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ISLAND  
& THE  
GREAT  
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REEF

# Island escape

ISSUE 16  
RRP AUS \$8.95 NZ \$11.50

ISSN 2201-7658



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Wild Oats XI, Audi Hamilton Island Race Week 2016.

As 2016 draws to a close, we can look back on another highly successful year for Hamilton Island. Through our ongoing resolve to provide the ultimate experience for all our guests, we are pleased to say we are being rewarded with remarkably high occupancy rates and wide-ranging accolades from those who have come to enjoy the unique experience our island provides. We have welcomed more than one million holiday-makers to the island during the past decade, and all projections show that this figure will grow exponentially in the years to come. Our family recognises that much of the credit

for this impressive achievement should go to our dedicated and highly-efficient team members. They work extremely hard to ensure that every visitor from across Australia and around the world takes away with them long-lasting memories of the island and the beautiful Whitsunday region. Our aim is to have every one of our visitors head home as an ambassador for Hamilton Island. Simultaneously, we are continually looking for ways to improve the existing facilities, large and small, and create new ones – like our new supermarket, which will open in July 2017. Of the many events we hosted in 2016, there were a couple of stand-outs. In September,

we again presented the pas de deux in paradise with The Australian Ballet. This was so successful that, for the first time, due to the demand, we had to schedule a second performance. The 33rd staging of our flagship event on the water, Audi Hamilton Island Race Week, again confirmed that it stands as Australia's premier yachting event. This year the series attracted a record fleet of 252 yachts from all Australian states and overseas, and with that came more than 2,500 sailors, their families and friends. The social agenda and party scene associated with Race Week was unprecedented, so much so that many guests declared it to be "the Melbourne Cup of yachting". I'm sure that I speak for everyone in my family when I say that we are incredibly proud of Hamilton Island. It's a precious and important part of my father's legacy and we carry on his passion for creating and delivering the 'best of Australia' to our visitors and guests. The Oatley family take this opportunity to thank you for choosing Hamilton Island. We wish everyone a joyous holiday and a happy and successful 2017.

Sandy Oatley  
Chairman, Hamilton Island

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ADVERTISING AVP Pty Ltd, info@avpublishing.com.au PRINTING IPMG, 42 Boorea Street, Lidcombe NSW 2141  
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COVER PHOTOGRAPH Ken Butti, James Humphris  
REEF MAGAZINE is published for Hamilton Island Enterprises Ltd (ABN 61 009 946 909)  
by Alison Veness Publishing Pty Ltd (ABN 34 159 827 595) PO Box 470, Potts Point NSW 1335

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# LIFE NEEDS ADVENTURE



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**JUSTIN RIDLER, PHOTOGRAPHER**

NO. 1 HOLIDAY ACTIVITY? "I'm not much of an unwinder, I tend to just switch gears from making pictures to making music when I'm on holiday..."  
 WHAT ARE YOU READING THIS SUMMER? "A *Mind for Numbers* by Barbara Oakley; *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi; *The Particle At The End Of The Universe* by Sean Carroll."  
 SUNSET OR SUNRISE? "Sunrise because it's always so quiet out."  
 SUPERYACHT OR TINNY? "Tinny, but with a bottle of white burgundy and some very fresh oysters please."  
 LIFE GOALS FOR 2017? "There's a solar eclipse in the USA next August so I'd like to plan an adventure around that and a trip to the Rothko chapel."  
 BEST REEF ANECDOTE? "Wrapping a shoot with The Australian Ballet at Whitehaven Beach, walking to an awaiting helicopter and flying to my first solo exhibition at qualia was pretty bloody lovely."



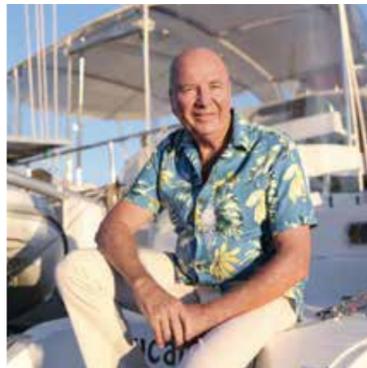
**LISA RATCLIFF, SPORTS JOURNALIST**

NO. 1 HOLIDAY ACTIVITY? "Eating out – a great break from being the primary cook at home."  
 WHAT ARE YOU READING THIS SUMMER? "*Us* by David Nicholls."  
 SUNSET OR SUNRISE? "Sunrise."  
 SUPERYACHT OR TINNY? "Tinny."  
 LIFE GOALS FOR 2017? "Reducing the family's environmental impact, Pilates, deep conversations with close friends, more books and less Facebook, getting through *Vikings* on Netflix and the HSC with our first child."  
 BEST REEF ANECDOTE? "Whales calving and coming in close to check out the boats during Audi Hamilton Island Race Week."



**DR MARK READ, MARINE BIOLOGIST**

NO. 1 HOLIDAY ACTIVITY? "A camping trip with my family. Somewhere quiet, cooking over an open fire, watching the sun go down is perfect."  
 WHAT ARE YOU READING THIS SUMMER? "I read a book a week at least. A mixture of fantasy, detective mysteries and adventure."  
 SUNSET OR SUNRISE? "I like both."  
 SUPERYACHT OR TINNY? "Tinny. I like exploring all the little creeks and embayments and to have the option to hook my tinny behind my 4WD and travel to Cape York Peninsula to go fishing."  
 LIFE GOALS FOR 2017? "Enjoy each and every day; spend time with my family and friends; eat some good food and continue making a difference protecting and managing the Great Barrier Reef."  
 BEST REEF ANECDOTE? "I once had the opportunity to get in the water and swim with three whale sharks in the northern Great Barrier Reef. One was probably 10 metres long and it was humbling to swim alongside such a gentle giant as it cruised along. It's a memory that's stayed with me ever since."



**ROB MUNDLE, AUTHOR**

NO. 1 HOLIDAY ACTIVITY? "Cruising under sail."  
 WHAT ARE YOU READING THIS SUMMER? "I'm not reading; I'm resting, having just released *Under Full Sail*, my 16th book, and the sixth in my best-selling Australian maritime history series."  
 SUNSET OR SUNRISE? "Sunrise."  
 SUPERYACHT OR TINNY? "I'd prefer my cruising catamaran, Toucanoes, but if I had to make a choice it would be a tinny."  
 LIFE GOALS FOR 2017? "Doing whatever makes me happy, like cruising Toucanoes through the Whitsunday Islands mid year; writing another book and being with friends."  
 BEST REEF ANECDOTE? "Being a founder of what is now one of the world's truly great regattas – Audi Hamilton Island Race Week – and I'm still part of it 33 years on."

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TOP 10 TO DO



1 HEAVEN ON EARTH: WHITEHAVEN BEACH

Do not leave Hamilton Island without visiting Whitehaven Beach. We promise it's the kind of natural environment that is often viewed in books or photographs yet seldom seen in person. Here it is then, the perfect stretch of white silica sand bordered by clear, turquoise sea. Paradise. Head north, up to Hill Inlet, and track the history of the indigenous Ngaro people. Walk south through the native bush and discover incredible swimming holes and pristine, hidden snorkelling spots rich with underwater treasures. Whitehaven Beach may feel remote and otherworldly but the reality is only a short trip by helicopter, seaplane, yacht or motorboat from Hamilton Island.



6 SAIL TIME: ALL AT SEA

Soak up the best of sea and land with a sail-and-stay package, or hire a skippered yacht charter and tour the Whitsunday Islands' beaches and bays on your own bareboat charter. Budding captains can book lessons with the island's expert sailing crews to earn internationally-accredited qualifications. Or why not try our Grand Prix Yachting experience. Sail to landmark Whitsunday locations on a Volvo 60 ocean racer with a rich racing pedigree. If a quiet sail into the sunset or luxury dinner cooked onboard a traditional cruiser is required, then raise a sundowner and simply enjoy.



7 KIDS PLAY: JUST FOR FUN

The youngest members of the family will find new friends to hang out with at the Kids Fun Zone play area or the Clownfish Club childcare centre for kids aged up to 14 years. Children aged six to 14 years with a sense of adventure can tackle the Quads for Kids course in Palm Valley. The whole family will get a kick out of a few rounds of mini golf or try for a strike at the island's seven-lane bowling centre. Head to the Resort Centre to put dubs on a Water Walker — a giant blow-up bubble that rolls you out onto the water — because holidays are just for fun.

2 NATURAL WONDER: THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

The Great Barrier Reef is quite simply one of the most incredible natural habitats on earth. There are many ways to view the reef with minimal impact. You can take a day trip out to the Reefworld viewing pontoon and then enjoy snorkelling through the brilliantly coloured coral formations. Or spend a half or full day touring the secret spots of the Whitsunday Islands, including a dive or snorkel out at Bait Reef with the Explore Group experts. One of our favourite ways to see the Whitsundays is by air. Take a flight in a chopper with Hamilton Island Air, and be amazed at the views, and your photographs. These moments will make for an unforgettable holiday.



3 AMAZING GOLF: PAR FOR THE COURSE

It's easy. Catch the ferry across to Dent Island and enjoy one of Australia's most spectacular 18-hole courses, the Hamilton Island Golf Club, designed by five-time British Open champion Peter Thomson. You'll be amazed. Our advice is don't rush the round at this impressive course, which is a challenge to professionals and casual golfers alike. It is breathtakingly beautiful, with views of the Whitsundays and beyond. At the 19th hole, drink in more views over a laidback lunch at the Clubhouse. And perhaps sharpen your golf wardrobe with a visit to the well curated pro shop.



4 THE CATCH: GONE FISHING

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

5 RELAX YOURSELF: FEEL AT ONE

Set deep in lush gardens near the Resort Centre is Spa wumurdaylin, whose highly-skilled therapists provide indigenous-inspired treatments by Waterlily and LI'TYA. These include customised cocoons, scrubs, rituals and facial therapies. For total wellbeing the sanctuary also offers consultations with a nutritionist and an alternative therapist. There's no better way to restore body, mind and soul than a dedicated session at the spa. Take note, if you need a blow dry, or a last-minute up-do or even an emergency spray tan, be sure to book into Island Hair and Beauty in the Resort Centre.

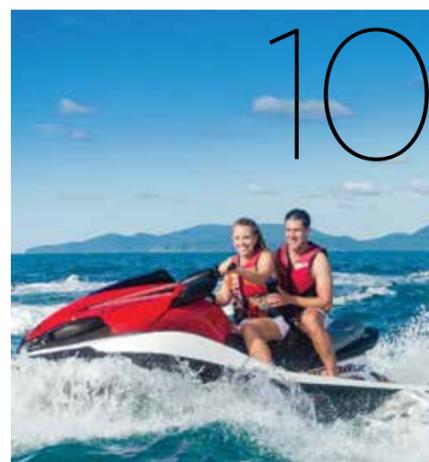


9 ANIMAL KINGDOM: IN AWE

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

8 GET FIT: FEEL-GOOD FACTOR

Did you know there are 20 kilometres of bushwalking tracks on Hamilton Island? So what's stopping you? One of the most memorable ways to start the day is watching the sun rise from one of the many lookouts to which the tracks lead. Follow it up with a morning yoga session, or for a rigorous workout, head to the Hamilton Island Sports Club and choose from a range of group fitness classes including body pump, cycle, a weights session, cardio workout or game of tennis. If you are staying at the Reef View Hotel, Palm Bungalows, Beach Club, qualia or Hamilton Island Holiday Homes you can also pick up a complimentary catamaran, kayak, windsurfer or paddleboard from Beach Sports on Catseye Beach. One of the best ways to see the island is from a sea-kayaking session.



10 JET, SET, GO: WELL, WHY NOT?

For that total offshore adrenalin rush, take a guided jet ski tour. It's utterly exhilarating. The go-kart track is another one of our classic go-tos. They are fun, easy to drive and a great way to let off some city steam. We also like hiring a bike, or riding the fire trails and bush tracks on an all-terrain vehicle. They are one of the best ways to get to rugged outlooks on the island.

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



Tom Burton,  
Rio 2016.



Australian Olympic  
Team, Audi Hamilton  
Island Race Week.

# RIO 2016: NEVER GIVE UP

The Olympic Games medal tally in sailing was the hard-won fruits of incredible skill, athleticism and focused determination, says Lisa Ratcliff.

Three silvers and one gold medal earned among seven Australian Sailing Team (AST) members at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games put them equal first with South Pacific neighbours New Zealand, in terms of the largest sailing medal haul. Adding the two gold and one silver medal from the Paralympic Games and Australia easily came away sailing's best performing nation. What is extraordinary is that the Olympic team's average age was just 25.5 and only three of the seven medallists had prior Olympic experience, meaning there was no overlap between the London and the Rio Games for four young first-timers. Nacra 17 silver medallist Lisa Darmanin put it simply: "Jason [Waterhouse] and I were a pretty young team to go into our first Olympic experience and say our goal was to win a gold medal, with no Olympic experience and racing against medallists from multiple Games. This didn't faze us. We were really solid within ourselves."

Laser men's gold medallist Tom Burton's view was that, heading into the Games, he was one of the favourites but not the clear favourite. Ultimately the almost insurmountable gold-medal fight narrowed to Burton and one other. "Based on last year's results I knew I had the potential to win it, to win the medal on the last day," Burton said in October, having had time to reflect on his Olympic journey. Australia's three gold and one silver at London 2012 meant there were inherited expectations on the AST to replicate that squad's success — success that brought national attention to Australian Sailing's high-performance strategy, given other more traditionally medal-producing sports had finished well below par. Australian Sailing's president Matt Allen told REEF Magazine: "We were extremely happy with the Olympic and Paralympic results in Rio. Australia totally dominated the Paras and led the number of Olympic medals, along with New Zealand." As well as having the skill level to be world-beaters, the AST's medallists shared a common



Lisa Darmanin,  
Jason Waterhouse,  
Rio 2016.

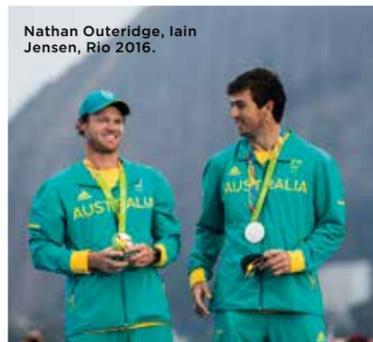
PHOTOGRAPHY: ANDREA FRANCELINI; ©SAILING ENERGY / WORLD SAILING.

"HARD WORK BEATS TALENT WHEN TALENT ISN'T WILLING TO WORK... I'M VERY COMPETITIVE."

belief in themselves and their team members and a never-give-up attitude. Pre-start in the gold-medal race Burton outmanoeuvred then out-sailed his rival, the Croatian Tonči Stipanović, putting into play one of the strategies he and coach, Michael Blackburn had developed and which Burton had given himself a one in 10 chance of pulling off. "All you need is one," Blackburn said as the 26-year-old prepared to leave the shore at Marina da Glória on Rio's Guanabara Bay. Not only did he take eight years of experience to the track that day, he took a carefully calculated plan and the mindset of a winner. Waterhouse and Darmanin went from fourth following an out-of-character penultimate day's racing to the silver medal position. They could have finished in eighth but for a second in the final double-points medal race that put them one point behind the winning Argentines. Mat Belcher and his Olympic debutant crew, Will Ryan, protected their 470-class men's silver medal in the final medal race and 49er skiff pair Nathan Outteridge and Iain Jensen did the same. Queensland Finn sailor and Olympic debutant Jake Lilley made the top 10 medal race. Darmanin says once she and Waterhouse overcame the mental obstacle of squaring up against Australia's greatest-ever Olympic multihull sailor, Darren Bundock, for Olympic selection they led rather than followed. The cousins trained harder than any team, five to six days a week, often by themselves without a coach or training partner, building up hours on the boat. "Hard work beats talent when talent isn't willing to work," is how Darmanin explains their work ethic, and personally she took the same approach. "I'm very competitive; my family, my brothers have always pushed me. Through the team's Objective program and coach Traks Gordon we learned about professionalism and that practice makes perfect. We had a job to do and we dived in heard first, not afraid of not succeeding." They also trusted each other. Some Nacra 17 teams opted for the woman to helm and the man to crew, given the strength requirement at



Australian Olympic Team, Audi Hamilton Island Race Week.



Nathan Outeridge, Iain Jensen, Rio 2016.



Lisa Darmanin, Jason Waterhouse, Rio 2016.



Tom Burton, Rio 2016.

the front of the lightning-fast and tippy 17-foot catamaran, one of two new classes for Rio and the first-ever official mixed gender boat. Waterhouse is an amazing helmsman so he took on the driving role with Darmanin's total faith and the pair worked their way to country selection and found themselves leading the world on day four of competition at Rio, before posting their worst scores of the series and dropping to fourth.

"It was really hard to accept after that penultimate day that we were still in the fight for gold after being so disappointed and feeling we'd thrown it away. But I recall Jase and I talking and reigniting that belief — if anyone could do it, it was us. We had true faith in our abilities and those nine points between us and gold then weren't so daunting."

They sailed pretty much a perfect race to protect the silver medal and Darmanin recalls, "We were so calm; we couldn't have done anything more. The day before when we had the shocker I put that down to it being our first Olympic experience; we got a bit lost about what was important. People have said we'll never make that mistake again. The team that won had the most experience; he [Santiago Lange] knew what was important that day."

"We had the AST behind us, we had the best preparation and coach but it came down to us performing on the day and truly trusting each other when the pressure was on. We both believed in our goals and each other's work ethic and efforts. There were no questions; we'd ticked as many boxes as we could over four years."

Burton recognises the mental game and learning to take risks, against his nature, also pushed him through his slow climb to the top over the Rio 2016 qualifying series, and the deciding medal race.

"I knew no matter what happened I would win a medal and if I really stuffed up I'd still come third; that's a good feeling. I was able to sleep better the night before the medal race than the whole regatta and there was less stress on the final day of racing."

"Making Tonči do a pre-start penalty was the target, then I didn't have him in front of me holding me back and I could control the situation. Halfway through I knew I'd passed a few boats and was more comfortable winning silver, and then going against how I normally sail I rolled the dice and took the risk."

So focused was he on clawing back positions that Burton crossed the finish line with no idea where Stipanović was or that he'd put enough finishers between the pair enough to snatch the gold medal.

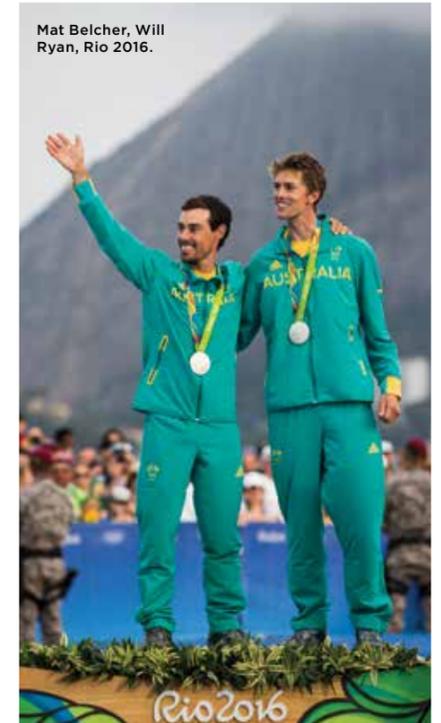
PHOTOGRAPHY: ANDREA FRANCOLINI; @SAILING ENERGY / WORLD SAILING

He'd rehearsed it in his head before that point, but that was Burton's life-lesson moment. Never give up. "It could have easily been a very different outcome if I'd stopped trying for a moment."

The triumphant team arrived back in Sydney and less than 48 hours later flew to Hamilton Island for a sailor's welcome and ticker-tape parade led by the island's primary-school children. Hamilton Island's owners, the Oatley family, are a substantial and longstanding supporter of the AST and the team felt at home among fellow sailors attending Audi Hamilton Island Race Week in August.

So what does sailing hold for the next Olympiad and Tokyo 2020 Games?

World Sailing is currently debating with its constituents regarding which classes will make the 2020 cut; important decisions athletes are waiting on so they can begin preparation. Sadly



Mat Belcher, Will Ryan, Rio 2016.



Jake Lilley, Rio 2016.

Paralympic sailing has been dropped from the lineup; a situation President Matt Allen hopes can be rectified for 2024.

Nationally the country's high-performance advisory group is going through its own post-Olympic shake-up and bringing in more women with experience and success in other sports as the squad looks to even out achievements across both genders. Men have scored the bulk of Australia's Olympic medals and now World Sailing is moving to an equal number of classes for men and women, the national body is

resetting its own targets. Allen's view is the talent pipeline will continue to expand and that the sport's structural changes and time spent working out the talent development and pathways will identify and produce more athletes for selection.

"We want to field more classes in Tokyo than we did in Rio (six of the 10). We will maintain our performance threshold and send teams that have every likelihood of winning medals." *All the Rio 2016 results are on World Sailing's website: [www.sailing.org](http://www.sailing.org).*

# COMING OF AGE

Every aspect of the record-breaking Wild Oats XI story is as good as it gets, writes Rob Mundle.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREA FRANCOLINI



A painter puts the finishing touches on the hull.



Working on the Wild Oats XI build.



Working on the Wild Oats XI build.

The business end: Wild Oats XI's fine lines are all too evident.



Wild Oats XI's steering wheels.



Pre-dawn: Wild Oats XI on the move.



To minimise drag Wild Oats XI's propeller is retracted into the hull.



Artisans attention to detail in every part of the build was astounding.

In the spectacular world of international ocean yacht racing, there are three ultimate challenges: the Fastnet race out of England; America's Newport Bermuda race; and the event most seen as the greatest contest of all — the 628 nautical mile Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race. Across its 71-year history the Hobart race has been laden with the gunwales with drama and excitement. Everything about it is unique. It is the only major offshore racing event in the world that starts on a harbour and finishes in a river. And no other similar event attracts so much media interest, or number of spectators: it is estimated that at the start alone some 300,000 people watch the spectacle when either afloat on Sydney Harbour, or on the shore of what is a magnificent natural amphitheatre. The television coverage of the start takes that number into the millions. As fate would have it, it was the timing of the inaugural event that set the Hobart race on a course towards becoming the stuff of Australian sporting legend. It was 1945 and a war-weary nation was desperate for a diversion away from the brutalities of World War II, which had ended only months earlier. The Sydney Hobart race would be a much-needed panacea. On Boxing Day 1945 the crews of nine small yachts were seen to be putting their lives on the line in the name of sport by racing to Hobart. Most importantly, the media of the day thrived on the story, especially when the fleet was hammered by a ferocious southerly gale and there were no sightings by the Royal Australian

Air Force of one yacht in particular, the highly fancied 35ft long, Rani. Then, on January 2, 1946, The Sydney Morning Herald reported: "DRAMATIC END TO YACHT RACE — Missing Rani Reappears And Wins Easily." Rani's name went into the history books as having been first to finish (line honours), the fastest time for the course (six days/14 hours/22 minutes), and being the winner on handicap (corrected time). In the 71 years since that first race, 5,827 yachts and more than 50,000 men and women from across the world have contested the annual Sydney Hobart race, and today one yacht stands out as the most remarkable of all; the silver-hulled, 30-metre long supermaxi, Wild Oats XI, campaigned by the Oatley family. On Boxing Day this year this amazing yacht will be going for an unprecedented ninth line honours, and, given the right conditions, she could well claim the treble for the third time — line and handicap honours and a race record. In 2005 — the year she was launched — Wild Oats XI became the first yacht since Rani to achieve that remarkable result. The story of Wild Oats XI's origins, and her wonderful owner, the late Bob Oatley AO, BEM, is as fascinating and engaging as her performance when racing on the high seas. Bob, or "Popeye" as he was known to family and close friends, had an uncanny ability to inspire people into going beyond preconceived limits and achieving remarkable goals. Such was the case with Wild Oats XI. Never had such a sophisticated racer been created in such a short



Sandy Oatley, Mark Richards, Bob and Val Oatley cutting the bow of Wild Oats XI.



Bow of Wild Oats XI being removed.



Wild Oats XI bow, installed on the Hamilton Island Yacht Club.

“IT’S THE BEST BUILD I’VE EVER BEEN INVOLVED WITH, AND MAKING THAT EVEN BETTER WAS THE FACT THAT SHE HAS BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL. MOST IMPORTANTLY THOUGH, THIS WAS THE PROJECT WHERE WE LOVED THE OWNER...”

time frame – just 10 months – and never had a yacht had such an impact on the sailing scene and public arena within four weeks of being launched.

Wild Oats XI was built in Sydney by John McConaghy, an artisan acclaimed internationally as being among the very best when it comes to constructing racing yachts using space-age composite materials. McConaghy is not sure how many boats he has built over the decades, but he is sure of one thing: “My No.1 project of all was Wild Oats XI,” he said without hesitation. “It’s the best build I’ve ever been involved with, and making that even better was the fact that she has been so successful. Most importantly though, this was the project where we loved the owner; a project that was as good as it got.” Wild Oats XI, like her two smaller predecessors built by Bob Oatley, had a design feature that he, with the enthusiastic support of his skipper, Mark Richards, had introduced to offshore racing about five years earlier. It was a canting keel, one that swung from side to side so less ballast was needed to keep the yacht upright. World champion and America’s Cup yachtsman Iain Murray, who today sails as tactician aboard Wild Oats XI, describes the concept this way: “The canting keel has probably been the largest single design element that has increased the speed of yachts ever. It’s like sticking a giant V8 engine in a Toyota Corolla.” Wild Oats XI would represent the ultimate application of this technology. In 2003 Bob led the Australian team to victory

in the prestigious Admiral’s Cup international team event in Cowes, England. He entered the original Wild Oats XI and had Mark Richards as skipper. That yacht’s speed was enough for him to commission the build of Wild Oats XI, the intention being that she would lead the defence team in the Admiral’s Cup, but due to circumstances beyond his control, that series never eventuated.

Then, in early 2005, Bob and his eldest son, Sandy, went to McConaghy’s boat-building facility on Sydney’s northern beaches and saw a 30-metre long canting-keel racing yacht being built for Kiwi yachtsman, Neville Crichton, and to be named Alfa Romeo. Its target was line honours in the Sydney Hobart race at the end of the year. Bob was so excited by what he saw that he would have bought that yacht there and then had it been offered for sale – but it wasn’t. Mark Richards recalls: “Having seen Alfa Romeo, Bob said to me ‘I think I’m going to buy one of those’ and I said, ‘Are you serious?’. He simply said ‘Yep’, and he did! I actually tried to talk him out of it, but he was already on a roll.” The Hobart race start was 11 months away, which meant that the new yacht would need to be launched within 10 months – and no racing yacht that size and so complex had ever been built in that time anywhere in the world. But that didn’t deter Bob Oatley. He put the entire project together in one weekend. John McConaghy confirmed that if everything fell into place he could build the yacht in the desired time. Then, after



Launched: the revamped Wild Oats XI takes flight. The new spinnaker she carries is 120 square metres larger than the wing area of an Airbus A380 passenger aircraft.

Not surprisingly the well-tuned Alfa Romeo with her equally well-honed crew of international sailors, stood as the pre-race favourite for line honours. But that only made Mark Richards and his team more determined. What followed was the perfect example of how spirit, skill, teamwork and determination can achieve the seemingly unachievable. In Bass Strait, about halfway into the race, Alfa Romeo and Wild Oats XI were all but side-by-side. Alfa Romeo then changed her course towards the east while Richards and his team held their nerve: they stayed on the same course, believing it was more favourable – and it was. After one day, 18 hours, 40 minutes and 10 seconds of racing, Wild Oats XI led the fleet into Hobart to claim the treble – line and handicap honours, and a race-record time. Richards looks back on this achievement as one of his two greatest moments in the Sydney Hobart race, the other being when Wild Oats XI led the hotly favoured American supermaxi, Comanche, into Hobart in 2014. Last year Wild Oats XI was extensively modified for the Sydney Hobart race in preparation for another showdown with Comanche. Modifications included the removal of her bow, which is now attached to the Hamilton Island Yacht Club. It was a campaign full of disappointment, culminating in her being forced out of the race due to damage to the mainsail.

“I didn’t feel right about our preparations for the race during all of December,” Richards said. “There was a lot of pressure surrounding the modifications: I think we made the changes too close to the race and we weren’t properly prepared. Bob’s deteriorating health was also an issue for everyone: we just loved the man. “This year all the pressure is off. We’re out there to do it for Bob.”

Having set a course record in the Brisbane to Keppel race in August, Richards and his highly-skilled crew know the yacht is faster than ever. Wild Oats XI averaged an impressive 20 knots when she lopped more than seven hours off her own record in that event. Should the weather gods smile on her and provide similar downwind conditions in the Sydney Hobart race, she could lop an impressive 12 hours off her record for that race – but that’s a big “if” in the Sydney Hobart race. Regardless, Wild Oats XI is the most successful yacht, and Mark Richards the most successful skipper, in the 72-year history of the classic, and it’s safe to say those records will stand for a long time, maybe forever.



Wild Oats XI interior.



Wild Oats XI bowless being towed to Sydney City Marine for refit.

the designers, mast and sailmakers and all equipment suppliers had all confirmed they could meet the deadline, Bob pressed the go button on the Monday morning. “If we had not have built Alfa Romeo we would not have been able to have the yacht completed in 10 months,” McConaghy said. “We structured a week-by-week building schedule and put between 50 and 60 guys on the job. They were exciting times.” When Alfa Romeo was contesting Hamilton Island Race Week in August 2005 – as part of her preparation for that year’s Hobart race – Wild Oats XI was barely half-built. It was not until December 2, just 24 days before the start, that Wild Oats XI was launched and the rush to get her into race mode began.



qualia, bath time.

**FABLED: AESOP**

Our favourite skin, hair and bodycare brand, Aesop, has created indulgent bath salts inspired by Hamilton Island. The Repose Bath Salts will be exclusively in qualia early 2017, meaning we're bound to spend even more time lazing in the luxuriously appointed bathrooms and soaking up the good stuff. Repose Bath Salts are enhanced with sage leaf, clove bud and pine needle, to nourish and soothe, in any climate. Well, what more could you want?



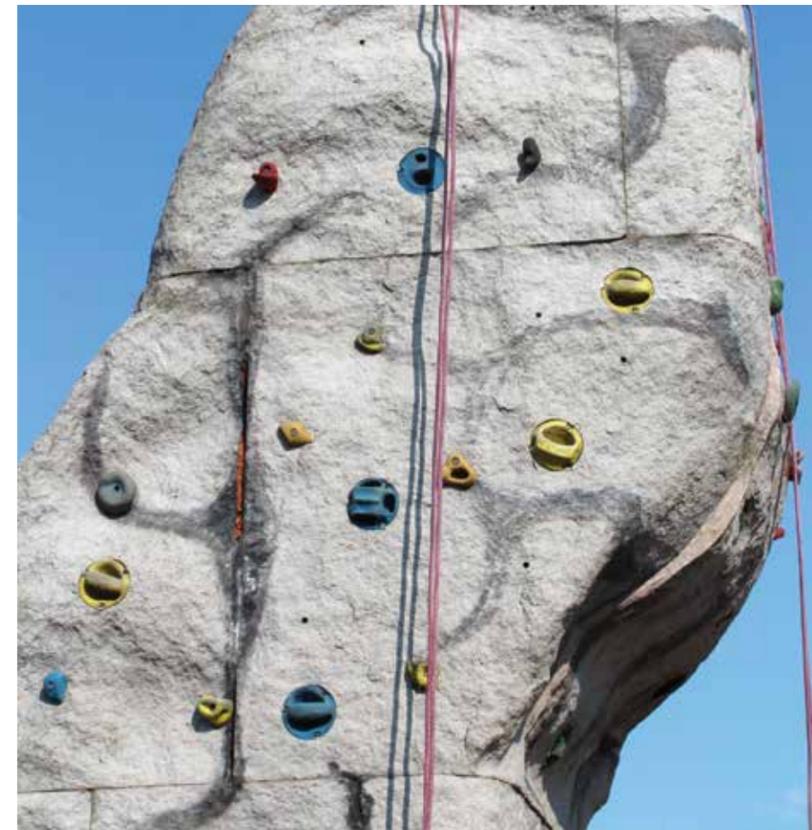
**HOLD UP: GOLF QANTAS**

Hamilton Island has partnered with Qantas Golf Club for their 2017 Challenge Series Final. The series is a national golf event held on some of Australia's best courses. Finalists from each of the 14 Challenge Series events, which take place throughout 2017, will win an all-expenses-paid trip to compete in the final at Hamilton Island Golf Club. We love a good competition. Time to perfect your swing. [www.qantasgolfclub.com](http://www.qantasgolfclub.com)



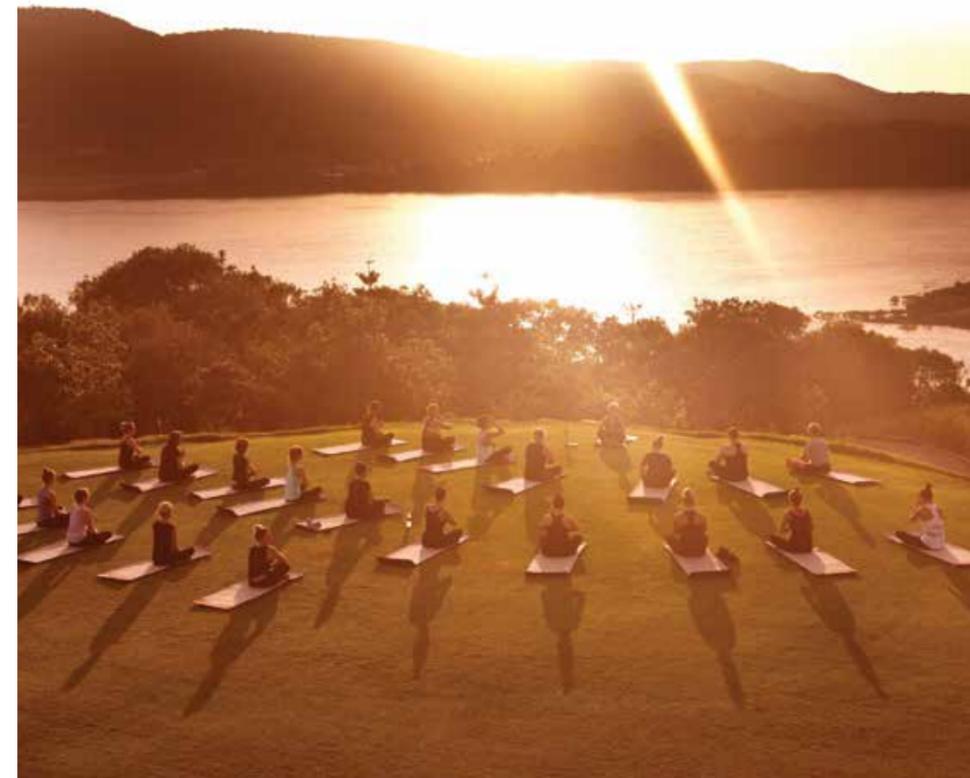
**DRINK IT IN: T2**

Yes, it's all about exclusive partnerships this year and Hamilton Island and T2 have worked together to create a delicious tea that evokes the natural glory of Hamilton Island. Island Dreaming is a fruit-based tea featuring native Australian ingredients including lemon myrtle. It can be served hot or cold but honestly we love it on ice because it's so refreshing and restorative on a hot day. Island Dreaming will be available on Hamilton Island in 2017.



**TALL ORDER: CLIMBING WALL**

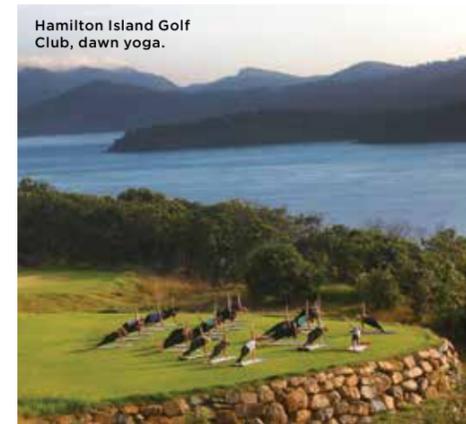
The latest addition to Hamilton Island's impressive lineup of activities is the nine-metre climbing wall located in Palm Valley. The climbing wall is open during school holidays and peak times. It's a nail-biting, highly-effective workout. Check the Activity Guide or Tour Desk to find out more and for session times. It's available to adults and children aged six years or more, with the cost \$10 per person.

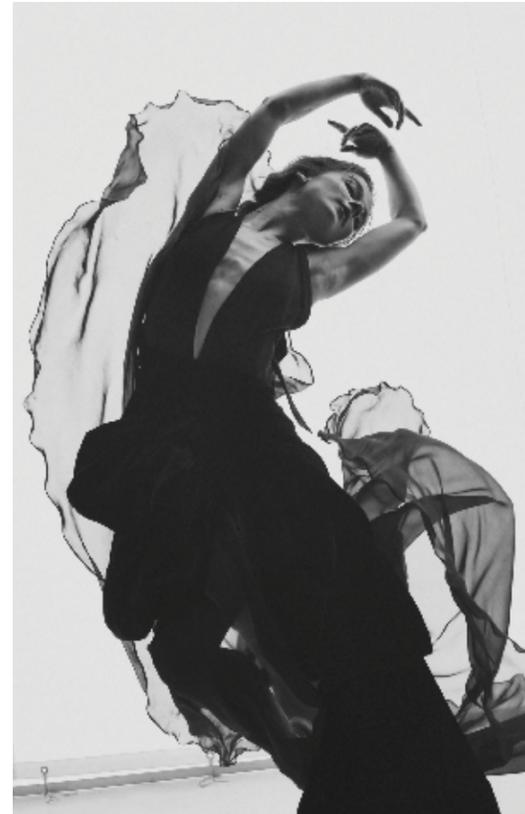


Hamilton Island Golf Club, dawn yoga.

**DOWNWARD DOG: DENT YOGA**

A new yoga experience is now on offer at the Hamilton Island Golf Club. Could there be any better way to start the day than with a 6.15am ferry ride from Hamilton Island to neighbouring Dent Island for a dawn yoga class on the helipad? Soak up the panoramic views of the Whitsundays as the sun rises on sun salutations during the one-hour class. Afterwards be rewarded with a delicious breakfast at the Clubhouse. Feast on fresh fruit, muesli, bagels, and fresh juices. Bring sunscreen and sunglasses. Check the Activity Guide or Tour Desk to find out when the next yoga class is happening.





# SPACE, TIME AND EMOTION

Pas de deux in paradise by The Australian Ballet is a thrilling outdoor performance staged annually at Hamilton Island's Pebble Beach. This year an exhibition by Justin Ridler, long-time photographer of the dancers, was held at qualia to coincide with the event. Here he shares his passion and process with Alison Veness.

Justin Ridler's first experience with ballet was a birthday present. "It was a short piece with one dancer and a cellist and the dancer responded to what the cellist was playing. It was beguiling," he says. He fell in love. "Ballet for me is unafraid of delving into all areas of the human condition and psyche and its inspiration is our lives, particularly the pivotal moments in our lives, and it translates them metaphorically through movement and I love that," he says. During the past five years Ridler has been photographing The Australian Ballet at its rehearsal studio in Melbourne, on location for various campaigns and now at Hamilton Island. The 2016 repertoire included the Act II pas de deux from his favourite ballet, *Swan Lake*. "I know it's a clichéd answer but I only saw it for the first time properly this year. It's stunning. The themes are expressed in an almost supernatural way; it really got to me. At the end when Odette dies and goes into the afterlife, I remember thinking how tragic this is." He cried. Capturing this emotion is something Ridler thinks carefully about before starting to shoot, sketching out ideas for composition. "I make a couple of little notes. There is always an intention, exploring the gestures perhaps through the sequence of images, or a delicate

sensuality or tragedy, or some kind of loss or rapture, there is always a turn-key word in mind that I'm trying to look for. Each shoot has a theme that feeds into the pictures, it's certainly the starting point," says the multi-talented creative.

"Ballet is the perfect harmonic of what I want to create. These men and women who dance for The Australian Ballet are artists and also athletes. Physicality is absolutely essential to them; they use it to translate these very beautiful themes."

He shoots both digital and analog. "I've turned to 8x10 [camera], which really slows the whole thing down a lot more but I adore the 'happy accident'. The perfect harmonic for me though is a combination of digital, that gives you the capacity to play and then the slow-down of the film."

Ridler's first camera was a red plastic toy Kodak, which his mum gave him. He still has the pictures. "They are OK," he laughs, "quite elemental. I was only seven when I first started and I photographed fire and rocks and branches that I found in my backyard and I photographed water flowing, the stars in the sky... anything to do with nature. I was super into the natural world as a kid. I've always been interested in the way things work."

# PERFORMANCE

Clockwise from top left: Vivienne Wong and Rohan Furnell, Melbourne, 2013; Amber Scott, Melbourne, 2016; Dimiti Azoury and Callum Linnane, Melbourne, 2013; Amber Scott, Melbourne, 2016.

His first “proper shoot” was done with the help of his grandpa, who taped a cigarette lighter to an aerosol canister. They made a blowtorch and then photographed fire trails in the dark. “It was powerful and fascinating; he was very much part of it. I think about him before I do anything major now, and if I’m nervous I always remember him. He was very encouraging, he was a brilliant man, and he really inspired me to be inquisitive.” Ridler enjoys the constant challenge of photographing people. “The things I often find most disarming and enchanting about them is the thing that is slightly imperfect. That’s what I genuinely love, to understand their uniqueness and humanity and it gives them texture. I want my pictures to be reassuring and validating; (to show) that people have differences and that’s OK. I don’t know if perfection exists, I think it’s subjective, I’m inherently skeptical of anything that appears to be too perfect.”

He listens to classical music and as he shoots he tries to play music that the dancers haven’t necessarily heard, “so that they can seek out new inspiration. I build a set list for a shoot that harmonises with the theme that we are exploring so we create full, sensory experiences.”

His shoot set list for the *Power to Transform*, The Australian Ballet’s 2016 theme, included Ludovico Einaudi, Nils Frahm “and stuff like that: cinematic, evocative orchestral,” Ridler says.

He has the pleasure of collaborating with the legendary David McAllister, artistic director of The Australian Ballet, on all the major shoots. “We talk about the energy that’s required, the positions. He is very involved and brilliant and if it’s for the season’s campaign and the vibe for the year, then that’s more open.”

Ridler isn’t a purist, sometimes he will shoot thousands of images, sometimes just five: “When you are shooting, you know that you are striving to find and you know it when you see it.”

He teaches fashion photography at RMIT



University for one semester a year. “It’s motivating and an incredible experience helping other artists become better artists,” he says. “I studied at RMIT and some of the lecturers were extremely influential. I remember we were asked to write down a list of who we wanted to work with in our careers and the Aussie Ballet was at the top of the list. And Vogue.” Both he has achieved. An artist who particularly inspires him is Gian Lorenzo Bernini. “I am extremely influenced by his work, he was a humanist and a little bit anti-establishment, and I really like the comedy, sensuality and eroticism in his work. There is a sculpture that he did, the *Ecstasy of Saint Teresa*, which is the culmination of lots of epic events in his life — this was his comeback piece if you like. It was like visiting an old friend when I saw it in Rome. It was incredibly controversial at the time as it was the first time a baroque sculptor had explored eroticism through a work that was so blatantly religious as well.”

“THE THINGS I OFTEN FIND MOST DISARMING AND ENCHANTING ABOUT THEM IS THE THING THAT IS SLIGHTLY IMPERFECT.”

Ridler is fascinated by the theme of an almost secular spirituality. “I don’t necessarily adhere to religious principles, maybe that’s why I’m interested in cosmology as well. I gravitate to those sorts of things like the universe and how it all works fascinates me. It’s an enquiry, maybe that’s part of my essence.

“Immersive work that makes you forget yourself to me is what is iconic perhaps, like a collection of Rothkos that take you to another plane. His philosophy of his work is very important to me, he creates a portal into your consciousness and then into the universe and then to see the universe roaring back at you is staggering.”

Ridler’s mantra is visual. “I have a photograph of a galaxy very, very, far away, a group of stars and it’s humbling and empowering. We have one opportunity to have our own consciousness and experience the universe and I like the idea of just getting on with it. Be a bit reverent and respectful. Sometimes when I’m shooting I have this quiet thought, especially on location, about the light from the sun that takes more than two hundred thousand years to exit the sun’s surface and takes about seven minutes to get to earth, so what we are walking around in is ancient and was created before we walked out of Africa... we are a small speck in a time scale.”

Naturally, he rose early to capture the ephemeral moment of first light on Hamilton Island. “It’s been a remarkable trip, we had beautiful light on Pebble Beach — strong, dynamic — and then I photographed Ty King-Wall and Amber Scott (principal artists) on Whitehaven Beach. It was loving, tender, sensual. It was human, intimate... well, they are a couple.”

“This has been my first exhibition”, Ridler says proudly, surveying the large-scale photographs hung on the walls of Long Pavilion at qualia, featuring The Australian Ballet’s soloist, Benedicte Bemet.

“We shot them last year, all within 15 minutes of each other. Benedicte has an incredible sixth sense about what we are doing and it just naturally happens,” he says, “the world, nature, the cosmos and where it’s all going. That’s what my work means to me... but it’s all fairly subjective,” he laughs.



# THE SCENE IS SET

'Tis the season to serve up a feast and create a great atmosphere. REEF sits down with Darren Palmer, interior designer and tastemaker, for some insider table talk.

**REEF:** YOU STYLED THE SECRET DINNER AT AUDI HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK. WHAT WAS THE SECRET THAT HELPED BRING IT ALL TOGETHER?

**Darren Palmer:** "There's no great secret. I like to roam around a space and wrap my head around it by looking at what the highlights and drawbacks are, what the things I want to hide might be and the others that will need to draw your eye. In a big, industrial space like this [Hamilton Island aircraft hangar] I had to look at scale... I had to think about drama and impact. Sometimes huge spaces present more challenges than small ones. There's no great secret to this process but there is a whole bunch of thought."

**REEF:** WHAT MAKES FOR A MEMORABLE EVENT?

**DP:** "Entertainment or some sort of surprising element; the food; beautifully dressed tables; ambient and focal lighting; music appropriate to the type of function; the right accompanying drinks; a great guest list and something to take away from the evening. Oh, and make sure any formalities happen within the first half hour so you have everyone's attention before things start to get too lively."

**REEF:** WHAT'S THE WORST THING THAT CAN GO WRONG AT AN EVENT?

**DP:** "The worst thing that can happen is a lack of food or drink, getting the guest list wrong or having not enough guests. Isn't that everyone's nightmare? Having a party where no one turns up?"

**REEF:** BEST INTERIOR STYLE ADVICE YOU'VE EVER RECEIVED?

**DP:** "All of my early career was knowledge passed on by my mentor, Dayne Van Bree, so that entire foundation was the best piece of design advice. He taught me how to decorate and gave me all of the fundamentals that I live by to this day. I hope he reads my books and appreciates my take on his words so long ago and doesn't just think 'I told him that!'"

**REEF:** BEST INTERIOR ADVICE YOU'VE EVER GIVEN?

**DP:** "Do what is right for you and yours. And focus on defining a brief before you contemplate doing anything else at all."

**REEF:** IT'S THE HOLIDAY SEASON. WHAT ARE YOUR ESSENTIAL PLACE SETTINGS FOR CHRISTMAS?

**DP:** "Contrast on your table, from timber to metal, sparkle to matt, colourful to monochrome, variation on pattern, material

or size. Go for variation as well as tying things together through repetition."

**REEF:** FRESH OR FAUX FLOWERS?

**DP:** "Fresh. Faux plants have a place but where possible fresh is best."

**REEF:** MULTICOLOURED BAUBLES OR MONOTONE?

**DP:** "Either can work. We alternate between full technicolour and the perfect Martha Stewart silver and white version. Generally though it's colourful chaos."

**REEF:** WINE GLASSES; STEMS OR NO STEMS?

**DP:** "Both or either. I like stemless day-to-day and stems for special occasions."

**REEF:** SILVER OR GOLD CUTLERY?

**DP:** "Brass?"

**REEF:** LINEN OR SILK NAPERY?

**DP:** "Linen!"

**REEF:** SCENTED OR UNSCENTED CANDLES?

**DP:** "Scented. Stimulate all of the senses you can."

**REEF:** KINFOLK OR ECCENTRIC?

**DP:** "Classic."



PHOTOGRAPHY: FELIX FOREST; IMAGES FROM HOMESPACE BY DARREN PALMER (MURDOCH BOOKS).

Darren Palmer.



**REEF:** BEST COFFEE-TABLE BOOK THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO GIVE THIS CHRISTMAS?

**DP:** "HomeSpace by this guy Darren Palmer... Apparently it's a great read with beautiful photographs by the amazing Felix Forest."

## FLOWER POWER

We consulted our favourite florist George Low for the do's and don'ts of seasonal floral etiquette.



**REEF:** FAVOURITE SEASONAL CHRISTMAS FLOWER?

**George Low:** "Christmas Bush."

**REEF:** ARRANGED FLOWERS? OR LOOSE AND WILD?

**GL:** "Both."

**REEF:** HOT CLASHING OR TONAL COLOUR COMBINATIONS?

**GL:** "Contrasting."

**REEF:** TALL AND EPIC OR LOW AND SPRAWLING FOR CHRISTMAS TABLE SETTINGS?

**GL:** "Tall and epic."

**REEF:** WHAT SHOULD WE SEND AT CHRISTMAS? ORCHIDS OR POINSETTIAS... EEEK. WHAT WOULD YOU SEND?

**GL:** "Orchids always!"

**REEF:** FAKE OR FRESH CHRISTMAS TREE?

**GL:** "Fresh, of course!"

Instagram: @seedflora





Prawn trawler, NW Murchison under anchor after a nights harvesting 'Whitsundays Wild' prawns.

# WHITSUNDAYS WILD

To tick the trophy fish off the bucket list, you may have to get up early. And be patient. Very patient. But local fisherman Matt Calder does it for the love of the sea, solitude and the best seafood on earth. Here he tells Tracey Withers where he drops his line.



Matt Calder and a fresh catch.

Is fishing an art, a science or mostly a matter of persistence? "There's skill and technique to it for sure, but there's also some luck. It's not always something you can predict, but the Whitsundays is unique — local knowledge, understanding the moon and that some areas fish better on certain tides than others, really makes a difference. I fish for a living, so it's different to just dropping a line as most visitors to the island do, and it's hard work, no two ways about it, but I started for the love of it. I've been fishing since I was a little boy, with my Dad. I came to the island 18 years ago. I knew a guy from uni who lived on Hamilton Island and, through him, met people who ran fishing charters here. I just kept calling and calling to see if there was a job going. When one came up, I flew straight up and started taking visitors out every day, which was fantastic. Then I worked on a private boat for a family. That developed into doing what I love best

with a commercial licence to bring the catch back and sell it. My wife Bronwyn and I met about 12 months after I moved to the island. She managed the wildlife park for 15 years but then when we started the Fresh Island Seafood Hamilton Island, FISHI business, we went into it full-time together. We've got a small boat, a larger vessel and, right now, two prawn trawlers working locally out of the island. A trawler spends two weeks at sea every month, revolving around the moon. On a dark new moon, the boat goes out; when the moon's bright the prawns go quiet and the boat returns. Even just in the easy orbit of Hamilton Island, you can expect some amazing fishing. Last Sunday, I jumped in my little tinny and went around the back of Dent Island and caught 50 beautiful snapper. At this time of year, schools of tuna come in close, right in front of the yacht club, around the airport. There are a lot of mackerel year



On board the prawn trawler, NW Murchison.



'Whitsundays Wild' prawns fresh from the sea. Fresh blue leg king prawns and Japonicas prawn, endemic to this area.



FISHI fishing boat.



Local seafood. Tropical painted crayfish, mud crabs and tiger prawns.

round. We get great sport fishing — bluefin and yellowfin tuna swimming right through. The mainland is renowned for mud crab. There are long-tail bugs just south of Shore Island, we get Queensland mud scallop, blue swimmer and sand crab, and beautiful cuttlefish. At FISHI we call our prawns Whitsundays Wild because what we do is very unique: we fish blue-legged king prawn, tiger prawn and the japonicas prawn, which is a cross between the two that's very unique to the area. Out on the Great Barrier Reef you can fulfil a lot of dreams in one day. You can pull in trophy fish, prize fish, lots of coral trout and all different types of emperors and sweetlips, and you can snorkel and watch the marine life. It's just you and the blue... it's rare to see another boat out there most days. It's pristine and the interaction with sea creatures out there is amazing. Sometimes there are so many whales that getting any fish for us can be quite hard. There are certain zones of the reef where you can and cannot fish. The closest is Hook Reef, where you can fish. You can't fish the green zones around Whitehaven Beach but there are areas nearby where you can. Local knowledge is important. We're involved with the Reef Guardian initiative and want to do everything we can to fish sustainably and maintain the wellbeing of the reef. Of course, with recreational fishing there are restrictions, bag limits and fishing closure periods designed to let the coral fish breed. In sport fishing, the use of circle hooks,

which can release a fish in good condition, has been important. For commercial fishermen, there are very strict guidelines. We have to report in at the beginning of every trip, and before we come back and then the weights of each species are [recorded] and [must comply] with what's deemed sustainable. We also report on what we do with our catch, so it's traceable from the moment the fish comes out of the water. We have set numbers of nights we're allowed to go out for prawns. We have a device to steer sting rays, sharks and turtles away. There aren't that many commercial fishermen, so FISHI absolutely has a special relationship with chefs on Hamilton Island. It's about showcasing our incredible local produce from a World Heritage-listed ocean, the best wild-caught seafood on earth. We can go into qualia or the Hamilton Island Yacht Club or Mariners and talk to the wait staff who will be at the table. A really big part of what we do is deliver fresh catch to the door of any visitor's private house, villa or yacht. We'll explain how and exactly where it's caught, and how you can cook it beautifully. You don't need experience. We can also bring perfect ingredients such as macrobiotic sea salt and Pepe Saya cultured butter. Or you could call us, tell us you'd like to make a fish pie and we'll tell you that Spanish mackerel would be the right, firm texture for it. Nature's gift on dial. How beautiful is that?" Contact FISHI at [www.fishi.com.au](http://www.fishi.com.au).

Netsuke:  
Garden within  
an open clam,  
19th century.



# INCREDIBLE EDIBLE

Reef Treasure: reef  
lobster, cauliflower,  
seaweed, citrus,  
unveiled from its  
clam shell cover.



Josue Lopez.



qualia. Contemporary art. Culinary creative expression... When Audi asked Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art executive chef, Josue Lopez, to marry art and food in an Audi Hamilton Island Race Week event like no other, the results were spectacular. The award-winning chef shares his menu for the Art In Paradise Dinner with Rebecca Khoury.

“**T**his menu was a combination of three things: flavour first and foremost. We know that’s the end goal, it doesn’t matter how good it looks or how you serve it, if it doesn’t taste good then that’s it; the second was the artwork; and the third was Hamilton Island itself, knowing that some of the guests expected an island experience,” Lopez explains. And so the first canapé was classic island fare... well almost: a “monochromatic fish and chips” with the theme, blackwater, inspired by Anne Noble’s artwork, *Ruby’s room no. 17*. “We started off with the coral trout, which to me

is the king of fish. It’s my favourite fish in the world and native to the Coral Sea,” says Lopez. It was delicately poached until the protein had just set. “If we’re serving fish we want it to taste of fish. Clean flavours is such a motto. “For me serving fish and chips, there’s obviously the potato wafer, and tartare sauce, always, but we deconstructed it by taking the cornichons, parsley, capers and shallots, blitzing them in a high-speed blender and making it into a paste, and because I wanted monochrome, the black and white, the mayo had to be pure white, but in your mouth it amalgamates — fish and chips in a bite.”

PHOTOGRAPHY: KEN BUTTI; ARTWORKS COURTESY QAGOMA.

The second canapé was Eggs in a Nest, inspired by the beautiful nest installation, *Tender*, by Fiona Hall. “I wanted to provoke people to think ‘What am I going to eat? Some twigs maybe? Some quail eggs? Maybe the nest isn’t edible?’. And so we made these beautiful potato nests and spray-painted them with edible gold and the eggs were a sustainable caviar from Abu Dhabi, the Yasa caviar.” The yoghurt used to moisten it was buffalo yoghurt from Maleny, handmade for Lopez by Trevor Hart, the “trumpeting cheeseman”. Lopez added a floral note with some lemon myrtle. “We have lemon myrtle growing in Brisbane, so we packed it, gave it a wash and made a beautiful oil that gives it this floral and citrus flavour because all seafood needs an element of citrus, so that was super cool and fun.” And that’s just the canapés... The lobster entrée, Reef Treasure, drew inspiration from a 19th-century netsuke, or Japanese miniature sculpture. “The lobsters are

each hand dived, so there’s minimal impact, none of this dredging system. It’s almost paramount now in the QAGOMA restaurant, a lot of the produce is sustainable or ethically sourced,” says Lopez. The lobster was then gently cooked. “I’m into poaching at the moment as it retains all the flavour and you just have a greater control; it’s all evenly cooked.” It was given “a bit of a glisten” with what he calls ‘golden butter’, basted, blowtorched and finished off with cauliflower floret puree and finger limes, which are one of his favourite ingredients. “They come from a wonderful farm up at Rathdowney from the Lime Caviar Company. When René Redzepi from Noma came to do his Sydney stint, he said finger lime was his most prominent ingredient in Australia if not the world, and it’s from Queensland. I’m the ambassador of the Scenic Rim area and through that immersive process of discovering produce from Brisbane we discovered these finger limes.” Seaweed, scallop chips made using Hervey Bay



Fire of the Year 6, 2008, by Vandy Rattana.

“...WHEN YOU DELVE INTO A SUBJECT YOU HAVE LIGHT-BULB MOMENTS AND THINK THAT’S SO MEANT TO BE, IT’S ALMOST LIKE DISHES BECOME ORDAINED, OR PREORDAINED...”

to what the energies are trying to tell you,” says Lopez, clearly having done his research. The showstopper of the dish was the netsuke, a clam shell that covered and protected the “pearl”, which was the lobster. “I wanted it to be delicate and dainty and so the unveiling of the shell was important, a discovery.” The main course was a major moment of beef tartare inspired by Vandy Rattana’s haunting image of a Cambodian fire, *Fire of the Year 6*. “The beetroot element, the beetroot paint, was a tap tap tap tap [technique] and created a kind of flecked effect. We took the leaves and the shard of the baby beetroots, blended them and made green puree, with roasted beetroot puree underneath the beef,” the chef explains. The beef was coated in a dehydrated beetroot powder folded through some activated charcoal, to give it a coal-like effect. The beef itself was from the acclaimed Cape Grim in Tasmania. Hamilton Island also serves Cape Grim water, which Lopez says he has a lot of time for, “knowing it’s one of the purest waters in the world”.



After the Fire: Wagyu beef, beetroot, eucalyptus, forest pepper.

scallops, frozen but sliced thinly into the dehydrator as they were thawing. The dehydrated cauliflower florets spoke to the coral of the reef. “There’s a species of coral called cauliflower coral as well and when you delve into a subject you have light-bulb moments and think that’s so meant to be, it’s almost like dishes become ordained or preordained and it’s just listening and being intuitive

The tartare was mixed and finished off with 2016 Joseph First Run Extra Virgin Olive Oil, all folded together and seasoned with Murray River pink salt. “From there we did a beef jerky and we also added the native spice to that, some aromatics, wattle seed and bush tomato. The beetroot sourdough, which was the purple break on the dish, got broken up on top of the tartare and a little bit on the beef jerky, then a little bit of jus, because you know, beef and jus...”

A beautiful shiraz went into the jus with rosella powder for acidity. The oil used to roast the beetroots was then turned into a charcoal salt, creating the “ash” on the plate, with eucalyptus salt for the white powder. Finally, Lopez referenced the burnt-out timber of Rattana’s artwork with a charcoal pretzel. Desert was a tropical coastline inspired by the theme, Sweetmelt. “I thought we could create an optical illusion as one of the briefs for the dinner was to ‘create wonder’. I wanted it to look like the sand and sea meeting, the stars ended up on top because they didn’t really have a place on the bottom, and how cool is a fruit that wants to look like a star, so we had those dancing on top,” he explains. And so he sourced Scenic Rim macadamias from Canungra’s Greenlee Farm. “They hand-shell macadamias for us to order, so the macadamia sand is literally a praline-enhanced with maltodextrin to give it that light sand flavour,” says Lopez.

The veloute, or coconut soup, had enough cream to foam, cappuccino-style and he added a coconut tuile. He used tropical Queensland fruit, jaboticaba, which is the Brazilian



Cardinal's Hat: One morning in Mu, 1999, by Luke Roberts. Part of the Sweetmelt inspiration.

grapetree, grown in Bundaberg. “These things are crazy, they have a thick black skin and look like muscat grapes but when you bite into them, the tannins in the skin can be quite bitter.” When he knew he wanted a tropical dish Lopez called his suppliers to ask what’s in season, and they settled on passionfruit. “We had a passionfruit curd, no sugar at all because we needed that acidity to balance out the bitterness in the jaboticaba. Everything in balance. Then we had a sourdop and custard apple, that was the panna cotta underneath, and loquat. “The funny thing about the loquat is I didn’t realise that it was tropical fruit because in Norman Park, the Brisbane suburb I grew up in, the council must have grown them.

I used to go riding around eating loquats all the time, I didn’t even know what they were called until I became a chef!” he says. The loquats were blanched, peeled, and the seeds hulled. The lychee and chocolate-like element of the dessert was the black sapote. “It’s a chocolate pudding fruit. Plucked off the tree, it’s completely rock hard. You put them in the shed or somewhere warm about 25 degrees and they ferment essentially from the inside out, and so if it’s raw and you eat it it’s the most terrible thing in the world, the tannins will just blow your head off,” says Lopez with glee. “We enhanced that with a bit of honey and then blitzed that up as a gel and then finally the lychee sorbet. First time we’ve done it.” Job done. Plates clean.



Tropical Coastline: textures of custard apple, rambutan, loquat, carambola, brown butter sand, coconut, lychee.

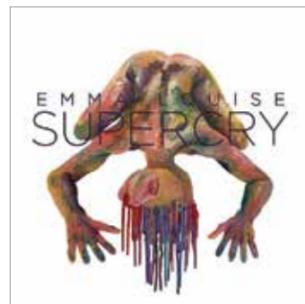
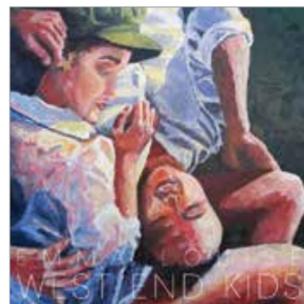
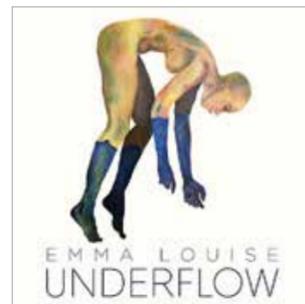
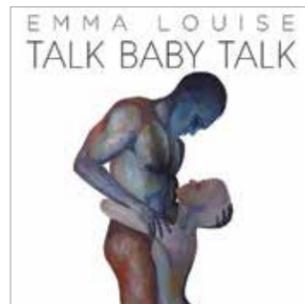
PHOTOGRAPHY: KEN BUTTI; ARTWORKS COURTESY QAGOMA.

Emma Louise.



IT'S PERSONAL

Album artwork by Emma Louise.



PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY OF EMMA LOUISE.

HEAR MY SONG

Townsville-born singer/songwriter Emma Louise performed during Audi Hamilton Island Race Week. Here she talks vulnerability, tropical air and why North Queensland will always be home. By Noelle Faulkner.

At the time of writing this piece, Bob Dylan has just won the Nobel Prize for Literature, and the 'Is-he-or-isn't-he worthy' debate has begun. It raises all sorts of arguments about art, literature and songwriting. Whether you can be as affected by a song as you can a piece of writing? Is there a difference? Can a song, a pop song no less, spark an idea? Can that idea stand up against words etched into eternity like those of T.S. Eliot, William Faulkner or Ernest Hemingway? A great writer piques the imagination and moves people with their words, so what differs between music and literature?

Well, the former has an ace up their sleeve: the highly nuanced, emotional advantage of music. If used correctly, this form of storytelling can enter the cracks that perhaps a book cannot. Townsville-born singer Emma Louise is a great songwriter. And she has a paper trail to prove it. In 2007, at just 16 years old, she took out two Queensland Music Awards (a music prize for Queensland songwriters), returning to clean up with more accolades in 2011 and 2013. She has been nominated for an ARIA for Best Female Artist and was even tapped by Saint Laurent, when her track, *Jungle*, was used as the soundtrack to the French fashion house's new campaign for fragrance Black Opium. But also, Louise's music has a magical way of getting into your bones — a skill that guests at Audi Hamilton Island Race Week were lucky enough to experience in person when she performed at qualia, at the Art in Paradise dinner, during her first visit to the island. Louise was born and raised up in northern Queensland and has a special connection with the tropical air. "The weather reminds me of growing up," says the now Melbourne-based singer. "It's got a vibe of 'home' to me. I remember it was very lush and full of life. We would drive around a lot and the mountains just tower over everything, it's so beautiful up there. I realise now, I took it for granted. When I left, I was like 'Damn, I had it pretty good'."

Louise says she gets the same feeling when returning to Australia from overseas. "We don't realise we have all the good sh't here. We are so lucky!" Her Hamilton Island experience of being on a catamaran with her family and watching turtles was one such moment, she said. Louise's wanderlust has taken her to France (where she made her latest album, *Supercry*), a remote mountain-top shack in Japan and beyond, and almost always, she says, the biggest inspiration comes via the landscape, though mankind does play a part. "I love travelling because it separates you from everything you're connected to," she says. "You're reminded of your humanness, and meeting other humans on the other side of the planet that feel exactly the same thing as you, but are in a different situation: I love that." The above statement is also true for Louise's music, which is written from personal experience and brimming with a sense of strength-through-vulnerability. "I don't think about it," she says when asked about exposing her heart via her lyrics. "I think it's an artist's job; to share what they're going through so that everyone else can relate to it." *Supercry* centres on relationships and deals with self-exploration aplenty, so for those who have recently experienced a breakup, a heartache or a yearning that pulls you across seas, tread carefully. It's music that creeps up on you. "I went through a huge shift and a breakup, it rearranged everything in my world. So I wrote about that," she says of the subject matter, a slight shrug in her voice. The fact Louise counts Dylan as one of her songwriting heroes makes perfect sense. "He gets right down under your skin, he writes very humanly... his songs are pure," she says, commenting on the Nobel debate and Dylan's recipe for songs that endure. As for hers? "To be honest in writing and to be able to reach people's inner-soul parts." Mission accomplished. You've been warned.

*Supercry is out now.*

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Seafolly bikini top \$119, bottoms \$79, fedora hat \$59, both from SALT. Kerry Sea beach towel \$25, from Hamilton Island Designs; Mariana necklace \$239, bracelet \$165, both from Hamilton Island Jewellery; Havanas espadrilles \$54.99, from The Hut; Maison Scotch charm and bag \$69.95, from Marina Retail.



Seafolly bag \$79, sunglasses \$79.95, from SALT; Turkish towel \$75, Ipanema thongs \$35.95, Bodacious dress \$49.95, all from Hamilton Island Designs; Ripcurl sunscreen \$15.99, Toms bag \$40, Billabong bikini \$49.99, Billabong denim shorts \$69.99, all from The Hut.

## HOLIDAY: IN THE BAG



Ripcurl sunscreen \$15.99, from The Hut; belt \$79.00, from qualia boutique; Henri Lloyd shirt \$129, swim shorts \$99, Scotch & Soda towel \$149.95, Jets swimmers \$105, all from Marina Retail; Seafolly Hampton cap \$49, from SALT.

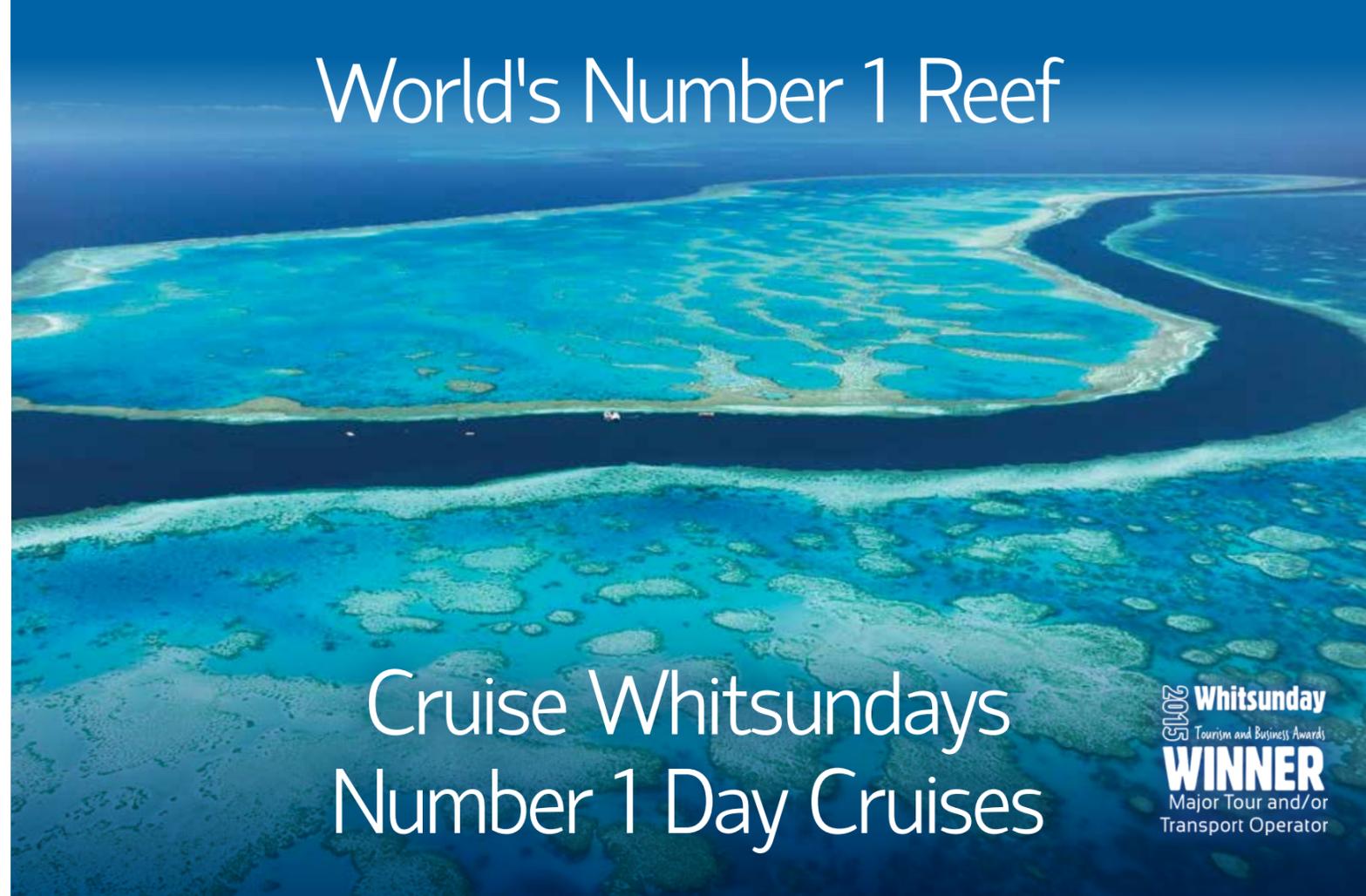
The Hatmaker hat \$320, from qualia boutique; Maison Scotch shirt \$169.95, shorts \$129.95, Scotch & Soda bag \$149.95, all from Marina Retail; Seafolly shoes \$89, sunscreen \$19.96, both from SALT; Nakamol earrings \$79, Von Treskow necklace \$299, both from Hamilton Island Jewellery; Dot Dash sunglasses \$59.99, from The Hut.



PHOTOGRAPHY: KARA ROSENBLUND.



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Cape Wickham Links, King Island, Australia.



Hamilton Island Golf Club, The Whitsundays, Australia.



Kauri Cliffs, North Island, New Zealand.



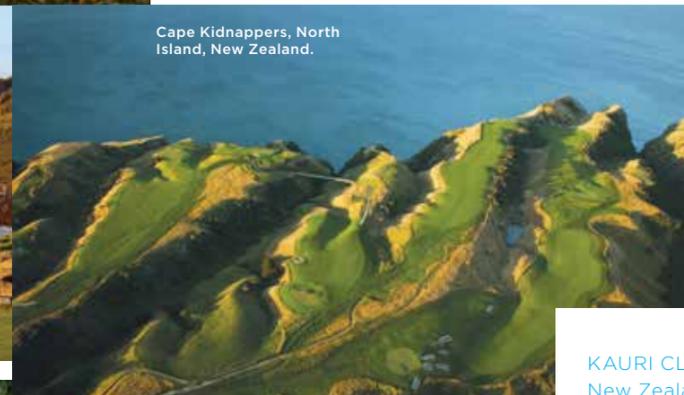
Bandon Dunes, Oregon, USA.

# GET YOUR GOLF ON

Million-dollar views are just the beginning. The 20 golf courses that should be on your bucket list. By Brendan James.



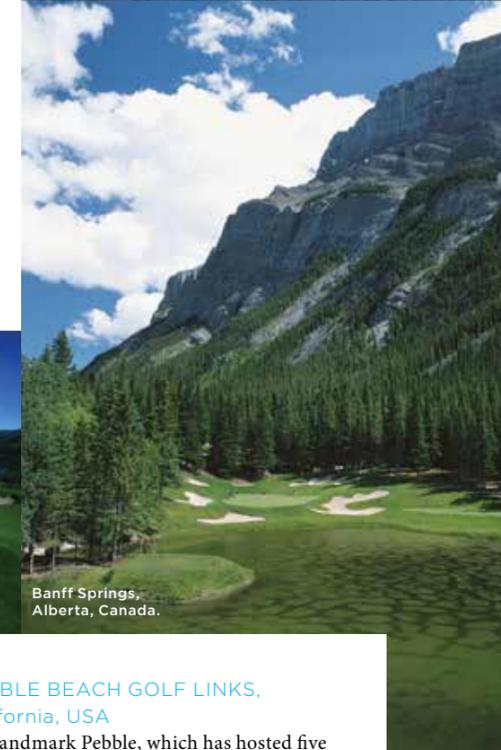
Ocean Dunes, King Island, Australia.



Cape Kidnappers, North Island, New Zealand.



Jack's Point, South Island, New Zealand.



Banff Springs, Alberta, Canada.



Ria Bintan, Bintan Island, Indonesia.



Pinnacle Point Estate, George, South Africa.



Nirwana Bali Golf Club, Bali, Indonesia.



Pebble Beach Golf Links, California, USA.

**HAMILTON ISLAND GOLF CLUB, The Whitsundays, Australia**  
The Whitsundays long deserved a world class golf course that makes full use of the islands' exceptional scenery. And in 2009 it finally arrived. Hamilton Island's setting atop neighbouring Dent Island is amazing but the Peter Thomson and Ross Perrett-designed layout is a stern test with thick, tropical vegetation lining both sides of most holes, already laid over dramatic terrain.

**CAPE WICKHAM LINKS, King Island, Australia**  
There might be views across Bass Strait on most holes, but Cape Wickham is more than just an ocean-side lookout. The variety and quality of the holes designed by Mike DeVries and Darius Oliver blend so beautifully with the spectacular King Island surrounds, with wide fairways inviting a strategic approach and creative green complexes that make for a challenging round.

**OCEAN DUNES, King Island, Australia**  
King Island's second world-class course opened all 18 holes for play in October 2016 and it is anticipated it will join its neighbour Cape Wickham as a world-ranked layout. The course, designed by acclaimed architect Graeme Grant, has several holes running right along the ocean shore, while the remainder twist and turn inland, over and through high sand dunes.

**RIA BINTAN (Ocean course), Bintan Island, Indonesia**  
The breathtaking Ocean Course at Ria Bintan features well-manicured playing surfaces and equally beautiful views of the South China Sea. It is also home to one of the best par-3s in Asia. The 155-metre 9th hole is played from an elevated tee across the edge of the ocean to a green perched above an outcrop of massive red rocks jutting into the sea.

**NIRWANA BALI GOLF CLUB, Bali, Indonesia**  
On Bali's stunning southwest coast is where you'll find the Greg Norman-designed Nirwana Bali, a visual masterpiece with dramatic ocean views and lush landscapes. Norman routed his creation over rice paddies and through clumps of rainforest, while the holes that run along the adjoining beach are hard to forget.

**PINNACLE POINT ESTATE, George, South Africa**  
Pinnacle Point Estate features seven majestic holes lining rock cliffs overlooking the Indian Ocean, with four of these played over ocean and cliff. All 18 holes were designed to fit the contours of the land with very little earth moved during construction. This is an inspiring location with dramatic views and breathtaking terrain.

**KAURI CLIFFS, North Island, New Zealand**  
Kauri Cliffs features six holes that skirt the edges of the cliffs, while 15 of the 18 holes afford Bay of Islands and Pacific Ocean views. Dramatic terrain, greenscapes and bunkering are the hallmark of a round here.

**CAPE KIDNAPPERS, North Island, New Zealand**  
Kauri Cliffs' sister course, Cape Kidnappers, has been hailed as one of the greatest courses to open in the modern era. While the inland holes are genuinely world-class offerings, the overwhelming mastery of this design is the routing of holes covering the ridges and fingers of land closest to the cliff tops, which sit 140 metres above the sea.

**JACK'S POINT, South Island, New Zealand**  
There are no ocean views to be found at Queenstown's Jack's Point. Instead, impressive holes are set against the backdrop of the 2,300-metre Remarkables mountain range on one side, and postcard vistas of Lake Wakatipu on the other. Combine this scenery with the rocky outcrops, steep bluffs and native scrub flanking many holes and Jack's Point easily rates as one of the most visually spectacular inland courses in the world.

**PEBBLE BEACH GOLF LINKS, California, USA**  
The landmark Pebble, which has hosted five US Open Championships, has been beloved by golfers for nearly a century. The layout makes for great theatre in tournaments, with its best holes hugging the dramatic Monterey Peninsula coastline. Included among these is the 96-metre downhill 7th hole, where the green sits just metres away from the crashing surf.

**BANDON DUNES, Oregon, USA**  
Links golf in isolated locations has had a resurgence in recent years, leading to the arrival of some spectacular courses. Much of that can be attributed to the success of Bandon Dunes and its owner Mike Keiser. Bandon Dunes proved spectacular golf, no matter where it is and how hard it is to reach, will attract the masses. Bandon Dunes has been so successful, there are now five courses dotted its slice of Pacific Ocean coastline.

**BANFF SPRINGS, Alberta, Canada**  
High in the heart of the Canadian Rockies is Banff Springs, which sits in the crook of a valley overlooked by the castle-like Fairmont hotel and the Banff mountain range. The Stanley Thompson designed course itself is wedged beautifully between mountain peaks and the

# GOLF

Old Head Links, Kinsale, Ireland.

Cabot Cliffs, Nova Scotia, Canada.

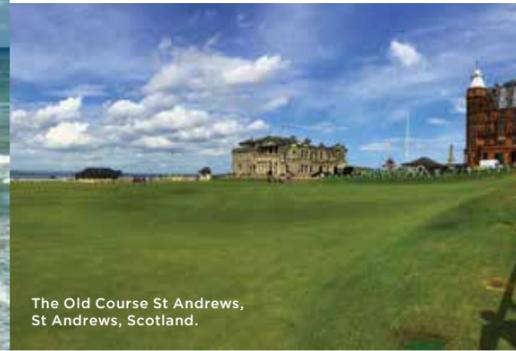
Royal County Down, Newcastle, Northern Ireland.

Quivira Golf Club, Baja California Peninsula, Mexico.

Golf Club Crans-sur-Sierre, Crans-Montana, Switzerland.

Trump Turnberry, Turnberry, Scotland.

Thracian Cliffs, Kavarna, Bulgaria.



twisting glacial Bow River. There are several memorable holes including the 4th — known as Devil's Cauldron — which drops nearly 30 metres from the

tee over a glacial pond to a green set into the mountains.

**CABOT CLIFFS, Nova Scotia, Canada**  
Cabot Cliffs was added to the adjoining Links course in June this year and is already being heralded as one of the world's finest golfing experiences.

The Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw design is sliced into the spectacular Cape Breton landscape and takes you on a journey from cliff to cliff and across rolling sand dunes, with a coastal wind being a constant.

**QUIVIRA GOLF CLUB, Baja California Peninsula, Mexico**  
At the tip of Baja California Peninsula is Quivira, a Jack Nicklaus designed course marked by its combination of dramatic granite cliffs, windswept dunes and desert hills. The layout starts at the beach, winding up onto the cliff-tops and hills where the views are as impressive as the challenge of the course itself.

**OLD HEAD LINKS, Kinsale, Ireland**  
Old Head is perhaps the only course in the world built entirely on a promontory. The course is routed to all points of the compass on the diamond-shaped property that rises to more than 100 metres above the Atlantic Ocean. Every hole here is exposed to an ever-present wind, adding to the stern challenge the par-72 presents.

**ROYAL COUNTY DOWN (Championship links), Newcastle, Northern Ireland**  
Royal County Down has been hosting golfers for more than 120 years and is ranked by many as the best course in the world. The legendary Old Tom Morris laid out the course between the high gorse-covered sand dunes, which dominate

the landscape. There are few more inspiring sights looking down from the crest of the 9th fairway across the shore of Dundrum Bay and the Mountains of Mourne beyond the green.

**TRUMP TURNBERRY, Turnberry, Scotland**  
For Australians, Turnberry is perhaps better known as the place where Greg Norman won his first Open Championship in 1986. In recent times, the course on Scotland's Ayrshire coast has had a major redesign and a new stretch of coastal holes includes a par-3 destined to be considered among the world's best.

**THE OLD COURSE ST ANDREWS, St Andrews, Scotland**  
For the golfing purist, there is no view that gets the heart fluttering more than rounding the turn on the Old Course at St Andrews to start playing the holes back into town. With each shot hit on the back nine of the famed course, the Auld Grey Toon gets closer as you follow in the footsteps of every great player the game has seen and walk across the Swilken Bridge back to the Home of Golf.

**GOLF CLUB CRANS-SUR-SIERRE, Crans-Montana, Switzerland**  
This Seve Ballesteros redesigned course high in the Swiss Alps is arguably the most scenic tournament layout in the world. The host course of the European Masters is at such a high altitude that drives fly much further here than at sea level. If you're planning to test this theory, visit during summer as the course is under a few metres of snow for nearly six months of the year.

**THRACIAN CLIFFS, Kavarna, Bulgaria**  
This Gary Player creation is one of the most photographed courses in Europe... and for good reason. All 18 holes present a panoramic view of the Black Sea. But no hole gets you closer to the ocean than the par-4 7th where the tee lies atop a small rock platform island, joined to the course by a small bridge.

# EXPLORE HAMILTON ISLAND



SAIL



CRUISE & DINE



DIVE



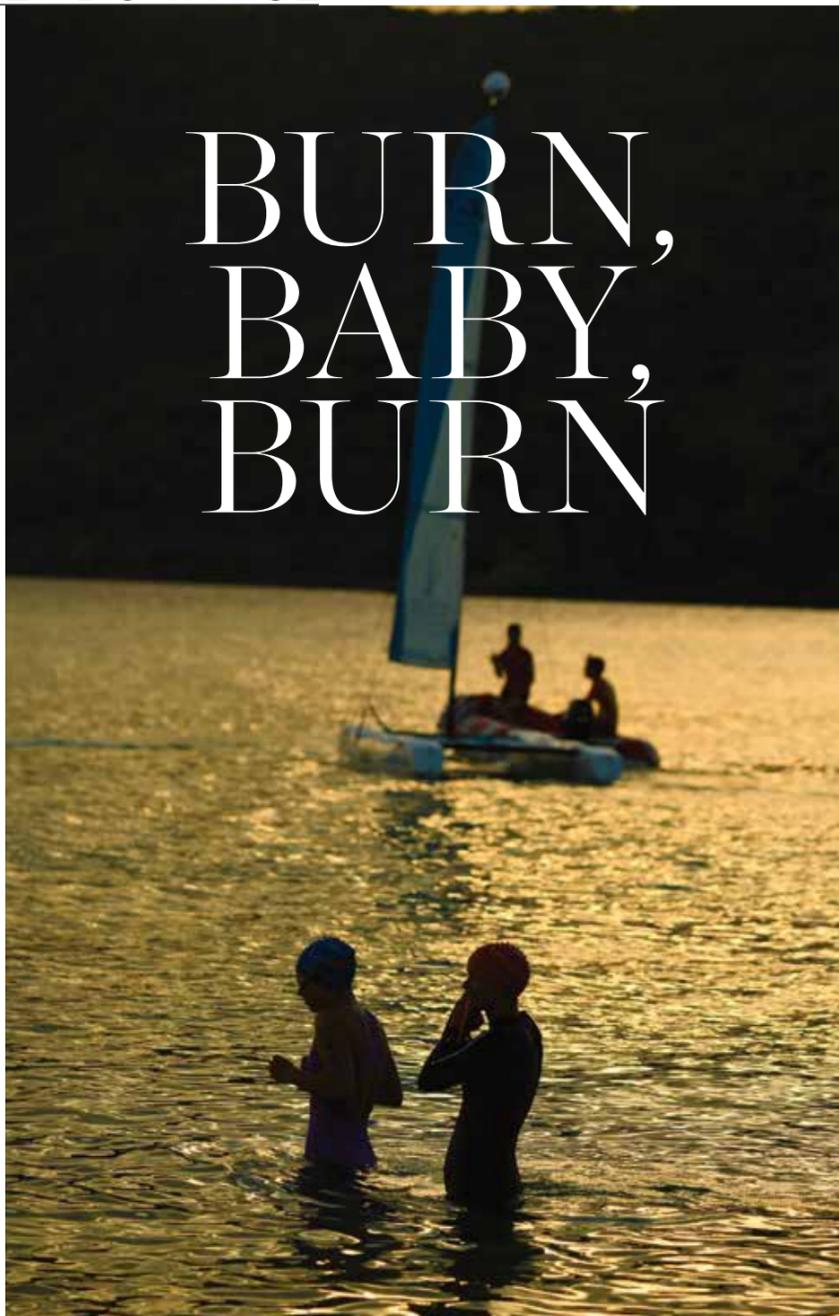
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# BURN, BABY, BURN



They came and yes they conquered. Three hundred and thirty six competitors lined up for the FujiFilm Triathlon. REEF debriefed with winners Natalie Van Coevorden and Jake Birtwhistle about why Hamilton Island is on the athletic bucket list.



The swim at Catseye Beach.



Natalie Van Coevorden.

NATALIE VAN COEVORDEN  
AGE: 24  
HOME STATE: NSW  
TRI TIME: 1:11:02

**REEF:** CONGRATULATIONS ON LINE HONOURS. YOU'RE BOTH PROFESSIONAL TRIATHLETES, BUT, FOR REAL, HOW MUCH DID THIS RACE HURT?  
**NATALIE VAN COEVORDEN:** "I've been doing triathlon for six years now and it's always nice to take the win at any event, but especially here. This was my first time at Hamilton Island — I kind of got a bit of a shock. The hills. After the first hill, I was like 'OK, it can't get worse after this'. Then in the last kilometre there's the hill. At that point, I was just thinking 'Oh god, Natalie. You can't walk this!'. It's world-class hard, even for elite athletes. Then the sprint finish was on soft sand. Brutal. I diverted down onto the harder sand. I was exhausted. My parents said they've never seen me go over the line like that before!"  
**JAKE BIRTWHISTLE:** "It was very tough. I got a bit of a gap and could run my own race, but even though I did it [and won] last year, out on course I was surprised how tough it was. It was really humid, too."

**REEF:** THE HAMILTON ISLAND EVENT IS ONE OF THE ONLY ONES IN WHICH AMATEURS GET TO NOT ONLY LINE UP WITH BUT TALK SHOP WITH PROS LIKE YOU GUYS, RIGHT?  
**JB:** "Yeah, here they really make mingling a priority. The race director organised for Natalie and I to go out to dinner at coca chu — it's really good; a cool atmosphere down by the water — with a local triathlon club. They could ask us how we do it professionally and talk about technical things. That doesn't happen often."  
**REEF:** OR DOES BIKING UP AN AIRPORT RUNWAY, WE GUESS?  
**NVC:** "The airport ride is iconic! Everyone talks about it. It's the reason they come. You've got to take in the moment in a place like this."



Jake Birtwhistle.

JAKE BIRTWHISTLE  
AGE: 21  
HOME STATE: TASMANIA  
TRI TIME: 1:06:47

**REEF:** YOU'VE BOTH JUST COME OFF THE WORLD SERIES TOUR AND RACE IN SPECTACULAR PLACES. WHY'S THIS ONE OF THE BEST SIDELINE COURSES?  
**NVC:** "We race in cool cities such as Hamburg and Stockholm. The thing here is it's paradise and you get a race. It's got the hilly, hot, technical component that a lot of places don't have these days because race times are trying to get faster so they're often made flat. I wasn't racing the time here, it's about the course."  
**JB:** "There's not any course I've ever done that compares to how challenging it is on Hamilton Island. It's really well organised here and a great place to get amongst the triathlon community."

PHOTOGRAPHY: DELLY CARR.

**REEF:** IS THAT YOUR FAVOURITE LEG?  
**NVC:** "No, actually. I started off as a swimmer, so that's my favourite. Crystal-blue water like at Catseye Beach makes for a nice swim so I decided to give it a good crack. I led out of the water with about 15 seconds on the other girls."  
**JB:** "Running is my favourite. Not that it's easier, because it's the last of the three and you're carrying all that fatigue. The swim's my weaker leg at the moment, so I am all structured around giving everything I have there."  
**REEF:** SO IS 'START HARD' THE STRATEGY?  
**NVC:** "Yes and no. It gave me space but I like to race one leg at a time. That keeps my energy fresh: if you think too far ahead, you're not thinking about the processes you need to go through just to keep going forward. We also say



Racing on Catseye Beach.



Natalie Van Coevorden.

“FOR A SPRINT TRIATHLON LIKE THIS YOU DON’T NEED TO CARB UP TOO MUCH. KNOWING WHAT TO EAT IS IMPORTANT.”



Epic endurance.



Natalie Van Coevorden riding the iconic airport runway.

there’s a fourth component: the swim, the bike ride, the run and the transitions. That’s really key, too.”

**REEF:** DO YOU HAVE A RACE PLAN?  
**JB:** “Yeah, I usually write my strategy and give it to my coach for input. Even for an amateur competing, it can’t be a bad idea to go in knowing what you’re going to do in each leg. Talk to other athletes about how they approach things, read online... there’s a lot of information out there if you don’t have a coach.”

**REEF:** HOW DID THE HUMIDITY CHANGE YOUR RACE PREP?  
**NVC:** “The humidity is all about nutrition. Obviously hydration, but I also have a little more salt in my food so I don’t cramp. I’ll also eat a little earlier so there’s more time for food to settle in the heat. For a sprint triathlon like this you don’t need to carb up too much. Knowing what to eat is important. I had coffee, eggs and toast, with some salt.”

**REEF:** DO YOU HAVE A PRE-RACE RITUAL?  
**JB:** “This was all different for me. I usually do afternoon starts and [this time] I set my alarm for 4am. That was a new ritual.”  
**NVC:** “I woke up at 4.20am for the 6am start. I do my hair. Haha! A side braid at the front and then join it at the back...”

**REEF:** TACTICAL. AERODYNAMIC, WON’T GET UP IN YOUR FACE ON THE BIKE...  
**NVC:** “Haha! Then I like to listen to some electro music to pump myself up before I go and set up all my gear.”

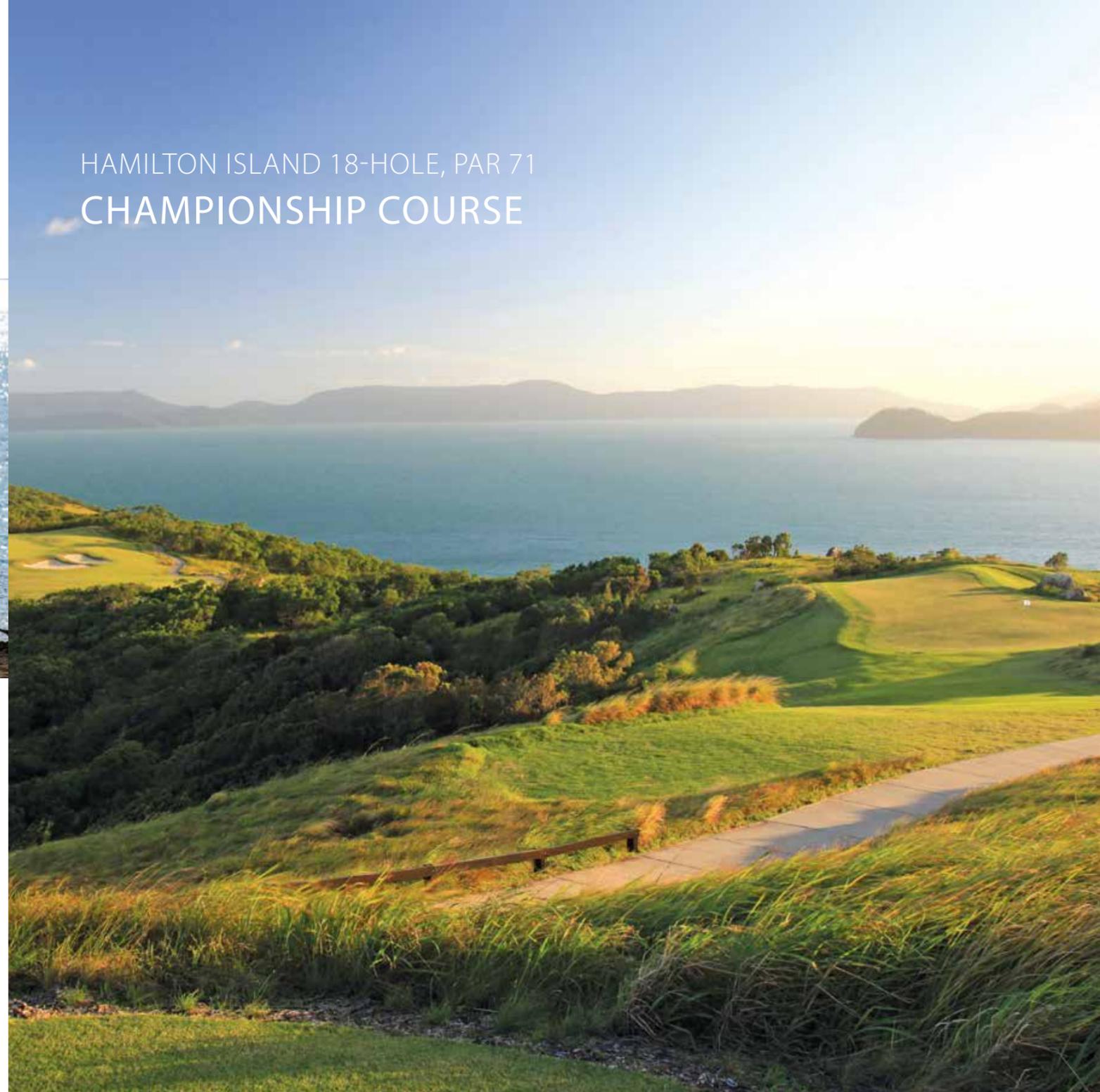
**REEF:** THE HAMILTON ISLAND RACING HASHTAG IS #RACEHARDRECOVERHARDER. IT’S ALL ABOUT THE APRÈS-CHILL. SHARE WITH US HOW YOU CELEBRATED VICTORY?  
**NVC:** “I had a nap and breakfast No.2 at the Pool Terrace at Reef View Hotel, then relaxed doing some stand-up paddle-boarding and kayaking for the rest of the day — being non-competitive! I did the Ocean Swim [and she won it] the next day and, on Monday, I did the Dent Dash on the golf course as a bit of a social run before I flew home.”  
**JB:** “I jumped straight in the water to cool off. Then I had a nap and did some sightseeing. I competed in the swim, too. And the Dent Dash over at the golf course is a cool thing. It’s beautiful. I don’t golf but now I want to.”

**REEF:** SO WAY LESS LAZING-BY-POOL THAN WE’D DO! YOU ELITE ATHLETE TYPES ARE MENTAL.  
**NVC:** “We can’t do it. We can’t chill for a whole day. I get the jitters if I lie down for too long.”

To register for a Hamilton Island Endurance event visit [www.hamiltonisland.com.au](http://www.hamiltonisland.com.au)

PHOTOGRAPHY: DELLY CARR.

## HAMILTON ISLAND 18-HOLE, PAR 71 CHAMPIONSHIP COURSE



Located just a stone’s throw from Hamilton Island, on neighbouring Dent Island, the 18-hole championship Hamilton Island Golf Club has some of the most spectacular views of any golf course in the world, making it the perfect place to learn how to play or brush up on your golfing skills. The Clubhouse is ideally perched to catch the soft sea breeze and to take in the stunning views of the Coral Sea. It’s a great spot for long, relaxed lunches or a relaxing drink after your time on the course.

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

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



# MARINE TURTLES: THE LOWDOWN

Talking turtles with Dr Mark Read, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority manager of operations support and species expert. By Roxy Lola.



Green turtle.



Green turtle.



Green turtle eggs.

**D**r Mark Read is the go-to expert for all things marine turtles. His avid childhood interest in reptiles saw him complete a science degree at the University of Queensland in Brisbane. His first postgraduate research was on the diet of green turtles in Moreton Bay. He later completed a PhD in crocodiles and began his career with the Queensland Turtle Conservation project at the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. Dr Read remains close to the project, with its aim of protecting the Great Barrier Reef and its animals for current and future generations to enjoy. He's a true Aussie reptile lover who has been studying these magnificent creatures for 26 years. So who better to speak with to uncover more on the marine turtles living on the Great Barrier Reef.

MARINE TURTLES HAVE BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR MORE THAN 150 MILLION YEARS...

And it's all down to fossil evidence. "The longevity of the marine turtles and the fossil evidence, clearly demonstrates the evolution of the marine turtles into the species we see nowadays. There's been a number of different types of marine turtles but they're obviously very closely related to the freshwater turtles and land tortoises like the Galapagos land turtles. They're all very closely linked whether they're found in marine [environments], fresh water or on land."

THE GREEN AND HAWKSBILL TURTLES ARE MOST COMMONLY FOUND AROUND HAMILTON ISLAND... These two know where the party is at. The green turtle is the most frequently spotted of all six marine turtle species found in the Great Barrier Reef, especially near Hamilton Island. They are primarily herbivorous, feeding on seagrass, algae and mangrove fruit. They get their name from their green body fat. The hawksbill feed on algae, seagrass and

PHOTOGRAPHY: COPYRIGHT COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA (GBRMPA).



Hawksbill turtle.

sponge. Both species of turtles can be quite shy but don't think they don't have attitude. "We put tags on their flippers so we can recognise the unique individual," says Dr Read. "Some species will actually try and chase you around the beach once you've tagged them because they get a bit upset."

## TEMPERATURE-DEPENDENT SEX DETERMINATION

When the marine turtles come on shore to lay eggs, they really have their work cut out for them. The flatback sea turtles lay an average of 50-53 eggs, the hawksbill 100-110, and the green turtle a whopping 130 eggs. It takes between eight and 12 weeks for the eggs to hatch, depending on the incubation. "One of the really cool things about marine turtles is that the sex of the hatchling isn't determined by a genetic contribution from mum and dad like mammals are: it's actually primarily determined by the temperature of the nest during incubation," says Dr Read. "Temperature is critical. With marine turtles, lower temperatures produce

“CRIKEY! IT’S AN INTERESTING PARADOX, FOR AN ANIMAL WE’VE BEEN STUDYING FOR SO LONG THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS WE DON’T KNOW.”



Green turtle.

**GO SLOW FOR THOSE BELOW**

The most likely places for you to encounter turtles are shallow areas in the water around seagrass meadows and coral reefs, so the chances of accidentally hitting a turtle are increased. Look out for turtles to make sure you don’t run into them.

**LIGHT**

When hatchlings come out of the nest, they use the lowest light horizon as a cue. The amount of light produced in the urban environments along the east coast of Australia poses a problem for the turtles, actually attracting the hatchlings back up the beach instead of directing them into the water.

**BIGGEST MYSTERY?**

“Crikey! It’s an interesting paradox, for an animal we’ve been studying for so long there are a lot of things we don’t know.” The two big mysteries, according to Dr Read? “Where they go once they leave the beach is still a bit of a mystery, and whether they can communicate between each other. We don’t know much or have any appreciation for those things.”

**INDIGENOUS VALUES**

Marine turtles are an important part of indigenous culture. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people hunt these species to preserve family relations, and they are also important in ceremonial instances. “My understanding is that for a lot of indigenous groups associated with the water, turtles play a fundamentally important part to their culture. It’s one of those special moments, being on a beach with a local traditional owner talking about turtle conservation management. I have to say those are some of the special moments that I remember the most. To be able to learn from people who have such a deep connected appreciation of marine turtles is really quite awe inspiring.”

**SHAKING UP THE SEA AT RAINE ISLAND**

Raine Island, in the northern Great Barrier Reef, supports the world’s largest aggregation of nesting green turtles. In a big nesting season, there can be somewhere between 60,000 and 100,000 turtles in the water around the island. “When you think about each of those turtles having an average weight of about 120 kilograms, that’s a tonnage of turtles,” says Dr Read. You said it.



Green turtle hatching on Raine Island.



Hawksbill turtle.

predominantly males and high temperatures produce predominantly females. Interestingly, that relationship is switched around in other species like crocodiles.” This raises some concerns about the impact of climate change because as the air temperature heats up and the beaches become progressively warmer, more and more hatchlings may be exposed to the warmer temperatures likely to produce more females.

**PREDATORS**

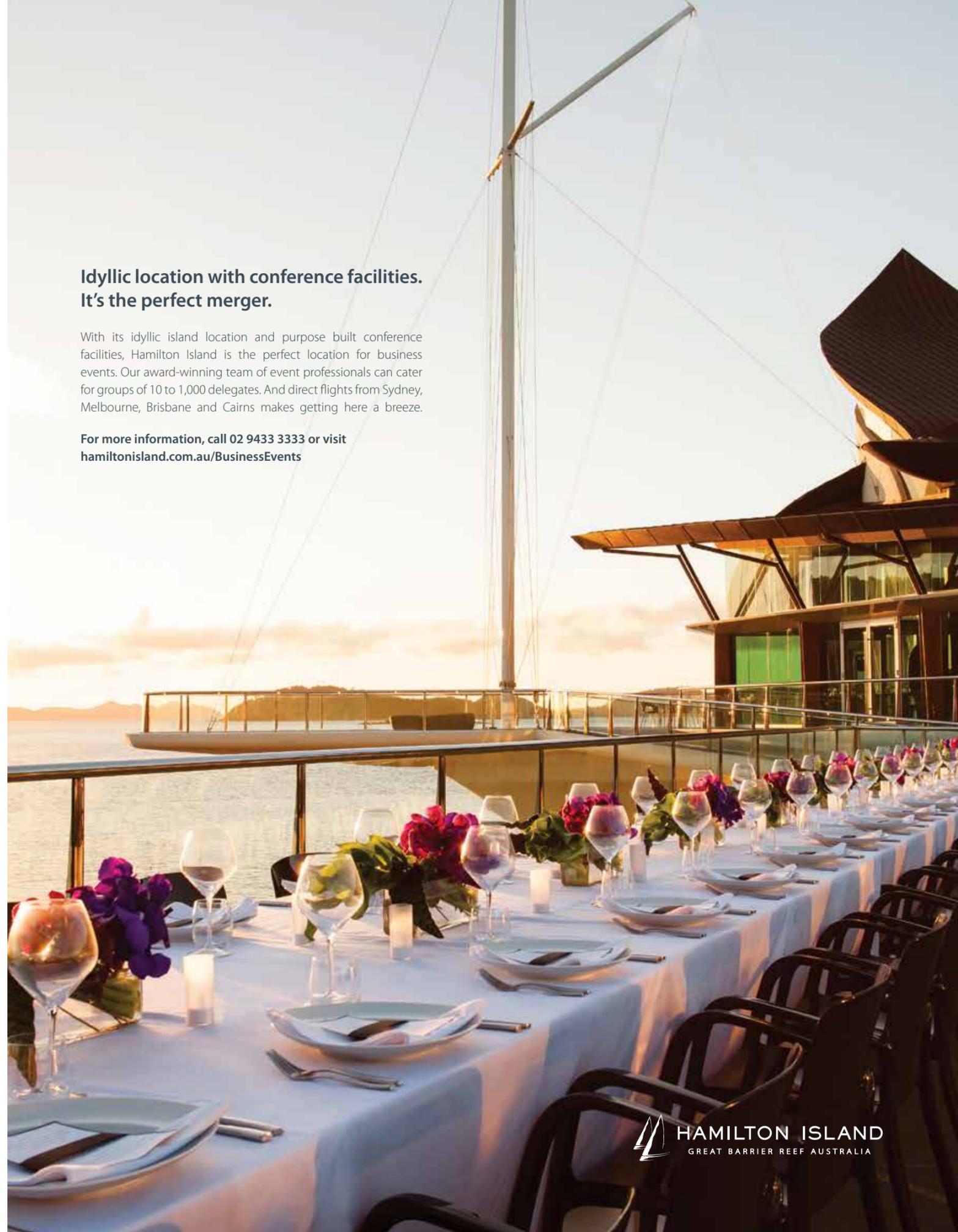
Turtles have a lot of enemies... especially when they’re young. When turtle hatchlings come out of the egg and run down the beach, they’re just 40-50 millimetres long, meaning almost anything will eat them. “It’s incredibly tough being a turtle hatchling. They will get eaten by ghost crabs on the beach, goannas, birds, a whole range of things. And in the water, all the marine predators like sharks and big fish like trevally will eat little hatchlings,” explains Dr Read. As the turtle gets bigger, animals such as sharks and crocodiles become natural predators. We’re with the turtles.

PHOTOGRAPHY: COPYRIGHT COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA (GBRMPA).

**Idyllic location with conference facilities. It’s the perfect merger.**

With its idyllic island location and purpose built conference facilities, Hamilton Island is the perfect location for business events. Our award-winning team of event professionals can cater for groups of 10 to 1,000 delegates. And direct flights from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Cairns makes getting here a breeze.

For more information, call 02 9433 3333 or visit [hamiltonisland.com.au/BusinessEvents](http://hamiltonisland.com.au/BusinessEvents)





The Great Whitehaven Beach Run.



Stamford Financial Hamilton Island Hilly Marathon.



Active Women's Weekend.



Weekends of Wonderment.



Audi Hamilton Island Race Week.

# DIARY DATES

Open your calendars and take note, Hamilton Island is buzzing with events all year round. By Esther Holmes.

2017

**APRIL 30 STAMFORD FINANCIAL HAMILTON ISLAND HILLY MARATHON**

We are throwing down the challenge once more for marathon runners to take on 42.2 kilometres of mountainous Hamilton Island terrain in what is now one of the most epic endurance events in Australia, the Stamford Financial Hamilton Island Hilly Marathon. If the half marathon is more your pace, take part in the 21.1-kilometre race, and the event also includes a 3 X 7-kilometre relay plus a kids' fun run. It's all part of the Endurance Series and attracts visitors and locals all prepared to battle it out on this epic course.

**MAY 5-7 WEEKENDS OF WONDERMENT**

The purpose of this weekend is the chance to get up close with some passionate and dedicated creatives. Past Weekends of Wonderment have included renowned florists, candle-makers, chefs and milliners. If you love making things, and adore craft, this event is a unique opportunity to watch and learn with the

very best in their field of expertise. All willingly share their artisanal secrets and send you home with fresh ideas and lots of inspiration.

**MAY 5-8 ACTIVE WOMEN'S WEEKEND FEATURING THE MOTHER'S DAY CLASSIC**

Time to sign up for the Active Women's Weekend, for your opportunity to learn from experts committed to sharing serious coaching tips on running, strength and endurance techniques. During this weekend, Hamilton Island also hosts the annual Mother's Day Classic, a Walk in the Park. It's a fundraiser for breast-cancer research, and a way of saying thanks to mums all over Australia. Dress up in pink and join the island community and other guests in this walk for a good cause. It's fun to do something like this together.

**JUNE 18 THE GREAT WHITEHAVEN BEACH RUN**

There is nowhere more glorious to sprint for a photo finish than on one of the most photogenic beaches in all of the Whitsunday Islands. Participants have a choice: the 21.1-kilometre half marathon, a 10-kilometre run

along the white expanse of Whitehaven Beach, or the shorter 5 kilometre circuit. Be warned though, do not let the incredible turquoise tide, the sunshine or warm sand distract. This is a test. Run solo or team up with friends, and kids can compete in junior events. There's a challenge for everyone.

**AUGUST 19-26 AUDI HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK**

It is one of the world's premium yachting regattas, certainly Australia's favourite and the most exciting week to be on the island. The mixture of short course, passage and multihull racing class is guaranteed to test any sailor's tactical ability to ultimately decide the new national champions. Also on the schedule for top-end contenders is an IRC Passage class for modern, fast-cruising yachts; performance racing and a sports-boat competition. Cruising, corporate, bareboat, non-spinnaker and SB20 divisions also line up. Audi Hamilton Island Race Week has become one of the most important social events on the calendar with onshore events including amazing lunches and memorable dinners by visiting chefs; a Paspaley pop-up store and events throughout the week.

**OCTOBER 29 - NOVEMBER 2 PGA PROFESSIONALS CHAMPIONSHIP AND HAMILTON ISLAND AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP**

The PGA Professionals Championship attracts Australia's top-order club golfers and teaching professionals alike all ready to take on the challenging Dent Island course. That also goes for the non-pro event, the Hamilton Island Amateur Golf Championship. This is the championship's sixth year and anyone who missed out on a spot in 2016 will not be making the same mistake twice. Places are limited so golfers and enthusiasts need to book early. The popular stableford event starts at the same time as the PGA and will host a pro-am on day one, followed by a 36-hole competition, open to both men and women. There are serious prizes to be won... time to lock in some extra practice hours.

**NOVEMBER 11 FUJIFILM HAMILTON ISLAND TRIATHLON**

Swim Cateye Beach; bike the airport runway;

and run the Hamilton Island trails. Yes this is your chance to face off against professional athletes and other amateur-but-intense athletes who come to Hamilton Island to test their mettle. Just crossing the line earns extensive bragging rights. It's an intense course and serious all the way to the idyllic beachside finish. For the kids there is also a junior triathlon (of varying lengths), and a Splash'n'Dash run and swim for athletes aged 15 years and under. Or you can take it easy in the Dent Dash, more of a fun Sunday walk or run along the buggy paths of the picturesque Hamilton Island Golf Club on Dent Island. Whichever race you run, good luck.

**NOVEMBER 12 FUJIFILM WHITEHAVEN BEACH OCEAN SWIM**

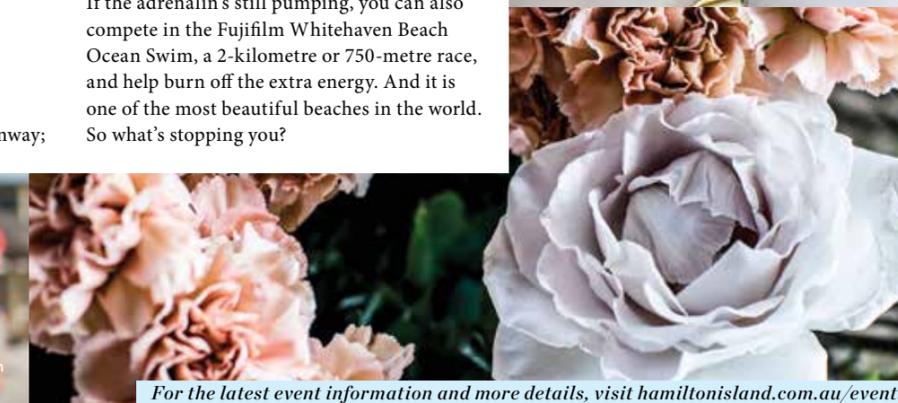
If the adrenalin's still pumping, you can also compete in the Fujifilm Whitehaven Beach Ocean Swim, a 2-kilometre or 750-metre race, and help burn off the extra energy. And it is one of the most beautiful beaches in the world. So what's stopping you?



Fujifilm Hamilton Island Triathlon.



Weekends of Wonderment.



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

Bambi Northwood-Blyth and Dan Single.



Darren Jahn and Christine Salter.



Jimmy Niggles.



Anna Burgdorf and Denny-Lyn Dixon.



PASPALLEY WHITE LUNCHEON

The annual Paspaley White Luncheon took place at qualia Long Pavilion. We were treated to a delicious menu of dishes exploring a combination of white textures created by qualia's executive chef. And Paspaley's new collection, Maxima, quietly dazzled us to the max.



Amanda Shadforth.

Xanthe Wetzler and Rob Oatley.



Brooke Testoni.

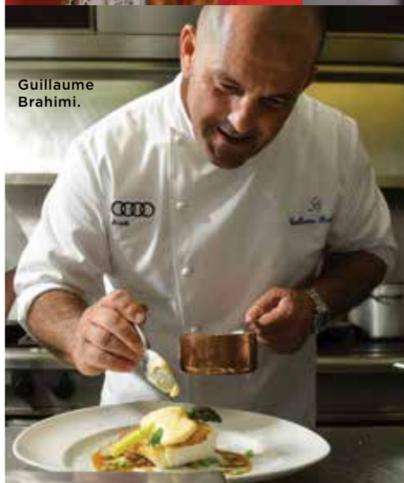


Belinda Campo and Terry Biviano.



PIPER-HEIDSIECK LUNCH WITH GUILLAUME BRAHIMI

Guests sipped on a range of acclaimed Piper-Heidsieck Champagnes while having a long lunch on lay day. Well, why not? A memorable menu created by one of our favourite chefs, Guillaume Brahimi, was served in true French Riviera-style overlooking the Whitsunday Islands. Delicious.



Guillaume Brahimi.



Charlotte Holmes-a-court, Vanessa Gilbert, Juliet Anderson.



Melissa Doyle and John Dunlop.

Hayden and Danielle Cox.



Strawberry, vanilla bean, lemon and white chocolate dessert.

PHOTOGRAPHY: KEN BUTTI; BELINDA ROLLAND.



Simon Baker and Imogen Banks.



Sarah Snook.



qualia, Long Pavilion.



Long dining tables and good conversation

ART IN PARADISE DINNER

It was a night to remember with the most amazing food created by executive chef Josue Lopez, inspired by some of the art at QAGOMA. Visually stunning, it almost seemed a shame to eat it. But it was so mind-blowingly scrumptious we couldn't stop. Honestly.



Carmen Hamilton.

Nadia Fairfax.



Emma Louise.



James Tobin.



Dan Wyllie and Shannon Murphy.



Bruna Papandrea.





coca chu.

**MATT MORAN COCA CHU DINNER**

*It was a dynamite mix of three best friends: Matt Moran on the pans with actor Richard Roxburgh and artist Vincent Fantauzzo picking up the Negroni challenge to see who could mix the best-tasting drop. The three boys took it seriously, shipping in secret brews while everyone else enjoyed their battling banter. The end result was cocktails and delicious food sourced from the very best Australian produce. We had fun.*



Matt Moran.



Vincent Fantauzzo, Matt Moran, Richard Roxburgh.



Rebecca Rigg and Simon Baker.



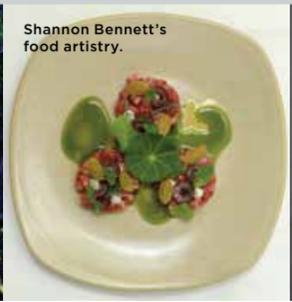
Asher Keddie.

Sarah Snook.



Lisa Wilkinson.

Carmen Hamilton and Nadia Fairfax.



Shannon Bennett's food artistry.



Sandra Sully and Shannon Bennett.

**SHANNON BENNETT PROGRESSIVE DINNER**

*Audi Ambassador Shannon Bennett created a menu inspired by Australian food culture over the decades during a dinner hosted by Audi at coca chu. Oysters, representing the earliest dish, were inspired by the 1790s and the history of The Rocks in Sydney. The modern dishes of lamingtons and pavlova spoke to the nouvelle cuisine of the 1980s. Clever.*



Brooke Testoni and Tania Gacic.



Scallop heaven.



Amanda Shadforth.

Jackie and Richard Frank.

PHOTOGRAPHY: KEN BUTTI; BELINDA ROLLAND.



qualia, Long Pavilion.



Hayden and Danielle Cox.



**HAYDEN COX: NEW WAVE VISION BOOK LAUNCH**

*We love a good book and this one is inspirational, at its heart the lesson of how to back yourself, plus a collection of interviews by our favourite surfer Hayden Cox. It was launched during Audi Hamilton Island Race Week, where Mr Cox had us all captivated.*



Bronwyn McCahon, Justine Cullen, Lynette Phillips, Paula Joye.



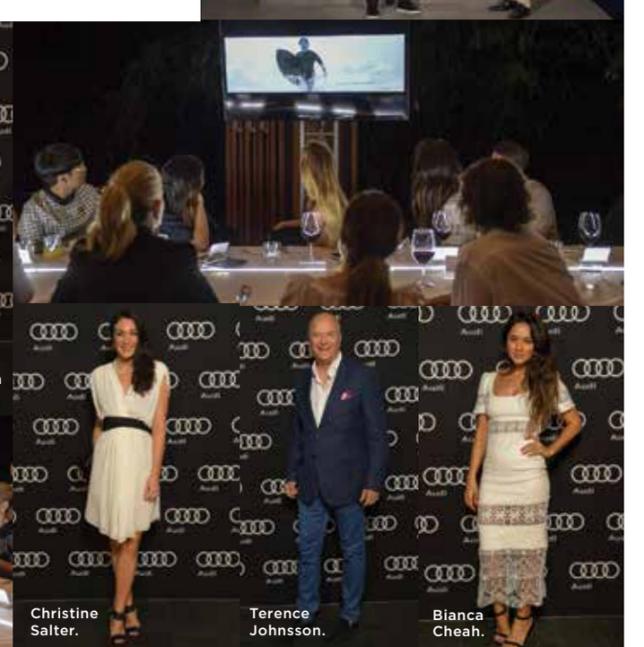
Hayden Cox talking shop.



Andrew and Toby Doyle.

Nicky Oatley and Troy Tindill.

Teresa Ooi and Kenneth Goh.



Christine Salter.

Terence Johnsson.

Bianca Cheah.



**HANGAR DINNER**  
Guests were taken to a surprise location for dinner where interior designer Darren Palmer transformed the Hamilton Island Airport hangar into a tropical-inspired dining destination. We love an epic location and the cavernous hangar was spectacular indeed. Guests mingled between seaplanes, helicopters and the Audi R8.



PHOTOGRAPHY: KEN BUTTI; BELINDA ROLLAND, JULIAN KINGMA.



**PAS DE DEUX IN PARADISE: THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET**  
This is one of the most magical moments on Hamilton Island when The Australian Ballet performs under the stars at qualia's Pebble Beach. The pas de deux performed this year included Black Swan, Swan Lake Act II, Flower Festival in Genzano and The Nutcracker Act II. Principals Ty King-Wall, Amber Scott and Adam Bull danced with senior artist Miwako Kubota. Intimate, otherworldly and utterly memorable.





Lexi and Matt Vickers.

# TYING THE (REEF) KNOT

Call it kismet. Blame island romance. We'll take some credit, too. When Hamilton Island project manager Lexi Davies met local crab-whisperer and marine biologist Matt Vickers on an adventure for REEF Magazine, something clicked. The pair were married in October 2016. We'll let her tell the love story...

**I** first met Matt in a bit of an emergency. [Hamilton Island brand manager] Nicky Oatley gave me a call and said that she needed a fisherman for a crabbing experience during Audi Hamilton Island Race Week, hosting media, guests and the island's owner, which was going to be featured in REEF Magazine. I knew a guy who I thought would be great and we were all set up to go but when he had to pull out last minute, he said he'd put me in touch with this other guy he knew who was a commercial fisherman and had his marine biology degree. That sounded good but it's not like I could just put any bloke in front of the boss, so before the event, I met 'this guy', Matt, for dinner. I guess you could say we clicked... well, he got the job! Before sea-changing into logistics for Hamilton Island, I'd originally moved here from Canberra as a chef at Romano's, so I ended up on the boat that day, cooking crabs as they were pulled in. We had a ball. And quite a lot

of Champagne. Anyway, afterwards Matt and I ended up sitting on the back of a buggy having the sausage sizzle that one has at Race Week and... we've been together since. That was 2013 and I'd been living and working on the island 13 years by then. I'd already fallen in love with the lifestyle and the incredible sense of community here. And Matt, the son of a Proserpine cane farmer, is as down-to-earth as it gets. We're low-key romantics, I guess, but being here does mean we don't have to work too hard for small things to be really beautiful and special. We do love a gorgeous dinner at coca chu, but our first date was at 4am for a crab run then to the sailing club for dinner. That's us. We've been a team since the beginning. The proposal story? Matt was doing another event last year — this time for the Sunrise breakfast TV show — and we were out on the water when the Sunrise guys found out we weren't married and started on Matt, like 'Come on, mate... step up!'.

Table setting fine details.



PHOTOGRAPHY: HAMILTON ISLAND WEDDINGS.

The wedding marquee at Outrigger.



Roses, orchids and lilies for the table.



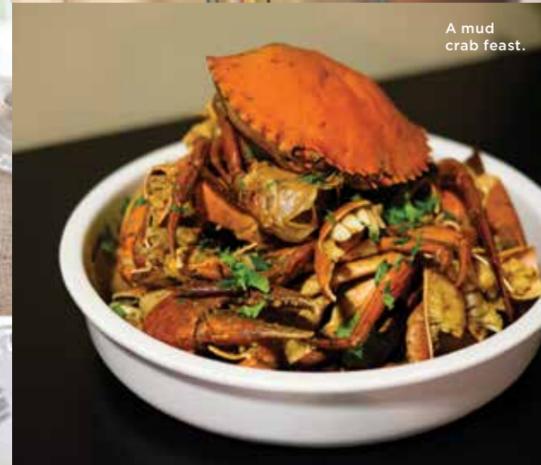
Symbolic knot wedding ring.



Wedding cake.



Hand-fasting.



A mud crab feast.

Little did they know. That night, as we were having drinks with friends, he walked up to me with crabbing string and a fishing knife, wrapped the string around my finger, cut it and tied it on with a reef knot. My friend got the footage and Channel 7's Sunrise ran a package on us. Later on, the real ring was designed into a reef knot with a diamond in the middle, too. It's a little ratty now but I still wear the string ring in a locket. Matt follows the fish and the tides as a commercial fisherman, so he might be gone for weeks, but we always say good morning and goodnight, at the very least, every single day. I guess we are big softies and romantics. There was never any doubt that Matt and I would marry on Hamilton Island. We had the ceremony at the chapel and did a traditional hand-fasting. As you do your vows, for every question you ask or have asked of you, a ribbon is laid across your joined hands. In the end, the couple ties the knot together, tight. The whole day was perfect and amazing, though the reception wasn't what we'd imagined. Matt had brought down mud crab and barramundi from Cape York and we were having pork fresh on a spit and we'd planned an evening party out on a jetty. Can you imagine? So spectacular! But the weather that week had been wet at night so we called it the day before and shifted the party to Outrigger [the function space], at the end of Catseye Beach. You'd think a fast change like that would be a headache but, honestly, the whole day was perfect and brilliant. The thing I've always loved about the island is the people and the community here, and we were blessed by so many people here who gave their time to make our day wonderful. My girlfriend is a designer and made my dress, another friend who was a florist did my flowers

"YOU COULD SAY THAT HAMILTON ISLAND AND THE WHITSUNDAYS ARE PART OF OUR RELATIONSHIP."

and Alastair [Waddell], who used to be the executive chef at qualia, has a brother here who is a musician so he played for us. People who are not locals might think organising a destination wedding is hard but I had a personal Hamilton Island Wedding coordinator and they are amazing at sourcing everything and doing all of the groundwork, including looking after guests who are travelling, which is really easy from any city, sorting what they will need, where they can stay... I had a website that detailed how guests could get a great babysitter which is important. We spent our first night at qualia. Breathtaking. I mean, where do you honeymoon after that? Matt organised a cruise around Noumea, Lifou and Vanuatu, other versions of paradise, I guess. But it's always easy to come home. We live on the mainland and I commute over to the island on the ferry and look at this amazing view out of my office window. Matt and I feel incredibly fortunate, firstly to have found one another a little later in life — well, we're not in our twenties — and then to have found one another here. You could say that Hamilton Island and the Whitsundays are a part of our relationship, our love story. We never want to leave."



# PICTURE PERFECT

There are, you know, those who say that simply being is an art; that living is a practice to be refined and elevated in the everyday. Call us believers. You're seeing what we're seeing here, right? Five cleverly appointed bedrooms, three lovely bathrooms, an airy and bright European-kitted kitchen... All of the very necessary luxuries are ticked off. And yes, of course, there is a signature Whitsundays jaw-to-floor view. This one goes blue, green, more blue as it stretches up from your wet-edge pool to native bushland, wide across the marina and twinkling Dent Passage toward the distant Conway Ranges, then all the way skyward to the sun. But this part is the art: Southwinds was masterfully designed to make living in paradise functionally fabulous. The upstairs living space, all white and sunlit blonde wood, seamlessly connects the inner sanctum to the island outside and there's a huge show-stopper of a wooden deck that hits an even higher

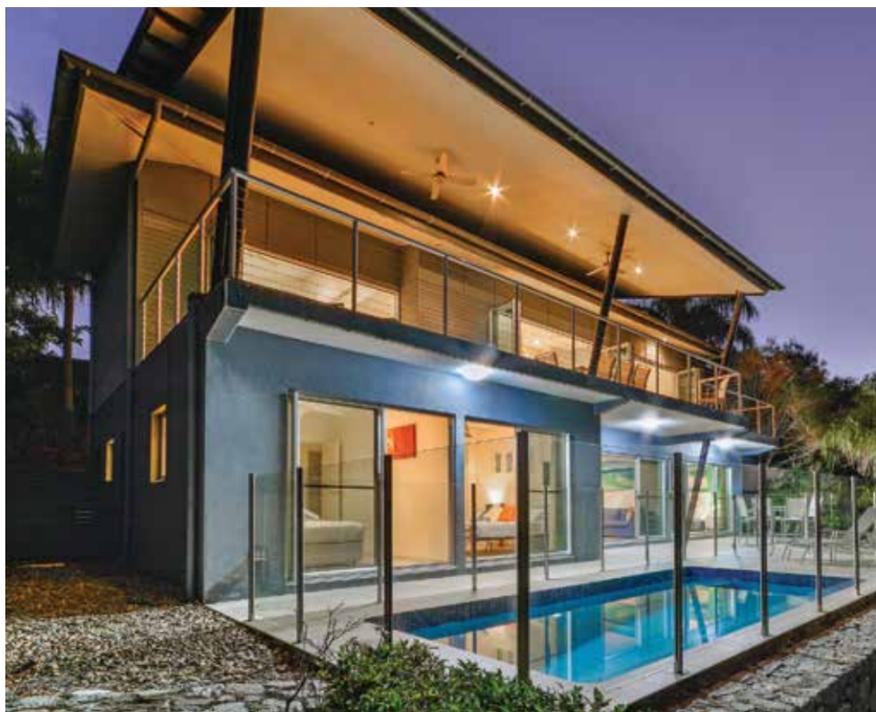
note come sunset. Attention entertainers! Go forth and cook, lounge, pop corks or pool party until, well, whenever really. You're not keeping anyone awake. Remember we said the bedrooms were clever? The sleep zones are tucked quietly into separate wings off the central living space — the oversized master on one side, three on the other — with one downstairs near the pool, and all are just secluded enough to guarantee the peace and ssssh for which you came to the island in the first place. There are nooks and open, breezy spaces aplenty to find your meditative chill. But back to the elevated living. Downstairs, there's another kitchen to fire up when you're all sun lounging and soaking up the infinity pool. It's all very glamorous, really... just being here is definitely art. No FOMO. We'll stay in all summer, thanks (and slam Instagram with a few boast posts. Why not? There's wireless). We'll stay forever. Or, as we are smart investors, until the next lot of sun and chic seekers arrive for their holiday booking.

To find out more visit [hamiltonislandrealestate.com.au](http://hamiltonislandrealestate.com.au)



Southwinds' beautiful decking, impeccable kitchen, deep blue swimming pool and the pretty epic view.





**THE PENINSULA 4**  
FOR SALE \$1,690,000

3 3 1

This detached open-plan, fully-tiled and air-conditioned dwelling, located on the northern point of Hamilton Island, features excellent sea and island views to the north over Whitsunday Island and the surrounding waterways. The villa features three bedrooms, two bathrooms, two spacious living areas and a private in-ground pool, all surrounded by landscaped tropical gardens. Spacious covered balconies on both levels ensure this property is perfect for entertaining friends and family. The complex also boasts a 25-metre pool and gazebo area for relaxing and enjoying stunning tropical sunsets with friends and family. The residence was recently repainted inside and out. It is presently holiday let and full income history and future bookings can be provided on request.

**SHORELINES 19**  
FOR SALE \$939,000

2 2.5 1

This superbly appointed two-bedroom, split-level apartment has been kept in immaculate condition. The views are some of the best any Hamilton Island complex has to offer, taking in the neighbouring islands and Dent Passage, not to mention the fantastic Whitsunday sunsets. The apartment has access to a complex pool located directly across the driveway from the main entrance. The Shorelines development also hosts an expansive 25-metre wet-edge waterfront pool with two spas and entertaining areas. Shorelines properties are historically high-performing holiday-lettings, with consistent rentals. This unit is in stage two, which is set closer to the blue waters of Dent Passage.



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

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



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**BLUEWATER VIEWS 16**  
FOR SALE \$1,499,000

3 2.5 1

This huge apartment occupies an entire top floor and is perfect for entertaining. The gourmet kitchen with two granite bench tops leads to the open-plan dining and lounge area with panoramic water views and a small bar area for entertaining. The large balcony is perfect for savouring the stunning water views and evening sunsets for which Hamilton Island is famous. To top it off, there is a four-person spa on the balcony: a unique and luxurious feature. The master bedroom features a large ensuite and walk-in wardrobe. The second bedroom is generously sized and has two king-size beds. The third bedroom is also spacious and a bathroom separates these two rooms. This fully-furnished property also comes with an (approximately) 16-square-metre storage room, your own carport and a buggy. There is a 25-metre lap pool, lawn area and a gazebo with a barbecue and sink in the complex.



**LAGOON LODGE 101**  
FOR SALE \$1,050,000

2 2 1

This single-level, first-floor apartment has strong and consistent holiday-letting returns, making it not only a wonderful lifestyle choice but also a clever and smart investment. This luxury apartment features a gourmet kitchen with Italian tiles, Caesarstone benchtops and glass splashbacks. The extensive balcony is the ideal location for relaxing on the Balinese day-bed while enjoying the magnificent view. Both bedrooms are large and stylish with handcrafted cabinetry and freshly decorated bathrooms. The north-facing master bedroom has an amazing view of Catseye Beach and you'll be treated to spectacular sunrises every morning.



**Hidden Cove – an exclusive waterfront development**

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

Priced from \$1,150,000  
Only 1 property remaining

For sales enquiries please contact | Wayne Singleton 0416 024 168  
www.hchi.info | hamiltonislandrealestate.com.au

RENTALS



**SHORELINES 5**

**HOLIDAY RENTALS FROM \$465 PER NIGHT**

Maximum capacity: 6 people

2 2 1

This large, recently refurbished two-bedroom apartment offers modern interiors, air-conditioning and spectacular Whitsunday views. Each bedroom has a king-size bed, while the master suite enjoys its own balcony with an outdoor table and chairs, and an ensuite with a large corner spa. There is also a double sofa bed in the lounge area, perfect for accommodating extra guests. Take advantage of the spectacular views from the large outdoor entertaining space, which includes an outdoor dining setting for six people and a barbecue. The fully-equipped modern kitchen features a Nespresso coffee machine and dishwasher.

**YACHT CLUB VILLA 7**

**HOLIDAY RENTALS FROM \$1,180 PER NIGHT**

Maximum capacity: 8 people

4 4 2

This designer villa, located alongside the exclusive Hamilton Island Yacht Club, offers a tranquil and stylish island escape. Enjoy magnificent views of the waterfront lagoon pool and the turquoise waters of Dent Passage. A large, comfortable living area flows directly onto the waterfront reserve and provides easy access to the shared lagoon pool. The design by renowned architect Walter Borda offers an abundance of space, as well as four bedrooms, each with its own en-suite bathroom. The master suite has a king bed, the second and third bedrooms have a queen bed, and the fourth bedroom has two single beds. Two buggies are included, so you can explore the island with ease.



**FRANGIPANI 108**

**HOLIDAY RENTALS FROM \$495 PER NIGHT**

Maximum capacity: 6 people

2 2 1

A spectacular waterfront location makes this modern two-bedroom apartment ideal for families. The master includes a king bed and the second bedroom includes a double bed and a single bed. It boasts beautiful water views and a convenient location right on Catseye Beach. Walk onto the sand and take advantage of your complimentary water-sports equipment, included as part of your stay. Relax in the open-plan dining and living area, which flows seamlessly onto a covered outdoor entertaining terrace, which includes a dining setting for six people, sun chairs and a barbecue. Self-catering is a breeze with a fully-equipped kitchen.

**WHITSUNDAY APARTMENT 1305**

**HOLIDAY RENTALS FROM \$275 PER NIGHT**

Maximum capacity: 5 people

1 1

Set high above Catseye Beach is where you'll find this self-contained one bedroom apartment, with everything you need for an easy, relaxed holiday. The fully air-conditioned and recently renovated apartment features brand new tiling and a modern kitchen. Relax in the lounge area with a large flat-screen television and complimentary access to Foxtel. The main bedroom features a non-split king bed and a single bed, making it ideal for families with a small child. There is also a sofa bed in the living area which converts to a king bed. Enjoy your own private, covered outdoor terrace, which includes seating for four people.



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

To view the full listing of Hamilton Island holiday rental properties available, visit the Hamilton Island Real Estate office on Front Street,

Hamilton Island or go to [www.hamiltonislandholidayhomes.com.au](http://www.hamiltonislandholidayhomes.com.au)

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

\*RATES QUOTED ARE OFF PEAK RATES BASED ON 7 NIGHTS PLUS STAY. OTHER RATES AND DURATIONS OF STAY AVAILABLE, PLEASE ENQUIRE AT TIME OF BOOKING.

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