

# R

REEF MAGAZINE

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HAMILTON  
ISLAND  
& THE  
GREAT  
BARRIER  
REEF

OCEAN OPTIMIST  
MEET DR EMMA CAMP

CHEF PETER GILMORE  
ON THE IMPORTANCE  
OF FRESH PRODUCE

BONDI BEACH  
LIFEGUARDS GO  
HEAD TO HEAD

WORLD-CLASS  
10 YEARS OF  
HAMILTON ISLAND  
GOLF CLUB

# Adventure Heart of the Whitsundays



ISSUE 22  
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## ROLEX SYDNEY HOBART YACHT RACE

The world of Rolex is filled with stories of perpetual excellence. Organised by the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia since 1945, the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race has captivated crews and crowds alike. Over a distance of 628 nautical miles, storms can arise in an instant, unleashing gale-force winds and presenting the ultimate challenge for yachtsmen. The overall winner sets new standards at one of yachting's most classic and challenging offshore events. This is a story of perpetual excellence, the story of Rolex.

*#Perpetual*



ROLEX SYDNEY HOBART YACHT RACE  
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA  
STARTS ON 26 DECEMBER 2019



OYSTER PERPETUAL YACHT-MASTER II



# INTRODUCTION



Carol and Sandy Oatley.

**W**elcome to Hamilton Island. As 2019 draws to a close we can look back on another memorable and successful year. Of particular note, we saw a near record fleet of 234 yachts, plus thousands of sailors and supporters from across Australia and overseas, come to Hamilton Island Race Week. Also, our Great Whitehaven Beach Run proved to be the best ever with a record number of participants.

Throughout the year we have also continued to upgrade the resort for the benefit of all our guests, with works including the refurbishment of the Reef View Hotel's foyer and the opening of our impressive new 300-person beachside conference facility, the Beach Pavilion.

We say with great pride that for us Hamilton Island is very much a family business. We fell in love with this region back in the '80s when we first visited with our young families.

Subsequently, there were many reasons for us returning as often as possible – in particular the easy access to two of Australia's most loved natural icons, the Great Barrier Reef and Whitehaven Beach, destinations that have been recognised as the best in the world.

From the outset, when we took over ownership of the island in 2003, we wanted to share our experiences with our guests. There was one particular area of the reef we enjoyed that was a little harder than most to reach – until now. It is known as Heart Reef, a remarkable, heart-shaped coral atoll that is spectacular from both air and sea level.

Full details of Hamilton Island Air's new Journey to the Heart tour can be found on page 18 of this edition of REEF Magazine. I encourage you to read this story about the tour and the process involved in bringing it to life. It's been quite an undertaking, bringing a project from idea to reality, and on that note we must recognise

Brad Graves at Hamilton Island Air for his vision, passion, patience and enthusiasm toward making this truly intimate and remarkable reef experience available, exclusively, to our guests.

In this edition of REEF, there is also an interesting article about our Hamilton Island Golf Club (page 30), on neighbouring Dent Island, which celebrates its 10th birthday this year. I still marvel at how the late Peter Thomson and Ross Perrett created this picturesque course within such challenging and rugged terrain. The story brought back fond memories of working on this project with my late father. It's very humbling to see the course now recognised as a significant asset for the region.

I would also encourage you to read Racing Rules by Rob Mundle (page 42), one of Australia's most renowned sailing experts and a dear friend. It's an interesting look back on the beginnings of Race Week, as well as a snapshot of this year's 36th edition of Hamilton Island Race Week. Yet again the internationally acclaimed regatta proved to be a wonderful celebration of sailing, sun, food, fun and friendship.

In closing, this is the time of year when it is truly wonderful to be on the island. We welcome you and encourage you to take a moment to relax with your loved ones while enjoying one of the world's most remarkable holiday destinations.

That is exactly what I plan to do – spend another New Year's Eve right here on the island with my family and new grandchild.

So, from our family and the entire Hamilton Island team we wish you an enjoyable holiday and a happy and healthy 2020.

Sandy Oatley  
Chairman, Hamilton Island

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# EXPLORE HAMILTON ISLAND



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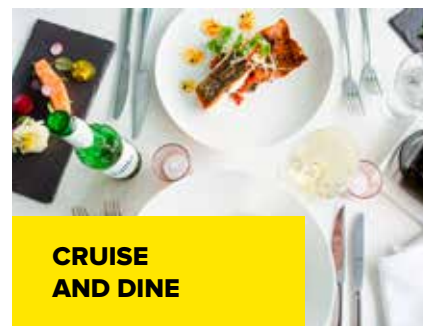
**WHITEHAVEN  
BEACH**



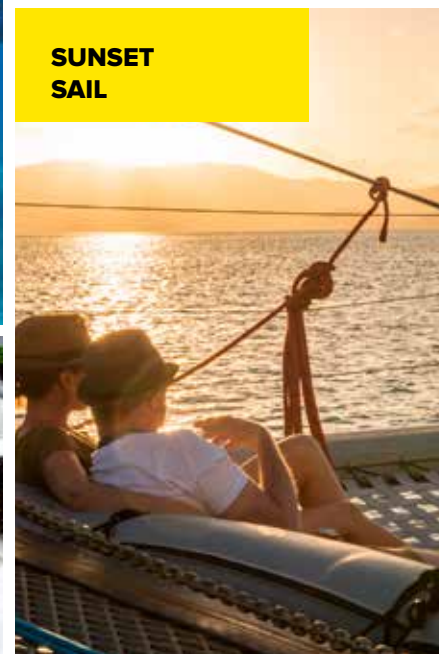
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# CONTRIBUTORS



## PENNY LAWSON, CHEESEMONGER

BEST PIECE OF TRAVEL  
ADVICE?

“Pack light. I like to be able to move around easily, and carrying heavy luggage makes this hard. You can always pick up what you forgot to pack wherever you go.”

ULTIMATE HOLIDAY ALBUM?

“Oxygène by Jean-Michel Jarre – best for landscapes and train travel.”

UNPUTDOWNABLE BEACH  
BOOK?

“Anything by David Sedaris or A.A. Gill.”

IF YOUR IDEAL HOLIDAY  
WERE A DRINK, WHAT  
WOULD IT BE?

“Straight rum out of a coconut – I have dreams of desert islands and pirates. Or just plain coconut water freshly cracked.”

FAVOURITE FORM OF  
EXERCISE ON HOLIDAY?

“Yoga and walking.”

GUILTY HOLIDAY PLEASURE?

“Not sure if it’s a guilty pleasure, but I love going to food markets and buying and trying everything. It’s great to see what’s in season and what’s local. I guess the guilty bit is eating more than I should.”

WHO DO YOU CHANNEL ON  
HOLIDAY?

“Hmmm, probably a combination of Samin Nosrat [of Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat fame] and Anthony Bourdain. I love sharing and talking about food and cooking where I can.”

## BRENDAN JAMES, GOLF EXPERT AND JOURNALIST

BEST PIECE OF TRAVEL  
ADVICE?

“Always pull back and inspect the sheets when you first check in to a hotel room.”

ULTIMATE HOLIDAY ALBUM?

“Wonderwall by Oasis.”

UNPUTDOWNABLE BEACH  
BOOK?

“The Spirit of St. Andrews by Dr Alister MacKenzie.”

IF YOUR IDEAL HOLIDAY  
WERE A DRINK, WHAT  
WOULD IT BE?

“Aperol spritz.”

FAVOURITE FORM OF  
EXERCISE ON HOLIDAY?

“Golf – and plenty of it.”

GUILTY HOLIDAY PLEASURE?

“Ice cream – and plenty of it.”

WHO DO YOU CHANNEL ON  
HOLIDAY?

“Any Formula One driver behind the wheel of... a hire car.”



## ROXY LOLA, WRITER

BEST PIECE OF TRAVEL  
ADVICE?

“Plan your outfits and save the tears.”

ULTIMATE HOLIDAY ALBUM?

“Madonna’s Ray of Light when by the ocean.”

UNPUTDOWNABLE BEACH  
BOOK?

“Any of Jane Harper’s books. They just keep getting better.”

IF YOUR IDEAL HOLIDAY  
WERE A DRINK, WHAT  
WOULD IT BE?

“A lychee martini.”

FAVOURITE FORM OF  
EXERCISE ON HOLIDAY?

“Walking to lie on the beach.”

GUILTY HOLIDAY PLEASURE?

“Pavlova.”

WHO DO YOU CHANNEL ON  
HOLIDAY?

“Brooke Shields in Blue Lagoon.”

## TRACEY WITHERS, JOURNALIST

BEST PIECE OF TRAVEL  
ADVICE?

“Know the difference between travelling and holidaying. Switch your phone off for at least half of every day. Plan just enough to know you’re always wandering aimlessly in the right direction.”

ULTIMATE HOLIDAY ALBUM?

“I tune into local radio stations and just go with it.”

UNPUTDOWNABLE BEACH  
BOOK?

“The Overstory by Richard Powers. Short chapters for when I’m moving fast but so beautifully crafted.”

IF YOUR IDEAL HOLIDAY  
WERE A DRINK, WHAT  
WOULD IT BE?

“The bartender’s own mad invention. Even when there are familiar flavours and favourite vibes, I want them remixed into something new every trip.”

FAVOURITE FORM OF  
EXERCISE ON HOLIDAY?

“Bushwalking and climbing – I love to hike up volcanoes.”

GUILTY HOLIDAY PLEASURE?

“Having no guilt about any pleasure – like wine, all the time.”

WHO DO YOU CHANNEL ON  
HOLIDAY?

“Oh to be as ballsy as Jeanne Baret, and relive the cool, summery nostalgia of Jane Birkin with Serge Gainsbourg in St-Tropez, with Talitha Getty’s wardrobe.”







## 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 16 unique reception venues, we can cater for anywhere between two – 300 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.

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*Tanqueray*

FOUR PERFECTLY BALANCED BOTANICALS, SINCE 1830



## Castaway... ANTHONY PUHARICH

Imagine you've been stranded on a remote desert island and you've only been able to "take" a few important items with you. It's time to be super-resourceful and channel your inner Bear Grylls. REEF invited Anthony Puharich, the owner of Victor Churchill, one of the finest butcher's in all of Australia, to be our "abandoned" island visitor. Surely this would be too easy for him, what with all the hunter-gathering required...

**Three essentials to pack?**

"A cast-iron grill, my wife – I literally can't survive without her by my side – and a goose-feather pillow. As long as I can sleep comfortably, I can do without almost anything else."

**What would you most regret not packing?**

"A solar-powered torch."



**What would you miss most about reality?**

"Hot showers."

**One essential tool for the island?**

"A Leatherman."



**Which book would you bring with you?**

"Wilderness Survival for Dummies."

**Dream companion?**

"MacGyver – he would build us a raft using nothing but paperclips and a ball of string to get us out of there!"

**What would you wear?**

"A pair of sluggos (Speedos)."

**Dream meal once you've been rescued?**

"A big juicy steak, roast potatoes, glass of red."



**Your island accessory?**

"A bespoke straw hat made with palm-tree leaves from the island."



**What would you grow to eat?**

"Potatoes – chips and vodka, what else would I need?"

**Catch of the day?**

"Wild pig? Here's hoping there's one on the island."



**Top island tune?**

"Whitesnake – Here I Go Again (on my own)."

**How would you send your SOS?**

"The amazing scent and smell generated from my barbecue cooking wafting through the air."

**Favourite island movie for inspiration?**

"Cast Away, with Tom Hanks."



**If you could channel one fictional character, who would it be?**

"The Professor from Gilligan's Island."



**Who would rescue you?**

"UberChopper."

**First place you'd go when rescued?**

"Victor Churchill."

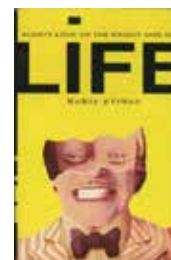


**Island hobby?**

"Building sandcastles with intricate tunnel systems."

**Your island mantra?**

"Always look on the bright side of life, de dum, de dum, de dum, de dum!"



# DIARY DATES 2019/20



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

## 2019

### DECEMBER 24 CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Come and join the holiday festivities on Christmas Eve at the Frangipani Lawns as the sun sets. It's a great evening for the family. Our annual firework display will light up the skyline just after sunset. 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. Pack a picnic or enjoy a sausage sizzle and drinks at the park.

### DECEMBER 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

Dance to chart-topping tunes and those well-loved classic hits and see in the new year with a street party. It all kicks off at 9pm, with live entertainment at the Marina Tavern forecourt. The Outrigger Lawns near Catseye Beach hosts 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. It's going to be a good year, 2020, bring it on.

## 2020

### APRIL 25 ANZAC DAY

The Anzac Day dawn service of remembrance 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. Join us at the Beach Pavilion.

### MAY 3 HAMILTON ISLAND HILLY HALF MARATHON

It's one of the most epic endurance events and we're already gearing up for the 2020 challenge. There's also a 3 x 7km team relay and a kids fun run. The races are all part of the Endurance Series, we welcome all to battle it out for those coveted titles whilst taking in the breathtaking Whitsunday views. A shout-out to all runners: 21.1km of Hamilton Island's mountainous terrain is waiting for you, ready, set, go.

### MAY 22-25 PAS DE DEUX IN PARADISE

Join The Australian Ballet at qualia for an intimate and exclusive weekend event where you can see some of the country's top dancers and immerse yourself with a rare insight into life behind the scenes of The Australian Ballet. 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 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 run is at low tide on the hard packed sand. 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.

### JULY 31 - AUGUST 3 BRISBANE TO HAMILTON ISLAND YACHT RACE

In its second year in 2020, the Lendlease Brisbane to Hamilton Island Yacht Race is



Pas de Deux in Paradise.



PGA Professionals Championship and Hamilton Island Amateur Golf Championship.



Hamilton Island Race Week.

one of Australia's longest tropical category 2 offshore yacht races. Join us as we welcome the competing yachts and crews into the Hamilton Island Marina, just in time for Hamilton Island Race Week.

**AUGUST 15-22  
HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK**

Hamilton Island Race Week is one of the world's most prestigious yachting regattas – and Australia's favourite. It is the mixture of short course, passage and longer around-the-islands races that are guaranteed to test a sailor's tactical ability. On the schedule for top-end contenders is the IRC, One Design, Performance Racing and Racing Multihulls. Cruising, IRC Passage, Non-Spinnaker and Cruising Multihulls will all be in the line-up, too.

It is one of the busiest weeks to be on the island and, with accompanying on-shore events including great lunches and memorable dinners created by some of the finest chefs, Hamilton Island 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.

**NOVEMBER 15-19  
PGA PROFESSIONALS CHAMPIONSHIP  
AND HAMILTON ISLAND AMATEUR  
GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP**

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. It's time to start locking in those extra practice hours.

**NOVEMBER 21  
HAMILTON ISLAND TRIATHLON**

The Hamilton Island Triathlon has an idyllic swim, iconic cycle leg and a run, with views and hills that will take your breath away. So what are you waiting for? 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 day of family fun.

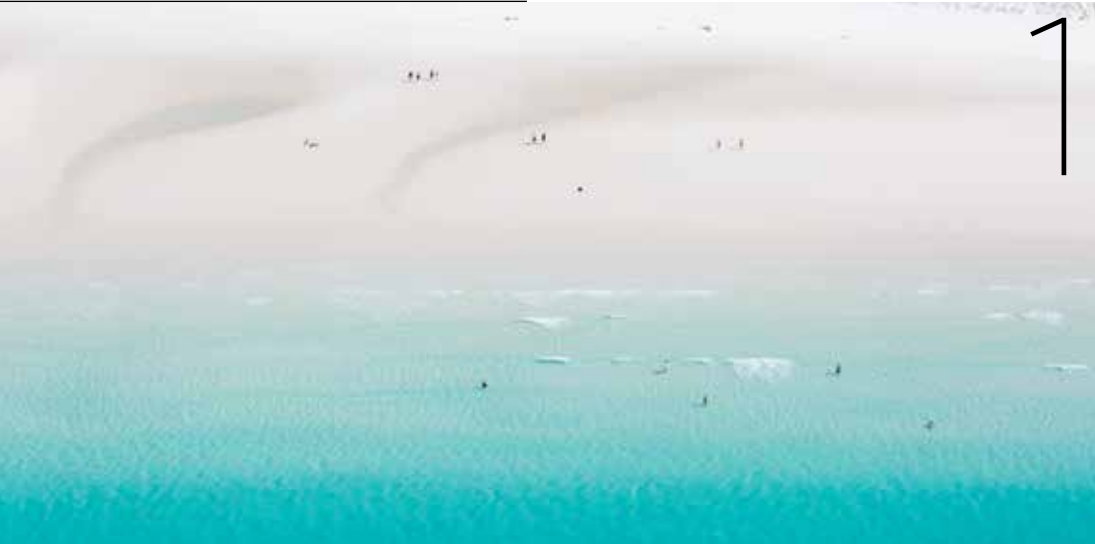
**NOVEMBER 22  
WHITEHAVEN BEACH OCEAN SWIM**

Dive into the Endurance Series by competing on one of the most beautiful beaches in the world at the Whitehaven Beach Ocean Swim. With a hotly contested 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. This has to be one of the most enjoyable races in the world.



Whitehaven Beach Ocean Swim.

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



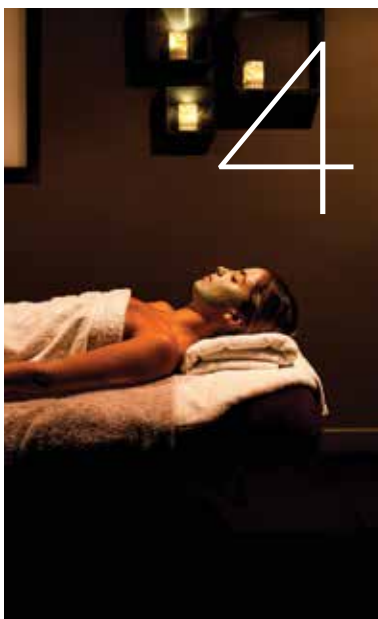
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HELLO PARADISE:  
WHITEHAVEN BEACH

Reasons to visit 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, in fact must, include a trip out here. This other worldly reality is only a short trip away by helicopter, seaplane, yacht, or motorboat or 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.

RELAX AND UNWIND: SPA WUMURDAYLIN

This is where the real me me holiday 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 deliver our kind of results - bliss. There are many therapies to choose from on the menu and great spa packages, too, but we always 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.



4

GET BACK TO NATURE:  
BUSHWALKING

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. This is a great way to enjoy Hamilton Island and will leave you feeling fit and inspired.



3

MAGICAL: HEART REEF

The jewel of the Great Barrier Reef, Heart Reef is best viewed by air. Take a helicopter or a seaplane over the Whitsunday Islands with Hamilton Island Air. Alternatively take their six person Journey to the Heart tour, which will take you out to their luxury Heart Island pontoon, and allow you to snorkel and enjoy the underwater experience from a super sleek glass-bottom boat that will sail you right around Heart Reef. You can also take a day trip out to Reefworld at Hardy Reef with Cruise Whitsundays and snorkel around the incredible coral formations. Or spend a half or full day touring the secret spots of the Whitsundays or outer reef with the Explore Group, who also offer an introductory scuba-diving experience.



2

PLAY THE GAME: 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?



5



## CALLING ALL GOLFERS: HAMILTON ISLAND GOLF CLUB

Designed by the late, five-time British Open champion, Peter Thomson, nearby Dent Island is home to one of Australia's most spectacular 18-hole courses: the Hamilton Island Golf Club. 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, which has the kind of menu that's sure to satisfy the 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 picture perfect way to begin and end the day's play.

## KOALA CLIMAX: HAMILTON ISLAND WILDLIFE

A great family activity is the guided walk to meet all the amazing animals at Hamilton Island Wildlife, and breakfast with the koalas, where they are brought down from their enclosure and fed nearby at the Koolah Café. 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 eucalyptus leaves. If Reef View Hotel or Palm Bungalow 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 thoroughly unique experience.

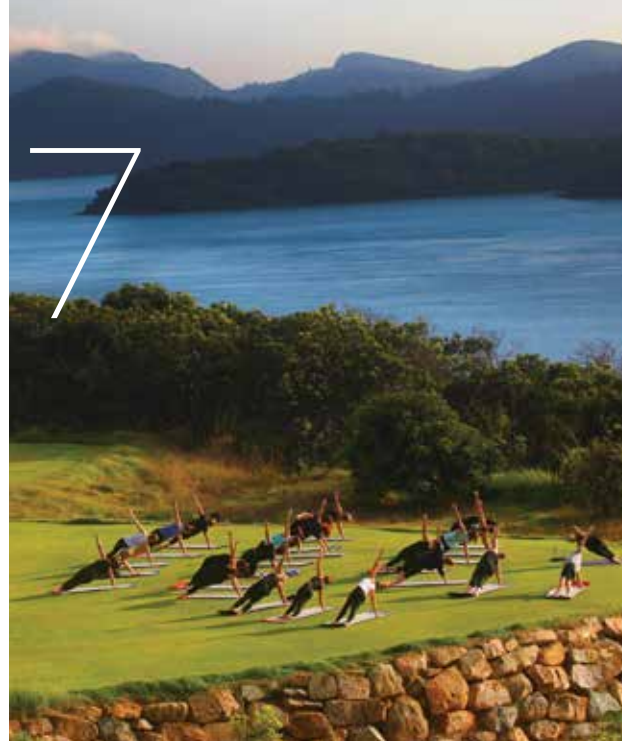


## NEED FOR SPEED: FOUR WHEEL FUN

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. Offroad Adventure Tours offer exciting experiences as well. 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.

## NAMASTE: DENT ISLAND

One of our favourite ways to start the day is with 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 will need to bring warm clothes if it's a cooler morning, hat, sunglasses and sunscreen. Yoga mats are provided. It's a memorable, physical and spiritual experience in this beautiful setting. 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.



## FAMILY FIRST: CHILD'S PLAY

Hamilton Island is a family-friendly destination and there are many activities designed for children 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 friendly 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.

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

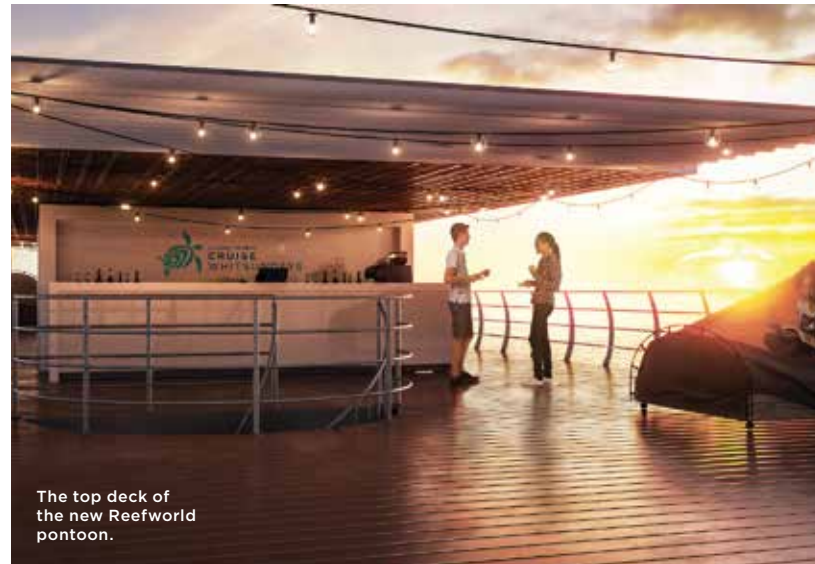
# BULLETIN BOARD

There's so much happening on Hamilton Island and in the Whitsundays. Here, the latest updates, by Esther Holmes.



## STRIKE THE GONG

The HM Awards have happened, and the tribe has spoken, with qualia scooping Best Resort for 2019. HM Editor-In-Chief and Chief Judge of the HM Awards, James Wilkinson, said that the calibre of this year's entries were the best in the event's history. "The quality of entries in the HM Awards this year was unlike anything we have seen before. It was a challenge to even choose the finalists from up to 80 entries in some cases, let alone decide on a winner and highly commended." qualia know how to give good service, impeccable, attentive and friendly. But wait there's more: qualia has also been recognised in the Condé Nast Traveller's Readers' Choice Awards 2019 as one of the top 20 Australasian resorts. If there was ever a time to book in...



## UNDERWATER LOVE

Experience the Great Barrier Reef in a new and entirely immersive way when you stay the night in Reefsuites - Australia's only underwater accommodation. Opened in December 2019, Reefsuites is an all-inclusive experience featuring a return cruise to Cruise Whitsundays' new Reefworld pontoon..., a guided snorkelling tour, regionally inspired food, fine wine and unrivalled access to the underwater world of the Great Barrier Reef. Each suite is equipped with floor to ceiling glass windows to view the tropical fish, stingrays and turtles from the comfort of the bedroom. The suites accommodate two people each with an interconnecting wall that can be opened to make one larger suite for families. Also new is the elevated Reefsleep experience. It involves an overnight on the Great Barrier Reef, under the stars and sleeping in a specially-designed 'Reefbed' on the top deck on the pontoon. For further information, visit the Tour Desk or [cruisewhitsundays.com](http://cruisewhitsundays.com)



## DIRECT AND TO THE POINT

So, you are already planning your return visit because let's face it, even the thought of our next holiday keeps us going. Book directly at [hamiltonisland.com.au](http://hamiltonisland.com.au) and aside from saving you time, money and hassle, enjoy many rewards and perks, which include our best price guarantee; a flexible cancellation policy, because you never know what may happen; Velocity points on all direct bookings; no fees on major credit card transactions; and you can secure your booking instantly with just a 20% deposit (full payment due 7 days in advance of arrival). Booking directly ensures that you score a Friend of the Island Membership, which entitles you to more exclusive offers; and if you are staying at the Reef View Hotel, Palm Bungalows or any Holiday Home booked through Hamilton Island Holiday Homes you can also take advantage of the Kids Stay and Eat Free offer and complimentary use of non-motorised watersports. That's got to be good. To find out about even more benefits of booking direct, visit [hamiltonisland.com.au/bookdirect](http://hamiltonisland.com.au/bookdirect)

PHOTOGRAPHY: HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY, JASON LOUCAS, KARA ROSENBLUND.



Glenn Bourke.



## NATURAL BORN LEADER

The 2019 Whitsunday Tourism Awards are in and Glenn Bourke has been awarded the Bob Porter Award for Outstanding Contribution by an Individual. Bourke has been the CEO of Hamilton Island Enterprises for the past 11 years and contributed so much. He steered the island through the aftermath of Cyclone Debbie swiftly and has championed the excellence and set the standard for all that Hamilton Island has to offer. The Bourke fact file says it all: he is a sailor,

an Australian Olympian, having competed in the sailing/yachting classes in Moscow and Barcelona and then in Atlanta as Australian Team Coach; he has sailed in the America's Cup three times; he is a natural born leader, inclusive and a mentor to many. He is an outstanding member of the Hamilton Island community.

## HAMILTON ISLAND EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Each year Hamilton Island provides five schools from the Whitsunday region with an award that is presented to a student who has 'created extraordinary' within their school throughout the year. The award includes a trophy and is presented at their end of year ceremony, as well as a two-night getaway for the winner and their family. Hamish Swain was one of the lucky Extraordinary Achievement Award winners from October 2018 and won a sailing experience during Hamilton Island Race Week.

Swain, who is currently undertaking his Year 12 studies at Proserpine State High School, is the current World Youth Champion after winning the World LT Windsurfer Championships in Italy in July 2019. Working alongside Hamilton Island Chairman Sandy Oatley, CEO Glenn Bourke and the Wild Oats crew during Hamilton Island Race Week, Hamish was gifted with Wild Oats crew sailing gear and a day spent learning what it takes to be on one of the world's fastest, most technologically advanced ocean racing yachts.

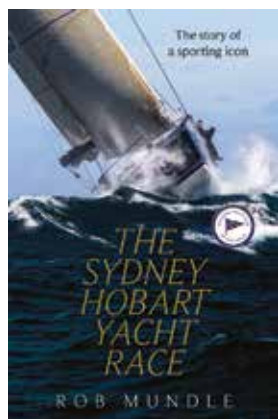
He tells REEF, "going on Wild Oats X was an awesome experience for me. I really enjoyed the racing and meeting the crew of professional sailors who have done so much. My long-term goal is the 2024 Olympics. I also need to complete Year 12 and get my driver's licence this year!" Go Hamish.

Hamish Swain with Sandy Oatley, Glenn Bourke and the Wild Oats crew.



## STUFF OF LEGEND

This is our kind of book and on the top of our summer reading list as we head towards - and then look back at - another cracking Sydney Hobart Race. Since it first began 75 years ago, the anecdotes, the jostling the shenanigans and times have all gone down in history. To mark this anniversary, the esteemed author of over 18 books (six of which are bestsellers) Rob Mundle, has documented and told the fascinating story of the race that stops a nation - on Boxing Day. The Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, published by Harper Collins, is quite simply the legend of a sporting icon. We are in deep.



Reef View Hotel.



## CHIC, SLEEK, GO

We love the Reef View Hotel with its great swimming pool, delicious breakfast and spacious, breezy rooms with their epic views out across Catseye Beach. We are now adding new look foyers to the checklist. The newly remodelled foyer by the POCO Designs team now features subtle but stylish elements, which have transformed the arrival area into a sleek, fresh and contemporary space. Improvements to the guest services and lobby areas include impeccable furnishings, beautiful flooring, epic sky lighting and updated marble check-in desks. Let's face it we might not even make it up to the room.

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



# HEARTLAND

This is a journey that started almost ten years ago, when Brad Graves, the owner of Hamilton Island Air, came up with the idea of mooring a pontoon near Heart Reef, one of the most photographed spots of the Great Barrier Reef. Alison Veness headed out there.

Heart Island, Great Barrier Reef.



PHOTOGRAPHY: KEN BUTTI, ROBBIE JOSEPHSEN,  
KARA ROSEN LUND, SALTY WINGS.

It is testament to Brad Graves' passion and dedication that the Heart Reef project was finally completed and that he is now flying out every day – on one of his 17 helicopters – to the new Heart Island.

The 30-minute flight out to the island, which is part of the three-hour Journey to the Heart tour, is in itself like a National Geographic warm-up to the main event. Flying over Whitehaven Beach and then over Hill Inlet is merely foreplay to one of the most magical experiences possible, at one of the most famous jewels of the Great Barrier Reef.

“As Quentin Tarantino would say, ‘Which R are you filled with, relief or regret?’ Relief!” quips Graves of the almost-decade-long dance with the intense environmental requirements and particular needs that come with working so closely with this natural wonder of the world.

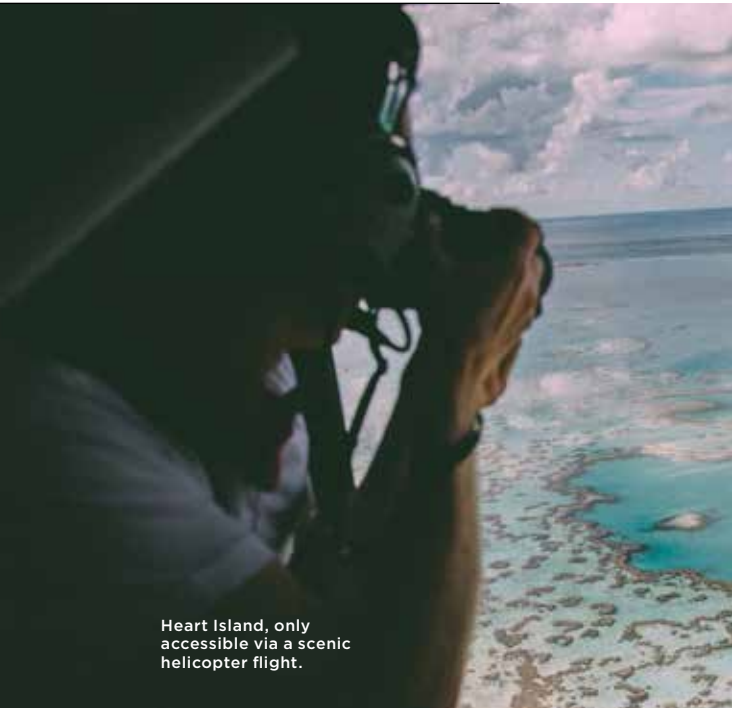
But let's choose another R – rewind. Our trip out to Heart Island started at qualia (as so much goodness does) on the super-chic helipad that sits at the edge of the Coral Sea. The chopper approached to pick up the six of us – only six people can experience Heart Island at any one time – and with no pre-flight red tape, just a solid safety briefing, we boarded it like we owned it. Helicopter envy, we felt it as we climbed higher and higher, up and away over Hamilton Island.

Passing over Whitehaven Beach was amazing – Instagram-worthy in itself with all that white sand, edged with turquoise blue ocean, and the flora and fauna of Whitsunday Island so clear to see. Whales were spotted way down below, breaching in the ocean. Could it have got any more picture perfect than this, we all wondered. Well, yes it could. Just wait.

The tours coincide with low tide and so it made for effortless viewing of Heart Reef, which lies close to Hardy Reef. And then we land on the roof of the luxury new pontoon. Welcome to Heart Island. This was James Bond territory. Sexy, sleek, totally unexpected and pure theatre, it's 45 nautical miles from Hamilton Island. This deceptively simple pontoon has been designed by the One2three Naval Architects, making Graves' ideas a reality in aluminium and recycled plastic wood. It is a triumph of effortlessness and furnished in the best possible taste, a home away from home, and a qualia away from qualia. “It's exceeded the dream,” says Graves. “The pontoon was first taken out to its mooring by a tugboat that took around nine hours to get there and was timed to arrive at high tide, so that it could be easily floated across the reef and into the lagoon,” he explained.

Developed in strict consultation with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Heart Island began to take shape following a two-year environmental impact study. The pontoon was designed to be ecologically sustainable and is moored in sand and powered by wind and sun. It doesn't carry waste and

# ADVENTURE



Heart Island, only accessible via a scenic helicopter flight.



Heart Island pontoon lounge.



Glass-bottom boat tour around Heart Reef.



New wind and solar powered Heart Island luxury pontoon, enjoy snorkelling in the protected lagoon only moments from Heart Reef.

“HEART REEF IS ICONIC AND NOW IT CAN BE EXPERIENCED UP CLOSE, MAKING FOR A REALLY INTIMATE GREAT BARRIER REEF ENCOUNTER. IT’S A SENSORY OVERLOAD OUT THERE AND PEOPLE DO GET VERY EMOTIONAL ABOUT THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE.”



only operates within a designated lagoon, where regular reef-health monitoring takes place.

Also expertly contained within the pontoon is a state-of-the-art, futuristic, glass-bottomed boat designed by Moda Boats, who build custom-made aluminium boats, and which takes you out to circle around within a metre of Heart Reef.

It was then time to pull on the flippers, pick up a snorkelling mask and enjoy the natural lagoon surrounding the pontoon, which is sheltered by three-metre-high living-coral walls. Hundreds of multicoloured reef fish (there are about 1,500 species of fish on the Great Barrier Reef) swim in and around this environmental treasure. "It's like swimming in an aquarium," says Graves. "Fish, turtles, you name it – it's all happening in the lagoon."

Jimmy Niggles, one of our gang of six, did a backflip off the pontoon and headed way out into the ocean like the sporting pro he is, working it. The lagoon is like a next-level private pool, epic, nothing else out there except for vastness and emptiness that is quite overwhelming. It is undeniably powerful and emotional to be this close to Mother Nature. A surreal kind of blessing.

"Heart Reef is iconic and now it can be experienced up close, making for a really intimate Great Barrier Reef encounter. It's a sensory overload out there and people do get very emotional about the whole experience," says Graves.

Hamilton Island's CEO, Glenn Bourke, feels Heart Island has elevated the luxury offering of the Whitsundays. "It provides our guests with an unsurpassable way to explore the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef," he says. "Since being purchased by the Oatley family in 2003, Hamilton Island has worked to become a world-class destination, epitomised by our six-star luxury resort, qualia. We are proud to offer this preeminent experience for our guests in partnership with Hamilton Island Air."

Bourke is right – it is the stuff of bucket-list magic and, as Graves says, "Until you've experienced it you've missed out. There is no reef experience anywhere else in the world like this one. It's a world first."

There has been one marriage proposal so far, though we predict there will be many more. But book in advance – unsurprisingly, there is a wait list.

Hamilton Island's Journey to the Heart experience costs \$999 per person for those aged 14 and above, and includes a return scenic helicopter flight, a tour of Heart Reef and snorkelling equipment. And yes, we will be back.

For more information, visit [hamiltonisland.com.au/heartisland](http://hamiltonisland.com.au/heartisland)

## JOURNEY TO THE HEART

*Everything you need to know at a glance before booking this extraordinary experience.*

**Enjoy:** a 60-minute return scenic helicopter flight from Hamilton Island to Heart Island.

**Fly:** over iconic sights including Whitehaven Beach, Hill Inlet and Heart Reef, before landing at the Heart Island luxury pontoon.

**Spend:** 90-minutes at Heart Island, where you can choose to experience a glass-bottom boat ride around Heart Reef.

**Swim:** and snorkel in a nearby turquoise lagoon and marvel at the Great Barrier Reef below.

**Try:** out all the snorkelling equipment that is provided as part of the tour.

**Depart:** daily (this is weather and tide dependant).

**Maximise:** only six guests, plus a host, can enjoy this reef experience at any one time.



# Blow UP

Simon Upton is the fashion photographer who is utterly at home in an epic location. Here, he talks to REEF about his love for his craft.

“My earliest memory of photography was my discovery of the darkroom at high school. I became really involved, wanting to learn all I could about developing film and the actual printing of images. This excited me just as much as taking them. My first camera was a Pentax K1000, a great little SLR, and the camera of choice for all photography students in my peer group. Initially, I never thought about making a career out of photography, it was just my passion. I loved taking pictures.

“After coming out of an intense 12-year sporting career, I had the opportunity to have a hiatus for a year or two, so I picked up my camera and started shooting everything I could – landscapes, portraits of friends. I found it creatively stimulating but also just a really great way to spend my days! Through word of mouth I sold my first image to a magazine, then another, and on and on it went, until I was selling up to 10 images a week to various mags.

“My breakthrough moment came when the then art director of Vogue Australia, Eric Matthews, commissioned me to do a small fashion shoot. This was my first commissioned shoot – so, in reality, my first ‘proper’ job. Although I had been selling a lot of images and building my portfolio, I hadn’t had a booking until this shoot came along – a pretty prestigious place to start.

“[My first cover was for] Dolly magazine – I’m not sure who it was, but it was either Miranda Kerr or Jessica Hart. They have both been constants and major parts of my photographic journey. I photographed the author Thomas Keneally once, just before a trip to Poland, where I had already planned to travel across the country with my heavily pregnant wife. We literally traced his steps from his book Schindler’s Ark, which of course led us to Auschwitz. I was commissioned to shoot him for The (Sydney) Magazine, which sadly no longer exists, but it gave me the opportunity to photograph many interesting people, which in turn made each and every shoot day pretty fascinating. I shot Peter Garrett, Cate Blanchett with her husband Andrew Upton, Bryan Brown and Rachel Ward, plus Bob Carr and many other notable politicians, which always made for an interesting sitting. I even took a portrait of the late artist

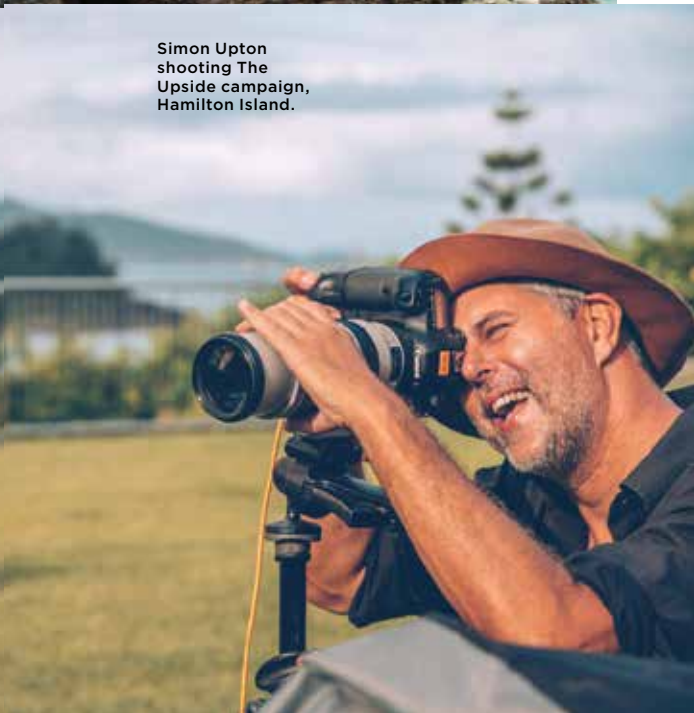
Elle Macpherson,  
Harper’s BAZAAR  
Australia.





Jess Hart, The Upside campaign shot on Hamilton Island.

“MY ADVICE TO ANY BUDDING PHOTOGRAPHER IS TO SHOOT AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.”



Simon Upton shooting The Upside campaign, Hamilton Island.

Margaret Olley. It was amazing to have the opportunity to shoot so many incredible Australians.

“I’m not actually fussed about who I photograph or how famous they may or may not be.

The most exciting commission for me was being asked by Cindy Crawford to photograph her for her beauty company, Meaningful Beauty. I felt really humbled to be chosen over all the incredible photographers she works with.

“I try to treat everyone who steps in front of my camera the same way and to make the experience fun for them. For me, I focus most of my energy on how the image is lit and its composition. I am most known for my location work – I shoot fashion in extreme locations. I love shooting in breathtaking places and allowing the environment to truly shine, but also letting the subject and the fashion shine just as brightly. Neither one outdoes the other, they are in perfect harmony. Sometimes we have very small periods of perfect light, perhaps just at sunset or sunrise, that we need to capture, so we make the most of these times and are always ready for the shot.

“My camera of choice varies now but lately I’ve been using Canon SLRs, mainly for the great array of lenses they have. The transition from film to digital was something I was really against at first, but as my clients began to want digital photography, I had to embrace the new medium. Now I couldn’t imagine shooting any other way, as I really like to develop a shoot on set, and work with the available light, and being able to see what transpires straight away enables me to do this.

“It’s always amazing to come to Hamilton Island, especially in the winter, as the weather everywhere else in the country isn’t great, but most days on Hamilton are perfect – and the locations are second to none and endless. Every time I come back, I discover a new favourite spot.

“My advice to any budding photographer is to shoot as much as you can – everything and anything you like. There are so many different career paths for photographers, fashion is only one of them. Also, understand lighting – for me that is key, especially when you are working with natural light.

“I’ve had many people support me throughout my career, but my wife has been my biggest supporter as she sacrificed her own career having a family and moving to Australia from Poland. She gave me the time and space to pursue my passion while raising our two sons, Tyson and Koby.”

## SOUNDS LIKE...

*The top 20 tunes to play poolside or chilled-out on a yacht. And press relax.*

1. Neon by John Mayer
2. Good for You by Blood Orange (feat. Justine Skye)
3. Party by Beyoncé
4. Strawberry Bubblegum by Justin Timberlake
5. Unfinished Symphony by Massive Attack
6. Kelly Watch the Stars by Air
7. Xtal by Aphex Twin
8. Don’t Call It Love by Zero 7
9. Superstylin’ by Groove Armada
10. Crush by Duckwrth
11. Guide by Steve Lacy
12. Hooked on You by Cerrone
13. Show You by Heart People
14. Crush by Jai Paul
15. Rockin’ by The Weeknd
16. Cheers (Drink to That) by Rihanna
17. Swim by Madonna
18. Praise You by Fatboy Slim
19. One More Time by Daft Punk
20. Let It Happen by Tame Impala



# Up close with a CULINARY KING

Peter Gilmore is one of the most consistently awarded and celebrated chefs in the country and at Hamilton Island Race Week 2019 he cooked up a truly memorable feast. By Emma Joyce.

Sydney's Quay restaurant, which has overlooked the harbour for almost two decades, has just clocked its 18th consecutive year as a three-hatted fine diner. That's a record achievement – and the far-too-modest Peter Gilmore, its executive chef, is taking it all in his stride. "I think it's really important never to rest on your laurels," he says. "You've got to keep pushing yourself. I'm still passionate about what I do and Quay is such an incredible venue."

He oversees two restaurants in Sydney: Quay and Bennelong. The latter focuses on great Australian ingredients and is helmed by head chef Rob Cockerill who has worked alongside Gilmore for more than 10 years. And at Quay, Gilmore is challenged by an ever-evolving menu that's seasonal, technical and just the right dose of experimental.

"Between the two restaurants my interest is really kept alive. I think the day you stop inventing and coming up with new ideas in the kitchen is probably the day to get out of it. You've got to keep evolving and, to be honest, that's what keeps me passionate – the expectation and excitement of the next dish."

One of those new dishes on the 10-course menu at Quay is bone marrow pasta – a "beautiful little dish", says Gilmore. "Instead of using egg yolks, I've enriched the pasta with rendered bone marrow fat and it gives the

pasta this amazing, silky, incredibly luxurious mouthfeel." It's paired with white asparagus and roasted koji butter, an inoculated barley that the team ferments. "It goes this incredible, sour, slightly acidic flavour. It's like using lemon juice in butter sauce, and it's really effective," he says.

Whether you're talking with Gilmore about koji, ancient purple corn or caviar from the Alps, the conversation is always captivating. He's exceptionally passionate about produce, which extends to a passion for gardening: "I grow a lot of my own vegetables at home, in what I call 'my test garden', and that enables me to work out what I want to put on the menu – often the ideas start with the core produce."

He works with his farmers (three to four small, family-run farms) to grow produce for the restaurant in an entirely bespoke manner. And branching off from his dedication to gardening, Gilmore has published three books on the topic of heirloom vegetables. His most recent, *From the Earth*, is devoted to those rare and almost-forgotten veggies.

"When I first started, the variety out there was very limiting. I wanted to be able to buy a purple carrot, or a beautiful French Breakfast radish, and you just couldn't find it, not even in the veggie wholesale markets. What I've seen over the past 14 years is just how much that's changed, and how many incredibly

diverse vegetables are now available, even in supermarkets. If people [would] just take a chance on using products they may not have seen before – such as purple sprouting broccoli or a beautiful little radish that has great flavour – the more diversity we have out there, the more enriched our culinary scene will be."

Working closely with farmers in locations such as Hartley in New South Wales, just the other side of the Blue Mountains from Sydney, is part of what Gilmore sees as his role as one of the country's leading chefs. "Working with producers and suppliers just adds another level of appreciation of the ingredients, and when you know what goes into growing something you appreciate it so much more and you want to honour it and you want to look after it.

"Without a doubt, this drought we've had recently has been really hard for my grower out in Hartley. They've really struggled with water. About a year ago, we did a big fundraising exercise for them so they could build a new dam, and that was something that was great to be involved with. But I do think that, as much as you try to plan what you grow – and I think there's a lot that can be done – at the end of the day, we are at the whims of nature. And farming is not an easy life."

But neither is life in the kitchen. Gilmore says he's never run a kitchen where there's lots of yelling and screaming: "I've always tried to run



Peter Gilmore at  
Long Pavilion,  
qualia.



# DINING



Peter Gilmore making the famous snow egg, Quay.



View from Peter Gilmore's Quay, Sydney.



Dinner at qualia's Long Pavilion.

a very professional kitchen where people know what they've got to do – they're trained well, we put a lot of work into training.”

And, of course, training young Aussie chefs is part of his success. “It's a lovely aspect of what I do. There have been so many great young chefs come through the kitchens, people such as Analiese Gregory [now at Franklin in Hobart], Sam Aisbett, who got his first Michelin star in Singapore in 2017 [at Whitegrass], Rob Cockerill at Bennelong, who is a great Australian chef in his own right, Richard Ousby [formerly at Stokehouse Q, Brisbane], Jason Saxby [now at Rae's on Wategos, Byron Bay]... I think there are a lot more to come, too, over the next few years. It's really nice to see those generations doing their own thing, too.”

When considering his legacy, Gilmore hopes it will be his continued efforts to rigorously support farmers and produce that will have had the most effect. “Championing diversity, championing pushing the boundaries and not going down the easy road, and hopefully, in my small way, putting Australia on the world's culinary map, making people from overseas realise what we do here in Australia is pretty special. I think I've managed to do a little bit of that over the years.”

But if all you know about Gilmore is the MasterChef-famous dessert he's served half a million times, with more than 20 flavour

changes over 10 years (now retired from the menu), he's OK with that. “I'm not saying I'd never cook the snow egg again – it is something that is close to my heart – but it was time to let another dessert shine and take the spotlight.”

In August, Gilmore brought a little bit of Quay's magic to qualia as part of Hamilton Island Race Week, impressing guests with a trio of dessert canapés. “We wanted to have a sense of celebration and a little bit of indulgence,” he says. “Tropical-fruit ice-cream cones, mini chocolate cakes, and little lemon meringue pies. It was fun getting people up, mingling, talking, and having a different sort of atmosphere [to more formal dining] was really special.”

The Sydney-born chef, who started working in kitchens aged 16, is showing no sign of slowing down (“I think I have a few years yet”). Thankfully for us, being at the pass is where he's always wanted to be: “I was very lucky to find a career that I could grow into. I really wanted to travel when I was young and it was the perfect vehicle for that – I worked in the UK for quite a few years in my early twenties. And I think since I've been running the kitchens here at Quay I've just managed to keep myself stimulated and interested and that really hasn't waned. If I weren't a chef, it would have to be a creative endeavour – probably some sort of designer, or a garden designer.” He laughs – there really is nowhere he'd rather be.

At the table: Marron and flowers, qualia.





“IN AUGUST,  
GILMORE BROUGHT  
A LITTLE BIT OF  
QUAY’S MAGIC TO  
HAMILTON ISLAND  
RACE WEEK.”

Long Pavilion,  
qualia.

## FOOD OF THE GODS

*Before Peter Gilmore’s dinner was served at qualia, guests enjoyed a caviar tasting led by Lisa Downs, caviar ambassador for the Gourmet Providore Group. Their caviar is sourced through ethical and sustainable aquaculture from farms in China, Italy and Poland. Here, Downs shares her tasting tips for enjoying oscietra caviar from Ars Italica Calvisius.*

**Serve:** as an amuse-bouche with pre-dinner champagne – a good dry blanc de blanc with a chardonnay base.

**Use:** a mother-of-pearl spoon to serve. Do not use metal as this oxidises the caviar when coupled with saliva.

**Warm:** spoon the caviar onto the back of the hand at the top of the thumb and forefinger. When you can’t feel it on your hand any more, it has reached blood temperature and the fats in the caviar are warm, giving it much more depth of flavour.

**Enjoy:** lick off the caviar using the front part of the tongue and let the flavour move along the palette, while you enjoy all the sensations.

**Eat:** all of it in one sitting. Like champagne, it is best consumed as soon as it’s opened.

**Accompaniments:** good caviar is best eaten with plain food to allow it to shine. Try it on top of blinis or toasted brioche, with some crème fraîche to balance out the fat and acid.

**Permission:** to eat caviar on the humble potato chip. Just add a dollop of crème fraîche and another of caviar on top.

**Vodka:** a palette-cleansing tasting can be started with a shot of vodka. Choose a clean, soft vodka such as Ciroc.

**Store:** pre-tasting, caviar should be kept cold in a fridge.



# Say CHEESE!



Penny Lawson.

A great cheese platter is a stylish and easy way to entertain. The acclaimed cheesemonger Penny Lawson demystifies the process of putting together an impressive selection during the holiday season. And Darren Jahn picks his on-island top drops to pair with them.

**T**he key thing is to choose the best cheeses that can be found, select a range of flavours and textures, and pick accompaniments that let the cheeses shine and that will help make the platter memorable. Once you've picked the right ones and done a little preparation of fruit or cold cuts, your work is done. There is no cooking required, no sauces to be made, leaving more time to relax on the beach and enjoy your holiday (and there is probably less washing up).

When putting together the platter, think of the flavours you personally like, as it is much more fun when you can share cheese "finds" with your guests. Consider a platter with only one cheese as the hero. Or if you are mixing it up, a good way to start the process is by having

a soft, a hard and a blue, and then there is something for everyone. The maximum should be five cheeses on the platter, otherwise the palate gets jumbled and so does the impact of the selection.

**Fresh goat**

*Pair with: Josef Chromy Sauvignon Blanc*  
*"Fresh, crisp, savvy, is perfect with goat's cheese and Chromy's is one of Australia's best."*

Fresh cheeses encompass everything from goat's cheese, ricotta, mozzarella and burrata through to feta. These are all amazing for snacking on when it's a hot day. Create a platter with fresh tomatoes, or peaches and herbs, maybe some prawns and smoked fish, and a side of olives for the perfect antipasti board. Meredith Dairy's marinated goat's cheese

is a great example and is a fridge staple – go and pick up a jar immediately. It's lush as an appetiser with olives and some good bread, and as a bonus you can use the oil as a salad dressing.

**Washed rind**

*Pair with: Derwent Estate Pinot Noir*

*"Delicious supple red from the Apple Isle, the current hot spot for Aussie pinot noir."*

Soft, surface-ripened cheese include brie and camembert, or triple creams and washed rinds. These are oozy and luxurious, and one of these on a platter served with fresh baguette, cooked ham and onion jam make a feast. Or be adventurous and try Tasmanian Heritage red square, a mixed-rind cheese. It smells a bit funky and it is a great alternative to a brie-

PHOTOGRAPHY: JANE ALLEN.

Penny Lawson at Penny's Cheese Shop, Sydney.



or camembert-style cheese if you are looking for something with more character. They all make delicious sandwiches or pasta and potato bakes, too.

**Cheddar**

Pair with: *Montrose Stony Creek Chardonnay*  
"Cheddar calls for a richer chardonnay and this wild yeast, barrel fermented wine from the Oatley's Mudjee vineyards is a stunner."

Hard cheeses range from cheddar and Alpine cheese (such as gruyère) through to the much harder and more flavourful parmesan. Maffra is a farmhouse-cheese producer from Victoria and their cheddar is both savoury and milky at the same time. I love this type of cheese – it's great for snacking on between meals with some fresh fruit or as part of a ploughman's platter with pickles, fresh tomatoes and some greens.

**Parmesan**

Pair with: *Robert Oatley Finisterre Shiraz*  
"A new wine from wine legend Chris Hancock's McLaren Vale vineyard, La Colline. Rich and flavoursome, long and fine."

I don't know where I'd be without a good parmesan, and South Cape's is strong and fruity and is perfect for topping any pasta dish or rounding out a cheese board. Try adding honey to hard parmesan: the combination of sweet and salty is truly delicious.

**Mild blue**

Pair with: *Craigmoor Botrytis*  
"Super-sweet dessert wine whose sugar balances the savoury richness of the blue. A perfect pairing."

Blue cheese can be a real divider. If you fall into the category that doesn't like it, maybe choose a mild blue such as King Island's blue brie. You get the best of both worlds with this cheese – a mild creamy blue with subtle mushroom flavours. Traditionally speaking, when it's Christmas, I always reach for a blue cheese and a hard cheese. They go beautifully with Christmas cake and dessert wine, although sometimes they may be too heavy for the Southern Hemisphere summer.

A Boxing Day snacking platter should have a fresh goat's cheese for salads (staying with that no-cook theme) or a luscious brie to go with any leftover meats or salmon, and some hard cheese, too. Consider adding chopped fresh herbs such as dill or chives to the goat's cheese, or if it comes in a block or log, press cracked black pepper and chives into the outside for some colour and freshness. And for New Year's Eve, pick things that go with bubbles: a triple-cream cheese, honeycomb and fresh fruit.

If you're able to consult a cheesemonger, you'll find we're always eager to help you make the right selection and advise on quantities, too. The process takes only a few minutes and you are usually encouraged to taste before you buy.

**Tips:** Aim for 50-100g of cheese per person. Use flat platters made of wood or ceramic and allow enough space around the cheese to make it easy for guests to be able to attack it. Have one knife per cheese and try (if you can) to encourage guests to use the right knife for the cheese to stop the blue getting on the fresh goat's cheese.

**Top matches:** Goat's cheese with olives; brie with cooked ham; Manchego or strong blue cheese with quince paste or honey; washed rind with kimchi or sauerkraut; Alpine cheeses with almonds and dried fruits; triple creams with honeycomb and fresh berries; blue cheese with apples instead of crackers – perfect for guests who are on a gluten-free diet, too.

**TOAST THE CHEESE**

*For cheese and wine lovers, Champagne is another ideal pairing. Darren Jahn selects five of the best.*



**Piper-Heidsieck Cuvée Brut NV**  
"My every day go-to Champagne, great all-rounder."



**Moët & Chandon Nectar Imperial NV**  
"This demi-sec (semi-sweet) style is ideal with blue cheese."



**Charles Heidsieck Rosé Réserve NV**  
"Even though this is quite delicate, it's the perfect off-set to parmesan."



**Piper-Heidsieck Vintage Brut**  
"The best value of the fuller flavoured vintage Champagnes, well matched to richer flavoured cheeses."



**Dom Perignon Brut Vintage**  
"Spoil yourself with the most famous Champagne of all, powerful yet also incredibly delicate."



Hamilton Island Golf Club, 4th hole.

# The Jewel in THE CROWN

Following Hamilton Island Golf Club's recent 10th-anniversary celebrations, course designer Ross Perrett reflects on the rough diamond that became one of the real gems of Australian golf.

By Brendan James.

“It is one of the most beautiful golfing venues in the world,” says Ian Baker-Finch, whose golfing career spans four decades, during which time he has been a player, TV commentator and course designer. “It is truly spectacular.”

But that wasn't always the case. And only those with exceptional vision could see the potential for a world-class golf course on Dent Island, Hamilton Island's nearest neighbour, and were willing to move heaven and earth to bring the layout to life.

“The course looks beautiful and serene now, but I can tell you it wasn't before it was built,” says Ross Perrett, who worked alongside the late five-time Open Champion Peter Thomson to create the unique layout. “It was a hard build because it was rocky, very rocky. Before the golf course, Dent Island had two goats and a lighthouse, and that was about it.”

It's a tropical tree- and scrub-covered island that rises steeply, to about 145 metres at its highest point, from the aquamarine waters of the Coral Sea below. It can only be reached by ferry from the Hamilton Island Marina and, as you cross the Dent Island passage, there is little to suggest a golf course lies on the ridges and cliff tops high above. It only takes a few holes before you really appreciate what an incredible feat of engineering, course design and construction it must have been to create a layout across such dramatic and rugged terrain.

Perrett recalls the first visit he and Thomson made to Dent Island to “get a feel” for what lay ahead during construction. “We couldn't find any flat land to start with,” he says with a laugh. It was early 2006 and Thomson was already in his late seventies, but his excitement for the job ahead could not be dented, despite the difficulties that they would have to overcome.

“Peter astounded me with his enthusiasm to walk around the site,” Perrett says. “He was dodging rocks bigger than footballs that were hidden in the high grass. But he was so keen to see how the course was going to take shape.”

Twenty-four environmental-impact statements were completed – covering vegetation, water, the reef, wildlife and birds – before any land was turned on the course. “So there was a lot of work before we started. The Hamilton Island people who got the permits to build did a hell of a job,” Perrett says. “Many people would have given up, but Bob Oatley had the belief that it could be done. He was patient and willing to tick the boxes to get it done.”

# GOLF

Hamilton Island and Dent Island from the air during course construction in 2009.



Peter Thomson and Bob Oatley on completion of the project.



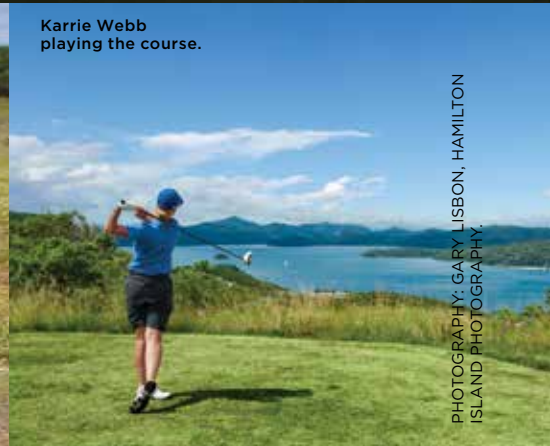
Peter Thomson and the team.



Peter Thomson on the 18th hole fairway site.



Karrie Webb playing the course.



PHOTOGRAPHY: GARY LISBON, HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY.





Once a construction date was set, the first hurdle was to get all the heavy machinery onto the island, which was no simple task, given the steep cliffs, rocky shorelines and coral reefs that ring the island. “The landing [jetty] that is there now came after the course was finished,” Perrett says. “The landing we had to bring all the equipment on was very tricky. So all the machinery – the bulldozers and earth-moving trucks – had to be barged across from the mainland and had to come onto the island at high tide. “It was a difficult exercise and we had to be very careful, because there is a coral reef right around the island. It was quite amazing really.”

Then came the task of clearing scrub, shaping the land and finding 18 holes across the dramatic landscape. “The holes were tough to find,” Perrett says. “The first nine is in and around a valley and has a lake, which we raised by about two metres, and that solved the water problem. The first four holes go out and then you loop back to finish the nine. The second nine was much more difficult to design. There’s a ‘razorback’-shaped ridge running south. The course runs out along the ridge but then there’s no way back, which is why there is a one kilometre track between the 17th green and 18th tee. That also had its advantages, because you get that beautiful view from the 18th tee to end the round.”

Building a golf course on an island was always going to be logistically tricky and expensive, but the construction and design team became very resourceful to keep the costs down. When it came to sand-capping the course, the cost could have blown the building budget. “The cost to barge in sand from the mainland would have been prohibitive, so we made our own sand on the island,” Perrett says with a chuckle. “There were seven crushing machines on the island and we crushed our own sand. We didn’t waste anything. Rocks the size of cars were crushed into beautiful sand.”

Hundreds of tons of crushed rock were turned into sand that formed the course’s foundations, on which the Bermuda TifEagle and couch playing surfaces would grow.

Then, in August 2009, just days after Thomson celebrated his 80th birthday, the first shots were struck on the layout that has since risen to be



Aerial view of Dent Island during course construction in 2009.

ranked No 14 in Golf Australia magazine’s Top 100 Public Access Courses 2019, and one of the world’s most spectacular courses.

Asking Perrett to pick his favourite hole is like getting him to choose one of his grandchildren over another. “The land dictated where the par-3s would be and the course has a wonderful set of them,” he says. “I think all the par-3s offer something different during the round. The course as a whole rates pretty well among all those [more than 230 courses] we were involved with designing. I’m very proud that we were able to overcome all the logistical challenges and build a course in a World Heritage Area, which makes it unique in the world. That’s pretty special.”

It is, indeed, special. The opening trio of holes – all cut into a ridge on the north side of the Clubhouse – eases you into the round. Then it is most definitely game on when you reach the par-3 4th. From the tips this monster measures 175 metres and is played across a scrub-filled valley to a large, undulating green that is more exposed to the wind than any other hole on the front nine. The putting surface lies on a ridge, where shots long and short left are gone for good. Played against the backdrop of distant Long Island and the mainland, as well as being beautifully framed by rocky outcrops, this is a hell of a good hole. And if the acclaimed designer won’t say it, I will. This is the best hole on the course.



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# ENVIRONMENT

Emma Camp studying hyper-resilient corals in the mangroves, Low Isles, Port Douglas.





# The GOOD DOCTOR

Dr Emma Camp is quite brilliant. She is an Associate Laureate of Rolex's Awards for Enterprise, a Discovery Early Career Researcher recipient, a University of Technology Sydney Research Fellow and a United Nations Young Leader for Sustainable Development Goals. She is incredibly knowledgeable and passionate about coral culture and is fighting to help save it. Here, she talks to Alison Veness.

**W**e meet on Pebble Beach at qualia under the flowering flame tree close to the Coral Sea, as it seems only right, such is Dr Emma Camp's affinity and dedication to sea life. She is a guest of Rolex during Hamilton Island Race Week and is currently on a research fellowship of the Australian Research Council at the University of Technology Sydney. What that entails, she says, is "studying mechanisms of coral resilience, and trying to understand how some corals survive when others are rapidly dying from environmental change – I want to know what are the corals genetic and physiological adjustments that will support their survival through this period of rapid and extreme environmental change."

Camp has discovered that corals around mangrove lagoons have a greater ability to live in stressful conditions. This has led her to transplant coral near Low Isles from the mangroves to the reef and the reef to the mangroves. "We've completed the first pilot study and we'll have the results towards the end of this year," she says. "What we've seen is that the mangrove corals, when we moved them to the adjacent reefs, have survived. We didn't know whether that was just the environment that makes them tough or if it's actually the genetics and physiology that makes them like that. So that's one thing we are learning."

"We also have coral nurseries out on Opal Reef [further north on the Great Barrier Reef], where we are working with different tour operators basically using corals that naturally survive through a bleaching event to try to

repopulate at certain sites where some of the devastation has happened.

We are also repopulating sites that have good coral cover to try to ensure these sites have the best resilience to future stress. That is really a stewardship program working with the operators to empower them to take stewardship over their site."

Camp explains that coral gardening means "basically clipping coral fragments" as if you were pruning in your garden and she says they grow quite quickly. "Obviously, you can replant them out into the reef. In four months we have planted out about 7,000 fragments around Opal Reef and we're expanding that, too. On the scale of the Great Barrier Reef that's small, but these are all tools we all need to be exploring in this [scientific] toolbox because, as a collective, the different activities that are going on can hopefully have an impact and improve things."

It's this "super survivor" coral work that brought Camp to the attention of Rolex. The Rolex Awards for Enterprise were set up in 1976 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Rolex Oyster, the world's first waterproof watch and a milestone in watchmaking. The awards were designed to support individuals of all nationalities and from all walks of life who are working to improve life on our planet in many areas. Since their foundation, the awards have supported 150 Laureates whose endeavours have made a significant contribution worldwide to improving life and protecting the planet. These awards, which mirror the same spirit of enterprise and excellence that have driven the company since the beginning, significantly

embody the company's determination to contribute to the wider world – the ethos that now inspires its Perpetual Planet campaign, which is designed to help find solutions to environmental challenges. The Rolex awards, along with partnerships with the National Geographic Society and Sylvia Earle's Mission Blue initiative, are key pillars of the campaign.

To have the recognition from Rolex, Camp says, "is amazing" and has led to other opportunities, both in regards to exposure for the projects and making connections within the community and gaining vital support. "You're sort of part of the family now, which opens up possibilities and opportunities, which is probably the most exciting thing.

Camp and other finalists of the 2019 Awards had the opportunity to present their projects at the National Geographic Explorers Festival in Washington D.C.

She explains that she has made friends for life through the Rolex experience. Everyone who was nominated has incredible projects. "While I don't have favourites as everyone was amazing, I think Grégoire Courtine was outstanding. That he has been able to stimulate walking again in individuals who have had paralysis is incredible."

Camp was "definitely a nerd at school", she says. She grew up in Essex, in the UK and her love of the ocean began at a young age during the holidays that her parents saved up for. "I vividly remember my dad taking me snorkelling, age seven or eight, in the Bahamas. I remember seeing a coral reef and realising that wow, there's life! I remember putting on a mask and putting my head under water and seeing fish and so much colour. I saw all this life and loved it and I knew I wanted to dive. A few years later I was in Spain and I made friends with a girl my age and her parents happened to run the dive shop there. After that I went back year after year and lived with them for the summer and I learnt how to dive and helped them around the shop. In return, I got to do my diving tickets and things."

A few years later, Camp did a coral reef ecology course for a few weeks in the Caribbean. "I saw scientists in action doing reef surveys and these had had some damage and were trying to recover, and I was like, 'Now I can envision the sort of job I could be doing.'"

After completing a Master's in Environmental Management and Business at Sheffield University in the north of England, "somebody I'd met during this time worked for NOAA in the US, the government's national oceanography and atmospheric organisation, and they sent me an email saying there's an internship at a research station, three months, not great pay, but you should go. And that was the beginning. I applied for the position and they offered it to me on the phone. I didn't know where the Cayman Islands were, but I



Emma Camp and John Edmondson diving to outplant corals, Opal Reef.




Monitoring corals growing on the racks of the nursery, Opal Reef.



Emma Camp and Wavelength staff at work.



Sampling a freshly discovered coral colony for further analysis at the UTS lab.



Collecting a sample from a healthy coral colony for analysis.

“YOUNG PEOPLE ARE BUYING INTO THE NEED TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND THAT’S HOPEFUL, NOW WE ALSO HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE.”



Life on the Great Barrier Reef.

PHOTOGRAPHY: ©ROLEX/FRANCK GAZZOLA

agreed to go for three months and I got off the phone and I was like, ‘Yep, that’s it!’” She was there within a week and went on to get her PhD – “and now here we are”, she says with a smile. “The last time I was here, one thing I was excited about around Hamilton Island and the Whitsundays in general is that there are really big porites, really big coral species, ones around here that are hundreds of years old.”

Camp was here pre-bleaching, (there have been two major bleachings on the Great Barrier Reef, in 2016 and 2017) and says “it was a few years ago, but seeing a coral that size made me appreciate how old they were. I still feel that emotion every time I’m on the Great Barrier Reef. Just the sheer size of it and that it’s a living structure that can be viewed from space, that’s home to more than 7,000 marine species and that the physical structure was made by a living thing and is an animal that lives with a micro-algae inside its tissue with all of these other bacteria... To me, it’s so complex but simple and also intricate. It’s just fascinating.”

She is definitely an ocean optimist. “Yes, we are at a critical point and what we do in the next five to ten years will determine the next hundreds of years, I really do believe that, but I equally think that all of us, if we can just each make a small change as a collective it will make a massive difference. Reducing plastic is key, not just the plastic that’s ending up in the ocean but also the supply chain and the carbon emissions that are produced from that. Anything that can reduce your carbon footprint such as walking, taking the bike, that’s all going to have a huge impact on the environment and the reef.

We’re at a point where we have to put

pressure on our local, regional, and national governments to stick to international agreements that they have committed to, because as much as all of the scientists are trying to do their part to aid the reef, all of the ecosystems on earth are currently under threat from climate change and the biggest thing we can do is obviously reduce the emissions.

“I encourage people to just learn more about what the commitments are that Australia has made, or the UK has made, and not to see it as someone else’s problem, because it’s going to affect all of us and so make your voice heard when you vote.” Camp’s biggest hope is that the next generation can see and experience a reef that she has been privileged enough to witness, “but not just have a reef but have one that provides the biological and ecological and social services that we need the reefs to have”.

Two things give her hope: “Young people are buying into the need to protect the environment and that’s hopeful, and also we have the knowledge now. Before, we didn’t always have the knowledge. Now we know what our actions are doing and understand the problems and have to come up with solutions. Scientists need to work with engineers, with policy, with communicators, with art – all these different entities together, to come up with different solutions to the problems that we know now exist. And at least we know, because that’s the first step in solving things. That’s what gives me hope.”

*For more information on the Coral Nurture Program and how it links reef research with industry on the Great Barrier Reef, visit [coralnurtureprogram.org](http://coralnurtureprogram.org) and [Rolex.org](http://Rolex.org)*

Alex Glenn and Carys Evans  
on board Wild Oats X.



Discover Sailing  
program participants  
with Mark Richards  
and Craig Traill.



# Close ENCOUNTER

A new fleet of Optimist dinghies and an accredited kids' sailing program mean that Hamilton Island's children can learn new skills above the water to complement the amount of time they get to spend hanging out in the pools and sea. By Lisa Ratcliff.

When the marina fills and 2,000 sailors from around Australia and overseas arrive by the boat- and planeload, it can only mean one thing: Hamilton Island Race Week, held annually in August for a large mixed fleet (234 boats in 2019). It's a showcase for the many facets of the international sport and creates a buzz around the island.

At the most recent Race Week, the Hamilton Island Tackers – those primary-school-age children who participate in the Australian Sailing-sanctioned Discover Sailing program – were invited on board Wild Oats X and got the chance to meet island CEO, Glenn Bourke, a multiple world Laser champion and Olympian. They were also introduced to Mark Richards, another world champion, who is best known for his long-time role as skipper of the Oatley family's record-setting supermaxi, Wild Oats XI. The gathering was set up by Craig Traill, the commodore of the Cruising Yacht Club of Hamilton Island (CYCHI), and the Tackers listened wide-eyed as Bourke and Richards regaled them with tales of capsizing as junior sailors and winning world championships. Grade 6 student Alex Glenn couldn't believe that the mast on the 100ft Wild Oats XI stands 135ft off the deck, while grade 5 student Carys Evans loved hearing how, when the pair compete in the ultimate blue-water event – the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race – they need to wear head torches with a red-light option. “They told us you have a red LED light on your forehead, so it doesn't shine into other people's eyes when you're sailing at night. They said it looks like there are aliens walking on the deck,” recounted Evans, after the school group was shown around the pocket maxi, which finished second overall in 2018's Sydney-Hobart race.

After years of attempts, Traill and his current yacht club colleagues implemented the Discover Sailing program early in 2019 and, in August, the club took charge of a fleet of six pre-loved Optimists, generously donated by the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron (RQYS). The CYCHI assisted with the finish of the first Lendlease Brisbane to Hamilton Island Yacht

Oats X during Race Week, showed the Tackers, age is no barrier when it comes to enjoying and excelling in the sport. Hamilton Island's Kids Discover Sailing program offers five levels – Tackers intro, levels 1, 2, 3 and advanced – and two instructors and two assistant instructors provide expert coaching for children aged between 6 and 12. The program provides a pool of skilled crew for owners and creates a pathway for those island youngsters who want to progress to racing larger boats in the club's weekly twilight series and beyond.

Later in the week, Evans and Glenn were introduced to more members from the sport's upper echelons, including Rio 2016 Olympic 470 sailor Carrie Smith, who was on the island to launch Hamilton Island's two-year partnership with the national body's women's sailing initiative, SheSails. The Optimists were out and so were the TV cameras, as Channel 7's Sunrise crew filmed the island's young sailors in action for weatherman Sam Mac's live cross back to the network's Sydney studio.

“We've had a big week, first getting on Wild Oats X then on Sunrise, and now we have to go to PE at the oval,” said Glenn, earnestly, on Race Week's penultimate day of competition.

Life on the island is definitely something else. Glenn counts his highlights as being “constantly near water, brilliant sunsets, and being so close to my friends”, while Evans says that “the dazzling sunset colours hitting the airplanes on approach and the way everyone in the community relies on each other, and friends being within a quick walk or bike ride are the best”.

“WE'VE HAD  
A BIG WEEK,  
FIRST GETTING  
ON WILD OATS  
X THEN ON  
SUNRISE, AND  
NOW WE HAVE  
TO GO TO PE ON  
THE OVAL.”

Race and the RQYS made the offer to recognise the partnership. “The opportunities that sailing skills will present to our participants in future years will be reach far beyond the sport of club racing, as the skills of seamanship, teamwork, concentration and tactics will see our graduates take up opportunities in the marine industry, as well as at the elite level of the sport,” said Traill. Indeed, both Evans and Glenn see their sailing continuing. “I want to still be sailing when I'm 20,” said Glenn.

As Bourke, Richards and 92-year-old Bill Buckle, who took a guest spot on the 66ft Wild

For further information about the Kids Discover Sailing program, visit [cychi.com.au](http://cychi.com.au)



PHOTOGRAPHY: KARA ROSENBLUND.

# Racing RULES

They came by land, sea and air from across Australia and around the world, more than 5,000 sailors, family and friends, all keen to participate and party at what is now recognised as an unmissable experience in international yachting. Yes, it's Hamilton Island Race Week, and Rob Mundle has been there to capture the spirit from the beginning.





Since its inception 36 years ago, this high-profile regatta has established unmatched standards on the Australian sailing scene. However, this year, those sailing and party programs at Race Week fused into something unique.

Premium international and Australian brands drove the social agenda, while out on the water, sailors from the ranks of world champions to cruising nomads and weekend warriors enjoyed some of the best tropical trade-wind sailing imaginable.

The 234-yacht fleet for Hamilton Island Race Week 2019 ranged from mega-expensive space-age racing yachts to tiny, 6.5-metre-long, trailables – small yachts that had been towed by their owners’ family sedans 1,000km or more to the Whitsundays. And, between those two extremes, came the full spectrum of sailing craft, from a remarkably diverse range of fibreglass production yachts to large and luxurious cruising yachts and high-speed, spray-tossing multihulls.

For the sailors, neither wealth nor “where from” holds any significance at this regatta. Sailing amid beautiful tropical islands is the common bond, while the venue, superbly orchestrated party programme and the overall atmosphere are the prime reasons for being there. In short, Hamilton Island Race Week is now in a league of its own as both an international regatta and unsurpassed social event. Consequently, as was seen this year, an ever-increasing number of landlubbers are placing Race Week high on their annual social calendar, just to be part of the party.

The majority of these guests stay at the island’s luxury resort, qualia, a quiet, gated resort comprising 60 freestanding private pavilions set amid the most luxuriant tropical gardens imaginable. The fact that qualia has been recognised as Best Resort in the World by Condé Nast Traveller says everything.

The initial concept for Hamilton Island Race Week came on the back of Australia II’s spectacular and historic victory in the America’s Cup in 1983. For those too young to remember, Australia II ended the longest winning streak in international sporting history – 132 years. Until that day in September 1983, the New York Yacht Club had repelled

25 foreign challenges for the Auld Mug, as the trophy is affectionately known. The national pride that accompanied that win led Hamilton Island’s then owner, Keith Williams, to assemble a small group of well-known sailing enthusiasts on the island in late 1983, with the view to establishing a regatta there. The group included Australia’s first America’s Cup challenge skipper, Jock Sturrock (Gretel, 1962), and local sailing identity, David Hutchen.

Those present came up with a concept based loosely on Antigua Sailing Week in the Caribbean, but very much with an Australian flavour. The inaugural Hamilton Island Race Week was staged just after Easter in 1984, and it was an immediate and remarkable success. Its appeal was such that Peter Briggs, owner of the highly successful ocean racer Hitchhiker, trucked the yacht 5,000km across the continent from Perth just to be part of the inaugural series.

An impressive fleet of 93 yachts lined up that year – fair indication that the regatta was on course for a solid future. However, it wasn’t until the late Bob Oatley and his family purchased Hamilton Island in 2003 that the full potential of Race Week began to be realised. As well as being successful in business, the Oatleys were sailing enthusiasts who made outstanding improvements to the island’s resort and facilities over the ensuing years and seized the boundless opportunities they saw within the Race Week concept. It had everything going for it – a stunning venue set in an archipelago of 74 magnificent islands, 66 of which were just as Captain Cook would have seen them in 1770 – pristine and uninhabited.

The carefully planned enhancement of Race Week that followed – where the sailing and social attributes were blended like never before – created a regatta where an ever-increasing number of high-profile names began to appear just for the parties. This was noted recently by prominent Sydney-based social writer Andrew Hornery: “For me it’s the action taking place around the regatta that brings me back. Over the years I’ve ended up partying with Italian billionaire Ernesto Bertarelli on his extraordinary superyacht. I’ve kept tabs on Crown Prince Frederik [of Denmark] when he was competing in the regatta, as well as Rupert

## In the beginning...

*This is where it all began. Hamilton Island Race Week was born in 1984 and photographer Sandy Peacock was there to capture all the action of the original 93 entrants.*



Murdoch, who also turned up unexpectedly one year. I've been caught up in the celebrity slipstream of Naomi Watts, Ronan Keating, Dannii Minogue and Asher Keddie when they were at Race Week, all of them quickly falling under the spell of the wonderful tropical setting. For everyone, being on an island in the middle of one of the most beautiful places on the planet makes it impossible not to relax and let your hair down, no matter how rich or famous you are."

This year's social scene was bigger and better: hundreds of people with little or no knowledge of sailboat racing came too, looking to embrace the tailor-made agenda aligned with the exciting sailing activities. In essence, they saw this as Hamilton Island Race Week's answer to the Melbourne Cup's party haven, the Birdcage. Despite the lack of sailing nous, many of Race Week's guests were eager to head down to Front Street, on the edge of Hamilton Island's neat harbour, and blend into the post-race partying. Here, money doesn't matter, but good times do. It means you could be rubbing shoulders with a battler or a billionaire and not know it, because this sport is simply a great leveller.

The newfound Race Week enthusiasts were also always keen to be out on the water so they could follow the racing – and it was something they did in style. Their "grandstand" for the day was the sleek, fast and elegant, 37-metre-long superyacht Quantum, which had travelled north from Sydney to Hamilton Island. While champagne flowed and the canapés were enjoyed, the on-board commentator pointed out places of interest among the myriad uninhabited, unspoiled green islands, as well as what they were watching as far as the racing

PHOTOGRAPHY: KEN BUTTI, ANDREA FRANCOLINI, KARA ROSENLUND, SALTY DINGO.



was concerned. The sighting of whales – which came most days – was deemed a bonus for all. Everyone enjoyed becoming more acquainted with the sport and soon realised that, in sailing parlance, on a yacht a “sheet” is a rope and not bed linen, and a “tack” is a manoeuvre, not a small nail.

Each year the greatest challenge for the Race Week partygoers is to pace themselves, and the programme of social events, shown below, for Race Week 2019 reveals why.

*Club Marine Yacht Owners and Skippers Cocktail Party*  
 Attended by Queensland Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk  
 Location: Hamilton Island Yacht Club

*Rolex Opening Dinner*  
 Locally sourced produce prepared by Lennox Hastie (Firedoor restaurant, Sydney)  
 Location: Pebble Beach, qualia

*Travel Associates Dinner with Peter Gilmore*  
 (Quay and Bennelong restaurants, Sydney)  
 Location: Long Pavilion, qualia

*Robert Oatley Wines Dinner*  
 Hosted by the Oatley family  
 Location: Bommie restaurant, Hamilton Island Yacht Club

*Wild Oats Wines Ladies Lunch*  
 Location: coca chu, Catseye Beach

*Charles Heidsieck Champagne Lunch*  
 Location: Pebble Beach and Long Pavilion, qualia

Post race camaraderie.



*Surf and Turf Dinner*  
 Location: Outrigger, Catseye Beach

*Paspaley Luncheon*  
 Location: a Greek olive grove setting at Pebble Beach, qualia

*Presentation Dinner*  
 Location: Conference Centre

There’s no doubting that, in its 35-year history, Hamilton Island Race Week 2019 was the best ever. And you can bet that the 2020 series will be even better.

[hamiltonislandraceweek.com.au](http://hamiltonislandraceweek.com.au)

“THIS YEAR’S SOCIAL SCENE WAS BIGGER AND BETTER: HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE WITH LITTLE OR NO KNOWLEDGE OF SAILBOAT RACING CAME TOO, LOOKING TO EMBRACE THE TAILOR-MADE AGENDA ALIGNED WITH THE EXCITING SAILING ACTIVITIES.”

Ray-Ban sunglasses, \$235 from The Hut.



Billabong cap, \$25.99 from The Hut.



# POP goes SUMMER

Make like it's the 1980s and play it loud poolside with all the glamour. No holding back now.

Billabong bikini top, \$59.99 and bottom, \$49.99 from The Hut.



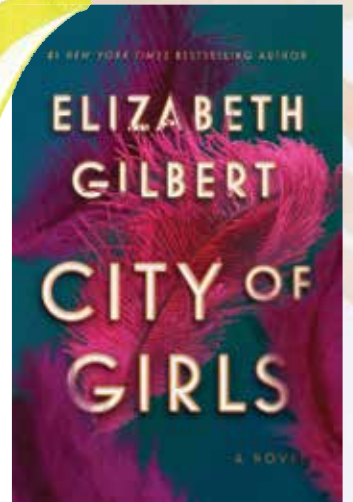
Seafolly bikini top, \$89.95 and bottom, \$69.95 from Salt Swim and Resortwear.



Tigerlily top, \$199, and skirt, \$199 from The Hut.



Jets swimsuit, \$199.95 from Salt Swim and Resortwear.



Summer reading.

Tigerlily purse, \$79 from The Hut.





Tigerlily bikini top, \$69 from The Hut.



Tigerlily towel, \$119 from The Hut.



Deus Ex Machina t-shirt, \$69.99 from The Deckhouse.



Deus Ex Machina board shorts, \$89.99 from The Hut.



Jets kaftan, \$179.95 from Salt Swim and Resortwear.



GoPro 8, \$599.95 from The Hut.



Havaianas slides, \$50 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 4946 8273

TRADER PETE'S  
07 4946 0907

Dean Gladstone, Clint Kimmins, Harrison Reid versus Ryan Clark, Gavin Stevenson and Quinn Darragh.



# Tropic THUNDER

Stretch out the Lycra, warm up your hamstrings – the Hamilton Island Triathlon is back. And in paradise there are no excuses: it's mate versus mate.

**N**obody's more competitive than a comrade. When the teams line up in the November 2019 triathlon event, part of the Hamilton Island Endurance Series, two of them will be staring each other down with an extra-steely glint in their eyes: one steered by Dean "Deano" Gladstone, the other by his mate Ryan "Whippet" Clark. Both teams have got ocean-swimming form – they're all lifeguards on Sydney's eastern beaches. You'll have spotted these guys and their paces on the cult television

show Bondi Rescue. But how do beach warriors handle a hilly road race? The grunt of a 20km bike ride? REEF talks to Gladstone and Clark about how their teams match up.

REEF: "WHO'S DOING WHAT ON YOUR TEAM?"

**RYAN CLARK:** "I'll be doing the bike leg, Quinn Darragh will be swimming and Gavin Stevenson will be running."

**DEAN GLADSTONE:** "I'm swimming, I'll tag Clipper, Clint Kimmins, in on the

bike and Harrison Reid is bringing us home on foot..."

**BOTH:** "Slowly!"

REEF: "HAVE YOU GOT A TEAM NAME OR MOTTO? SOMETHING INSPIRING YET ULTIMATELY INTIMIDATING?"

**RC:** "Hmm, not yet."

**DG:** "Well, I've bought us shirts with a team photo on them, so I guess we are the slicker outfit."

**RC:** "Yeah, I feel intimidated."





Harrison Reid and Gavin Stevenson.



“WE’LL BE COMPETITIVE WHILE THE RACE IS ON BUT THEN WE’RE JUST SIX MATES GETTING AWAY FOR THE WEEKEND.”

REEF: “WHO’S THE SECRET WEAPON ON EACH TEAM?”

RC: “Deano’s team has got Clint – triathlon is his thing, his sport. He’s cranking out kilometres cycling in the French Alps at the moment. So no worries at all for me to keep up! As for my team, I’d have to say Quinn’s the threat, though Deano swims that well it’s hard to know who’ll win that race.”

DG: “Quinn’s training for the English Channel at the moment! He’s not going to make it easy for me.”

REEF: “ARE YOU ALL SYDNEY BOYS? WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HAMILTON ISLAND’S HUMIDITY? IT’S HARD CORE.”

DG: “I don’t reckon anyone’s thought about

the humidity! I’m a lifelong Bronte boy and so is Whippet. But Clint’s a Queenslander – he’s the professional triathlete and a Queenslander, so yep, he’s looking like the threat, isn’t he?”

RC: “I’m cool with the heat. I’m not scared. My bit’s a nice little slog.”

DG: “In fact, I’m going to back up after the swim and do the run section alongside Harrison. Get him home. Whip him into shape!”

REEF: “YOU SAY THAT NOW, GUYS. SURE, THE RUNNING LEG IS A 5KM ROAD RACE WITH A SOFT SAND FINISH, AND YOU GET TO CYCLE A LOVELY AIRPORT RUNWAY, BUT HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE ISLAND’S HILLS?”

RC: “We’re doing it for the glory! Even if it’s punishing at times, you’re never going to turn down a chance to race somewhere as beautiful as Hamilton Island.”

DG: “I’m ready! We’ll be competitive while the race is on but then we’re just six mates getting away for the weekend. And [Bondi lifeguards] Reidy [Andrew Reid] and Dean Degan will be on the island commentating, too, so there’s trouble! What a place to have a crack at it and then relax with your friends.”

REEF: “SERIOUSLY, THOUGH, WHO’S GOING TO TAKE BRAGGING RIGHTS ON TRIATHLON DAY?”

DG: “I reckon Quinn will come in first and send Whippet off ahead on the bike. It will

be interesting to see how much lead Harrison gets on the run. He’s 15 years younger than Gavin. Could be close!”

RC: “I don’t know if anything will outweigh how much better Clint is on the bike than me. I got on my bike the other day for the first time in six years! I’ve just got to hold on and go hard.”

DG: “You never know on the day – a flat tyre, hills, heat, wind... anything could happen.”

REEF: SO TELL US “WHAT’S THE RECOVERY PLAN?”

DG: “I’m definitely going to get involved with the Whitehaven Beach Ocean Swim, which is being held the day after Saturday’s triathlon. Whitehaven is one of the world’s most beautiful beaches and some famous names have won that race in the past, so I won’t miss that. [Editor’s note: Deano is also a national gold-medal-winning swimmer.]”

RC: “If we don’t win the triathlon, my team will win the pub session. The boys have been consistently training for that. Losers have to buy.”

REEF: “YOU SHOULD ALSO CATCH A RIDE OVER THE PASSAGE TO DENT ISLAND FOR SOME GOLF.”

DG: “Oh yeah – those 18 holes will get competitive pretty fast, too.”

RC: “Gavin and Clint can play a little. But when we’re not competitive in actual ability, we still bring it in spirit.”



## The people YOU MEET

We're not saying the lush tropical vibe isn't extremely salubrious. Nor that sunloungers and sundowners aren't very good therapy for the soul indeed. But at the Future Women weekend in September, women from all over Australia checked in to qualia for a thoughtful take on feel-good. By Tracey Withers.

Women got together to listen to the luminary journalists, authors and hosts of our favourite ear-worm podcast, Chat 10 Looks 3, Leigh Sales and Annabel Crabb, in conversation with Helen McCabe. A veteran journalist, former Editor-in-Chief of The Australian Women's Weekly and founder of the thinking women's hub Future Women ([futurewomen.com.au](http://futurewomen.com.au)), McCabe has been speaking with and for women for much of her media career. As Sales and Crabb – our

kind of double act, if ever there was one – riffed about favourite books, friendship and what they love to cook, McCabe steered talk around how the two do what they do. Here, we pick up with McCabe about meet-ups like this becoming key dates on the social calendar and why real self-care is about much more than getting a good massage.

*Women are craving community*, and my theory is we're moving at this incredible pace, taking on more challenges – at home, having

children or juggling parents as they age – while having careers and, happily, getting promoted to significant roles. At the same time, women used to meet each other on tuck-shop duty, at political groups, on the sidelines at sport, but now we're doing it all in a different rhythm, in different forums. I think there's a real hunger to meet new people for a sense of connection. One of the best examples of that need has got to be Silent Reading, which is a thing in Melbourne where a group of women go and read books in silence, but together. At Future Women, we've

Leigh Sales,  
Helen McCabe,  
Annabel Crabb.



run events to talk about fertility, nutrition and diet, social activism... What we've found people want is self-help, to go and hear an expert talk and meet likeminded women facing the same challenges.

**Some of the most brilliant women I know happen to be** Annabel [Crabb] and Leigh [Sales]. They're just next-level talented. Leigh's book *An Ordinary Day* is just astonishing conceptually, in execution and in the humanity of it. Annabel's *Men at Work* and *The Wife Drought* really unpick how men's lives haven't changed much while women's have evolved so dramatically. Those reads have changed the conversation in houses across the country. But those two haven't lost themselves in the success – they're so warm and real and relatable at the same time. They're acutely aware of their failings and point them out to each other in a good-natured and funny way all the time on *Chat 10 Looks 3*.

**For all the amazing women I've interviewed, I'd love to sit down with** *Shemara Wikramanayake*, the CEO of Macquarie Group. She's probably the highest-paid female businesswoman in the country and probably had been for a long time, even before she took over from Nicholas Moore as CEO of Macquarie [in 2018]. I'd love to get that story from her.

**To me, self-care is about knowing the story about things that are really nourishing** to your life. It's not just about taking time to have a facial, not that I'll ever turn a facial down! It's about taking time to understand finances and where your business is making its money. Too many women get sidetracked with all of the other really important things, like raising kids and remembering Mum's birthday. You can end up sidelined in soft roles in companies where you're actually the engine, the creative force making

“FOR ME, IT'S CONNECTING WITH INTERESTING PEOPLE AND INTERESTING STORIES. IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT POSTING HOW HEALTHY AND BEAUTIFUL YOU ARE.”

the money, but it's some guy that looks at the P&L and tells you that you overspent on the budget. Or not knowing what your ex did with the super [annuation]. It's not just about not relying on a man, it's about the confidence that understanding finance gives you. And I say that wishing I'd done it earlier in my career.

**I also think reading widely is vital.**

Whether you read about meditation or recognising the signs of anxiety and burnout or read fiction, which is a fantastic way to relax, it's worth so much to your wellbeing. Leigh has been talking about *The Testaments* – she just interviewed Margaret Atwood. Annabel is obsessed with *Fleishman Is in Trouble*, which I'm now reading as a result.

**Being inspired or empowered has to mean more than** these hashtags have come to mean on Instagram, or memes. So what does it mean? I'm not sure I have the answer because it's got to be personal. For me, it's connecting with interesting people and interesting stories. It's not just about posting how healthy or beautiful you are. I'm more of the view that you get what you give, and that if you are inclined to connect with what's going on in the world and with other people and to contribute, then the world makes more sense to you.

**I love podcasts for that.** I was just listening to the *New Daily* – it just did a great piece on the situation with Turkey and the Kurds and President Trump's rather distressing decision to walk away from the Kurds in Syria. I'm definitely a *Chat 10 Looks 3* listener, and *Future Women* has three podcasts. I am a massive Oprah fan, so I listen to *SuperSoul Conversations*. I did Eckhart Tolle's 10-part masterclass earlier in the year and then bored everyone witless, suggesting they should listen to it. I'm big on recommendations.



Matt Bisaro.

# In full BLOOM

Matt Bisaro is the man who makes Hamilton Island Race Week blossom each year. He is the Floral Craftsman. By Roxy Lola.

For more than 20 years Matt Bisaro has been working in floristry, and for the past 15, operating from his store in Mosman, Sydney, picking the perfect flowers each season. From the moment he began his journey in his early twenties, he defied the rules: “I wanted to be a florist when I was younger, but it wasn’t something boys did. As a kid you were told you couldn’t do it, so you didn’t. When I was a bit older I decided to give it a go.”

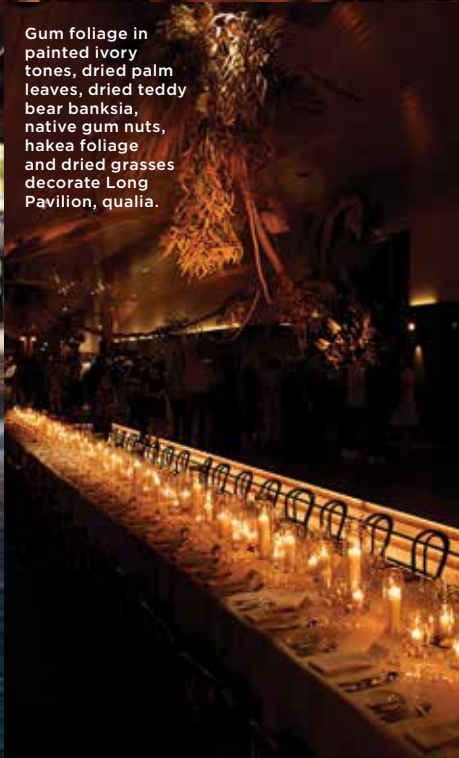
He didn’t have any formal training, “so I was winging it, faking it until making it. I would go into hotels to watch how arrangements were made. That’s how I first learnt. There was no social media, so you had to go and watch what other people were doing and work it out for yourself.”

Bisaro is celebrating a decade of creating the most epic arrangements for Hamilton Island Race Week. “When I first began doing Race Week, it was at the very start of flower walls.

As the years have passed, the Race Week floral displays have become more adventurous and incredible. “Every year I feel like this is the best one ever. I honestly don’t think we can top it, but then somehow we come up with something different for a new brief and it nails it. The first year we ever did a ceiling installation – the rope installation in the Long Pavilion – that was amazing, it blew everyone’s minds. There was a year where I was allowed to forage the island and I got some amazing palm leaves and we



Corokia foliage and burnt banksia pods, spa qualia.



Gum foliage in painted ivory tones, dried palm leaves, dried teddy bear banksia, native gum nuts, hakea foliage and dried grasses decorate Long Pavilion, qualia.



Banksia, Columbian roses, dyed Chrysanthemums and painted bird of paradise leaves inspired by little sailing boats, Long Pavilion, qualia.

did an arrangement on the ceiling of the hangar at Hamilton Island Air for a private dinner there.”

The best part about being the Floral Craftsman? The early mornings. “The best part is buying – I like a bit of retail therapy,” he says with a laugh. “I’m a morning person. I get up and go to the market and see the seasons change. There are certain moments I really love. Like the lily of the valley – it’s the tiniest, most petite flower but has the most amazing perfume. It’s a really small thing but it makes me so happy. I’m at the markets at least three mornings a week. It’s quiet but there’s an energy, a hustle and bustle to fight for things.”

Through the changing seasons and through Instagram, Bisaro finds inspiration to create something different each year. “Social media does play a big part, because you see a lot of things you haven’t before. Nowadays, someone can have an idea and the whole world gets on board. That’s now how trends start. I know it’s really early, but because of what we did [at Race Week] in 2019, I’ve already got an idea for next year. What I’m suggesting this time, there are no flowers involved at all... It’s going to be totally different.” And with that, we are completely intrigued.

## FESTIVE STYLE NOTES BY MATT BISARO

**“Native flowers last longer.”**

“My favourite flower for Christmas is a gloriosa, the national flower of Zimbabwe. It’s the upside down red and green flower and it lasts really well.”

**“Favourite Christmas foliage includes holly, copper beech, grey gum and spruce.”**

“If you want a fresh door wreath for Christmas, choose hardier flowers such as tropical, native or succulent and seed pods or nuts. They last longer than softer standard flowers in our hot summer climate.”

**“If you get a floral table centre made with floral sponge, ensure you top it up with water every day or two to help keep it fresh.”**

“Decorating big branches with simple festive decorations are a great alternative to a Christmas tree, either placed in a vase or hung from ceiling hooks.”

**“A festive table can be elaborate and full of flowers or as simple as loosely laying foliage down the table.”**

“If it’s out of season, don’t buy it!”

# RSVP

HAMILTON ISLAND  
RACE WEEK

Chef Lennox Hastie brings Firedoor to qualia.



The fires are lit, Pebble Beach.



Toasting the pineapples.



Rebecca and Anthony Puharich.

## ROLEX OPENING DINNER

*The opening night dinner of Hamilton Island Race Week was one to remember with Firedoor's chef Lennox Hastie on the pans. He was flanked by some serious providores including Chris Bolton (coral trout), Anthony Puharich (140 day whisky aged beef) and Penny Lawson (the cheeseboard). Hastie and his team kept the fires burning adding natural theatre to the evening. There's nothing quite like eating a six star BBQ at qualia. The flaming rum baba, smoked crème diplomat and charred pineapple was a work of culinary art.*



The flaming rum baba.





Carol and Sandy Oatley.



Claudia and Patrick Bouteller.



Jack Slade and Sophie Fleming.



Anna Burgdorf and Kirsten Galliot.

**PETER GILMORE X TRAVEL ASSOCIATES DINNER**  
*Where to begin? The melt in the mouth caviar and Ciroc vodka served to get the whole dinner started... or the entire menu designed by Peter Gilmore. He is a food god and so we dined like disciples at his table (for one night only) at Long Pavilion, qualia. The tiny trio of desserts at the end, served as a stand-up course was genius. Gilmore is quite simply great.*



Christian Blanco and Darren Jahn.



Rhiannon Taylor.



PHOTOGRAPHY: KARA ROSENBLUND  
KEN BUTTI.



Christine Power and Rob Mundle.



Anthea Loucas Bosh and Christine Salter.



Rhiannon Taylor, Nicky Oatley and Kirstie Clements.

# RSVP

HAMILTON ISLAND  
RACE WEEK



## CHARLES HEIDSIECK LUNCH

*There is nothing to beat a chilled flute of Champagne especially when it is Charles Heidsieck Brut Réserve that is being poured and celebrated. Guests attending the lunch at qualia's Long Pavilion enjoyed torched Marron followed by White River veal and finished it all off with a melt-in-the-mouth rye bread ice cream.*



Annie and Jared Ashdown.



Adam Vine.





Greek dancing on Pebble Beach.



Nadia Fairfax.



Edwina McCann and David Basha.



## PASPALLEY LUNCHEON

*Pebble Beach at qualia was the setting for the Paspaley lunch. Guests enjoyed a preview of Paspaley's new Megisti collection at the appropriately Greek-themed lunch, where they also sipped chilled Charles Heidsieck and marvelled at the 100 year history of this beautiful pearl farming family. The dress code was white and late afternoon everyone enjoyed a glass of ouzo with the white chocolate mousse and elderflower dessert and danced, as tradition demands, friends one and all.*



Luke Ricketson and Kate Waterhouse.

Yasmin Baildon.

Jimmy Niggles.

PHOTOGRAPHY: KARA ROSEN LUND, KEN BUTTI.



# RSVP

HAMILTON ISLAND  
RACE WEEK

Kerrie  
McCallum.



Xanthe Wetzler and  
Robbie Oatley.



Asha Dillon and  
Jordan Stenmark.



## PRIVATE DINNER WITH SOPHIE CAPE

*A candlelit spa qualia was the elegant and ethereal setting for a unique evening celebrating the work of award-winning fine artist Sophie Cape. Tim Olsen introduced one of our favourite artists, who spoke about the natural environment that informs and inspires her painting. Guests feasted on Whitsunday bugs with caviar, organic chicken, zucchini flowers and goat curd cheesecake. Delicious.*

Tim Olsen.



Sophie Cape.



Richard Broug, Jonathan  
Pearce and Chris Paspaley.



A cruise on Palm Beach for the Great Whitehaven Beach Run.



Starting the day.



Amy Pejkoic.



## THE UPSIDE YOGA RETREAT

*Love The Upside, well there has to be a benefit from all the exercise. Influencers including Sarah Ellen, Nadia Fairfax, Fredrika Akander and athlete and model, Amy Pejkoic, all joined Jodhi Meares for a weekend yoga retreat. Mountain poses helped realign postures and the mind, and early morning bushwalks started the day. A cruise onboard qualia's Palm Beach further focused the mind out on the calming sea. It was a restful weekend and everyone departed feeling good about being at one with nature.*



Fredrika Akander.

Sarah Ellen.



Jodhi Meares with her The Upside crew.



Amy Pejkoic.

Nadia Fairfax.



PHOTOGRAPHY: KARA ROSENBLUND, KEN BUTTI, ASHLEIGH LARDEN.



Lush tropical garden.

# Heaven on EARTH

Imagine waking up to the sound of native birds and the ocean... this is the totally calming environment that is Utopia. After much anticipation this beautiful home is on the market and we are so there, says Esther Holmes.

Utopia is luxury tropical living, at its finest. One of our favourite homes on Hamilton Island is on the market and we couldn't be happier. Utopia was designed by Queensland starchitect Chris Beckingham and has all the hallmarks of his distinguished work. The house is constructed from polished hardwood timber and catches all the warm breezes and sunrises that the location of Utopia on the eastern side of the island affords. Perched on the edge of the Coral Sea the house has an epic view of the Whitsundays stretching away into the distance. Hamilton Island is at the centre of the Whitsunday archipelago and the southern gateway to the Great Barrier Reef and it's all here. Utopia has five bedrooms with four bathrooms

and sleeps 10 people. This one-acre private waterfront gated property has wonderfully manicured gardens, all lush and tropical. There is also a great pizza oven and barbecue area perfect for entertaining all year long. It has an incredible indoor pool that is the focus of the house and a generous main living space with a state-of-the-art chef's kitchen. Utopia is great for investors or private use and already has a great holiday letting history. Liam Kearney of Hamilton Island Real Estate says "Utopia is undeniably impressive - the gardens are planted with an array of indigenous plants and the house is one of the jewels of Hamilton Island. It is an incredible Australian tropical home."

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



"UTOPIA IS UNDENIABLY IMPRESSIVE - THE GARDENS ARE PLANTED WITH AN ARRAY OF INDIGENOUS PLANTS AND THE HOUSE IS ONE OF THE JEWELS OF HAMILTON ISLAND."

Waterfront location.



Entertaining area and indoor pool.



Overlooking Catseye Bay.



**ILUKA**

6 WHITSUNDAY BOULEVARD  
**\$4,250,000**

5 4 2

Welcome to one of Hamilton Island's hidden gems. Designed by renowned Whitsunday architect Chris Beckingham, Iluka is perfect for the entertainer or those looking to escape to their own private island oasis. Iluka boasts expansive outdoor entertaining areas, a spacious chef's kitchen, open plan living areas, generous sized bedrooms, ample storage space and not one but two grand master suites. This is only the beginning of what makes this property so special. With views overlooking manicured gardens and a 10m infinity edge pool, you are further spoilt by some of the most picturesque vistas the Whitsundays have to offer.



**EDGE 18**

5A ACACIA DRIVE  
**\$2,495,000**

3 2 1

Uniquely renovated, this Edge apartment stands out above the rest. Facing north-west, enjoy stunning sunsets and Whitsunday Island views that allow you to take in all the boats and activity out on the Coral Sea. Stylishly furnished and impeccably kept, attention to detail is at the forefront of this open plan apartment's renovation. The modern kitchen flows onto the lounge and dining rooms, all opening to an expansive deck, perfect for island living. With its stunning layout and luxurious spa with a spectacular outlook, it is not hard to see why this property is favoured by guests.



**POINCIANA 102**

2 MARINA DRIVE  
**\$1,079,000**

2 2

There is quite simply nothing more to do to this north-facing, immaculately presented ocean view apartment. Poinciana Lodge is a favourite island property for its close proximity to both the marina and resort precincts and was one of the first complexes on the island. Easy elegant living, Poinciana 102 is in a league of its own for coastal chic style. The flowing floorplan is centralised around family functionality, with the gourmet kitchen opening to the dining and living room before leading out to a generous balcony that looks out across Catseye Bay. Two bedrooms and two bathrooms, including the ensuite master, complete this perfect island apartment package.

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

The properties featured in the REEF Magazine Real Estate section are available at time of print. For a full listing of properties for sale or to review recently sold properties, visit the Hamilton Island Real Estate office on Front Street, or go to [www.hamiltonislandrealestate.com.au](http://www.hamiltonislandrealestate.com.au)  
**PROPERTY SALES: 07 4948 9101 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT: 07 4946 8028 HOLIDAY-RENTALS RESERVATIONS: 137 333 (02 9433 0444)**



**Club Car**

**Hamilton Island's Golf Car of Choice**

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

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

**GC** INTERNATIONAL  
GOLF AND UTILITY VEHICLES



**PAVILLIONS 23**

1 AIRPORT DRIVE

**\$3,650,000**

3 3 1

Luxury is at the cornerstone of Hamilton Island's Pavillions. Developed by Grant and Lisa Kenny, this apartment complex is the only one on the island that offers the convenience and prestige of a private marina berth right at your door. With views across the marina and Dent Island, it is easy to see why these apartments are tightly held. With clean lines and a modern design, the recently renovated gourmet kitchen adjoins an open plan dining and living area, providing the ultimate seamless setting for entertaining. Framed by concertina doors, the kitchen and living room open to the deep wrap-around balcony overlooking the marina.

**YACHT CLUB VILLA 32**

23 FRONT STREET

**\$2,300,000**

4 4 2

This beautiful freestanding villa is a favourite with holidaying guests, offering its own plunge pool to compliment the stylish complex water's edge lagoon pool. A unique blend of tranquillity and quality, together with stylish design, the Yacht Club Villas are privately yet conveniently positioned in an exclusive, gated complex close to Front Street shopping, the many great restaurants and the marina precinct.



**COCOS ED**

7 GREAT NORTHERN HIGHWAY

**\$275,000**

1 1

**FOR PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION**

Stylishly renovated and reconfigured to maximise space, this apartment presents a great opportunity. Located on the top floor, this apartment offers beautiful glimpses of the water and Dent Island views, without a hefty price tag. Centrally located, Cocos Apartments are a short walk to the marina and Front Street precinct and the Resort Centre, making them a popular property for island staff and business owners, and only a short stroll to the staff pool and gym facilities.





**PEBBLE BEACH**

10 MELALEUCA DRIVE

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

3  3  2 

If you are looking for exclusivity, it doesn't get any more unique than Pebble Beach. Designed by Chris Beckingham, this property is truly something special, and the only home on the island with direct access to a pebbled beach. Its inspired split-level, indoor-outdoor design provides first class views. Hardwood floors, high ceilings, open plan living and a multitude of balcony living spaces are just some of the elements that make this property so special.



**PAVILLIONS 3**

1 AIRPORT DRIVE

**\$3,650,000**

4  3  1 

Offering absolute luxury marina-front living, complete with exclusive marina berths right on your doorstep, Pavillions are one of the most sought after and exclusive properties on Hamilton Island. Pavillions 3 features a large wrap-around balcony with an expansive kitchen, a large, open plan living and dining area including large media room and study, topped off by a spa. All in walking distance to Front Street and the marina precinct with its restaurants, bars and buzzing cosmopolitan atmosphere.



**CASUARINA COVE 2**

2 ACACIA DRIVE

**\$1,199,000**

3  2  1 

Providing all the comforts of home and a spectacular location, this freestanding villa ticks all the boxes. Designed over two levels, there is space for the whole family to enjoy the breathtaking outlook across the marina. Sought after by holiday-makers for its close proximity to Front Street and stunning complex pool with Whitsunday water views, Casuarina Cove 2 is a great choice for the lifestyle-seeking investor.

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

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

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

**AQUILA**

3-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY  
**FROM: \$5,000 PER NIGHT**  
**MAXIMUM CAPACITY:**  
**6 ADULTS AND**  
**8 CHILDREN**



A secluded and tranquil waterfront home situated on Hamilton Island's north-eastern tip, Aquila offers luxury and privacy, with experiences tailored to match every need. Enjoy wrap-around water views with migrating whales and turtles playing at your doorstep from the poolside timber terraces, which features a private magnesium mineral heated pool, indoor/outdoor lounge and dining spaces, day beds, waterside yoga deck and security surveillance.



**WHITEHAVEN HOUSE**

5-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY  
**FROM: \$2,700 PER NIGHT**  
**MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 10 PEOPLE**



This striking new home offers a private sanctuary on the exclusive northern tip of Hamilton Island and is set amid 3,000sqm of beautifully manicured gardens and lawns. It offers five bedrooms, five bathrooms, two large living areas and an outdoor pool and entertaining area - making it an ideal option for families or groups looking for that special holiday destination.

**FRANGIPANI LODGE 007**

3-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY  
**FROM: \$615 PER NIGHT**  
**MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 5 PEOPLE**



Newly renovated, filled with natural light, and located on the resort-side of Hamilton Island, this modern apartment is ideal for couples, groups, or young families. There are two spacious bedrooms, as well as two bathrooms. It makes for the ideal holiday location.

**COMPASS POINT 6**

3-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY  
**FROM: \$480 PER NIGHT**  
**MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 6 PEOPLE**



Ideal for small families, this spacious, renovated two bedroom apartment offers great views to Dent Passage, and an entertaining deck overlooking a grassed area. It's also just a short walk down the hill to all the great restaurants and cafés on Front Street. Sleek and sorted.

**HOLIDAY RENTALS: CONTACT HAMILTON ISLAND HOLIDAYS 1800 370 811**

To view our entire listing of over 150 privately owned properties or to book online, go to [www.hamiltonislandholidayhomes.com.au](http://www.hamiltonislandholidayhomes.com.au)

**HOLIDAY RENTALS:** Within Australia 1800 370 811 (local call costs) | International +61 2 9433 3113 (international call costs apply)

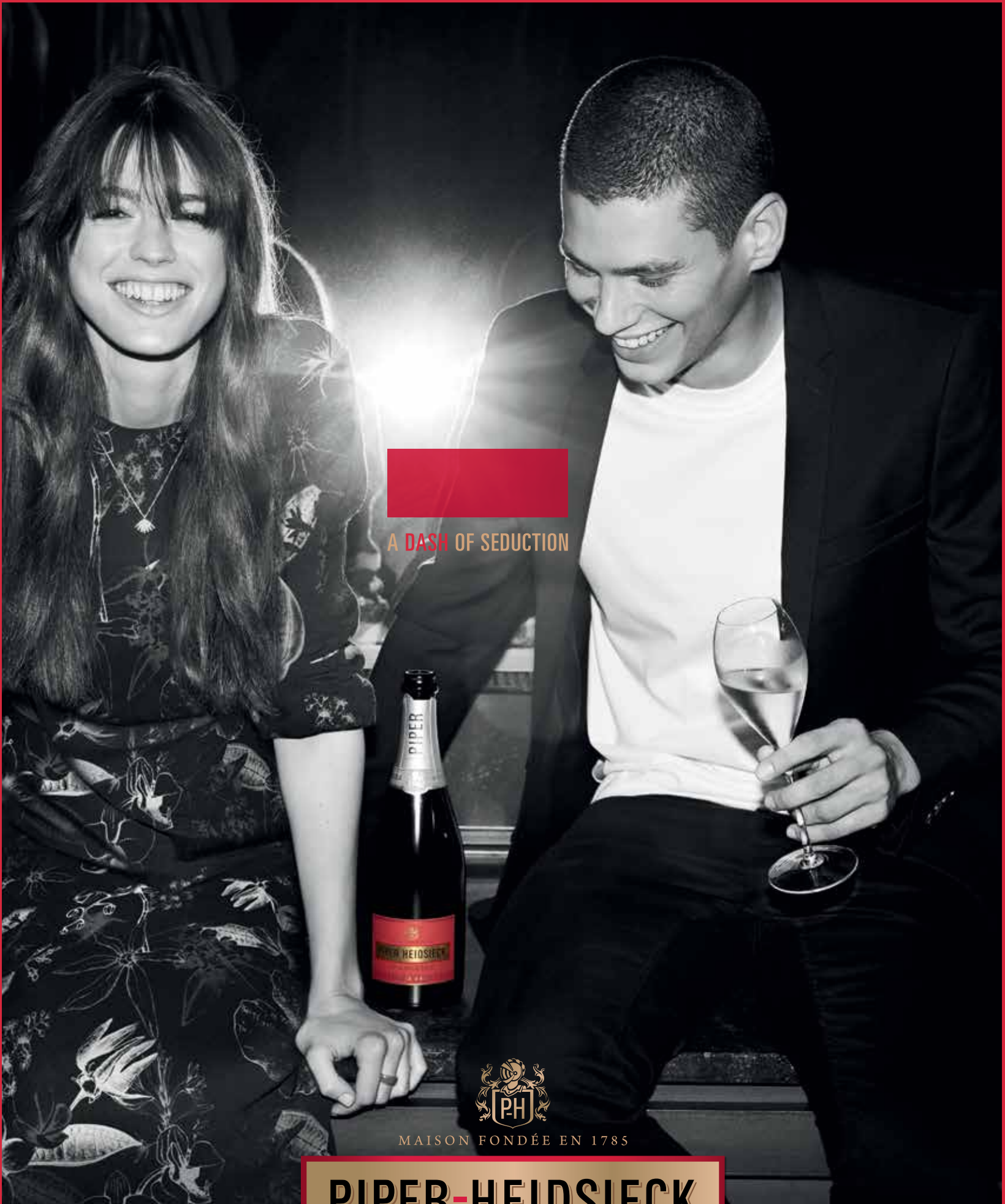
**Reservations Live Chat:** Monday to Friday, 10.00am-5.00pm (AEST) **Reservations Email:** [vacation@hamiltonisland.com.au](mailto:vacation@hamiltonisland.com.au) **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT:** 07 4946 8746

# NOW SELLING

There is limited opportunity to purchase land on Hamilton Island, with only a small percentage of the island available for development. **Enquire now to find out more about our exclusive selection of available lots, starting from \$749,000.**

For more information, please contact Lynn Milsom 0415 039 060 or Liam Kearney 0458 178 601  
[hamiltonislandrealestate.com.au](http://hamiltonislandrealestate.com.au) | [hamiltonisland.com.au](http://hamiltonisland.com.au)

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**PIPER-HEIDSIECK**

CHAMPAGNE