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REEF MAGAZINE

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HAMILTON
ISLAND
& THE
GREAT
BARRIER
REEF

SAILING'S RACY NEXT CHAPTER

A TRAVELLER'S TALE
BY AUTHOR
MICHAEL ROBOTHAM

HOW TO ENJOY THE REEF RESPONSIBLY

EAT, DRINK, PLAY
THE BEST ON ISLAND

Holiday HIGH

Dive in,
dream big

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PASPALLEY

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PEARLS IN THE WORLD

INTRODUCTION

Glenn Bourke.



Welcome to Hamilton Island, during some of our best-weather months of the year. This edition launches days before our 36th Hamilton Island Race Week and I am pleased to say that it's another record year for the event, in terms of the amount of boats registered. It's quite something, after so many years, to see our numbers continue to climb and welcome so many new contenders. Most heartening of all, though, for myself and our race committee, is to see those who return year after year, some with 20-plus race weeks under their belt. In terms of onshore highlights, we will have our usual crowd favourites, the Charles Heidsieck Champagne and Paspaley luncheons, plus we

are proud to welcome two of Australia's finest chefs, Peter Gilmore of Quay and Lennox Hastie of Firedoor, along with special guest Magda Szubanski to our opening Showcase weekend. Some important news for the Whitsundays is that our neighbouring islands, Daydream Island and InterContinental Hayman Island Resort, have re-opened. This is very welcome news, as it will only make our Whitsunday location an even stronger drawcard for Australians looking for a safe and spectacular domestic holiday. Speaking of which, Gone Tripping (page 32), by well-respected travel journalist Ute Junker, talks of a recent TripAdvisor and World Bank report that I'm proud to say included Hamilton Island as an example of somewhere where the rise of social media has been an influencing factor in people's choice of holiday destination. This is satisfying, as there's nothing more valuable than the recommendation of your own customers to drive your brand's reputation. More importantly for you, though, the article gives you some of the top Hamilton Island and Whitsunday photo locations as rated by our guests, which I've no doubt you will be interested in. One of the reasons I like doing the introduction for our REEF Magazine is that it allows me to highlight some of our team members who are doing amazing work in our little piece of paradise. Mark Jensen (page 36), our new Executive Chef at qualia, has brought some

stunning new additions to the qualia menu, and our sunrise-to-sunset food tour (page 44) is a great testament to the island's talented Food and Beverage team, who work so hard to bring variety and relevance to our menus for our guests. I'm pleased to introduce Laurelle Fazel (page 42), who as a long-time resident with a wealth of island experience, works as our Executive Concierge, leading our talented Guest Services team. On page 58 there is an article about the importance of business events and conferencing. 84% of Australian executives believe that in-person events are critical to company success. Our Hamilton Island Events team run business events year-round that cater for groups of 10 to 700 delegates – probably not something you want to contemplate while you are here on your holiday! But if this is relevant to you back in the "real world", make sure to have a look at what our Business Events team can do. Which offers a nice segue into saying that I will let you get on with your holiday. Thank you for choosing to stay with us on Hamilton Island, enjoy our REEF Magazine, and I hope you get the chance to do as much or as little as you need to do while you are here.

Glenn Bourke

Glenn Bourke
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PHOTOGRAPHY: KARA ROSENLUND.



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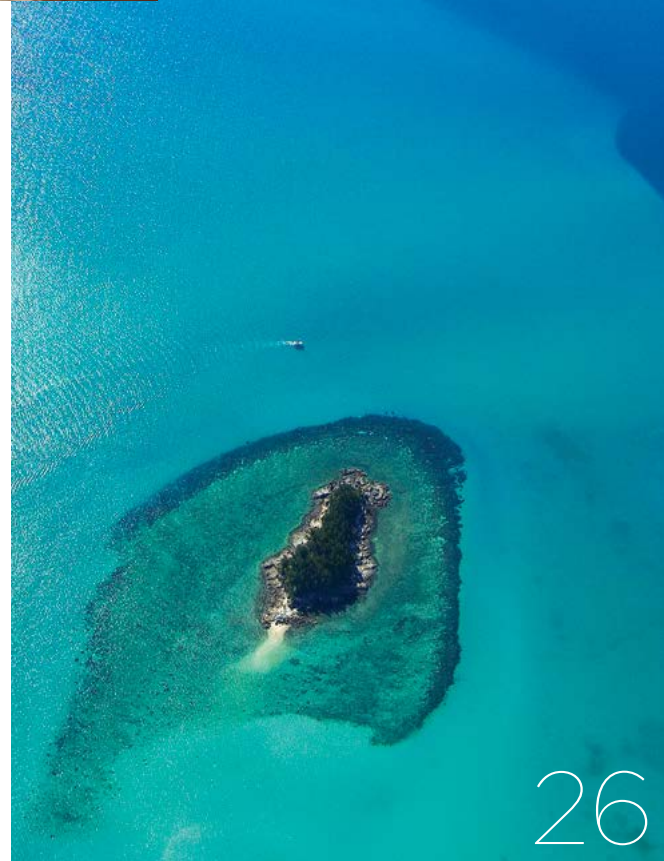
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Get the facts DrinkWise.org.au

UNMISTAKABLY

Tanqueray



**DARREN JAHN,
WINE EXPERT**

BEST PIECE OF TRAVEL ADVICE?
Pack light – I take extra underwear and socks, but the minimal amount of trousers and jackets, giving me an excuse to shop if I really need something. Also, take a second credit card, packed separately, and photocopies of all your documents.

UNPUTDOWNABLE BEACH BOOK?
I don't tend to read on the beach – I much prefer watching the passing parade!

IF YOUR IDEAL HOLIDAY WERE A DRINK, WHAT WOULD IT BE?
Champagne, always! Holidays are always worth celebrating and nothing says celebrate like a glass of champagne. My preferred tittle? Charles Heidsieck Brut Réserve.

FAVOURITE FORM OF EXERCISE ON HOLIDAY?
Hours and hours of walking while exploring my destination.

GUILTY HOLIDAY PLEASURE?
“Souveniring” quality toiletries for use at home – I love the memories when I use them between trips.

WHO DO YOU CHANNEL WHILE YOU'RE ON HOLIDAY?
Tom Ripley or Dickie Greenleaf from *The Talented Mr Ripley*.

**UTE JUNKER,
TRAVEL WRITER**

BEST PIECE OF TRAVEL ADVICE?
Never drink on the plane.

ULTIMATE HOLIDAY TRACK OR ALBUM?
Don't ask me why, but *Lost in Music* by Sister Sledge always puts me in a holiday mood.

UNPUTDOWNABLE BEACH BOOK?
Circe by Madeline Miller.

IF YOUR IDEAL HOLIDAY WERE A DRINK, WHAT WOULD IT BE?
Champagne, because a good holiday is something to celebrate.

FAVOURITE FORM OF EXERCISE ON HOLIDAY?
An 8am yoga class lets you start the day right and have a bit of a sleep-in, too.

GUILTY HOLIDAY PLEASURE?
Messages – as many as I can squeeze in.

WHO DO YOU CHANNEL WHILE YOU'RE ON HOLIDAY?
My travels range from city breaks to outdoor adventures so, depending on the day, it might be Bianca Jagger or Bear Grylls.



**NICHOLAS CAROLAN,
WRITER AND EDITOR**

BEST PIECE OF TRAVEL ADVICE?
Two words. Facial. Mist.

ULTIMATE HOLIDAY TRACK OR ALBUM?
There was a not insignificant period of time where my take-off ritual was to listen to *Only Girl (In the World)*. I fall asleep on planes exclusively to Sufjan Stevens's discography.

UNPUTDOWNABLE BEACH BOOK?
Hard to say when I'll be on a beach next but I've just started reading *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong.

IF YOUR IDEAL HOLIDAY WERE A DRINK, WHAT WOULD IT BE?
A negroni. It's short, strong and leaves you with a bitter taste when it ends.

FAVOURITE FORM OF EXERCISE ON HOLIDAY?
Passive exercise.

GUILTY HOLIDAY PLEASURE?
Negrinis and passive exercise.

WHO DO YOU CHANNEL WHEN YOU'RE ON HOLIDAY?
The collective casts of Luca Guadagnino's filmography.

**EMMA JOYCE,
JOURNALIST**

BEST PIECE OF TRAVEL ADVICE?
“You probably don't need it.” I often need to remind myself that I can probably live without that extra pair of jeans or heels.

ULTIMATE HOLIDAY TRACK OR ALBUM?
Wiley's Boasty and *Billie Eilish's Bad Guy* were on repeat on a recent trip to London and New York.

UNPUTDOWNABLE BEACH BOOK?
At the moment I'm reading *Carrie Fisher's Postcards from the Edge*. If I'm on the go I'll binge the podcasts *Still Processing* or *The Guilty Feminist*.

IF YOUR IDEAL HOLIDAY WERE A DRINK, WHAT WOULD IT BE?
A classic margarita – refreshing, with a surprising kick and a salty edge to it.

FAVOURITE FORM OF EXERCISE ON HOLIDAY?
Running, walking, swimming, cycling, diving... I like getting outdoors, so I always pack sportswear.

GUILTY HOLIDAY PLEASURE?
Just. Doing. Nothing. It rarely happens, though.

WHO DO YOU CHANNEL WHEN YOU'RE ON HOLIDAY?
I'd like to say *Killing Eve's Villanelle* or *Fleabag*, but it's probably more *Dora the Explorer*.



Typiquement Charles



CHAMPAGNE
CHARLES HEIDSIECK

Maison fondée à Reims en 1851

Charles Heidsieck Champagnes are remarkable due to the inclusion of 40% reserve wines and a minimum three year's ageing in vast and rare Crayères (chalk cellars)*. Charles Heidsieck is one of the world's most awarded champagnes. Just like his wine, Charles was a man of style and depth, of conviction and character.

* Charles Heidsieck Crayères (chalk cellars) are part of the historical sites of the UNESCO's world heritage list.



WEDDINGS | ELOPEMENTS | REAFFIRMATIONS

Located in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef, Hamilton Island Weddings offers the ultimate destination wedding experience. With more than 10 ceremony locations and 15 unique reception venues, we can cater for anywhere between two – 200 guests. Delivering the full scope of weddings services from your planner through to venue styling and photography, our goal is to make planning your special day a joy.

Plus, with its own airport guests are able to easily access Hamilton Island with direct flights from Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Cairns.

For more information, visit hamiltonislandweddings.com



Castaway... RENYA XYDIS

Imagine that you have been stranded on a remote desert island and you have only been able to “take” a few important items with you. Time to be super-resourceful and channel your inner girl scout. Reef invited Renya Xydis, Wella Global Creative Artist, to be our castaway. Surely, this would be stressful for her – no power, no A-list clients, and nowhere near anything as fabulous as Hamilton Island... Read on.

Island hobby?
“Snorkelling and spear fishing.”

Catch of the day?
“Barramundi drenched in lemon juice.”



What would you grow to eat?
“Coconut trees... It’s the new kale, isn’t it?”

How would you send your SOS?
“Start a fire with my box of a million matches and empty coconut shells.”



If you could channel one fictional character, who would it be?
“Dorothy from The Wizard of Oz – she made it home eventually.”



Your island mantra?
“Click your heels together three times and say, ‘There’s no place like home,’ and you’ll be there.”

Your island accessory?
“A fishing rod.”

Three essentials to pack?
“Ultra Violet Queen Screen skinscreen, my Hatmaker by Jonathan Howard hat and one box of a million matches for my smoke signals.”



Dream companion?
“No time for talking, I need someone to get me outta here, so Bear Grylls comes to mind.”



First place you’d go when rescued?
“Home to soak in my bathtub filled with Epsom salts.”



What would you wear?
“Zimmermann resort 2019 collection.”

Top island tune?
“Grandmaster Flash & the Furious Five – The Message. ‘Don’t push me ‘cause I’m close to the edge, I’m tryin’ not to lose my head!’”



Essential tool for the island?
“A survival knife.”

What spirituality lessons that you’ve learnt would you apply to your time spent stranded on the island?
“We are all given what we can handle.”

CASTAWAY



Which book would you bring with you?
“A guide on how to survive on a desert island – the CliffsNotes version, of course.”

What would you miss most about reality?
“Not being able to know what happens on the next episode of Power.”



What would you most regret not packing?
“My iPhone.”

Who would rescue you?
“Italian millionaire and Instagram sensation Gianluca Vacchi on one of his superyachts – at least I could dance and have fun on the way home!”

Favourite island movie for inspiration?
“Swept Away, the 1974 Italian adventure-comedy-drama film, written and directed by Lina Wertmüller and starring Giancarlo Giannini and Mariangela Melato.”

Dream meal once you’ve been rescued?
“A big Greek BBQ.”

BULLETIN BOARD

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



Manta Ray fare.

MORE ON THE MENU

Manta Ray is the place we love to eat at and watch the kitchen action as well as everything that's going on in the marina. It now has a new menu, which means there are even more reasons to go back again, and again. Tasted and ticked so far by REEF are the oysters mignonette and the calamari with a salad of apple, fennel and mint. We also had the linguini, prawns, chilli and garlic, and the salmon, snow pea, ginger, sesame and soy. One word: delicious. Tip: the cocktail list is comprehensive and it would be impolite not to.



South East Head.

CHAIR LIFT

Instagram-worthy reasons to go bushwalking, as if we needed them, now include a new, larger-than-life giant wooden chair that has been positioned at the end of the South East Head hike. It makes for a pretty impressive picture and is fun – and we can't deny it's good to have a sit down and take in the view after the hour-long walk. Other bushwalks include nine designated nature trails, with the one to Coral Cove having a real jaw-dropping effect; it takes 1 hour 15 minutes by foot to reach this total dreamscape. Well worth the effort.

Reef View Hotel, artist's impression of the new reception area.



ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

We love staying at the Reef View Hotel – it does what it says and provides incredible views of the surrounding reef and Whitsundays. The hotel is currently undergoing renovations, starting with the main reception area, which has a new atrium at its heart. The design team in charge is POCO Designs, a boutique interior design company based in Sydney run by mother and daughter Charlotte and Poppy O'Neil. Their work includes a sparkling who's who of residential homes and some serious commercial work. Next up will be the Reef Lounge bar and then, over the next few years, all the floors of the Reef View Hotel.

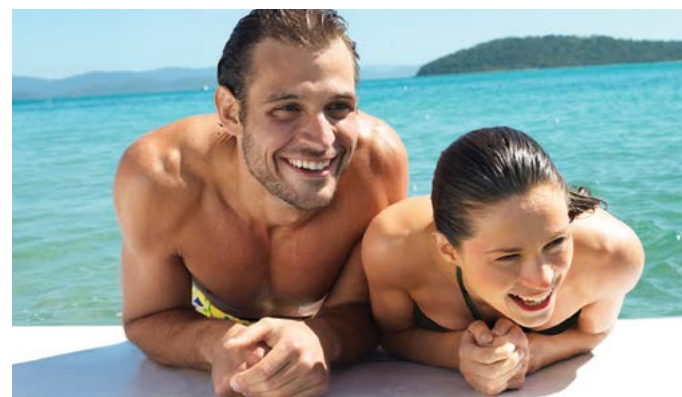
PHOTOGRAPHY: KARA ROSENBLUND; JASON LOUCAS.

WONDER OF THE WORLD

The latest Touchstone collection from Paspaley is inspired by the "wild tropical environment in which our pearls are born". We can relate to this as we love the cycle of life that the oyster and the pearl create and we love how much design detail, care and thought Paspaley delivers with every single statement making piece. Paspaley will be in residence during Hamilton Island Race Week at the Yacht Club. Be warned: you will want it all.



Touchstone long blue sapphire necklace, by Paspaley.



LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Condé Nast Traveler has named Hamilton Island as one of the 14 most romantic destinations in the world. No surprise that it snagged it "for adventurous couples". The illustrious magazine noted: "Hamilton Island isn't for your typical doe-eyed duo – more for those possessing an affinity with the Australian fixation for flinging yourself into adrenalin-pumping stuff. The immaculate waters of the Great Barrier Reef offer world-class dive sites to discover together, while the island's off-road trails provide a white-knuckle rush deep into the bush." Also noted were the "insanely Eden-esque" views and landscapes. Send a postcard.

QUALIA BAGS A GONG

The results for the Elite Traveler Awards 2018 are in and qualia has once again been named as one of the Top 100 hotels in the world. The resort scored on its exquisite location – well, what's not to love about the extraordinary tropical gardens and the view, plus the privacy that all the qualia pavilions and accommodation provide? What they said: "The resort's isolated setting is perfect for both relaxation and exploration. By day, unwind with treatments incorporating Australian products in the elevated spa, or sail to neighbouring islands on qualia's motor yacht. Then dine on Modern Australian cuisine at fine dining restaurant Long Pavilion." Nailed it.

Award-winning qualia.



View from the Beach Pavilion at Catseye Beach.

BREAKING NEW GROUND

Perched right on the edge of Catseye Beach, the island's new conference and event facility is in an incredible location and the perfect place to inspire and entertain a team, or tie the knot. The events team at Hamilton Island can make anything happen, from the most memorable team-building moments to organising all the catering and dining for a lunch or a dinner, dancing, anything, right next to the ocean. The multifaceted state-of-the-art conference facilities on Hamilton Island are constantly evolving, and the new Beach Pavilion takes it all up another notch.

DIARY DATES 2019/20



Hamilton Island Race Week.

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

2019

AUGUST 17-24 HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK

It is the mixture of short-course, passage and multihull racing classes that is guaranteed to test any sailor's tactical ability, which has established Hamilton Island Race Week as one of the world's premium yachting regattas – and Australia's favourite. On the schedule for top-end contenders is an IRC passage class for modern, fast-cruising yachts, performance racing and a sports-boat competition. Cruising, corporate, bareboat, non-spinnaker and SB20 divisions will all be in the line-up, too. It is one of the most exciting and busiest weeks to be on the island and, with accompanying on-shore events including lunches and memorable dinners created by some of the finest chefs, Race Week has become one of the key social events on the calendar. It all begins down at the marina for the early-morning briefings: be there to hear about the conditions and watch the boats set out en masse from the marina. Always thrilling. See you there.

NOVEMBER 18-21 PGA PROFESSIONALS CHAMPIONSHIP AND HAMILTON ISLAND AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

It's time to start locking in those extra practice hours. The PGA Professionals Championship

attracts Australia's top-order club and teaching professionals, all ready to take on the iconic Hamilton Island course for the national final. That also goes for the non-pro, three-day event, the Hamilton Island Amateur Golf Championship, which runs in conjunction with the PGA final. The popular Stableford competition starts at the same time as the PGA and is a pro-am on day one, followed by a 36-hole competition, which is open to both men and women. There are serious prizes to be won on this testing course.

NOVEMBER 23 HAMILTON ISLAND TRIATHLON

Three times the fun, the Hamilton Island Triathlon has an idyllic swim, iconic cycle leg and a run, with views and hills that will take your breath away. You can take on (and perhaps take down) some Aussie legends when you line-up alongside our 2019 ambassadors; the Bondi Rescue crew. They'll be going head-to-head in the relay, so gather some friends and family and see how you measure up against them. The spectator-friendly course means everyone can stay across the action as it unfolds through the resort. A junior event the following day, including a swim-run option (no need to pack a bike for the little ones), guarantees a great getaway for the family.

NOVEMBER 24 WHITEHAVEN BEACH OCEAN SWIM

Dive into the Endurance Series by competing on one of the most beautiful beaches in the world at our Whitehaven Beach Ocean Swim. With a junior 350m event, a 2km option and a more leisurely 750m race, the hardest choice may well be post-race, choosing between soaking up some sun on the silica white sands or soaking those weary muscles back in the balmy waters.

DECEMBER 24 CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Come and join the holiday festivities on Christmas Eve at Frangipani Park as the sun sets. Soak up the live entertainment, join in with the carols and light a candle, to support the Hamilton Island State School. There will also be a special guest dressed in red with a stocking full of treats. It's a great evening for the family. Pack a picnic or buy food and drinks at the park. Our annual firework display will light up the skyline just after sunset.

DECEMBER 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

See in the new year with a street party and dance to chart-topping tunes and those well-loved classic hits. It all kicks off at 9pm, with live entertainment at the Marina Tavern

Hamilton Island Triathlon.



Hamilton Island Race Week, Paspaley Luncheon.



Great Whitehaven Beach Run.



Pas de Deux in Paradise.

forecourt. Catseye Beach will be hosting a variety of activities, including family-friendly fireworks by the beach at 8.30pm. We love starting a new year with family and friends – and dancing. Bring on 2020.

2020

APRIL 25 ANZAC DAY

Join us at the Beach Pavilion for the Anzac Day dawn service of remembrance. This day marks the anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli during the First World War. Like hundreds of thousands of others who congregate at memorials in cities, suburbs and towns across Australia, we gather here on Hamilton Island to commemorate one of the most significant events on our national calendar. It is a poignant day for us all on the island.

MAY 3 HAMILTON ISLAND HILLY HALF MARATHON

A shout-out to all runners: 21.1km of Hamilton Island's mountainous terrain is waiting for you. It's one of the most epic endurance events

in Australia and we're already gearing up for the 2020 challenge. There's also a 3 x 7km team relay and a junior fun run. The races are all part of the Endurance Series, and we welcome all to battle it out for those coveted titles whilst taking in the breathtaking Whitsunday views.

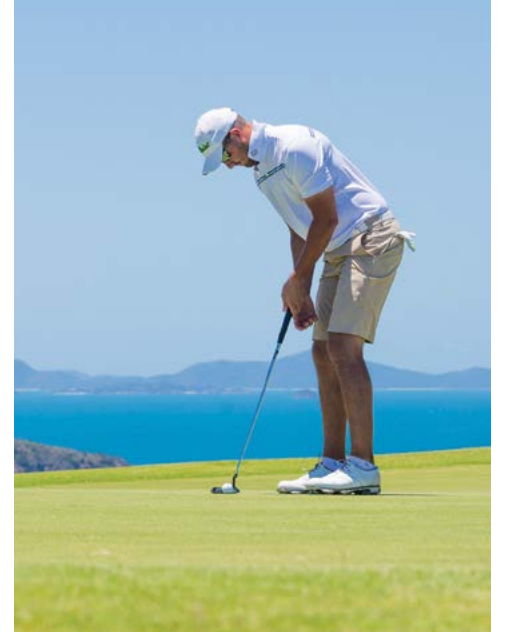
MAY 22-25 PAS DE DEUX IN PARADISE

Join The Australian Ballet at qualia for an intimate and exclusive weekend event entitled Pas de Deux in Paradise. Held every two years and set under the twinkling stars, this is one of the most magical moments on island.

JUNE 28 GREAT WHITEHAVEN BEACH RUN

The only thing slowing you down at this beach run are the views. Run at low tide on the hard packed sand, yes, the Great Whitehaven Beach Run is an event like no other. All ages and abilities are catered for, from the fun of a kids run, through to a serious half marathon, a visit to Hill Inlet on the 10km event or a jaunt up and down the silica sand for the 5km race. The trickiest challenge is not letting the allure of the turquoise tide and the sunshine distract as you sprint to the finish line on one of the most photogenic beaches in the world.

PGA Professionals Championship and Hamilton Island Amateur Golf Championship.



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



DISCOVER PARADISE: WHITEHAVEN BEACH

Here it is, then: Whitehaven Beach, a perfect stretch of bone-white silica sand, bordered by clear, turquoise sea - a pinch-yourself paradise that is truly wonderful. Every holiday on Hamilton Island should include a trip out here. The beach may feel remote and otherworldly, but the reality is only a short trip away by helicopter, seaplane, yacht, or motorboat or, better yet, a high-speed catamaran from Hamilton Island. There's more to the beach than immediately meets the eye, though: take a guided bushwalk and learn all about the native flora and fauna, or climb to the Hill Inlet lookout for unparalleled views across the Whitsundays. It's well worth the hike. Whitehaven Beach really is the kind of natural environment that is often viewed in glossy books or incredible photographs, yet seldom gets seen in person. It makes for incredible photographs - and memories.



ENERGISE: HAMILTON ISLAND BEACH SPORTS

If you're staying at the Reef View Hotel, Palm Bungalows, Beach Club, qualia or Hamilton Island Holiday Homes, you can pick up a complimentary kayak, windsurfer, snorkelling gear or paddleboard from the Beach Sports hut on Catseye Beach. We highly recommend paddleboarding as it's the best way to focus the mind and help achieve good balance while using almost every muscle in your body. Trust us, you will feel like you can conquer the world after this. Kayaking is just as much fun; we like bobbing around, though you can take it more seriously, of course - a hardcore session of kayaking will burn an average of 350 calories an hour. And honestly, is there any place better to work out than right here in Catseye Bay?

FAMILY TIME: CHILD'S PLAY

Hamilton Island is a family-friendly destination and there are many activities designed for kids to enjoy. The interactive Kids Fun Zone will allow them to get creative with arts and craft and face painting, and there are lots of games to play. It's also the place to find a holiday buddy. During the school breaks, pick up an island passport (from the Resort Centre Tour Desk) and earn tropical stamps for each activity. The Clownfish Club is the childcare centre where you can leave your little ones in safe, trusted hands.



STRIKE GOLF GOLD: DENT ISLAND

Dent Island is home to one of Australia's most spectacular 18-hole courses: the Hamilton Island Golf Club. Designed by the late, five-time British Open champion, Peter Thomson, it's an incredible place to play. Our advice is don't rush the round - a challenge for professionals and casual golfers alike. It is exceptionally beautiful, with views of the Whitsundays and beyond, so prepare to be somewhat distracted. At the 19th hole, enjoy a laidback lunch at the Clubhouse restaurant, which has the kind of menu that's sure to satisfy any hungry golfer after a day out on this course. There's also a well-stocked Pro Shop. The 10-minute ferry ride over to Dent Island is the relaxing way to begin and end the day's play.

FALL IN LOVE: HEART REEF

This is the jewel in the crown of the Whitsundays and is as beautiful and magical as its name suggests. Best viewed by air, there is the option of taking a flight in a chopper or a seaplane over the Whitsunday Islands with Hamilton Island Air. You'll be amazed by the view of Heart Reef and this special trip will make it a truly unforgettable holiday. It's a reminder why the Great Barrier Reef is one of the most incredible natural habitats on Earth. You can also take a day trip out to the pontoon at Hardy Reef and enjoy snorkelling through the brilliantly coloured coral formations. Or spend a half or full day touring the secret spots of the Whitsundays or outer reef with the Explore Group experts, who also offer an introductory scuba-dive experience for a deeper look at what lies beneath in this amazing environment.

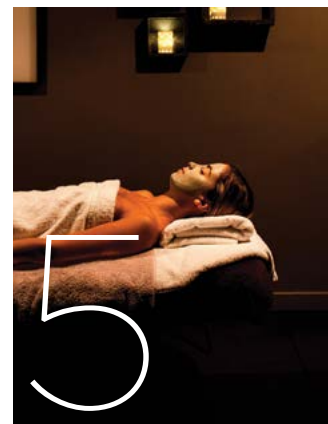


EXPERIENCE NATURE'S TRAIL: BUSHWALKING

This is a great way to enjoy Hamilton Island and will leave you feeling fit and inspired. There are many designated walking trails, varying from a short 30 minute walk to Flat Top Hill Lookout, to the longer 1 hour 45 minute (one-way) trek to South East Head. Which well-marked walking trail you choose should depend on your level of fitness. If you are intending to walk alone it's wise to let someone know before you set off, and never swim alone at the secluded beaches. Remember to consider the weather and pack a hat, sunscreen, water, snacks and a phone/camera. Respect the environment and take all rubbish away.

FINDING INNER BLISS: SPA WUMURDAYLIN

This is where the real rest and relaxation happens. The highly-skilled therapists at Spa wumurdaylin provide treatments using LaGaiA UNEDITED, a pH-balanced, scientifically formulated Australian skincare range that delivers potent vitamins and botanical extracts that are hydrating and give good results. There are many therapies to choose from on the menu and great spa packages, too, but we love starting the holiday with Soul Temple, a 60-minute treatment that includes a sensory sugar scrub, Vichy shower and underwater massage. Invigorating. Reservations are essential.



BREAKFAST WITH THE KOALAS: WILD LIFE HAMILTON ISLAND

This is one of the best ways for the whole family to have fun: a guided walk to meet all the amazing animals at WILD LIFE Hamilton Island, and breakfast with the koalas, which are brought down from their enclosure and fed nearby at the Koolah Cafe. Guests can pat and hold them as Queensland is one of three states that allow koalas to be cuddled. The Queensland koalas are smaller than their brothers and sisters further south, and their fur is less fluffy, as they have adapted to live in the tropical climate. They are tree-climbing mammals and will be breakfasting on the eucalyptus leaves - hold the avocado smash! If Reef View Hotel or Palm Bungalows guests have a booking that includes breakfast as part of their stay, they can choose to have breakfast here instead for no extra charge. It's a unique way to start the day.



SALUTE THE SUN: DENT ISLAND

Another incredible way to get the day going is a one-hour hatha yoga session at sunrise on the helipad over on Dent Island. It's easy: just be at the ferry by 6am for a 6.15am departure. You'll need to bring warm clothes if it's a cold morning, hat, sunglasses and sunscreen. Yoga mats are provided. It's a memorable, physical and spiritual experience in this wonderland. Afterwards, enjoy a healthy buffet breakfast at the Clubhouse, including a tropical chia smoothie, detox juice, avocado smash, granola, yoghurt and fresh fruit. The return ferry departs at 8.30am.



THRILL-SEEKERS: FOUR WHEEL FUN

Offroad Adventure Tours offer exciting experiences. Drive an all-terrain vehicle (a minimum of a provisional licence is required) or let an expert guide take you through scenic fire trails and up to the resort lookout. Go-Kart Racing at Hamilton

Island's Palm Valley track offers a classic on-land experience in the fast lane. The karts are fun and easy to drive, and a session in one is a great way to let off some city steam. No licence is required for the go-karts, which can reach up to 45km/h around the track. Kids too young to drive can still join in the fun and ride as passengers in a double go-kart.

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



Paradise, found

HEART PONTOON, HARDY REEF, GREAT BARRIER REEF

Iconic beaches, lush tropical islands, luxe resorts and the amazing Great Barrier Reef – the Whitsundays is holiday heaven.

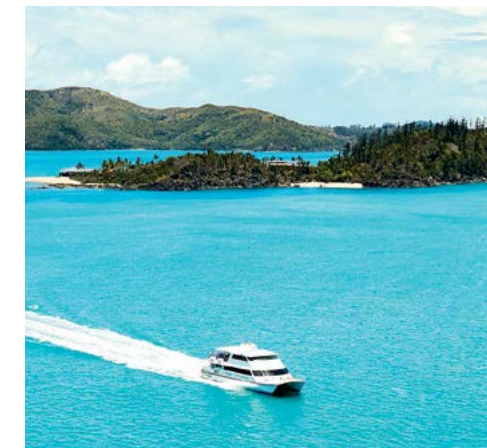
Dig your toes into the pure sand of Whitehaven Beach, snorkel amongst spectacular marine life and sleep under the stars on the Great Barrier Reef or soak up the scenery on an island-hopping day cruise – your adventure awaits with the region's premier tour operator.

TO BOOK, PLEASE VISIT:

Hamilton Island Tour Desk • Hamilton Island Marina • cruisewhitsundays.com



WHITEHAVEN BEACH & HILL INLET



ISLAND ESCAPE DAY CRUISES



REEFSLEEP

Southern adventures of BEAU GESTE

Beau Geste, Brisbane
to Gladstone Yacht
Race, 2019.



PHOTOGRAPHY: VIDPICR@COM

It's a weapon on water, the MOD70, a huge trimaran built to break and set race records. And it's coming to Hamilton Island Race Week for the first time. This multihull has an amazing resume and the dynamic duo of Karl Kwok and Gavin Brady, multiple Race Week IRC division A champions with previous Beau Gestes, are bringing it to the Whitsunday playground.

By Lisa Ratcliff.

Hamilton Island Race Week last hosted the champion Chinese Beau Geste crew in 2016, when skipper Karl Kwok and his TP52 team outclassed the local boats in the hot Grand Prix division for the second year running. Kwok, his long-time campaign manager Gavin Brady and crew have since competed at the very top of the tree in Asia and Europe, running parallel campaigns with Beau Geste the IRC TP52 and Beau Geste the multiple-record-holding MOD70 trimaran. "It's a fun, new challenge," says Brady. "We are on our third year now with the MOD, so starting to get the feel of this style of sailing. It is an unreal machine – you can have your best day and scariest day all during the same sailing session."

Beau Geste races inshore with 10 to 12 crew made up largely of TP52 team members, with a few specialised multihull sailors to keep the boat safe and powered up. "We have found the basic management is the same as the 52. You just have to be a bit stronger with your policies and process – there's no second chance," says Brady. One MOD70 recorded a top speed of 41 knots – that's 76 kph.

Exciting for Hamilton Island is the return of the Beau Geste racing team, sailing for the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club, to its annual winter sailing series, which attracts an average of 220 boats – from tiny trailables to supermaxis and a mass of good-looking cruiser-racers in between – and is on track for a record year.

Of their impending return, the successful Chinese businessman and owner/skipper Kwok says, "It's no secret Race Week is our favourite event. Every race is different with the tides and islands. We just love the variety the series offers, and adding in the feeder race from Brisbane makes it a great combination of a long ocean passage followed up with day racing." Having been presented with most key international keelboat trophies for top-scoring performances with various TP52s, including taking out last year's first-ever IRC Offshore Sailing World Championship at The Hague, Kwok and his posse changed tack three years ago, moving into a totally different sphere of racing on one of the world's fastest transoceanic multihulls.

Since taking charge, the Beau Geste team has set a record for the China Sea Race of 38hrs 30m 7s (600nm) and a new multihull race record for the Hong Kong to Hainan Race of 24hrs 01m 59s (390nm).

Locally, the boat with the trademark Chinese dragon insignia contested this year's Brisbane to Gladstone Race in April, usurping the previous course record held by Sean Langman's ORMA60 trimaran, the last big Australian-owned multihull that went to Asia in 2018 to join the Scallywag fleet.

Barring mishap, the MOD70 will add another fastest-course time to its impressive international tally when the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron's inaugural Lendlease Brisbane to Hamilton Island Yacht Race, starting August 2 from Moreton Bay, feeds into this year's Hamilton Island Race Week, August 17-24.

Kwok purchased the weapon-on-water from Lloyd Thomburg three years ago, when it was Phaedo3 and carried the reputation of one of the fastest yachts in the world. Between 2015 and 2017 Phaedo3 set the sailing world alight, recording quickest times for the Fastnet, RORC Caribbean 600, Trans-Atlantic and the Trans-Pacific, and establishing fastest circumnavigations of the Isle of Wight, Ireland, St Maarten, Antigua and Jamestown, among other notable achievements.

So unique is the MOD70 that at the time of printing, when entries were at the halfway point for the anticipated final fleet, Race Week's regatta director Denis Thompson was unable to confirm who Beau Geste will square off against. They may line up among the multihull racing division or race pursuit-style against any 100-footers in the rating division.

Darren Drew's Crowther 50 Top Gun out of Sydney is one of a small number of larger ocean racing multihulls in Australia and the closest in size to Beau Geste among the early Race Week multihull racing entries. The 20ft waterline length differential and generational gap of 25 years, particularly in terms of design and construction material, means Beau Geste will quickly separate from Top Gun and other starters in that division, and essentially race solo across the six-day programme.

"We are very keen to accommodate Beau Geste – it's going to be exciting seeing them racing

Beau Geste,
Hamilton Island
Race Week, 2015.

“IT’S GOING TO BE EXCITING SEEING THEM RACING AROUND THE WHITSUNDAYS.”



The Boat Works,
Extreme 40.

Karl Kwok.

around the Whitsundays,” says Thompson. “If the competition in the multihull racing division is suitable I’ll slot them in there.” Three, possibly four Extreme 40 catamarans and the TF10 foiling trimaran will also be spectacular crowd-pleasers across the week. Former champion motor racing driver Tony Longhurst owns the bright orange Extreme 40 to beat, called The Boat Works. Back for their third Race Week, the boat’s manager Julian Griffiths says the Queensland crew are looking forward to racing in the tradewinds, “Our boat can reach speeds of 30 knots on flat water in around 20 knots of wind. But we will still give the spectators a thrill in as little as eight knots of breeze.” Hamilton Island Race Week annually draws thousands of sailors; those keen to escape the

winter chill gripping the popular southern boating hubs of Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, Perth, Adelaide and Auckland, plus those lucky enough to be enjoying Queensland’s milder winters and typically an international crew who has timed their island visit during a world cruise with the Race Week dates. It’s long been part of an unwritten agreement between key east coast yacht clubs that the northern circuit begins at the end of July with the Sydney Gold Coast Race, which runs into the Brisbane to Keppel and now the Brisbane to Hamilton Island feeder races. Once they reach the Whitsundays, owners and crews are spoiled for choice with three consecutive race weeks on offer – Airlie Beach, Hamilton Island and lastly Magnetic Island. The passage race format of Hamilton Island

Race Week, long stretches of flat-water sailing around various habited and uninhabited islands in the seasonal tradewinds, is the perfect playground for Kwok’s MOD70 to really put on a show. With their Australian itinerary complete, the multinational team then head to New Zealand to keep learning the trimaran while breaking and setting records. Interspersed with a multihull circuit will be TP52 racing with this year’s highlight, the New York Yacht Club’s 175th Anniversary Regatta in July. Hamilton Island Race Week is on track for a record year, with entries ahead of where they were in 2016 when a fleet of 252 set a new benchmark for Australia’s most popular offshore regatta founded in 1984. hamiltonislandraceweek.com.au

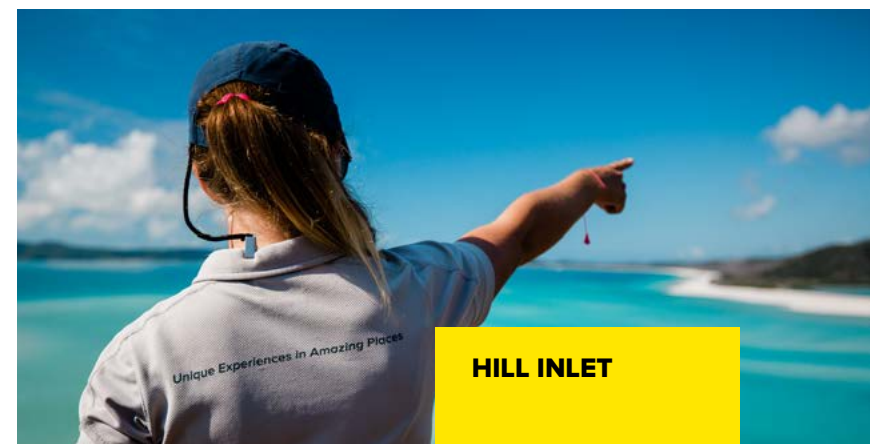
PHOTOGRAPHY: CRAIG GREENHILL; KARL KWOK; SALTY DINGO; VIDPICPRO.COM.



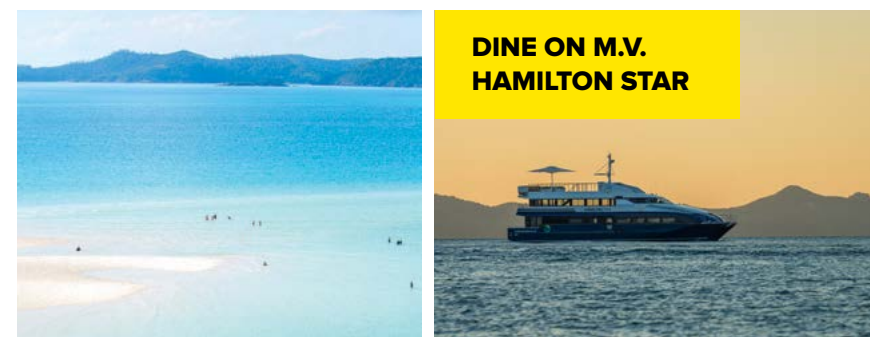
Unique Experiences in Amazing Places



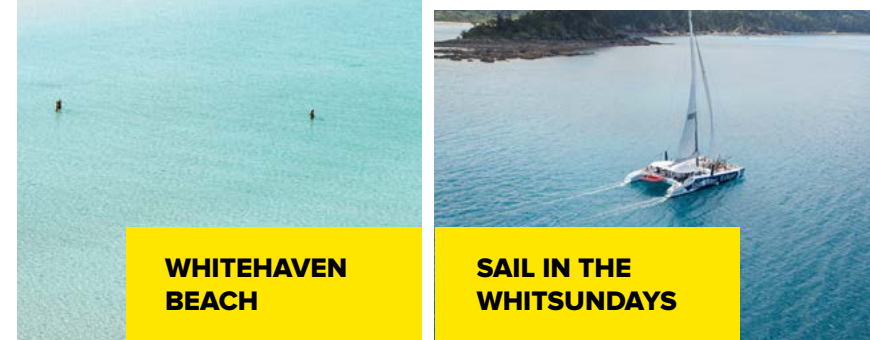
EXPLORE HAMILTON ISLAND



HILL INLET



DINE ON M.V. HAMILTON STAR



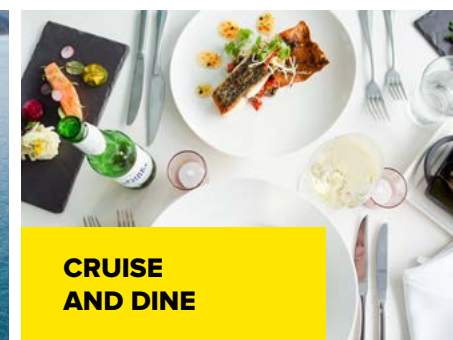
WHITEHAVEN BEACH

SAIL IN THE WHITSUNDAYS

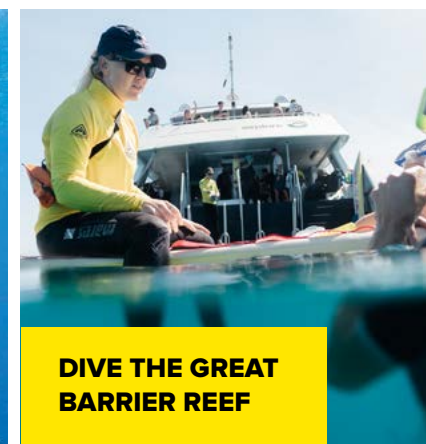


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SNORKEL THE GREAT BARRIER REEF



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CAPTURED

For Nick Leary, intuition is as much a consideration as narrative. It's on large-scale creative endeavours – such as the recent campaign for Hamilton Island, which Leary shot in 2018 but first began working on as early as 2017 – that he had to balance both.

By Nicholas Carolan.

“I tried to bring some of the honesty back, to connect with people,” says the Australian fine art photographer Nick Leary of his approach to the new campaign he has shot for Hamilton Island. Rather than “the ‘couple holding a glass of wine and walking down the beach’ scenario that we’ve seen a million times”, he opted to work with real families – two generations of parents and their children, and a third married couple – to craft a story that strikes a fine balance between romanticism and documentary (albeit, an extremely photogenic one). Leary says that, once production wrapped, everyone involved left connected in a way that they weren't previously. “It was really quite nice,” he says. “We flew the family out and gave them an experience of the Great Barrier Reef for the first time. [We created] honest situations, so we could capture their experiences.” One of the youngest cast members, Piper, was visibly ecstatic to visit the reef for the first time, imbuing the story with a genuine sense of wish fulfilment that ordinarily eludes traditional scripting efforts. As for how the campaign relates to Leary's body of work more broadly, a concern with lineage immediately becomes evident. “We all want reconnection,” he says. “You want to reconnect with your kids – to

pass something on, to teach them how to swim or tell them a story. That lineage is powerful stuff, it doesn't matter who you are.” Leary also took cues from the story of Sandy Oatley, who as a teenager built boats in his bedroom at the family home in Mosman. “That [story] helped us to understand that it isn't always about the big beautiful beaches,” says Leary. “It's the moment that you get to sit down and connect with yourself, your partner. It's the little things that are the most important.” Though he is (luckily) no stranger to the island, having shot here previously, its natural beauty and abundance have never failed to astonish on return visits. “It's a pretty special place,” he says. “The colours out there are just beyond. There are so many different aspects to the light. From the early-morning sunrise up at Passage Peak to the beautiful sunsets over the yacht club out to the west, it's pretty incredible. It's a great Australian experience.” A sense of connection to place is evidently paramount across Leary's practice, whether he's photographing the brumbies of the Australian outback in exhaustive, exquisite detail for Brumby, his 2015 monograph, or spending a month in the desert at Titjikala, a remote

PHOTOGRAPHY: NICK LEARY; BEHIND THE SCENES: JAY LYON.

“THE BEAUTY AND THE DIRECTION WERE ALWAYS REALLY SIMPLE. THE FEELING OF WHAT I WANTED WAS AN EASY ONE TO NAIL.”

Indigenous community near Alice Springs, to create a series of vivid, abstract portraits. It should come as no surprise, then, to hear that Leary is happiest when his feet are planted on solid ground (Australian soil, to be specific). “I felt like there were opportunities for me to potentially become quite a well-known fashion photographer in New York. It was all there, but the feeling that I get back in Australia allows me to feel free. That's why I ended up back here. I love the life here, the people, and you understand that as an Australian when you go away and come back. That's something that I chase and that comes out in my work.”

Before he learnt to shoot, Leary could fly. Everything he has done, he has done so with freedom – the promise of it, the pursuit of it – buoying him ever higher. He knows why it's something he craves constantly (after all, who doesn't fear the dreaded alternative?), but its origins are slightly more mysterious, even to him.

“I never wanted to get locked into the position that [my parents] were locked into,” says Leary, who was

The same nomadic impulse led him to first pursue a commercial pilot's licence after completing his schooling, driven, he says, by the innate belief that he could do anything – if only as a means of resisting stasis. Should he not already happen to be fluent in the technicalities of air travel, Leary would by now be something of an expert in the field. For nearly four years, the photographer has split his time between homes in Sydney and on the Sunshine Coast, where his partner lives with their two young children. His flight path to arrive here, however, has been far more circuitous.

It was while he was working at a bar in Sydney that Leary was scouted as a model. The opportunity propelled him headfirst into the fashion industry – something he knew very little of, having cut his teeth in the city's suburban south. He decamped to New York, where he worked alongside top-tier photographers. Before long, he began making the first of his many big investments in a restaurant, before entering the high-stakes world of selling, trading and dealing securities. But Leary soon learnt that, in hedge funds as in aviation, what goes up must come back down. “I got to a point in my life where I literally had a few dollars in my wallet,” he recalls of that fraught period following an altogether different sort of crash. “I decided that the money that I had didn't make me happy.”

It was at this time that he'd also begun to experiment with photography, taking portraits on the street with an old Nikon F2. “I decided that I wanted to lead a life that was creative,” he says of the pact he made with himself to travel the world in pursuit of beauty. “It came at a time when I had nothing else to lose.” He returned to bar work, but soon realised that he didn't know his kir royales from his harvey wallbangers and so he rolled up his sleeves once more and began washing dishes. Whatever tips he salvaged went toward film; test shoots with other models grew into creative projects. Leary would later return to Australia, where his career behind the lens began in earnest. Soon, he was lensing for the covers of Vogue and GQ Australia, shooting Australia's highest-wattage celebrity exports. “The door opened and it seemed easy,” Leary says of his creative epiphany. There were no two ways about it. “It was almost second nature to some degree. The beauty and the direction were always really simple. The feeling of what I wanted was an easy one to nail.”

raised an only child by his mother, a secretary, and restlessly entrepreneurial father. “I saw them struggle and work a lot of their life. There was definitely a lot of that [desire for freedom] in my DNA.”

SEARCHING for paradise

As a well-respected author of 13 books, former journalist Michael Robotham was invited to experience the beauty of Queensland first-hand and then write about his adventure. Here he shares his “bucket list” story.

PHOTOGRAPHY: HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY.

The holidays of my childhood were spent under canvas. Our “big top” was a two-tone brown tent with a central pole and others spaced around the edges, held up with guy ropes and tent pegs.

Every summer holiday we packed the trailer and took off for some new corner of the Australian coast. Mum, Dad and four kids were crammed into a station wagon, with clothes, surf mats, towels, beach umbrellas, cricket bats and industrial-sized bottles of insect repellent and zinc cream.

Mum would make devon sandwiches and prepare jugs of Cottee’s cordial for the journey because we couldn’t afford takeaway prices or fizzy drinks.

Arriving at our chosen campground, the tent was raised in a military fashion with everybody playing a role, until that moment when Dad lifted the centre pole like a caber-tosser and raised the roof above our heads.

We kids slept in double-decker bunks and when the wind blew the canvas would bulge inwards, brushing against my cheek. I loved the sound of rain on canvas and hearing Dad outside, stripped down to his Stubbies, digging trenches to channel the water away.

To this day, I have no idea how my mother fed a family of six on a two-burner Primus stove with an Esky to keep things cold. Or how she managed to hide our Christmas presents until they were slipped into the pillow cases we’d hung at the end of our bunks.

One Christmas Eve, when we were camping, I woke to see the silhouette of my mother kissing Santa Claus in the moonlight. It didn’t dawn on me until years later that Santa and my father were men of a similar size and girth, although I still think it was Santa.

These were joyous, carefree holidays full of sausage sizzles, sandcastle competitions and beach cricket. We fished, swam, rode waves, got dumped and emptied sand from our cozzies every evening when we trooped off to the shower block: three boys behind my father, my sister with my mother.

I look back on those days with enormous fondness and cherished memories because the summers were so long and hot, and time seemed infinite.

The future arrived, of course, and I have spent the past 40 years travelling the globe, visiting 56 countries (at last count) and raising three daughters, who were each born on different continents. I have travelled in search of understanding and experiences, but also an awareness that around the next corner I might discover a place that would make me want to stay. I’ve found a few over the years, but I keep

coming back to Australia because it’s still home. I found another reason why when I recently visited Hamilton Island, in the heart of the Whitsundays and the Great Barrier Reef, 900km north of Brisbane. Hamilton Island is one of those places that had been on my bucket list for years, but I always thought it could wait until later, when I retired, or I’d had enough of long-haul flights and the jet lag. I was wrong. I should have done it sooner. I should have stopped looking into the distance and seen what was right in front of me.

First let me give the place some context. The search for an earthly paradise has been a part of the Western literary tradition from the very beginning, when the Book of Genesis described the Garden of Eden. The ancient Greeks believed that paradise existed in a place called the Fortunate Islands off the west coast of Africa, where mortal men could drink and sport with the gods.

The fifth-century Irish cleric St Brendan claimed to have found paradise in the west Atlantic, while Christopher Columbus discovered Eden on his first voyage across the Atlantic in 1492, when he stumbled upon

“WE FISHED, SWAM,
RODE WAVES, GOT
DUMPED, EMPTIED
SAND FROM
OUR COZZIES...”

an island in the Caribbean that he called Hispaniola. Almost 300 years later, the French explorer Louis-Antoine de Bougainville wrote very similar words about Tahiti in the South Pacific.

This brings me back to Queensland and the Whitsunday Islands. This continental chain of sunken mountains was separated from the Australian mainland during the last ice age, creating a string of 74 green pearls framed by white sand and an aquamarine sea. Surely these are worthy of consideration as an earthly paradise. Most of the islands are uninhabited and form part of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. For 9,000 years they were home to the Ngaro people, the traditional owners of the land, whose long-time presence can be found at an ancient stone quarry on South Molle Island, as well as in rock art and middens found on Hook Island.

Hamilton Island is the premier resort island in the Whitsundays, and this is where I started

my search for paradise after a direct flight from Sydney. Most of my holidays are organised by the seat-of-my-pants, or my wife, Vivien, who is very good at sussing out boutique hotels and new experiences. These rarely involve tourist resorts, or organised tours, but one word convinced her to come to Hamilton Island: qualia.

This world-class resort is the last word in opulence and a destination for the rich and famous. Taylor Swift had her birthday bash here in 2015, inviting 125 of her touring entourage. Other guests have included Chris Hemsworth, Leonardo DiCaprio, Johnny Depp and Oprah Winfrey. In case you think qualia is only for movie stars and Russian oligarchs, we met other mere mortals like ourselves. Janine and Gary were honeymooners from New York, who wanted a “once in a lifetime” experience before they settled down to careers and family life. Bryan and Anna were retirees from Yorkshire, England, who were half-way through a round-the-world tour that they had planned for 20 years. Peter and Fiona, from Melbourne, were celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary, and having their last child leave home.

“We need something to celebrate?” I said to Vivien, on our first evening, as we sipped a complimentary bottle of champagne on the balcony of our pavilion, watching a riot of red and yellow light up the clouds as the sun sank behind Dent Island.

She popped another strawberry in her mouth and said, “We’re celebrating being here.” I knew what she meant. Ten months previously, I’d had a quadruple heart bypass. I avoided a heart attack thanks to a very cautious GP, who insisted I undergo an exercise ECG. He saved my life.

“You’re proof of why bucket lists shouldn’t be put off,” said Vivien, eating a slice of mango, before adding, “I would hate to be doing this without you.”

“Would you do it without me?” I wanted to ask, but thought better of it.

Over dinner that night – a seven-course degustation menu with matching wines – we began swapping memories of our childhood holidays. Much of what we remembered centered around food. Vivien swooned over exotic fare like jam-filled donuts, which she first tasted while staying at the Florida Car-O-Tel in Surfers Paradise. I recalled discovering hot bread shops, where the white loaves were still warm from the oven and butter melted into the softness, making deli-bought devon taste like Tuscan mortadella.

At that moment, our scallops arrived, served on the shell with foie gras, porcini and truffles,

and teamed with a 2013 Reginald Germein Chardonnay from the Adelaide Hills. (I could describe the wagyu beef, macadamia and shallots, but words don't do it justice).

The next morning, I took a short ferry ride to the Hamilton Island Golf Club, which is billed as the only championship course in Australia on its own island. I first played golf on a very different style of course, on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River in Gundagai. Back then you had to shoo the sheep off the rock-hard fairways and, on the sand green, a rake was needed to move the dung and smooth a path to the hole.

The Hamilton Island layout had other challenges. Designed by five-times British Open winner, the late Peter Thomson, the 18-hole, par 71 course makes the most of Mother Nature, hugging the clifftops and contours of the island. Every hole has a breathtaking view across the Whitsundays and the Coral Sea. It's like playing on a postcard. Vivien, a golf-agnostic, was almost converted to the game during the nine holes she accompanied me, although she spent more time taking photographs than watching where my ball went.

We had booked in for an hour-long couples' massage to aid my recovery. Natalie, a girl from Rainbow in northwest Victoria was my masseuse, while Tamlyn from Port Elizabeth in South Africa looked after Vivien. Over the next hour I discovered the difference between decadence and opulence, as Natalie treated my neck and shoulders as a challenge rather than a chore.

"Aren't your hands sore?" I asked. "Nah. I'm used to shearing sheep," she replied.

Nobody, we discovered, comes from Hamilton Island. Every member of staff we met was from somewhere else. We spent the holiday quizzing them about what brought them from France, Italy, America, New Zealand, the Philippines and beyond. Most simply pointed to the view and said, "Wouldn't you want to work here?" That evening we took a sunset cruise on the Coral Sea, drinking champagne and eating canapés as the sky caught alight and the embers slowly burned down to darkness. At that moment, in the opposite direction, a supermoon rose like a great shining globe above One Tree Hill on Hamilton Island. "Now they're just taking the piss," I said to Vivien.

"Do you think they arranged that just for us?" she replied, hooking her arm in mine. "We should have come here for our honeymoon." "We didn't have a honeymoon."

"For the next one, then."

The following morning, we waited on the helipad at qualia as a small bubble-shaped chopper came in to land. Our pilot Daniel strapped us into our seats and hooked up the comms before we took off and headed for the

outer reef. We swept low over the deserted islands and along Whitehaven Beach, before turning east for a flight across open water.

Daniel pointed to the pale blue strip into the distance. "There it is."

Suddenly, it was below us, the largest coral-reef system in the world. Every conceivable shade of blue stretched out for hundreds of kilometres to the north and south in fingerprint whorls of submerged shoals, shelves and ridges. Hard corals and soft, spreading like mould in a petri dish, rising like cones, rippling like wheat fields, rounded, conical, crooked and branch-like, growing like a single organism in the warm, fertile waters. And amid it all there were stingrays, sharks, turtles and schools of fish being feasted on by gulls. This is the bucket list moment, I thought. This is what I'll remember most.

My mother is in her eighties now, with all the associated problems of old age, but she often reminisces about our family adventures.

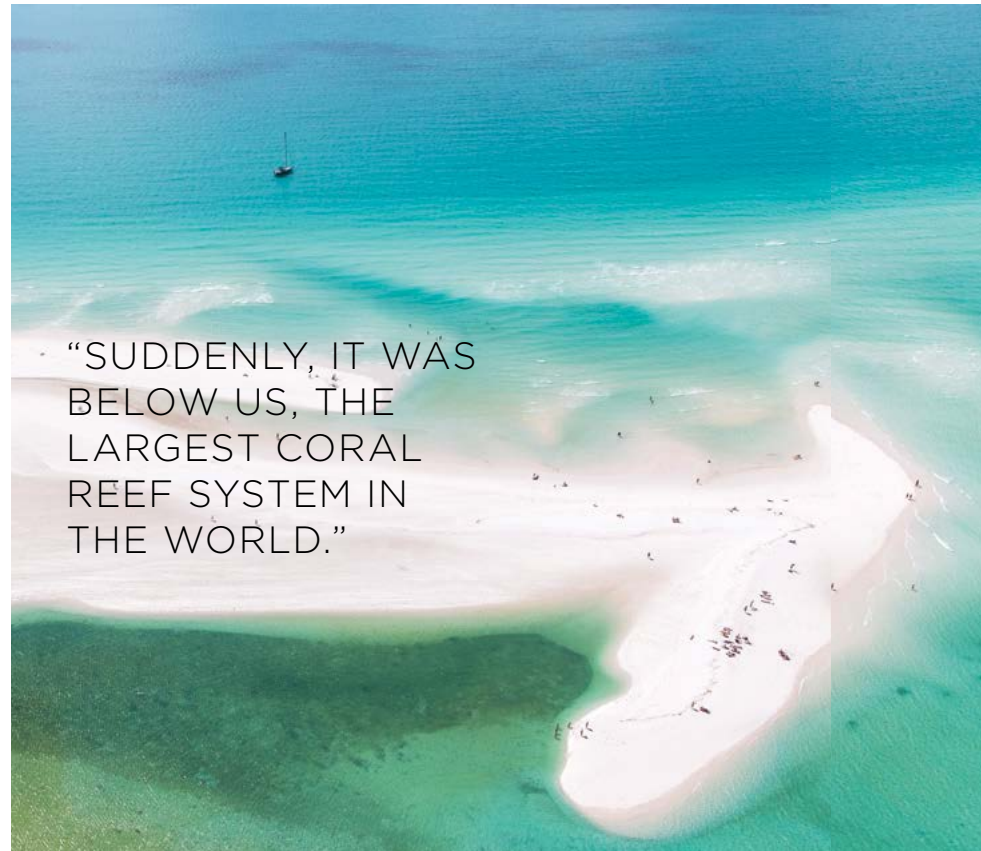
After my father died, I remember her recalling a camping trip to Airlie Beach on the Queensland coast.

"Dad and I wanted to take you all on a glass-bottom boat to see the Great Barrier Reef," she said, "but we decided it was too expensive. There were six of us living on a teacher's wage and it seemed like such an extravagance. It's one of my great regrets."

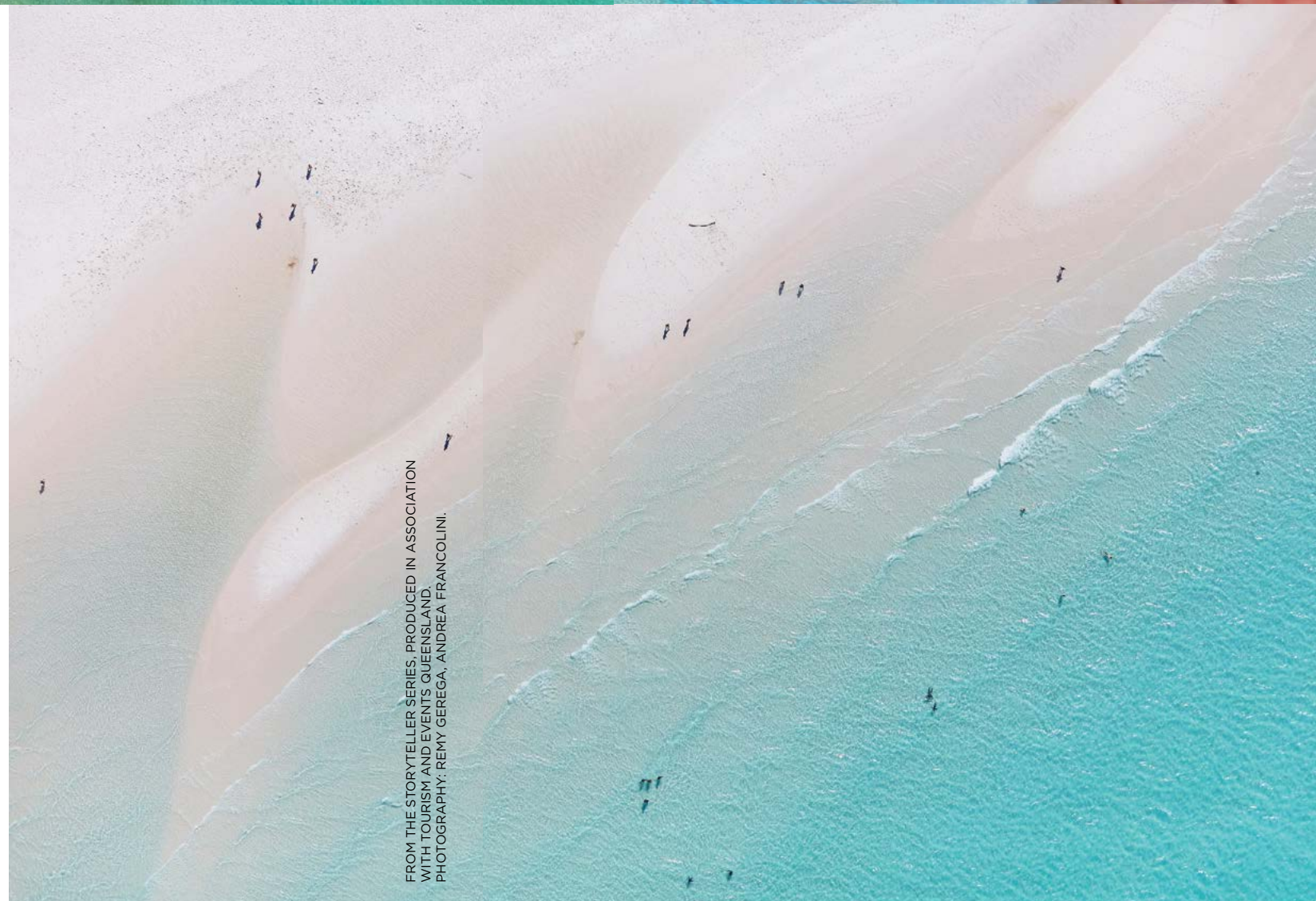
I told her it didn't matter, and that we'd make our own plans, but she said, "Yes, but that was my chance."

I thought of Mum as we skimmed over Heart Reef. I imagined her sitting behind me, beaming happily as she gazed upon one of the world's most spectacular natural wonders. Daniel banked the chopper and we headed back, passing Border Island on the journey home. I thought about the threats facing the Great Barrier Reef and how tourism is part of the answer because it brings jobs, money and international attention to a landmark that has to be protected at all costs.

Everybody, no matter where they're from, should have the opportunity to see it one day from above or below or through a glass-bottomed boat. A dodgy heart meant I nearly waited too long. I'm glad I didn't.



"SUDDENLY, IT WAS BELOW US, THE LARGEST CORAL REEF SYSTEM IN THE WORLD."



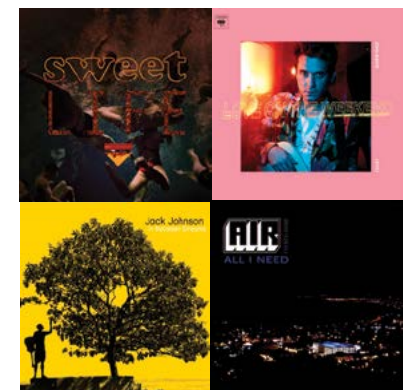
FROM THE STORYTELLER SERIES, PRODUCED IN ASSOCIATION WITH TOURISM AND EVENTS QUEENSLAND. PHOTOGRAPHY: REMY GEREGA, ANDREA FRANCOLINI.

SOUNDS LIKE...

Our favourites on repeat for those chilled island vibes. Holiday mode: on.

PLAYLIST

- Doin' Time* - Lana Del Rey
- Sweet Life* - Frank Ocean
- Good Vibrations* - The Beach Boys
- Motion* - Emotional Oranges
- I Want You Around* - Snoh Aalegra
- Summertime* - Ella Fitzgerald & Louis Armstrong
- Morning Glory* - Liza
- All I Need* - Air & Beth Hirsch
- Mornin Dew* - Sunni Colón
- Eternal Sunshine* - Jhené Aiko
- Summer* - The Carters
- Wasted* - Summer Walker
- Banana Pancakes* - Jack Johnson
- Carried Away* - H.E.R.
- Don't Wanna Share You* - Bridge
- Glory Box* - Portishead
- Love on the Weekend* - John Mayer
- Binz* - Solange
- Montana* - Justin Timberlake
- Teardrop* - Massive Attack
- Lovely Day* - Bill Withers
- I Know There's Gonna Be Good Times* - Jamie XX
- Feels Like Summer* - Childish Gambino
- Standing On the Sun Remix* - Beyoncé
- Blue Calx* - Aphex Twin
- Hot Stuff* - Donna Summer



Rhiannon Taylor, in bed in the Windward Pavilion at qualia.



The TURNDOWN

Rhiannon Taylor is living the dream. Born and raised in Melbourne, after studying photography she started the lifestyle website and blog In Bed With. She now zooms around the world, happily going off-grid and discovering destinations off the beaten track. Fresh back from a trip to Hamilton Island, she gave REEF her island lowdown. This is how you do it.

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED WITH IN BED WITH? WHAT FUELLED YOUR DESIRE TO TRAVEL AND DOCUMENT?

"I've been a photographer for 13 years now and, throughout my career, I mostly worked in architecture, interiors and food spaces, which led to photographing interiors of hotels, which led to photographing travel. It sort of snowballed in that way over the past decade. And then, about four years ago, I had this idea – everyone was blogging about outfits they were wearing every day and I thought, 'Well, why not talk about hotels?' Interior design meets travel, which was my passion. I came up with the name and the concept and wanted to keep it quite mysterious. It was one of those things when you start a blog, you put it up online and it's not perfect but you get it up there, and it kind of just took off in a big way in a short time. It's been finessed over the past few years and it's been about looking at hotels that make a difference with sustainability and unique architects and design collaborations. That's my vision for this year, what I'm really trying to focus on."



Whitsunday Islands, view from the air.

WHAT MAKES A GREAT DESTINATION? "I seek out destinations that are off the beaten track a little bit, or less travelled. That's because it gives the traveller a little bit more privacy, a little bit more time to explore the destination without feeling the crowds. I think anyone who's travelled to and been somewhere really busy and touristy gets really frustrated and you can feel claustrophobic. I love anywhere that hasn't been overdeveloped."

ON IN BED WITH, YOU ASK THE QUESTION, "WHERE ARE YOU STAYING TONIGHT?" SO, WHAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF A HOTEL ROOM FOR YOU? THE MAKE OR BREAK? "Ooh, there are so many things. A great bed! At the end of the day, if you're travelling and you have a hotel room with a great bed and it's clean – clean sheets and a comfy mattress – it's done its bit. What makes a great hotel are things like lighting – lots of natural light. I stayed at qualia...!"

WHAT'S THE MOST REMOTE PLACE YOU'VE VISITED? "I went to this place called Sal Salis, which is up on the Ningaloo reef in Western Australia. It's an ecolodge and there are about 15 tents. A Middleton honeymooned there. There's no wi-fi or cell-phone reception. They run off borehole water. You're allocated 20 litres of

water in your room every day, and it runs off solar power. It was completely off-grid, it was amazing. It really allowed me to connect back to nature and think about how life was before we came along and completely developed it."

WHERE ARE YOU DYING TO VISIT? "We're so lucky in Australia to have the most beautiful islands on our doorstep. I would love to explore some of the islands around North Queensland a little more as well."

HAVE YOU EXPLORED THE GREAT BARRIER REEF? "Yes I have. I haven't done anything underwater but I've photographed it from above and done the helicopter ride over Whitehaven Beach. It was incredible, mind-blowing. I was initially struck by how big it was and I only saw a tiny, tiny portion. But also how clear it was and the formations... It was like artwork in the sea."

IS HAMILTON ISLAND A MUST-VISIT? "Definitely that. I think it's a must-do for Australians. Like, once-in-a-lifetime, everyone in Australia should please go and see it."

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT TRAVEL IN AUSTRALIA? "The thing that strikes me about Australia is it's so diverse. In the centre we have this barren red desert and then we have these incredible coastal cliff lines and then these tropical north islands. And then south... in Tasmania we have mountain landscapes. I think you could explore Australia forever as a traveller. And we have such a rich history and culture with our Indigenous Australian heritage that is unique. I know I've travelled pretty much everywhere in the world and I sound a bit biased, but Australia really is my favourite place to explore."

AN ISLAND HOLIDAY IS COMPLETE WITH...? WHAT MUST WE ALWAYS DO? "I think for an island holiday you need to be able to completely switch off to enjoy it. Having full days on the beach where you're just doing nothing and reading a book. That for me is such a luxury. I love an island with a great beach that has a great reef on its doorstep. Any island that has a nature reserve is such a luxury, because you're able to go and see life under the sea."

BEST PACKING ADVICE FOR OUR HAMILTON ISLAND ADVENTURE? "I tend to over-pack and then end up wearing the same thing every day – one or two really great breezy kaftans that you can chuck over your swimmers when you're walking down to the beach or walking around the resort or the island. And then the great thing about a really nice kaftan is you can put on a lovely pair of sandals and some fabulous earrings and you're off to dinner. They're probably my main packing essential. And sunscreen, obviously. As I've got older I apply it all the time and I don't leave the house without it."

ANY HOLIDAY FOOD ROUTINES? "I guess because I'm always travelling I'm always eating out and so I crave routine and healthy, fresh food – lots of fresh veggies and salads and clean foods. But that's it. If there's something killer on the menu, I do get a bit of fomo and want to try it."

DID YOU EVER EXPECT THIS LIFE? "No, not at all. I always wanted to be a photographer but I didn't realise that I would be travelling this much. The travel pace kind of picked up over the past few years since the blog, even back from when I was in my early twenties shooting interiors and food. Now [as a travel photographer] I'm just surrounded by pristine beaches, and I'm very grateful."

The bliss of a bath at qualia.



Whitsunday sunset.



PHOTOGRAPHY: RHIANNON TAYLOR.

Gone TRIPPING

Cerulean sky. Click. Press share. Turquoise ocean. Click. Press share. Yes, the digital decade and destinations including Hamilton Island have turned us all into travel superheroes. By Ute Junker.

My friend Joanna* was a reluctant bride. Not that she had any doubts about her fiancé – it was the wedding itself that she was less keen on. Having seen too many over-the-top extravaganzas, complete with out-of-control brides, family feuds and ballooning budgets, she didn't want to become a cliché. She wanted to do it her way.

So she went online, where she fell in love with images of a gorgeous little Sicilian town that promised to be the perfect wedding venue. She found a hotel and made the bookings. There was just one thing she forgot to check – whether anyone else had had the same idea. It wasn't until she arrived in Taormina that she discovered that this pretty little place was actually the wedding capital of Sicily.

"Within two minutes of arriving in town, we saw three brides posing for their wedding pictures," she laughs. So much for breaking the mould. Joanna enjoyed her wedding anyway and, as expected, Taormina provided a spectacular backdrop for the wedding pics she posted online. Her wedding reminded me that, in the past decade, travel has become a truly digital experience. There is nothing new, of course, about online planning: we have all become adept at scouting out the cheapest airfares and the best-located hotels, tasks that we used to outsource to travel agents.

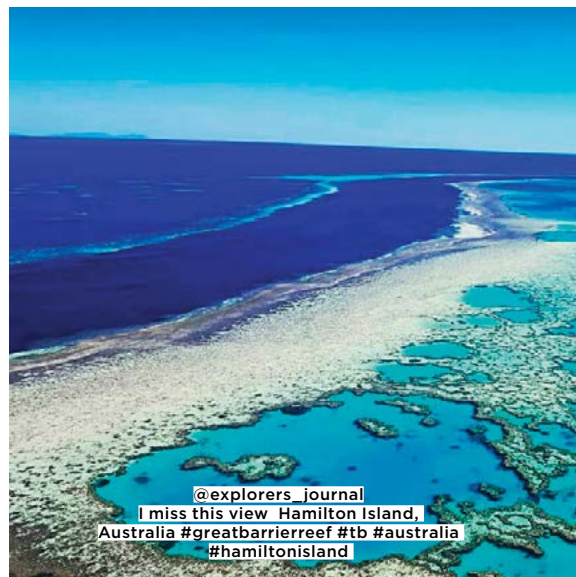
In fact, we have more knowledge at our fingertips than pre-internet-era travel agents could have dreamed of. I don't remember any agent ever telling me which café near my hotel served the best avocado on toast, but these days I can track that information down myself in just a minute or two.

And that is precisely where things get interesting, because that avocado-on-toast recommendation is likely not to come from a respected publisher, but from some other traveller who has taken the time to post their top tips online. Review sites continue to flourish: more than 255 reviews are posted every minute on TripAdvisor alone. And then of course there is social media, which has reinvented the glossy brochure for the millennial age.

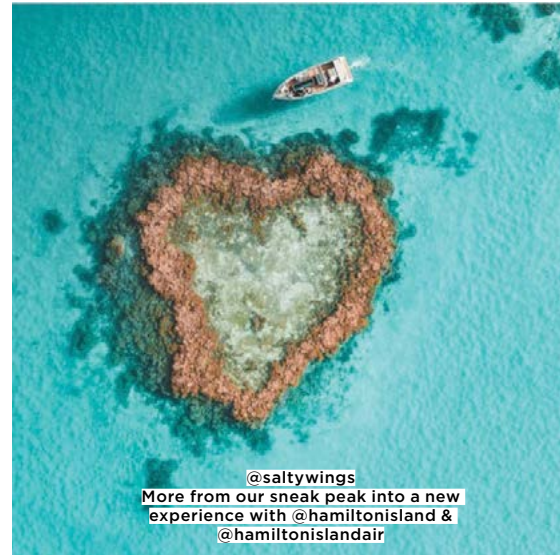


@lagurf
Holiday dreaming!! missing summer today!
#hamiltonisland #holiday #dreaming #goals
#missingthesun #summer #love #beach
#australia #visithamiltonisland

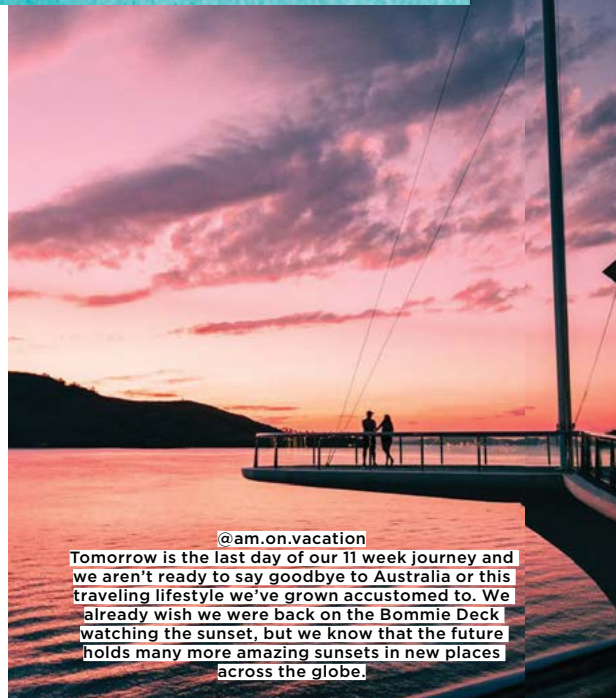
"PHOTOGENIC DESTINATIONS HAVE A HEAD START WHEN IT COMES TO INSTAGRAMMABLE CONTENT..."



@explorers_journal
I miss this view Hamilton Island,
Australia #greatbarrierreef #tb #australia
#hamiltonisland



@saltywings
More from our sneak peak into a new experience with @hamiltonisland & @hamiltonislandair



@am.on.vacation
Tomorrow is the last day of our 11 week journey and we aren't ready to say goodbye to Australia or this traveling lifestyle we've grown accustomed to. We already wish we were back on the Bommie Deck watching the sunset, but we know that the future holds many more amazing sunsets in new places across the globe.



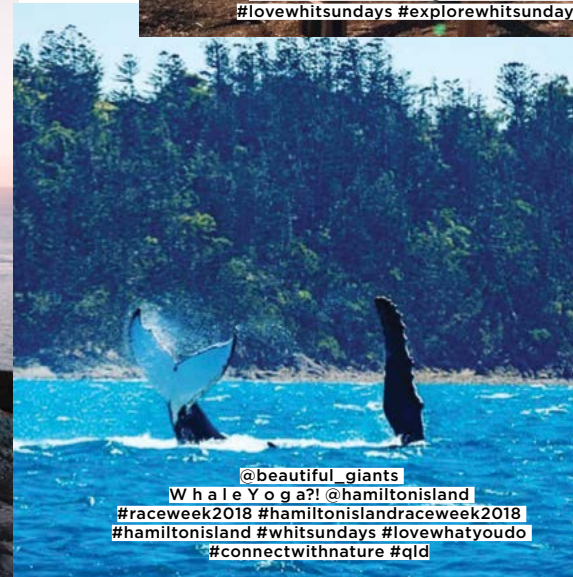
@samevanslife
sunrise hikes are always worth it on
@hamiltonisland
@jordanandzac / @ashax



@markikoy25
Worth the hike... #passagepeak
#hamiltonisland #australia #instagram
#makosurov



@courtneys.sams
Where the sky touches the sea. Sunrise at South East Head #greatbarrierreef #lovewhitsundays #explorewhitsundays



@beautiful_giants
W h a l e Y o g a?! @hamiltonisland
#raceweek2018 #hamiltonislandraceweek2018
#hamiltonisland #whitsundays #lovewhatyoudo
#connectwithnature #qld



@pattylagera
Helicopter ride over the Whitsundays
Propose to the woman you love
Have a picnic on the most beautiful beach

Where hotels and destinations once relied on professionals to create the imagery that presented them as a dream destination, these days we are doing it ourselves. This is a seismic change in the travel industry, so much so that the World Bank together with TripAdvisor recently produced an entire report on the phenomenon in which Hamilton Island

was included.

The Voice of Travelers report looks not just at the growth of user-generated content – all those online reviews, Insta posts and Facebook updates – but also examines how destinations are harnessing it to amp up visitor numbers. Leading the pack is Jordan, which has seen numbers rise since it started reposting user-generated content, and Ireland, which partnered with TripAdvisor to launch its popular Wild Atlantic Way route.

Photogenic destinations have a head start when it comes to Instagrammable content, of course, but the report also points to smart operators like Hamilton Island who are not just relying on what nature dished out to keep visitors posting to social media. Rather than simply focusing on its beautiful beaches and bays, the island's owners have also provided plenty of

other material for photographers, from the eye-catching lines of the Bommie Deck – it provides a particularly striking silhouette at sunset – to Heart Island, Hamilton Island's new sleek James Bond feel pontoon at Heart Reef, or the swing, hammock and giant chair at the end of the nature trails. No wonder that social media is lapping it up, with more than 4,000 posts tagged #HamiltonIsland or @HamiltonIsland every month.

Commentators who love to loathe social media would see this growing reliance on social media as yet another sign of the decline of civilisation, but I'm not so sure. True, there is something lemming-like about the way some travellers seem to arrange their travel plans around the opportunity to capture a particular shot.

(Need proof? Just check out the hilarious @insta_repeat account.)

Despite that, I believe that giving power to the people is, more often than not, a good thing. So, if you have ever posted a holiday pic on Facebook or Insta, give yourself a pat on the back: you are officially a travel superhero, reshaping the way the world travels. However, as all superheroes know, with power comes responsibility. So if you are going to keep posting, then do so with care.

Take a lesson from what happened with Trolltunga, a rock ledge 700 metres above a Norwegian lake. When I first went to Norway six or so years ago, I didn't go to Trolltunga. No one did. In a country full of scenic spots, the only remarkable thing about this one was that it took a six-hour hike to get there from the nearest village. By 2016, however, 80,000 visitors a year were doing just that. This boom was, of course, driven by Instagram.

Jutting out above that pristine lake, Trolltunga provides the perfect backdrop for an image that captures that "far away from it all" feeling. Unsurprisingly, the #Trolltunga hashtag went viral – there are more than 128,000 posts to date, and that is before we add in #trolltunganorway, #trolltunga hike, #trolltungaadventures and #trolltungaactive. There are just a few problems with this. One is that – predictably – the place is being loved to death, with visitors having to queue in order to capture that magic shot. More concerning is that so many visitors to Trolltunga are entirely unprepared for the experience, lacking essentials such as proper footwear and water. It seems that few people bother to include this basic information in their posts.

So, if nothing else, bear this in mind: what you post may directly change someone's travel plans. If you choose to highlight a place, don't just post a pic – tell the story. Let people know what they're in for. Remember, superheroes use their power for good.

*alias was used.

Need inspiration? Visit hamiltonisland.com.au/blog/bestphotolocations or @HamiltonIsland

A KID'S-EYE view

Young explorers of their terrain, brothers Foxx and Phoenix and their good friend Mitchell all live on Hamilton Island. Here they talk to Rebecca Khoury about what it's like for a child to grow up on this piece of paradise.

“We’ve known each other for four years. Mitchell and I are in grade six,” says Foxx. “And I’m in grade five,” his brother Phoenix chimes in. The brothers’ father, Kyle LaMonica, was the General Manager at Qualia, and is now the island’s General Manager of Food and Beverage. He and his wife, Kellie, first moved to the island in 2003 for two years, only to return in 2013 with their sons. Mitchell’s parents, Warren and Nuria, have lived and worked on the island since 2001. The three boys attend Hamilton Island State School, the only school on the island. “On schooldays we wake up and get ready,” says Foxx. “By 9am we’re in our classrooms and start with English and reading. We do reading groups with Mitchell’s Mum and Miss Belinda.” Mitchell’s Mum is a teacher’s aid. It’s a tight community. Each afternoon is math class, however on Thursdays they learn Japanese before the bus collects them for sailing lessons at Shell Beach. They admit they’re all pretty good sailors, but they’re not bragging – sailing is just part of growing up on this island.

They sail Optimist boats, referred to as optis by the boys. An opti is a single-handed small white sailing boat used by kids under 15 years of age. The island’s optis are high-vis with fluoro sails and Phoenix explains that they have to sail in groups of two: “We go in partners because we’re not used to doing the stuff, like all the mainsheet... But some of the year six kids do it on their own.” His brother and Mitchell are lucky enough to give it a go. “Yesterday, sailing was really good because the wind was up and we were going through the water so fast,” says Foxx. “We usually go as pairs, but Mitchell, me and a few other kids got the opportunity to go by ourselves, and it was fun to go at extra speed.”

Foxx tells us that it’s cool to see the sailors

fly through the water when they come for Hamilton Island Race Week. Mitchell adds that his best friend’s dad came third last year. Asked if they want to be sailors when they grow up, Foxx says, “Well, I would love to sail around Australia.”

When on dry land the boys fill their spare time playing various codes of football. Mitchell plays touch footy at the island’s oval, while the brothers take the boat to Airlie Beach to play AFL. “We train on the mainland because there’s no AFL here. We’ve got close friends there, so we stay at their house,” says Foxx. “Sometimes on the weekends we go out to the oval and just kick the football to each other.”

“WE LOVE CATCHING A COUPLE OF WAVES OUT OFF CATSEYE BEACH... AND GOING OUT SKURFING ON THE JET SKI.”

The weekends are spent cruising around on their scooters and skateboards or as chill days spent indoors watching movies and playing video games. “A few weeks ago we were out just playing footy, then we went for a swim and then we went to Harbour View – an apartment block that has a mini park,” says Foxx. The boys usually hang out at Catseye Beach but have a few little spots of their own. “I know one secret place that not a lot of people know. Friends found it and their dad made two forts there. It’s really cool,” says Phoenix before Foxx reveals that Mitchell’s dad has actually built a major tree house at their home. Weekends are family time. “Me and Dad like getting our skateboards in the afternoons and skating along Melaleuca Drive, near and

around the church. There are no skateparks on the island. Hopefully there will be one soon,” says Mitchell with a cheeky grin. “We also love going out paddling on the paddleboards and catching a couple of waves out off Catseye Beach on the weekends, and going out skurfing on the jet ski.” Yes, skurfing is the art of being towed behind a boat or a jet ski holding onto a tow rope on a surfboard. It’s like water-skiing for surfers.

The brothers love going out on their family motorboat with their parents. “We normally go on our boat to Whitehaven and go tubing, where you sit on a doughnut and get towed by the boat – it’s really fun.” Foxx tells me that they’re a tight-knit group of kids on the island: “The island is so small here, we see each other every day, so we’re all bonded.” Even though this bond is strong, they are always open to including young visitors to the island. “If people want to play with us, we let them play. If we’re playing tag, we ask them if they want to join.”

Their to-do list for visitors includes, “definitely visiting the reef or going snorkelling at Chalkies Beach. And a bushwalk”, according to Mitchell. The best one in their opinion is up to Passage Peak. “It’s a steep walk but you get a good view at the top,” he continues. “A couple of months ago we actually went up to South East Head with a lot of friends and it took a long time [about 1 hour 45 minutes each way], but it was worth it because there’s a really nice beach there and it’s surrounded by islands and the water is crystal clear. And we saw some deer, because the island used to be a farm and there were cows and cattle and all the animals got transported off except for a couple of deer.” All three boys agree that they are always uncovering something new on the island. Do they ever think they are missing out on anything on the mainland? “Nah!” they all say in unison – every day is an adventure.

PHOTOGRAPHY: KARA ROSENBLUND.



Foxx, Mitchell and Phoenix.

The WHITSUNDAYS plated



Mark Jensen, Executive Chef at qualia, lives and breathes the Queensland landscape. He makes it central to his menus, reminding his guests of the beauty of their surroundings. By Emma Joyce.

Cairns-born Mark Jensen spent his childhood pinching rambutans from his neighbours' fruit trees to sell at market. Today, he still retains that ebullient entrepreneurial spirit, but now his passion for Queensland produce takes centre stage on the plates served at qualia's Pebble Beach and Long Pavilion restaurants. "I have a lot of childhood memories [of Queensland]. We used to just run around and steal neighbours' fruits and things – that was our little misdemeanour," he says. He fondly remembers fishing in the local waters and the abundance of tropical fruits such as rambutans, mangoes and mangosteens. The Executive Chef leads a far more virtuous life nowadays, overseeing every plate that leaves the pass to ensure it's a dish his guests will remember as part of their holiday to the Whitsundays. As he does so, he's watching the waves rolling onto the same pebbled

beach, thinking of ways to incorporate his natural surroundings into the tasting menu. For example, the petit fours are plated with shards of coral taken directly from Pebble Beach, they've served yabbies caught from just behind Bowen, near Airlie Beach, and even the wagyu beef is presented with all the textures of Queensland's rugged coastline. "We'll use pebbles from the beach on a board for petit fours, or we'll burn eucalyptus with a blowtorch so it comes out smoking with the bread," says Jensen. "It's indicative of exactly where the guests are sitting. Almost all the seafood is Whitsunday Islands-caught." The current tasting menu was introduced by Jensen eight months ago, and he will revisit the dishes in line with the change of seasons. The modern Australian cuisine is French influenced, and as Jensen tells us, it's a very textural menu. "There are all sorts of rubbly, earthy components, especially in the wagyu

dish," he says. "The scallop always gets very good feedback, but probably the guest favourite would be the marron in the miso with black squid ink crisps." The \$175 tasting menu includes kingfish sashimi with pickled cucumber and yuzu. There's smoked Holy Goat La Luna, accompanied by beetroot, bran ash and bread puffs. And to finish, Jensen is burning rye bread to create an ice cream that has a nostalgic burnt-toast flavour. It's served in a rocher-style, with caramelised puffed pastry – "Rubbly and reflective of the countryside," he says. Jensen, who typically works a 60-hour week executing the kitchens at qualia, says he admires many of the chefs who he's worked alongside in his 22-year career. His Sous Chef at Pebble Beach has worked with him for three years across different restaurants. "As much as I am the Executive Chef, my Sous Chef Ryan Locke is very, very talented.

Marron miso, carrot, squid ink.



Kingfish sashimi, pickled cucumber, yuzu.



Wagyu buckwheat, fermented onion, malt.



Kangaroo tartare, quince, pickled radish, gingerbread.





Smoked Holy Goat
La Luna
beetroot, bran ash,
bread puffs.

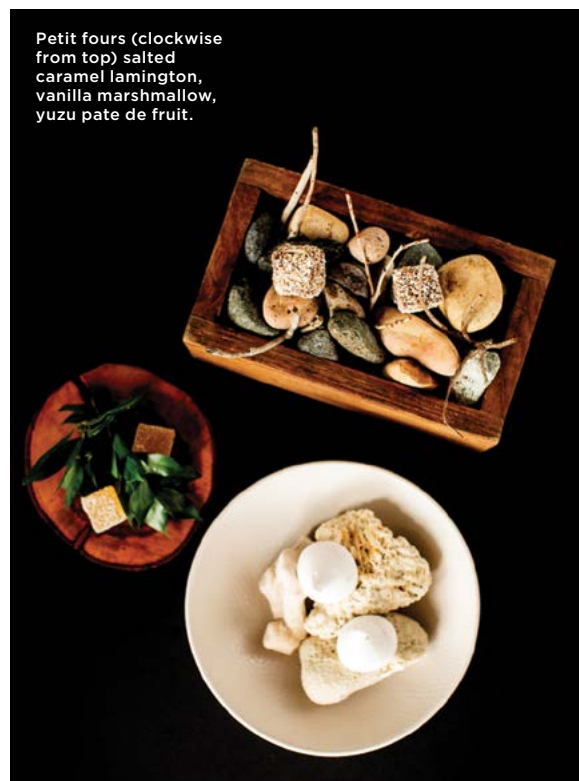
Rye bread ice cream
whiskey, chocolate,
wild rice.



Pebble Beach tasting menu, components of a course (clockwise from top right) porcini, seared scallops, truffle, cured egg yolk, parsnip.



Scallop
parsnip, foie gras,
porcini, truffle.



Petit fours (clockwise from top) salted caramel lamington, vanilla marshmallow, yuzu pate de fruit.

We have a very good working relationship and we balance each other out in our strengths and weaknesses. I'll steer the ship on the menu, but just to be able to have your teammates feel comfortable enough to say, 'How about we try it like this?' – all of a sudden you've got two brains working one dish and things go in all different directions."

Jensen cut his teeth as a short-order cook at university. He moved to London aged 19 and "sort of fell into cheffing". He worked with Michelin-starred chefs, including Marcus Wareing at Pétrus, and came back to Australia, where he worked at award-winning restaurants Circa and Marco Polo in Brisbane, Lizard Island Resort, Spicers Peak Lodge and Tamarind restaurant in Cairns.

"Pebble Beach is now the fourth restaurant that I've been in charge of that's been awarded Chef Hats. I don't think about that – I just like to do my job, make guests happy, keep the staff happy, and you can taste it in the food."

One of the more complex dishes on the Pebble Beach menu is the scallop, which has many layers in the process of plating up. "It seems very one-dimensional when it comes out to

the guests," says Jensen. "It has this parsnip foam on top, and parsnip crisps, but as they dig through there's all different layers of scallops and foie gras, and truffle and brown chicken jus – it's like eating a sundae with chocolate ripples, then peanuts and all different bits and bobs that you just keep finding."

Over the past 15 years Jensen has learned to separate work from home life, and he's always looking to improve on his dishes, saying there's rarely a perfect dish – attributing his constant drive to refine his work to getting bored easily. Far from the angry-chef stereotype, Jensen says he's "very organised, very meticulous, very creative. I do need to keep moving. As much as consistency is excellent and every good kitchen should be consistently excellent, or good at very many things, to be doing the same dish for 10 years is just crazy. To think that you've ever, ever 'nailed a dish' is ridiculous to me – I can't fathom that sort of thought. I like to keep mixing things up, I do like to challenge the status quo, I do like to look at a dish and go, 'Actually, no,' whether that's adding more components or stripping back components." Chefs he admires include Martin Benn from

Sepia, which opened in Sydney in 2009 and closed last year. "They've got their Melbourne incarnation coming up, so I'm looking forward to seeing what's happening there." Also, the former Executive Chef of Circa, Owen Lacey, who he worked with in Brisbane: "He was a real lead-by-example chef. I've seen times when he's had to take over someone's section, and you'd come in the next day and the amount of work he's done – it was just embarrassing for everyone else." Outside the kitchen, Jensen likes to spend time with his girlfriend, who he says is a fantastic cook. Though he prefers to keep things simple if he's cooking for himself, his girlfriend is a skilled home cook who likes to make Southeast Asian dishes, meaning Jensen can leave the cheffing knives at work. When he's feeling more adventurous, the 42-year-old will take the car and drive off into the hills beyond Airlie Beach. "There's

"TO THINK THAT YOU'VE EVER, EVER 'NAILED A DISH' IS RIDICULOUS TO ME – I CAN'T FATHOM THAT SORT OF THOUGHT. I LIKE TO KEEP MIXING THINGS UP..."

a lot of little farmers out there, obviously some of them are hours away and they can't supply any sort of quantity that we need [at qualia], but just to see what they're growing on their own little acre, that's cool. There are heaps of roadside stalls, not just of carrots and zucchinis, but of live mud crabs and all sorts of things. I recently found one that had an honesty box for live mud crabs – that was pretty cool." With pride in his provenance, Jensen says he's simply trying to bring the best of nature into the kitchen and back out again. "I do love nature. It just permeates your thoughts. You can go from Cairns to the Whitsundays and it's totally different. You can go from Hamilton Island to Airlie Beach and it's totally different. I like the ruggedness of the islands, I like the large rocks, I love the ocean, the large pine trees. Everything feels really rustic."

POSTCARDS FROM PARADISE



@sarahellen

Weekend rendezvous on Hamilton Island @the_upside



@kristylecross

Ok, I just want to be in that bath with this view today please



@zotheysay

It's probably time someone sent this holiday pig back to her southern sty



@simonuptonpics

Some locations are just better than others!
UPSIDE X WHITSUNDAYS
Big thx @hamiltonisland and the best client @the_upside @debbiewaltersproduction

The Pour ON TOUR

Darren Jahn, aka The Pour, is our resident wine expert. Here he shares his by-the-glass recommendations for wherever you end up dining while you're on the island.

The Lane Vineyard Block 1A Chardonnay.



PHOTOGRAPHY: KARA ROSENBLUND.



As a frequent solo business traveller, I often find myself eating alone, fortunately in top-class Australian restaurants. Most have excellent wine-by-the-glass selections, meaning I can enjoy, for example, a glass of bubbles, followed by a white and a red of my choice, without having to knock off 750ml of wine in a night.

Hamilton Island's diverse selection of restaurants offer an excellent array of wines by the glass. Accompanying the Oatley family's own labels (Robert Oatley, Wild Oats and Montrose), you'll find exceptional drops from other family-owned, sustainably farmed wineries and renowned international producers. And while you're unlikely to be a solo diner like me while you're

here, going for this section of the wine list is the perfect way to ensure that each guest at your table will have their style of choice with their meal selection.

After all, it's rare to find a single wine to partner up with four to six different mains on a table. I usually stay at the Reef View Hotel, where the Pool Terrace is a great spot to enjoy a plate of oysters with a glass of trophy-winning Robert Oatley Riesling from the Great Southern, WA. Its lively citrus notes are the perfect accompaniment to shellfish. Across the "road" at Beach Club, Mirabeau's crisp and refreshing Etoile Rosé from Provence is the perfect sipper to enjoy poolside while overlooking Catseye Beach. Who needs the French Riviera when we have the Coral Sea on our doorstep?

An Australian rosé would be my choice of tippie at Sails, found further along the beach – mainly because it's such a terrific lunch venue and Bremerton's Racy Rosé is bright and breezy, best served icy cold by the pool.

At coca chu, my pick for ocean-view dining, the pan-Asian, hawker-style street food calls for an all-rounder, as you'll no doubt end up sharing a wide array of dishes, most with plenty of flavour. Chardonnay is my go-to in

this case, with The Lane Vineyard's impeccably oaked, voluptuously fruited Block 1A, from the Adelaide Hills, a dangerously moreish option. A short walk over the hill and you're at Mariners, where your efforts will be rewarded with a top-class list of by-the-glass options, my favourite being the Robert Oatley Finisterre Chardonnay from Margaret River. This is a serious wine for serious dining, offering layered stone fruit and citrus flavours, with nutty, mineral savoury influences. I'd need more than one glass, though, to get through their phenomenal seafood platter. Santi's crisp and vibrant pinot grigio from Italy is the perfect glass at Romano's, where the contemporary Italian restaurant's mid-afternoon, alfresco dining menu of small plates includes fried school prawns with chilli and garlic, and crab

“WHAT A PERFECT WAY TO TOAST HAMILTON ISLAND'S VIEWS”

and ricotta stuffed zucchini flowers. Might have to upgrade from a glass to a bottle! TAKO Mexican taqueria and cantina has a definite Latin American vibe, so here I would savour the Argentinian malbec from Argento.

It's a plush, fruit-driven yet savoury-edged red, a perfect partner for their barbecue pork or beef brisket. And then we have Bommie, the fine-dining option at the stunning Hamilton Island Yacht Club. The team here has compiled an excellent and ever-changing by-the-glass selection, particularly for pairing with their degustation option. My personal pick? At the time of writing, the Pikes Clare Valley Riesling and Four in Hand Barossa Shiraz would be two terrific South Australian selections. Should you be fortunate enough to stay at qualia, you'll be greeted with a glass of Brut Réserve Champagne from my favourite maison: Charles Heidsieck. Shortly afterwards, you'll discover a whole bottle awaiting you in your pavilion. And as I just can't have too much Charles, I usually treat myself to yet another taste of it when dining at Pebble Beach, as it's remarkably well priced among a tremendous array of Australian and international wines on offer by the glass. And what a perfect way to toast Hamilton Island's picture-perfect views, variety being the spice of life.

The CONCIERGE

Laurelle Fazel is the woman to know, in the know, the fixer, and discerning Executive Concierge. She helps make the magic happen. And some. She has lived and worked on Hamilton Island for 20 years.

As a young girl I used to travel to this area every school holiday to stay at my grandparents' sugar-cane farm on the mainland. Although this mainly involved what we considered "work" as school kids – milking cows, churning butter, chasing chooks – we would occasionally do a day trip to Hamilton Island. These trips were like travelling to a magical island. Full of colour, light, water and fun – no chooks to chase here. The water and sky seemed impossibly blue and the sand so white and soft – plus, there was always ice cream on the way home.

Then, one day as a young adult, I was back in the area for a family funeral when I heard the restaurant I was working at had sold, so I made some enquiries about work on Hamilton Island. Within a month, I had relocated here.

One of the things I love about living here is that it is very easy to have a great quality of life with minimal effort. The natural beauty of the area loans itself to instant relaxation when you're not at work. One of my favourite things to do if the weather is right – which it usually is! – is to go boating with friends at nearby Chance Bay. Spending a day lazing in the shallows, eating prawns, shucking oysters off the rocks with a glass of rosé in hand... Often it's something as simple as sitting on my balcony watching the full moon rising over Passage Peak, or floating in the pool in the summer rain.

I love to cook, so during the week I like to spend some time in our community garden to talk to and trim the herbs, and Sunday afternoons usually find me in the kitchen with a glass of good red and the jazz up high. My friends say I have too many fridges for a single girl – but I say never enough.

Although the dating pool thins out each year I stay, I have a great group of friends I consider my island family, who keep life interesting and fun. One of the things that has been part of

my life on the island almost since I started, is a thing called Family Night. Basically, it's a group of friends who get together one night each week and take turns to cook for each other. With so many of us living and working away from our families, it's a great chance to connect on a personal level outside work and keep a diverse social network. It has evolved into something different over the years since chef Geoff Nocher started the tradition, but I truly look forward to it each week.

“THE NATURAL
BEAUTY OF THE
AREA LOANS
ITSELF TO INSTANT
RELAXATION.”

During my time on Hamilton Island, I have worked in several different areas of the business. There is such a diverse range of opportunities for you to develop your career skills, and you get to do it with a company that are industry leaders with such a great reputation in the hospitality game.

Initially I worked managing different food and beverage venues and used the experience to open my own Lifestyle Café back home on the Gold Coast (catering to dietary needs – way ahead of our time). I was lured back to the island – funnily enough by Matt Boileau, who is now my boss as General Manager of Hotels – to run a new concept, Marina Daze, which still runs every Sunday. I then stayed on as a host for special events, such as the iconic Great Barrier Feast Series, before shifting into the training and recruitment department, delivering orientation for new staff and managing Food and Beverage training. My next progression was managing the Weddings business on the island before returning to the stage, in the “real”

world, to perform in a musical for a director I had done a lot of work for in my twenties, in a previous career as a dancer.

When I was approached for the role of Executive Concierge it just felt like a natural fit. Four years on, I still love it.

One of the most interesting guests by far has to have been Johnny Depp, because he communicated with a stream of consciousness. Also, it was fascinating to see the difference in persona during personal visits compared with when he was working. I deal with a lot of people who have PAs and managers assisting them. However, the first time I looked after Mr Depp, it was simply himself and his wife, arranged privately with myself through a mutual contact. The next visit again was private, and yet without prompt, he instantly engaged in following up on a conversation regarding a friend's restaurant we'd had during his first visit. That level of emotional intelligence is what sets megastars apart from ordinary stars, in my book. Taylor Swift, too – I can say sincerely that I have the utmost respect for her team and her family and her talent after her stay.

Most challenging sometimes are the visiting dignitaries, for example, Frederik, Crown Prince of Denmark or the Governor-General of Australia, not because they are at all personally challenging – in fact, the opposite – but because when managing their movements, I need to factor in the requirements imposed by the, often multiple, security details associated with their visit. For example, dovetailing in federal police, Australian and international military, as well as personal security details, which may not all have the same agenda at any given time.

My favourites to look after, though, without question, are Mrs Val Oatley and her friends, not least for their ongoing support for the staff of the island – honestly, they are such genuinely lovely people. It is a true pleasure to look after them – by far my biggest VIPs.



PHOTOGRAPHY: KARA ROSENBLUND.

The DISH

It's simple: a really good holiday is sealed by having great food that's served by good chefs. We had the hard task of putting Hamilton Island through its paces from sunrise to sunset – and the even harder task of deciding on our favourites. By Alison Veness.



Breakfast. And what better way to start the day than down at the marina, watching all the boats being readied for a day out. Good people-watching opportunities, too. The Marina Café (6.30am–2pm) sits right in the heart of it all and serves up the best breakfast. Freshly squeezed juices are bursting with flavour and come in lots of tempting combinations. Our favourite was Hamo Heaven, a trio of apple, orange and carrot. We are fussy and order from the “add as you wish” side of the menu: smashed avocado and extra eggs, with crumbled feta on top, all sitting on a thick slice of sourdough, freshly baked at Bob’s Bakery on neighbouring Front Street. Wedges of fresh lemon are a nice touch. It’s all washed down with a Di Manfredi Chiaro full-cream latte, “a sweetly floral coffee with assertive acidity and hints of wine tones, fruit and light chocolate”. Oh yes please, we like to start the day with a minimum of two caffeine hits. The fruit salad is pure and simple, made from fruit sourced and grown in North Queensland.

Falk Boehlefeld, Executive Chef Retail Food and Beverage on the island, masterminds the menu here. “It’s the place you come to for something you love and then keep coming back for, which is why the smashed avocado works. It’s a classic here, so popular, fresh and vibrant, and it has a healthy perspective, which is what everyone is asking for now.” He also tells us that the island plan is to go “completely green by 2020”. And so the takeaway cafés are already using biodegradable and recyclable materials for their cutlery and containers – “It’s a big focus for us.” We like it. We read the local paper and take time to digest. We are on island time, after all. A quick shop at The Hut and, one bikini later, we are already thinking about lunch. The sky is true blue and Dent Island is calling... But we are not going to play golf, we’re going to the Clubhouse restaurant for our lunch booking (it’s essential to book). We catch the island ferry from the marina that takes about 10 minutes to sail across (it leaves on the hour, every hour, and returns on the half-hour). It is wonderful to be



Clubhouse restaurant oysters three ways.

PHOTOGRAPHY: KARLA ROSEBUND, HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY.

“WE GROW THE BETEL LEAVES ON THE ISLAND... WE CONSTANTLY TWEAK THE MENU ACCORDING TO THE SEASON.”



coca chu DIY duck spring rolls.



coca chu southern curry with Moreton Bay bug.

out on the water, seeing Hamilton Island from this perspective. We land. The energetic can walk up the steep hill. Everyone else is driven up to the Clubhouse. This lunch is all about the view out over the course and to the indomitable Whitsundays. The lunch service starts at 11am for the early golfers and mere diners, and runs until 3pm. We start with half a dozen oysters served three ways: natural, gin and tonic granita, and tempura Kilpatrick. We are in heaven. It’s followed by the free-range chicken breast with polenta Parmesan purée, a dollop of spinach cream, some crunchy kale crisps, a popcorn and jamon crumb, and a red wine jus. Delicious. After lunch we are treated to a tour of the Peter Thomson-designed course. We stop at the infamous 14th hole, where many have taken a jaw-dropping shot. This is one of the most spectacular golf courses in the world... and that’s as close as we are going to get to a hole in one today. Back on island, our gloriously inevitable sundowner is served at One Tree Hill as the sun

is thinking about setting. We have ordered mojitos, they drink well. What more can we say...? Open from 10am until 7pm, if you want to start earlier. But sunset is nature’s power hour on the island. As the sun’s rays finally fade we head to coca chu (5.30pm onwards; reservation essential) – like we needed an invitation. This is where we land for supper on the edge of Catseye Beach, all snug to the soft sand with its epic view of Passage Peak at dusk. coca chu is all about share plates, mouthfuls of intense flavour and bursts of freshness. We have chosen the DIY duck spring rolls that we assemble ourselves as our entrée. The wafer-thin rice-paper rolls are the perfect foil for the melt-in-your-mouth barbecue duck combined with roasted pineapple, crunchy grated carrots, bean sprouts, spring onions, vermicelli noodles and fragrant Vietnamese mint. Delicious and healthy, too. We have chosen a Robert Oatley Margaret River Chardonnay, which is light and good drinking throughout our dinner. And a bottle of Tasmania’s finest Cape Grim still water. For the main course we have chosen a southern curry with Moreton Bay bug, caught locally

that morning. It is accompanied by deep-fried brussels sprouts drizzled with sweet fish sauce and a dusting of shallots and fluffy shrimp. Jasmine rice and roti bread soak up the goodness. Jack Mason is Executive Head Chef and has been at coca chu for two years. “The ingredients really pack a punch, the hot, sweet, sour and salty. Everything is fresh, the herbs, the curry pastes, which are made in-house, and it’s all cooked to order. And then the venue itself is pretty special and what holds me here,” he says. “We grow the betel leaves on the island in the nursery garden and we constantly tweak the menu according to the season.” But the question is this, can we eat any more? The Pizzeria and Gelato Bar is a new island addition, so we must. It’s the perfect place for a sunset gelato after an afternoon stroll. Or for “dessert”. The ice cream is churned here in the kitchen using full-cream milk and coconut milk (which is vegan, too). As an after-dinner cleanse, yes, yes, the sorbets are epic, creamy, amazing, the mango is palate-bursting insanity. Then we head for home. Tomorrow we will do it all over again, but we might need to start with a workout walk up to Passage Peak.



Pizzeria and Gelato Bar ice cream and sorbet.

JUST MARRIED (and exhausted)

That post-wedding high may be called the honeymoon period, but the reality is that true relaxation and that long-awaited time together needs some super-careful forethought. Fortunately, Hamilton Island has everything a newly-wed couple might need, so the experience is as sweetly nourishing and stress-free as it should be, says Esther Holmes.

“WE SAY PAMPER THE MIND, BODY AND SOUL IMMEDIATELY.”



PHOTOGRAPHY: JASON LOUCAS, KARA ROSENBLUND.



Sunset, One Tree Hill.



Spa qualia.

There are three initial states of being after a wedding: happiness, in love and bliss. The fourth – mental exhaustion – is only natural, because to achieve the first three has already taken superhuman levels of negotiation, soul-searching and commitment. On average, a wedding will necessitate thousands of decisions to be made, all of which come at a price. And so we say pamper the mind, body and soul immediately... We recommend having a relaxing couples massage straightaway. Spa wumurdaylin offers a two-hour couples treatment called Double Indulgence, which includes a full-body aromatherapy massage, foot and hand treatment, performance facial, and head and neck treatment. And press bliss. At Spa qualia, there are beautiful deluxe couples treatment rooms and the entire menu has been designed to be shared, so guests can have any of the treatments together. The Couples Bath Indulgences include Botanica, Cacao and Vinothérapie; with these, guests get time together in the Roman baths at the end of their treatment with some lovely treats – a superfood platter and green juices for Botanica, champagne and chocolates for Cacao, and a fruit platter and a choice of pinot noir or champagne for Vinothérapie. The spa is all about all-encompassing, sensory experiences,

with complimentary guest facilities including a relaxation area with steam room, outdoor tropical Vichy shower and open-air yoga and meditation pavilion. The Harmonising treatment, which aligns the body's seven main chakras through massage using essential oils and healing crystals, is amazing. Meanwhile, over at Beach Club, private couples yoga sessions can be arranged.

After this regenerative downtime, when the energy levels are coming back up, it's time to experience some true romance. Being at one with nature out on the ocean is incredible, so why not charter Palm Beach, a private luxury cruiser, and spend the day sailing through the Whitsundays? An exclusive option for qualia guests includes catamaran sailing. qualia has two 16ft Hobie catamarans, which can be used to explore the local area. qualia activities staff will accompany those who haven't sailed before, but experienced sailors will be able to sail the catamarans independently. Beach Club can organise a day out on Ricochet, another super-sleek catamaran and the perfect way to enjoy the views, with snorkelling at Esk or Border islands and cruising back at sunset. Nothing beats the sunset sail: it is such a memorable experience watching that orb slowly sink into the Coral Sea while enjoying a glass of something delicious. If you are starting to crave company, though, then sail aboard Hamilton Island's On the Edge catamaran with a group of other guests. A truly unforgettable way to enjoy the Great Barrier Reef is from above. A private helicopter tour or seaplane excursion can be booked – we recommend you head out over to Heart Reef, because, yes, you can never be loved-up enough. A stop off at Whitehaven Beach can also be

arranged, a picnic provided, with rug, chilled champagne and delicious grazing snacks. Trust us, this is where dreams come true – you're bound to agree as you relax on a deserted piece of pristine paradise. Other good picnic spots can be found on the island at Hidden Cove or Catseye Beach. One Tree Hill is where everyone gathers for the sunset ritual and where the party starts. But there is nowhere quite as chic and unique to watch the sun go down as Bommie Deck, Hamilton Island Yacht Club's outdoor bar. Now eat, drink and indulge as there are so many good restaurants here, but for something a bit extra, we recommend the Clubhouse over at Dent Island for lunch – the stunning views are worth it alone, and there is plenty of time for intimate chats while enjoying the serenity of the surrounding golf course. For guests at Beach Club, a private dinner on Catseye Beach can be booked – an oh-so-romantic prospect. The Beach Club also offers balcony in-room dining with a dedicated butler. At qualia, for an additional set-up fee, guests can enjoy a private and romantic dinner on Pebble Beach. And so to bed. All the hotels on the island can provide a romantic set-up in your room, ranging from fresh rose petals and tealights at Beach Club to the complimentary bottle of Charles Heidsieck champagne at qualia, as well as flowers. We recommend booking a pavilion with a private plunge pool at qualia, while our tip for Reef View Hotel is to stay in any of the Suites or Coral Sea View rooms, as the view is breathtaking. The hotel also has two huge penthouses with plunge pools. Hard to beat. And for the last word in adventurous romance, it's worth considering doing a truly unique Reefsleeper under the stars out at Reefworld pontoon. Magical.

To book your accommodation visit hamiltonisland.com.au
For all activity, tour or dinner bookings contact the relevant hotel concierge.

Good Vibes

The style season is shaping up with a nod to the super seventies and so the well-packed holiday wardrobe is a sunburst of colour and those by-gone classics. Don't forget to pack the cassette player.



Hat, \$39.99, by Billabong, from The Hut.

Bikini set, \$89.95, by Seafolly, from SALT.

Bag, \$29.99, by Billabong, from The Hut.

Swimsuit, \$159.95, by JETS, from SALT.

Bag, \$69.95, by Seafolly, from SALT.

Jacket, \$325, by SLAM, from The Deckhouse.

Hat, \$39.95, by Seafolly, from SALT.

Sunglasses, \$379, by Maui Jim, from The Deckhouse.

Boardshorts, \$79.95, by Seafolly, from SALT.

Towel, \$49.99, by Billabong, from The Hut.

Bikini top, \$139.95, and bottoms, \$89.95, by JETS, from SALT.

Thongs, \$34.99, by Havaianas, from The Hut.

Slides, \$129.95, by Urge, from The Hut.

ISLAND RETAIL THERAPY

AUSTRALIA THE GIFT
07 4946 9015

FLORAL COLLECTIONS
07 4946 8335

FOOT'S ARTWORKS
07 4946 9062

HAMILTON ISLAND DESIGNS
07 4946 8565

HAMILTON ISLAND JEWELLERY
07 4948 9857

PRO SHOP (HI GOLF CLUB)
07 4948 9760

QUALIA BOUTIQUE
07 4948 9473

RESORT CENTRE LOBBY SHOP
0427 148 952

REEF VIEW LOBBY SHOP
0427 148 623

SALT SWIM AND RESORTWEAR
07 4946 8221

THE ART GALLERY
07 4948 9657

THE DECKHOUSE
07 4946 8180

THE HUT
07 4948 8273

TRADER PETE'S
07 4946 0907



Reef RULES

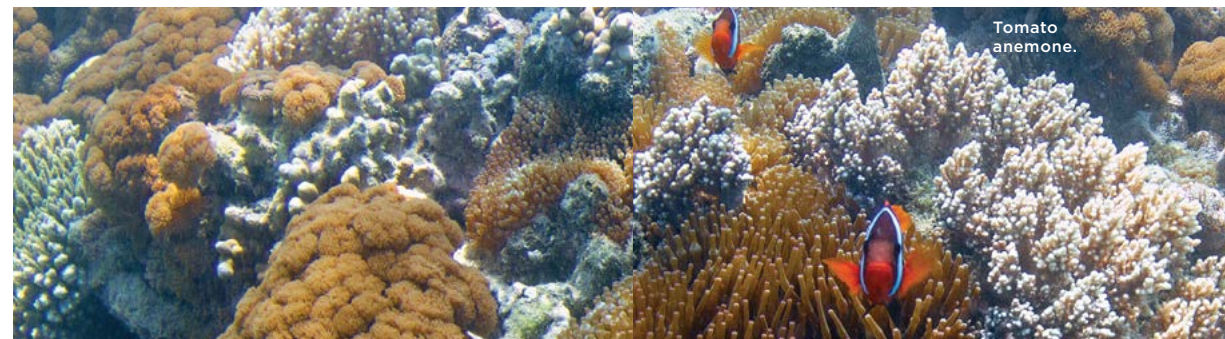
The Great Barrier Reef is one of the seven natural wonders of the world and is the only living thing on Earth visible from space. Impressive. Master reef guide and Guest Experience Manager for Cruise Whitsundays, Crystal Lacey, better known as Little Fish, is the go-to girl when it comes to enjoying it responsibly. Heed her advice.

PHOTOGRAPHY: CRYSTAL LACEY.

The protected Maori wrasse.



Honeycomb coral with two boring clams.



Tomato anemone.



Crystal Lacey, AKA Little Fish.

The Great Barrier Reef is home to more than 1,500 species of fish, 400 species of coral and 4,000 species of mollusks. That's a lot of life down there and there are reef regulations. We don't want to touch the reef. We don't want to stand on the reef. We don't want to take anything from the reef. We don't want to feed any marine life. If you're going out on a boat, we don't want to throw food scraps over the side because that puts things into the water that are not natural – a lot of our food can kill marine life and make it really sick. There's the potential that you're putting chemicals into the water. It's important when exploring the reef to not take anything from it. The motto goes a little like this, "Take photos and leave the bubbles from your fin" – that's it. When you go to the reef or around the islands – anywhere in the marine park – you want to leave it as if you had never been there. It's vitally important to the Great Barrier Reef that the marine life stays in balance. When fishing on it, it's important to make sure we're

“WHEN YOU GO TO THE REEF... YOU WANT TO LEAVE IT AS IF YOU HAD NEVER BEEN THERE.”

only taking what we need, no more than that, and be mindful and aware of what you can take and how you can take it. As the crown-of-thorns starfish continues its reign of disruption, becoming one of the leading causes of coral loss over the past few decades, it is important to know what you're fishing for. One of the key species that eat the crown-of-thorns is the humphead, or Maori wrasse, which is a protected species now because, for so many years, people would hunt it to a point where we didn't have many left on

the reef and it created an imbalance. We are also careful of our grazing herbivores such as the parrotfish – we want to make sure no one takes parrotfish, as they are a key species in the cycle of the reef. They're almost like the lawnmowers of the reef, keeping the algae that grows on it at a sustainable level for baby coral to grow.

And we can't forget about the apex predator. Sharks are a big one. If we take out sharks, we'll start to find disparity not just on the reef but in the oceans around the world. The sharks are here to keep the oceans clean. Those three species all play an important role in keeping the cycle of life going under the sea. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) has made sure we have a way to learn about the reef, know our zones and report our sightings. The free app 'Eye on the Reef' is the leading citizen science programme for GBRMPA. When you're out on the water and see something cool or different, you can record sightings on the app. Whether it's a whale, a turtle, a dolphin or even something that doesn't seem right, or maybe someone's doing the wrong thing, you can also put that into the app as a sighting. The application comes with zoning maps for the entire Great Barrier Reef. All the information regarding which zones are untouchable, which areas are protected, which zones you can fish in, as well as details on the fish you can take at certain times of the year, can be found on Eye on the Reef, too.

While abiding by the reef rules and protecting it, we can't forget how remarkable it is. This is an ancient place and it's a very humbling experience to be able to swim around something that was here well before humans were even thought of. There are mind-blowing things out there that we are probably never going to know everything about. There are most likely hundreds of thousands of animals and plants we haven't even come across yet. There are reefs we've only just discovered. It's a magical place – it just needs to be protected. There's something every single person can do to help the future of the planet. It can start small – having a stainless-steel straw rather than a plastic straw, being conscious of turning lights off or even installing solar panels on your house. It's important to realise that even though there are individuals who are in positions of power, it's the voice of the people that can make a difference. We'll find that, if we start helping the planet right now, what we have out there now will be even better in years to come.

TWO'S company

Andy Reid and Dean Degan.



Hammo is the greatest place on Earth," says Andy Reid, who definitely knows a good beach when he sees one. For the past two years, the Bondi lifeguard and his good friend, the former elite runner Dean Degan, have been making up the Dean & Reidy commentary operation for the Hamilton Island Triathlon and Whitehaven Beach Ocean Swim, and now this year's Great Whitehaven Beach Run – all part of the Hamilton Island Endurance Series. Along with providing expert knowledge and the odd interview, this gig is also about having a laugh, something that comes easily in the company of these characters, as Matt Cleary soon discovered.

MATT CLEARY: "SO HOW DID A BONDI LIFEGUARD AND AN ELITE ATHLETE GET THE GIG AS THE FACE AND VOICE

OF THE HAMILTON ISLAND ENDURANCE SERIES?"

DEAN DEGAN: "Good question!"

ANDY REID: "We pretty much pinch ourselves every year. Some would call it work..."

DEAN DEGAN: "We wouldn't!"

ANDY REID: "[Laughs.] It's more like hanging out together and having a good time on a tropical island. Third weekend in November, you wouldn't be anywhere else."

MC: "DESCRIBE YOUR WEEK WHEN YOU'RE HERE."

AR: "We fly in and get straight into it, immerse ourselves in Hamilton Island life. We'll get out on those catamarans in Catseye Bay, race each other, have some fun. Most of the guests arrive on the Friday, and we welcome them. We host events. Swim with the Stars is on the Friday night."

DD: "The Saturday and Sunday are the two biggest days, the triathlon and ocean swim. There's a kids' clinic, a kids' triathlon. And you can't top off a weekend better than catching a boat to a beautiful beach for a swimming event."

MC: "DO YOU GUYS COMPETE YOURSELVES?"

DD: "Reidy did the bike leg in the triathlon last year and was the first one onto the runway."

AR: "We had a pretty good swimmer."

MC: "WHO WAS IT?"

AR: "Susie O'Neill! Pretty handy having an Olympic gold medallist in your first leg. We ended up running second overall."

MC: "WERE YOU COMMENTATING AS YOU WENT?"



Hamilton Island Triathlon.

AR: "[Laughs.] Sort of! I was yelling out to the crowd."

MC: "WHO'S COMING THIS YEAR?"

AR: "We've invited a bunch of our mates in the lifeguards. There are two teams from Bondi coming up to race each other and there are some elite-level swimmers in the crew. It will be exciting."

DD: "And Susie will be back. She loves it. Actually, she and her husband, Cliff, have a really good rivalry."

They're very close in the swims. Two years ago, Cliff beat Susie. Last year Susie beat Cliff. There are bragging rights. They're genuinely competitive."

AR: "It's one of the really cool things about the event. Every day punters can be lining up in the same race as Olympic gold medallists. A couple of years ago, Mack Horton won gold in the 400 metres [freestyle] at Rio – a few months later, he was lining up with locals here."

DD: "A couple of years ago we had a guy come over from France. He was undergoing chemotherapy at the time and didn't know the race was on, he just happened to be on the island. And he loved it, the race and the festival. And last year he came back and raced in it."

MC: "ANY TIPS FOR THE FIRST-TIMER?"

AR: "Look out for your feet on Whitehaven Beach – Deano's were terribly sunburned the first time."

DD: "[Laughs.] True. I was an anomaly. Another good tip would be to attend the briefing on the Friday afternoon."

AR: "And start training for hills – the triathlon is a bit up and down."

MC: "AND APRÈS ALL THIS RUNNING AND SWIMMING AND BIKE RIDING? A FEW DRINKS TO WIND DOWN?"

AR: "Cocktails at sunset – the first year we missed it and we'll never miss it again! It's unbelievable."

DD: "The Marina Daze event on the Sunday arvo on the main part of the island is so good. The weather's perfect. And people hang out, talk about the previous few days, listen to music, have a few drinks."

MC: "FINALLY, IF YOU HAD TO NAME ONE HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEKEND, WHAT WOULD IT BE?"

DD: "If you love ocean swimming, the Whitehaven Beach Ocean Swim is the best in Australia, probably the world. You get there on a boat and there's beautiful sand, the amazing colour of the water, and you're swimming over tropical fish."

AR: "I love the kids' triathlon. That's so much fun. The whole event is very kid-friendly."

MC: "SUITS YOU TWO, THEN..."

AR: "[Laughs.] Have we met?"

DEAN DEGAN'S TOP 12 TRAINING TIPS

1. *Get onto a program.* Google "online triathlon training program".
2. *Care for your feet.* Wear good-quality, well-fitting running shoes.
3. *Run in company.* It just makes it more enjoyable.
4. *Build up your endurance.* Your weekly long run is one of the most important sessions of the week to develop strength and fitness. But build up to it – don't just jump straight into runs that last more than an hour.
5. *Run on softer surfaces.* Try grass or trails.
6. *Have a bludge!* Don't be frightened to have an easy day or take a day off. My good friend Pete Jacobs, who is a previous winner of the Hawaiian Ironman, is a big believer in this.
7. *Download the FulGaz app.* Mike Clucas, FulGaz's founder, has filmed the entire course, so you can ride along at home on an indoor trainer.
8. *Don't miss the race briefing.* It's on the Friday afternoon.
9. *Free speed.* Aerodynamics on your bike setup is a vital part of saving energy.
10. *Pace yourself.* The bike leg is a testing 20km and involves a three-lap course, with a good hill climb during each lap.
11. *Familiarise yourself with the transitions.* Know where you've racked your bike and where you're exiting.
12. *"Race hard and recover harder!"* It's the Hamilton Island Endurance Series motto.



Great Whitehaven Beach Run.

Life LESSONS

Tracy Bevan is a passionate, tireless cancer-support campaigner and a mother. Her two daughters talk about what it's like living with a bit of a legend. By Tracey Withers.

Working on big life-purpose is what Tracy Bevan does. Since 2005, she's been director and ambassador of the McGrath Foundation, the breast-cancer charity she started with her late best friend, Jane, wife of cricketering great Glenn McGrath. As the wife of former Australian cricketer Michael Bevan for 21 years, the English native has been both part of a power couple, living under the eye of the sports-mad public, and a single mother, aware that the world didn't stop staring when the pair separated five years ago. She has pulled off parenting two girls, Olivia (Liv) and Amelia, who have grown into powerful, engaged and confident young women under this public gaze.

At 53, with her hand on her heart, the two-time-nominated Australian of the Year, who has spoken publicly about postnatal depression after having Amelia, says she's done it all largely without guilt. "For me, it's been about recognising that I'm a better mother when I'm also doing things for myself," says Tracy. "I've figured out that work-life balance feels unattainable if you put pressure on yourself to always make it a 50/50 split. Some moments I'm 90% work, but that means that I've never felt guilt about walking out of the office to be 100% Mum when my children or I need it. You've got to go with the percentage that works for your family, not the one that's right for anyone else." Paying credit to Michael, she says her now officially adult girls are the type of women she's most proud of – their own, with voices they'll raise "confidently but kindly".

Liv Bevan 21, musician

MY MOTHER HAS ALWAYS TAUGHT ME... "To have compassion and to take an interest in other people's lives, no matter who they are – she does that so naturally. I think that, as an artist who wants to tell stories that connect with people, that is influential."

GROWING UP IN THE PUBLIC EYE... "Isn't something I was aware of as a child. That's taught me how unimportant being 'known' is. I

wasn't intimidated by putting myself out there on *The Voice* [as a contestant in 2018], because I'm not hung up on what people might say about me. As long as I'm proud of what I'm putting into the world, that's what's important."

WE'RE FRIENDS ON INSTAGRAM...

"Openness across all my life is just how we are. If it's online, Mum already knows about it anyway. We're each other's counsellors in a way. There's nothing I don't think I could tell her first."

A TEST FOR US WAS... "Maybe when I quit university to do music. I was the first in Mum's family to go to uni and, at first, she didn't want me to 'give up'. But then she came to me, apologising that she was projecting on to me. She said, 'I want success for you, but it's OK to get it in a way I hadn't imagined for you.' That was everything to me."

BEING RAISED BY HIGH ACHIEVERS HAS... "Made me very goal-oriented. Fame means nothing to me – my parents were only known because they have been successful at what they do. What success means to me might change as I get older, but right now I want to change people's days through music."

I ADMIRE THAT MUM IS... "Brave. She's spoken out about growing up with domestic violence, what life was like with an abusive father and what her own mother went through. Mum's gift is bringing conversations that can be dark into the light. She'll share her own stories to raise awareness and help others see a way forward."

MY PARENTS' RELATIONSHIP HAS TAUGHT ME THAT... "Divorce isn't giving up or failure. Change isn't a bad thing. I see that people evolve and need to be apart to keep being the best version of themselves. It's taught me that it's OK to let things go and, if you can do it respectfully, it can be a good thing for a whole family. I think because they've talked about it so openly with us, it's taken a lot of fear away."

Amelia Bevan 18, recent high-school graduate, currently working in retail

MY MOTHER IS MY... "Touchstone. I can talk to her like a girlfriend but she's always my Mum. She'll tell us about consequences, good or bad – but it's up to us whether we get them. She lets us make our own calls and mistakes."

HER WORK WITH THE MCGRATH FOUNDATION HAS GIVEN ME... "Power rather than anxiety, even though cancer has been such a huge and tragic part of our lives. I'm vigilant, not obsessed. I found a lump in my breast while showering when I was 15 and there was less fear than the feeling that I knew what action to take and how. Of course, Mum was right there. I had it checked and it was a benign [mass]. I think Mum's brilliant at helping women understand there's so much hope even if you do find cancer, especially if you detect it early."

MY MUM HAS INSTILLED IN ME... "The importance of open conversation, especially when it's hard. She's shown us that we can talk about anything with her. I'll always want to be that person for friends and not shy away from talking through big, uncomfortable things."

SHE'S ALWAYS SAID TO TRUST... "Instincts. With health, she says trust your gut and know what does or doesn't feel right for you. But she's like that about life, too. She also says trust kindness. Say what you feel is right – but say it in a way that makes you proud."

THERE'S NO TIME IN OUR HOUSE FOR... "Apathy. She's never pressured us to have a 'cause' in the same way she has with the foundation, but you can't be complacent – I know you don't have to wait for change, you can just start it. I'm passionate about the equal treatment of women, animal rights... I've just voted in my first state and federal elections and I was excited to use my voice. I feel that responsibility."

PHOTOGRAPHY: KARA ROSEN LUND.



Liv, Tracy and Amelia Bevan.



Dawn breaks, Catseye Bay.



Lest we forget.

ANZAC DAY, LEST WE FORGET

Location: Outrigger Function Centre. It was a sombre and poignant dawn service of remembrance as the sun broke over Catseye Bay. Nicky Oatley read 'Mrs Edmondson's Poem' by Dame Mary Gilmore and wreaths, flowers and books were laid. Following the dawn service, a sausage sizzle was served with all proceeds donated to the Airlie Beach Returned and Services League. Later, two-up was played at the Marina Tavern.

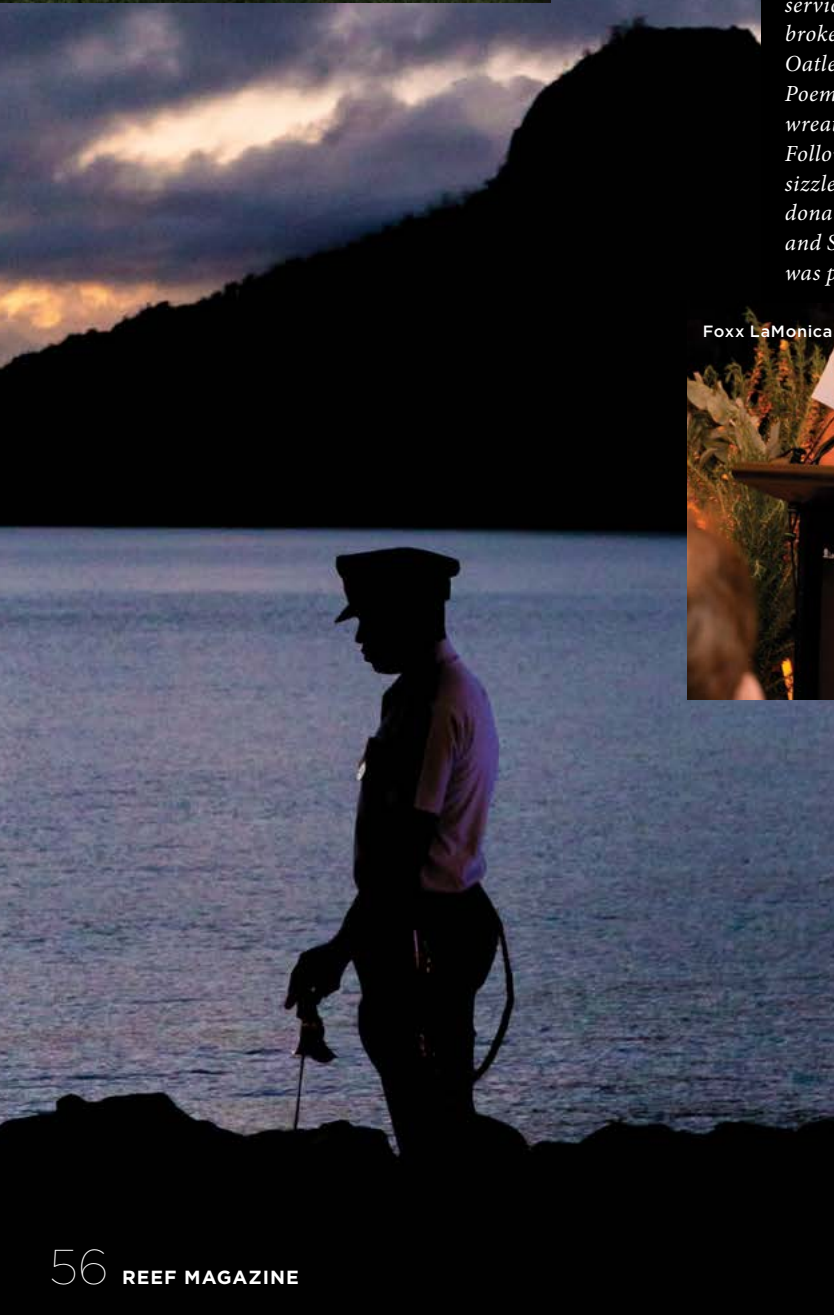


Foxx LaMonica.



Nicky Oatley.

PHOTOGRAPHY: HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY.



Catafalque Party.



Craig Ward tackling one of the many hills.



Rodger Walker.

HAMILTON ISLAND HILLY HALF MARATHON

Location: The roads, fire trails and tracks across the island. They came, they ran, they conquered. As the name suggests the course is hilly and takes a strong and dedicated competitor with major stamina to make it to the finish. The line honours for women was won by Kate Vella in 02:15:00. The men's was taken out by Brock Merchant who crossed the line in 01:50:48. The team relay and junior races were also hotly contested.

Team relay finishers: Team Tri-Activ8.



Dean Degan and Andy Reid.



Winner, Greta Truscott.

GREAT WHITEHAVEN BEACH RUN

Location: Whitehaven Beach. With record numbers, great underfoot conditions and a headwind to both challenge and cool down competitors, it was the perfect day for the Great Whitehaven Beach Run. Congratulations went to the power-couple Chris and Greta Truscott who claimed first place in the men's and women's half marathon, plus a special mention to their son Jaden who came first in the junior race. Henry Taylor and Julia Degan won the 10km race, and Mark Reimann and Ashleigh Flitnes bagged first place respectively in the 5km run.



The half marathon starters.

The way of CONFERENCING

Brainstorming, listening, inspiring, sharing revolutionary thoughts – oh boy, it’s good to get together and chew the fat. Here, Dr Ryan Wallman gives six reasons why you should conference.

In this, the year of our lord 2019, there are more ways than ever to learn and communicate. So you could be forgiven for thinking that attending a conference, in person, represents a bit of an anachronism these days. You could be forgiven, but you would also be – and I mean this in the nicest possible way – wrong. According to a 2018 survey by event technology company Bizzabo, 84% of people in senior leadership positions (C-suite or equivalent) believe that in-person events are a critical component of their company’s success. And the most successful businesses in this survey were spending 70% more than the average marketing budget on live events. Why is this happening, you may ask. Well, here are six reasons that might help to explain it.

1. BECAUSE BREAKTHROUGH IDEAS DON’T COME FROM STICKING TO WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW

You may have heard of the Medici effect. Coined by the entrepreneur Frans Johansson, this refers to the innovation that happens when disciplines intersect in such a way that ideas from one field are brought into another. The Medici effect exemplifies why it’s so important to take an interest in topics beyond our existing knowledge – and a conference is the perfect environment for doing just that. By exposing yourself to different perspectives and ways of thinking, you could find the inspiration for something you never would have considered otherwise.

2. BECAUSE MOST WEBINARS ARE BORING. COME ON, YOU KNOW IT’S TRUE

Webinars can be informative and convenient, sure. But an inspirational way to learn? Not so much. Researchers have found that face-to-face training is more effective than virtual training, which makes sense when you consider that you’re much more likely to be attentive and engaged in a physical setting. In other words, you’ll learn more from a conference speaker than you will from your computer’s speaker.

3. BECAUSE YOU DON’T WIN FRIENDS WITH EMAIL

Ever sent an email that unintentionally put someone offside? Of course you have – we all have. In fact, entire business empires have been destroyed by a single misinterpreted email. Probably. The point is, personal interaction has its advantages. A conference is the ideal place to communicate with people rather than pixels. And it’s not just about making friends, either – people do business with people they like, so making a personal connection makes professional sense.

4. BECAUSE NOBODY EVER SAID, “STAYING AT HOME BROADENS THE MIND”

It’s not impossible to be productive while staying in one place. After all, Marcel Proust wrote one of the longest novels of all time from his bed. But it’s fair to say he was a bit unusual. It is well established that a change of scene

can boost your creativity and productivity. And what better scene could you get than a conference in a stunning location?

5. BECAUSE YOUR NEW CLIENT IS NOT GOING TO FIND YOU WHILE YOU’RE EATING A SAD SANDWICH AT YOUR DESK

OK, that’s a bit harsh – for all I know, your sandwich might be very nice. Still, the probability of you meeting a business prospect while you’re eating it is 0.04%, according to a statistic that I just made up. One of the great benefits of attending a conference is the potential it offers for serendipity. You might meet your new client – or partner, or employee – over lunch. Not to mention that the lunch will be better than your sandwich.

6. BECAUSE OFFICES ARE NOT FUN. NO, NOT EVEN YOURS

Your office might be one of those really cool ones. It might have beanbags and a ping-pong table and a slide. But the truth is it’s still an office. There’s no doubt that having fun is part of the appeal of going to a conference. It may not be the main reason to attend, but it can’t hurt. Well, I guess it can hurt if you have too much fun. Just go easy on the cocktails and you’ll be fine.

DO YOU STILL NEED A REASON?

At this point, you might be thinking, “That’s all well and good, but I can’t justify the expense to my business of attending or putting on a conference.” If so, it’s worth asking yourself whether you can afford not to attend conferences. As the above reasons demonstrate, a conference provides professional benefits that have the potential for generating a significant return on your investment. And if you’re a business owner, your investment could be doubly worthwhile. Research shows travel as an incentive far outweighs cash. Plus, conferences offer you the opportunity to inspire, educate and lift the spirits of your staff. Time to book your next conference?

PHOTOGRAPHY: KARA ROSENLUND; HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY; O’NEILL PHOTOGRAPHICS.

ALL WORK AND PLAY HAMILTON ISLAND HAS IT ALL

A conference is so much more than just the serious sitdown.



Catseye Beach yoga.



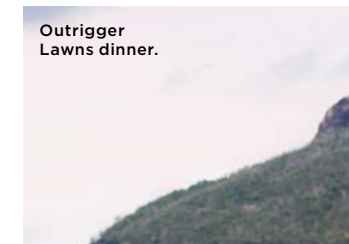
Hamilton Island Yacht Club Private Dining Room.



Poolside events.



Dinner on the Dock.



Outrigger Lawns dinner.



Hamilton Island Conference Centre.



Hamilton Island Yacht Club dinner.

Hamilton Island offers conference and events facilities, for 10 to 700 attendees. For all enquiries, contact Hamilton Island Business Events on 02 9433 3333, or via conference@hamiltonisland.com.au

The land of the RISING SUN

Iluka is a haven of wood, stone and glass, and has a view that helps make it one of the most breathtaking properties on the island. Even better, it's now on the market.
By Esther Holmes.



We're not going to sugarcoat this – there is actually no need to. Iluka, it is safe to say, is one of Hamilton Island's property pearls.

Designed by the renowned Whitsunday architect Chris Beckingham, the unofficial keeper of the island's architectural DNA (just look at Hamilton Island Golf Club's Clubhouse, qualia, and other private homes), this place simply sings from the heart.

With its northeasterly aspect, the magnificent Iluka – reputedly an Aboriginal word that means “near the sea” – is situated on more than half an acre of land, and as the name suggests, has an amazing view out over the Whitsundays and basks in the incredible rays of the rising sun. Can there be any better view to wake up to 365 days of the year? It also overlooks the gardens of the property Beatle George Harrison built in 1987.

Iluka was originally built in 2005, and has been upgraded since then; it now boasts an integrated music system and a beautiful and



spacious chef's kitchen, the place where the action starts – this home was designed for entertaining. One of the most resolved features of the house, though, is the huge sliding door that opens out onto the generous wooden deck – it's the perfect spot for star-gazing and letting yourself become spellbound by the magic of the Coral Sea.

The five bedrooms are all luxurious havens of local wood; the two masters have ensuite bathrooms, while there are a further four bathrooms to be found through the property. Invite all the family, and friends, too – the house can sleep up to 10 people. The downstairs covered entertaining area,

“THIS IS THE KIND OF NEXT LEVEL RESIDENCE THAT MAKES US WANT TO LIVE ON HAMILTON ISLAND FOR EVER... A COMBINATION OF TOTAL LUXURY AND BLISSSED OUT COMFORT.”

with its built-in barbecue and kitchenette, is practical and a great place to base yourself if you're planning to spend some time in the super-chic, 10-meter, stone-edged infinity pool. A quick wander through the immaculate tropical gardens will also reveal two well-placed outdoor showers as well as a brilliant kids' cubby house. This is the kind of next-level private residence that makes us want to live on Hamilton Island forever. Iluka epitomises our kind of combination of total luxury and blissed out comfort.

To find out more, visit the Hamilton Island Real Estate office on Front Street or call 07 4948 9101

CORAL SEA 19

6 GREAT NORTHERN HIGHWAY
\$650,000

2  1  1 

Beautifully renovated from top to bottom, this stunning, fully-furnished townhouse is one not to be missed. Be captivated by the ocean views from the kitchen, balcony and master bedroom. The whole place is modern and stylish, with a relaxing flow throughout, and you won't be able to overlook the high-end finishes and newly fitted, chic designer kitchen, complete with stone benchtops. There are also two generous-sized bedrooms with polished timber floors, one modern tiled bathroom and a laundry room kitted out with brand-new appliances. Plus, a buggy is included with the sale. This end-of-block, split level property is located in a much sought-after complex that's close to all amenities and within walking distance of Catseye Beach. And with its current rental yield being \$750 per week, investing has never looked better.



OASIS 18

5 BANKSIA COURT
\$729,000

2  1  1 

Oasis 18 boasts arguably some of Hamilton Island's best views of Dent Passage, the Hamilton Island Golf Club and the marina. And the spacious, single-level apartment features multiple glass sliding doors to take advantage of the natural light and magnificent views. The major feature, though, is the spacious balcony with bifold louvre windows, allowing you to dine, relax or entertain outside at any time of year. Oasis 18 has been carefully kept and cleaned over the years and, due to this attention to detail, features some of the best returns in the complex.



SHORELINES 30

5 ACACIA DRIVE
OFFERS OVER \$949,000

2  2  1 

This tightly held, popular premises is now available to purchase for the first time since development. It can be yours to own and reap the reward from an extremely strong and long-standing holiday letting success. Designed to welcome you with the mesmerising water views, the property features a timeless split level design. The large 156sqm floorplan offers two balconies, a gourmet gas kitchen and an abundance of entertaining space. Fully-furnished and ready for use, including a buggy, there is nothing to do but settle in, relax and immerse yourself in the dream island lifestyle. This is truly what Hamilton Island living is all about.



PROPERTY SALES: CONTACT LIAM KEARNEY 0458 178 601 OR LYNN MILSON 0415 039 060

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EDGE 16

5A ACACIA DRIVE
\$1,950,000

3 2 1

The first thing you see when you enter this oceanfront apartment is the shimmering sea. Edge 16 is a luxurious, two-level, open-plan apartment that is in high demand. Floor-to-ceiling windows and doors ensure unparalleled views, all captured from the spacious indoor living areas, master bedroom and from the large spa located in the master ensuite. A large kitchen complete with top European appliances complements this expansive, bright and airy apartment. The 'Edge on Hamilton' complex facilities include a 25m wet-edge pool and entertaining area, all located within easy walking distance of the marina.



KIRRIBILLI

7 MARINA TERRACE
OFFERS OVER \$2,950,000

3 3 2

Stylish and spacious, this newly renovated designer home offers unrestricted views over Hamilton Island Marina and across to Dent Island. There's no better place to enjoy the most captivating sunsets Hamilton Island has to offer: this is truly one of the Whitsundays' premier homes. Built over three luxurious levels, each with its own unique charm and character, this architectural masterpiece features open-plan living and dining, and expansive timber decks for entertaining or just simply relaxing. On the lower level there's a private plunge pool with views. The spacious master bedroom, with more stunning vistas, built-in wardrobes and full wet-room shower, offers all the comforts you'd expect from a home of this calibre. Opportunities to purchase your own piece of paradise like this do not come up very often.



PENINSULA 1

18 WHITSUNDAY BOULEVARD
\$2,150,000

4 3 1

Imagine finding a spacious, beautifully designed island hideaway, tucked away on the exclusive northern end of Hamilton Island, with stunning north-facing views. Peninsula 1 is a meticulously cared for, bright and breezy open plan, two-level home. Walk through the front door and straight into the most amazing vista you could ever imagine. On the entry level you'll find peace in the living, dining, kitchen and balcony area. Downstairs are four large bedrooms and a second living area, which opens out to the private pool deck. Peninsula 1 is a must-view if you are looking for paradise found.

PAVILLIONS 13

1 AIRPORT DRIVE
\$3,700,000

3 3 1

Pavillions are one of the most sought after and exclusive apartment complexes on Hamilton Island. Newly renovated and featuring a modern interior, this property is everything you need for the ultimate island home away from home. This single-level, first-floor apartment boasts spectacular northern views, an expansive kitchen, open-plan living and dining area, large media room and study, plus spacious wrap-around balcony and plunge pool/spa. Pavillions 13 comes complete with a marina berth and also your opportunity to include in the purchase, a spectacular Grand Banks 45' Eastbay motor cruiser. All this, within walking distance to Front Street and the marina precinct.



YACHT CLUB VILLA 31

23 FRONT STREET
\$2,300,000

4 4 1

The Yacht Club Villa complex is an exclusive, gated community located right on the beautiful waterfront. Surrounded by manicured gardens, it is conveniently located right at the end of Front Street, alongside the marina. This magnificent, elevated villa includes a state-of-the-art gourmet kitchen and panoramic views over Dent Passage. Set within lush, tropical surrounds, it is just a short walk to all of the cafés, restaurants and shops on Front Street. Yacht Club Villa 31 comes fully-furnished, with a buggy, and enjoys strong holiday rental income year round.

NORTH CAPE 5

2 CORAL SEA AVENUE
\$2,950,000

4 4 1

Perfectly situated on the northeastern end of Hamilton Island, this luxurious townhouse offers impeccable contemporary style with high-end interiors, spectacular views and its own plunge pool. Tucked away on the water's edge, North Cape 5 offers spacious, clean designs and an open floorplan. On the upper level, the living, dining and entertainment area spills out onto a spacious balcony. Downstairs, the master bedroom and ensuite overlook the plunge pool and on to the beautiful Fitzalan Passage. The second bedroom has its own ensuite and, upstairs, bedrooms three and four offer the same luxurious style that is standard in this property. Offered to the public for the first time, this magnificent property is a must see.



PROPERTY SALES: CONTACT LIAM KEARNEY 0458 178 601 OR LYNN MILSON 0415 039 060

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PAVILLIONS 4

3-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY
FROM: \$1,230 PER NIGHT
(3-NIGHT RATE)
MAXIMUM CAPACITY:
12 PEOPLE

4 3 1

Right on the marina, this apartment has spectacular views and is only a short stroll along the boardwalk from cafés, restaurants, bars and the IGA supermarket. There are four bedrooms and a large living space inside, while the balcony has a private plunge pool, barbecue, outdoor lounge area, dining tables and sun loungers. A four-seater buggy is available for use.



POINCIANA 211

3-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY
FROM: \$570 PER NIGHT (3-NIGHT RATE)
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 6 PEOPLE

2 2 1

Filled with natural light, and located on the resort-side of Hamilton Island, this modern apartment is perfect for couples, groups or young families. There are two spacious bedrooms in this apartment, as well as two bathrooms and a sofa bed in the living area for extra guests.



HIDDEN COVE 11

3-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY
FROM: \$760 PER NIGHT (3-NIGHT RATE)
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 6 PEOPLE

2 1 2

This brand new two-bedroom designer apartment boasts an idyllic location, access to a private beach, complimentary WiFi, contemporary interiors and stunning sea views from all living areas and bedrooms. It also includes special comforts such as LED TVs, air-conditioning and quality linen and towels.



LA BELLA WATERS 4

3-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY
FROM: \$710 PER NIGHT (3-NIGHT RATE)
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 6 PEOPLE

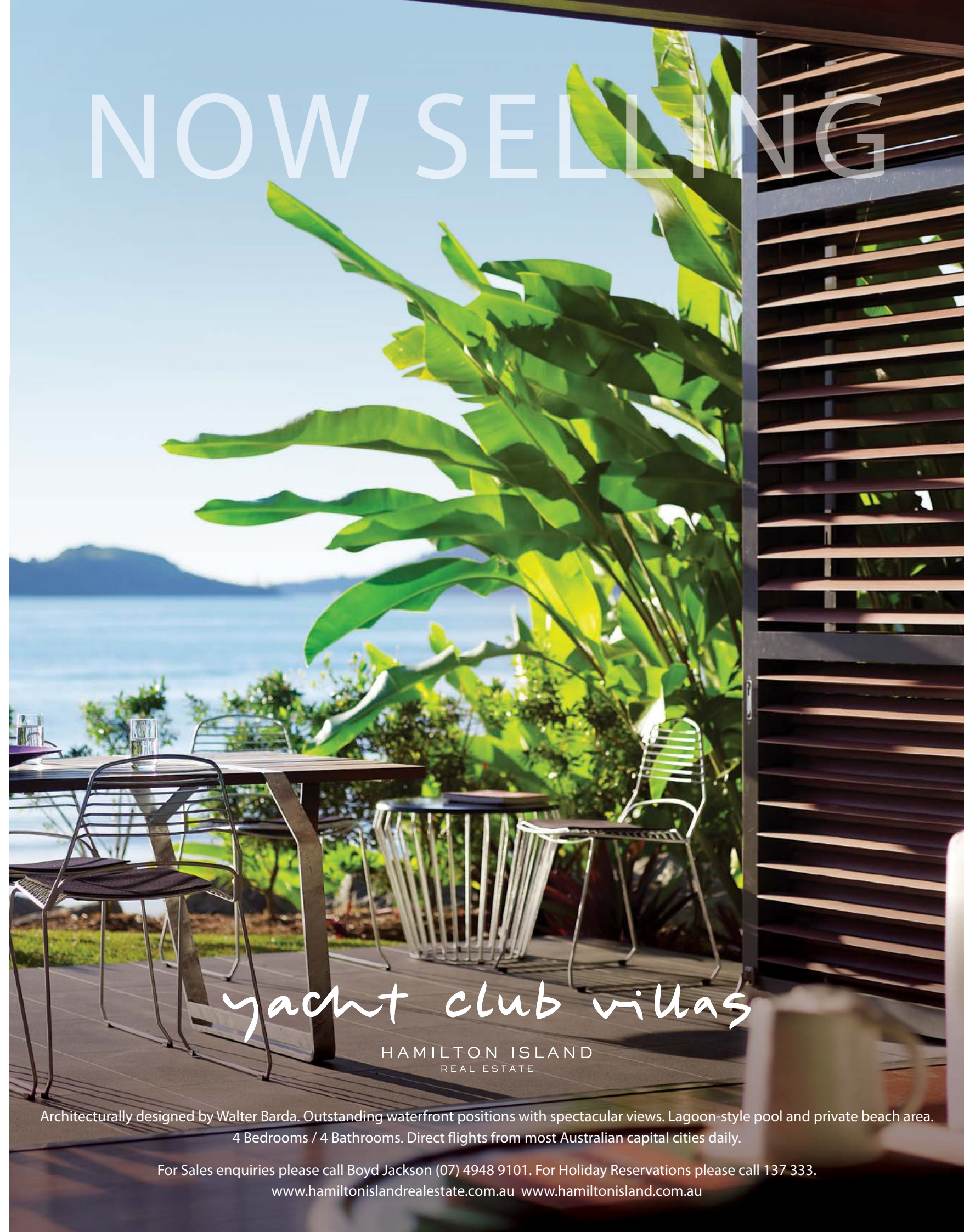
3 3.5 1

Located on the prestigious northern end of Hamilton Island, this stylish, three-bed villa offers pleasant water views, a spa bath, complimentary WiFi and an outdoor entertaining area that flows onto a grass lawn. It's an ideal property for small families or groups.

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

To view the full listings of Hamilton Island holiday-rental properties, visit the Hamilton Island Real Estate office on Front Street, Hamilton Island, or go to hamiltonislandholidayhomes.com.au **HOLIDAY RENTALS RESERVATIONS: 137 333 (02 9433 0444) PROPERTY SALES: 07 4948 9101**
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT: 07 4946 8028 *RATES QUOTED ARE OFF-PEAK RATES BASED ON A 3-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY.
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#Perpetual



OYSTER PERPETUAL YACHT-MASTER II

