

REEF

HAMILTON ISLAND &
THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

MAGAZINE

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Colour and Excitement
Audi Hamilton Island Race Week

Fashion Central
Collette Dinnigan's Cruise Collection

Hooked
Catching the big one

On the Limit
F1 ace Fernando Alonso

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COVER IMAGE: Audi Hamilton Island Race Week 2010, Andrea Francolini



Time Out

Welcome to Hamilton Island and to another edition of *REEF Magazine*. Already, 2011 has proven to be a busy time for us in the Whitsundays, and our calendar for the remainder of the year sees a host of special activities and events planned.

As you'll read in our 2011 Audi Hamilton Race Week preview on page 14 of this issue, this celebrated annual event is growing in stature to become one of the greatest international offshore sailing regattas and now attracts new sailing classes ranging from the SB3 division, right up to the superyachts. But not everyone visiting the island during that time is here just for the sailing.

Not only during this particular event but throughout the year, the island's social calendar offers a feast of delights – literally, with everything from gastronomic events with internationally renowned chefs, to fine wine and fashion offerings for the most discerning traveller.

You'll find on page 32 a review of this year's Pas de Deux in Paradise weekend, which again was a resounding success. Held at Qualia, and now in its fourth year, this unique event provides those lucky enough to attend the experience of witnessing a rare outdoor performance under the stars before mixing and mingling with the artists and executives of The Australian Ballet.

Regardless of your reason for visiting, or the length of your stay, I know you'll find plenty of things to do here in the Whitsundays. Whether your passion is sailing, diving or tackling the challenges of the Hamilton Island Golf Club, you won't be disappointed.

As you'll see in this issue, the region also provides some of the finest fishing in the country – for me, there is nothing better than jumping in the warm azure waters of the Coral Sea for the thrill of spear fishing, but anyone wanting to wet a line will be amazed at the variety of sea life the area has to offer.

Although you may not at first consider winter as the best time to visit an island, in my three years of living here in paradise, I must say that it is my favourite season. The climate is absolutely perfect and lends itself to getting out around the island and surrounding region to make the most of what I consider to be, without doubt, one of the most stunning areas on earth.

Once again, welcome to Hamilton Island and I trust you will enjoy your stay.

Glenn Bourke
Chief Executive Officer, Hamilton Island

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Hamilton Island 2011/2012 Events



AUGUST 2011

19-27 Under Sail

Be a part of Audi Hamilton Island Race Week – Australia's largest offshore racing regatta

OCTOBER 2011

1 Spring Festival

A host of activities to herald the changing of the seasons

NOVEMBER 2011

1 And They're Racing

Melbourne Cup Day Lunch and Calcutta

15-20 To the Limit

The Fujifilm Hamilton Island Triathlon includes a workshop followed by the Whitehaven Beach two kilometre ocean swim and triathlon

DECEMBER 2011

1 Summer Festival

Celebrate summer with a host of extra activities and festivities

2-4 Great Barrier Feast Series

Great Barrier Feast with celebrated chef Dan Hunter from the Royal Mail Hotel in Victoria

24 Festive Celebration

Carols by Candlelight

Hamilton Island is an inspiring destination for many, including some of Australia's finest food and wine experts, artists, designers and sportspeople, who choose the island as a place to exhibit their latest creations. Whether it be enjoying fine food and wine with great Australian chefs at the Great Barrier Feast Series, a thrilling outdoor performance by The Australian Ballet, or learning photography with some of the best photographers in the country, these are experiences that are simply unforgettable.



For more details on Hamilton Island's exciting calendar of events, visit www.hamiltonisland.com.au/events
 To book your accommodation and flights, contact Hamilton Island Holidays on **137 333 (02 9433 0444)** or email vacation@hamiltonisland.com.au
 For flights only call **1300 725 172 (02 9433 0444)** or email flights@hamiltonisland.com.au



**31
New Year's Eve**

Let the party begin – join the celebrations on Front Street, including live entertainment and fireworks

JANUARY 2012

**1
Summer Festival**

The celebration of the summer season continues

MAY 2012

**6
Hilly Half Marathon**

Push yourself to the limit in the most beautiful surroundings on earth

**18 – 20
Great Barrier Feast**

Great Barrier Feast with Guillaume Brahimi from Bennelong, Sydney

JUNE 2012

**TBC
Hamilton Island Outrigger Cup**

Be part of the action as the outrigger canoes take to the water for this classic challenge

JULY 2012

Whale Watching

Keep an eye out for the migrating whales right through to September

**29 Jul – 3 Aug
In the Picture**

AWAY Photography Workshop with hosts David Oliver, Peter Eastway and Bruce Pottinger



Swing Doctor

Hamilton Island Golf Club welcomed its new golf professional in July. A graduate of the Australian PGA, Mark Snooks has been a professional golfer for 10 years, playing on the PGA Tour in 2004 and 2005 before turning his considerable skills to teaching and mentoring. Mark's work has seen him nominated for Young Australian of the Year in 2001 and 2002 in the Career Achievement category and golf enthusiasts might also recognise his name as a regular contributor to *Golf Australia* magazine.

In Brief

Your guide to the latest news and happenings on and around Hamilton Island.

It's a Boy!

It was smiles all round at the Hamilton Island Wildlife Park recently with the arrival of 'Baby Hippo', a gorgeous Southern Hairy Nosed Wombat – all the way from Ceduna in South Australia. The little orphaned wombat was saved and transported to his new home where he is being cared for and pampered as he gets used to his new surroundings. Weighing in at a healthy 1700 grams, Baby Hippo is already bulking up under the care of the Hamilton Island Wildlife Park experts, enjoying his bottle feeds and putting on grams a day. Little Hippo is proving a hit with visitors to the park and already feeling very much at home.



Securing the Future

In time for World Environment Day, Hamilton Island celebrated the opening of its new waste management and recycling facility, which includes a state-of-the-art glass crushing plant. The use of crushed glass in a variety of applications, from drainage to pipe bedding and even in garden beds, means the recycling facility will have positive impacts not only on the amount of waste material having to be shipped to the mainland for processing, but also creates environmental and financial benefits for the island well into the future.

On the Edge

There is nothing to rival a day spent sailing and snorkelling in the Whitsundays, and the area's latest attraction, the 20-metre-long luxury catamaran *On the Edge*, is the perfect way to do just that. Owned and operated by Cruise Indigo, the purpose built 'cat' was launched in early 2011 after a long journey from New Zealand. Since then she has made herself very much at home in the area and has proved a tremendous attraction. www.cruiseindigo.com.au



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Retail Therapy

No relaxing holiday is complete without some retail therapy, and you'll find plenty of opportunities on Hamilton Island.



Pandora, available at
Hamilton Island Jewellery
located in the Resort Centre

Hamilton Island Retail Outlets

The Art Gallery
Australia the Gift
Breeze Resort Wear
Floral Collections
Foots Artworks
General Store
Hamilton Island Designs
Hamilton Island Jewellery

Island Hair & Beauty
Lord Nelson Menswear
Marina Tavern Retail
Offshore Surf & Leisure
HI Golf Club Pro Shop
HI Photography
qualia Boutique
Spa wumurdaylin

Resort Centre Lobby Shop
Reef Lobby Shop
Resort Store
Swimwear Store
Trader Pete's
Video Store

To contact any of the retail outlets listed, please call 07 4946 9999 and ask to be transferred to the retailer of your choice.



Dreaming of a white wedding?

Whether you choose to get married in the beautiful island chapel or to break with tradition and have a barefoot ceremony on the beach, Hamilton Island at the edge of the Great Barrier Reef offers the perfect location for your dream wedding or honeymoon. From the flowers to the cake, for two to 200, there is no detail our experienced team of wedding consultants can't look after. To find out more about having your dream white wedding on Hamilton Island, call Hamilton Island Weddings on **07 4946 8515**. To plan the perfect honeymoon, or simply a romantic getaway, contact Hamilton Island Holidays on **13 7333** or visit www.hamiltonisland.com.au



HAMILTON ISLAND
GREAT BARRIER REEF AUSTRALIA



HAMILTON ISLAND
WEDDINGS
GREAT BARRIER REEF AUSTRALIA

The Bare Essentials

It would be almost impossible to do everything on even an extended visit to Hamilton Island and the Great Barrier Reef, but for those wanting to get a good 'feel' for the area, there are at least 10 essential elements to any visit.



2 Simply Stunning

Whitehaven Beach is one place that simply must be experienced to be believed. Without doubt one of the most beautiful beaches on the planet, its dazzling white sand is the stuff of postcards.

Just a short boat trip from Hamilton Island, Whitehaven is the perfect spot for an intimate picnic for two or a day of exploration. Cruise Indigo's On the Edge, Fantasea Adventure Cruising, H2O Sportz and Hamilton Island Watersports all offer trips to Whitehaven.

www.cruiseindigo.com.au

www.fantasea.com.au

www.h2osportz.com.au



3 Dream Drives

The stunning 18-hole Hamilton Island Golf Club on neighbouring Dent Island is a must not only for the serious golfer, but for anyone looking to improve their skills or just enjoy a round. With a Pro Shop stocking the latest golf apparel, you can be sure to look the part, or hire a set of Callaway clubs and brush up with some lessons before enjoying lunch in the Clubhouse.

Otherwise, back on Hamilton Island, you can also fine tune your game at the Palm Valley Golf Driving Range.

Hamilton Island Golf Club

Pro Shop 07 4948 9760 (59760)

Golf Driving Range 07 4946 8033 (58033)

4 Under Sail

Hamilton Island is the perfect place from which to set sail. From instruction for beginners to offshore skipper and international qualifications, stay and sail packages or skippered charters, the Whitsundays await you. As relaxing or as exciting as you like, riding a gentle breeze or literally 'hanging out' on the trapeze aboard Adrenalin Rush, a 36-foot Nacra catamaran – your experience under sail can be whatever you want it to be.

www.sunsailwhitsundays.com.au

www.adrenalinrushsailing.com.au



6 Absolute Pampering

Feel the tension melt away when you visit Spa wumurdaylin and indulge in a choice of nourishing spa, massage and skin therapies utilising the beautiful signature LI'TYA and Waterlily products. If you are visiting the island for a special event or occasion, or just looking to spoil yourself, why not visit Island Hair & Beauty for a new look or professional makeover. The team also specialise in bridal party hair and beauty needs.

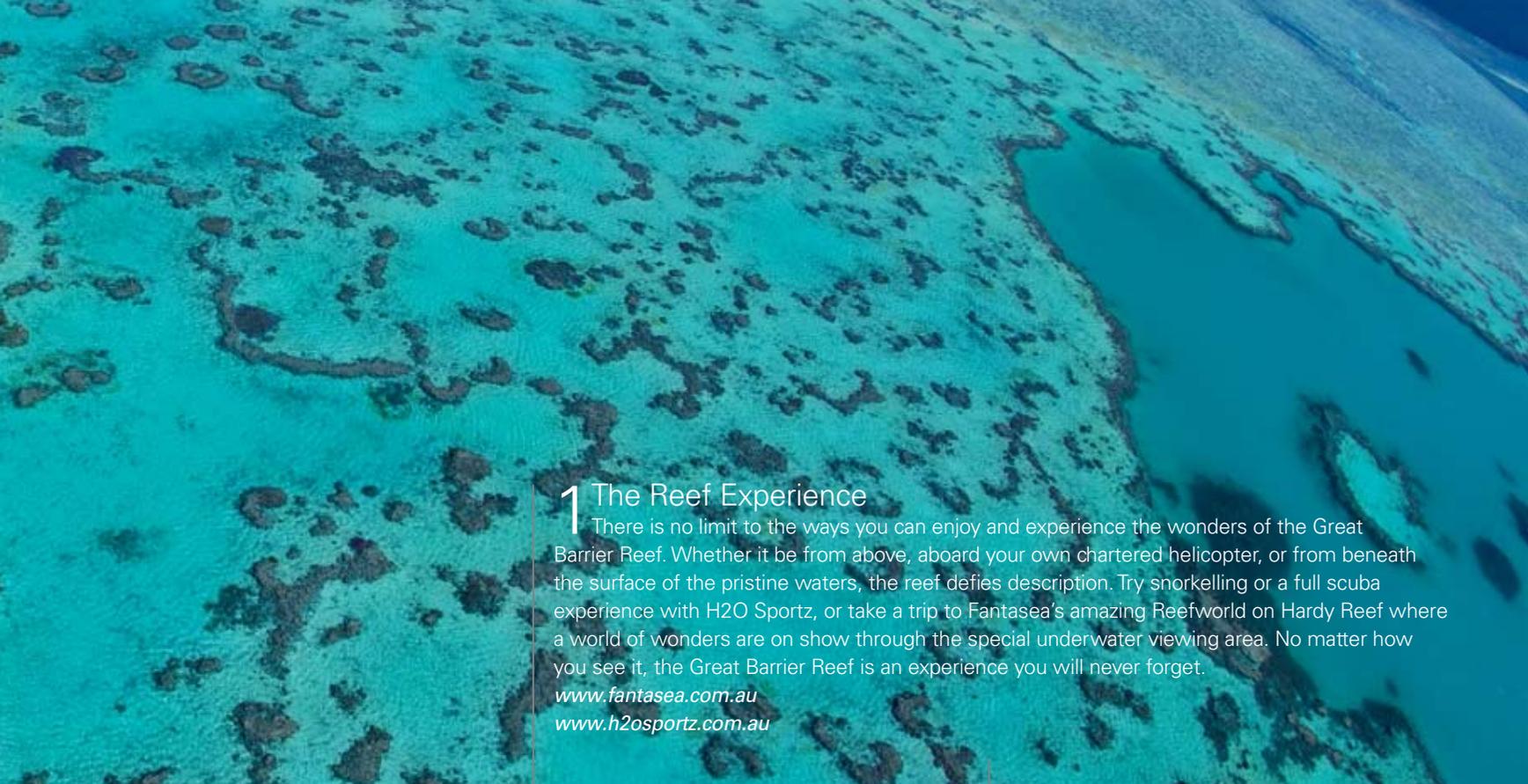
Bookings recommended

Spa wumurdaylin 07 4946 8669 (58669)

Island Hair & Beauty 07 4946 8244 (58244)

5 Fine Food

When the idea of kicking back and relaxing over a long lunch is the most pressing appointment in your diary, Hamilton Island is the perfect place to be. You are spoilt for choice in your search for fine food and wine, from the superb Bommie restaurant in the iconic Hamilton Island Yacht Club to any of the outstanding restaurants and cafes around the island. This is the perfect time to really take your time.



1 The Reef Experience

There is no limit to the ways you can enjoy and experience the wonders of the Great Barrier Reef. Whether it be from above, aboard your own chartered helicopter, or from beneath the surface of the pristine waters, the reef defies description. Try snorkelling or a full scuba experience with H2O Sportz, or take a trip to Fantasea's amazing Reefworld on Hardy Reef where a world of wonders are on show through the special underwater viewing area. No matter how you see it, the Great Barrier Reef is an experience you will never forget.

www.fantasea.com.au

www.h2osportz.com.au



7 Natural Appeal

With more than 20km of walking trails on the island, a guided walk to the highest point, Passage Peak, will give you a fauna and flora lesson along the way and you'll be rewarded with amazing 360-degree views when you get to the top. Or for something a little less strenuous – take a walking tour around the Hamilton Island Wildlife Park. You can cuddle a koala, watch the crocodile-feeding and finish with a hot breakfast or coffee in the cafe.

For walking trail maps and koala cuddling/ crocodile feeding times contact the Hamilton Island Tour Desk



8 Born to Ride

Negotiate the fire trails and tackle the island's rugged terrain on the Quad Bike Adventure Tour. Tremendous fun for ages 16 and up (for the younger thrillseekers, kids 6-14 years can try the quads for kids adventure course), take in some exciting countryside on the way to the Resort Lookout and some of the best views and photo opportunities on the island.

10 Baiting a Line

Renegade Charters and Rapture Fishing Charters offer private or share charters and the crew will even help clean and prepare your catch ready to eat that night. Or for something a little bit more relaxing, hire a dinghy and set off to explore the local waterways – Hamilton Island dinghy hire can supply bait and tackle.

www.renegadecharters.com.au

9 Pure Adrenalin

On Hamilton Island you will never be short of fun and adventurous things to do. The island's go-kart track will challenge the best, while the Kegel 9-pin Island Bowling centre boasts seven lanes and fun for the entire family. The universal favourite, mini golf, is always a winner and nothing beats getting out on your own Kawasaki jetski in the pristine waters.



For further information on all tours and activities, contact the Hamilton Island Tour Desk on 07 4946 8305 (58305) or if you are on the island, visit the Tour Desk in the Resort Centre.
www.hamiltonisland.com.au/activities



Excitement

Colour &

Australia's most celebrated offshore sailing regatta and one of the country's premier social events, Audi Hamilton Island Race Week 2011 promises to eclipse previous years with more excitement on and off the water.

STORY ROB MUNDLE PHOTOGRAPHY ANDREA FRANCOLINI

Marcus Blackmore, the man whose name is behind one of Australia's leading health product companies, has dreamt of winning the Grand Prix division at Audi Hamilton Island Race Week since he competed in the inaugural event 28 years ago, and this year that dream might just come true.

Right now he has the hottest Grand Prix level ocean racing yacht in Australia. In the first four months of this year his 52-footer, *Hooligan*, which he imported from Europe, won every major event she has contested, including Audi Victoria Week, the Audi Sydney Harbour Regatta and the NSW IRC Championship at Port Stephens. She is also on top of the points table for the Audi IRC Australian Championship, a series where the



final round is scheduled for Hamilton Island.

Apart from wanting to win, there was another reason behind Blackmore's decision to have his yacht and highly talented crew from Sydney take part in what is Australia's premier keelboat regatta: "Hamilton Island Race Week had everything going for it from day one in 1984, and it just keeps getting better these days under the stewardship of Bob Oatley and his family," says Blackmore.

Blackmore's dream of winning the premier racing class at Audi Hamilton Island Race Week was ignited when he won the Arbitrary Division in 1984 with his 43ft sloop, *The Manly Ferry*. Ironically, he bought that yacht from his friend, and famous Australian winemaker, Bob Oatley, who has owned Hamilton Island with his family since 2003.

Remarkably, if he wins at Audi Hamilton Island Race Week – which will be staged from 19 to 27 August – Blackmore will have achieved his two great ambitions in the sport in a matter of months. "Because I was originally a Queenslander, I always wanted to win the Brisbane to Gladstone race, and we've just done that," he said. "The other dream was to win the Grand Prix division at Audi Hamilton Island Race Week. So, there is no way I'm not going to be there with *Hooligan* and the team this year to give it our best shot."

While *Hooligan* will almost certainly start the favourite in its division, Blackmore isn't assured of success as some of the most competitive offshore racing yachts and elite crews from Australia and around the world

will be competing.

Even so, as is always the case, there is far more to Audi Hamilton Island Race Week this year than the upper echelon of the sport: there will be every conceivable type of sailboat, from tiny sportboats through to cruising keelboats and catamarans, and huge superyachts, making an appearance.

Beyond the on-water activity, the key element is the incredible social calendar for the week – one that is probably better than anything seen at any similar regatta in the world; and it has something for everyone – including some surprises. The fact is that Audi Hamilton Island Race Week is beyond compare in so many ways. Last year Danni Minogue made a surprise appearance attending the inaugural Barefoot and Black



Tie function that was staged at a beautiful island beach setting. Once again Collette Dinnigan's exclusive fashion parade was a highlight, as was the always popular Moët & Chandon Lunch. At the same time, down at the Marina Village the festival feel was all pervasive – the atmosphere absolutely electric for the week as the crews and spectators alike enjoyed this very unique event.

When it comes to comparisons on the all important sailing side of Audi Hamilton Island Race Week, this year there's nothing that tells the story of the series better than the comparison between the largest entry, the 40-metre sailing superyacht *Janice of Wyoming*, and one of the smallest entries, the seven-metre long sport boat, *Ketchup*.

Janice of Wyoming is owned by an American businessman, and when launched in 2005 she was considered one of the most stylish yachts of her type in the world. The tiny *Ketchup* is owned by Steve England, from Cairns. The one thing both owners have in common is that they entered Audi Hamilton

Island Race Week for the same reason: to enjoy racing on some of the most beautiful waters known to man, to experience exceptional camaraderie, and to indulge in a wonderful on-shore social scene. But when it comes to their yachts there is a big difference: *Janice of Wyoming* is more than four times wider than *Ketchup* is long, and at 198 tonnes the superyacht is 200 times heavier. The big boat also has near 20 times more sail area. Also, while *Janice of Wyoming* is likely to be sailing with more than 30 guests and crew in the lap of luxury, the seven-metre long *Ketchup* will be doing things very differently. That sailboat doesn't even have a cabin as such: below deck is like being in a fibreglass-lined cave. However, there will be one common denominator for these two extremes of Audi Hamilton Island Race Week and that is the fun factor.

This year will also see the debut of one of the world's most radical ocean racing yachts. Bob Oatley's youngest son, Ian, will be campaigning his new carbon fibre sloop, *Q*. Apart from the name there is nothing

unusual about this yacht when it is seen at rest, but on the race course it's a stand-out. As soon as the wind gets up and the yacht begins to heel over the simple press of a button sees the entire keel rotate around the hull until it comes completely clear of the water. It is Ian Oatley's own concept, based on the simple equation that when the keel is above water level, less drag and less ballast translates to more power and greater speed. It will surely be followed with great interest.

Bob Oatley will be back again this year with his Rolex Sydney Hobart race record holder, the 30-metre supermaxi, *Wild Oats XI*. This amazing yacht is expected to be joined in the superyacht division by two other behemoths of ocean racing, the similar-sized *Loyal* (Anthony Bell) and *Lahana* (Peter Millard and John Honan).

Some 200 yachts from around Australia, New Zealand, America and Europe are expected to line up for Audi Hamilton Island Race Week 2011, and if all the stars align as planned this one is certainly destined to be the best ever. ■



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Picture Perfect

Although recognised as one of the most outstanding sailing photographers in the business, Andrea Francolini's passion for capturing the perfect image is not confined to the world's sailing regattas. Indeed one all-consuming project has taken him as far from the ocean as it is possible to get, but always with camera in hand.

STORY ALLISON TAIT PHOTOGRAPHY ANDREA FRANCOLINI

Any serious yachtsman in Australia or on the European circuit will no doubt be familiar with the name Andrea Francolini. Indeed anyone who has picked up a marine publication in Australia in the last decade will no doubt have seen and been captivated by some of Francolini's work.

One of the most celebrated yachting photographers in the business, the Italian-born Francolini has photographed the sport all around the country and indeed the world, with absolutely stunning results. From his native Italy to the often wild ocean backdrop of the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race and of course the azure waters of the Whitsundays and Audi Hamilton Island Race Week, he has managed to capture the very essence of the sport, whether leaning



out of a helicopter or clinging to a marker buoy – anything to be in the right spot for ‘that shot’.

But Andrea Francolini doesn’t mind getting wet for his art. Bobbing around in the water to shoot one of his vivid, memorable images is part and parcel of the profession he so obviously loves, so it’s not surprising to discover that he literally fell into the world of sailing photography to begin with.

“I went sailing one day with a cousin, when I was about 15 years old, and the moment I put one foot on the boat, I slipped and fell in the water,” he says. “They left me on the dock and I picked up a camera. It became a hobby for me, and I’d follow my cousin to sailing regattas and take photos of him – and the other boats. After one regatta,

a mother wanted photos of her child’s boat, and paid for the film and processing. All these years later, I’m still doing it professionally...”

Humble beginnings perhaps, but since moving to Australia in 2000, Francolini’s images have graced covers and inside spreads of the country’s finest publications, and of course it is through his camera and association with sailing that he first came to be involved with the Oatley family who own Hamilton Island, photographing Bob and his boats *Wild Oats X* and *Wild Oats XI*, as well as covering Audi Hamilton Island Race Week each year as only he can.

While his love of sailing is evident in his work, Francolini’s passion extends to anything to do with the water.

“I’m just back from two weeks in Pakistan

(to further the work of the not-for-profit charitable trust he is establishing, My-First-School), and I missed it,” he says. “Today, it’s windy, the seas are rough, and I’m going to take photos of the waves.”

He knows better than anyone that the difference between an ordinary shot on the water and a great one can be a fraction of a second – hence the lengths he will go to to get ‘the’ shot. “I don’t think I put myself in precarious situations,” he says. “Though other people might disagree. I work with a couple of boat drivers and a helicopter pilot whom I trust blindfolded. If they can, they’ll get me in close enough to get the shot. But if they tell me no, I’ll do something else.”

But it takes more than calculated risk to create an unforgettable image. For Francolini, it all comes down to composition.

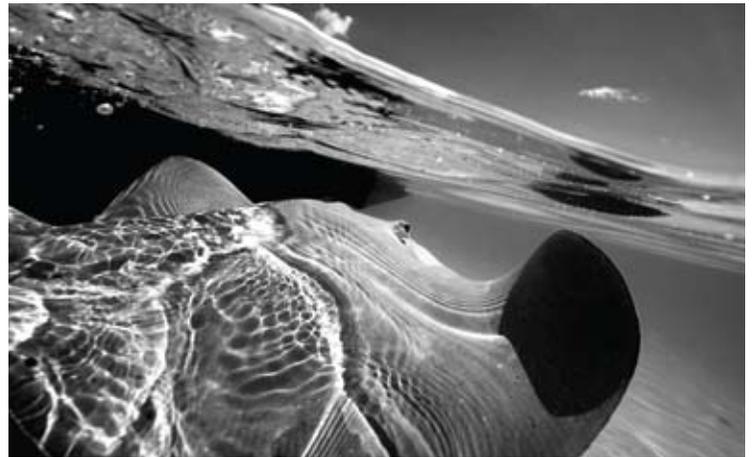
“You can be on a boat with other people – same boat, same location, often the same lenses – and end up with different shots,” he says. “Two centimetres to the left, half a centimetre to the right, can make all the difference.”

It is the ability to see what is not immediately apparent to others that sets Francolini’s work apart – that and a passion for the profession which includes the tools of the trade. Francolini readily confesses to a weakness for cameras. “I love them,” he says. “It’s the equivalent of shoes for a girl,”

the traces of an Italian/American accent still evident.

Likewise the choice of format – digital cameras for all his sailing work, but nothing beats the feel of film for more personal work. “When you know it’s not digital, you concentrate more – you can’t waste film – so the end result is better.”

Indeed, it was the pursuit of a personal project that led to a new and very different passion for Francolini. Travelling the world to photograph centenary sports – traditional sports more than 100 years old





MY-FIRST-SCHOOL

So inspired was Francolini by his second visit to Pakistan that he returned home and established My-First-School, which aims to provide school equipment and basic classroom materials to girls' schools in the district of Gilgit-Baltistan, in Northern Pakistan.

Here, many primary students (particularly girls) lack basics such as pencils and notebooks – items that are very much taken for granted in the west.

Following the establishment of My-First-School, Francolini returned to Pakistan this year with donations, buying the essential items himself and ensuring that materials were received by the schools in question.

At time of writing, Francolini is now in the process of establishing a not-for-profit charitable trust to further the work of the My-First-School program and continue to bring the basic essentials to students in the area.

For more information, visit www.my-first-school.org



– saw him visit Japan (sumo), Spain (bull fighting), Oman (camel racing) and the UAE (falconry), ultimately arriving in Pakistan in 2008 to shoot the traditional polo played in the remote mountains.

Ironically, despite his affinity with water, the arid mountains of Northern Pakistan captivated Francolini – and he returned to visit the following year for an assignment photographing women working in Islamic society. During the process, he interviewed many of the local people and learned about the struggle to provide an education for children – particularly girls – in the area. “When you see the condition the classrooms are in, you wonder how they can learn anything,” he says. “I made my own donation of books, went home and thought nothing of it.”

It wasn't until his own wife had a baby girl, that he remembered the schools in Pakistan and decided that he wanted to help. Within 48 hours, the seeds of My-First-

School were sown, and in May this year he returned to Northern Pakistan with the first donations (around \$6000) to buy 80 desks, 80 benches, metal sheets to repair a school roof, glass to repair windows, and other school essentials. All within the tumultuous days after the death of Osama Bin Laden.

“I had no second thoughts about going,” Francolini says. “I’ve never had a problem in Pakistan. Never been harassed or felt in danger. It was no different this time.”

Anyone who's ever seen Andrea Francolini hanging from a helicopter to get the perfect shot at Audi Hamilton Island Race Week, or bobbing about in the water waiting for the sleek hull of a supermaxi to slide by, would not be surprised by his answer. But in reality, it's not about risk, but about seeing something special and the ability to tell a story by capturing a moment in time.

To see more of Andrea Francolini's work visit www.afrancolini.com ■

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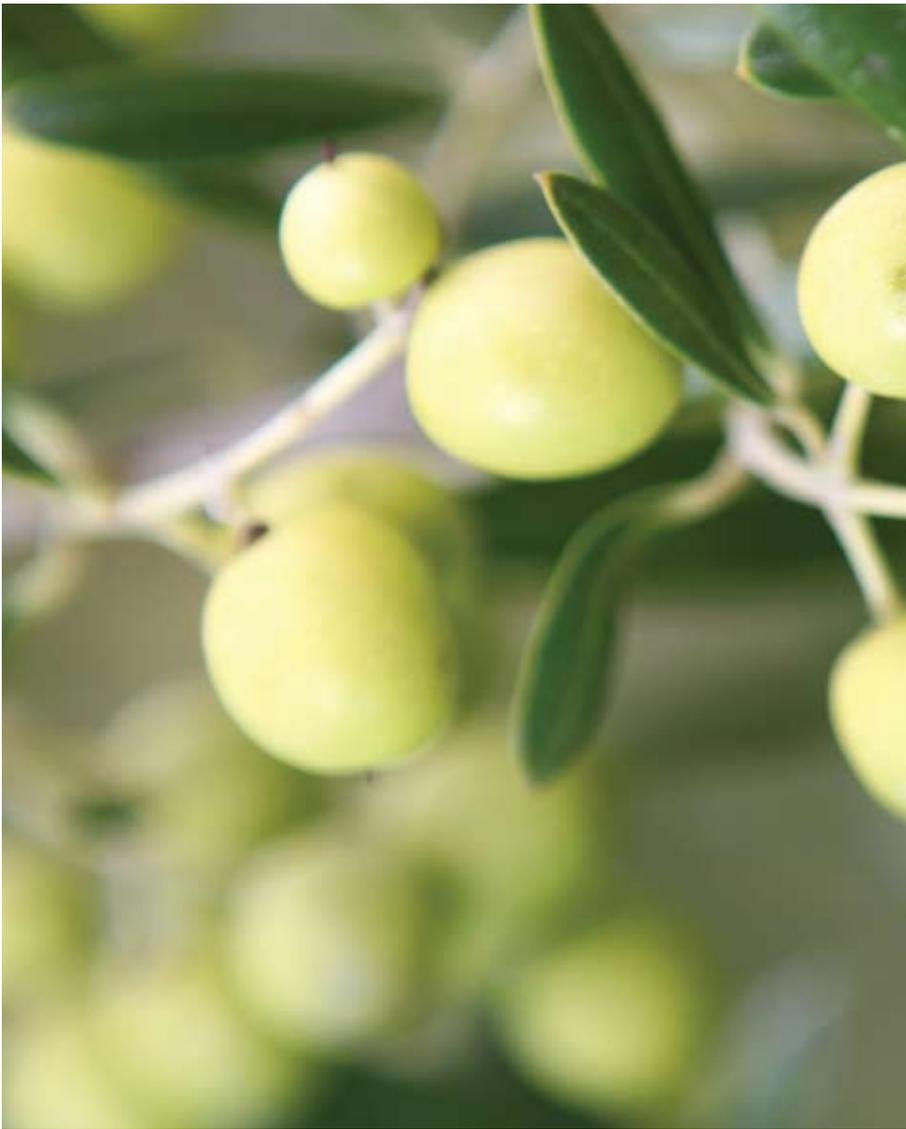


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Bottled gold – as smooth as silk. Old fashioned techniques and a proud family tradition combine to produce the award-winning range of Robert Oatley Extra Virgin Sinolea Olive Oil.

STORY ALLISON TAIT PHOTOGRAPHY BANJO MCLACHLAN



When Ian Oatley's children planted the seeds for an olive grove on the family property at Mudgee, NSW, they didn't realise it, but they were taking part in more than one long held tradition. Firstly, the history of olive farming in Australia stretches back to the early 1800s, when the first groves were planted in Parramatta, near Sydney. Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, they were continuing a tradition for growth that had long been an Oatley family staple.

"Mum planted 10 olive trees at our property, Rosemount, in the 1960s," says Ian Oatley, youngest son of Bob Oatley and CEO of Robert Oatley Extra Virgin Sinolea Olive Oil. "They were always there, part of our family landscape."

At that time, Bob Oatley and his family (now owners of Hamilton Island) were associated with wine, but by the 1990s they were giving the humble olive serious attention. "The olive oil boom began here, and suddenly there were 60 different olive varieties available for planting," says Ian.

"I could see the parallels between the wine industry and olive oil and I wanted to do something agricultural with my family, in the same way that Dad had done for us."

And so the seeds of Robert Oatley olive oils were planted in 1998 and the children, now 28, 24 and 23, have been involved in every step of the growth of the business. "It was an educational process," says Ian. "A family activity. We did it the best way we could, so economics were secondary. The primary motive was to show the kids how to do it properly."

To this end, the Oatley oils are extracted using the Sinolea method, which was invented by an Italian scientist in the 1930s. "It is the closest thing we have to mechanised natural harvesting," says Ian. "Most modern suppliers will use crushing and high-speed centrifuge to extract their oils – it's efficient, but we believe it washes the flavour out of the oil. Sinolea by comparison is clumsy, slow and time-consuming, but we do produce the finest quality oil we can get."

The Oatleys grow five different varieties of



WHICH ROBERT OATLEY OLIVE OIL IS FOR YOU?

Frantoio: Premium Italian olive variety. Apple and artichoke aroma with a sweetish palate. Some roquette leaf bitterness and mild chilli pungency.

Arbequina: Delicate Spanish olive variety. The mildest of the Robert Oatley olive oils, with a fresh grassy aroma and a mild, sweet palate. Low bitterness and pungency.

Koroneiki: Premium Greek olive variety. Features a lively green banana and tropical fruit aroma, which carries through to the palate. Pleasant grapefruit bitterness and a warm, pungent finish.

Leccino: A mild, rustic Italian olive variety, with a fruity, fragrant aroma and a soft sweetness on the palate. Finishes with a light, but lingering, pungency.

Picual: Spanish olive variety, renowned for its smoothness and rich, full flavour. Tomato aroma and savoury palate, with a pleasant grapefruit bitterness and warm, pungent finish.

For your nearest stockist visit
www.robortoatleyoliveoil.com.au

olives, each chosen for its specific properties and flavours. "You can't grow just one," says Ian. "Olives are not self-fertile and cross-pollinate by wind. You need to lay out a grove with several varieties to guarantee a crop."

The end result is the Oatley range of five dramatically different pure, award-winning varietal oils. Each has its own taste and qualities – and Ian Oatley would like Australians to taste them all. "Australians are great adopters and supporters of fresh produce," he says. "They are beginning to

realise that there is a wide range of qualities of olive oil – from something you'd use to rub on your skin, to lamp oil, to super-quality food-grade extra virgin olive oil. We only wanted to make the best of the best, and once they taste it, they're blown away by the freshness."

To this end, Ian recommends keeping olive oil for no more than three weeks once opened, and always stored away from light or heat. "Buy small quantities often," he says. "Oxidisation affects the taste. It's fresh juice. Think of it like that." ■

Where in the world would you rather be?



When we told Peter Thomson, five-time British Open Winner, that we'd like a rather special course here on Hamilton Island, he smiled and said "I'll design you a course that's as dramatic and breathtaking as the outlook it enjoys". And he succeeded. From the challenging fairways of the 18-hole championship course to the Clubhouse with its mouth-watering menu, the golf here is already legendary. But that's just the tee off. Next come the local beaches and waterways, offering some of the world's best sailing, diving, fishing and kayaking. And then there's the huge range of hotels and choice of fine restaurants - along with some exclusive real estate that's really worth owning. You'll soon find that one visit to Hamilton Island is simply not enough to discover it all.

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Bommie

Nestled within the iconic Hamilton Island Yacht Club, you'll find the island's newest dining experience –and it's fine enough to rival the very best the big cities have to offer. Striking architecture, fine food and wine and superb Australian service. Welcome to Bommie.

STORY DERYCK JAMES PHOTOGRAPHY ANDREA FRANCOLINI AND JASON LOUCAS



Many cities lay claim to at least one iconic piece of architecture.

Sydney has its Coathanger (the Harbour Bridge), while London has the Gherkin (the Swiss Re building) and so on.

Our first real glimpse of the Hamilton Island Yacht Club came a few years ago when we were on our way back to the island after visiting the newly opened Hamilton Island Golf Club on nearby Dent Island.

We had heard the unofficial title bestowed on it by some media outlets – the Opera House of Queensland – and upon seeing the unique structure for ourselves, it was easy to see why.

With its soaring copper wings and cantilevered terraces, it is an airy, ethereal masterpiece, perched elegantly at the entrance to the marina. Since opening in 2009, it has become synonymous with Hamilton Island and the surrounding region.

The club's sweeping, smooth-lined design and yachting theme is echoed right through the building – and nowhere more so than in the elegant interior of the fine-dining Bommie restaurant, where beautifully polished hull-shaped timber tables effortlessly bring the outside in.

In some respects, Bommie is a contradiction. Fine dining, certainly, but with a relaxed atmosphere more in keeping with the character of the island. Inside, dark timbers and polished stainless steel fittings

reflect the evening candle light, while large fish traps become intriguing art pieces, echoing the maritime feel of the restaurant.

With seating for 90 and an additional 53 outdoor balcony seats, the restaurant has sweeping views of the marina in one direction and the turquoise waters of the Whitsundays in the other.

But while the view is stunning from every angle, it serves to enhance rather than overshadow the menu.

Bommie features modern Australian cuisine with, naturally, an emphasis on fresh local seafood, whether it be a tempting Peruvian-style ceviche, freshly shucked oysters, pan-seared barramundi, or a local crayfish and prawn tortellini.

There can be few pleasures to rival the Berkshire pork, wrapped in pancetta with drunken dates, sous vide apples and gorgonzola dolce, or 'Q' Farm lamb saddle, slow roasted with sweet pea puree and bacon bourguignon, while drinking in the superb view – or something from the superbly stocked wine cellar for that matter.

Bommie takes its name from the shallow reef patches found in the waters around Hamilton Island and is a short form of the Aboriginal word 'bombora'. The bommies provide a safe haven for tropical fish to come together and feed but also present a challenge to yachtsmen who must keep a wary eye out for them.



AT A GLANCE

Bommie is generally open for dinner from 6pm-9pm but opening times may vary depending on the season. Check the daily activity guide at

www.hamiltonisland.com.au for details prior to arriving on the island. It caters for guests 12 years and over, with group booking limitations and a private dining room available for up to 14 guests.

Bookings are essential.
Please call 07 4948 9422 (59422).

The Bommie Deck Bar, which stretches out from the main yacht club structure is the perfect spot for a late afternoon drink as the sun sets. No better place is there for barbequed local prawns with romesco sauce and fresh lemon, or dill and lemon local reef fish and chips, with house made tartare sauce.

And if you can manage to get there early, do take the time to check out the Flag Deck, which boasts the mast of the maxi yacht, *Bumblebee IV*, the line-honours winner of the 1979 Sydney Hobart Yacht Race.

Rescued from the depths of Sydney Harbour after an overly arduous race, it

sat in a warehouse until Iain Murray, the Hamilton Island Yacht Club Commodore, remembered it and thought it would fit perfectly with the overall design for the new club, located as it is in such an iconic sailing destination.

Certainly the effect is one of relaxed luxury and a feel that is unique to Bommie and this spectacular part of the world. That you can enjoy this level of dining experience away from the madding crowds of the big city will come as a pleasant surprise to many. That it also comes with a view like this, must be worth at least another star or chef's hat in any rating system. ■

*"I hope you enjoy
drinking these wines
as much as we enjoy
making them"*

Bob Oatley



ROBERT OATLEY
VINEYARDS

www.robertoatley.com.au



The Merry Widow Act 2, Valenciennes and Camille pas de deux, performed by Principal Artists Yosvani Ramos and Leanne Stojmenov.

Stunning

Simply

Now in its fourth year, The Australian Ballet performance, Pas de Deux in Paradise at qualia leaves a lasting impression on all those lucky enough to attend. A magical weekend, culminating in a sublime performance under the stars, this is an experience like no other.

STORY EVA WAIT PHOTOGRAPHY ANDREA FRANCOLINI

There is quite simply nothing else like Pas de Deux in Paradise. Yes, it has as its centrepiece a breathtaking performance by four Artists of The Australian Ballet, but Pas de Deux in Paradise is an experience – a weekend during which guests meet and watch the dancers rehearse, all the while enjoying the very best Hamilton Island has to offer.

Now in its fourth year, qualia played host not only to four Principal Artists but the Artistic Director of The Australian Ballet, David McAllister, for a memorable weekend of fine food, wine and sublime dance. Once again emceed by *Getaway* presenter (and long time friend of Hamilton Island) Catriona Rowntree, guests enjoyed the tremendous talents of Olivia Bell, Yosvani Ramos, Adam Bull and Leanne Stojmenov

against the stunning backdrop of the Whitsundays, a unique theatre setting to rival the very finest in all the world.

For the first time too this year, renowned Choreographer, Graeme Murphy AM, and his partner Creative Associate Janet Vernon AM, herself an acclaimed dancer and Creative Director, also attended the event.

Of course, a great deal goes into making this a reality “We have around 180 shows a year, so it is always tricky to find a spare moment,” says David McAllister, “Having said that, the minute I mention qualia to anyone, they are ready to drop everything and be involved.”

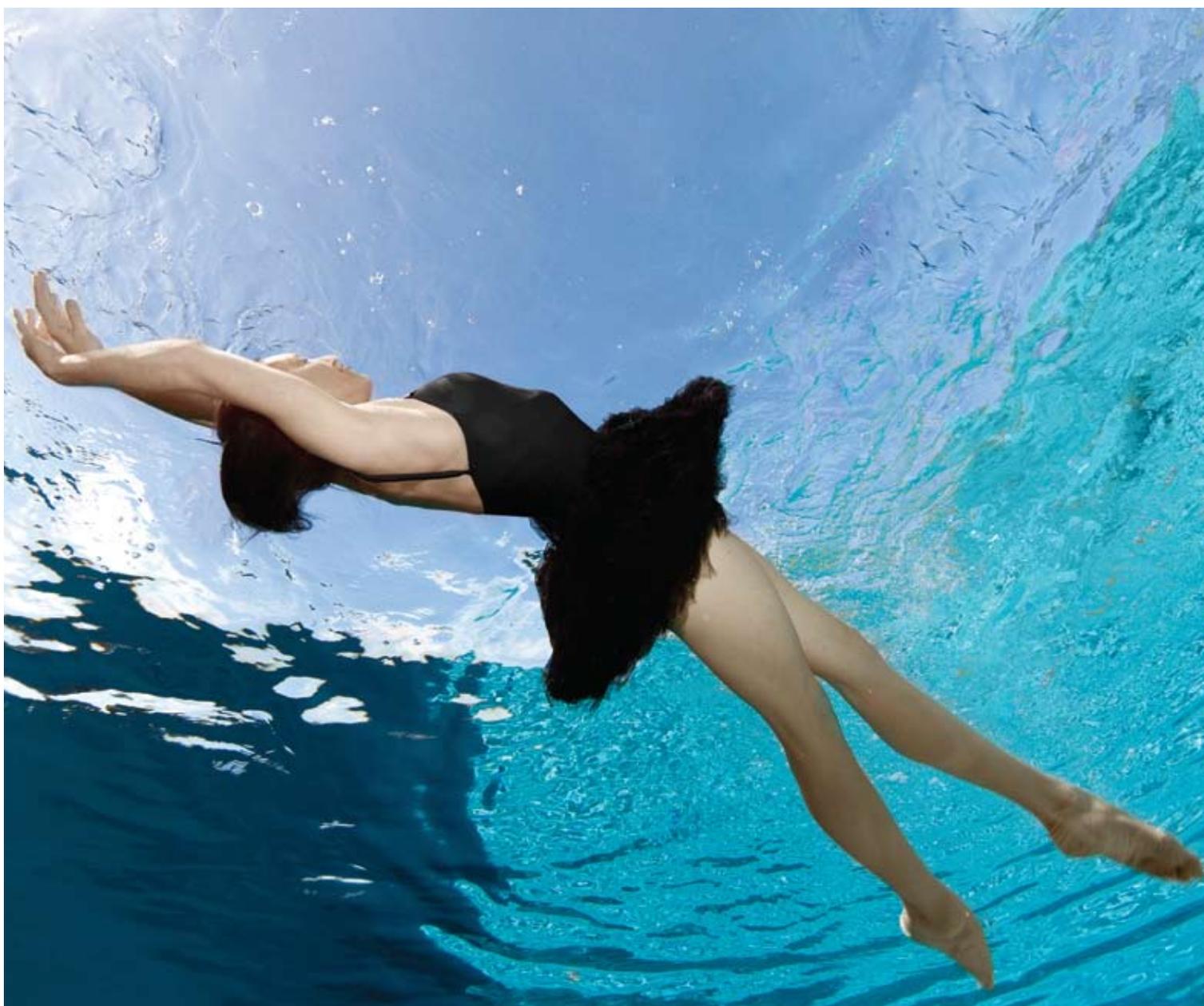
But even before the dancers took to the stage, guests had the rare opportunity of speaking with them and with McAllister during a welcome dinner on Friday evening,

prepared by qualia’s Executive Chef, Jane-Therese Mulry. This unique opportunity to meet and speak with the dancers set the scene for the rest of the weekend, and allowed a measure of intimacy not possible in a more ‘traditional’ setting.

Saturday again afforded guests the chance to see behind the scenes, watching as the dancers prepare for the evening’s performance with a dance class on the open-air stage.

Here guests were able get some idea of the dedication and the often gruelling work regime required to produce the exquisite and breathtaking performances.

With the excitement building and the dancers involved in preparations for the evening’s performance, guests headed for the perfect venue in which to enjoy a



relaxing afternoon – lunch at the iconic Hamilton Island Yacht Club perched on the edge of Dent Passage. Here the gastronomic side to the weekend continued, with wonderful food, Moët and Chandon champagne and of course ‘that’ view.

On any other weekend, this would have been the perfect way to cap things off, but on this occasion, the finale was yet to come – and what a finale it was.

For McAllister, this is what makes it all so special:

“The glorious views over the water and watching the sun set and then the stars come out. It is truly magical. It would take a great deal of money to replicate that on stage!”

As the sun set over Whitsunday Passage, the specially prepared open-air stage at qualia came alive with two pas de deux

from *The Merry Widow*, which, as Creative Director David McAllister explained ‘was the first full-length ballet created by The Australian Ballet in 1975 by Sir Robert Helpmann and Ronald Hynd’.

There followed a stirring grand solo from *Don Quixote*, performed by Cuban-born Yosvani Ramos. The 1998 gold medallist at the Paris International Ballet Competition, Ramos joined The Australian Ballet as Principal Artist in 2008 after dancing with the English National Ballet as a soloist in 1999, ultimately being promoted to Principal Artist in 2003.

This moving performance was followed by the finale, taken from the classic *Swan Lake*, the pas de trois between Prince Siegfried, Odette and Baroness von Rothbart. Here, the talents of Adam Bull,

Leanne Stojmenov and Olivia Bell breathed new life into this classic piece, the grace of movement combined with the gorgeous costumes against the darkening sky, accompanied by the Tchaikovsky score, producing an inspiring finale.

Bull, who graduated from The Australian Ballet School with honours in 2001, joined The Australian Ballet in 2002. His talent was immediately evident and he put his own special mark on solos and in numerous lead roles, including the company’s tours to Paris, London and Japan. Such is his exceptional talent that after only six months as a Senior Artist, he was promoted to the highest rank of Principal in 2008.

Hailing from Perth, Leanne Stojmenov began full-time training in 1993 at the Graduate College under Terri Charlesworth,



(Clockwise from top) *Swan Lake* Act 3, Graeme Murphy pas de trois, performed by Principal Artists Adam Bull, Leanne Stojmenov and Olivia Bell; emcee Catriona Rowntree with David McAllister, the Principal Artists and the Oatley family; Graeme Murphy AM and David McAllister talking about the Graeme Murphy *Swan Lake* production.

before joining the West Australian Ballet in 1999. Just two years later she joined The Australian Ballet, and in 2004 went on to win the New South Wales Friends of The Australian Ballet scholarship which led to her further study throughout Europe. This year saw Stojmenov promoted to Principal Artist, a role that she cherishes and fits to perfection, as her performance clearly demonstrated.

Bell, a graduate of the Paris Opéra Ballet School, joined The Australian Ballet in 1995 and has inspired audiences since with her graceful portrayals of some of ballet's most famous roles as well as many contemporary

pieces. In 1996 she was awarded a Khitercs Foundation scholarship to study overseas, and she has since matured and flourished as a dancer of tremendous versatility. Promoted to Principal Artist in 2007, Olivia brings her own very special qualities and feel to each and every role.

For McAllister, this was a standout of the 2011 performance.

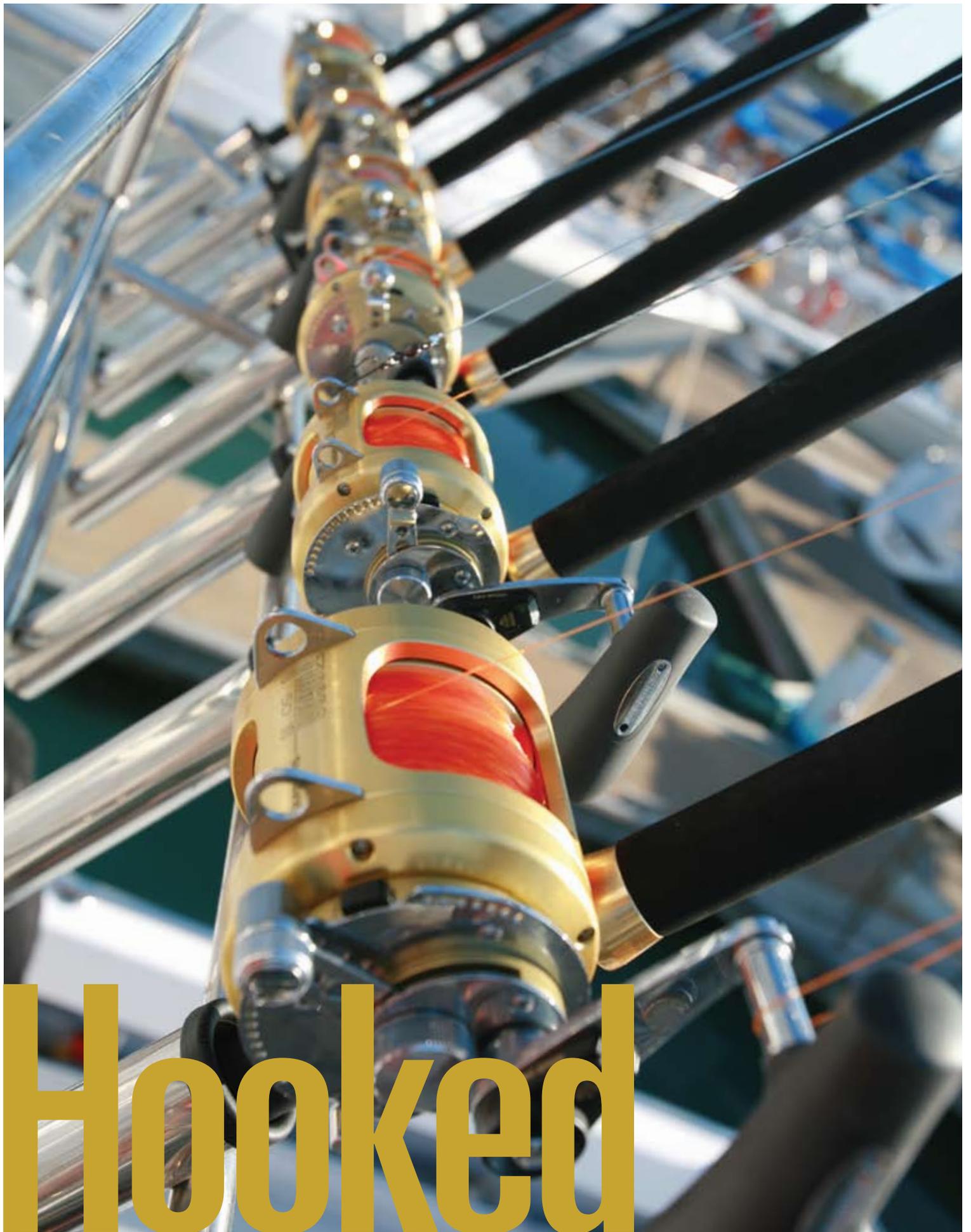
"As I was watching the the pas de trois from *Swan Lake* with Graeme Murphy and Janet Vernon, we remarked it was amazing that it looked just like the set for act three, which is beautiful, black, textured curtains. The drama of the wind on the dancers'

costumes meant that even when they were standing still there was movement," he said.

Rounding out a perfect performance, guests then enjoyed a wonderful dinner at qualia and had the chance once again to speak with the dancers who had delighted and inspired them earlier on stage. That such an event took place hundreds of miles from the nearest theatre or opera house, only added to the occasion and ensures that this remains a unique 'island' experience.

"It is wonderful that each year we have built on the performance before," says McAllister "...and I look forward to being there again in November 2012." ■

To find out more about the next Pas de Deux in Paradise, to be held 16 – 18 November 2012, visit www.hamiltonisland.com.au/australian-ballet/





The pristine waters of the Whitsundays are teeming with a huge variety of piscatorial delights, sure to test the skills of avid fishermen and delight beginners. But take care – once you've tasted success, it's not just the fish that can get hooked.

STORY GLEN BOOTH PHOTOGRAPHY GLEN BOOTH AND RENEGADE FISHING CHARTERS



Over 70 islands make up the stunning Whitsundays and Hamilton Island is the jewel in the crown. It is the departure point for any number of on-water activities, from sailing to scuba diving, and for recreational fishing – regardless of your level of skill – this is a slice of heaven. There is an amazing array of fish species found here that pull hard, jump, and in many cases taste quite magnificent.

Hamilton Island is well serviced with charter boats, bareboat yachts that you can also fish from, and there are dinghies for hire if you plan on pursuing the do-it-yourself option. Just be mindful of the tides though; with a rise and fall of almost four metres, it doesn't pay to get stranded, so carry a tide book and plan your fishing adventures accordingly.

With so many islands dotted about the place, there's always a lee shore somewhere capable of turning up a fish or two if the wind is blowing. Just check the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority zoning maps that fishing is permitted at your chosen fishing spot, which is standard advice anywhere around here these days.

Some people fish just for sport, but most fish for a feed. Arguably Australia's finest table fish is the coral trout and the whole Whitsunday region is chockers with them. Most are caught on bait – pilchards, herring or strips of tuna – but they will also hit metal

jigs, soft plastic lures and trolled minnows worked close to the rocks and coral. Living so close to the reef, it's important to keep them coming once hooked, especially for the first few metres so they don't burrow back into their caves or run the line around a sharp edge. Don't take too long to get them to the boat though, as bigger fish like a big ol' cod may decide they need the fish more than you.

Red emperor are another iconic table fish of the region and red specialists are fairly secretive about their locations, but small reef patches and shoals out in the middle of nowhere can produce, and they are also found in company with coral trout. Those heading out with one of Hamilton Island's specialist fishing charters will have the benefit of local knowledge on their side – and every bit helps to land the big ones.

Smallmouth and largemouth nannygai are another 'red' species that has a loyal following, and are often found in the same spots as emperor.

If bottom fishing, carry a range of sinker sizes to combat the sometimes fierce current. While frozen bait is okay and very convenient, fresh bait produces better results and is certainly worth the effort to gather beforehand. Garfish, herring and mullet, either caught with a cast net or on a multi-hook bait jig, are the top baits. In fact, collecting the bait is often considered more fun than the actual fishing.





The Hillstrand brothers of *Deadliest Catch* fame, with celebrated chef, Peter Evans during Audi Hamilton Island Race Week 2010.

Bear in mind that all these table fish are immensely powerful and heavier gear than what might be needed in other locations may be called upon. That said, some finesse fishing with braided line and smaller weights is possible, but expect the occasional bust-up.

Trolling lures and baits can produce plenty of hookups around Hamilton Island, from tuna to black marlin.

The presence of mackerel tuna and longtail tuna are often signposted by watery explosions and a cacophony of screeching seabirds hovering overhead, but plenty of blind strikes will come seemingly in the

middle of nowhere. If you do happen across a surface feeding school, casting into it with small chromed baitfish-shaped lures can be an exciting way of scoring a hookup.

Mackerel tuna are more of a sport fish rather than something you might want to serve up on the barbecue, but they are very good bait for bottom species. Longtails make tasty sashimi, and the shoulder meat can be cut up into medallions and cooked any number of delicious ways. Keeping the fillets in the fridge for a day or so, especially if being eaten raw with a bit of Wasabi and soy sauce, enhances the texture.

Spanish mackerel are another pelagic species that roam throughout the Whitsundays. These tiger-striped missiles are terrific eating, and great sport as well. If targeting mackerel, a wire trace is a must, as they are adept at snipping through nylon leaders with their razor sharp teeth. They have keen eyesight, so a second 'stinger' hook down near the tail is a necessity, otherwise they will continue to chop baits like garfish and mullet off behind the hook with unerring accuracy.

Giant trevally or GTs are another reef resident, and these fish are known for their bad manners and single-minded determination to sever the line on a handy piece of coral or rock the moment they are hooked.

Surface lures like poppers that throw up a lot of splash are cast across coral bommies, into rocky shorelines and around rippling fusilier schools, then retrieved fast across the

top to get their attention. The surface strikes from these fish that can range in weight from a couple to 25 kilograms or more are explosive to say the least.

Not much good to eat, most are released after an intense and exhilarating fight.

Queenfish are another enthusiastic popper chaser that are found around the islands, bommies and areas where opposing currents meet. Along with small GTs, they can be found chasing baitfish like herring along the breakwalls fronting the marina entrance, although a dawn start is necessary to tap into the action.

The spectacular sailfish and black marlin are the real trolling prizes in this area. Most are small, averaging 18 to 30 kilograms, but Hamilton Island has a deserved reputation for producing sizeable examples of both species at times, meaning heavier tackle than might otherwise be used for mackerel could prove advantageous. Although not great eating, they are usually tagged and released to fight another day.

Small skirted trolling lures are popular, with skipping garfish and swimming mullet producing more secure hookups. These baits and lures will appeal to other species as well, so it's a good all-round approach. Just remember to rig them on light single-strand wire if the mackerel are about.

Whether you head out under your own steam or enlist the professionals, wetting a line in this part of the world is always a rewarding experience – and the scenery isn't bad either. ■

LANDING A CATCH

Hamilton Island is home to some of the finest fishing charters in the area, with plenty of options to get you out on the water.

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 07 4946 8305 (58305)

Glen Booth is a freelance fishing writer, photographer and magazine editor who has fished extensively throughout the Whitsunday region and further afield, including overseas. He has just finished co-authoring a book, *The Complete Guide To Game Fishing* which will be published in November 2011.

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What's in a Name

Everyone has heard of the Great Barrier Reef, but what of the names of the almost 3,000 individual reefs that make up this magnificent natural wonder? Just how are they identified and how do they get their names?

STORY LEE ATKINSON PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK AUTHORITY AND DICK SWEENEY

There are no prizes for guessing how the Great Barrier Reef got its name. It is, after all, the largest coral barrier reef in the world. But what about Cowboy Reef, Plum Pudding Reef, Perseverance Reef, Sandshoe and Knuckle Reefs, or even Hook, Line and Sinker Reefs? Just how did these reefs come by their slightly wacky names, and who decides what they should be called?

Stretching for more than 2,000 kilometres and between 60 and 250 kilometres wide, the Great Barrier Reef covers an area of 344,000 square kilometres. But it's not just one long wall of coral; the reef is actually 2,900 individual reefs (plus 600 continental islands and 300 coral cays) that together form



the world's largest coral structure. Of those, only half are officially named. The others are known on charts only by a five-digit number.

The first European to chart sections of the reef was Captain Cook in the *Endeavour* in 1770, and he named a number of landmarks along the way, including Endeavour Reef near modern-day Cooktown, which he struck on 11 June 1770. But the overall reef itself remained unnamed until Matthew Flinders mapped it on his epic round Australia voyage in 1802 and labelled it on his chart as an 'Extensive Barrier Reef', which soon became known as the Great Barrier Reef. He was also one of the first to name some of the individual reefs, such

as Wreck Reef, where he was shipwrecked during a second voyage in the *Porpoise* in 1803, although most of his reef names, which were alpha-numeric, were rather less imaginative.

Other reefs, such as Bligh Reef, (charted by William Bligh on his way to Timor after the mutiny on the *Bounty*) are named for the people who found them, or the hydrographers who mapped them, or the ships they sailed in, or their friends, families, relatives, even politicians, financiers and patrons. Sometimes, it was just because of their shape, such as the famous heart-shaped Heart Reef in the Whitsundays. And while the reasoning behind the naming

of Crescent, Ribbon and Long Reefs are fairly self-explanatory, others are little more obscure; Plum Pudding Reef near Hamilton Island got its name from the nearby island, which apparently (if you squint) has a shape a bit like a plum pudding. A favourite story concerns Mystery Reef, part of Swains Reef off the Capricorn Coast south of the Whitsundays. It was named by fisherman, charter boat operator and modern day explorer, Wally Muller, who named many of the reefs in the area in the 1960s. The story goes that one day, after Muller had finished mapping the Swain Reef area for the Government, he was enjoying some quiet time sailing around the area. Suddenly, he



The Great Barrier Reef is made up of nearly 3,000 individual reefs – only around half have names, while the others are known simply by a five-digit number.



Named after the Hon Dr Virginia Chadwick AO, a passionate marine campaigner and the first female chair of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Virginia Chadwick Reef is located in the Bandjin Reefs group of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

ran into a reef that was not mapped and Muller didn't even know was there. He said "Where did that reef come from?... it's a bloody mystery that one!" and that's how Mystery Reef was named.

Back then, whoever was drawing the map or marking up the chart decided on a name and once it was on the map, it pretty much stuck.

These days the maps are mostly complete, and the chances of stumbling across a hitherto unknown reef and giving it a name are fairly slim. And choosing a name for one of those hundreds of unnamed reefs is a little bit more complicated and a lot more bureaucratic than it was back in the '60s.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) is the main naming authority for all the reefs and features below low water in the marine park, but any new names are done in consultation

with the Royal Australian Navy's Australian Hydrographic Office, the Department of Environment and Resource Management and a host of other stakeholders, and in order to name a reef, you have to present a pretty strong case for it. In fact so long and convoluted is the process (it takes at least three months) that there is seldom more than one reef naming each year. And they don't just go to anyone. In most cases, the naming honours are reserved for marine scientists and biologists whose contribution towards understanding or conserving the reef is generally regarded as outstanding. People like Wally Muller, who had a reef named after him, Mullers Reef, in November 2007 or the late Hon Dr Virginia Chadwick AO, the first female chairman of GBRMPA, in April 2010. Typically, the honour is bestowed after a person's death.

Usually, but not always. In 2005 GBRMPA was so impressed with the North Queensland rugby league team that they named a reef after them. They may have lost the grand final that year, but at least they found lasting fame on the reef. ■



Reefworld



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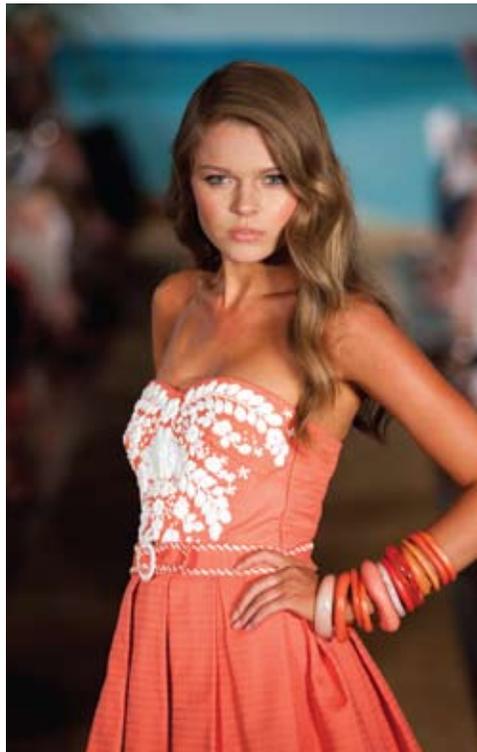
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The unveiling of Collette Dinnigan's Cruise Collection at qualia.





Collette Dinnigan is a game-changer. In the the past 15 years, she has almost singlehandedly challenged the world's perception of Australian fashion. The first Australian designer to unveil her collections in Paris in 1996, the global fashion pack flocked to her runway shows from the get-go, even though they weren't on the official program. So much so that La Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture, the elite body that sets the dates and locations of Paris fashion weeks, was 'forced' to add Dinnigan to its rarefied schedule because it received so many complaints from other designers when her shows clashed with theirs.

It's helped, too, that Dinnigan is runway glamorous herself, with her trademark golden-brown hair and large blue eyes. All the better to mix with some of her greatest supporters and fans - Nicole Kidman, Halle Berry, Angelina Jolie, Elle McPherson and Charlize Theron. The rock'n'roll edge that

has always run through her work stems from her early days as a costume designer for music videos and movies, working with then up-and-comers like Naomi Watts. But Cate Blanchett probably delivered the ultimate compliment when she said of Dinnigan: "The first thing I bought when I had some money was from her."

Yet even though she's very much at home in the grand slam fashion locations of London, Paris and New York, Dinnigan loves the opportunity to strut her stuff 'back home'.

"I think Australian women have that European confidence" she says. "They love to get dressed up, whether it's for the races or heading off to a five star resort".

Dinnigan knows a lot about high-end resorts, and one in particular holds a special place not only in her heart but forms a central part of her annual schedule.

To anyone who has attended one of Collette's qualia parades, it would come as no surprise that prior to her big city comeback, the only show Dinnigan staged in Australia was the launch of her annual Cruise Collection at qualia on Hamilton Island, a 'tradition' that dates back to the year of the luxury resort's opening in 2007. This year marks the fifth time she has done so during Audi Hamilton Island Race Week. And in a frantic daily schedule of parties, live entertainment and golf clinics – not to mention the spectacular yacht racing – Dinnigan's luxurious yet relaxed fashions are one of the most anticipated events.

It was very much a personal, as well as a business decision says Dinnigan. "I've been going to qualia since it opened. For someone like me who is always on show, so to speak, the resort is so private. It's also

Central Fashion

Each August, Hamilton Island's exclusive resort, qualia, becomes the focus for the fashion world as Australia's top designer, Collette Dinnigan, unveils her sought after Cruise Collection amidst the glamour and festivities of Audi Hamilton Island Race Week.

STORY ELISABETH KING PHOTOGRAPHY ANDREA FRANCOLINI AND CIARAN HANDY

Collette Dinnigan's limited edition beach and pool towel for qualia.

close to Sydney and you can get there in just over two hours. I love qualia because of its incredible location, the Australian vegetation and don't get me started about the whale-watching season. There are few other places on earth where you can watch these extraordinary mammals from the verandah of your suite."

Then there's the inspiration factor. Earlier this year, Dinnigan designed a limited edition beach and pool towel for qualia. "It's hard to spell out the beauty of Hamilton Island in a few words," says Dinnigan. "The print is my homage to the local flora and fauna. I love working with intense colours."

Her Cruise Collections are close to Dinnigan's heart for the same reason. "I get inspiration from all the things that I love - the sumptuous blue of the ocean, crushed shells, coral, incredible sunsets. I can play with bolder colours and prints, which I can't in my Paris Summer and Winter Collections. Resort clothes are such a great reflection of our enviable Australian lifestyle. That's why Audi Hamilton Island Race Week is such a good launch pad. The audience is so diverse."

One of the first Australian designers to produce regular resort collections in the mid-90s, Dinnigan's upmarket holiday-style creations are now sold in more than 20 countries, including the US and Germany. She was again ahead of the curve in the modern era, but cruise collections date back to the 1950s and '60s when wealthy Americans and Europeans headed for sunnier climes to escape the winter cold and wanted new clothes to wear. A small clutch of designers started to cater to this most exclusive of niche markets, and by the 1980s major luxury fashion houses such Chanel and Louis Vuitton were also offering resort wear. In the past five years though, cruise collections have become the new goldmine for the fashion industry and over 130 international designers now



showcase annual cruise collections. Yves Saint Laurent even produces a menswear resort collection.

It's easy to see why Dinnigan's pieces work so well and why the annual qualia event on Hamilton Island is so eagerly anticipated. The short, beaded cocktail dresses that have fuelled much of her international success always get a look-in, but it's hard to predict what will come down the catwalk next. In her 2007 Cruise Collection, for example, Australian motifs of wattle, frangipani, kookaburras and heritage postage stamps decorated the silk tops, seriously sexy dresses and cute-as-swimsuits. While last year's Hamptons High Tea Collection drew inspiration from vintage movie stars and the TV show, *Mad Men*, with French lace cocktail dresses, intricate bead embroidery, bandeau tops and ruched swimwear.

What can we expect from this year's collection? "It's very tropical" says

Dinnigan. "There's lots of wavy sleeves and a Caribbean feel. The sort of clothes that look good and make women feel good. That's always my aim when I design a Cruise Collection. And value of course."

That's not a word you often hear when talk turns to high fashion. But a great part of Dinnigan's appeal to celebrities and the style-conscious alike is that wearing her clothes is not an impossible dream.

"Even my wealthy clients appreciate the fact that they can buy one of my dresses for \$900, not a price tag that runs into the thousands. And that's a very important factor when women are looking to buy resort wear."

An attitude that doesn't translate to location though. "Chanel launches its cruise collections in exotic places like St Tropez" says Dinnigan. "At qualia the superyachts are moored nearby too, and the beaches are much better. You couldn't ask for a more appropriate backdrop." ■



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boutique

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■ On the ■ Limit

Two-time World Drivers' Champion and a man on a mission to put the prancing horse of Ferrari back on top, Fernando Alonso is very much accustomed to living life at the very limit. Being a Formula One Champion means an adrenalin-charged lifestyle, and the down time needs to be taken just as seriously as the time spent behind the wheel.

STORY ROBERT JAMES PHOTOGRAPHY ANDREA FRANCOLINI AND GETTY IMAGES

His grip on the wheel is completely relaxed. No superfluous movements are necessary as his eyes look intently down the track towards the next bend. This is an unfamiliar track for two-time World Drivers' Champion Fernando Alonso, yet he keeps his foot down on the accelerator for maximum speed up the next sweeper. Cresting the hill, the track turns right and the sparkling vista of Dent Passage opens up before him. For the first time his eyes dart from the track to the golf course as he checks the lie of his ball.

The Ferrari racing colours are as familiar as are the boyish looks of the driver, but the vehicle and the setting are not the usually high-octane racing models of the world's Formula One circuits, but the picturesque setting of the Hamilton Island Golf Club where Spanish Formula One ace, Fernando Alonso surveys his lie and judges his next shot as intently as he would any track. This may be time off, but this is still serious business.

Although his first trip to Hamilton Island, Alonso is no stranger to the spectacular surrounds, given his enviable lifestyle as one of the greats of Formula One. Following the 2011 Australian Formula One Grand Prix in Melbourne, Alonso and his wife, Raquel del Rosario found a sanctuary away from the very bright lights and public scrutiny of the F1 circus at qualia, and the absence of

cars around Hamilton Island seems like a welcome relief for the 29-year-old. But, like so many other elite athletes, the idea of putting his feet up and relaxing does not come easily to the Spaniard and so he happily swaps one sport for his newest passion – golf – tackling the stunning, but challenging Hamilton Island Golf Club layout with the same singleminded determination that won him back to back World Championships in 2005 and 2006 – the youngest driver at the time to do so, at 24 years of age.

Like so many racing champions, Alonso's career started when most children are still playing with toys and are barely able to walk. His father, José Luis, was a keen go-karter and attempted to get Alonso's older sister Lorena interested in the sport by building her a go-kart of her own. The eight-year-old Lorena showed no interest at all in the go-kart, but three-year-old Fernando took to it like a duck to water, demonstrating a natural talent for driving and racing to such an extent that by the ripe old age of seven, he was poised to win his first championship.

From that first junior championship in 1988 the young Fernando stamped his authority on every young development series he took part in, winning races and indeed series' in the Asturias, Navarra and Basque regions. From here he had Spain at his feet, and at just 12 years of age became national junior champion (a title he retained for three years



Alonso visited One Tree Hill to admire the views (above) and enjoyed spending time with some of the 'locals' from the Hamilton Island Wildlife Park (right).



straight). With such obvious talent, Fernando Alonso was always destined to compete at an international level, and by 1995 he had fought his way to third in the World Championship, on his way to making the title his own the following year.

His performance continued to impress over the next years, not surprisingly bringing him to the attention of established race teams looking for aspiring young talent. His break into race cars came in 1988 when he was given the opportunity to test in a Formula Nissan. His performance earned him a full-time drive the following year in the Euro Open Championship – there was no stopping him.

From here, F1 team Minardi beckoned with test drives and ultimately a contract for 2001. Alonso then secured a test drive with French

team Renault which led to a full time drive in 2003.

Even in the rarefied atmosphere of Formula One, Alonso's talent was a given, and, after serving notice to the other drivers that he had arrived in 2004, he produced no fewer than seven wins in 2005 to secure his first World Championship.

The following year, Alonso repeated the feat, securing his second Championship with the Renault team, demonstrating his masterful feel against the finest drivers on earth, including the ever-present Michael Schumacher, whose dominance for Ferrari came to an end at the hands of the Spaniard.

Ironically, in season 2009, after stints driving for McLaren and then back to Renault, Alonso announced his intention to drive for the iconic Italian team, where he

finds himself now until at least the end of the 2016 season. And Alonso feels right at home in the Maranello colours, although reliability has let the Italian team down in recent times, he has still managed five wins for Ferrari.

Today though, he is enjoying the other side of 'the fast life', revelling in the sanctuary of qualia and indulging his passion for golf, heading out on to the par 71 championship course to make the most of his time in paradise.

It's a far cry from growing up in Oviedo in Spain – but Alonso's talent and determination have earned him a position at the very forefront of the toughest motorsport on earth – and with that comes the trappings of success.

So for a few days at least, the fastest thing he'll be driving is his golf buggy. ■

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HAMILTON ISLAND
GREAT BARRIER REEF AUSTRALIA

Making a Difference

The dedication and hard work of the broader Hamilton Island community, including the members of the island's state school, are making a difference to the wellbeing and long term health of the Great Barrier Reef. Through simple initiatives, the future is looking bright.

STORY BY JESS BRADY





While the politicians in Canberra are arguing back and forth about the best ways to help save our environment, 60,000 Queensland school kids are quietly getting on with the job of saving the Great Barrier Reef, including the 39 students enrolled at Hamilton Island State School, here in the Whitsundays.

It's all part of the Reef Guardian Schools Program run by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), which encourages schools to commit to the protection and conservation of the world heritage listed Great Barrier Reef. Currently in its ninth year, there are more than 250 schools participating in the program, including some from as far away as Charters Towers and Emerald in western Queensland.

"Marine ecosystems are all connected in some way, so even if your school is a long way from the Great Barrier Reef", explains Megan Sperring from GBRMPA, "learning to live, work and play in a sustainable way will help to protect not just the school's local waterways, but ultimately the Great Barrier Reef."

Participating schools not only learn about the interconnected ecosystems of the reef and surrounding environment through specific classroom based projects, but also get involved in a number of community-based environmental programs. Schools carry out energy audits, create worm farms, compost scraps, grow their own fruit and vegetables, and take part in local clean-ups. The program encourages schools to explore ways of actively conserving and protecting the Great Barrier Reef within their school setting, whether it is looking at ways to conserve water and energy, reducing litter and recycling or minimising the use of plastic bags.

"The projects are relevant to the local area," says Sperring. "In some areas the kids will look after their local creeks and rivers or adopt a beach. In other areas they may participate in sustainable fishing days, where they learn about catch and release and also help eradicate pest species. Up north, in the Torres Strait, they are involved in tagging turtles and removing ghost nets."

But for the teachers and kids of Hamilton Island State School, becoming Reef Guardians is not just an abstract lesson

in environmentalism, it's more about discovering – and protecting – their own backyard.

"The kids can see the ocean from their classroom," explains Ange Boileau, one of the teachers at the tiny school. "The reef is our backyard, literally, so it's not hard to be passionate about something that is in your face like that."

Awards and cash prizes are given to schools who demonstrate outstanding achievements in their Reef Guardian Programs, along with a number of encouragement prizes for schools who demonstrate a strong commitment to the program. But the real objective, according to Sperring, is that the program empowers students and gives them a sense of participation and the belief that they really can make a positive difference to the future.

On Hamilton Island, the children's enthusiasm is contagious. Twice a year, along with their parents, they join an increasing number of island staff to help clean up the island and waterways as part of the nationwide Clean Up Australia Day in March, and the Great Northern Clean Up in September, where the children help the adults scour the island for litter, and boat owners head out to bays inaccessible by foot to help clean up any rubbish that is washed up on the otherwise pristine beaches.

Both events are organised on the island by Stephen Jackson, Manager of the Hamilton Island Sports Club.

Jackson, who moved to Hamilton Island in 2005, says he was surprised at the amount of rubbish he saw scattered around the residential areas of the island and decided to make a difference. "Hamilton Island is a hilly place, so as soon as it rains, it all ends up in the marina or on the beach and, ultimately, on the reef," Jackson says.

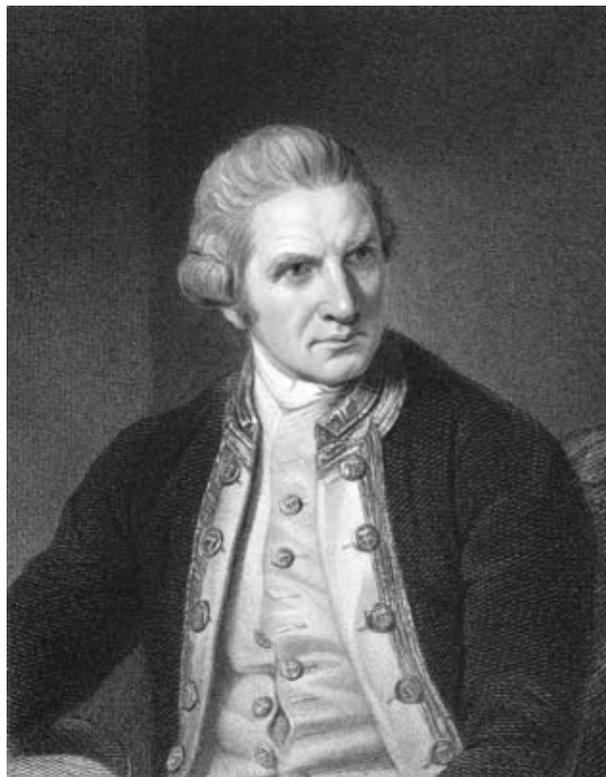
"We all choose to live here because of the beautiful environment, but if we don't look after it, we are biting the hand that feeds us," he says. "The visitors won't come, we won't be able to sustain the resort and we won't have a job, let alone protecting the place for future generations."

"Really, I just want to look after my own little piece of paradise," says Jackson. Seems the kids on Hamilton Island feel exactly the same way. ■

For more information, go to www.reefed.edu.au or www.gbrmpa.gov.au



Voyage of
Discovery



Celebrating 241 years since Captain Cook first sailed through and named the Whitsundays, the magnificent HMB *Endeavour* replica created quite a stir when she visited Hamilton Island as part of her commemorative circumnavigation of Australia earlier this year.

STORY LEE ATKINSON PHOTOGRAPHY CIARAN HANDY

Holidaymakers, golfers, visiting yachties and residents on Hamilton Island could all have been forgiven for thinking they had slipped into a time warp when they saw a replica of Captain Cook's magnificent 18th century tall ship, the HMB *Endeavour*, sail across the cerulean waters of the Whitsunday Passage in June this year.

It is after all, a very easy mistake to make: the HMB *Endeavour* replica is one of the world's most accurate maritime reproductions – a full-scale replica of Cook's famous ship of discovery. Its visit to the Whitsundays is part of an epic, and historic, first ever circumnavigation of Australia to celebrate the 241st anniversary of Cook's grand voyage of discovery, a voyage which put both the Whitsundays and Australia – or New Holland as it was then known – firmly on the world map.

The HMB *Endeavour* replica is part of the Australian National Maritime Museum's historic fleet and is usually on display outside the museum at Darling Harbour in Sydney, providing visitors with the chance

to go onboard and get a glimpse of what life might have been like for the intrepid sailors who sailed aboard her into the unknown. In April, she hoisted sail and headed out though the Sydney Harbour heads to trace James Cook's original voyage, when he became the first to chart the east coast of Australia in 1770. Along the way the *Endeavour* will visit regional ports around the country, and the ship will be open to the public when it is berthed. For those quick enough to have secured a ticket to sail, it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience 18th-century square-rig sailing and seamanship by voyaging to other ports.

From Sydney, the HMB *Endeavour* journeyed up the east coast and sailed into the stretch of water now known as the Whitsunday Passage on Sunday 3 June, the same day that then Lieutenant James Cook did back in 1770, when he named it for the Whit Sunday holiday feast that his friends and family would have been no doubt enjoying back home in England.

It is apt that Cook named the region for a holiday. Not only has it become Australia's

NAMED FOR CELEBRATION

Whit Sunday, also known as Pentecost, is a Christian religious event observed seven weeks (50 days) after Easter Sunday (Pentecost is derived from the Greek word for 50). It's more often than not celebrated with a grand feast and was once a favourite time to be baptised. The name 'Whit Sunday' is believed to have come from the white garments worn by those baptised on the day. It's not really celebrated in Australia, but in many Christian countries, especially in Europe, the Monday after Pentecost (Whit Monday) is a public holiday.



favourite holiday playground in the 241 years since, but back then it was a rare section of safe sailing for all those aboard the original *Endeavour*, just as it is for the many sailors – both expert and novice – that explore the area today.

In his journal, Cook wrote that “the whole passage is one continued safe harbour, besides a number of small bays and coves on each side where to all appearances ships might lay as it were in a bason [sic]... The land both on the main and islands, especially on the former, is tolerable high and distinguished by hills and valleys which are diversified with woods and lawns that look'd [sic] green and pleasant.”

“Imagine Cook's face if he could see the beautiful Whitsundays region today,” said Glenn Bourke, CEO of Hamilton Island. “I

think he would have been happy to stop by our magnificent yacht club and shout a round or two of ciders for the crew in celebration of their successful voyage back in 1770.”

The rest of Cook's voyage was, however, not to be such easy sailing. The further north he travelled, the more difficult and dangerous navigation became as he tried to find a way through the increasingly narrow channel between the mainland and the uncharted maze of the Great Barrier Reef.

Just one week later, on 10 June, the *Endeavour* ran afoul of the reef, seriously damaging the hull. It was sink or swim, and Cook needed to find safe waters, fast, so he sailed his damaged vessel into the closest river he could find and set up camp in what is now known as Cooktown for seven weeks while he repaired his ship. When the

Endeavour finally set sail again, it escaped away from the mainland and into the sea beyond the reef.

It's largely thanks to Cook's trials and tribulations that we have such accurate charts of the Queensland coast today, which means the modern-day *Endeavour* should have no problems as it heads up the Queensland coast from Hamilton Island and across the Gulf of Carpentaria and the Top End to Darwin, before sailing into the Indian Ocean and along the Western Australian coast to Fremantle, where she is expected to arrive in mid-October. The voyage will then see *Endeavour* cross the Great Australian Bight taking in South Australia and continuing around Tasmania, before crossing the Bass Strait to Victoria and returning home to Sydney by May 2012. ■

For more information about the replica HMB *Endeavour's* circumnavigation of Australia visit www.endeavourvoyages.com.au

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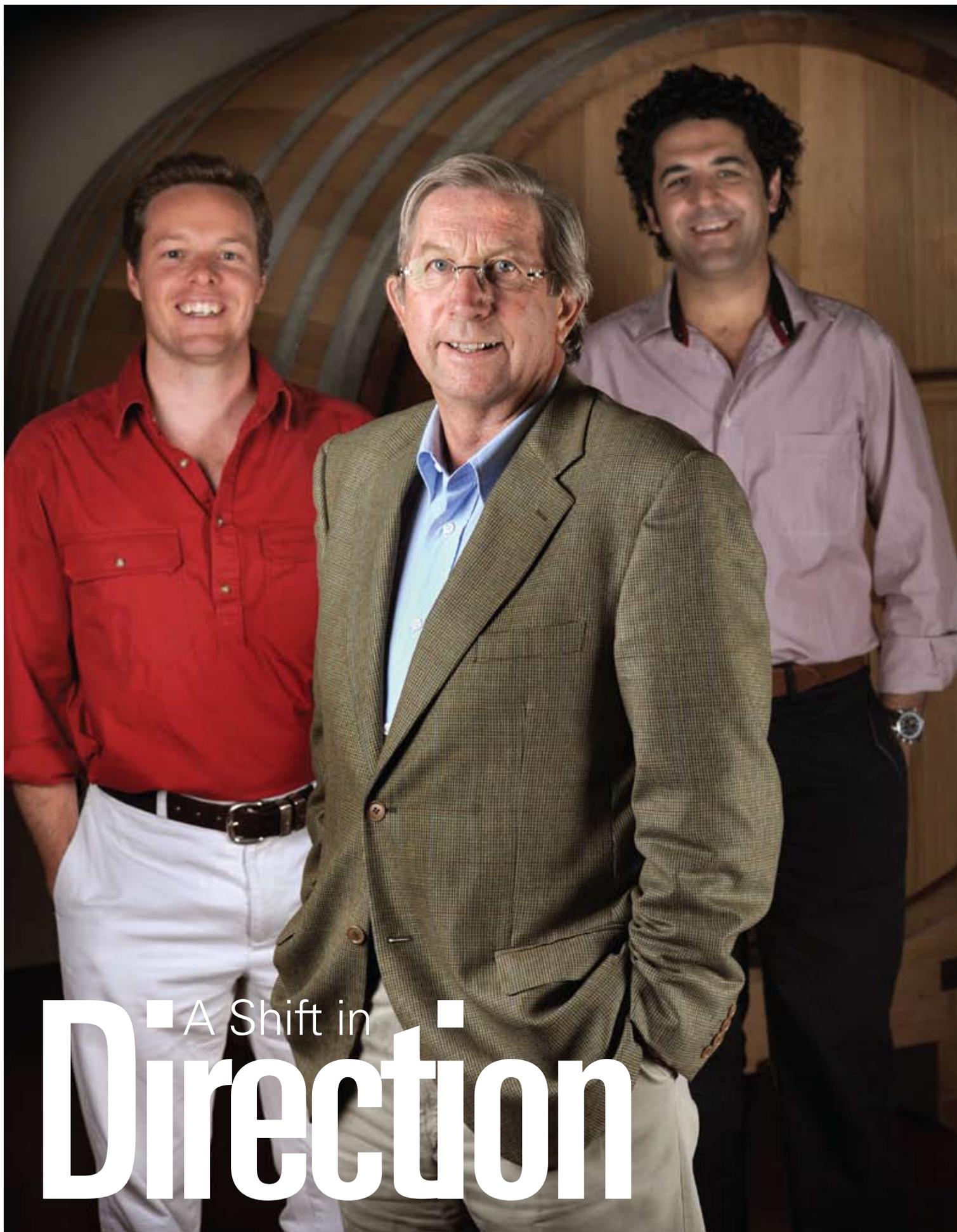
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- Ian Baker-Finch



■ A Shift in ■
Direction

Robert Oatley Vineyards, Mudgee NSW.
(Opposite) Robert Oatley Vineyards winemaking team (left to right), James Manners, Chris Hancock and Larry Cherubino.



Australian wines and the tastes of Australian wine lovers have changed significantly in recent years with a new approach and ethos producing wonderful results. Simon Thomsen spoke with Chris Hancock of Robert Oatley Vineyards and Stuart Halliday of Tetsuya's about the exciting new direction of Australian wines.

STORY SIMON THOMSEN PHOTOGRAPHY JACK ATLEY AND ROBBIE OATLEY

Chances are Bob Dylan didn't have Australian wine in mind when he sang "the times, they are a-changin'", however there's been a dramatic shift in the approach of Aussie winemakers in recent years.

Oaky chardonnay and shiraz - once considered the epitome of the national style - are giving way to a brighter, fresher approach that reveals the varietal flavour of the grapes and their regional character.

In part, it's a response to the inroads made by New Zealand's now ubiquitous sauvignon blanc, yet it also reflects a new maturity and confidence by Australian winemakers.

Veteran winemaker Chris Hancock is Deputy Executive Chairman at Robert Oatley Vineyards and says he's seen "a really seismic shift" in Australian wines of late.

The man once dubbed 'Mr Chardonnay' - he also made six vintages of Penfold's Bin 95 Grange - was lured out of semi-retirement five years ago when his long-time friend and collaborator Bob Oatley established Robert Oatley Vineyards. The pair worked together

at Rosemount for nearly three decades, setting several benchmarks in Australian wine styles, when Bob, always a pioneer, saw it was time for a new direction.

Wine lovers had moved on from big, heavily oaked chardonnays and shiraz, especially the high alcohol Barossa reds that previously caught the attention of influential US wine critics such as Robert Parker. The problem was they left most people struggling to finish a second glass, let alone reach for a second bottle.

Bob's aim, Chris explains, was to once more lead the way in this new style.

"His overarching theory is that first and foremost, a wine should be a good drink. That lies at the very heart of what we're trying to do."

Their focus is on texture, flavour and balance, so the wines can be enjoyed on their own or equally, with food. While based in Mudgee, where most of the winemaking takes place, Robert Oatley Vineyards sources grapes from as far afield as Victoria's Ovens Valley and Mornington Peninsula, the Margaret River, Pemberton and Great

Southern regions in Western Australia and the Adelaide Hills. The wines are made to reflect the distinct characteristics of those regions. To achieve that, Chris works closely with Senior Winemaker James Manners and Director of Winemaking Larry Cherubino, a rising star of Western Australia's wine scene, who commutes regularly to the winery's Mudgee HQ.

Chris is excited by what he now sees.

"There's been some rapid change from some really thoughtful winemakers and what's come out of that is a focus on individual regions and vineyards. Our wines are getting brighter, more stylish and crisper with cleaner acids."

Stuart Halliday, a wine show judge and Sommelier at Tetsuya's, has noticed the change too. "Australian wine is heading in the direction of single vineyard wines that are an expression of terroir - the French term that means you taste the flavours of a region in a wine".

Stuart's watched chardonnay fall in and out of fashion over the last 20 years and says this new easy drinking style has brought the

Bob Oatley among the vines at Chardonnay Park, his Mudgee home.



grape back into fashion.

“Chardonnay is such a blank canvas and that’s what makes it exciting and appealing. There’s so much winemakers can do with it,” he says.

Stuart’s also noticed a big change in shiraz.

“It used to smack you across the face with oak, but now the style is much softer and subtle. I think it’s a reflection of changes in food styles too. The way we’re eating is lighter, with more pan-Asian influences, rather than heavy, creamy French food.”

So what happened to our wines that led so many people to look across the Tasman for sauvignon blanc?

Chris Hancock says the problem was “a slavish following of French practices”. Europe isn’t as blessed as Australia when it comes to grape quality, but we copied them anyway.

“A lot of the things done in Europe were designed to make the wines that weren’t particularly attractive more drinkable,” Chris explains. “What we tended to do was adopt some of these processes unnecessarily, because we haven’t had to face the same problems. Then we pretended it was a badge

of quality when that’s not necessarily the case.”

He adds that Australian viticulture has made enormous progress over the past decade, leading to higher quality fruit and making it easier to let the grapes varietal characteristics shine through.

Stuart Halliday sums up the 1990s approach thus: “winemakers previously chucked everything but the kitchen sink at chardonnay. The wines had what’s called ‘too much artifice’ in show judging terms. They also tended to be horrible and blousy after 18 months.”

The days of putting the wine in 100 percent new oak are over. Drinkers are no longer spitting (wood) chips. Subtlety is the key.

Cool climate chardonnay and shiraz are generating the most excitement among the cognoscenti. Oak is restrained. Fruit is once more to the fore. Whites have good acidity, while reds focus on bright fruit and gentle tannins.

The Robert Oatley Craigmoor AC1 Mudgee chardonnay 2009 is sourced from one of Australia’s oldest Chardonnay vineyards. Influential critic James Halliday

awarded this limited release wine 93 points in his 2011 *Wine Companion*, praising its mix of peach, melon and citrus acidity.

When *The Big Red Wine Book* reviewers Campbell Mattinson and Gary Walsh handed the 2008 Robert Oatley Ovens Valley Shiraz 94 points, they were impressed by its “fragrant sense of luxury”.

Robert Oatley Vineyards even took the fight up to the Kiwis with a bright and crisp Pemberton sauvignon blanc, although Stuart Halliday argues that the new winemaking style should encourage people to try other varietals, such as chardonnay.

“Sauvignon blanc has been successful because it’s so readily recognisable as a grape variety. That’s why people feel comfortable drinking it,” he says. That approach is now much more apparent in other varietal wines as well.

Chris Hancock says this new style is here to stay.

“Freshness, brightness, clarity and purity are the way to go. It not only delivers great drinking, it’s an imperative if we’re going to hold our place as one of the leading winemaking countries in the world.” ■

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HAMILTON ISLAND 2011 CONFERENCE ITINERARY

7.00am Breakfast at the Hamilton Island Wildlife Park
Enjoy a hot full buffet breakfast in the garden courtyard of the island's Wildlife Park. After breakfast take a tour of the park and 'meet the locals'. Note: Bring camera - in case you get to cuddle a koala.

9.00am Conference starts at the Hamilton Island Yacht Club - Ketch Room Make your way to the Hamilton Island Yacht Club. Located at the end of the island's marina - look for the amazing building with a roof similar to the Sydney Opera House. Note: Bring camera - if you get a moment the views from the Yacht Club are incredible.

10.00am Morning Tea on the Flag Deck
Join the rest of the team for warm pastries, coffee and tea on the Flag Deck of the Hamilton Island Yacht Club overlooking the water. Conference resumes at 10.30am.

12.00pm Lunch Cruise to Whitehaven Beach
Meet the cruise vessel at the marina for a relaxed lunch and turtle-spotting tour. Note: Bring camera - you won't want to go home without some photos of this magnificent beach.

2.00pm Arrive back at Hamilton Island

2.30pm Hamilton Island Golf Club
Meet the Island Links ferry down at the marina for a 10min ride over to Dent Island. Hole-in-One contest and golf tips from the resident golf pro. Note: Bring camera - this is apparently being hailed as one of the most picturesque new golf courses in Australia.

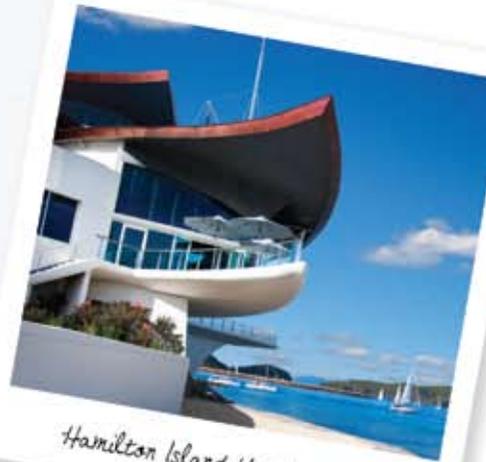
4.00pm Arrive back at Hamilton Island
For those with a bit more energy left, join the Amazing Race buggy rally - the team who wins gets a complimentary spa treatment at Spa wumurdaylin.

6.00pm Dinner on the Dock
Fresh seafood dinner at a fine dining table setting stretching the length of the jetty down at the marina. Note: Bring camera - the sunset from this spot is unbelievable, and the fireworks display later in the evening will be amazing.

What a conference!



Breakfast with the koalas



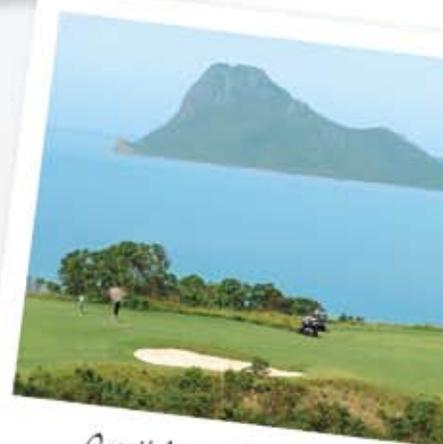
Hamilton Island Yacht Club



The beautiful Whitehaven Beach



Dinner on our own private portoon



Our Hole-in-One contest

With direct flights from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Cairns, conference facilities - including 13 meeting rooms - to cater for 10 to 1,000 delegates with ease, a dedicated team of event professionals and amazing itineraries just like this one, Hamilton Island is the perfect destination for your next group or business event.

To find out more, call the Business Tourism Team on **02 9433 3333**, email conference@hamiltonisland.com.au or visit www.hamiltonisland.com.au/conferences



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Island Home

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investing in your own piece
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the Whitsundays.





Iluka

6 Whitsunday Boulevard, Hamilton Island

FOR SALE. \$3,850,000 5  4.5  2 

Contact.

Wayne Singleton 0416 024 168

Michaella Trigg 0400 870 222

Sustainability Declaration available upon request.

'Iluka' The Ultimate Tropical Paradise

One of the finest private residences on Hamilton Island, Iluka is a design masterpiece by renowned Whitsunday architect Chris Beckingham. This stunning property captures breathtaking north-easterly views, with a design emphasis on local materials. The property is set amongst over 2,000sqm of stunning tropical gardens.

Iluka's vast internal space allows two families to be accommodated in superb luxury. With a focus on effortless living, indoor areas flow gracefully onto expansive outdoor areas embracing the spectacular natural setting and creating a fabulous entertaining precinct. The property comprises two separate lounge rooms, five bedrooms including two master bedrooms, each with ensuite and a swimming pool. Iluka represents an opportunity of envious proportions.



The Edge on Hamilton Apartment 7

5 Acacia Drive, Hamilton Island

FOR SALE. \$2,350,000 3 2 1

World-class, luxury living on Hamilton Island. Listen to the water lapping and admire the most amazing sunsets in your modern two-level waterfront apartment. Edge 7 is a top floor apartment just off set from the pool, enabling tranquillity and convenience.

Featuring three bedrooms and two bathrooms, main ensuite with spa, double basin and walk-in robe, the property also boasts a gourmet kitchen leading to an expansive entertaining balcony, lock-up garage and separate private storage room, C-bus system throughout and a modern furniture package including bar and wine fridge.

The Edge on Hamilton Island complex facilities include a 25m wet-edge pool (regarded as the best development pool on the island), two spas and a barbeque area, and is located within easy walking distance to the marina and restaurants.

Contact.

Wayne Singleton 0416 024 168

Michaella Trigg 0400 870 222

Sustainability Declaration available upon request.



Lot MVL

10 Marina Terrace, Hamilton Island

FOR SALE. \$1,200,000

Elevated high above the marina with excellent views over Dent Passage through to Dent Island and the 18-hole championship Hamilton Island Golf Club, this parcel of land is approximately 794sqm and stands out from its competition when based on views and listed price.

Centrally located to both the marina precinct and the Resort Centre, this vacant block of land is situated amidst already well-established architecturally designed homes.

The stunning views across the marina at nightfall, along with the breathtaking Whitsunday sunsets, make this an ideal location to relax and unwind after a tough day, whether it be after a long day fishing or out on the golf course.

Contact.

Wayne Singleton 0416 024 168

Michaella Trigg 0400 870 222

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

www.hamiltonislandrealestate.com.au Property Sales. (07) 4948 9101 Property Management. (07) 4946 8028 Holiday Reservations. 137 333

Peninsula Apartment 1

18 Whitsunday Boulevard, Hamilton Island

FOR SALE. \$2,250,000 4  3.5  1 

With stunning panoramic ocean and island views, this beautiful four-bedroom apartment is in immaculate condition and boasts a stunning contemporary design, a lovely neutral decor and impeccable finishes throughout.

The upper level features a sumptuous open-plan kitchen, living and dining area. Sliding doors and a serving window from the kitchen open out to the expansive balcony, promoting a seamless blend of indoor/outdoor areas.

Downstairs, you'll find a second living area, which opens out to the lower level terrace and your own private plunge pool. All four bedrooms are also on this lower level, three of which feature direct access to the terrace. The master bedroom includes a private ensuite.

Contact.

Wayne Singleton 0416 024 168

Michaela Trigg 0400 870 222

Sustainability Declaration available upon request.



Casuarina Cove Apartment 20

1 Acacia Drive, Hamilton Island

FOR SALE. \$940,000 3  2  1 

This timber standalone three-bedroom holiday-let property, with two extensive entertaining balconies, overlooks the Hamilton Island Marina and iconic Hamilton Island Yacht Club, with views across Dent Passage to Dent Island and the Hamilton Island Golf Club.

At approximately 230sqm in area, a size comparable to the new Yacht Club Villas, this property presents exceptional value for money.

The holiday letting potential here is huge, sleeping six to eight people in comfort over multiple levels whilst offering spacious living and kitchen areas.

Situated adjacent to water activities, restaurants and the Front Street shopping precinct with all the conveniences at your doorstep, Casuarina Cove Apartment 20 provides the size and feel of a home away from home.

Contact.

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Michaela Trigg 0400 870 222

Sustainability Declaration available upon request.



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Mermaid's Reach

16 Melaleuca Drive, Hamilton Island

FOR SALE. \$3,450,000 3 2 2

This three-bedroom, two-bathroom island home is situated on 4,764sqm of exclusive waterfront land on sought-after Melaleuca Drive.

Designed with the tropical climate in mind, the property's large balconies and open-plan living areas perfectly capture the winter sun and the cooling summer breeze. Perched high above the waterline you can hear the waves breaking on the shore below, the sweeping balconies providing the ideal place from which to admire the whales passing through Catseye Bay during their annual migration.

A single level residence, with a gated pool enclosure, this property is ideal for either a family with young children or for those who prefer no stairs. Mermaid's Reach is one of the more private residences on the island.

Contact.

Wayne Singleton 0416 024 168

Michaela Trigg 0400 870 222

Sustainability Declaration available upon request.



Shorelines on Hamilton Apartment 28

5 Acacia Drive, Hamilton Island

FOR SALE. \$1,150,000 2 2.5 1

Why settle for second best, when, for a little bit more, you can have 'the very best' and be the envy of all your friends. Shorelines Apartment 28 is situated in the northern end of Stage 2 of this highly regarded complex.

Exquisitely furnished and long seen as the premier apartment of the entire complex due to its outstanding presentation and location, being a light-filled end unit is just another advantage this apartment holds over the competition.

The proof is with its holiday rental income, consistently producing over \$110,000 per annum.

In a competitive rental market the current owner has made sure all fixtures and equipment are in perfect working order and presentation is of the highest standard.

Inspection is a must to appreciate the true value this townhouse affords.

Contact.

Wayne Singleton 0416 024 168

Michaela Trigg 0400 870 222

Sustainability Declaration available upon request.

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