

Hamilton Island - Backgrounder

Brief history

Keith Williams owned and operated Hamilton Island between 1975 and 1996. Mr Williams gained government approval to commence the development of the Hamilton Island Marina, followed by construction of the Resort in 1982. In 1996 Hamilton Island became a public company with the major shareholder being Bankers Trust.

In November 2003, 21st Century Resorts Holdings Pty Ltd, a company controlled by the Oatley family won the bid to acquire 100% of the shares in Hamilton Island.

Recent developments

qualia: The Oatley family has invested over AUD\$100M in the construction of *qualia*, the world-class luxury resort on the northernmost point of the island. *qualia* opened in 2007 and has 60 pavilions in total including a Beach House with a guest pavilion.

Hamilton Island Yacht Club and Villas: Over \$85M has been invested in development of the Hamilton Island Yacht Club and Villas. The construction of the Yacht Club and Villas was completed in December 2009.

The *Hamilton Island Golf Club*, an 18-hole championship golf course was a \$45M investment constructed on neighbouring Dent Island. The golf course has been designed by Peter Thomson who is arguably Australia's greatest ever golfer - he's won the British Open five-times, including a 1954 - 1956 hat trick. The Hamilton Island Golf Club opened on 8 August 2009.

Spa wumurdaylin opened in August 2010, following an investment of 750,000 and is Hamilton Island's first main island day spa.

Hamilton Island introduced a new all-weather activity for guests with the opening of the *Island Bowling Centre* (nine-pin kegel bowling) in March 2011. This marked the 65th guest activity on the island.

Hamilton Island is currently undergoing a \$4 million refurbishment of its *Palm Bungalows*. The Premium Palm Bungalows offers guests the option of a little more luxury whilst retaining the relaxed simplicity of a 'back to nature' private retreat.

Infrastructure facts

Approximately \$16M is spent annually on capital expenditure for the maintenance of roads, utilities and infrastructure.

Power is supplied to the island via a 22km, 10MW power cable which supplies power to Mt Roper, Stoney Beach, Long Island and Hamilton Island. Installation of the power cable was over \$15M. Hamilton Island Enterprises can supply Ergon if required.

Hamilton Island also has a power house which houses six diesel generators – 9MW. The Oatley family have recently invested \$30M to upgrade the power house.

A \$1.8M pipeline has been installed between Hamilton Island and Dent Island to supply power, water and utilities to the Golf Club.

The island's water consumption is approximately 1.8 Mega litres per day. There are 4 dams on the island plus a reverse osmosis plant which is the main water supply.

Environmental initiatives

Hamilton Island recycles approximately 1 mega litre of grey water daily which is used for gardens all over the island.

All green waste on the island is recycled by turning it into mulch. In addition to this Hamilton Island recycles 1 tonne of metals per month.

In December 2009, Hamilton Island invested over \$1M for a glass crushing machine. This enabled Hamilton Island to recycle by-products and will reduce the volume going to landfill.

General Island knowledge

Hamilton Island is 740 hectares – 5kms from north to south and 3.5kms from east to west. 30% of Hamilton Island is developed with 70% remaining in its natural state. The mainland, Shute Harbour is 16 nautical miles from Hamilton Island which equates to a 30 minute direct transfer by ferry.

There are 251 berths in the Hamilton Island Marina which averages an annual occupancy of 83%. There are five hotel accommodation options on the island ranging from 3 star to 5 star plus, the average annual occupancy in the resorts is 75%. Hamilton Island can accommodate up to a maximum of 5000 guests, including the private residences.

Hamilton Island operates its own Public School for children aged 5 – 12 years. There are approximately 40 students currently in attendance. Hamilton Island organises various community fundraising events in support of the school.

Employment

There are approximately 2000 jobs on Hamilton Island comprised of employees for Hamilton Island Enterprises Limited, other businesses and contractors. There are approximately 1,000 – 1,200 staff and residents that live on the island.

Hamilton Island relies on the support of local businesses such as food suppliers, laundry services, ferry services to and from the island, building materials etc for day to day operations.

Accommodation / attractions

The five different accommodation options on-island include:

- qualia which opened in 2007 and has 60 pavilions in total - 33 Leeward pavilions and 26 Windward pavilions including one Beach House with a guest pavilion;

- Yacht Club Villas which opened in December 2009 and contains 35 villas – of this 12 villas are available for holiday rental;
- Beach Club Resort which opened in 1999 and contains 57 rooms;
- Reef View Hotel which opened in 1990 and contains 364 rooms & suites; and
- Palm Bungalows which opened in 1984 and has 49 free standing bungalows.

There are also privately owned, self-contained apartments and houses which are available for holiday letting.

Anyone is able to buy land or property on Hamilton Island as it is officially designated as an Integrated Tourist Resort. There are no restrictions on land/property purchases by non-Australian citizens.

Each year in August, Hamilton Island hosts the Audi Hamilton Island Race Week, a sailing regatta which has been operating for over 25 years. It is now Australia's largest offshore yachting regatta with approximately 200 boats competing each year.

Each year on Hamilton Island there are approximately 500 wedding ceremonies, ranging from couples eloping to hundreds of guests in attendance.

There are nine conference/meeting rooms, which cater for 10 to 1000 people. The Hamilton Island Sales Team has made organising a conference easy. Costed itineraries are put together at time of proposal and all-inclusive prices for dinners and activities make life simple for the conference organiser.

There are over 60 activities available on Hamilton Island ranging from snorkelling, sea kayaking, go-karting, nine-pin kegel bowling, sailing, parasailing, Koala Gallery, learn to paint, golf and reef trips to name a few!

-ENDS-

Media centre: PR team contacts and image library
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