

MECCA COSMETICA



ALWAYS READ THE LABEL AND FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS FOR USE. Sunscreen is only one form of sun protection. Avoid prolonged sun exposure and reapply as directed.





elcome to REEF magazine. As we look back on an incredible year here on Hamilton Island, I'm reminded of what makes our island so special: the opportunity to create unforgettable experiences in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef.

Whether you're a returning guest or here for the very first time, I hope this edition of REEF gives you a glimpse into both the exciting changes and the enduring spirit of the island. This year, we've made strides in enhancing our offerings, blending new ideas with the unique character of Hamilton Island. Our new designled boutique hotel, The Sundays, is set to open in autumn 2025 and is already taking bookings. We are looking forward to welcoming families and other guests seeking a relaxed island experience with a sense of effortless style. The addition of acclaimed chef Josh Niland to lead The Sundays' culinary offerings brings a vibrant focus on local flavours, celebrating Australia's best produce against the stunning backdrop of The Whitsundays.

Elsewhere on the island we've refreshed some familiar spaces. The much-loved coca chu now features a contemporary new design that complements its sweeping views of Catseye

Beach, while the Marina Tavern's new space, The Palms, offers a casual outdoor setting overlooking the island's lively Marina. Protecting the beauty and health of Hamilton Island's environment is at the core of everything we do. Our partnerships with Eco Barge Clean Seas Inc. and Containers for Change support conservation and sustainability efforts and we have introduced new recycling programs to help protect the Great Barrier Reef's ecosystem. We're proud to share some recent recognitions, including qualia's place among Fodor's Finest Hotels in the World for 2025 and the Hamilton Island Golf Club's ranking among Australia's top 30 courses. These accolades reflect Hamilton Island's commitment to maintaining its reputation as an Australian destination like no other.

In this edition, you'll find new opportunities to connect with the island, including an Indigenous cultural walk that introduces guests to the traditions and rich stories of the Ngaro; the First Nations people of The Whitsundays, Thank you for joining us for this edition of *REEF*. I hope it inspires you to make the most of your time here, whether that's through relaxation, adventure, reconnection with loved ones or exploring our incredible natural surrounds. Warm regards,

> Nick Dowling Acting Group CEO, Hamilton Island

Hamilton Island would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of The Whitsundays, the Ngaro people, and their connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and future generations to come and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

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CONTRIBUTORS

ROBBIE CONGOO BEST ISLAND

HOLIDAY MEMORY?

Being able to see the faces of some of the family members we can return back on country for the first time is priceless.

HOLIDAY WELLNESS HACK? My wellness hack would have to be walking as much as I can while sightseeing and being present in

YOUR ULTIMATE HOLIDAY ALBUM?

the moment.

We listen to a lot of Indigenous artists from across Australia. BEST BEACH READ?

I enjoy listening to various podcasts.

EARLY RISER OR NIGHT OWL? SUNRISE OR SUNSET?

Although I am a sunset person my sons are early risers who keep me on my toes all day.

GO-TO ISLAND ACTIVITY?

The walking tracks. Every time you do it you will find something new or different.

SOMETHING YOU'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT NOW?

Sharing, promoting and practising culture with the wider communities.

GUILTY HOLIDAY PLEASURE? Easily the buffet breakfasts, especially if there are pastries.

ENVIRONMENTAL TIP FOR CHANGE?

A big one would have to be reefsafe sunscreen that uses mineralbased ingredients such as titanium dioxide and zinc oxide. We have a saying, "The only thing you should leave is footprints".





CROSBIE LORIMER

BEST ISLAND HOLIDAY MEMORY? Joining the crew of Andoo

Comanche as a media member for a very breezy race during Hamilton Island Race Week 2022.

YOUR ULTIMATE

HOLIDAY ALBUM?

Spotify shuffle for me and whatever fits the mood of the moment.

BEST BEACH READ?

I read a lot, but I'm not good at sitting still on a beach (just ask my wife Dale); I just want to swim or sail. But as a beach-style read I'd highly recommend Kaliane Bradley's The Ministry of Time: A Novel.

EARLY RISER OR NIGHT OWL? SUNRISE OR SUNSET?

Unhelpfully, for myself, I'm an early riser and a night owl. But if I had to pick between the two, I think I'd go for sunrise.

GO-TO ISLAND ACTIVITY? Watching from Bommie Deck

at the Yacht Club as the fleet returns from a day's sailing during Hamilton Island Race Week.

That late-afternoon silhouette of countless yachts tacking up Dent Passage is an absolute keeper.

GUILTY HOLIDAY PLEASURE? Pringles and a cocktail with Dale. Come to think of it, that's not just on holiday!

ENVIRONMENTAL TIP FOR CHANGE?

Read Richard Fisher's The Long View: Why We Need To Transform How The World Sees Time. It's an extraordinary insight into how we address the "short-termism" that rules every aspect of our lives and thinking. A sustainable planet is going to require that to change.



UTE JUNKER BEST ISLAND

HOLIDAY MEMORY? Diving three times a day on the

glorious reefs of Palau. Fabulous corals and mind-blowing marine life, from octopus to manta rays. HOLIDAY WELLNESS HACK?

Massages every second day sheer bliss.

YOUR ULTIMATE HOLIDAY ALBUM?

Anything by Youssou N'Dour, whose music shimmers like a summer's day.

BEST BEACH READ?

Richard Osman's books always put a smile on your face. EARLY RISER OR NIGHT OWL? SUNRISE OR SUNSET?

I'm usually doing a little work even on holiday so I rise early to get the work done, which lets me kick back at sunset.

GO-TO ISLAND ACTIVITY?

Sitting by the water, listening to the waves wash in and out and letting your mind switch off entirely. **GUILTY HOLIDAY PLEASURE?** I'd say the massages, but I never feel guilty about a massage.

ENVIRONMENTAL TIP FOR CHANGE?

Resist the urge to buy more stuff. You probably have enough.



EMMA JOYCE

BEST ISLAND HOLIDAY MEMORY?

Kayaking around one of Fiji's tiny resort islands.

HOLIDAY WELLNESS HACK? You can never wear enough SPF.

YOUR ULTIMATE HOLIDAY ALBUM?

The English Riviera by Metronomy. It has that British seaside town vibe - seagulls, fish'n'chips and fairgrounds.

BEST BEACH READ?

On my list this year is Diana Reid's Signs of Damage. I love how she describes summer scenes and her books have gripping storylines. EARLY RISER OR NIGHT

OWL? SUNRISE OR SUNSET? Sunrise. I like to feel like I've achieved something before

breakfast, then languish in the afternoon.

GO-TO ISLAND ACTIVITY? Hike to the highest point for

the best possible views. SOMETHING YOU ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT NOW?

I'm packing a point-and-shoot camera this summer. I want to be able to put my phone away and have the thrill of printing my pics

GUILTY HOLIDAY PLEASURE? I order dessert at every

opportunity (and I don't feel guilty about it at all).

ENVIRONMENTAL TIP FOR CHANGE?

at a later date.

Borrow, hire or loan anything you need for your trip. Don't automatically add new items to your cart when you could hire something instead.



THE CRAYÈRES,
OUR 2000-YEAR-OLD GALLO-ROMAN CELLARS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY LJUBODRAG ANDRIC

CHARLES HEIDSIECK





Castaway ... JOSH NILAND

Imagine you've been stranded on a remote desert island but granted a few life-saving essentials. Acclaimed chef Josh Niland could fish his way out of any situation. Is surviving when surrounded by sea too easy in this instance, perhaps?

Three essentials to pack? "Knife, basketball hoop and ball."

What would you most regret not packing?
"A pump for the ball."

What would you miss most about reality?
"Family/other people's company."



PHOTOGRAPHY: ALAMY; ROB PALMER; SHUTTERSTOCK



Dream companion? "Julie, my wife [pictured above]."

Which book would you bring with you?
"Anything by Bear Grylls."

What would you wear?
"Plenty of layers! Stack as many
T-shirts, jackets and jumpers on
as I could so there were options."

Your island accessory? "My watch to keep my sanity."

Your island mantra? "One day at a time."

Island hobby? "Builder."

What learned lessons in spirituality would you apply to your time stranded on the island? "To remember that you are never really alone."

Top island tune?
"Sam Cooke's greatest
hits on loop."



What would you grow to eat? "Avocados."

Catch of the day? Or?
"Tuna as a lot of it could be preserved."

How would you send your SOS?
"Potentially setting fire to part of the island to attract attention."



Who would rescue you? "Bear Grylls."



Favourite island movie for inspiration? "Lord of the Flies."

One essential tool for the island?
"A flint."

Dream meal once you've been rescued?
"Gai yang, sticky rice and papaya salad."

First place you'd go when rescued? "Home for a shower."



THE GREAT BARRIER REEF: A SITE TO SEE

A trip to the Great Barrier Reef is the cherry on top of any Hamilton Island holiday. There are countless ways to enjoy the World Heritage-listed reef and see its incredible tropical fish and coral up close. Join Cruise Whitsundays for a journey to Reefworld for a full day of snorkelling and exploring Hardy Reef. Cruise Whitsundays also offers the once-in-a-lifetime Reefsleep, a magical night of sleeping in the plush Reefbeds beneath the stars on the Reefworld pontoon. Explore Group also tours some of the more secret spots on the fringing and outer reefs of The Whitsundays, with the option of both half- and full-day trips.

LIGHT FANTASTIC AT WHITEHAVEN BEACH

Whitehaven Beach, located on neighbouring Whitsunday Island, is one of the world's most unspoiled places, a flawless seven-kilometre stretch of gleaming white silica sand fringed by incredibly clear turquoise waters. This must-visit spot regularly ranks in world's Top 10 beaches and it is just a short trip from Hamilton Island by helicopter. speedboat, sailboat or high-speed catamaran. There are many tour options for exploring Whitehaven, with half- and full-day tours available. Walk, swim or simply relax on the white sands and marvel at this remarkable natural wonder.





COME UP FOR AIR ON A SCENIC ISLAND FLIGHT

Take to the sky with Hamilton Island Air and appreciate the jaw-dropping scale and beauty of Hamilton Island, the Great Barrier Reef and the surrounding Whitsunday islands. There's a range of scenic tours to suit a variety of budgets. The one-hour Heart Reef and Whitehaven Beach Express flight is the most affordable option for seeing the wondrous Heart Reef and to also take in Hill Inlet. Whitehaven Beach and the Whitsunday islands from above. The Best of Both Worlds helicopter tour provides visitors with amazing views of the Great Barrier Reef

and includes a landing at the Reefworld pontoon moored permanently above Hardy Reef, as well as Whitehaven Beach, with time to swim, stroll or just relax on its gleaming white sands. Bucket-list worthy is Journey to the Heart, an exclusive experience available exclusively to guests of Hamilton Island. Just six guests at any one time experience the thrill of helicoptering out over Hill Inlet and Whitehaven Beach before heading to the amazing Heart Island pontoon to enjoy a glass-bottomed-boat ride and snorkelling in the lagoon.

BEST FEET FORWARD ON THE ICONS TRAIL

Hidden sandy coves and stunning views; a picnic lunch with an unbelieveable outlook. Exploring Hamilton Island on foot is an excellent way to enjoy its natural beauty at your own pace. The Icons Trail takes in four island landmarks: a three-metre-tall chair, a giant swing, a hammock, and a panoramic viewing platform in a breathtaking setting. Be sure to share selfies with the hashtag #HamiltonIslandIconsTrail. But please, never swim alone at an isolated beach and if walking solo, let someone know before departing.



ON-WATER ACTION

Hamilton Island's Jet Ski Tours offer an adrenalinpumping experience in a place of unrivalled beauty. It's the perfect mix of adventure and action, and a great tour for the thrillseeking traveller looking to maximise their time on the water. Riders have their own jet ski but are accompanied by an experienced and friendly instructor who guides you as you zip through the waterways of The Whitsundays. The tours are available to riders aged 18 years and older and passengers aged 12 years and above. No licence is required, all safety gear is included and the tour takes 90 minutes, which includes a 30-minute safety briefing before it's action stations.





FOR THE LOVE OF SPEED AND ADVENTURE

Put city stresses in the rear-view mirror and get among the beauty of the island surrounds at Hamilton Island's Palm Valley go-kart track. These fun and easy go-karts can reach speeds of up to 45 km/h around the track. Children can also join in the action, riding as passengers in a double kart. Offroad Adventure Tours also offers exciting experiences for riders aged 20 and above. Those with a full driver's licence can jump in an all-terrain vehicle or let an expert guide you through scenic fire trails and up to the Resort Lookout. For children aged six to 14 years, Hamilton Island's Quad Bikes for Kids operates a short, child-friendly circuit that gets the adrenalin pumping. Full-throttle on-land fun in the fast lane.



CATCHING THE SUN

One of Hamilton Island's many attractions is its spectacular sunsets. And one of the best ways

to enjoy these world-famous moments is on the water. A privately chartered sunset cruise can be booked on one of the luxury vessels: Alani, Palm Beach, Nisi, Impulsive, Murcielago or La Mar. Explore Group offers a daily sunset sail around the Whitsunday islands aboard their catamaran On The Edge, and a longer dinner cruise on Ocean Explorer. Ricochet Yachting's sunset sail aboard their supersleek 47-foot catamaran takes up to 16 people but can also be booked privately for a more intimate experience. On land, head for sunset drinks at One Tree Hill where everyone gathers to watch the sun sink into the Coral Sea. Or watch the light fade over a sundowner at Hamilton Island Yacht Club's Bommie Deck. As darkness falls, enjoy live music each Sunday at Marina Daze, or take the family along to the Marina Tayern lawns for the weekly complimentary Moonlight Movie.



PLAY STATION

It is not just keen golfers who can appreciate the ambition and achievement that underpins Hamilton Island Golf Club, designed by five-time British Open champion Peter Thomson. This championship course is situated on Dent Island, a short ferry ride from Hamilton Island. Head on over for lunch at the airy Clubhouse, served alongside incredible island views and perhaps the spotting of humpback whales during their migratory season from May until September. Golfers should expect a challenging day's play and expect their focus to be distracted by views of The Whitsundays and beyond. There's also a well-stocked pro shop for any last-minute needs. The 10-minute scenic trip to Dent Island is a wonderful way to begin and end a day's play, too.

FINDING THE FEEL GOOD FACTOR

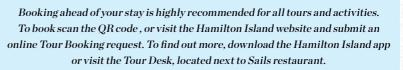
Could there be a better start to an island morning than a boat ride ahead of a blissful yoga session? Sunrise yoga is held on the first Sunday of each month on Dent Island, ensuring that a personal reset can be enjoyed during one of the most calming and beautiful moments of the day in The Whitsundays, Bookings for the session include ferry tickets and a mat: all you need to bring is water and a hat. Wellness is also the priority at Hamilton Island's Spa wumurdaylin, with its menu of rejuvenating and effective beauty treatments. The spa's skilled therapists provide treatments using LaGaia UNEDITED, the Australianformulated range packed with potent vitamins and hydrating botanical extracts to deliver genuine results. Spa wumurdaylin is highly popular with self-care-seeking visitors so please book early.





SUPERCHARGED FUN

Hamilton Island Activity Superpass includes tickets for two adults and two children to enjoy three activities on island. Kick off with a round of mini golf at the 18-hole rainforest course, a family-friendly activity with tunnels, bridges, corers and obstacles for amping up the fun. A visit to Hamilton Island Wildlife is a must-do, for the opportunity to see some of Australia's most incredible creatures up close while also learning about our wildlife and fauna. Round out your action-packed day with a one-hour session at Island Bowling. Activities can be done in any order. Just grab your pass and go.







A COMPLETE PICKLE

New pickleball courts are ready for play at the Sports Club. For the uninitiated, pickleball is a sport that blends elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong, using a paddle and a plastic ball. It is also the fastest growing game in the US and Europe. Bookings are available at the Hamilton Island Sports Club for both pickleball and the club's tennis courts.

BULLETIN BOARD

Time to perfect your pickleball game, The Sundays prepares for check-in, dining updates and prioritising ocean health.



RELAX, JUST DO IT

The Sundays, Hamilton Island's new boutique luxury hotel, is now taking bookings. Each of the hotel's 59 thoughtfully designed rooms overlook Catseye Beach to the Coral Sea beyond, with guests enjoying exclusive access to a private pool with cabanas and a stunning Josh Niland-helmed waterfront restaurant and bar. The Sundays will welcome its first guests in autumn 2025 and promises an extraordinary island experience for all ages. For bookings go to www.thesundays.com.au

PROTECTING THE REEF

Hamilton Island has collaborated with Eco Barge Clean Seas Inc. to safeguard the marine life and environment of The Whitsundays and Great Barrier Reef. Eco Barge Clean Seas Inc. is an Airlie Beach-based non-profit organisation whose initiatives focus on removing marine debris, reducing land-based litter, recycling ocean plastics, and caring for sick and injured marine turtles. As part of this initiative, Hamilton

Island has installed container collection bins across the island to help guests recycle their waste through the Containers for Change program. Proceeds from recycled containers are donated to Eco Barge Clean Seas Inc., directly supporting their conservation efforts. We encourage all guests to use the bins and contribute to reducing our environmental footprint while helping protect the oceans for future generations.



PHOTOGRAPHY: HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY; KARA ROSENLUND.





a superlative Australian island Hamilton Island resort was named one of Fodor's Finest Hotels for 2025, placing it in the travel guide's top 100 hotels worldwide. Fodor's 750 experts reviewed more than 700,000 properties to select qualia in the top 0.014 per cent of luxury properties worldwide, qualia was also named in The Telegraph (UK) inaugural Hotel Awards, which ranked the 50 best hotels in the world (just two other Australian properties made the cut) and Conde Nast Traveler's Best Hotels in the World Readers' Choice Awards



coca chu has just revealed an interior makeover that complements its beautiful views over Catseye Beach. The relaxed restaurant is renowned for its fusion of Southeast Asian street food and laidback Australian style. And the new design by Rod Fauchaux from loopcreative serves up a seamless transition from beach to dining room via its use of neutral colors and natural textures. Meanwhile, the expansion of the Marina Tavern means more guests can enjoy its relaxed atmosphere and menu of holiday classics. The tavern is opening The Palms, a vibrant garden bar and outdoor dining area on the lawns. with views across the Marina.





GOLFING GOLD

Hamilton Island Golf Club again features on the list of the top 100 best golf courses in Australia. The Dent Island course came in at No.30 on Australian Golf Digest's highly respected 2024/25 round up of the country's finest places to play. Hamilton Island Golf Club was assessed against 10 criteria, including "aesthetics", where it placed second overall thanks to its incredible Whitsunday vistas.



PARKRUNNING IN PARADISE

Hamilton Island parkrun has topped a list of the world's best friendly five-kilometre Saturday morning runs. Author, runner and athletics coach Lucy Waterlow compiled the list and writes: "This idyllic island in The Whitsundays is a dream destination for many. It is famed for its crystal-blue seas, soft, white sandy beaches and the Great Barrier Reef below its surrounding waters, parkrun started here in 2015 but as it is a private island, attendance is often low at 33 participants, with four volunteers ... Those joining in are treated to a route with unbeatable views as they run past Shady Creek Lawns and the Scenic Trail entrance onto the palm tree-lined Catseye Beach, overlooking the sparkling turquoise waters of Catseye Bay. The run starts at 7am as the sun rises over the lush green surrounding hills. Finishing times vary depending on whether there is a high or low tide on the two-kilometre beach section. The average finish time is 31.30 so don't visit for a PB but to soak up the location of this parkrun in paradise.'

CALENDAR





IT'S A DATE

It's another action-packed year on Hamilton Island, from Race Week's social calendar to sporting events that fuse views with physical challenge and memorable, magical celebrations with a family focus.

2024

DECEMBER 24 CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

The excitement is palpable as a VIP guest arrives dressed in red and white, a bag of treats over his shoulder. Christmas Eve at the Beach Pavilion, Catseye Beach is a beautiful event, brimming with all the anticipation and magic we love about the festive season. Enjoy the entertainment and carols, followed by a spectacular fireworks display. Light a candle to support the Hamilton Island State School. Pack a picnic or pick up supplies at the Beach Pavilion Kiosk. It's the most wonderful time of the year!

DECEMBER 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

Say goodbye to 2024 and kick off 2025 with a street party sure to get everyone up and dancing. There is live entertainment at the Marina Tavern forecourt from 9pm, followed by a spectacular fireworks display once the clock strikes midnight. Events are also held at the Beach Pavilion near Catseye Beach and include family friendly fireworks from 8.30pm. Guests of qualia enjoy

live music and an exclusive midnight fireworks display, too. Hamilton Island's celebrations are a memorable way to see in a new year.

2025

APRIL 25 ANZAC DAY

The dawn service, held each Anzac Day at the time of the original landing at Gallipoli during World War I, is a poignant way to acknowledge the men and women who have served our country. Like those who congregate at memorials across Australia, on Hamilton Island we gather to commemorate the lives of fellow countrymen lost in military operations. Join friends and families at the Beach Pavilion for the service, followed by a classic sausage sizzle and games of two-up at the Marina Tavern. Gold coin donations are directed to Airlie Beach RSL.

MAY 4 **HAMILTON ISLAND HILLY HALF MARATHON**

The name says it all: you'll have to put in some serious training to be ready for the challenge of the famed Hamilton Island Hilly Half Marathon. The May event includes a half-marathon for the super fit and fearless, a relay, and three distance options for children. The diverse terrain makes this an ever-changing experience that challenges athletes of all levels as the courses weave through the island's bushland interior, along roads, fire trails and walking tracks.

THE GREAT WHITEHAVEN BEACH RUN

An arc of bone-white sand that routinely features on lists of the world's most beautiful beaches is the host site of The Great Whitehaven Beach Run. Competitors race along the sands of stunning Whitehaven Beach at low tide in an event that is suitable for a range of abilities. Races include a half-marathon, a five-kilometre course, 10-kilometre run, and a course for the kids. Crossing the finishing line on this epic day out is an achievement to remember.

AUGUST 16-23 HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK

Australia's favourite yachting regatta is turning 40. This is an event that ranks among the world's





most prestigious, with a diverse fleet ranging from high-performance yachts to trailer-pulled family favourites heading to Hamilton Island to compete and celebrate. Race Week comprises a series of short races staged close to Hamilton Island and longer passage races around The Whitsundays. It has become an annual social highlight for competitors, their families and guests. Onshore celebrations are many and varied and include exclusive events hosted by a lineup of respected guest chefs throughout the week. From sunrise, when crews busily prepare their yachts for racing, to dusk when everyone converges at Hamilton Island Marina for drinks and dancing after a full

day of racing, everyone agrees that Race Week is

NOVEMBER 15 HAMILTON ISLAND TRIATHLON

an event like no other.

The Hamilton Island Triathlon is an unrivalled physical challenge comprising a tough but rewarding combination of a hard and fast swim in tropical waters, a challenging cycle leg, and a run with amazing views from atop the island's tallest peaks. Even better, the spectator-friendly course means everyone can soak up the action,

even if not competinig. The junior triathlon and a splash'n'dash fixture follow the main event, guaranteeing a fun day of family participation.

NOVEMBER 16 HAMILTON ISLAND OCEAN SWIM

up the Marina

The clear and calm waters of Catseye Beach host the annual Hamilton Island Ocean Swim, the final event in the island's annual Endurance Series. Competitors can choose between a twokilometre swim or a shorter 750-metre course, plus a hotly contested junior event run across 350 metres, for swimmers aged 13 and under. Toughest part of the day? The post-race choice: recovering on the sand, or diving back into the sea for some much-needed hydrotherapy.



Diving in for the Hamilton Island Ocean Swim.





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



An Irish crew marks the halfway point of a global circumnavigation with laughter, craic and some serious sailing at Hamilton Island Race Week. By Crosbie Lorimer.

nyone who has had the good fortune to sail with an Irish crew will know that their easy affinity with the sea is matched by an unrivalled appetite for fun. And most Australian sailors willingly embrace the "craic", the Irish term for a good time. So it was no surprise, when the Blaney family turned up at Hamilton Island Race Week 2024, that their beautiful Oyster 675 Rí-Rá (pronounced ree-raw) attracted the immediate attention of sailors, spectators and media alike. The swift discovery that when translated from Irish, rí-rá loosely means "fun and mayhem" simply reinforced a sense that this team was going to add plenty of colour to an event already renowned for exactly that. "We call the main boat Ri-Ra and we call our dinghy Rula Bula" says owner/skipper Hugh Blaney, explaining their chosen take on the Irish translation for the latter: "It's the vehicle that gets us to the forces of mayhem, shall we say."

It also became evident that behind the fun and mayhem was an experienced crew who had chosen Race Week to mark the halfway point of their circumnavigation of the world, as participants in the Oyster World Rally. Given the significant challenges of such an undertaking, Blaney reassuringly explains that they save the rí-rá for their time ashore. "We try to keep it all together when we're out in the ocean. But when we get to shore, we can give it a proper lash!"

An engaging online conversation with the sailor some two months after *Rí-Rá*'s Hamilton Island stopover offers some thoughtful, entertaining and at times philosophical insights into this once-in-a-lifetime adventure.

As we chat, Blaney is sitting in the cockpit of Rí-Rá just on sunrise on the day of his 61st birthday, the yacht nearing the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. He recounts what kicked off this familyfocused quest and the role played by Race Week in their epic round-the-world voyage.

"My older brother Patrick invited me to do the Atlantic Rally for Cruisers [ARC] in 2002, which we did. And coming out of that, we always had a desire to do a Pacific crossing but we weren't really quite sure how you'd do it." "As I got older and got lucky in business and opportunities came my way, everything came into focus" Blaney explains, crediting the Oyster World Rally with turning that long-held dream into reality. Rí-Rá is one of 22 Oyster yachts on this globe-circling adventure, with some 27 memorable destinations punctuating the 27,000 nautical mile cruise-in-company that takes some 16 to 18 months to complete. The knowledge that you are cruising in company is not only reassuring from a safety perspective, but is also an opportunity to meet new people and share the adventure. "It's very unusual to be doing something in your sixties or your seventies that gives you the opportunity to meet people, cruise in their



"It's a real privilege because normally when you're in your sixties and seventies you're losing friends, not making them!" Blaney is one of nine siblings, all of whom learnt to sail from a very young age at the Royal St George Yacht Club in Dun Laoghaire, southeast of Dublin. His now wife Jennifer was among those with whom he sailed Mirror dinghies as a youngster.

"Back in the day she used to beat the pants off me in her Mirror. So she's an accomplished sailor in her own right," says Blaney. Jennifer Blaney has joined Rí-Rá on several occasions during the first half of their circumnavigation, while Hugh's brother Joseph, who lives in Sydney, signed up for Race Week. Hugh and Jennifer's son Jonny - who's studying at Sydney University – celebrated his 21st birthday with the family at Hamilton Island, while their daughter Emily joined the boat in Fiji, straight from her accountancy exams. Family and friends have clearly been central to the whole undertaking for the Blaneys, with weeks at sea in very close quarters adding a new dimension to their relationships. "Normally you go for a pint in your local

with your mates or you have dinner in their house. On a 60-foot boat you're making each other's meals morning, noon and night, and you're telling them what they're allowed - or not allowed - to put down the toilet to stop it getting blocked! I think it's just a real exercise in human nature and how to get on."

The objective that everyone aboard should enjoy the experience - and that they should indeed get on - led the Blaney brothers to an important decision at the outset, a lesson which drew on their prior ocean-cruising experience.

"When you put a 70-year-old and a 60-year-old on a 70-foot boat, no matter how much sailing you've done, one of the questions you have to ask yourself is, 'Do you need professional help?'," Blaney says.

"When you're doing a rally of this nature, the whole thing takes about 18 months and you really have no time to maintain the boat and do all the paperwork check-ins and check-outs. "You can spend your entire trip worrying about what happens next," he says of what prompted the pair to take two young sailing professionals - Finlay Watson and Rose Jones - along with them for the ride.

"Finlay's an incredible engineer and an incredible sailor. He restores your confidence in youth, to be honest. We place a lot of our fears and worries about the safety issues associated with crossing oceans in his hands," Blaney says.

"We also have his partner, Rose Jones, who is all of 24 years of age and who's kind of our first mate, standing her watch during passages as





"STEPPING OFF YOUR BOAT ONTO AUSTRALIAN SOIL. IT WAS PROBABLY THE MOST EMOTIONAL PART OF THE TRIP FOR ME IN TERMS OF REALISING HOW FAR FROM HOME YOU WFRF."

well as being our chef and provisioner. Between Patrick and myself, Finlay and Rose, that gives us four people. Generally we like to sail with six, so every leg of the trip we've tended to take two people - friends or family - with us." The brief diversion to participate in Hamilton Island Race Week was a memorable experience for the entire Rí-Rá team.

"It was a massive success for us because we took a house on shore and we invited friends and family," says Blaney.

"So I think the maximum number of people we had on the boat at any one time was 15. "And we entered the 'white sail' division which is, shall we say, the gentleman's end of the competition. But it was more about the fun for us than it was about the high stakes bit of it." Fun it clearly was, but much to the crew's surprise, *Rí-Rá* won Race 2 in her division without her crew realising: it was a member of the media who ended up telling them they'd better hot-foot it to the presentation event.



"Fabulous, it must have been a mistake," was Blaney's whimsical quip as they were handed their medal at the presentation, fondly recalling the achievement later as "such a thrill, such a treat".

"We have a little memento, so we'll find somewhere on the boat to mount it in pride of place," he says. "It was magnificent sailing, beautifully organised. You felt very special and [were] made incredibly welcome." As well as fun and unexpected success, Race Week offered Blaney a moment to take stock of Rí-Rá's ambitious expedition. "Stepping off your boat onto Australian soil, it was probably the most emotional part of the trip for me in terms of realising how far from home you were. It kind of marked a halfway point," he says. Unsurprisingly, any attempt to select the highlights from nine months of sailing halfway around the world is no easy call. And that will likely get less difficult from here, with the return leg barely under way.

Among the many high points, Blaney names Fakarava Atoll in the Tuamotu Islands of French Polynesia - where he also learnt to scuba dive - as an example of what makes this particular rally experience so exceptional. "As a remote location where you're completely connected with nature and you're there with 20 other boats where you're connected by friendship, [that] was one of those magical recipes of putting it all together. It was close to perfect," he says.

"When you do a trip like this, you end up pinching yourself all over the place with all these moments and all these destinations that you get to."

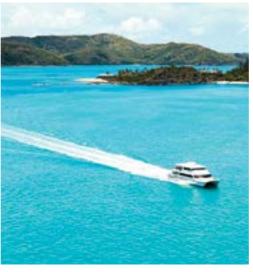
Inevitably, any world circumnavigation will encounter some rough weather, as the rally did when battling five-metre seas and 40-knot winds in the pitch dark off the coast of Columbia. But Blaney modestly puts such experiences in the no-gain-without-pain basket. "It was bit of a rollercoaster but when we got

into Cartagena it was all worth it in the end because it was such a beautiful place." As *Rí-Rá* now heads westward for another gathering of the family for Christmas in Capetown, South Africa, the sailor discusses the unexpected pleasure of sharing the experience with the next generation on the leg to Indonesia, when the average crew age was in the twenties. "It was a two-week period where you're in the minority and you're sharing young culture within [20 metres]. The music, the fun, the craic and the camaraderie and you see how they operate together. It's just lovely to see the next generation come through." It's not hard to imagine that this extraordinary adventure will assume near mythical proportions amongst the Blaney family in years ahead. Perhaps it may even inspire another turn around the globe for the clan one day, adding to the burgeoning store of family tales and adventure. And of course, the chance for more fun and mayhem.





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Summer on a plate

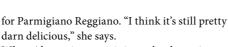
An Amalfi Coast pasta classic. The perfect chilli jam for drizzling over prawns. A loaf cake that demands to be devoured. Chef and author Danielle Alvarez's winning way with seasonal produce brings magic to the table. By Emma Joyce.

anielle Alvarez is one of the most delightful chefs cooking in Australia right now. Her seasonally focused dishes always hero the produce, whether made for 100 guests at Sydney Opera House, where she designs the menus for events as the venue's culinary director, at home entertaining friends, or served during Hamilton Island Race Week.

Alvarez is best known for her more than five years leading the kitchen at farm-to-table restaurant Fred's in Sydney. Before that, the chef worked at two Californian dining institutions -The French Laundry and Chez Panisse. She has also penned two cookbooks, Always Add Lemon (2020) and 2023's Recipes for a Lifetime of Beautiful Cooking.

Although Alvarez is a highly skilled chef, the recipes in her second cookbook are approachable and humble. She draws on her Cuban family recipes, her professional experience and love of Italian and French food, but above all they're dishes she cooks at home.

Here, Alvarez shares three recipes for REEF, including her spaghetti alla Nerano, a "perfect summer pasta" that has its origins on the Amalfi Coast of Italy. "It's a very well-known recipe," she says. "The bones of my adaptation is that it's one of those pastas that's made with cheap, simple ingredients. Zucchini is so abundant in the summertime. It's definitely something we should all be cooking and eating a lot more [now]." Zucchini is the lead player, but the true star is the pasta water. "You use the pasta water to emulsify all these ingredients - the olive oil, the garlic, the basil, the cheese - into this very silky soft sauce that coats the spaghetti really beautifully." The original recipe uses Provolone del Monaco, but in keeping with Alvarez's ethos of making sure home cooks can access ingredients for her recipes at any supermarket or grocer, she opted



When Alvarez is entertaining at her home in Sydney, she'll curate everything from the drinks (either a cocktail she's made or Champagne if it's a celebration) to the playlist (she loves an eclectic mix of jazz, Frank Sinatra and pop).

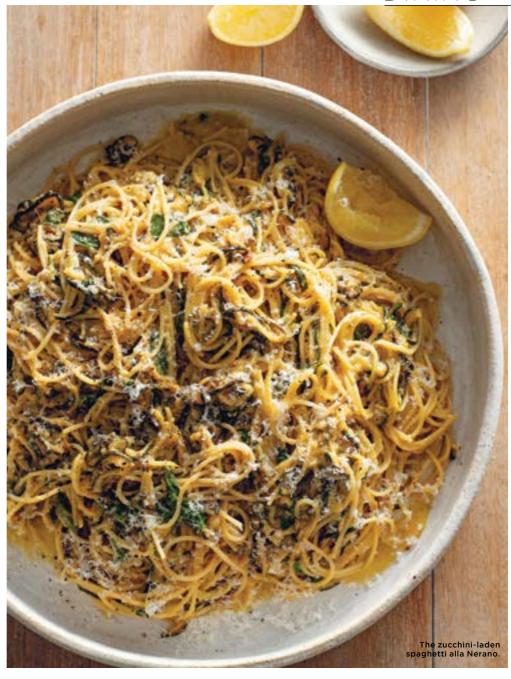
"I love to do share food when I have people over. I like grilling but I don't have an outdoor space that's entertaining-worthy, so we tend to keep it indoors and I keep the food seasonal," she says. "I always like to have a little snack or a nibble of something so that there isn't a pressure on me to get food on the table, so everyone can just sort of relax and talk to each other. The point of a get-together for me is that I can spend time with people I love and have them in my home. I don't want to spend all that time in the kitchen while my friends or family are over."

Her recipe for prawns with ginger and chilli jam is an excellent one to save for barbecues or when you want a sweet, umami-rich sauce for proteins - it's also delicious with lobster, fish and chicken, says Alvarez. Her top tip is that you shouldn't be afraid of buying high-quality frozen prawns.

"I think most people don't know that most prawns you see at the market, even if they're not frozen, would have once been frozen because they are highly perishable. I suggest buying beautiful frozen king prawns, and that way you don't have that time pressure to use them within a day. You can keep them frozen until the morning you're going to cook them and they'll be beautiful and delicious."

Alvarez grew up in Miami, Florida so she's used to warm Christmases. "I think we have a lot of traditions in the Cuban world that don't really translate over here," she says when asked how she celebrates in Australia. "[In Miami] it's usually an all-day affair and people stand around the fire cooking a whole pig. That moves into dinner where there's a big beautiful table with traditional fare - yuca, roast pork, black beans. You need your tribe, your people, around to execute something like that. I don't have that here so I've adopted an Australian way of celebrating - something on the grill, lots of fresh salads, oysters. A very relaxed day." If you're planning to bake for a holiday gathering, Alvarez has a butter cake that's packed with juicy strawberries and is light and fluffy in texture. The trick to this one is making sure your ingredients are the same temperature. "If you leave your butter out at room temperature overnight but then you take cold eggs out of the fridge, or vice versa, they're not going to emulsify and that's what makes a really light, airy butter cake." That said, "it's not the end of the world" if the batter splits, she counsels. "I know passionate bakers will say it's ruined, but I disagree. It will be a bit heavier and oily, but it'll still be delicious."





SPAGHETTI ALLA NERANO

Nerano is a small village on the Amalfi coast of Italy. This dish is thought to have been created by a woman named Maria Grazia in her namesake restaurant there and although the original recipe is not known, this is my best distillation. The original dish uses Provolone del Monaco, a local cheese that can be hard to find outside of the area. Parmigiano Reggiano isn't totally correct but it's still delicious. This is a perfect summer pasta and makes great use of a glut of zucchini.

Makes: Enough to serve 4 Active time: 25 minutes Inactive time: 10 minutes

Kitchenalia: mandoline or a very sharp knife

INGREDIENTS

6 small zucchinis (about 400-500g)
½ cup (125ml) extra virgin olive oil
400g dried spaghetti
3 garlic cloves, minced
50g unsalted butter, cubed
½ cup (50g) freshly grated Parmigiano Reggiano
2 cups (60g) basil leaves (about 1 bunch), loosely packed, plus extra to garnish
Fine sea salt

TO FINISH

Parmigiano Reggiano, for grating Freshly cracked black pepper Good-quality extra virgin olive oil 1 lemon, cut into wedges

METHOD

Slice the zucchini into very thin rounds using a mandoline (or a very sharp knife).

Heat a large pan over a medium-high heat.

Add the olive oil and when it's hot, add in a third of the zucchini slices. Fry until they are lightly golden, stirring occasionally. Use a skimmer or spoon to scoop them out onto a plate. Fry the remaining zucchini in another two batches and set aside.

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Drop in your spaghetti and cook until al dente. Pour out half the olive oil used to fry the zucchini and save it for another use. Return the pan to a medium heat and add the garlic, letting it sizzle until it becomes fragrant. Add in the fried zucchini and scoop a ladleful of the pasta water into the pan. Stir and crush the zucchini so that some pieces break down and some remain intact. Reserve a mug of the pasta water before draining the pasta. Add the pasta to the zucchini pan and stir in half of the reserved water. Turn the heat to high. When the liquid is almost completely reduced, turn the heat down to low and add in the butter, parmesan and basil. Toss vigorously, using a wooden spoon or tongs, to combine and create a creamy sauce. Add more of the pasta water as needed. Taste the pasta for seasoning and adjust with salt.

Divide the pasta between four bowls and top with more grated parmesan, extra basil leaves, pepper and a drizzle of good-quality olive oil. Serve with wedges of lemon.

This book was always meant to be a celebration of that which is humble, that which respects waste, that which is better at home than anywhere else. On reflection, it could happily just have been a book about the magical qualities of pasta water. As the salty water is bubbling around the pasta, a beautiful exchange is occurring. The pasta is swelling, seasoning itself from the inside out as it absorbs its saline bath. Meanwhile, the water is amalgamating with the glutens and proteins that are making their escape from the pasta. The water becomes cloudy and slightly translucent as the three ingredients make love. All pasta recipes make use of this alchemy, but this one in particular should convince you of its wonder.

PRAWNS WITH GINGER AND CHILLI JAM

While this is a recipe for prawns, the sweet, umami-rich jam is really the star. Beyond the grilled prawns, this jam is excellent with lobster, fish and chicken or greens such as wilted bok choy.

Makes: Enough to serve 4 Active time: 30 minutes Inactive time: 40 minutes Kitchenalia: food processor

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

A food processor makes quick work of chopping the chilli, French shallots, ginger and garlic. Be sure to add each ingredient separately so they chop evenly.

INGREDIENTS

12 extra-large prawns, peeled and deveined, heads and tails left on

GINGER AND CHILLI JAM

½ cup (7g) diced red chilli, deseeded; about 3 long red chillies

Scant cup (30g) minced French shallot, about 1 large shallot

½ teaspoon Korean red chilli flakes (optional) 1 tablespoon minced garlic (about 3-5 cloves) 1½ tablespoons (20g) minced ginger Generous 1/3 cup (90ml) neutral oil 1½ tablespoons Shaoxing wine ½ tablespoon light soy sauce 1 tablespoon white (granulated) sugar ½ tablespoon fish sauce

TO SERVE

1 lime, cut into wedges

METHOD

For the ginger and chilli jam, combine the chilli, shallot, chilli flakes (if using), garlic and ginger in a small pot and add the oil. Sizzle this over a low heat for 15-20 minutes, until most of the water in the aromatics has evaporated and they are just beginning to brown. Stir often, ensuring you scrape the bottom of the pan. Some bits will stick and caramelise, which is fine; just make sure they don't burn. Carefully (it will spit!) add in the Shaoxing wine, soy sauce, sugar and fish sauce and simmer for 5 minutes, until the mixture appears jammy and has thickened. Set aside.



Place a rack in the top third of your oven and preheat to 220°C. If your oven has a grill option, use that here to cook the prawns on a high heat. Line a baking tray with baking paper and lay the prawns on the tray. Spoon a couple of teaspoons of the ginger and chilli jam over each prawn and bake in the oven for five minutes, flipping them over halfway through cooking. Note: if using your grill, you may need to adjust the cooking time slightly. You're looking for the prawns to turn a nice pink colour.

Remove the prawns from the oven and serve with wedges of lime and perhaps a small ramekin of the ginger and chilli jam on the side. Note: I've written this recipe to be cooked using

your oven but these prawns would be excellent cooked on an outdoor charcoal grill. Just brush the prawns with a small amount of neutral oil and grill for 2 minutes per side. Spoon the ginger and chilli jam over the cooked prawns.



Images and text from Recipes for a Lifetime of Beautiful Cooking by Danielle Alvarez with Libby Travers, photography by Alan Benson. Murdoch Books, \$49.99.

STRAWBERRY, RICOTTA AND SPELT LOAF

This butter cake is so heavenly that when I first tested it, my partner and I devoured the entire thing in one day! Butter-based cakes can be tricky to master, but they are oh-so-good when you do and a foundational kitchen skill to boot. It's crucial that your ingredients are at room temperature; you are bringing together disparate items - flour, eggs, butter and sugar - that don't necessarily want to be friends. Your best chance for a successful emulsion is to give them as much in common as possible. In this case, their temperature. As with mayonnaise, if some of your ingredients are too cold or too warm, the mixture will split (not the end of the world, but the cake will be a little denser and oilier, rather than light and fluffy).

Makes: 1 loaf (enough for 8-10 slices) Kitchenalia: 21 x 11cm loaf tin Stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment

INGREDIENTS

225g spelt flour (see note) 1½ teaspoons baking powder ½ teaspoon fine sea salt 60ml whole milk 100g ricotta 3 eggs, at room temperature 1 teaspoon vanilla extract 250g strawberries (1 punnet) 1 tablespoon lemon zest (about 1 lemon) 175g unsalted butter, at room temperature or slightly warmer (but not melted) 250g white (granulated) sugar 1 tablespoon raw sugar

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Leave your butter and eggs out on the bench overnight to come to room temperature. Alternatively, carefully place your eggs (in the shell) into a glass of lukewarm water, where they will come to temperature in about 10 minutes. To speed up the butter softening, warm a ceramic

bowl in a low oven, then place it upside down over the butter and leave for 10 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 160°C fan-forced. Line a loaf

METHOD

tin with baking paper, allowing the sides of the paper to extend past the edges of the tin. Combine the flour, baking powder and salt in a bowl. In a separate bowl, combine the milk and ricotta. Set both bowls aside. Crack the eggs into a small bowl (do not whisk) and add the vanilla extract. Set aside. Hull and chop half of the strawberries and mix them with the lemon zest in another bowl. Hull and cut the remaining strawberries into rounds. Set both lots of strawberries aside, keeping them separate.

Add the butter and white sugar to the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment and beat on a high speed until the mixture is light, fluffy and almost white in colour. This will take about 5 to 7 minutes. Stop the machine and scrape down the sides as needed. With the machine running, add the eggs, letting one slide in at a time, and waiting until each egg is fully incorporated before adding in the next. Stop the machine, add in half the flour mixture and turn the machine on to low speed to just combine. Add in the milk-ricotta mixture and mix until combined. Finally, stop the machine again and add in the remaining flour mixture, along with the chopped strawberries and lemon zest. Return the machine to a low speed and mix until it all just comes together. Pour the batter into the tin and top with the rounds of strawberries. Sprinkle the raw sugar over the strawberries and bake for 70-80 minutes, until a skewer inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean. Let the loaf cool in the tin before tipping it out. Slice and serve. Note: Spelt flour is worth seeking out – I love the nuttiness it gives to cakes - but if you can't find it, swap it for wholemeal or plain (all-purpose) flour.



WINEPAIRING

Ben Cabangun, head sommelier at qualia, selects wine to accompany the summer menu



SPAGHETTI ALLA NERANO

2019 Yarra Yering Carrodus Viognier, Yarra Valley I approach this match to showcase the brilliance of women producers and creators: "girl power". The floral and musk aroma, with chalky textures, burst of fresh apricot and a twist of lemon is a nice element to add to this creamy, smooth dish.



PRAWNS WITH GINGER AND CHILLI JAM

2019 Forest Hill Estate Gewurztraminer, Mount Barker When playing with umami savoury flavours, do not overlook Gewurztraminer. This noble grape from Alsace is underrated, yet ideal with Asian-inspired dishes. Aromas of honeysuckle and rose petals, fresh lychee and ginger on the palate lead to a fresh citrus finish.



STRAWBERRY, RICOTTA AND SPELT LOAF

2023 Frogmore Creek Iced Riesling, Coal River Valley Watch out Canadians, we do have an answer to "ice wines". This refreshing wine has a slight effervescent feel, its sweetness offset by a tang. The subtle honey tones of mandarin aromas and bruised apple flavours are well balanced.

SHAKING THINGS UP

The sun begins to sink into the Coral Sea and another day's hard holidaying is done. Yes, there's nothing like aperitivo hour. This season we're drinking those classics of the cocktail cabinet, upgraded with some satisfying experiments and new flavour profiles.





GOLDEN HOUR

This is a clarified cocktail, which means combined with coconut milk, left to stand and then strained. It delivers all the depth of the lush original with a clear smooth punch.

INGREDIENTS

30ml 1800 coconut tequila 10ml Aperol 10ml Monin pineapple syrup 15ml lemon juice 15ml pineapple juice 15ml coconut milk

METHOD Combine in a jar. Let it sit for 24 hours. Finely strain through a coffee filter or cheesecloth until all liquid passes through. Keep refrigerated.

Mocktails are a must for every mixologist. These are just as delicious and as much fun as the cocktails with spirits. Doing a dry January or Feb fast? These are the ones.

LYRE'S AMARETTO SOUR

The new sour with so much flavour harnessing all the nutty sweetness of this amaretto balanced with lemon juice and bitters.

INGREDIENTS

30ml pineapple 60ml Lyre's Amaretti 30ml lemon juice 15ml sugar syrup

METHOD Dry shake in a Boston shaker for 10 seconds, then add ice and shake for 20 seconds. Double strain into short rocks glass with ice and garnish with dried lemon and three drops of bitters.





ICED-TEA NEGRONI OR T-GRONI

This classic Italian aperitif gets a new depth with the combination of the tea-infused gin and Japanese plum wine.

INGREDIENTS

20ml Tanqueray gin 15ml Campari 15ml Cinzano Rosso 30ml plum wine 1 teabag of black tea

<u>METHOD</u> Steep tea and gin together for 5-10 minutes. Then add all ingredients to mixing glass with ice, stir for 30 seconds, strain over a large ice cube into a short glass. Garnish with twisted lemon peel.



CUPPA JOE

This is one of the most popular cocktails, often served after dinner for its hit of sharp coffee. And it's guaranteed to supercharge any party.

INGREDIENTS

30ml Captain Morgan rum 15ml Coruba Jamaican rum 15ml Kahlúa liqueur 15ml sugar syrup 45ml espresso coffee

METHOD Add all ingredients into Boston shaker with ice. Shake well for foam, double strain into a coupe glass. Garnish with piped salted cream, sea salt and three coffee beans.



LYRE'S PINA COLADA

Made from three ingredients with a refreshingly sweet flavour and a hint of tequila. It's all the layers of a Coral Sea sunset in a highball glass.

<u>INGREDIENTS</u>

60ml Lyre's White Cane Spirit 60ml pineapple juice 30ml coconut cream 15ml lemon juice 15ml coconut syrup

METHOD Shake in Boston shaker with ice before straining into a tall glass with ice. Garnish with a pineapple slice and pineapple leaves And enjoy.

THE PERFECT COCKTAIL-HOUR PLAYLIST

Sun is down, mood is up.



- 1. Barrio Hustle by Hermanos Gutiérrez
 - 2. Another Case by Tora
 - 3. Love Affair by J.Views & Rhye
 - 4. It Soothes Me by Beach Vacation
 - 5. You by Mk.gee
- 6. How It Feels by Barry Can't Swim
 - 7. Telescope by Hiatus Kaiyote
- 8. IF YOU DON'T by Breakfast Road
 - Gave You Everythingby Modern Living & DRAMA
 - 10. Champagne/That's Life by Declan McKenna
 - 11. Fiesta 99.9FM by Eli Smart
 - 12. Favourite Girl by Biig Piig
 - 13. Consequence by San Cisco
 - 14. Read My Lips by Jessie Ware
 - 15. Pearl by Anna Lunoe
 - 16. I'll Be There by Vlossom
 - 17. Together by Miami Horror
- 18. adore u by Fred again & Obongjayar
 - 19. My Friend by Groove Armada
- 20. Illusion (The Blaze Remix) by Dua Lipa

To listen, scan the Spotify code below.



TRAVEL



30 reef magazine







Bohemian rhapsody

Remember when travel was all decadence and parties? Ute Junker on the lost art of relaxed hedonism.



excessive celebrations, no one threw parties quite like Bill Willis. The US-born, Marrakech-based interior designer first created an opulent home for himself - floors laid with Moorish tiles, ceilings covered in honeycomb vaulting, every surface drenched with clever details - and then hosted a neverending series of sybaritic events. Guests decked out in caftans, turbans, beads and pearls lounged on daybeds, their faces gently lit by glowing lanterns and flickering tealights, while local boys proffered trays of mint tea one of the softer substances on offer. And what a guest list it was. Socialites including John Paul Getty Jr and his wife Talitha rubbed shoulders with The Beatles and The Rolling Stones, writer William Burroughs and fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent and his partner Pierre Bergé. The magical atmosphere Willis created for his festivities would filter into the work of many of his guests.

n the 1960s, a decade known for its

"Before Marrakech, everything was black," Saint Laurent later said. "This city taught me colour and I embraced its light, its insolent mixes and ardent inventions."

The hippies and hipsters who flocked to Marrakech in the 1950s and 1960s may have come from different countries - from France, the United States, the United Kingdom and beyond - but they were all looking for the same thing. They wanted to experience a different way of being, something more alive and exciting than the conservative postwar worlds in which they had grown up. And in Morocco's dusty desert capital, they found it.

Marrakech overloaded their senses. This was a place where the call to prayer sounded from minarets five times a day. Where the aromatic souks were scented by spices piled high and freshly tanned leather. In Marrakech, the simple façades of houses carefully concealed colourful interiors, while locals were decked out not in restrictive suits and stiff dresses but flowing djellabas and caftans. Not to mention that a dollar or a pound went a lot further here, allowing the expats to enjoy a fabulously hedonistic lifestyle.

These bohemian adventurers launched a new type of holiday, the boho break, a dream that endures to this day. Who has not been seduced by the idea of a carefree getaway dedicated to nothing more than feeling good, ideally in a beautiful place far from the hustle of modern life? The boho break is a chance to kick back, connect with people whose company makes your spirit soar, and enjoy the thrill of escaping the every day.

It's a dream that still lures travellers to Marrakech today. Of course, there have been many changes since the days of The Beatles and The Stones: there are office blocks and convenience stores and cafes serving avocado on toast. In certain pockets of the city, however, that old sense of enchantment still lingers. You can find it at Jemaa El Fnaa, the vast square that transforms into an open-air restaurant every night, smoke from the endless grills filling the air while promenading families buy a handful of pistachios or dates to snack on while watching the acrobats and snake-charmers. And of course, you can find it in the maze-like streets of the

Medina, the city's ancient heart. This is where the traces of the past still pulse most strongly, with locals and expats alike reinventing the riad - the type of traditional building that inspired Willis – into exquisite boutique hotels built around serene courtyards and decorated with Moroccan flair.

Among the newest is Izza, a riad that pays tribute to Willis with more than just its eye-catching interiors. Displayed on the walls are all kinds of Willis memorabilia, from childhood photos to thank-you letters from guests who survived one of his infamous parties.

Not every boho break was quite as exotic as Morocco. Australian writer Charmian Clift went seeking her Mediterranean idyll on the quiet Greek island of Hydra.

"The house where we are staying has a little terrace tucked under the tall bronze mountain that curls over the town like a static wave," Clift wrote in her memoir, Peel Me a Lotus.

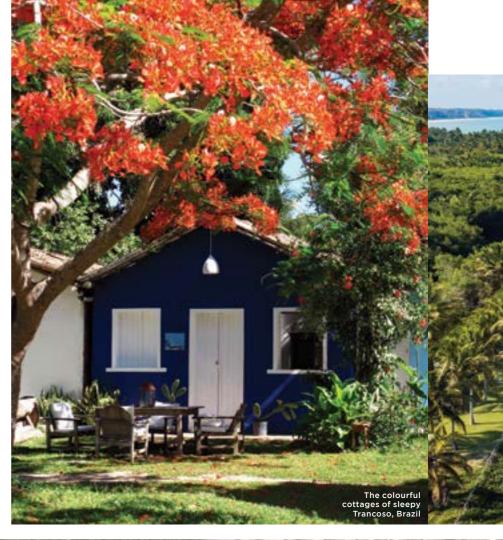
"I sit up here wrapped up in a blanket, listening to the dialogue of donkeys, seeing shadowed wall, rooftop, tile, alley aswarm with huge slinking shapes of cats, like an emanation of the secret soul of the place."

If that evocative description has you hankering to book a plane ticket, take a beat. Hydra is not what it was in the early 1960s when Clift and her husband George Johnston - author of My Brother Jack - spent their mornings writing and their evenings drinking and singing in the courtyard of the local taverna with artists and writers including Leonard Cohen.

These days, if you steer your boat towards the island's compact harbour, you will find a wall of luxury yachts already berthed, their passengers browsing through boutiques where price tags commonly stretch to quadruple digits. Unfortunately, it is a common story. The creative crowd discovers an under-the-radar location full of colour and movement and inspiration. In their wake come more moneyed types and change the place beyond recognition. It has happened everywhere from Goa in India to Tulum in Mexico, but if you are prepared to look a little harder, you can still find places with that

genuine boho vibe. Take Trancoso in Brazil. Never heard of it? That's precisely the way the locals like it. About 20 years ago Wilbert Das, the Dutch former creative director of Diesel, discovered this remote Brazilian fishing village, a quiet enclave 900 kilometres north of Rio.

Trancoso was its own little world, swathed by a vast tract of old-growth forest and accessed only





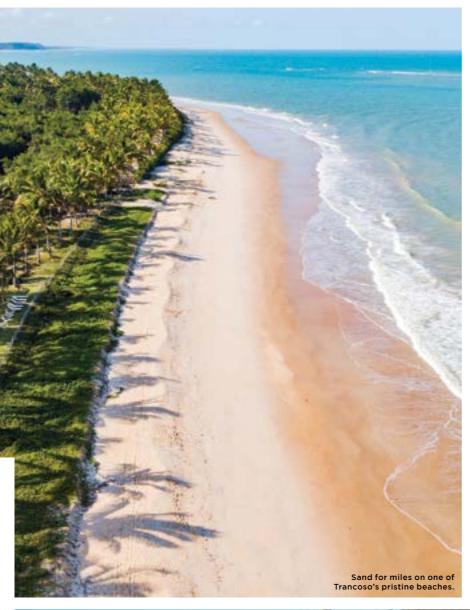
by a rough road. The clifftop village consisted of little more than a grassy square lined with brightly coloured cottages and a whitewashed church. At the end of an uneven downhill track lay a magnificent stretch of sand with nary a beach umbrella or deckchair in sight. Das fell in love. Within two years he bought one of the colourful houses and retired from the fashion game. As more and more friends clamoured to visit, he purchased more houses, which he eventually transformed into the Uxua Casa Hotel. It became a magnet for A-listers such as Beyoncé, who spent a month here and loved it so much she sent her sister Solange here for her honeymoon.

Trancoso remains hard to reach - the quickest route from the nearest airport, Porto Seguro, involves a ferry ride and a 70-minute drive on

dirt roads. Although the village feels completely cut off from the wider world, you are still intimately connected with the rhythms of daily life. Throw open the shutters of your stylish suite and you will see kids playing football, friends catching up on gossip. It's life as it used to be lived - laidback, unhurried, communal. Not ready to travel quite so far? You can find that special blend of magic much closer to home. Yes, Hamilton Island has evolved over the decades and offers plenty of glamour for those who want it, from luxe pavilions at qualia to a world-class golf course.

But if you are hankering after a carefree getaway - one where you watch the sunset sky reflected in the sea, or to wolf down hot fish and chips with your feet in the sand - you won't find a better place than right here.

PHOTOGRAPHY: UXUA CASA;





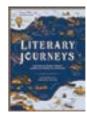
GET GOING

It's adventure time. We look at the best new and upcoming releases inspiring travel and exploration.



ULTIMATE DIVE SITES

Todd Thimios is the diving expert, photographer and author with more than 3500 dives under his belt. In this new book he curates a collection of his best diving experiences, with detailed guides, tips and info for visiting these special spots.



LITERARY JOURNEYS

One for the bookworms. Literary Journeys: Mapping Fictional Travels Across The World Of Literature traces the chronological trajectory of travel as a literary device, showcasing 75 memorable and important journeys in literature across 30 countries and 2500 years.



ASK AUNTY: BUSH SURVIVAL SKILLS

This new instalment in the Ask Aunty series is ideal for those venturing into the bush this summer. It is aimed at young children aged from five years and up and features bush skills passed down from Aboriginal people. Author Aunty Munya explains the pillars of these ancient survival tools and encourages young people to find ways to connect with the land.



THE INTREPID LIST

The Intrepid List: 100 Uncommon Experiences to Change the Way You Travel is the ideal companion for the fearless thrillseeker who loves to explore. The collection of 100 global travel experiences uses the lens of sustainability to inspire readers to discover new destinations and celebrate the planet's many unique and awe-inspiring places to visit.

s the saying goes, "A Sunday well spent brings a week of content". And this is precisely the magic that Hamilton Island's newest boutique hotel hopes to capture. The Sundays is a more than \$30 million regeneration project that officially opens its doors in autumn 2025. When guests are welcomed to the site at the northern end of Catseye Beach, they can expect luxurious amenities and thoughtful design: hallmarks of the island's internationally acclaimed, adults-only resort qualia. But unlike qualia, The Sundays caters to families. The team was inspired by the essence of what

makes a Sunday so special - relaxation, treasuring time and fostering connections with loved ones, and embracing nature. The hotel is intended to be a place that delivers an extraordinary experience for all ages amidst the breathtaking natural beauty of The Whitsundays in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef. Carrie Williams, designer behind The Sundays, says that when her team revisited a project that lay dormant during the covid pandemic, they identified a clear gap in the market.

"We definitely see lots of young families because it's really easy to travel [to Hamilton Island]. You

The Sundays is one of the most anticipated openings on Hamilton Island, a luxury boutique hotel above Catseve Beach that also welcomes families. REEF speaks to designer Carrie Williams about working with a pre-existing building, the hunt for the perfect artist collaboration and drawing inspiration from home.

get off the plane and you're at your hotel in five minutes, you can be in your pool in 10 minutes," Williams says. "We started to analyse where we really needed to be and what we needed to offer. There was nothing that offered a boutique experience for young families."

The realisation was quite poignant and personal for Williams, who had recently started her own family. "We have travelled to these beautiful places and luxury venues around the world, then we have children and we don't easily get to do those sorts of things anymore." Parenthood has undeniably shaped her design ethos. "I started the project when my daughter was six months. I made decisions back then ... but one- or two-year olds, they get so busy. I'm like, 'Oh my gosh, I need to refine this'," Williams says. "It was still about designing beautiful interiors but

making sure that they're thoughtful and durable. Like making sure the furniture can't be pulled over by children, making sure that the fabrics are super durable. So just always keeping in my mind, 'How is my two-year-old going to damage this?'." The hotel is also expecting a lot of couples bookings opened in August 2024 and there has already been a large uptake from pairs - but Williams says the harmony of luxury and family was one of her greatest considerations.

"The interiors are for the adults and then we have little touches for the children," she says. Of the latter, these include an events space that will host movie nights, face-painting and games, free daily ice-cream sundaes and beach-style ramp access into the guests-only pool. "We also have 10 cabanas along the pool. They're about the size of a queen bed so you can sit on there







with your young children, get food delivered, kids can run in and out and parents can just relax," Williams says.

"The lawn area flows onto the beach. It's a rocky beach, so I expect children to explore rather than swim. But it's really interesting, there are always stingrays and crabs to look at." The room configurations also keep families front of mind. Most of the 59 rooms have a bed placed in their centre and are set facing the window to make the most of the stunning palm-fringed views of the Coral Sea. A king single-sized daybed doubles as a child's sleeping spot and there's plenty of room for a cot (available upon request). There are also connecting rooms with trundle beds for larger groups, as well as accessible rooms available.

"THE INTERIORS
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FOR THE
CHILDREN."

expand at all," she explains.

"Meeting the balance of aesthetics with operational needs" was the biggest challenge of the project, according to Williams. The site is that of the original Allamanda House and Outrigger Restaurant, both built in the early 1980s. "Because we're retrofitting an existing building, we're working with existing space. It's very hilly: we're surrounded on the back by a hill and the front by a hill. So there's no space to

Would it have been easier to demolish and start from scratch? "The bones of the building are so strong and the size of the rooms really lean into a boutique offering. And it would've made no sense from a sustainability standpoint," Williams says. One major structural change that was made, however, was joining the hotel above to the pool and restaurant below.

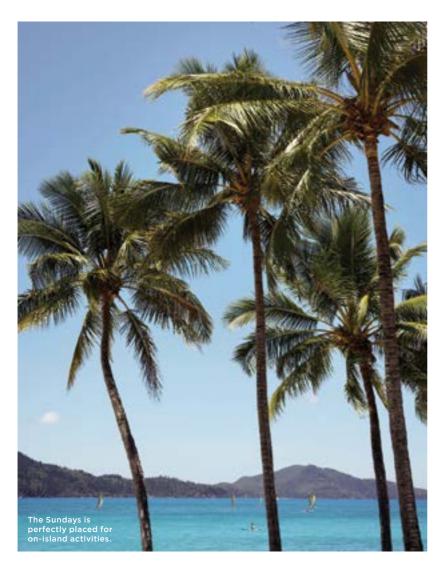
"We wanted to physically connect these spaces so they felt integrated. We've created this boardwalk which flows down so it's more of a journey to the pool," she says. "There are tropical gardens and interactive spaces with sculptures. At the bottom, we have this large lawn space that

flows across to the front of the pool and around to the restaurant."

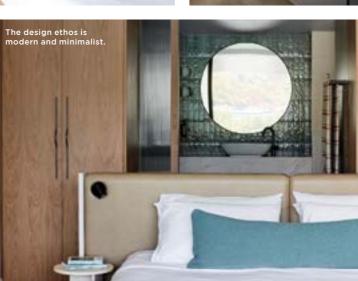
The waters-edge restaurant will be helmed by world-renowned Australian chef Josh Niland, which Williams says is a "super exciting and unique offering". The restaurant will be private for guests in the morning before opening to the public also for lunch and dinner. Works by Hungarian-Indigenous artist Tiarna Herczeg will feature. The Sundays is collaborating with Herczeg, who has Yalanji - Kuku Nyungkul warra heritage, across the entire property. "We spent so much time trying to find the right artist. We really wanted someone who was connected to northern Queensland ... we weren't having much luck. I think I came across her on Instagram, I just got in a rabbit hole and Tiarna popped up," Williams says. "She is from Sydney but her family's Indigenous background is from northern Queensland, up in the Daintree, so she has a connection to the tropics." "We just loved her energy. We have been working closely with her to create unique artwork for the hotel. She's created a suite of art for the hotel

rooms, the hotel reception, the restaurant and along the boardwalk."

Williams says she balances the "energy and pop" of Herczeg's art with design that is "minimalist, simple and classic". The rooms feature a breezy coastal palette: blonde timber furniture, sandtoned floors and accents of green and blue. "I'm a very minimalist designer. I like things really simple and I have a strong connection to nature. Everyone loves being outside and that is the essence of why you come here," she says. "The sea-mist green was one of the feature colours that I wanted to bring in for that reason, because it really does feel like a summer holiday and that's what I associate a Sunday with. The tone was really relaxing and not overwhelming. I just want it to feel like a warm hug. "It's hard being a parent. I want them to feel their children are exploring nature and they can relax by the pool. They will have amazing food on hand and it's a unique offering. And also, they don't feel like they have to travel far to do anything." The Sundays is now accepting reservations for May 2025 and beyond.











"WE JUST LOVED HER ENERGY. WE HAVE BEEN **WORKING CLOSELY** WITH HER TO CREATE UNIQUE ARTWORK."



POSTCARDS FROM PARADISE

Dear Instagram followers, having a wonderful time here on Hamilton Island ...



"A few snaps from @hamiltonislandraceweek" @katewaterhouse7



"Absolutely stunning day hosting the launch of @hamiltonisland's newest boutique luxury family hotel @thesundayshotel! @magdalena_roze



"In any lifetime it's a YES! Just two people loving each other for the rest of our lives."

@brittany_hockley



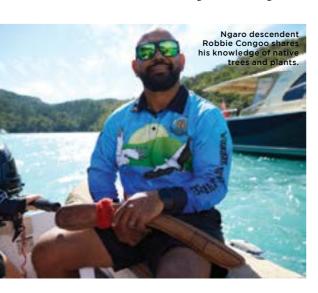
"After years of wondering what @qualiaresort was like, I finally know!
It's very cool, especially for
@hamiltonislandraceweek, when the
fabulous dinners are on, the yachties are in town, and the sun (the sun!) is shining."

PHOTOGRAPHY: SHUTTERSTOCK; JUSTIN RIDLER

WALK THIS WAY

Hamilton Island is home to many traditional plants used by Aboriginal people for thousands of years. Robbie Congoo, a direct descendant of the Ngaro people of The Whitsundays, suggests taking a stroll to discover these species with a story to tell.

very walk on Hamilton island is a cultural journey. The land is rich with plants and trees that played a significant role in the daily life of the Ngaro people for centuries, and the practical ways they were used still resonate today. Our walk begins at the southern end of Catseye Beach, before winding towards the base of Passage Peak. One of the first plants we discover is the beach hibiscus, with its bright yellow flowers. This versatile tree provided materials to make spears and firesticks while its leaves were used to weave baskets and make rope and fishing line. The edible flowers are a good source of fibre. Next we come across the sandpaper fig tree, known for its sweet-tasting fruit. The rough-to-





the-touch leaves were used as a natural form of sandpaper. The sandpaper fig flowers uniquely from "outside in" - its flowers form on the inside of its fruiting body - and can only be fertilised by a particular family of wasp.

Further along the walk are many native Australian grass trees. These hardy plants were used for making spears and firesticks, while their natural resin sealed tool heads and coolamons, the vessels used to carry water. When these trees have been through a bushfire, they respond by bursting into flower. The feathery fronds of the Australian tea tree also offer myriad uses. Its leaves and flowers can be brewed into a tea-like drink known for its relaxing properties. The wood was crafted into artefacts such as boomerangs, woomeras (spear throwers) and coolamons. Another remarkable feature of the species is its resistance to salt, making it well-suited for coastal areas. Moving along we come across some lomandra grass, which is prized for leaves used to make string for rope and woven together to make baskets, bags, fishing nets, mats and other useful tools. This plant produces seeds that can be

ground down into a flour and used to make a damper-type bread.

The long and strong leaves of the pandanus tree were also used for making string for rope and weaving baskets. The ripe fruit of the pandanus can be either eaten raw, roasted or ground down and then dried to make flour for making flatbreads.

Lastly, we come to the macaranga tree, whose wood was used to make spears. The macaranga's leaves were also twisted together to make a strong rope, while its resin was used as a natural glue. The tree's naturally broad canopy offers shade to both people and animals.

On Hamilton Island each plant tells a story of resourcefulness and tradition, offering a glimpse into the way the Ngaro people lived in harmony with the land. As we walk these tracks, we connect with a rich heritage that continues to thrive today.

We can continue to look after the country and animals by making sure we always put our rubbish in the bin and recycle when we can. It is also important to try to watch animals rather than touch, so we don't disturb them.





Wonders of the world

Exhilarating and extraordinary. That's what we want. Alison Veness road-tests four perfect ways to achieve holiday nirvana during a visit to Hamilton Island.

aking up in a super chic Reefbed, aka a glamorous swag, on a pontoon in the middle of the Coral Sea is a reminder of how amazing life can be on the Great Barrier Reef. As the sun sets and darkness falls across the never-ending seascape, a night on the reef provides the chance to meditate on life and simply let go. Gazing at the brightening stars is a memorable way to spend the evening before sinking into your Reefbed. The Reefworld pontoon on the outer Great Barrier Reef is remote and real, and a night here is unforgettable; the sound of the sea and the birds flying low on their way to somewhere unknown is magical.

The Reefsleep experience begins at Hamilton Island Marina with a safety briefing aboard the Cruise Whitsundays catamaran. It takes two

and a half hours to sail the 40 nautical miles out to Hardy Reef, and we arrive just before lunch. The journey across the Coral Sea is beautiful in itself, with the Whitsunday islands providing a stunning backdrop and migrating whales seen at certain times of the year.

The pontoon at Hardy Reef is essentially a platform from which to take in the extraordinary surroundings. There is an underwater observatory below, which affords close-ups with some of the 1500 species of fish that live on the Great Barrier Reef, plus 400 different species of living coral.

There is also the opportunity to snorkel or scuba dive. Wetsuits, snorkels, flippers and tanks are provided - all you need to pack is a swimsuit, pyjamas and a toothbrush - and the expert crew share their knowledge and passion for this incredible environment. A guided snorkel and

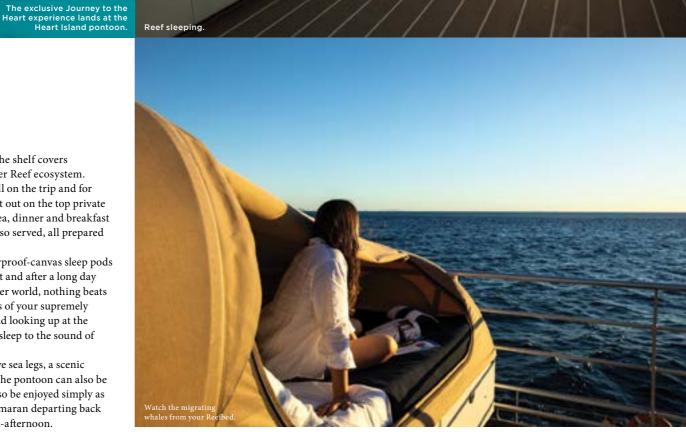
"NOTHING BEATS LYING ON THE CRISP LINENS OF YOUR SUPREMELY COMFORTABLE REEFBED AND LOOKING UP AT THE MILKY WAY. DRIFT OFF TO SLEEP TO THE SOUND THE WHALES SINGING."



talk along the edge of the shelf covers the unique Great Barrier Reef ecosystem. Lunch is provided for all on the trip and for Reefsleep guests, it is set out on the top private deck where afternoon tea, dinner and breakfast the next morning are also served, all prepared by the crew.

The sides of the weatherproof-canvas sleep pods can be rolled up at night and after a long day exploring the underwater world, nothing beats lying on the crisp linens of your supremely comfortable Reefbed and looking up at the Milky Way. Drift off to sleep to the sound of the whales singing.

For those who don't have sea legs, a scenic helicopter flight out to the pontoon can also be booked. The trip can also be enjoyed simply as a day out, with the catamaran departing back to Hamilton Island mid-afternoon.



Journey to the Heart is an exclusive way to enjoy the Great Barrier Reef and delivers a stunning arrival at the legendary Heart Reef. It feels both glamorous and thrilling to travel here via helicopter, landing on the tiny state-ofthe-art helipad and descending onto the Heart Island pontoon below.

The timing of this journey is low tide-dependent and the 30-minute flight seats a minimum of two people and a maximum of six, passing over the photogenic Whitehaven Beach and the spectacular Hill Inlet on the way out to Heart Reef. The experience is the brainchild of Brad Graves, owner of Hamilton Island Air, and took 10 years to bring to fruition. The project was developed in strict consultation with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, including a two-year environmental impact study. The ecologically sustainable pontoon designed by One2three Naval Architects is moored in the sand and powered by wind and sun. It doesn't carry waste and only operates within the designated lagoon, where regular reef health monitoring takes place. The lagoon is an incredible site for snorkelling, naturally sheltered by the three-metre-high coral walls. Hundreds of multicoloured reef fish swim in and around this environmental treasure. As Graves says, "it's like swimming in an aquarium and the whole journey is a sensory overload, from the heli, the pontoon, the boat ... people are overwhelmed".

Contained within the pontoon is a state-ofthe-art, glass-bottomed boat designed by Moda, architects of custom-made aluminium boats, which can go within a metre of Heart Reef. Marriage proposals have happened out here post snorkelling, celebrated with a glass of Charles Heidsieck served before the return 30-minute flight to Hamilton Island. This is an up-close look at an untouched and pristine world and nothing else on the Great Barrier Reef is as exclusive or as private.





The journey out to Nara Inlet is a brilliantly informative trip to Hook Island, a Ngaro cultural site of great significance and a part of Whitsunday Islands National Park. Guide Robbie Congoo is a direct descendant of the Ngaro people and his in-depth knowledge and personal understanding of this region is compelling.

We arrive on the super slick Palm Beach motoryacht, transferring to dinghy for the short journey to a tiny strip of beach reached by wading through shallow water.

Congoo leads the way up this moderate-tosteep incline, talking about the plants and trees in the marine park and explaining the First Nations history of the area.

Before reaching the ancient rock shelter at the top of a flight of stairs, there is an audio-tape installation featuring descendants of the Ngaro people. The installation shares personal and poignant stories from the Ngaro's history. Congoo also performs a smoking ceremony for the spirits.

The rock shelter is a deep natural cave and the "canvas" for the 9000-year-old carbon-dated ochre paintings. This journey is truly magical and resonates deeply thanks to Congoo's deep connection to and understanding of country.

PHOTOGRAPHY: PHILL GORDON; JUSTIN RIDLER; HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY.





Nara Inlet on Hook Island is a site of great cultural significance for the Ngaro people.

Finally, a favourite trip is the one to Whitehaven Beach, with its picture-perfect, world's-whitest sand. The trip can be booked with Cruise Whitsundays and begins with a one-hour journey via motorised catamaran to the southern end of Whitehaven Beach.

This is a great beach for walking, swimming or simply relaxing. You might spot the occasional

yacht moored here but the island itself is uninhabited. The Whitehaven trip can be booked for the morning or afternoon and tea is included on both journeys. Protective swimming suits are provided during stinger season. For detailed information please contact the Hamilton Island Tour Desk, tourdesk@hamiltonisland.com.au



Seeds of change

In Airlie Beach, researchers are trialling innovative methods to combat the negative impact of climate change on seagrass, which is considered the "kidneys" of the Great Barrier Reef. Landscape ecologist Emma Jackson talks to *REEF* about this vital work.

t's understandable that most reports of the impacts of climate change on the Great Barrier Reef centre on its biggest drawcards: coral, turtles, sharks and other spectacular wildlife. But the unsung hero of the reef - seagrass - is also under threat and there's a small team of scientists racing against the clock to repair the damage to its meadows. In August, the Coastal Marine Ecosystems Research Centre (CMERC) unveiled a new seagrass nursery at the Coral Sea Marina Resort in Airlie Beach, tripling capacity of the pilot nursery launched there two years ago as part of The Whitsunday Seagrass Restoration Project. The Great Barrier Reef Foundation's Reef Islands Initiative project – a collaboration between CMERC, Reef Catchments and the resort - aims to enhance the seagrass meadows in Pioneer Bay through collection, cultivation and germination of seeds.

Professor Emma Jackson, director of CMERC at CQUniversity Australia, has dedicated her

entire career to seagrass, having done her PhD and postdoctoral research fellowship on the species in the UK before moving to Queensland to work on seagrass restoration.

For the past decade, her focus has been on zostera muelleri (eelgrass). The species is native to the east coast of Australia and New Zealand and is one of 15 types found in the Great Barrier Reef, the largest seagrass habitat on the planet at more than 3.5 million hectares.

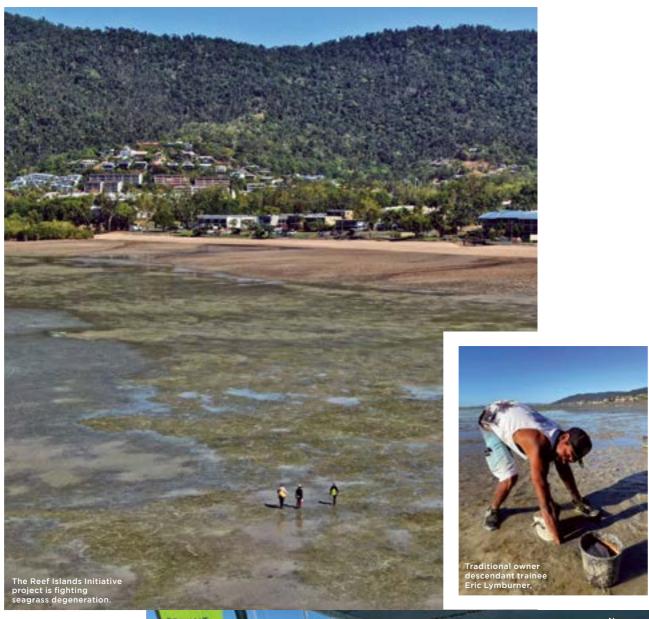
Professor Jackson says there's a long list of reasons of why this threatened species is vital to the reef ecosystem.

"They are like the kidneys of the Great Barrier Reef. They filter everything out before it gets to the reef and causes damage. It basically acts as our last line of defence for trapping sediments that run off the coast," she says.

"They are also really important fish-habitat areas. A lot of juvenile fish will utilise seagrasses as part of their life cycle. They are also a direct food source for some animals we care quite a lot

about. This area in particular that we work on in Pioneer Bay is a really important feeding ground and, it looks like, nursery grounds for dugongs. "And they trap carbon in the root systems and in the mud long term, which means we're actually drawing down carbon and getting it out of our atmosphere."

According to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, the seagrass meadows store approximately 400 million tonnes of "blue carbon" and are 30 to 50 times more efficient than tropical rainforests at sequestering carbon, meaning they play a vital role in combating the very thing that is threatening their survival: climate change. "The biggest driver of seagrass loss across the Great Barrier Reef at the moment is climate change. People around The Whitsundays will have seen the devastation that tropical cyclones can do to marine habitats. Entire areas of the sea just got ripped up," Professor Jackson says, referencing the devastation caused by Cyclone Ului (2010) and Cyclone Debbie in 2017.







ENVIRONMENT

This activity not only affects the reef's capacity to store carbon but also triggers the release of historic deposits. Additionally, she explains, increased flooding events bring fine sediments and nutrients. This creates algal blooms and sedimentation in the coastal waters, smothering the seagrass and stopping it from getting light, which then causes it to degrade.

Boating and fishing in shallow waters also causes damage but climate change is "the major driver of a declining trend in seagrass health", Professor Jackson says.

"They've always had storms and flood events but because they're becoming more frequent, it sort of hits again before it has recovered. So, what we're trying to do is get it back up to the stage that it was at and help it persist a little bit longer. It's not, 'Go in, restore it, walk away'. It's going to be an ongoing project as we navigate our changing climate."

Since the initiative's inception, CMERC has trialled myriad methods to restore the seagrass, starting with simply turfing it and placing it on the ocean floor. "But in Queensland waters, that's quite tricky to do because of the heat, dangerous animals and the sheer difficulty of carrying it," she says.

So they moved to seed-based restoration - and this is where the nurseries come in. "We started a series of nurseries that would hold flowers and also grow plants to be able to propagate and create seeds to do seagrass restoration with." Although the Airlie Beach project was the third seagrass nursery to be established, Professor Jackson considers it their most successful to date. "The seagrass really likes the conditions. It's almost like a little ecosystem."

The flow-through system pumps in seawater direct from Pioneer Bay, which minimises algae build-up and reduces waste water. "We were really lucky Coral Sea Marina Resort offered to have space on one of their pontoons for a trial and that worked so well that they were happy with us scaling that up."

The recent upgrade added two more seagrass tanks and two flower collection tanks to the site, producing enough to cover two hectares at 200 or more seeds per square metre. A larger-scale nursery modelled off The Whitsundays set-up is currently in the works in Gladstone, which the CMERC team is expecting to facilitate up to 20 hectares of restoration. This will help overcome storage issues.

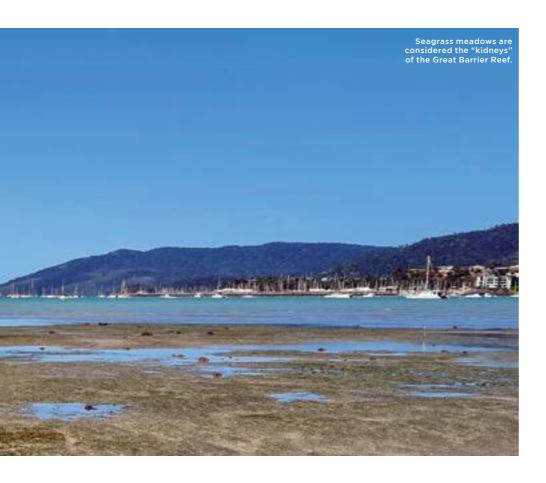
"These are what you call recalcitrant seeds. They have to be kept wet and after about nine months the viability really drops off. That's long enough to collect them, wait until the storm season has passed and put them out. But it isn't long enough to store them year after year and have a massive bank," Professor Jackson says. This means the nurseries are fundamental to recovery efforts. But they require a lot of monitoring. Here, CMERC saw an opportunity



to collaborate with Ngaro traditional owners. "We put a training element of the project in place. We've had four different traditional owner trainees ... sharing knowledge on how to collect the seagrasses, how to do seeding and monitoring but at the same time gathering information from them on what they remember this area being like and how they see species such as turtles and dugongs utilising the meadows."

One trainee, Eric Lymburner, had been coming to the region for decades to visit his grandmother and great aunt, a local traditional elder. He joined the project about two years ago. "This is my very first time working on country. It's a blessing from the old people and other higher forces, too," Lymburner tells REEF. His favourite part of the job? "Knowing that the seagrass is coming back because you see all the turtles chilling out in the low tides on the mud flats and having a little feed."





Lymburner loves the job so much he finds himself visiting the nursery on his days off just to "check out the little green patches". Along with getting his dive certification, he hopes this role will increase his knowledge of marine biology and allow him to "look after the land and sea ... for the next generation to come".

Those monitoring the nurseries on a day-today basis are responsible for backwashing, filtering and collecting the flowers. To date, more than 65,000 seeds have been collected and used in re-seeding experiments. So far, they've seen the most success from seed balls. "We try and look at how seeds are dispersed in nature. And one is through animals feeding on them then dispersing them through their faeces," Professor Jackson says.

"This has also helped us work out things like germination. These things have evolved over time together in a symbiotic relationship, so we recreate the conditions of a dugong stomach: pre-germinating them in fresh water then sticking them in balls is basically what's happening in nature.

"[Researchers] use seed balls in terrestrial systems but they're usually dried. We can't dry our seeds out so we use this mixture of clay sediment from the local mangroves and make very sticky little seed balls." At present, the seed balls are largely distributed by hand but CMERC sees potential in remote techniques using drones and kayaks to not only minimise damage

caused by people walking over the meadows but also to help scale the project.

"Going forward, we want to try and look at some of the other seagrass species you find in slightly different environments. We need to have nurseries within a certain distance of the areas that we're restoring. You can't translocate sea grass more than about 100 kilometres. At the moment, we've just been working in the area within the harbour limits. So now we're looking to get the permits to expand that out into the state park and marine park."

With growth comes complexity, such as the high volume of people who holiday in The Whitsundays. But Professor Jackson sees it as an opportunity to work with tourism operators to get visitors involved.

"A lot of people aren't aware. They'll go and see the reef but they haven't seen what an amazing ecosystem a seagrass meadow is and all the types of things you find living in there," she says, noting that many citizen scientists who volunteer to collect flowers at community events return time and again. "At first, they're like 'I can't see them, I can't find anything'. And then it clicks. Once you start picking flowers, you start finding all the other things that live in there. We've seen all sorts, from mudcrabs to nudibranchs to sea cucumbers; weird and wonderful things. "People are getting very anxious about what's happening to the environment. By actually helping out, it can make people feel like they're doing something positive."

LISTEN UP

These are the environmental and climate-focused podcasts currently inspiring and educating us.



OUTRAGE + OPTIMISM Outrage + Optimism cohosts Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac led the UN's negotiations on the Paris Agreement. They are joined here by Carbon Disclosure Project founder, Paul Dickinson to

interview guests who offer inspiring, hopeful insights.



INDIGENOUS EARTH COMMUNITY PODCAST Join Frank Oscar Weaver as he uplifts indigenous voices from around the world. Guests share their wisdom and cultural stories about their own lands while also providing information on how to better protect the Earth.



CLIMATE RISING This Harvard Business School faculty podcast examines the impact of climate change on business. It explores the challenges and opportunities posed by climate change and considers useful insights and strategies on what businesses can do next.



THINK: SUSTAINABILITY For those curious about the future of sustainability, this Aussie/NZ-based podcast contemplates the overall impact of consumption, tracing technological and environmental discoveries for a more sustainable future.



EARTH MATTERS Environmental news with a strong social justice perspective is at the heart of the Earth Matters podcast. It reports on activist campaigns and public debates to inform its listeners on current ecological issues.





Born to run

The highs and lows of a life as an Olympic athlete. Luke Willian talks endurance, Paris 2024 and what it's like to cycle on an airport runway. By Matt Cleary.

ne of the best bits of Forrest Gump is the look of elation on Forrest's face when his leg clamps fall off as he's being pursued by bullies on bicycles. Suddenly he realises he can "run like the wind blows". And, as his girlfriend Jenny yells, "Run, Forrest! Run!", run Forrest does. And the bullies can't catch him for dust. "From that day on," Forrest tells us, "if I was going somewhere, I was running." It was a similar mode of getting around for Brisbane boy, Luke Willian. The kid ran everywhere. At speed. All the time. "I was always running," he says. "I loved running around and didn't like walking. I thought walking was too slow." He played Australian Rules footy for the Morningside Panthers and followed the great Brisbane Lions AFL teams of 2004 - Black,



Akermanis, Brown, Voss. The first time Willian found himself on the Gabba after a Lions game, he plucked some grass off his "Holy Grail". These were the days when juniors were corralled into three areas of the field - backs, mids, forwards - and if the Panthers were a player

down they'd put young Willian "on the ball" with a literal roving commission. He would just run all day.

One summer, to channel the kid's energy, his parents put him in triathlon. He'd won state cross-country titles, run second in the national cross-country championship behind Morgan McDonald, who would go on to run for Australia in the 5000 metres at the Paris Olympics. But when Willian found triathlon, he found his calling. The riding was top fun – fast! The swimming was cool, if hit and miss. And the running, well, that's just what he did. But the sport had variety and kept him busy. He loved the competition of it. It even helped his schoolwork.

"I was probably a bit of a ratbag as a kid," Willian says. "But then I fell in love with tri and if I didn't do my homework, I wouldn't get to go



training. That was the worst thing in the world that could happen. So, I did everything right

And he kept on doing things right, all the way to the 2024 Paris Olympics where he ran, swam

Willian talks to REEF just days after returning from the World Triathlon Championship Finals in Torremolinos, Spain. Though he'd woken up ill, he still ran 15th. It was enough to maintain status as the sixth-best triathlete on the planet. It's the highest ranking he's

was a disappointment. Not the city of Paris: Willian reckons it's never looked better. All the people were happy. He got to attend the closing ceremony. He got near Tom Cruise. But his

In the week before the event, they tested the Seine for water quality. It didn't always pass muster. They delayed the start. When the competitors did dive in, it was an oldfashioned dust-up.

"I'd been racing really well all year," Willian says. "But then at the Olympics, I just got caught up fighting in the swimming. I came out two minutes down behind the lead group. And it's game over from there because those front guys just got away with it.

"You put a lot of effort and time in, and your day is quickly over because other people want to fight the whole way."

Fight? What, actually fight?

"The current in the river made the swim really technical, and lots of people didn't know how to swim. And you got caught up in the fight. You found yourself swimming in the middle of the

river because no one was swimming against the wall. And yeah, it was a pretty disappointing and frustrating day out there," Willian explains. He would end up finishing 46th, eight minutes behind gold medallist Alex Yee of Great Britain. Willian will be 32 and in his prime come the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028. For the next four years he will compete in World Triathlon Championship Series events in Abu Dhabi, Yokohama, Hamburg and Wollongong. There are races in China, Spain, New Zealand and the USA. Leading into an event he'll train 24 hours a week. There is very little downtime. Which is why, come the evening of November 23 and the post-race festivities of the Hamilton Island Triathlon - of which Willian was the 2024 ambassador - his feet were up and his hair was down.

"I was able to relax and have a couple of beers after the race. And what a place to do it," he says. "It will be a while before my next competition and it's the last race for the year. It's a competitive race, it's just good fun. The plan was to come out and enjoy it." The last time Willian competed in "The Hammo Tri" was in 2017 when he won the race by an impressive six minutes.

"It's one of the most fun courses. You get to ride on the runway, which is pretty unique. It's deceptively challenging. You've got to ride up over the hill. It runs kind of up and down throughout the island. You get to see the whole island doing the race," he says. "The water is warm. The open-water swim is pretty special. The sand and the water, it's unbelievable. It's something I'll remember forever." While athletes can lose explosiveness into their

thirties, they can still maintain competitiveness in endurance events. And it's clear, just as it was for the 12-year-old kid from Brisbane, that Willian competes for the love of it. So much does he love it, he's not ruling out a tilt at Brisbane in 2032.

"Triathlon is such an endurance sport, you've got that time. There were guys at Paris aged 35. If you look after your body and do the right thing, you can keep going while the going is good," Willian says.

"LA is obviously the big goal. From there I'll probably have to re-evaluate and see how I'm going. But Brisbane would be pretty special to try and make that one. I'd be 35 so that'd be the latter end of the spectrum. But you never know what's gonna happen in the sport." Run, Luke Willian. Run.







PLAYTIME

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the opening of Hamilton Island Golf Club, a course now considered one of Australia's finest and on the bucket lists of golfers worldwide. Here's 15 reasons why you will love teeing off at this incredible place. By Brendan James.



1. GETTING THERE

The travel maxim of the journey being as, if not more, important than the destination rings particularly true here. While the destination in this instance is to one of Australia's finest golf courses, the short ferry ride across Dent Passage from Hamilton Island Marina to neighbouring Dent Island is stunning.

2. NO DISAPPOINTMENTS

So, you forgot to bring your golf clubs on holiday? Don't worry about it. The golf club staff can set you up with premium hire clubs. No room in your luggage for golf shoes? Fret not. These can also be hired.

3. THE OPENING GAMBIT

On the 1st tee at Hamilton Island, look out to the beautifully clipped strip of fairway surrounded by scrub. Take a deep breath and swing. Finding the fairway or not is inconsequential. Remember, it's about enjoying the journey ...

4. THOMSON'S GENIUS

Peter Thomson was a titan of Australian golf. As a player he is best known as a five-time winner of the British Open Championship. As a world-renowned golf course architect, he designed more than 180 courses across the globe. Hamilton Island Golf Club rates as one of his finest creations.

5. BRING THE A-GAME

Hamilton Island is highly ranked among Australia's best courses on the back of Thomson's design, which is challenging but fair for all players. The course tests every facet of your game, no matter your ability. But above all, it's a lot of fun to play.

6. BEAUTIFULLY MANICURED

Complementing the course design by Thomson with fellow architect Ross Perrett are impeccably manicured fairways and greens. The putting surfaces are some of the best TifEagle Bermuda greens in the country, while the carpet-like fairways are a dream from which to hit off.



7. FOUR ACES

Hamilton Island has four amazing par-3s. All require keen attention for club and shot selection, but each has its own memorable traits. At the 4th hole it is the infinity green, with seemingly no ground to be found beyond the putting surface and the cliffs above the Whitsunday waters beyond. Likewise, the diminutive 14th green, with bunkers all around, looks near impossible to hit (especially in the wind) on its ridge-top location. Make a hole-inone here and the drinks are on you.

8. INTO SPACE

The 5th tee is perched high above the fairway, so when launching your drive into the stratosphere here, there is a great deal of satisfaction in the hang time the ball gets before crashing back to Earth.

9. HOW DID THEY BUILD THAT?

It is easy to be in awe of how it was even possible to build a golf course here, given the rugged and inhospitable nature of the site before the Hamilton Island Golf Club was developed. During construction, massive sandstone boulders the size of small cars were extracted from the site and crushed into sand which was used to create the bunkers.

"HAMILTON ISLAND GOLF CLUB IS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GOLFING VENUES IN THE WORLD."

10. THANK GOODNESS FOR CARTS

The steep ridges and deep vales across the course provide the bones of one of the most challenging golfing landscapes in Australia, which is why this is a "carts-only" course.

11. FINCHY'S FAVOURITE

Former British Open Champion and proud Queenslander Ian Baker-Finch can't speak highly enough of the Hamilton Island course. "Hamilton Island Golf Club is one of the most beautiful golfing venues in the world. The Whitsundays are the Greek Islands of Australia, with better weather, spectacular beaches and an easygoing lifestyle, and Hamilton Island lies right in the middle of it. I love it."

12. WOW FACTOR

By the time you reach the 15th tee, you may feel completely gobsmacked by the views accompanying every shot. Prepare yourself. This hole is on the southernmost tip of the course and plays along a narrow ridge with steep cliffs left and right, down to the aquamarine waters below. If there is one spot on this course that will leave you breathless, it is here.

13. SNAP HAPPY

There are so many places on this course to photograph or be photographed but one of the most picturesque is the 16th tee with the green and Hamilton Island in the background.

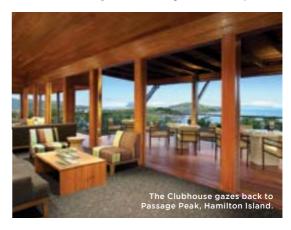
14. THE LAST CHANCE

The opening drive of any round of golf is usually the hardest. Here, the toughest drive might be on the steep downhill 18th played against the backdrop of the Clubhouse and Dent Passage.

15. EAT, DRINK, STAY

Go for the golf and definitely stay for lunch in the Clubhouse. This is one of the best dining experiences on Hamilton Island. Panoramic views combined with seared scallops in saffron butter sauce; slow-cooked wagyu steak; a sweet offering of a chocolate brownie and crème fraîche gelato – sublime – and paired with one of the carefully selected wines from the cellar, equals died-and-gone-to-holiday-heaven.





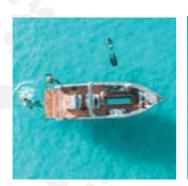


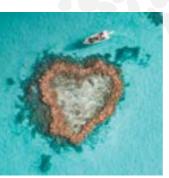
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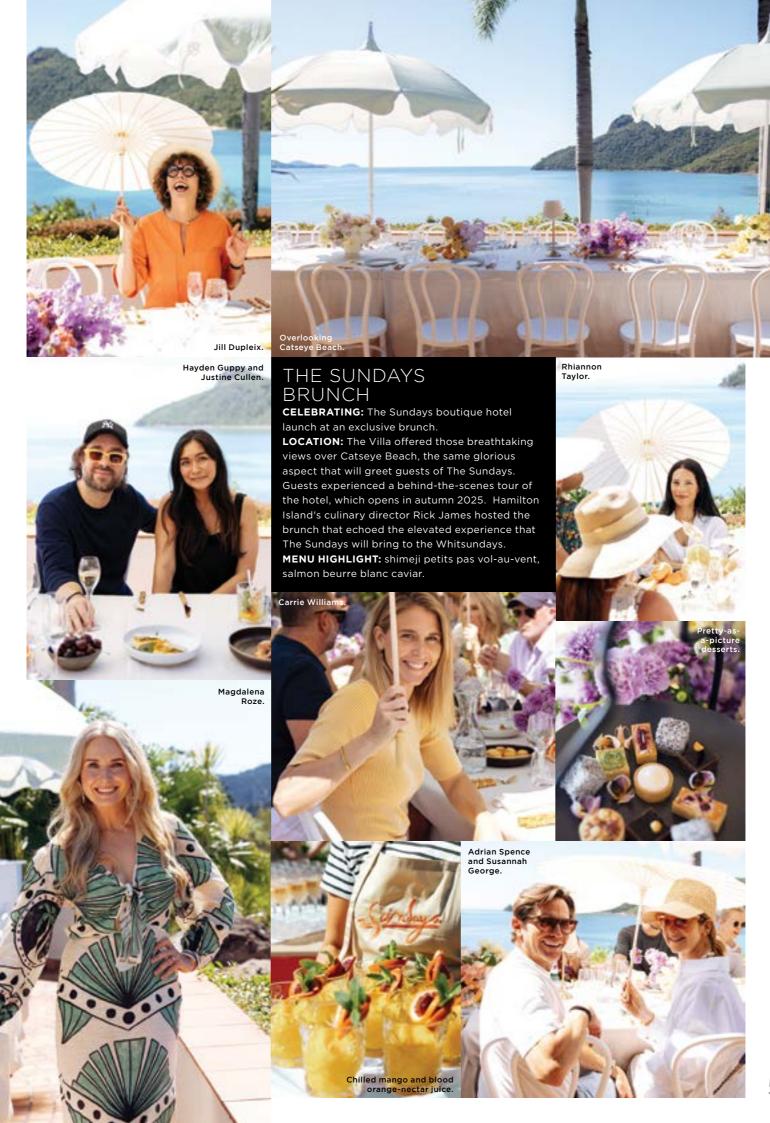
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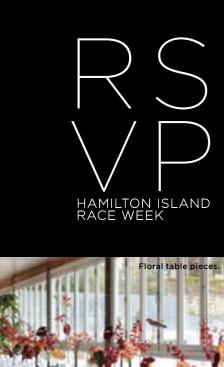
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TO SHOP AT QUALIA BOUTIQUE PLEASE CALL AT LEAST 30 MINUTES BEFOREHAND TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT.









Trisha Greentree

TRISHA GREENTREE DINNER

CELEBRATING: Guest chef

Trisha Greentree.

LOCATION: For one special evening, coca chu restaurant welcomed Trisha Greentree as guest chef. Greentree drew on her Filipino heritage and experience at renowned Sydney restaurants Mr Wong's and Fratelli Paradiso to prepare an Asianinspired menu. A celebration of clever combinations using the freshest ingredients with spice to match.

MENU HIGHLIGHTS: mouth drunken pipis, rice noodles and crispy garlic.





Trisha Greentree with

the coca chu crew





CELEBRATING: The launch of Mecca Cosmetica's In a Good Light Illuminating Drops with SPF30.

LOCATION: qualia Beach House. The evening, hosted by Mecca chief executive Jo Horgan and chief Mecca-maginations officer Marita Burke, was filled with many glowing moments. Guests enjoyed Charles Heidsieck Champagne as Horgan shared personal stories and fond memories of times spent on the island with family and friends, adding a heartfelt touch to the starlit celebration of the brand's latest release.





ALANG ALANG 14 MARINA TERRACE \$3,950,000

3 3 1 3

Welcome to Alang Alang Island Retreat, where breathtaking island views await. This expansive, fully furnished property is perched high above the Marina and is the perfect getaway for families and holidaymakers, featuring five bedrooms, including a self-contained guest house. Alang Alang is spread across two spacious levels connected by a curved timber staircase. The upper floor's bright, open-plan living area is finished with spectacular cathedral ceilings. Bifold doors and windows lead to a balcony with outdoor seating, ideal for soaking up the mesmerising sunsets. The inviting lounge area offers postcard-worthy views through large windows that flood the space with natural light. Completing the upper level are two additional bedrooms, a second bathroom, and a master suite featuring a luxurious ensuite and cozy daybed nook.





YACHT HARBOUR TOWER 6 1 MARINA DRIVE \$3,800,000

4 1 1 1

Yacht Harbour Tower is Hamilton Island's most distinguished whole-floor apartment building. This expansive and recently renovated residence offers generous living spaces and its own private foyer, serviced directly by lift. The spectacular openplan living and dining areas have views spanning Catseye Beach to Dent Island. There are four generous bedrooms (three with ensuites), with the master an elegant sanctuary featuring a lounge, private balcony, walk-in robe and spa bathroom with views out across the Coral Sea. Additional features include air conditioning, ceiling fans hroughout, access to the complex's relaxing pool and barbecue area, and secure basement parking.



WHITSUNDAY APARTMENT CB1206 14 RESORT DRIVE \$559,000

It's easy to see why these self-contained apartments are a favourite holiday investment: it is just steps from multiple resort pools and the Turtle Discovery activity. The 84-square-metre floorplan easily accommodates up to five guests and features open-plan lounge and dining and a large bedroom with a dualaccess bathroom. The balcony enjoys dreamy views of Catseye Beach, while the complex's lagoon-style pool is an ideal spot to relax between adventures. This property operates under a licence and management agreement offering, handling all maintenance, housekeeping and refurbishments; 28 days are allocated annually for personal use and no stamp duty or land tax is payable.

INFINITY 11 WHITSUNDAY BOULEVARD **OFFERS OVER \$3,850,000**

5 5 2

This stunning home is exquisitely designed and furnished, comfortably sleeping up to 14 people across its five bedrooms. The highly functional floorplan features four ensuites, a main bathroom and an additional powder room. The internal area is a huge 521-square metres across a three-level, open-plan design. Kitchen, dining, living and balcony are on the upper level, meaning views across the Coral Sea while you entertain or relax. The middle level comprises an impressive master and a second spacious bedroom, both with ensuites, plus a third bedroom and laundry. The lower level opens to a large deck and the centrepiece of the home: the breathtaking infinity pool and spa. The current owners designed and built the property with holidaying in mind and there are strong forward bookings in place.





KAYLAN 5 MARINA DRIVE \$2,950,000

4 2 2

This exquisite residence combines the best of island living with a solid investment opportunity. Its unrivalled blend of luxury and breathtaking views makes it ideal for entertaining. Kaylan's expansive openplan living and dining area seamlessly connects with the outdoor entertaining deck via glass-panel stacking doors. From here, those legendary Hamilton Island sunsets can be enjoyed all year round. The top floor features a spacious theatre room, bar and the master suite, all of which open onto a large deck. On the lower level, three generous bedrooms, each with ensuites, have access to the lower deck. This remarkable home not only promises a memorable stay for holidaymakers but offers a proven track record of strong rental returns and future bookings.

PROPERTY SALES: CONTACT LIAM KEARNEY 0458 178 601 OR SCOTT BOWSHIRE 0428 306 031

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COOINDA GARDENS 3 14 WHITSUNDAY BOULEVARD **OFFERS OVER \$1,500,000**

4 3

Cooinda Gardens 3 is surrounded by manicured gardens in an exclusive complex of just six properties. It boasts views across Fitzalan Passage to Whitsunday Island, with access to all that the island offers as well as the shared private pool. The property's upper level features modern and airy openplan living to maximise those breathtaking views. There is a seamless flow through the living, dining and updated kitchen to the two generous entertaining decks. The master suite has a large walk-in robe and ensuite. The 306-square-metre layout makes the property ideal for large families or groups, with three bedrooms on the lower level, along with two bathrooms and a large outdoor patio. Vaulted ceilings and vast windows that optimise natural light are complemented by clever design that captures the cross breezes, keeping the space comfortable all year round.



POINCIANA 004 2 MARINA DRIVE **CONTACT AGENT**

3 2 1 1

Poinciana Lodge is a popular complex, its proximity to the Marina, resort stores and restaurants making it a favourite with holidaymakers. This apartment's one-of-a-kind floorplan combines the area of two units across a generous 216-squaremetre footprint. Its spacious kitchen and expansive living area flow to the large undercover patio with magnificent views across Catseye Beach to Whitsunday Island. The family-friendly property boasts three generous bedrooms and two bathrooms, plus split system air conditioning and ceiling fans throughout. Access to the shaded and private lagoon-style pool within the complex confirms the exceptional value of this highly convenient package.



SUNSET WATERS 8 3 BANKSIA COURT \$620,000

2 1 1

This is a rare chance to secure an entry-level multi-use property, perfectly zoned for both holiday letting and permanent tenancy. Sunset Waters 8 offers a reliable investment, with long-term tenants in place for several years. The ground level of this twostorey townhouse features an open-plan layout, with a refurbished kitchen, dining and living area all leading to a private courtyard that is perfect for soaking up the island's relaxed atmosphere. A laundry and separate powder room are also found on this floor. Upstairs, two generous bedrooms are serviced by the main bathroom, offering comfort and convenience. The property also has air conditioning, ceiling fans and access to the shared pool.

BELLA VISTA WEST 3

1 WHITSUNDAY BOULEVARD \$2,500,000

3 3 1 3

Welcome to Bella Vista West 3, a newly renovated three-bedroom property offering commanding northeasterly views over the turquoise waters of The Whitsundays. Apartments in Bella Vista are prized for their expansive layouts, making them a preferred choice for both investors and holidaymakers. This exceptional 328-square-metre multi-level apartment is meticulously designed to provide an unparalleled island experience. It features a modern kitchen, spacious living area and a generous entertaining area with striking vaulted ceilings. The property has split system air conditioning, ceiling fans throughout and is fully furnished. There is also access to the shared palm-fringed pool area. Additionally, the benefit of a stamp duty exemption makes Bella Vista 3 a compelling opportunity for buyers.





SHORE LINES 16 5 ACACIA DRIVE **OFFERS OVER \$1,200,000**

2 2 1 2

Two bedrooms, two bathrooms and breathtaking views across the water to the islands of The Whitsundays. It's easy to see why this spectacular split-level property in the Shore Lines complex enjoys long-standing holiday-letting success. The generous 156-square-metre floorplan features two balconies for prime viewing of those legendary Hamilton Island sunsets. There is easy-care and elegant timber flooring throughout, with a gourmet kitchen, sunken living area and an abundance of entertaining space confirming the townhouse as a perfect holiday retreat for your family, friends and guests to enjoy. The complex's infinity-edge pool offers some of the island's best views and this property is being sold fully furnished and ready for use, including a buggy.

PROPERTY SALES: CONTACT LIAM KEARNEY 0458 178 601 OR SCOTT BOWSHIRE 0428 306 031

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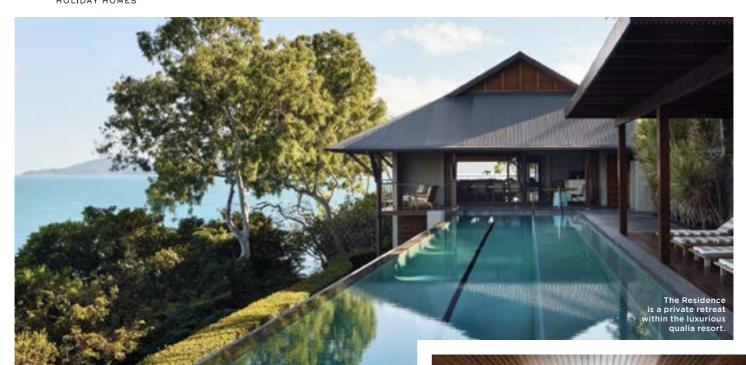
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RENTALS



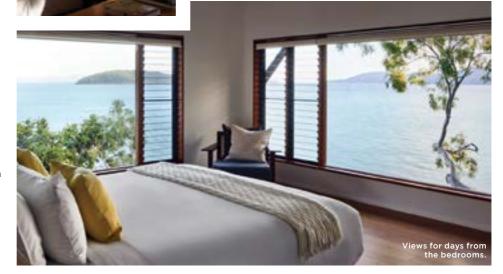
THE RESIDENCE

3-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY FROM: \$9500 PER NIGHT MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 6 PEOPLE

3 3 3

This luxurious adults-only private estate is part of qualia, Hamilton Island's worldclass boutique resort. The Residence is the ultimate private retreat, enjoying sweeping views of Dent Passage and Plum Pudding Island and discreetly set behind its own private gated entrance within the resort. The Residence offers guests the very best of both worlds: access to qualia's luxurious facilities, restaurants, VIP transfers, as well as turndown service and daily a la carte breakfast at the resort's Long Pavilion. Guests of The Residence also have the option to self-cater and enjoy its exclusive and serene spaces originally designed by qualia architect Chris Beckingham, including the private 25-metre infinity edge pool and separate standalone one-bedroom studio located on the grounds. They also enjoy a dedicated concierge service by qualia, to make the most of the countless ways to explore the majestic Great Barrier Reef while on island. Please note guests of The Residence must be 16 years and older.





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

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Professional on-island property managers. Bonus inclusions for guests: Kids Eat Free at Sails and Pool Terrace Restaurant; plus complimentary non-motorised watersports.

NORTH CAPE 2

3-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY FROM: \$1310 PER NIGHT **MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 8 PEOPLE**



This sleek apartment is perfectly situated on the island's northern end. It is split across two levels and offers an openplan living area, spectacular views, four generous bedrooms - king-sized bed in the master; queens in bedrooms 2 and 3 - and a private plunge pool. The apartment's covered outdoor entertaining area has seating for eight people. Highend furniture and accessories feature throughout, including a sleek, designer kitchen with stainless-steel appliances and double wine fridge. Ideal for larger families and groups holidaying together.





POINCIANA 110

3-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY FROM: \$640 PER NIGHT **MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 4 PEOPLE**



This freshly renovated single-level apartment features everything you need for a relaxing island escape, including panoramic views across Catseye Beach, air conditioning, ceiling fans and complimentary wi-fi. Two generously sized bedrooms - each with king beds, one of which is splittable - and two bathrooms make it ideal for couples, families or groups. The complex has a shared pool surrounded by tropical gardens.



LAGOON LODGE 107

3-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY FROM: \$800 PER NIGHT **MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 5 PEOPLE**

2 2 1 3

This light-filled apartment offers water views and an ideal location with direct access across a walking path to Catseye Beach. The open-plan layout features sliding doors that open to embrace the sun loungers and spectacular views from the balcony. There are two bathrooms and two generously sized bedrooms, one with a king bed, the other with a single and double. The well-equipped, modern kitchen makes self-catering a breeze.



HIBISCUS LODGE 206

3-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY FROM: \$640 PER NIGHT **MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 4 PEOPLE**

2 1 1

A dream location and endless ocean views: what more could you want from your holiday base? The open-plan two-bedroom apartment has air conditioning throughout and great views across tropical gardens to the turquoise waters of Catseye Beach. Make the most of the vistas on the apartment's large outdoor entertaining space, which comes with sun loungers and a barbecue. There is also a shared pool for guests' use.

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

To view the full Hamilton Island Holiday Homes rental listings go to hamiltonislandholidayhomes.com.au

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PROPERTY MANAGEMENT: CONTACT HAMILTON ISLAND HOLIDAY HOMES 07 4946 8746

All-inclusive property management service, including sales, housekeeping, valet, property management and buggy management. Professional on-island property managers. Bonus inclusions for guests: Kids Eat Free at Sails and Pool Terrace Restaurant; plus complimentary non-motorised watersports.













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Designed to withstand the demands of the open seas. The Yacht-Master is an emblematic nautical timepiece that combines elegance and performance. Its bidirectional bezel is used to calculate sailing time between two points, and its waterproof Oyster case protects the movement in the most extreme conditions. The range includes models fitted with the innovative Oysterflex bracelet, ensuring comfort and reliability. Highly legible and embodying the Rolex sailing tradition, it exemplifies the precision required to navigate the ocean and its challenges. The Yacht-Master.

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