c-bus system throughout and a modern furniture package. The complex also features two spas and a barbeque area and is located within easy walking distance of the marina and restaurants.



### YACHT HARBOUR TOWERS

1 Marina Drive  
**FOR SALE. FROM \$1,750,000**

4  4  1 

These private and spacious luxury apartments, located between the resort area and marina, are an icon of Hamilton Island. Each of the three Yacht Harbour Tower apartments currently for sale encompasses the entire level, with a floor area of 333sqm. Other features include sweeping views of the resort, marina, sea and surrounding islands and open-plan living and dining areas. Each apartment is fully air-conditioned and furnished, with an electric golf buggy and undercover secure garage.



**BELLA VISTA  
WEST #1**

12 Whitsunday Boulevard  
**FOR SALE. \$975,000**

2 2 2

Bella Vista West #1 is situated on the northern precinct of Hamilton Island, home to the island's luxury resort, qualia. It boasts a northern aspect overlooking amazing manicured gardens and Whitsunday Island. The apartment's 256sqm of single-level living also features an open-plan kitchen, dining and lounge area that leads out to a pristine lawn area. The exclusive complex comprises just 13 apartments and features a spa and pool area. Other benefits include no stamp duty, two buggy permits, and a storage area.

**OASIS ON  
HAMILTON #2**

2/2 Flametree Grove  
**FOR SALE. FROM \$485,000**

2 1.5 1

The first thing to strike you when you walk into this recently renovated, light-filled apartment, are the views of water and bushland that can be enjoyed from the living and balcony areas. The functional and well laid-out kitchen leads to the dining and living areas, both tastefully decorated. The large balcony extends off the living room and can be fully enclosed to make for an all-weather entertaining area. The single-level living makes this property attractive to families and guests of all ages. It is currently holiday let and comes with its own buggy to allow you and your guests to explore the island and its many attractions.



**PROPERTY SALES: CONTACT WAYNE SINGLETON 0416 024 168**

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](http://www.hamiltonislandrealestate.com.au)  
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HAMILTON ISLAND  
REAL ESTATE

Architecturally designed by Walter Borda. Outstanding waterfront positions with spectacular views. Lagoon-style pool and private beach area.  
4 Bedrooms / 4 Bathrooms. Direct flights from most Australian capital cities daily.

For Sales enquiries please call 1300 800 070 or Wayne Singleton 0416 024 168. For Holiday Reservations please call 137 333.  
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# HAMILTON ISLAND

HOLIDAY HOMES

## RENTALS



### YACHT CLUB VILLA #9

**HOLIDAY RENTALS FROM \$1150 PER NIGHT**  
Maximum capacity: 8 people



This gracefully positioned, luxurious villa enjoys spectacular views overlooking the Yacht Club's waterfront lagoon pool and Dent Passage. The design emphasises privacy and space, with a state-of-the-art gourmet kitchen, open-plan lounge and dining rooms, ducted air-conditioning, a separate laundry and use of a private golf buggy. This particular villa is ideal for families as the living area flows directly onto the waterfront reserve and allows easy access to the lagoon pool. The location is quiet and private, but just a short stroll to the marina, with its array of restaurants and retail experiences.

### NORTH CAPE #2

**HOLIDAY RENTALS FROM \$800 PER NIGHT**  
Maximum capacity: 8 people



The North Cape complex is perfectly situated on the northern tip of Hamilton Island, and offers maximum privacy and breathtaking views over Fitzalan Passage. No expense has been spared with this development, which is fitted with the highest quality appliances, furniture and accessories. This is a spacious split-level apartment offering balconies on both levels, and even your own private pool.



### BLUE WATER VIEWS #8

**HOLIDAY RENTALS FROM \$425 PER NIGHT**  
Maximum capacity: 7 people



This beautifully appointed, spacious, open-plan, single-level apartment offers generous balconies capturing views over Whitsunday Island and Dent Passage. Families will love the direct access to the complex pool via gated stairs off your balcony, also with its own private barbeque, meaning the kids can swim within viewing distance. There's a fully-equipped kitchen, spacious air-conditioned living area and internal laundry. The master bedroom features a walk in robe, air-conditioning, flatscreen TV and a large ensuite with spa bath. The second bedroom offers a queen sized bed, a set of bunk beds, an extra rollaway bed plus portable cot if required.

### LAGOON LODGE #106

**HOLIDAY RENTALS FROM \$315 PER NIGHT**  
Maximum capacity: 5 people



As well as a convenient location on the resort side of Hamilton Island, with easy access to resort pools, restaurants and activities, this well appointed two bedroom apartment offers adjoining balconies and open-plan living with fabulous views over the gardens and Catseye Beach. The added practicality of a fully-equipped kitchen, beautiful furnishings throughout and the comfort of air-conditioned living areas and bedrooms makes this property is the ideal home away from home.



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

To view the full listing of Hamilton Island holiday rental properties available, visit the Hamilton Island Real Estate office on Front Street, Hamilton Island or go to [www.hihh.com.au](http://www.hihh.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 7 NIGHTS PLUS STAY. OTHER RATES AND DURATIONS OF STAY AVAILABLE, PLEASE ENQUIRE AT TIME OF BOOKING.

# NOW SELLING



## Hidden Cove – an exclusive waterfront development

Not many people have seen the beach that separates the Coral Sea from the green-covered land on the northwest edge of Hamilton Island. Even most locals don't know it's there, it's an undiscovered sanctuary. Don't miss out on your opportunity to secure one of only 22 private residences in the Hidden Cove development, which presents mid-density lifestyle at its best. With 2 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom single story residences, as well as 3 and 4 bedroom homes stretching across two levels and featuring their own private plunge pools, each boasts long, uninterrupted views across Dent Passage.

Priced from \$1,150,000  
14 residences already sold, 8 remaining

For sales enquiries please contact | Wayne Singleton 0416 024 168  
[www.hchi.info](http://www.hchi.info) | [hamiltonislandrealestate.com.au](http://hamiltonislandrealestate.com.au)

**HAMILTON ISLAND**  
REAL ESTATE



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