

**ISLAND ESCAPE**  
WHY REMOTE IS RELAXING  
AND MUCH NEEDED

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**DEEP DIVE**  
JOHNNY GASKELL SHARES  
HIS LOVE OF THE REEF

---

**FOOD DREAM**  
CHEF ANDREW MCCONNELL  
TALKS CULT COOKING

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**PEARL ADVENTURE**  
FROM EXPLORATION TO  
DESIGN INSPIRATION

**R**

**REEF MAGAZINE**

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ISLAND  
& THE  
GREAT  
BARRIER  
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world of the  
Whitsundays

ISSUE 23  
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PASPALEY



Glenn Bourke.



**W**elcome to Hamilton Island and to this latest issue of REEF Magazine. We are pleased to be able to start welcoming guests again to enjoy a holiday in our unique island location. If you are a returning guest, you might notice a few changes we've made in the last 12 months, including landscaping work around the Main Pool near the Resort Centre, opening the views right up and out to Catseye Beach, a new Ferry Terminal in our marina and a newly renovated Reef Lounge and Bar at the Reef View Hotel. We have also completed our new walking trails, which weave around the island's bushland. This project included some refurbishment to existing trails, the addition of new ones and a spectacular viewing platform at Passage Peak, the highest point on the island. I encourage you to head out and discover the island from a different perspective at some stage during your stay. With easing travel restrictions, we were delighted to reintroduce some of our special events in the last year, commencing with the

Hilly Half Marathon in May 2021, with a record 468 entries. This was the first time the course was run on a new route along the island's fire trails and bushwalking tracks, providing a great mix of breathtaking hills and views. The Hamilton Island Triathlon and Ocean Swim in mid-November also took place, which is a highly competitive and fun event. We are looking forward to staging the rest of our Endurance Series events again in 2022 as well as Hamilton Island Race Week, all of which we suspect will be record events as travel opens up once more throughout Australia. On behalf of the Oatley family, myself and my team – thank you for choosing Hamilton Island. For those of you who have been holding on for a while to get here, we recognise this is likely to have been a highly anticipated and much needed holiday. We wish you a relaxing and enjoyable stay.

*Glenn Bourke*  
Glenn Bourke  
CEO, Hamilton Island

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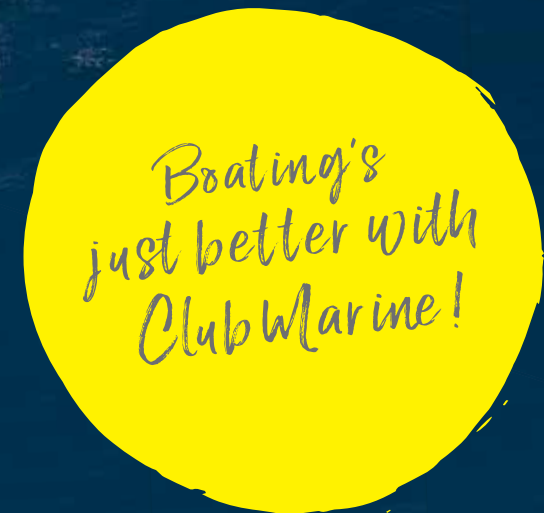
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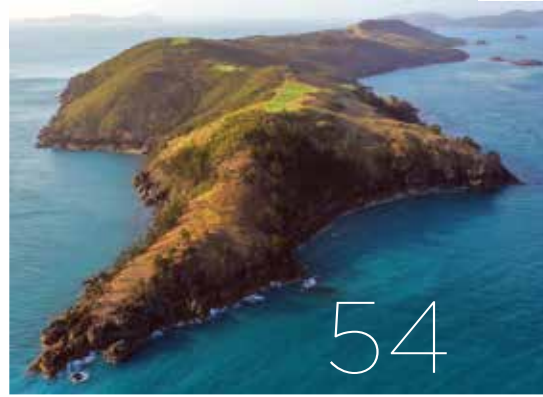
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*Typically Charles*



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HEIDSIECK**

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# Tanqueray

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**GARY LISBON,**  
GOLF COURSE  
PHOTOGRAPHER  
AND PASSIONATE  
GOLFER

IMAGINE YOU'RE ON HOLIDAY WITHOUT YOUR PHONE... WHAT DO YOU DO?  
"Soak up the scenes before me, rather than try to capture them on a device that is meant for making telephone calls."

BEST TRAVEL HACK?  
"Buy a local SIM card rather than using roaming."

PACKING MANTRA?  
"Pack light."

FAVOURITE WAY TO RELAX ON HOLIDAY?  
"Slow down. Sleep more. Read a book."

YOU ARE LISTENING TO...  
"I let Spotify tell me what to listen to. Some old stuff and more contemporary."

AND READING...  
"The Bible – a great source of wisdom and insight into doing life – and another book by Tom Coyne called A Course Called Ireland."

SUNDOWNER?  
"Glass of red or cold beer works, but not a necessity for me."

IF YOU COULD TRAVEL ANYWHERE RIGHT NOW...  
"Canada – I was meant to go in 2020, but you know what happened."

MOST INTERESTING PERSON YOU'VE MET ON YOUR TRAVELS AND WHY?  
"Bob McCoy, a passionate visitor of golf courses. Bob played the world's top 100 courses in 100 days – without the use of private airplanes and before the internet [had really got going]. Amazing effort that's unlikely to be seen again."

**ROXY LOLA,**  
MUSIC AND  
FASHION WRITER

IMAGINE YOU'RE ON HOLIDAY WITHOUT YOUR PHONE... WHAT DO YOU DO?  
"Enjoy the moment and breathe a sigh of relief."

BEST TRAVEL HACK?  
"A good playlist that gets you hyped for your destination. And hydrating face masks."

PACKING MANTRA?  
"More is more."

FAVOURITE WAY TO RELAX ON HOLIDAY?  
"A good book."

YOU ARE LISTENING TO...  
"Every song that featured in Entourage."

AND READING...  
"Anything by Taylor Jenkins Reid or Eve Babitz."

SUNDOWNER?  
"A classic margarita."

IF YOU COULD TRAVEL ANYWHERE RIGHT NOW...  
"Los Angeles."

MOST INTERESTING PERSON YOU'VE MET ON YOUR TRAVELS AND WHY?  
"The Weeknd. Why? Because he's The Weeknd."



**SOFIA LEVIN,**  
CULINARY  
AND TRAVEL  
JOURNALIST

IMAGINE YOU'RE ON HOLIDAY WITHOUT YOUR PHONE... WHAT DO YOU DO?  
"Accost a local to find out where the nearest food market is, and then eat and chat my way through it."

BEST TRAVEL HACK?  
"Try asking locals not just where they eat, but where you can go to try the kind of food their grandmother cooks."

PACKING MANTRA?  
"I have a master travel checklist saved in my phone that I consult whenever I go away. It never lets me down."

FAVOURITE WAY TO RELAX ON HOLIDAY?  
"Relaxing is overrated – for every hour spent by a hotel pool, I could be eating and learning something new."

YOU ARE LISTENING TO...  
"The Dirty Linen podcast by Dani Valent, who does a brilliant job of spotlighting issues faced by hospitality. It's packed with humanity."

AND READING...  
"Momofuku chef David Chang's memoir, Eat a Peach."

SUNDOWNER?  
"I don't do things by halves. Gin martini, please, and make it filthy."

IF YOU COULD TRAVEL ANYWHERE RIGHT NOW...  
"I want to resume travel with my trips that were cancelled in 2020 – South Korea, Taiwan and Sicily. I'm also eager to travel throughout regional China."

MOST INTERESTING PERSON YOU'VE MET ON YOUR TRAVELS AND WHY?  
"Far too many to name just one."

**UTE JUNKER,**  
WRITER, EDITOR  
AND PODCASTER

IMAGINE YOU'RE ON HOLIDAY WITHOUT YOUR PHONE... WHAT DO YOU DO?  
"Enjoy the silence."

BEST TRAVEL HACK?  
"Never take more than a carry-on."

PACKING MANTRA?  
"No more than three pairs of shoes."

FAVOURITE WAY TO RELAX ON HOLIDAY?  
"Watching the waves wash in."

YOU ARE LISTENING TO...  
"Rhapsody in Blue. Never fails to lift my mood."

AND READING...  
"About the fascinating history of Sydney's Kings Cross."

SUNDOWNER?  
"Champagne."

IF YOU COULD TRAVEL ANYWHERE RIGHT NOW...  
"I'd be back in Iceland, sitting in a natural thermal pool by the light of the midnight sun."

MOST INTERESTING PERSON YOU'VE MET ON YOUR TRAVELS AND WHY?  
"A tribal elder in Papua New Guinea who had more natural authority than anyone else I've met. She'd have made an amazing international envoy."



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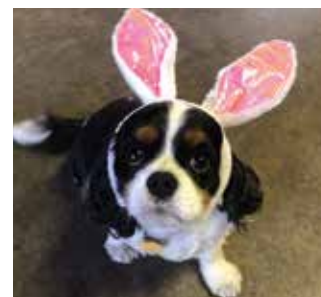
Or see the Hamilton Island Tour Desk



## Castaway... BRIDGET MALCOLM

Imagine you're to be stranded on a remote desert island but are generously allowed to pick a few items to take with you. It's time to be super-resourceful. REEF asked model, cover star and mental-health advocate Bridget Malcolm to consider what would be on her list if she was headed a long way from civilisation. Read on...

**Three essentials to pack?**  
"[My husband] Nathaniel, [my dog] Bim and good coffee. And my bass."



**What would you most regret not packing?**  
"Nathaniel and Bim and good coffee. And my bass."



**What would you miss most about reality?**  
"Not a lot, honestly. Perhaps regular live music."

**Which book would you bring with you?**  
"Chelsea Girls by Eileen Myles."



**Island hobby?**  
"Sleeping."

**Dream companion?**  
"Nathaniel and Bim!"

**What would you wear?**  
"I would alternate between nothing and a vintage muumuu."

**Your island accessory?**  
"All the good vibes."

**Your island mantra?**  
"Let it be."



**If you could channel one fictional character, who would it be?**  
"Wilson! The ball, not the man."

## CASTAWAY



**Top island tune?**  
"Spinning Away by Brian Eno and John Cale."

**One essential tool for the island?**  
"Probably a hat."



**What would you grow to eat?**  
"All the fruit."

**What spirituality lessons that you've learnt would you apply to your time spent on the island?**  
"There is nothing that nature cannot fix."

**How would you send your SOS?**  
"I wouldn't. This sounds heavenly to me."

**Favourite island movie for inspiration?**  
"I've only seen Lord of the Flies and I would prefer not to channel that. So no comment."

**Who would rescue you?**  
"Nobody! But maybe my best friends would come join me."



**Dream meal once you've been rescued?**  
"My dad's pasta."

**First place you'd go when rescued?**  
"My dad's house."

PHOTOGRAPHY: BRIDGET MALCOLM BY SIMON UPTON, ON LOCATION IN THE WHITSUNDAYS FOR ELLE ITALIA.

## TOP 10 TO DO



1

### ABSOLUTE ADVENTURE: GREAT BARRIER REEF

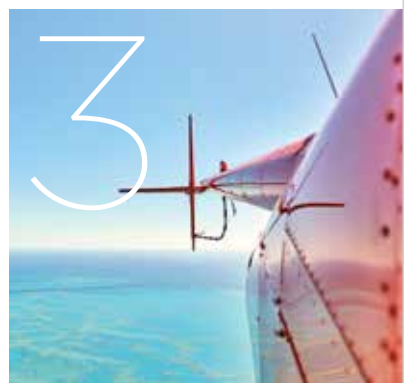
A holiday to Hamilton Island is made truly complete by taking a trip to the Great Barrier Reef to see the incredible tropical fish and epic coral formations up close. There are many ways to enjoy this World Heritage Site. One is to join Cruise Whitsundays and head out to Reefworld to enjoy a full day of snorkelling and exploring the beautiful Hardy Reef. Or spend a half or full day with Explore Group, touring the secret spots of the Whitsundays' fringing reefs or outer reef. Whichever way you see the reef, it will be a once-in-a-lifetime adventure.



2

### WONDERLAND: WHITEHAVEN BEACH

Whitehaven's 7km-long perfect stretch of bone-white silica sand, bordered by clear, turquoise sea is a pinch-yourself paradise that is truly wonderful. It's one of the world's most unspoiled and beautiful beaches located in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef. This unreal reality is a short trip from Hamilton Island by helicopter, seaplane, speedboat, sailboat or high-speed catamaran, and there's a fantastic choice of tours offering half- and full-day options. Once you get there, walk, swim or simply relax on the sand and marvel at the kind of natural environment that is often only to be viewed in glossy travel books or Instagram feeds.



3

### BIRD'S EYE: SCENIC FLIGHTS

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 Whitsunday Islands. There's a choice of scenic tours available by helicopter, seaplane or aeroplane – these experiences range in price, with the one-hour Heart Reef & Whitehaven Express by aeroplane being the most affordable way to see this iconic spot and also take in Hill Inlet, Whitehaven Beach and the Whitsunday Islands from above. The Whitehaven Beach Funseeker trip by seaplane reveals the full glory of this incredible strand with its azure waters, a topographical treat that is then enjoyed by spending 75 minutes on the beach itself after a perfect landing on the water. And the Best of Both Worlds outing affords amazing views over the Great Barrier Reef, with a landing at the Reefworld pontoon and Whitehaven Beach with time to swim, stroll or just relax.

### ANIMAL LOVERS: HAMILTON ISLAND WILDLIFE

Hamilton Island Wildlife gives you the opportunity to get up close with some of the most familiar members of the Australian animal kingdom and is a great activity the whole family will love, with unlimited park entry included with all entry fees. Take a fun guided daily tour with one of the expert keepers and enjoy learning about our unique wildlife. Join one of the Wildlife Encounters, a group activity with a choice of five



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animals: a koala, cockatoo, reptile (python or lizard) or dingo. Or for the ultimate animal adventure, choose the Wildlife VIP Experience which includes a 30-minute one-on-one experience with an animal keeper and a koala, dingo, python or lizard, as well as some all-important souvenir photographs – plus the chance to ask lots of questions. After exploring the park, have a coffee or light lunch with the koalas at the wildlife park's café – it's open from 8.30am.

### NATURE CLASS: BUSHWALKING AND THE ICONS TRAIL

Exploring Hamilton Island on foot is a good way to see its natural beauty at your own pace. Discover secluded, sandy coves, climb to the top of the island for stunning views, or enjoy some lunch at one of the island's many picnic spots. The new Icons Trail is a hike to the four Hamilton Island landmarks dotted along the walking trails: a 3m-tall chair, a giant swing, a hammock and a breathtaking panoramic viewing platform. And make sure to share the spectacular views with a selfie and the hashtag #HamiltonIslandIconsTrail. If you're intending to walk alone, make sure you let someone know before you set off, and never swim alone at the secluded beaches. Remember to consider the weather and pack a hat, sunscreen, water, snacks and a phone/camera. Respect the environment and take all rubbish away. Head to the Tour Desk on the island to pick up a map and get exploring.



4



6

### ENJOY: FOUR-WHEEL FUN

Go-kart racing at Hamilton Island's Palm Valley track offers a classic on-land experience in the fast lane. The karts are fun and easy to drive, and a session in one is a great way to let off some city steam. No licence is required for the go-karts, which can reach up to 45kmh around the track. Kids too young to drive can still join in the fun and ride as passengers in a double kart. Offroad Adventure Tours offers exciting experiences for riders over 8 years. Drive your own all-terrain vehicle (a minimum of a P-2 licence is required) or let an expert guide you through scenic fire trails and up to the Resort Lookout. And for children aged 6 to 14, Hamilton Island's Quads for Kids will take them on a short, child-friendly circuit and get the adrenalin flowing.



7

### GAME ON: HAMILTON ISLAND BEACH SPORTS

If you're staying at the Reef View Hotel, Palm Bungalows, Beach Club, qualia or Hamilton Island Holiday Homes, you can pick up a complimentary catamaran, paddleboard, windsurfer, kayak or snorkelling equipment from the Beach Sports Hut on Catseye Beach. Paddleboarding is a great way to focus the mind and help achieve good balance while using almost every muscle in the body: you'll feel like you can conquer the world after a session. Kayaking is just as much fun; we love bobbing around, though you can take it more seriously, of course – hardcore kayaking will burn an average of 350 calories an hour. And honestly, is there any place better to work out than right here in Catseye Bay?

### TEE TIME: HAMILTON ISLAND GOLF CLUB

Dent Island is home to one of Australia's most spectacular 18-hole courses: the Hamilton Island Golf Club, designed by the late, five-time British Open champion, Peter Thomson. It's an incredibly beautiful course to play, with views of the Whitsundays and beyond, so prepare to be somewhat distracted. At the 19th hole, enjoy a laidback lunch at the Clubhouse, which has the kind of menu that will satisfy any hungry golfer after a day out here. There's also a well-stocked pro shop for any last-minute needs. The 10-minute ferry ride over to Dent Island is a wonderful way to begin and end a day's play, too. Not interested in playing golf? The two-course a la carte lunch package at the Clubhouse includes a complimentary tour of 9-holes of the scenic course and its popularity sees it booked out months in advance. Get your booking in now.



8

9



### BLISS OUT: SPA WUMURDAYLIN

Spa wumurdaylin offers a selection of authentic, rejuvenating and soothing beauty treatments. This is where the real holiday rest and relaxation happens. The highly-skilled therapists provide treatments using LaGaia UNEDITED, a pH-balanced, scientifically formulated Australian skincare range packed with potent vitamins and botanical extracts that are hydrating and deliver our kind of results – bliss. Please reserve your treatments prior to arrival.



10

### GONE FISHING: CATCH OF THE DAY

Novice and experienced fishing enthusiasts can take to the water with Topnotch Game Fishing or Predator Fishing and experience one of the most diverse and scenic fishing locations in the world. Half-day share and private charter or full-day private charter options are available. A half-day with trolling and bottom fishing takes in the Whitsunday Islands and reefs where coral trout, local snapper and cod abound. A full day's charter goes to the outer Whitsunday

Islands and the inner and outer reefs, where red emperor, tuna, black marlin and many others can be found. Fish can be brought back and prepared in selected restaurants on the island. The expert crews will offer advice and commentary and will help land the catch in accordance with good fishing practices.

*Booking ahead of your stay is highly recommended for all tours and activities. To book, please visit the Hamilton Island website and submit an Online Tour Booking Request or call the Tour Desk on 07 4946 8305. To find out more, download the Hamilton Island app or visit the Tour Desk, located next to Sails restaurant.*



Voted the best, Whitehaven Beach.

# BULLETIN BOARD

It's all about awards, winners and the amazing events here on Hamilton Island. By Esther Holmes.

## WHITEHAVEN BEACH #1

It is already known to be one of the most beautiful and awarded beaches in the world and most recently Whitehaven Beach has been crowned the best beach in the world in the Tripadvisor annual Travellers' Choice Best of the Best Awards 2021, based on reviews and opinions from the travelling public. Located on nearby Whitsunday Island, the combination of easy access from Hamilton Island, crystal-clear turquoise ocean and flawless white sand will always be a winner. There is nothing quite like swimming here or soaking up all the relaxing remote goodness that a trip out to Whitehaven Beach brings - and it's equally spectacular from the air.

## DEAR HAMILTON ISLAND...

Each year Hamilton Island provides five schools from the Whitsunday region with an award that is presented to a student who has 'created extraordinary' within their school throughout the year. Our most recent recipient was Madyson Morris from Proserpine State School, who visited the island with her family in October.

"Last year I was very fortunate to be the Proserpine State School recipient of the Hamilton Island Extraordinary Experience Award. The award was generously donated to our school and I was very surprised and excited to be selected as there were many other deserving students. It was great to be able to travel to such a beautiful location and have a chance to make such wonderful memories both around the island and by taking part in the Hamilton Island Wildlife Experience.

At Proserpine State School I learnt that hard work pays off and to never give up. Who would have thought that by striving to be the best you can be and challenging yourself to try new things at school you could be rewarded with such an amazing prize. Thanks so much Hamilton Island!"



Madyson and Tahila Morris experience the wildlife park.



Reef Lounge.

## CHEERS! REEF VIEW HOTEL'S NEW REEF LOUNGE

The Reef View Hotel's Reef Lounge has recently undergone an extensive refurbishment and now boasts a new bar where everyone is invited for a chic sundowner or an evening of relaxing after a hard day's holidaying. The Sydney-based POCO Designs team has created a smart interior featuring curved elements and a subtle design language throughout. Running over the curved bar top, inlaid with round green penny tiles, is a curved brass wineglass rail, while the back of the bar has curved portal frames. The inviting emerald and soft sage colour palette and palm-print furniture, inspired by the tropical environment, is complemented by the terrazzo stone floor that leads guests seamlessly in from the remodelled lobby. The Reef Lounge bar is a stylish new addition to the island and open to all.



Qualia, voted Best Resort.

## AWARD-WINNING QUALIA

The annual HM Awards for Hotel and Accommodation Excellence are the leading industry awards in the region and celebrate the best properties, departments, people, chains and brands in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. Each year, 40 category winners are chosen from more than 1,500 nominations. In late 2020, Qualia won Best Resort and Australasian Hotel of the Year, as well as receiving highly commended recognition in the Australian Lodge category. Qualia has again been nominated in the 2021 HM Awards, due to be revealed as this issue goes to print in December 2021. Meanwhile, in the prestigious Condé Nast Readers' Choice Awards 2020, Qualia took fourth position in the Top 25 Resorts in Australia and the South Pacific and was named Top Resort in Queensland. Most recently, Qualia was placed #10 in the Australian Traveller Top 100 Best Holidays of Australia, from 1,200 nominations that were then shortlisted by a panel of 20 of Australia's most well-travelled. The team at Qualia have maintained a high level of service throughout a most challenging few years and this care and attention to detail for guests has been rewarded.



Hilly Half Marathon runners.

## TEST OF ENDURANCE

They came in record numbers in May 2021, for the first time, the Hamilton Island Hilly Half Marathon was run just on the trails. It kicked off a return to the Hamilton Island Endurance Series, bringing an incredible level of heat to the hills - a great day of competition involving runners of all ages. With its new route along the Hamilton Island bushwalking trails, the event was a fantastic way to push personal goals to the limit. The Hamilton Island Endurance Series also includes the Great Whitehaven Beach Run in June and fearsome Hamilton Island Triathlon and Ocean Swim each November. Hamilton Island may be the best place to relax, but it's also the place to push yourself - in this most distracting stretch of paradise.

## FLYING HIGH

Four-time Olympic Swimmer Cate Campbell flew in and joined all the fun and action of the Hamilton Island Triathlon and Ocean Swim in November 2021. Event participants had the opportunity to gain some first-hand insights from the Australian sporting hero on how best to take on the triathlon swim course during the Swim with the Stars session on the beach ahead of the big race the next day. Campbell and fellow sporting legend Susie O'Neill, together with event emcees Joel Murray and Dean Degan, took a seat on the couch later that evening for a Q&A at the pre-race Carbs on the Couch at Beach Pavilion. As part of the evening, triathlon and ocean swim competitor Sonya Palfreyman won a Whitsundays and Great Barrier Reef scenic helicopter flight experience, with Campbell joining for the ride. Campbell and Palfreyman, from the Gold Coast, took to the skies and swapped tips high above the Great Barrier Reef, Palfreyman giving Campbell some run technique tips and Campbell helping Palfreyman with some legendary swim expertise. Winning all round.

PHOTOGRAPHY: HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY; KEN BUTTI; LUKE TSCHARKE; SHARYN CAIRNS; DEAN MARCHINI.



Cate Campbell and Susie O'Neill at the Hamilton Island Ocean Swim.



Winning flight.



# DIARY DATES 2022

Hamilton Island Ocean Swim.

Competing in the Hamilton Island Triathlon.

Great Whitehaven Beach Run.

Hamilton Island Race Week.

Hamilton Island Triathlon.

Pas de deux in paradise.

Hamilton Island Triathlon.

**APRIL 25 ANZAC DAY**

The Anzac Day dawn service of remembrance marks the anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli during the First World War. Like those who congregate at memorials in cities, suburbs and towns across Australia, we gather here on Hamilton Island to commemorate one of the most significant events on our national calendar. It's a poignant day for us all on the island. Join us at the Beach Pavilion for the service, followed by a beachside sausage sizzle, and then games of two-up at the Marina Tavern. A gold coin donation will be held, with all proceeds going to the Airlie Beach RSL.

**MAY 1 HAMILTON ISLAND HILLY HALF MARATHON**

It's one of the most epic endurance runs and we're already gearing up for the 2022 challenge. There's a race for everyone: a half-marathon for the fearless, a relay, and three distance options for the kids. The event provides the opportunity to race on an exciting course that takes in existing and new trails that weave around the island's dramatic bushland. The diverse terrain makes for an interesting and ever-changing running experience that challenges all athletes.

**JUNE 19 GREAT WHITEHAVEN BEACH RUN**

An event like no other, in which all ages and abilities are catered for, from the fun of a kids' run through to a serious half-marathon, a

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

10km event and 5km race. The run takes place at low tide on the hard-packed sand, but the trickiest challenge is not letting the allure of the turquoise tide and the sunshine distract you as everyone sprints to the finish line on one of the most photogenic beaches in the world.

**AUGUST BRISBANE TO HAMILTON ISLAND YACHT RACE**

The second Brisbane to Hamilton Island Yacht Race will take place in August, as one of Australia's longest tropical category 2 offshore yacht races. Join us as we welcome the competing yachts and crews into the Hamilton Island Marina, leaving enough time to get ready for Hamilton Island Race Week.

**AUGUST 20-28 HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK**

One of the world's most prestigious yachting regattas – and Australia's favourite. It is a well-planned blend of short course races staged in close proximity to Hamilton Island, plus longer passage races around the beautiful tropical islands that form the Whitsunday Passage. All are designed to test a sailor's ability to the full. To keep the racing as fair as possible, the

competing yachts are assigned to numerous divisions – IRC, TP52, One Design and Racing Multihulls, as well as Cruising, IRC Passage, Non-spinnaker and Cruising Multihulls. It's all about like racing like.

Race Week is one of the busiest times on Hamilton Island. The social agenda is all about enjoying feasting on great lunches and memorable dinners created by the finest chefs. The week has become one of the key annual social events on the calendar for competitors, their families and guests. The fun factor stretches from daylight to dusk and beyond, starting at the marina, as the crews begin preparing their yachts for racing, and then continuing through the day.

**OCTOBER PAS DE DEUX IN PARADISE**

Join The Australian Ballet at qualia for an intimate and exclusive showcase under the twinkling stars. The weekend provides the opportunity to see some of Australia's top dancers perform in a breathtaking setting, as well as a chance to gain a rare glimpse of life behind the scenes of The Australian Ballet. Held every two years, this will leave you with the most magical memories.

**NOVEMBER 15-21 PHIL CLAYTON & CO SWIM ESCAPE**

Looking for an extended fitness holiday? The Phil Clayton & Co Swim Escape is an exciting programme held during the lead-up to the Hamilton Island Ocean Swim. Experience the restorative effects of the ocean and glean fascinating and helpful insights from Ironman world champion Phil Clayton. The programme includes expert coaching, swim sessions and exclusive dinners. You are invited.

**NOVEMBER 19 HAMILTON ISLAND TRIATHLON**

Combining a swim in idyllic waters with an iconic cycle leg and a run that has both breathtaking views and challenging hills, the Hamilton Island Triathlon is a truly memorable event. The spectator-friendly course means everyone can watch the action as it unfolds through the resort. A Junior Triathlon and a Splash'n Dash event following the main race guarantees a great day of family fun.

**NOVEMBER 20 HAMILTON ISLAND OCEAN SWIM**

Dive into the Endurance Series with the Hamilton Island Ocean Swim held at

picturesque Catseye Beach. While there's a 2km option or a more leisurely 750m distance, the hardest part may well come post-race, when you need to choose between soaking up some sun on the sands of Catseye Beach or immersing those weary muscles back in the beautiful sea. There's also a hotly contested junior 350m event for under-13s.

**DECEMBER 24 CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**

Come and join the holiday festivities on Christmas Eve at the Beach Pavilion as the sun goes down: each year a fireworks display lights up the skyline at 7.30pm. It's a great evening for the family and a chance to enjoy live entertainment, join in with the carols and light a candle to support the Hamilton Island State School. A special guest dressed in red and white with a stocking full of treats will also be attending. Pack a picnic or enjoy food and drinks from the Beach Pavilion kiosk.

**DECEMBER 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE**

See in 2023 with a street party that will have you dancing to chart-topping tunes and well-loved classics. There's live entertainment at the Marina Tavern forecourt from 9.00pm and fireworks at midnight. A variety of events are also held at the Beach Pavilion near Catseye Beach, including family-friendly fireworks at 8.30pm, and qualia guests are treated to their own live music and fireworks at midnight. Can you come up with a more memorable way to start the new year with family and friends?

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

PHOTOGRAPHY: KURT ARRIGO; JUSTIN RIDLER; HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY.

# DEEP & MEANINGFUL

Marine biologist and avid free-diver Johnny Gaskell is on a mission to explore and restore the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. He happily spends more time underwater than on land, deep diving to capture otherworldly photographs. Roxy Lola takes a look.



Johnny Gaskell,  
Beaver Reef,  
1996.

Johnny Gaskell is currently coordinating the Reef Islands Initiative in the Whitsundays with Reef Catchments, funded by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation. The project is trialling different methods of coral restoration and working to help with reef recovery. He is living a marine biologist's dream. Raised in the small country town of Longlea in Victoria, Gaskell first visited the Great Barrier Reef when he was 15. "I was used to a freshwater environment and the Southern Ocean, so when I jumped in the Great Barrier Reef, it was Beaver Reef off Mission Beach in 1996 – there was so much going on!" He was amazed by all the different colours and "that there were so many different species and types of coral. The whole ecosystem was just alive, and it was incredible." He has been hooked on the ocean

and its beauty ever since. He went on to study marine biology and then became a teacher himself (primary and secondary), working in marine education for seven years before relocating to the Whitsundays. In his current primary role, Gaskell is out on the reef most days, surveying the coral and working to regenerate areas. "I'm always feeling optimistic when I find a site that's amazing and still in really good condition. I do a lot of exploring of the remote parts of the Great Barrier Reef as well. When you come across a really healthy reef and when you see sites that are showing some signs of recovery, that gives hope. We did have a really good year with La Niña, as there was a lot of cloud cover and the conditions were cooler, but it is likely to heat up again over the next few years." The cooler years are a respite and, Gaskell says,



PHOTOGRAPHY: JOHNNY GASKELL.

Ribbon Reefs, a wonderland of coral.

“You have hope that the corals will catch up and become more resilient and adapt to the warmer water. But ultimately global warming is causing the water to rise at a rate that corals can’t keep up with, so we do need to act as quickly as we can to reduce carbon emissions.” Gaskell is trying to live more simply by reducing his own carbon footprint, vowing not use air conditioning any more, taking the train instead of flying when he can and not buying anything in excess.

The coral restoration is the most fulfilling part of his role. “Being able to transform a site that has lost coral cover either through cyclones or impacts caused by us, being able to slowly transform small patches back into a healthy coral reef, is really rewarding.”

The custom designed coral raceways were “developed on Daydream Island to facilitate the initial growth stage of coral fragments to be used for restoration of various coral reefs at our Lover’s Cove site, which were damaged by Cyclone Debbie in 2017. The raceways create

“I’M ALWAYS OPTIMISTIC WHEN I FIND A SITE THAT’S AMAZING AND IN GOOD CONDITION”

optimal conditions for coral growth and operate on a full flow through raw water system. This allows the coral fragments to grow in identical water parameters that they experience around the islands without the influence of predation and storm interference.” Corals are held in the raceways for three to six months and closely monitored until they are ready to be out planted. “The out planting involves the fixing of corals to substrate after they have naturally attached to cement discs or old coral skeletons. These structures are then returned to the marine park to assist with recruitment of new coral to the site and help rebuild the damaged reef.”

Aside from being part of the mission to help the coral reefs regenerate, Gaskell still marvels at marine life, even after spending years studying it. “Every time you get in, it’s different from the last time. Even if you get in the same site every single day, you see different fish, different



Custom designed coral raceways with out plants.



Humphead Maori Wrasse, largest of this species.



Border Island corals.



PHOTOGRAPHY: JOHNNY GASKELL



Green Sea turtle, that is strictly herbivorous as an adult.

animal behaviours and interactions between them. There are different tides and specific conditions underwater that dictate a change in species composition at a site throughout the year. You never get bored because you never know what you’re going to see.”

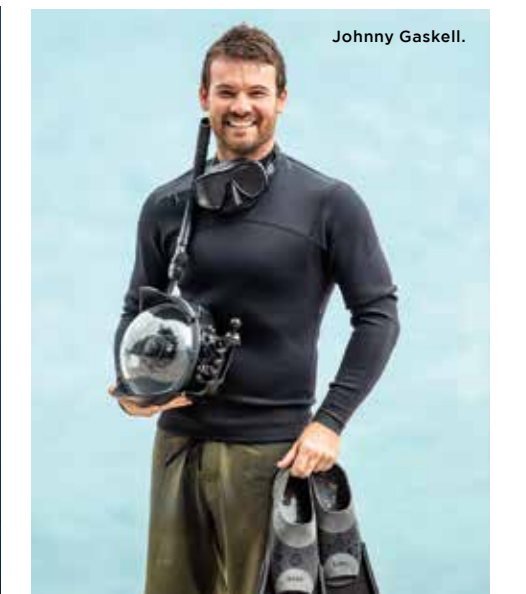
Gaskell has explored 300 reefs so far, 200 in the past two years, and the remaining 3,000 that make up the Great Barrier Reef are on his bucket list. At the end of 2020 he explored the underwater world around the Swains (a previous bucket list experience), which is now his favourite area so far. “It was amazing. There are 600 reefs as part of that complex in the Great Barrier Reef, and we saw 11, so it was a teaser. We didn’t see any other boats, there was no one else out there. It’s an incredible part of the world.”

Surprisingly, Gaskell is able to pinpoint his most memorable moment discovering a totally unexpected wonderland. “I was swimming over the edge of a really remote blue hole, and I looked down and there were more fish than I’d ever seen at any other location, about 30 sharks circling and two turtles, and just so much life. It was in a really remote area, where not many people have been diving, so it’s largely unexplored. We didn’t know what to expect and swimming over the shallow edge and then a deep drop-off – seeing all of those animals looking right up at us – I’ll never forget that.” His favourite sea creatures are small

invertebrates: the shrimp and crabs that live in corals. Quite simply, they fascinate him. “It’s just a weird place to live, for a start. There are lots of different species that have adapted to look like the coral that they live on and have also adapted to exist inside or between coral polyps, where other animals could not survive. Some species look identical to the coral they live in, it looks really cool. These little critters that have a symbiotic relationship with corals are probably my favourite.”

He documents his diving explorations brilliantly, using a Nikon D850, for his loyal and captivated social-media following. “The visual representation is a useful educational tool,” he says. “A lot of people find it hard to visualise what you’re talking about, particularly when you’re talking about the underwater world, because they haven’t been underwater or snorkelling.” He is inspired by the knowledge of the fellow master reef guides, specialists who are recognised as the world’s leading reef guides and story tellers, who have been going to the sites for years – “They literally know more about those sites than anyone else in the world. They inspire me every time, they’re truly passionate.” Gaskell is appreciative of being able to spend so much time in the natural world, educating people and sharing his findings to inspire people to want to protect the reef – “It has really changed the way I look at the world.”

@johnny\_gaskell



Johnny Gaskell.



# Reefsleep



WHITEHAVEN BEACH & HILL INLET



ISLAND ESCAPE DAY CRUISES



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Andrew McConnell.

PHOTOGRAPHY: SAMARA CLIFFORD; EARL CARTER.



Kitchen at Cutler &amp; Co.

## Cooking up a LEGEND

He is the chef that's been setting the pace for the past twenty years and has an ever expanding empire to prove it. Here, Andrew McConnell talks to Sofia Levin about his exceptional culinary journey.

Andrew McConnell is apologetic when admitting he doesn't have a food philosophy. It's a big call for Melbourne's poster-boy chef, whose Trader House Restaurants group – which includes Cutler & Co, Gimlet at Cavendish House, Marion, Cumulus Inc, Cumulus Up, Builders Arms Hotel, Supernormal, Morning Market and Meatsmith specialty butcher – has shaped the city's dining scene over the past decade. Instead, he attributes success to two things: people and produce. McConnell's first hands-on food experience was as a roll boy in a bakery. While most of his teenage mates were hurling newspapers onto doorsteps, he was frantically kneading dough

alongside his brother Matthew (who opened Melbourne's Bar Lourinhã in 2006, while their other brother, Sean, is a co-owner of Rebel Rebel in Canberra) to have the product ready to serve by 6am. "I was working with a couple of European bakers who had skills that I'd never seen before, and I really enjoyed the environment and learning from them," McConnell says. "That really whetted my appetite for food, but I didn't realise at that point in time that I wanted to be a chef." After McConnell finished school, he decided rather offhandedly to complete a four-year chef apprenticeship, deliberately cooking under a different professional every year in order to gain a breadth of experience. He spent his first year

with Bill Marchetti, who pioneered modern Italian dining with Marchetti's Latin in the mid-1980s; moved onto Kew restaurant Capers, where he became enamoured of Asian ingredients for the first time; continued at Maria and Walter's – Walter Bourke's 24-seater fine diner in Carlton; and finished by cooking Middle Eastern cuisine at O'Connell's with Greg Malouf. "Over those four years, I covered a lot of ground," McConnell says. "I was highly motivated to take as much as I could, because I had set a time frame for myself in each restaurant. My interest in cooking grew, and so did my enthusiasm." McConnell spent the next 10 years in Europe, travelling and cooking for names as big as

Prince and Madonna. After another five years based in Hong Kong and Shanghai – which would eventually inspire the punchy flavours of Supernormal – McConnell returned home to Melbourne. He opened his first restaurant there, Diningroom 211, in 2001.

“I just wanted to set up a small, unique dining room, and I suppose it just selfishly reflected all the things that I like to eat, and all the things I like to cook,” he says. “Somehow, all of those things came together on one page on the menu, and people enjoyed it.”

But when McConnell opened Cumulus Inc in 2008 on Flinders Lane, he also democratised fine dining. Gone were the tablecloths and stuffy service, replaced with a no-bookings policy, food that was elegant and egalitarian, and waitstaff who could have a laugh while comfortably recommending a bottle of Barolo. Cutler & Co landed in Fitzroy the following year, back when alcohol consumption on Gertrude Street was more likely to be a public nuisance than a social outing. In 2021, Cutler & Co remains the Trader House Restaurants group flagship.

McConnell was last on Hamilton Island



Fine dining, Cutler & Co.



Cutler & Co.

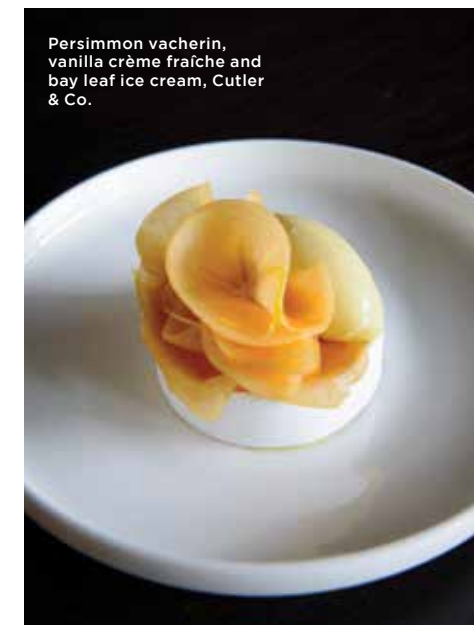
for Race Week in 2017, where he brought his talents to the kitchen for one of the dinners at qualia’s Long Pavilion. He was looking forward to returning to Race Week in 2021, however border issues meant plans were put on hold. “It’s pretty dreamy,” he says as he recalls his experiences. During the last visit, highlights included being dropped on an island for four hours for a private champagne picnic and learning how to catch mud crabs. He was so inspired, he had planned to incorporate mud crab into the menu again for 2021, along with some other carefully selected seasonal and local mainland produce. “Cooking seasonally” has become something of a buzz phrase in the restaurant industry, but it’s always been McConnell’s way. In collaboration with his head chefs, McConnell crafts menus

that are guided by direct relationships with farmers and growers. He has a knack for creating cult dishes – think Cumulus Inc’s lamb shoulder, Supernormal’s New England lobster rolls and the pan-fried flatbread at Marion – but you can tell a McConnell dish by the way it balances respect for ingredients with far-reaching appeal. “Produce handled with great care will always taste delicious, so you’re already halfway there,” he says. McConnell splits the past 20 years of owning restaurants into two approximate halves. During his first decade, McConnell focussed on learning how to run his venues and the craft of cooking, while over the past 10 years his focus has shifted from plates to people. “It took me a while to understand that to create a great restaurant, you need great people, and a good culture to

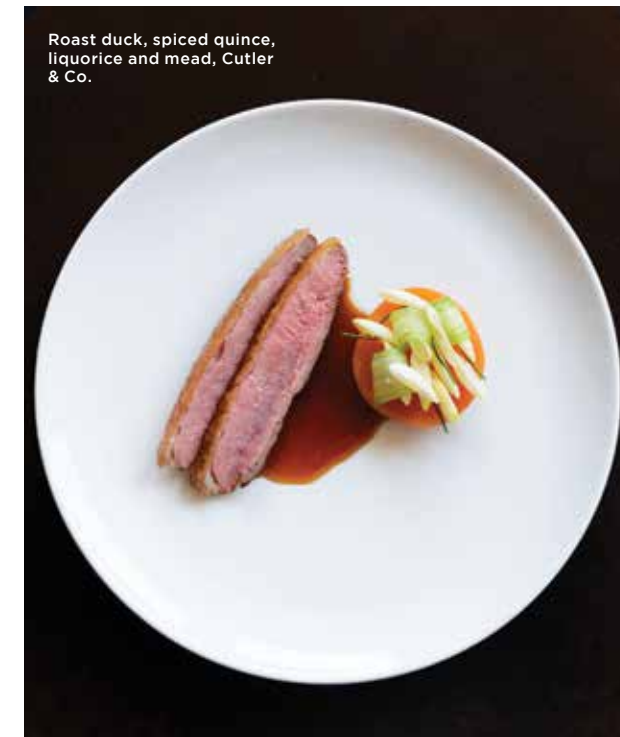
PHOTOGRAPHY: JO MCGANN; EARL CARTER; KRISTOFFER PAULSEN



Fruits de mer, best of the season’s rich ocean, Cutler & Co.



Persimmon vacherin, vanilla crème fraîche and bay leaf ice cream, Cutler & Co.



Roast duck, spiced quince, liquorice and mead, Cutler & Co.

“PRODUCE HANDLED WITH GREAT CARE WILL ALWAYS TASTE DELICIOUS, SO YOU’RE ALREADY HALFWAY THERE.”

maintain that,” he says. “It’s not something you can buy a guidebook on. It comes from years of consistency and genuine care.” And while it might seem like, when it comes to hospitality, McConnell’s touch is reminiscent of Midas’s, he wholly attributes his success to the people around him, from business partners and staff through to his supportive family at home. “A restaurant isn’t about the chef and the recipe, it’s a sum of many parts, and it’s often all the subtleties that people don’t actually notice that create the experience,” he says. “Sure, you need to take risks and have ambition and ideas, but you can’t execute anything without the right people.” McConnell’s most recent addition to his Melbourne empire is Morning Market. What was a pop-up corner store and grocer during lockdown 2020 is now a permanent

neighbourhood staple, right next door to Cutler & Co on Gertrude Street in Fitzroy. A second store opened in Prahran in April 2021. “As a response to lockdown and not being able to operate our restaurants, we opened our first Morning Market. It was an opportunity for us to keep a lot of our staff employed and to connect with our local community. We fell in love with it, and then opened a second one,” he says. With more venues under his belt than you can utter in a single breath, McConnell is a beacon of hospitality hope. “I try to look as far ahead as possible. We’re still in the midst of challenging times, but I like to think the future is bright for Australia,” he says. “Honestly, I still enjoy what I do now as much as I did – if not more – than 20 years ago.” [cutlerandco.com.au](http://cutlerandco.com.au)

# Champagne SUPERNOVA

It is the bubble that never bursts and our favourite toast – Charles Heidsieck is the champagne of the cognoscenti, and now there is a new addition. Darren Jahn savours every last drop.

**D**ecadent holidays in the Whitsundays call for luxurious wine. What greater luxury is there than champagne? Hamilton Island's favourite is Charles Heidsieck. In a special partnership between two wine families – the Charles Heidsieck Descours and Oatley Fine Wine Merchants' Oatleys – Charles Heidsieck is qualia's "house" champagne. Countless guests have discovered Charles through their experiences at qualia, contributing to the label's recent meteoric profile growth in the Australian marketplace. It is now recognised globally as one of the leading champagne houses, renowned for using a considerable amount of reserve wines in its blend – some 20% older than its competitors – putting it in a world of its own.

The champagne house Charles Heidsieck's story is intrinsically linked to the story of the man himself, Charles Camille Heidsieck. A man of timeless character, Charles was the son of a champagne merchant, but in 1851, at the age of 29, he left his family business to create a new champagne house that still bears his name today. He became known for introducing champagne to Americans in the early 1850s, where he became famous, gaining the nickname Champagne Charlie. There's even a film about him, starring Hugh Grant.

Upon returning to France, Charles was one of the first to dare to invest in the 2,000-year-old Les Crayères, the famous chalk caves of Reims – the unofficial capital of the Champagne region – as the place to age his wines. Those unique



"COMPLEX, PRECISE  
AND INDULGENT..."

cellars, so special that they're a Unesco World Heritage Site, play a vital role in the ageing of Charles Heidsieck wines, providing an ideal constant cool temperature. Champagne is generally made from a combination of base wines produced from a blend of chardonnay, pinot noir and pinot meunier grapes. Most champagne is a non-vintage blend of multiple years, sometimes utilising older reserve wines to add complexity. Charles Heidsieck uses reserve wines as its landmark, taking a single vintage base wine from a strict selection of crus and then blending an incredibly large proportion of aged reserve wines: 40%, aged 10 years on average. In other words, a good 20% older than its competitors. The wines are then aged from two to five times

longer than required prior to disgorgement followed by further extended ageing on cork prior to shipping. This means their standard non-vintage wine, Brut Réserve, matches most competitors' vintage wines, even some prestige cuvées. The result is a wine that marries lightness with depth, an outstanding balance between richness and freshness, tension and weight, power and finesse.

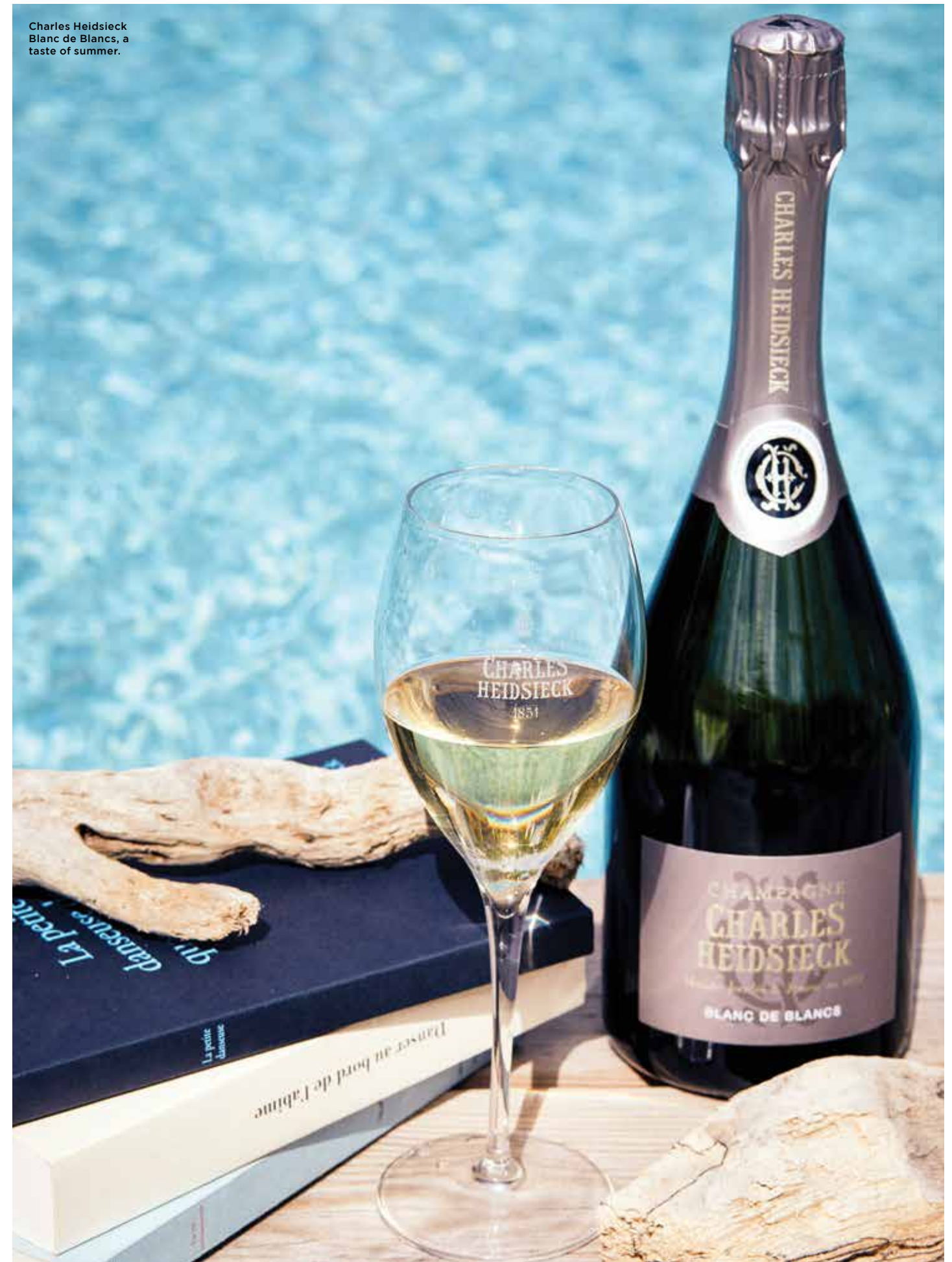
Charles offers a texture like no other champagne. The essence of Charles Heidsieck style, the Brut Réserve is qualia's welcome wine. And what a suitably luxurious treat it is. Complex, precise and indulgent, once again, the house's extensive use of reserve wines sets it apart.

2021 saw the introduction of a new wine to Hamilton Island: Charles Heidsieck Blanc de Blancs. Produced exclusively from chardonnay grapes, Charles was one of the first houses to produce a blanc de blancs, with the 1949 vintage, and today is seen as something of a specialist in the style.

Their prestige cuvée vintage Blanc des Millénaires is an iconic blanc de blancs of unparalleled complexity, freshness and beautiful texture.

The recently released Blanc de Blancs is particularly suited as a meal accompaniment, so is a perfect addition to the Long Pavilion and Pebble Beach wine lists. The Blanc de Blancs is a wine that delivers a burst of voluptuous energy, taut and full-bodied, with freshness, texture and Charles Heidsieck's trademark silky character. It is a serious treat.

Charles Heidsieck  
Blanc de Blancs, a  
taste of summer.



# Burning PASSION

Two distinct candlemakers – Elise Pioch Balzac, the founder of Maison Balzac, and Craig Andrade, founder of The Raconteur – have created exclusive candles for qualia and Hamilton Island. They talk to REEF about their creative journeys and how the abundance of nature fuels their work.

## ELISE PIOCH BALZAC

TELL US ABOUT YOUR LOVE OF WATER. “I was born and raised by the Mediterranean in France, and every evening or holiday was spent on the beach or on a boat.”

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT THE OCEAN? “I love the idea of this immense amount of water constantly travelling around the world. I have always felt lucky to witness the moment a wave arrives on a rock or the sand – the last seconds of a century-old journey that starts again as soon as it ends.”

HOW DOES THIS INSPIRE AND INFORM YOUR CANDLE FOR QUALIA? “When Nicky [Oatley] shared her dream of a qualia candle, I thought it was a chance to capture the green and the blue of Hamilton Island, the salty air, the waves and a note of green tropical leaves, to remind the world of this heavenly place.”

WHAT NOTES OR OILS ARE IN THE QUALIA CANDLE? “We started with a bergamot oil, then added a watery green accord. As middle notes we chose frangipani and ylang-ylang oils and we grounded the scent with woody elements such as amber and musk.”

WHO DO YOU WORK WITH TO “BOTTLE” THE SCENTS INFUSED IN THE CANDLES? “We have worked with the same perfumer since 2012 – her name is Rebecca and she trained in the Grasse Institute of Perfumery [in the south of France]. She has an incredible sense of perfection, which means that after any brief we give her, she comes back with one or two options only. She is certain that what she created is right, and it always is!”

WHY DO THESE WORK SO WELL WITHIN THE QUALIA/ISLAND ENVIRONMENT? “I think the only reason the candle works so well is because I was lucky to visit qualia and immerse myself in the sounds, colours, smells and overall mood of this idyllic place. I was able to describe the feeling of serenity, the beautiful woods used throughout the resort and the abundance of greenery contrasting with the aquatic presence. It’s funny because the candle smells differently, depending on if you are in Sydney or on Hamilton Island, which is testament to its nature.”

YOU HAVE RECENTLY MOVED TO CHURCH POINT IN NSW AND CAN ONLY ACCESS YOUR HOME BY BOAT, TELL US ABOUT THIS ADVENTURE. “My husband, daughter and I are drawn to the water – we always dreamt of a waterfront property and finally it came true last year after years of research. We found a 1950s wooden house and boatshed with private jetty that was in need of a lot of love. We love the adventure and couldn’t have hoped for a better way to disconnect from our busy weeks.”



Elise Pioch Balzac.

PHOTOGRAPHY: DAVE WHEELER; FELIPE HERNANDEZ.

ARE YOU A GOOD SAILOR? OR CREW? “I am a very good sailor! My parents always had small boats, my brother is a diver and marine biologist, I don’t get seasick and I understand the currents, the winds, the waves. It’s like a second language and I speak it fluently! I captain the ferry. Her name is Fitzroy and she is one of Cockatoo Island’s historical ferries, built in 1937.”

BEST PART ABOUT THIS JOURNEY? “Definitely the surprises along the way. They are like little treasures that we didn’t expect – catching blue swimmer crabs off the jetty, meeting new neighbours and becoming best friends, sharing a chair with a kookaburra...”

YOUR NEW HOME HAS A BEAUTIFUL LIFEBUOY WITH “CADAQUES” PRINTED ON IT... “We named our house Cadaqués because we adore this small village on the Costa Brava in the north of Spain. It was Salvador Dalí’s holiday destination – his house has become a small museum where you get a glimpse into his eccentric and fascinating mind. It is also where we had our honeymoon with six of our best friends, a very happy place for us, nestled in the small mountains by the water. Exactly like where we live now, hidden in the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and by the ocean!”

YOU CREATED MAISON BALZAC IN 2012, WHAT ARE YOU MOST AMAZED AT ABOUT THIS SUCCESS STORY? “I am amazed that people can feel the happiness and enthusiasm I throw into the design of each object. Now that we have a retail space, I get to

talk directly to our audience and they all have a big smile on their face, which is exactly my intention. It’s magical.”

CRAIG ANDRADE LEARNED TO MAKE CANDLES WITH YOU, AND THROUGH HIS OWN COMPANY, THE RACONTEUR, HE SUPPLIES A CANDLE TO HAMILTON ISLAND - WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON YOU LIKE TO SHARE? “I am sure that Craig also learnt his skills before and after my class but it was so nice of him to attend. I clearly remember, he came at the end of the class and told me about his project to start a line of candles. He was almost apologetic and I said to him that there was room for a lot of candle brands, because we all have a unique story to tell, enriched by the many life experiences we have – and I was right! I am so proud of him and his thriving business. This is the most important lesson – show your uniqueness and personality in everything you do.”

DID YOU KNOW THAT HE LIVES ACROSS THE WATER FROM YOU AT CHURCH POINT? “Yes! We have mutual friends and news travels fast in the bay.”

WHAT IS IT WITH CHURCH POINT? “I think it’s like a hidden gem – a secret place 45 minutes north of Sydney that attracts creative adventurers.”

YOU WORK WITH THE SENSES, HOW IS SOUND REFLECTED IN YOUR WORK OR TASTE PERHAPS? “I love that you ask this question because I am

fascinated by synaesthesia, which is the connection of the senses. For example, we have created one incense fragrance – L’Après Midi – based on music, so it is recommended you light it while you play Prélude à l’Après-Midi d’un faune by Debussy. Recently, we developed a candle to pair with a non-alcoholic drink by NON, which is based in Melbourne. The drink is made of thyme and mandarin, so the candle is bursting with citrus. Lastly we have a candle in the collection called La Rose, which was created to smell like the colour pink in a painting by Miranda Skoczek. Blurring the senses creates the most wonderful firework of emotions – I learned this from Baudelaire in *The Flowers of Evil*.”  
@maisonbalzac qualia candle from the qualia boutique by appointment for non guests.



Craig Andrade.

## CRAIG ANDRADE

TELL US ABOUT YOUR ENDURING LOVE OF NATURE. “My parents were avid gardeners and I have strong childhood memories of spending a lot of time helping them around the place. At the time I thought it was all a lot of chores, but it’s where my fascination with nature began and where my imagination began to flourish. Later, in my teens, I became an avid bushwalker and started to develop my landscape-photography hobby. However, it was later on as an adult, through my love of cooking and use of herbs and exotic spices, that my journey into the world of scent came full circle and the dots were joined to my childhood kitchen garden and connection with nature. I guess it had been percolating under the surface the whole time.”

WHAT INSPIRES YOU ABOUT THE NATIVE LAND AND BUSH? “The quiet beauty of vast landscapes have always stopped me in my tracks. But it’s also the small pathways that lead to hidden gems, such as secret rock pools, or small clearings in thick forests, that are equally captivating. There is a sense of a higher purpose – a spiritual element, if you will – when you see the connections between all the elements of a natural ecosystem. Scent, for example, from our botanicals is really a coded language of communication within a natural ecosystem. And that ecosystem has much to teach us in terms of values around resilience, renewal and patience.”

HOW DOES THIS INSPIRE AND INFORM YOUR CANDLE MAKING AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE HAMILTON ISLAND CANDLE? “Scent for me is all about storytelling. And the Hamilton Island scent is all about understanding the key natural elements of this pristine environment, then working with nature to help tell its story about that location. The story writes itself. My goal is always to conduct field research, document the native botanicals, then build the fragrance from the ground up.”

WHAT NOTES OR OILS ARE IN THE HAMILTON ISLAND CANDLE? “There are over 15 ingredients that make up the fragrance, but the key elements are native lemon myrtle, native ginger, native eucalyptus, seagrass and wild herbs. They are key elements of a beautiful environment and they complement each other perfectly.”





qualia candle, Masion Balzac.

“I GATHERED LITTLE SAMPLES OF LEAVES AND FLOWERS”

FORAGER? PLEASE SHARE...

“I remember the first time I came to the island to conduct research for this project and I spent the day out with a pair of secateurs and a golf buggy driving all over, climbing up rocks, down valleys and walking all the way up to the top of Passage Peak. All the while I gathered little samples of leaves and flowers, crushing them and smelling them and being completely amazed by the variety of the vegetation on the island. That night when I laid everything out on the table in my hotel room, I think I must have had over 40 samples and I think the hotel staff must have been a bit concerned with how much leaf material was in my room the next morning.”

WHO DO YOU WORK WITH TO “BOTTLE” THE SCENTS INFUSED IN THE CANDLES?  
“I do all my own bottling at my studio in Sydney’s northern beaches.”

WHY ARE NATURAL INGREDIENTS AND SUSTAINABILITY SO IMPORTANT?  
“For me, it’s all about the rich complexity of the natural, or plant-derived, extracts. They are extraordinary. They are also far superior in scent profile to synthetic molecules that are made in a lab. Trying to mimic nature just doesn’t appeal to me. Instead, I prefer to work with the real thing. If you take rose, for example. There are over 100 different molecules that make up the scent of a rose. And yet you could create a synthetic version

with just three. But it smells fake. And it lacks depth. So what this means for me is trying to keep a reverence for nature in all that I do. It means keeping an eye on sustainable sourcing and avoiding the use of any endangered or threatened species.”

YOU STARTED THE RACONTEUR IN 2017 - WHAT MOST AMAZES YOU ABOUT YOUR JOURNEY, AS YOU GAVE UP A CAREER AS A LAWYER?  
“Quite a journey, it has been. It’s effectively a 180-degree pivot from a desk-bound job that involved working with ‘words’ for a living and problem solving, where my value was based on the hours I billed, to working with nature every day, where my value is based on the assessment of the beauty I create with my hands. It’s tactile, subjective and deeply stimulating at both an intellectual and physical level.”

YOU WERE A STUDENT OF ELISE PIOCH BALZAC - PLEASE TELL US WHAT YOU LEARNED FROM HER.  
“Elise was a terrific teacher and I think I took her



Hamilton Island candle, Raconteur.

last class before she moved briefly back to France. She gave me a great piece of advice when she said that everyone has a story to tell. And if you tell that story in your brand, then that is what makes it unique and compelling. It’s great advice that has been the anchor for my business. Elise was very encouraging. She literally was the catalyst for me embarking on this journey that saw me change the course of my life.”

WHAT DO YOU ADMIRE ABOUT HER?  
“She’s a very warm and kind soul who clearly has a passion for nurturing other creatives. She’s very inspiring.”

SHE LIVES ACROSS THE WATER FROM YOU AT CHURCH POINT...  
“How small have our worlds become! I live on the ridge between Lovett Bay and Elvina Bay, on the edge of the Ku-ring-gai national park. It’s a boat-access-only community, so I hop in my tinny every day to head to work. And of course weekends are often about trips up Pittwater or the Hawkesbury to drop anchor at secret coves, enjoy a little picnic and escape to this pristine wilderness on our doorstep.”

WHAT IS IT WITH CHURCH POINT?!  
“I know. Such a special hub for creative souls to gather!”

HOW IMPORTANT IS THE WATER AND OCEAN TO YOUR WORK?  
“It’s definitely a big part of the creative process for me, because it’s where I sometimes recharge and reflect. Living on the water makes it such an integral part of my daily life that it’s really a space for meditation as well.”

YOU WORK WITH THE SENSES, HOW IS SOUND REFLECTED IN YOUR WORK OR TASTE PERHAPS?  
“With sound, my classes and teaching provide an avenue for voice. But I’m also working with some sound artists on a project to document certain areas and capture elements of nature. These will be incorporated into an upcoming new product we’re releasing. With taste, I have developed a custom range of herbal teas that highlight Australia’s native botanicals and focus on immunity, energising and grounding.”  
*@the\_rac\_on\_teur*  
*Hamilton Island The Raconteur candle available from Hamilton Island Designs.*

PHOTOGRAPHY: DEAN MARCHINI; CRAIG ANDRADE.



Experience the 18-hole Championship Hamilton Island Golf Club

Dramatic terrain. Breathtaking views. The Hamilton Island Golf Club is the only 18-hole championship golf course on its own island in Australia. Designed by five-time British Open winner Peter Thomson, the par 71 course features two distinctly different nine-hole circuits and a Clubhouse with a fully-stocked pro shop. The Clubhouse is also home to a stylishly relaxed restaurant, the ideal spot for a long lunch or some light refreshments following your game. Non-golfers can enjoy the Golf Clubhouse lunch special, which includes return transfers to Dent Island, a tour of the dramatic back nine and a two-course a la carte lunch.

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



HAMILTON ISLAND GOLF CLUB  
GREAT BARRIER REEF AUSTRALIA



Caity Clarkson.

# DROP A PIN

Deciding what to do and where to go is all part of nailing the perfect Hamilton Island holiday memory and experiencing the icons of the region is high on the priority list. Here, REEF talks to Caity Clarkson, a passionate member of the island's tour desk team who has all the insider information about the best ways to enjoy time out over and above the Coral Sea.

## ADVENTURING TO THE OUTER GREAT BARRIER REEF

*Snorkel and explore the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest coral reef system.*

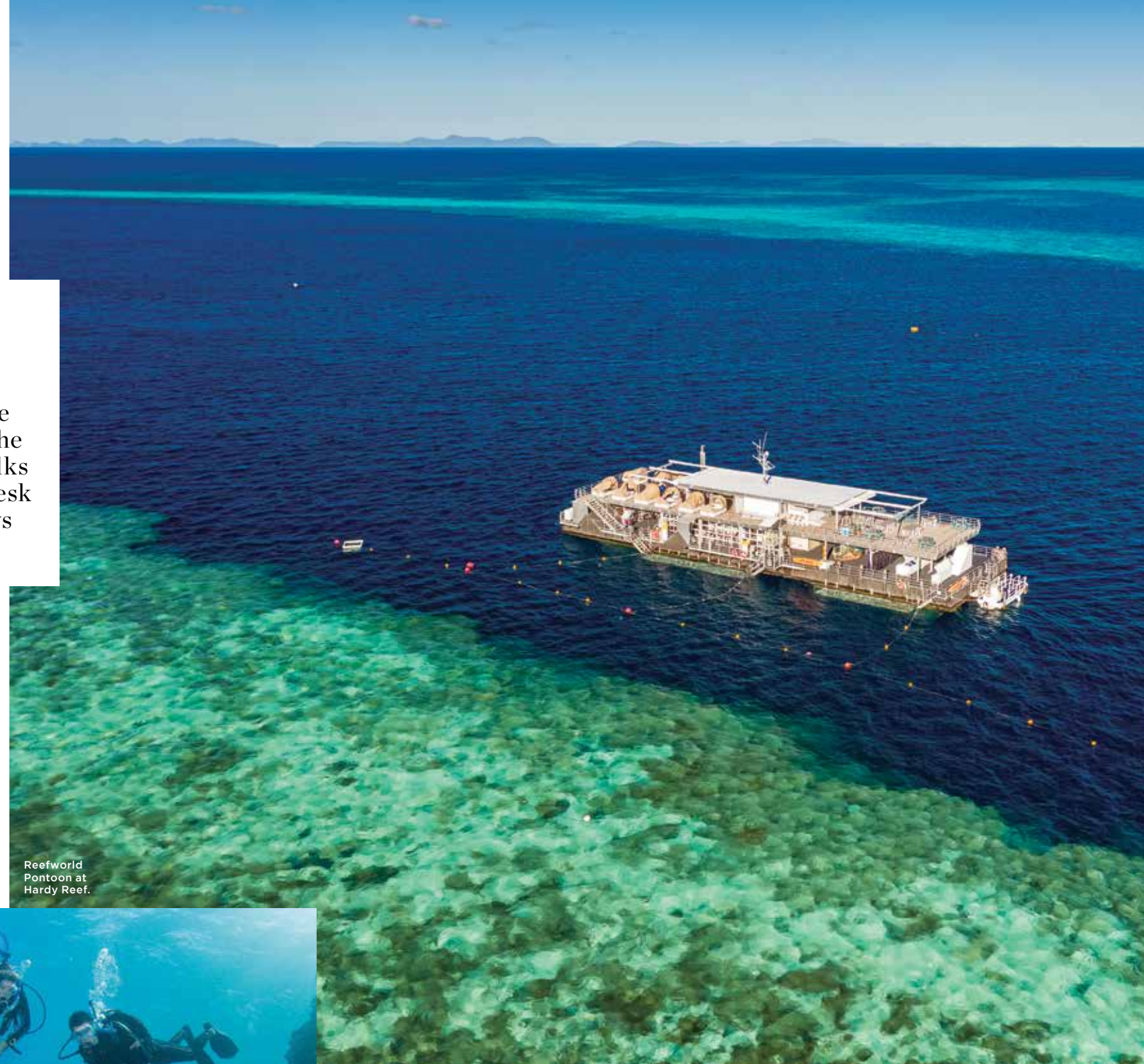
### CRUISE OR FLY TO THE REEF.

Visiting the outer Great Barrier Reef is usually a full day experience from Hamilton Island, as it's approximately two hours each way via boat to reach the outer reefs. Cruise Whitsundays Great Barrier Reef Adventure offers a full day tour (approximately 9.00am to 5.00pm) that visits the Reefworld pontoon located at Hardy Reef. It's a perfect option for families as all ages can travel and it also suits those who are not as comfortable in the water. The pontoon is permanently moored, so is much more stable than being on a boat all day, and everyone will have the opportunity to view the amazing underwater wonderland of coral and fish. For those who prefer not to get wet, you can explore the reef from the protected underwater observatory, or semi-submersible boat that goes out from the pontoon twice a day. If you are keen on diving in, you can use the pontoon as a platform from which to snorkel, using the guide ropes for assistance. There are other optional guided snorkel safari's or 10-minute scenic helicopter flights on offer too. To speed up the whole trip, Hamilton Island Air offer a three-hour Reef Discovery Fly Both Ways morning or afternoon option, which cuts down travel time to the pontoon and you get to experience two incredible scenic flights. You can also do a combination, flying by helicopter one way and then cruising the other way; with the Fly/Cruise (approximately 11.00am to 5.00pm) or Cruise/Fly (approximately 9.00am to 2.00pm). **Tip:** If you want to add a dive, Reefworld offers introductory or certified dives, however you can't

fly back after you've been diving. From May through to January, the Reef Comber seaplane also goes out and lands at a small pontoon at Hardy Lagoon, where a select few guests can enjoy some time on the Coral Gardens Explorer glass bottom boat and snorkelling the lagoon. Explore do a full day Snorkel the Great Barrier Reef tour (approximately 9.00am to 5.00pm) to the outer reef as well. It caters for a much smaller group of around 60 guests and offers two different snorkelling locations around Bait Reef. This option is perfect for avid snorkellers that don't need the safety net of a pontoon. For those who are happy being in the ocean but are a beginner snorkeller, there is still a guide in the water and floatation devices for assistance. You can swim from the full beam platform at the back of the catamaran, which is also how you enter and exit the water. If you want to take children, they must be 5 years and over. A benefit of being on a custom snorkel vessel with Explore is the flexibility to adjust their location based on weather conditions from outer to inner reef.



Diving the Great Barrier Reef.



Reefworld Pontoon at Hardy Reef.



Reefsleep at Reefworld.

### SLEEP ON THE GREAT BARRIER REEF.

This is magical, Reefsleep is about spending the night in a reef bed and sleeping on the top deck of the Reefworld pontoon at Hardy Reef, watching the sun drop into the vast ocean and the stars come out. It is best to pre-book before you get to Hamilton Island, so that you don't double up on accommodation fees. **Tip:** A small carry-on is allowed, and we usually recommend booking this experience during the middle or end of your stay and selecting accommodation on Hamilton Island that will hold your luggage while you are away on your overnight adventure.

### ADVENTURE TO THE ICONIC AND NATURALLY FORMED HEART REEF.

This is perhaps the most iconic reef destination of all. Journey to the Heart is only accessible via Hamilton Island Air's helicopter experience, landing on the Heart Island pontoon close to the famous Heart Reef. There is nothing else like this, it's exclusive only to guests on Hamilton Island and an incredible way to see the icon, which you could previously only see from the air. You get to snorkel and see the amazing depth of marine life snorkelling off the Heart Island private pontoon, and then motor on a small sleek boat around Heart Reef. If you want to simply do a 'fly over' of Heart Reef, there are many different scenic flight options aboard seaplane, aeroplane, or helicopter.

### EXPLORING THE INNER REEF, FRINGING REEFS, BREATHTAKING WHITSUNDAY ISLANDS AND BEACHES

*Take a shorter trip and explore the beaches, islands and surrounding inner reefs of the Whitsundays.*

### HALF DAY SNORKEL OPTIONS AROUND THE INNER REEF.

If you are short on time but have your heart set on some full on snorkelling, Explore do a half day Snorkel the Whitsundays adventure. The best snorkel locations will be selected on the day depending on the weather and tide conditions, but include selected moorings in the Whitsundays such as Luncheon Bay and Manta Ray on Hook Island. As with their full day outer reef tours, this option is perfect for snorkellers that don't need the safety net of a pontoon and are happy going off the back of the boat in relatively open water.

### CHALKIES BEACH, A GREAT PLACE TO SNORKEL.

If you are a proficient swimmer but are a bit nervous about getting into the open ocean and are not very confident at snorkelling, then snorkelling off the beach is a good option. Chalkies is the perfect blend of beautiful beach and coral reefs, showcasing the stunning marine life that can be found in the fringing reefs surrounding the Whitsunday Islands. It is as beautiful as its neighbouring and famed Whitehaven Beach, with the same 98% pure silica white sand. There is a lookout here with beautiful views that is only a 5-10-minute walk from the beach. There are a few different tour companies that visit Chalkies Beach including Explore, Watersports and Ricochet.

# ADVENTURE



Hill Inlet, at the northern end of Whitehaven Beach.

## WHITEHAVEN BEACH, ONE OF THE MOST SPECTACULAR AND UNSPOILED BEACHES IN THE WORLD.

A common misconception is that all tours to Whitehaven Beach go to the same place. This is actually not the case. Whitehaven is not only iconic, but also really, really long. A 7-kilometre stretch of sand leads from the southern end all the way to northernmost point. Two very beautiful but very different areas to visit. The famous Hill Inlet is at the northern end where you can witness that epic shot you might have seen already with the swirling white sand. This is really all about the scenic view. Explore do a Hill Inlet tour that gets you here via their powered catamaran and includes a guided uphill walk up to the lookout where you see that panoramic view and then you also get to spend some time at the beach. There is a minimum age of 5 years to be able to do this half-day tour. Cruise Whitsundays has a half-day Whitehaven Beach tour to the southern end, and this is simply a chance to enjoy two hours relaxing at this silica white sand beach, and swimming in the beautiful turquoise water. It can be relatively busier here as it's one of the closest locations to Hamilton Island, but it's a great option for families as there's no minimum age. There are also walks from the southern end on offer for the adventurous who don't want to just lounge around. For those ready for a fast (and sometimes bumpy) ride, Watersports Reef Ryder Two in One offers a half day combination tour to

swim and snorkel. It goes to the southern end of Whitehaven Beach where you can have a quick swim and sunbathe, then also goes across to Chalkies Beach where you can snorkel. It's a quick three-hour tour on their speed boat, available morning or afternoon, and the most you can pack into half a day. It's less relaxation, more action but a great way to see as much as possible in a short time frame. There are actually over 15 different tours that incorporate a visit to Whitehaven Beach. Consider how much time you have then what kind of day you want – adventure, relaxation, sailing, or snorkelling and choose a half or full day tour that incorporates those things. If you have a group and set itinerary, you could consider private charter options with Freedom, Ricochet, AWOL, Alani and Palm Beach. **Tip:** You cannot snorkel at Whitehaven Beach as there is no fringing reef there, only beautiful turquoise water. If you have your heart set on seeing Hill Inlet, make sure that your chosen tour lists this in their itinerary. A tour to Whitehaven Beach doesn't always include seeing this part of the long stretch of beach.

## SUNSET SAIL AND WATCH THE SUN DROP INTO THE CORAL SEA.

One of the most popular experiences on the island is a sunset sail and this is worth pre-booking. Both Explore and Ricochet offer shared tours, with sailing around Hamilton Island as you watch the sun set for 1.5 hours with drinks and light grazing platter included. Ricochet operates a small group luxury



Southern end of Whitehaven Beach.

catamaran option, only open to 14 years and over, whereas Explore is family-friendly (kids must be 8 years or older) and takes out their larger 'On the Edge' sailing catamaran. **Tip:** Take a jacket as the ocean air cools as the sun goes down.

## ENJOY THE WHITSUNDAYS BY AIR.

Take a helicopter or seaplane flight to Whitehaven Beach or do a scenic flight over the island and surrounding Whitsundays. Heading to Whitehaven Beach via air is an incredible way to see Hill Inlet before landing and sinking your toes into that pure white sand. Helicopters are perfect for couples or groups of two as they hold 2-3 people maximum for Whitehaven Beach landings. There are larger helicopters available on other tours. Larger groups and families can enjoy a seaplane experience which take groups of up to 6 guests.

PHOTOGRAPHY: CRUISE WHITSUNDAYS; EXPLORE GROUP; MARK FITZ; RIPTIDE CREATIVE; TOURISM AND EVENTS QUEENSLAND.



## Hamilton Island's Golf Car of Choice

Golf Cars Australia Pty Ltd [www.golfcarsaustralia.com.au](http://www.golfcarsaustralia.com.au) | [info@golfcarsaustralia.com.au](mailto:info@golfcarsaustralia.com.au)  
Sales and Service Centre: Hamilton Island | P 07 5529 9499  
Head Office: 20-22 Kingston Drive, Helensvale QLD 4212 | P 07 5529 9499

# MOODBOARD

Barefoot on the beach.



**MOOD: TROPICAL**

CATSEYE BEACH AND MAIN POOL  
*Barefoot on the beach, surrounded by ocean and palm trees.*

A ceremony with your toes in the sand or on lawns overlooking Catseye Beach surrounded by palm trees doesn't get more tropical. A favourite venue for an island-inspired reception is at the Main Pool, with lighting strung through the palms, candles and lanterns on the tables and around the pool and fresh foliage created by the on-island florist. Bespoke totally tropical cocktails can be created for arrival for that extra detail. Tropical-themed stationary can be created for menus, name cards, a seating plan and a welcome sign.



All the details.



The true simplicity of an ocean wedding.

**MOOD: BOHEMIAN**

CHAPEL GARDENS AND OUTRIGGER

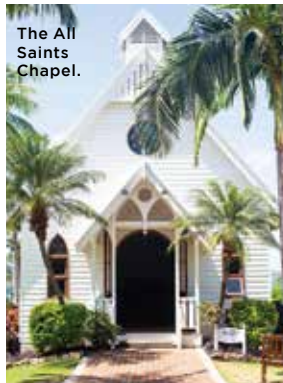
*Relaxed escapism, grounded and gorgeous.*

The Chapel Gardens are the perfect location for a boho wedding with a relaxed lawn overlooking Catseye Beach. The island's talented florists and styling company can create many different arbours with lots of natives, earthy-toned garlands or cascades of single flowers. Photography in the long grass at One Tree Hill as the sun drops creates wonderful golden hour memories of the big day. A favourite boho reception includes a long table set out on the lawns at the Outrigger marquee, strung with fairy lights or festoons and pretty timber bentwood chairs. A satellite gin bar on the lawn and live entertainment by an acoustic guitarist are all great ways to enjoy the celebration.



# FOUR WEDDINGS

The views, that ocean, the sunsets... yes, Hamilton Island is the perfect canvas for a dream destination wedding. Keeley Murrphy, Hamilton Island Weddings assistant manager and expert planner, shares her insider knowledge on making that dream a reality.



The All Saints Chapel.



Best fresh flowers from the island's florist.

**MOOD: TIMELESS**

CHAPEL AND BEACH PAVILION  
*Classic, chic and effortless.*

For couples seeking tradition, we recommend the island's hidden gem: The All Saints Chapel, perched high above Catseye Beach. The Chapel presents beautifully without any additional styling. Wedding guests love arriving here at the ceremony via buggy. The bridal photography can be taken care of by the on-island photography team, including 360-degree views from One Tree Hill, or on the Marina Dock that is the perfect location for sunset shots. A reception with long tables set on the barge jetty over the marina provides a classic nautical backdrop. For larger weddings and to accommodate children, the beautiful new Beach Pavilion is the perfect venue.



Incredible photographic opportunities.



Helicopter to Whitehaven Beach.



**MOOD: LUXE**

WHITEHAVEN BEACH, HAMILTON ISLAND YACHT CLUB

*Motor yachts and helicopters. Refined, sophisticated and polished.*

There is nothing more spectacular than tying the knot on Australia's most iconic Whitehaven Beach. Whilst guests arrive via sleek motor yachts including Alani or AWOL, the bride and groom can enjoy a scenic flight over the Whitsundays before making a grand entrance via helicopter. For a more formal approach, the strikingly elegant Hamilton Island Yacht Club is next level. Enjoy the island's best sunset view for pre-dinner drinks on the Yacht Club deck, before settling into the spacious Ketch and Cutter Room with its expansive view across Dent Passage for the reception.



Iconic Hamilton Island Yacht Club.



Outside the Ketch and Cutter room.

PHOTOGRAPHY: KEN BUTT; REMY GEREGA; HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY; HAMILTON ISLAND WEDDINGS; THE LANE; KARA ROSENLUND; SALTY WINGS.

To find out more and for help planning a wedding call 07 4946 8750 or visit Hamilton Island Weddings at [hamiltonislandweddings.com](http://hamiltonislandweddings.com)



Whitsunday Bay, Queensland.



Strokkur geyser, Iceland.



Maeliffel, Iceland.

# FLOATING worlds

If you are reading this, then you will appreciate there is nothing quite like an island escape right now... Travel writer Ute Junker recalls some of her favourites.

“It does not belong to any world that you and I have lived and worked in; it is part of our dream world.” Such was George Bernard Shaw’s reaction to visiting the wave-tossed Irish island of Skellig Michael, where medieval monks would spend hours in prayer gazing out at the wild Atlantic seas. His words could equally be applied to thousands of other islands around the world, from the tranquil tropics to subarctic climes where the northern lights send eerie sheets of colour flashing across the dark winter skies.

PHOTOGRAPHY: HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY; SHUTTERSTOCK

Islands are places apart. Delineated and defined by the water that surrounds them, islands are worlds unto themselves. Whether you arrive by boat or opt for a more modern form of transport, flying high above the waves, the journey is part of the experience. When you arrive at an island, you leave behind the world you know, and enter a new realm. No wonder, then, that so many of us are putting an island escape at the top of our post-Covid travel list. In these ever-shifting times, an island offers everything we want from a holiday – not

just a break from the everyday, but a place where we feel protected. With protecting waters that act as a giant moat, islands are where you go when you want to keep the rest of the world at bay. That’s not the only thing we love about islands, of course. Many of them harbour spectacular swathes of nature, and none more so than Iceland. On this otherworldly island, you can tick off more dazzlingly dramatic sights in one day than almost anywhere else in the world. Start the day with a stroll along a black sand

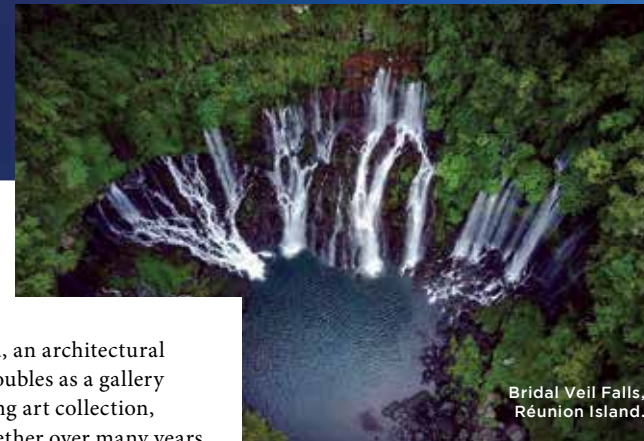
beach, finish it with a warming dip in one of the countless naturally occurring thermal pools, and you will still have time to visit three or four extraordinary waterfalls before lunch. This is a place where you can take a tour through ice caves or watch volcanoes shooting lava into the air (2021 saw Fagradlsfjall draw thousands of visitors with its pyrotechnic). In fact, Iceland is the sort of place that might have been imagined by authors during the age of exploration, who made an art form of conjuring up islands filled with wonders.



King Island, Tasmania.



Réunion Island.



Bridal Veil Falls, Réunion Island.



Discovering surrounding Whitsunday islands.

Take Jonathan Swift who, in Gulliver's Travels, imagined islands populated by giants and Lilliputians. Or Shakespeare, who imagined an island ruled by a sorcerer in The Tempest. HG Wells held a dark mirror to that idea and created The Island of Dr Moreau, where a demented scientist created monstrous hybrid animals. Nothing so dark lies in store in Iceland, but some of its natural wonders are so distinctive that it seems as if the land has come to life. There is Strokkur the geyser, an excitable fellow who shoots plumes of boiling water 40 metres into the air every five to 10 minutes. Maelifell, an 800m-high volcanic cone that glows an eerie green thanks to the moss that grows on it, is an enigmatic presence and sits incongruously on the edge of the Mýrdalsjökull glacier. Then there is the icy allure of Jökulsárlón, a glacial lake with waters that are studded with chunks of blue ice and wash onto frozen beaches. If Iceland's wonders are all fire and ice, other islands weave their spells in different ways. Some islands provide a soft landing. Hamilton Island, with its balmy tropical evenings and its aquamarine waters that wash the shore softly, is one example. On other islands, nature takes a more dramatic turn. The French island of Réunion, which lies in the Indian Ocean just west of Mauritius, about 2,600km from Africa, is a place of highs

and lows, built around no fewer than three volcanoes, only one of which is extinct. Their dramatic peaks, plunging down into fertile valleys, give Réunion its striking silhouette. Thanks to a fertile climate, a blanket of verdant vegetation lies over mountains and valley alike. It is heaven for hikers, with more than 900km of marked trails stretching from sea level to the

“NO TWO ISLANDS ARE THE SAME, BUT ONE THING THEY HAVE IN COMMON, IS THE OCEANIC MELODY”

highest calderas and ever-changing vistas. Walk through bamboo forests, around a volcanic crater or along a gorge that resembles a crack thrust into the earth by a giant wielding a cleaver. Stop to admire the beauty of one of the island's waterfalls – perhaps the loveliest is the Voile de la Mariée, or Bridal Veil Falls, where a dozen separate falls cascade down a steep slope as delicately as an embroidered lace veil – or

the pretty pastel houses of the Creole village of Hell-Bourg, hidden away in a remote valley. Réunion's road trips are equally eye-catching. Just don't expect to go hard on the accelerator. Here, slow is literally the only way to go, thanks to the winding roads that snake their way around the towering peaks. And that is yet another way that islands enchant us – with their distinctive tempo. It's not just time that slows down, you slow down too. Island life unfurls at a different speed. Island folk are not easy to hurry. They are also known for their friendliness; if you're the type who enjoys striking up conversations with strangers, you will find a whole lot more than hello on offer. Among the warmest welcomes was the one offered by King Island, a 1,000sqkm island that floats in Bass Strait between Tasmania and mainland Australia. I got a taste for the King Island touch before I even arrived on the island, when the owners of Kittawa Lodge, the sleek two-villa lodge that is the island's best address, got in touch to see if there was anything they could organise for me in advance. When I arrived, it didn't take my hosts long to discover my interest in art and architecture. “Oh, you must meet Dianne and Andrew,” they told me. One quick phone call and it was organised – I was on my way to meet the couple who are the proud owners of the most striking

house on the island, an architectural masterpiece that doubles as a gallery for their outstanding art collection, which they put together over many years working in a community art centre in Arnhem Land. That wasn't my only close encounter with locals on the island. In fact, many of my most memorable experiences on King Island came courtesy of a King Islander who wanted to share with me something they loved. The sight of little penguins at twilight, surfacing from the water and waddling up a boat ramp to reach their burrows. The sound of huge strands of kelp, hung from drying racks and rattling in the breeze. A deserted beach where the waves that rolled in last touched land in Antarctica. No two islands are the same, but if there is one thing they have in common, it is the oceanic melody that plays on their shores. Sometimes it's a song filled with operatic drama, powered by waves surging into the jagged rocks beneath towering cliffs. Sometimes the song is almost imperceptible, a mere murmur made by water ever so gently caressing the sand. Either way, it's an island lullaby that never fails to soothe the soul.

TRAVEL BOOKS: READ ALL ABOUT IT



**TASMANIA - AROUND THE COAST BY PETER TURRELL** (*Sandringham Yacht Club*)  
An unforgettable series of journeys around the waterways of Tasmania, documented in fascinating detail with accompanying photographs of the coastline.



**BIG WAVE SURFER: THE GREATEST RIDES OF OUR LIVES BY KAI LENNY** (*Rizzoli*)  
A spectacular series of photographs from around the world of big wave surfing, featuring jaw-dropping, mammoth waves and the surfers who conquered them.



**THE NEW YORK TIMES EXPLORER: 100 TRIPS AROUND THE WORLD** (*Taschen*)  
From solo trips to Paris to meditative journeys through Siberia, this is the ultimate curated collection of incredible trips taken by travel writers and photographers of The New York Times.



**MICHAEL O'NEILL. ON YOGA. THE ARCHITECTURE OF PEACE** (*Taschen*)  
The story of yoga like it's never been told before – through a tribute featuring almost 200 photographs taken during a decade journeying throughout India to capture the soul of yoga and the most influential yogis of our time.



**A DREAM OF ALULA** (*Rizzoli*)  
Gilles Bensimon has produced a grandiose visual exploration of the mystical AlUla valley in northwestern Arabia, which features images of breathtaking natural landscapes and settlements that date back 8,000 years.

# Natural WONDER

qualia's fine dining is about the pursuit of seasonal excellence and head chef, Ryan Locke, is serving up food that's packed with flavour and perfectly complements the environment. By Alison Veness.



Ryan Locke, Long Pavilion, qualia.

Ryan Locke feels privileged to have been handed the responsibility of head chef at qualia, as their ethos of using natural and organic food lies at the heart of his cooking, too. And concentrating on this core ideology has allowed Locke, alongside qualia executive chef John Kennedy, to showcase some of Australia's best produce at the two restaurants within qualia, Pebble Beach and Long Pavilion. "My food is produce-driven, with flavour combinations that are both classical and modern," he tells us. "The most important part of our menu at Pebble Beach is the story – sourcing food that has a connection to either Hamilton Island or qualia, or is something that reminds me how amazing Australia's cuisine can be. I wanted Pebble Beach to be about a local experience, special to the Whitsundays and for our international guests, and the focus is on produce such as fresh marron [crayfish] or the cuttlefish that is right on our ocean 'doorstep'."



Kingfish, succulents, burnt nori dressing.

His food has to compete with the views – and it measures up extremely well. The degustation menu he has created for Pebble Beach is mouthwateringly unique. The excellent dishes and the experience of eating at sunset, on the edge of this tranquil beach with the coral sea lapping gently away, are top notch. Formerly sous chef at qualia and executive sous chef at Lizard Island, and having previously cooked at Vue de monde in Melbourne and Huka Lodge in New Zealand, he describes how his cooking has evolved over the past two and a half years. "Each dish has gone through many stages of rethinking and redesigning to help me tell the particular story of the ingredients," he says. "There are certain things that dictate how I go about the flavour combinations,

which are mainly seasonality and sustainability. The cuttlefish is the most local [ingredient], and is some of the best I've ever had. We poach it very gently in clarified butter at a very low temperature." For this dish, the cuttlefish is also dressed with onions fermented in white soy and served with black garlic emulsion and crisps made from cuttlefish ink. "For me this is one of the more original flavour combinations on the menu. Utilising texture from the cuttlefish and a rich umami flavour from mushroom soy really puts the dish in its own category of style and flavour." The landscape and environment are also inspirational: "The rocks and



Cuttlefish, ink, mushroom, soy.

the ocean, the qualia gardens and the forestry through Passage Peak are all places I take into consideration when thinking about the dishes I create at Pebble Beach. We forage for a few ingredients on the island, two of which we used for our 6+ score wagyu beef dish. Also, in front of the kitchen, we have paperbark trees and various varieties of pine, which we use for tableside [cooking] to smoke the wagyu last minute while the garnish of the dish is explained to the guests. We also make an oil out of the pine needles to season the saffron milk cap mushrooms that we use during the winter season." The theatre of food has been important to Locke throughout his cooking career. "Earlier in my cooking journey at Vue de monde, a large focus of that was theatre driven," he says. "I took from that experience and added some of

PHOTOGRAPHY: RILEY WILLIAMS.

"I WANTED TO BRING TO THE FORE SOMETHING QUINTESSENTIALLY AUSTRALIAN..."

my own 'theatrical' changes from smoking beef tableside with the pine and paperbark, serving caviar that pairs with our marron dish and shaving black winter truffles at the table with the diners so the full impact of these aromas are shared instantly." His chosen ingredient right now is homemade smoked vinegar – "It is my most current ingredient. We use it for seasoning sauces,

dressing and the wild mustard greens we use for a vegan dish." Succulents are a feature of the menu, too, at Pebble Beach. "I used to forage for them a lot in the Victorian countryside, so it's great to be able to pair them with fish here from the region. All the succulent varieties we have [are brought] to the island – samphire, beach banana, sea spray. They add freshness and acidity to the kingfish tartare, and the Japanese flavours of the nori we burn to make the dressing. And for me, the freshly ground Tasmanian wasabi ticks all the boxes when it comes to flavour and texture. One of the first recipes I tasted at qualia was burnt nori dressing – I have changed it slightly along the way by adding finely chopped beach banana and fresh chives just before the kingfish tartare is seasoned. The dish is a visual representation of the qualia gardens, the lush green and organic feeling you see when you come through the large wooden gates at the entrance, matched with the memory of my first sauce tasted in the kitchen." The Pyengana brioche "sandwich", meanwhile, is heaven on a plate. "I have always been drawn to having a cheese course on the tasting menu. In the summer season, it is replaced by something fresher and cleansing. I wanted to bring to the fore something that is quintessentially Australian and unpretentious. Pyengana has been my favourite cheese since coming to Australia 15 years ago. Matching it with brioche roasted in brown butter, manchego from Spain, smoked onion jam and caramelised yoghurt seemed to fit my brief. It's homely and familiar, relaxed and comforting." He says the best advice he has received was from his great friend Nikhola Flack, who is head chef/owner of The Flackyard in Mackay, Queensland. "It's always resonated and has stuck in my head for the past 10 years of cooking. No matter where I'm cooking or what I'm cooking, I always think back to that moment we shared while working on the same section – 'Lockey you slow down you go down!'" Locke is most satisfied seeing other chefs and staff teaching each other and passing on knowledge. "Communication and learning is so important to me, and seeing a handover of skills and information really makes me proud to be the head chef at qualia." And with that, he is off to work, ready to start refining the story at qualia's Long Pavilion.

# Return of the CLASSIC COCKTAIL

Always loved and never forgotten, the art of cocktail hour lies in the delicious ingredients, a good shaker and thoughtful bar-tending. Here, the fabulous five cocktail classics from the island's top bartenders will help fuel happy hour or can be simply enjoyed at home.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RILEY WILLIAMS

## SAILS: CAIPIROSKA WITH KAFFIR LIME AND GINGER

Born in Brazil this vodka cocktail is infused with the fragrant kaffir lime and immune system boosting ginger.

### INGREDIENTS

- 3 kaffir lime leaves
- 1 slice of ginger
- 2 slices of lime
- 60ml Smirnoff vodka
- 20ml lime juice
- 15ml sugar syrup

### METHOD

Muddle kaffir, ginger and lime slices, add all ingredients into boston shaker, add ice and shake, dump into glass, add garnish.

## ROMANO'S: ESPRESSO MARTINI

The evening is really getting started when a tray of Espresso Martinis materialises. This espresso coffee/vodka/coffee liqueur martini was born in the 1980s and is still powering back.

### INGREDIENTS

- 30ml Ketel One vodka
- 15ml Kahlua
- 15ml Frangelico
- 10ml sugar syrup
- 30ml espresso coffee

### METHOD

Add all ingredients into boston shaker, add ice and shake vigorously, double strain into coupe or martini glass.

## MANTA RAY: PASSIONFRUIT CAIPIROSKA

This summer quencher originates from South America and its refreshing burst of passionfruit makes it the perfect partner to start the evening marina-side while the sun goes down.

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 slices of lime
- 60ml Smirnoff vodka
- 20ml lime juice
- 20ml passionfruit puree
- 10ml sugar syrup

### METHOD

Muddle lime, add all ingredients into boston shaker, add ice and shake, dump into glass, add garnish.

## REEF LOUNGE: CHILLI MARGARITA

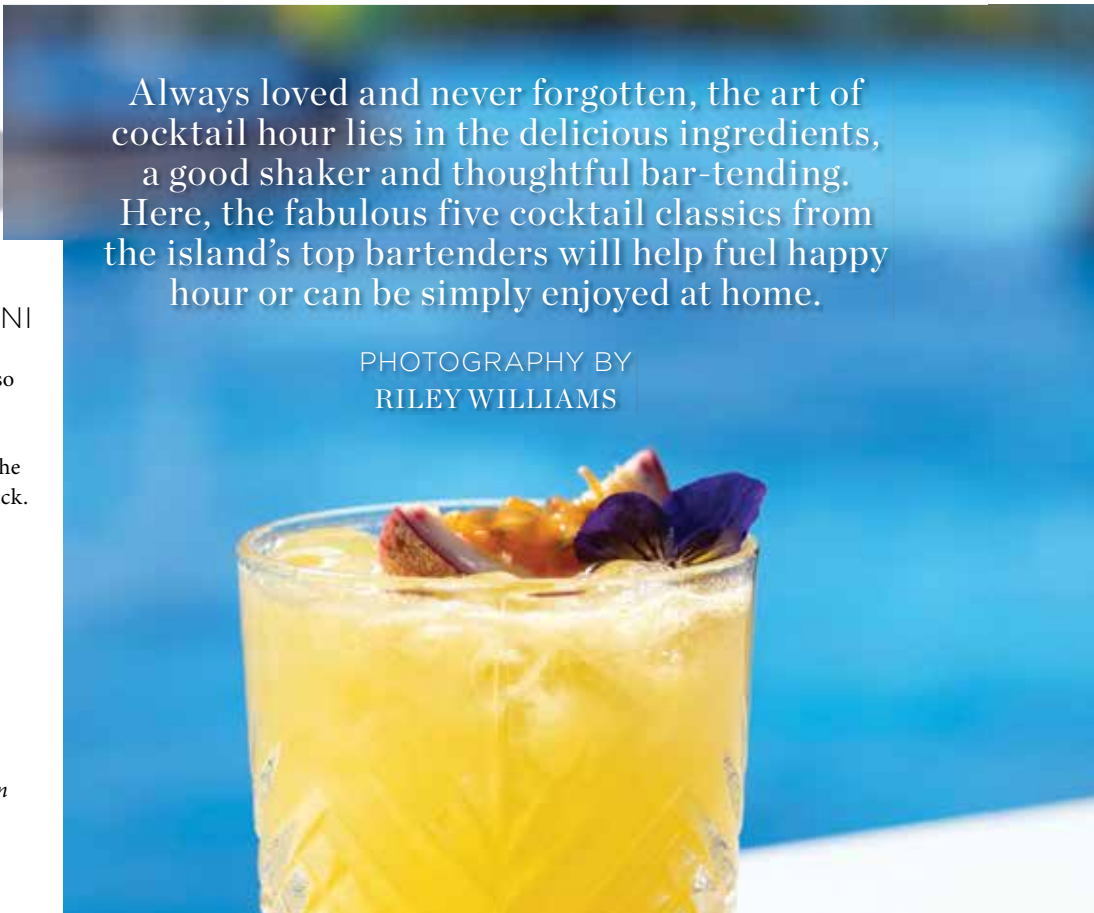
The classic Margarita dates back to the late 1930s and it is claimed, to Tijuana. This spicy version adds heat to the sweetness.

### INGREDIENTS

- 3 slices of chilli
- 45ml Don Julio Blanco tequila
- 15ml Triple sec
- 30ml lime juice
- 10ml sugar syrup

### METHOD

Muddle chilli, add all ingredients into boston shaker, add ice and shake, double strain into salted rim coupe or martini glass.



**SAILS: BLOODY MARY**  
Celebrating one hundred years since it was created in 1921 at Harry's New York Bar in Paris, the Bloody Mary is a classic pre-dinner cocktail.

### INGREDIENTS

- 60ml Smirnoff vodka
- 20ml lemon juice
- 10ml Worcestershire sauce
- 90ml tomato juice
- 2 barspoon of olive brine
- 5 dashes of Tabasco

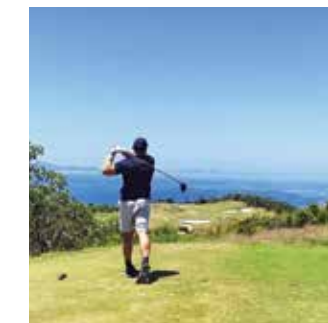
### METHOD

Build ingredients into boston shaker, roll shaker (not shake), pour over ice and add garnish.



## POSTCARDS FROM PARADISE

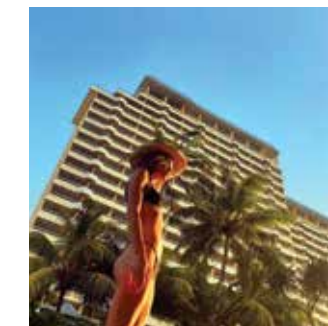
Dear Instagram followers we are having a wonderful time here...



"FORE! Full disclosure! Not much short grass was found that day." @thomasburgess



"Sunnys first big Aussie adventure in our beautiful country @AUSTRALIA." @elyse.knowles



"Last light on the island." @bambilegit



"Island vibes coming in hottt." @samevanslife



# Summer OF LOVE

A bohemian spirit prevails and a desire to wear clothes that have been made using ethically sourced cotton, recycled fibres and all with increasingly low impact.



Jets dress, \$280, SALT Swim and Resort Wear.



Tigerlily bikini top, \$89, bikini bottom, \$89, The Hut.



Rip Curl dress, \$79.99, The Hut.



Rip Curl shorts, \$59.99, The Hut.



Shona Joy top, \$240, qualia Boutique by appointment for non guests.

SIR mini skirt, \$260, qualia Boutique by appointment for non guests.



Seafolly bikini top, \$99.95, bikini bottom, \$89.95, SALT Swim and Resort Wear.



Seafolly hat, \$59.95, SALT Swim and Resort Wear.



Seafolly towel, \$79.95, SALT Swim and Resort Wear.



Maui Jim sunglasses, \$549, The Hut.



Billabong one piece, \$119.95, The Hut.



Ray-Ban sunglasses, \$229, The Hut.



Rip Curl t-shirt, \$49.99, The Hut.



Seafolly bag, \$89.95, SALT Swim and Resort Wear.

## ISLAND RETAIL THERAPY

AUSTRALIA THE GIFT  
07 4946 9015

FLORAL COLLECTIONS  
07 4946 8335

FOOT'S ARTWORKS -  
HAMILTON ISLAND  
0401 912 267

HAMILTON ISLAND DESIGNS  
07 4946 8565

HAMILTON ISLAND JEWELLERY  
07 4948 9857

THE DECKHOUSE  
07 4946 8180

PRO SHOP (HI GOLF CLUB)  
07 4948 9760

QUALIA BOUTIQUE  
07 4948 9473

RESORT CENTRE LOBBY SHOP  
0427 148 952

REEF VIEW LOBBY SHOP  
0427 148 623

SALT SWIM AND RESORT WEAR  
07 4946 8221

THE ART GALLERY  
07 4948 9657

THE HUT  
07 4946 8273

TRADER PETE'S  
07 4946 0907



Exploring the Kimberley's King George Falls.

# Journey of DISCOVERY

The team from Paspaley enjoy annual visits to Hamilton Island for their showcase events at Race Week. Here, Christine Salter, Paspaley creative director, shares tales of the unique field trips and team adventures that they take, even further afield, and are all part of creating the pearling company's extraordinary jewellery.



Sketches and illustration for Lavalier.



Inspiration for Lavalier.

The field trips we go on are called Design Week. We go out there – it's quite hard to justify, too, because to other members of our team it looks like we're taking a holiday! – but to get the most out of our designers and get the creativity going, we do need to be out of the office, away from life's stresses, to completely free the mind and soul and get the best creative work out of everybody. Obviously going up to our pearl farms is ideal for that because they're in one of the most remote areas in the whole world. When you're out there you feel completely disconnected from the rest of the world. You live in the present and you notice the small details around you. People often ask me, "Why do you need to go, what is it that you're looking for?" And I'll say, "I don't know until we get there." That's the whole point. If we already knew, we wouldn't have to go there. But we always come back with something exceptional – a unique idea – that relates back to us, back to what we do or where we come from. For me, the Kimberley is so beautiful and unique to us. We're the only industry out there in the ocean. For jewellery to really have soul, it has to have story, and I think that when you're talking about iconic designs, the story behind the design has to relate back to the brand.



"THE LUGGER WOOD IS ALSO A REALLY SPECIAL PIECE... MADE FROM AN ACTUAL PASPALEY PEARLING LUGGER"

Lugger Wood bracelet \$46,800; Lugger Wood ring \$26,800.



Original Paspaley pearling lugger.

completely undrilled pearl. One of the other beautiful things about our Paspaley pearls is that we don't treat them in any way. No artificial enhancement. Almost all pearls in the world are treated to make them look like an Australian pearl, to make them look like they have lustre. Whereas what you see in the Paspaley showroom, or in your hand, is exactly the way the pearl came out of the shell. The lugger wood is also a really special piece. I wouldn't call it iconic because it uses wood from an actual Paspaley pearling lugger that belonged to my grandfather. The material is obviously finite. It's not as if it's a collection we can keep creating new designs for over the years, there's a limit. Rather, I would call it a collector's item. I think it

has a place in a museum, it's that rare. I draw a lot of inspiration from pearl farms themselves, but the town of Broome is really important in terms of pearling. They call it the pearl capital of the world. And back in the old days, when my grandfather started pearling, it was very different to pearling today. Today, Paspaley is the leading pearling company in the world. We have the most sophisticated pearling operations, with a whole fleet of fibreglass pearling vessels that we've designed and built ourselves. But our story begins with the pearling lugger that my grandfather built when he was only 18. He found a hull on the beach, an old damaged boat, and built a little lugger himself. Went out to sea as a pearler at

These field trips have brought about iconic pieces for us, including Lavalier. We always go on the trips with an idea in our mind, like a brief or something we want to capture. For Lavalier it was wanting a design that allowed our customers to wear an undrilled pearl. That is actually much more difficult than you can imagine, because you don't want to set a pearl in a way they can get scratched or harmed. So our designer Catherine [Büman] went out to our pearl farms, and she saw the nets that hold our pearl shells and those nets are what inspired Lavalier, which is an undrilled pearl that is held inside a gold mesh/net that has a crown that can open and close so that the pearl can be removed if you want and it can be held – a

18. But in those days, when you went out to sea, there was a high risk you would never return home. In those days, pearlers were people trying to change their destiny, born with no luck I suppose, and one single pearl could change the destiny of a man, their entire life. My grandfather found a natural pearl, and just to show the value of a single natural pearl in those days, when he returned to Broome, he bought three extra pearling luggers using the proceeds from that single pearl. So now he has a fleet of four, and that was really the beginning of the Paspaley fleet. So, this jewellery collection that we've named Lugger Wood features wood from one of these luggers and is very beautiful and special to my family, but also to our clients. My grandfather donated one lugger, his last lugger, to the museum in Darwin. All we had left was this one block of wood that came from the mast and this is what we used for this range of jewellery. I took the designers for that story to Broome itself. I got one of our skippers, our pearl farm manager who has worked with our company for 20 years, to take the designers and myself around Broome. He took us out when the tide was low, there were these chains with odd blocks of wood. Very decayed wood from when the pearling luggers were left to rot at the collapse of the pearling industry in the 1940s. They've just been there for that long, and that inspired one of our designers, Joao Vaz, to create a collection using pearl lugger wood. When he came to me with this idea and these designs, I thought it was ludicrous. "Where are we going to get the lugger wood from?" And he said, "I don't know." And this is what I really love – when designers reach beyond what they think is possible, when they feel like there's no limit. We started investigating and we found the same guy who took us around Broome, and he told us, "We actually do have a piece of Paspaley lugger wood." It's amazing the things that can happen just from starting the conversation. I think that bonding with team members is one of the most important things in business. I think that when we travel out there as a team, stepping away from our world, I am so close to our designers. I would even regard them as my closest friends. That's really important, because often when we're talking in a language that doesn't have words, it's visual, we all need to just absolutely understand what we're trying to convey. Especially when you're working with three-dimensional forms. If you don't understand each other you can miss the point. Even the Lavalier, for example – our designer Catherine, that was just in her notebooks and she hadn't presented it to me, but I asked her if I could flip through her sketches. And I saw this very rudimentary drawing of this idea of a pearl in a net. I totally fell in love with it. It's because I can understand the way she's thinking when I look at her designs. I think that going on these trips together has really enabled us to be able to do that.



Jaryd Clifford competing in the Great Whitehaven Beach Run.

PHOTOGRAPHY: HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY.

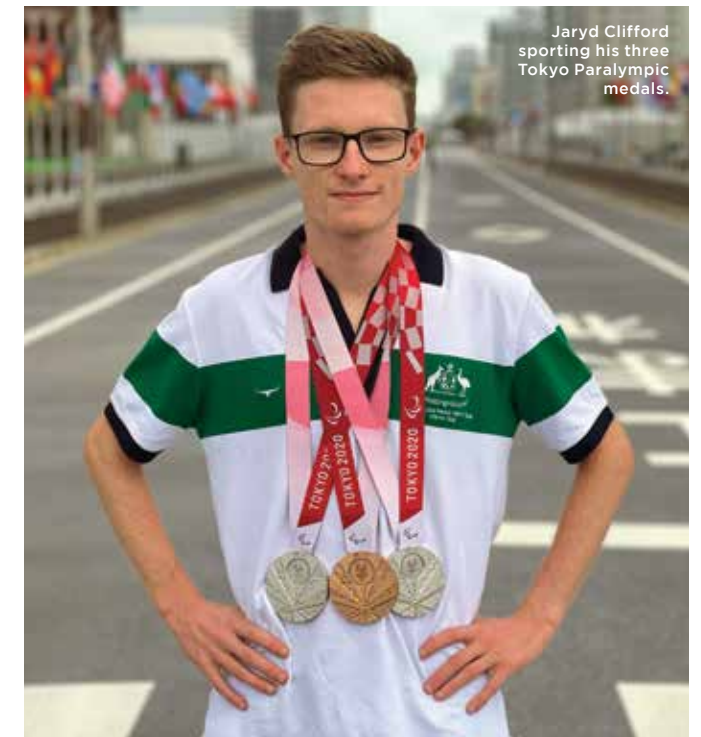
## Lining up with a CHAMPION

En route to the Tokyo Paralympics, world champion Jaryd Clifford swerved by our island to conquer the Great Whitehaven Beach Run. Tracey Withers talks to the Australian triple-threat about going for it.



Jaryd Clifford with Michael Roeger qualifying for the Tokyo Paralympics.

“I FIRST FELL IN LOVE WITH THIS SPORT BECAUSE IT GAVE ME A SENSE OF FREEDOM...”



Jaryd Clifford sporting his three Tokyo Paralympic medals.

Having clocked up 1:13:45 to win the half-marathon at the annual Great Whitehaven Beach Run in June 2021, Jaryd Clifford is riding high and triumphant. For a world champion 1,500m, 5,000m and marathon runner, the 21.1km distance itself wasn't exactly intimidating, but the silica sand that looks so dreamy on postcards? That was a pure punishment. “I haven't really run on sand before and it's tough going,” he says. “You can't get into a rhythm easily, you don't get much response from the ground. Luckily, I run light on my feet anyway.” The wind blasted and the tide also came in to make him feel the burn. “I was hurting quite a bit – my time's probably a good 10 minutes slower than I'd do on a road.” But he still loved it. “This is one of the most idyllic settings in the world and I kept thinking, ‘this is epic,’” he says. “It's one of the most special races of my career so far.” Runner's endorphins are one thing, but reaching his full potential has extra meaning for Clifford. “I first fell in love with this sport because it gave me a sense of freedom that I didn't necessarily feel I was getting in everyday life,” says the 22-year-old, who was diagnosed with juvenile macular degeneration, a disorder that causes progressive vision loss, as a child. Clifford was mad for AFL and knew he had the passion to make it in sport, but as his vision steadily deteriorated in primary school, he realised “ball sports weren't going to deliver

my dreams”. So he laced up the runners. “The track is a controlled environment, a place I felt I could really push myself without fear.” His grit and endurance were quickly spotted by a Paralympics scout, and a few short years later he was at the Rio Games. When we first speak, there are only weeks between Clifford and the Tokyo Paralympics, and the open sand at Whitehaven sparks the same excitement and joy. He usually navigates trickier tracks and road courses with a guide to help spot obstacles, but he did Whitehaven alone. “The course is straight out and back, so I could run relatively freely unaided. The other really amazing thing about this course is that you're constantly running past people and they're cheering and clapping you on the whole time. It feels incredible.” Big positive energy is what attracts elite athletes like Clifford to events like Whitehaven. “Talking with racers of all kinds whose idea of a holiday is sand running for the fun of it is infectious,” he says. He reckons anyone could come and have a crack. “That's what I love about running – it's such a social thing. It's open to everyone and accepting of everyone.” Events where amateurs get to share a track with heroes make running unique. “You can't rock up to FC Barcelona and play with [Lionel] Messi, but everyday runners can bump into the best runners in Australia or the world at something like this.” Not that racing is ever really a social call. “Whenever I get on the starting line, I'm a

competitor,” he concedes. No kidding. In April, while pacing his mate and fellow Paralympian Michael Roeger through a Tokyo Games qualifying marathon, Clifford, who had not trained or even planned to complete the course, ran a blistering 2:19:08, “accidentally” setting a new T12 world record. What a legend. “It hasn't really sunk in yet,” he says of the staggering result. “Marathons are the pinnacle of [distance] running, so it means the world to me.” Clifford prepared for Tokyo and the 1,500m, 5,000m and marathon races “running every day, doing about 140 to 145km a week, [leading] up to the August pre-departure camp.” The heavy mileage was all about building beast-mode fitness. He handled the uncertainty around the Games with his head firmly in the game, all of which garnered him an incredible three medal win for Team Australia. When we speak afterwards he says, “every morning during my teens I'd wake up and my first thought would be about Tokyo. Everything was geared towards this moment. The dream was all about winning gold. I didn't quite get there in Tokyo, but I gave it absolutely everything. I fought with everything I had. To come home with three Paralympic medals, however, is still a dream come true. I'm proud of the way I represented Australia and all the people that believe in me. Now, the focus turns to Paris in 2024 where hopefully I can turn my silvers and bronze into gold.” @jarydclifford



Hamilton Island Golf Club - 'I remember the first time I visited Hamilton Island. I got a tingly feeling as soon as I boarded the ferry to head over to Dent Island'.

## DRAMA CLASS

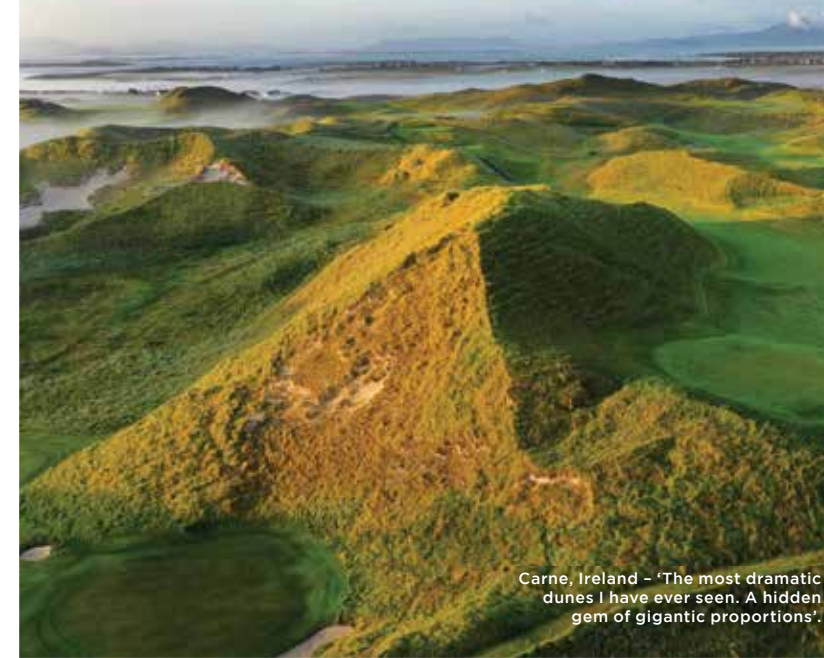
**G**ary Lisbon grew up playing golf in the Melbourne region. "I always had dreams to become a member of one of the Melbourne Sandbelt courses, which I am now – Royal Melbourne. I loved the game of golf and started taking my camera around the course and snapped a few photos." Since then he has photographed more than 525 courses in 22 countries. "Early on, they were pretty average photos, but they gradually got better, and with the advent of digital cameras I could get immediate feedback. I think the passion came from being out on the course first thing in the morning and seeing the morning sun light up the course." Of his own game he is self-deprecating. "Some days, yes, I'm good. Some days, no. I currently play off an 8.6 handicap and, like most golfers, I'm frustrated by certain parts of my game." It was a love for golf that came first, though. "Definitely golf. From the age of 15 I had the

Gary Lisbon has been photographing golf courses around the world for the past 20 years. Here he talks about his passion and shares some of the most extraordinary experiences with REEF.

golfing bug and tried to play as much as I could – often 36 holes on each day of the weekend. The love for photography came a fair bit later." Over the past 30 years he has been collecting coffee-table books featuring golf courses from around the world. "I was inspired by the best golf photographers – people like Joann Dost, Brian Morgan and David Cannon – all of whom I call close friends now. I still remember my first time in a helicopter taking photos. It was at Kauri Cliffs in New Zealand – the most scenic course you could imagine – and David was on site to take photos for one of his books.

He asked me if I would like to come up in the owner's helicopter with him and I jumped at the opportunity. I managed to capture one of my favourite images – the 7th at Kauri Cliffs – and we have remained close friends ever since." Lisbon's path to taking golf course photographs was unusual – he was a chartered accountant working for a major accounting firm in the audit department. "I didn't really enjoy what I was doing but managed to secure the audit of Kingston Heath Golf Club. I would work there and then the club allowed me to go out after work and play some holes. I played about 11

PHOTOGRAPHY: GARY LISBON GOLFPHOTOS.COM.AU



Carne, Ireland - 'The most dramatic dunes I have ever seen. A hidden gem of gigantic proportions'.



Kauri Cliffs, New Zealand - 'My first time in a helicopter. Amazing vistas'.



Cape Kidnappers, New Zealand - 'A dramatic cliffside course prior to drones - I needed to hire a helicopter'.

holes in an hour before dark and loved it!" An opportunity then came to work with major winner and golfing great Ian Baker-Finch. "After being with Ian for about two years, my wife Maureen and I started our own business, firstly specialising in corporate golf and golf holidays and then finally moving into the area of golf course photography." Lisbon's work is a rich patchwork of form and spectacular lighting – he captures the sculptural holes with all their abundance of nature. "It's all about timing," he explains. "There is what is known as the 'golden hour' in landscape photography, where the sun sits just above the horizon and casts long shadows over the course. It lasts for about 45 minutes to an hour at the start and end of the day. "Ahead of a shoot I will try to scope out the course online. Ideally I would find a course map showing the routing of the holes and how they relate to one another. I overlay the sunrise

and sunset points to gain an understanding of which holes will photograph best at which time. When on site I will try to get to the course ahead of when the sun comes up and try to scope out further the kind of shots I want to capture. So while I follow a process, it does not always work out that way and so much of what I do is 'on the day'. A scene may present itself and I just need to be ready to capture the shot."

He combines on-the-ground imagery with drone shots. "The advent of the drone in the past five years has certainly enabled me to capture a lot more in a shorter period of time. I can also use the drone to see when the sun is going to come up and where it is likely to hit the course first and then head over to that point." One of the most adrenaline-charged moments that he has captured was in New Zealand and he still remembers it clearly. "I was at Cape Kidnappers, which is a dramatic clifftop golf course where being in the sky will ensure the most dramatic images. I hired a little, two-person helicopter – picture the TV show Mash to give you an idea. No door on it to enable me to capture images unhindered and, prior to taking off, the pilot put an extra piece of duct tape around the seatbelt 'just in case'. This did not fill me with much peace of mind... The helicopter then took off and I managed to capture the most dramatic shots of the course. One of my favourites is the simplicity of the 15th hole, showing a sliver of fairway and the water." Hamilton Island Golf Club's course is also memorable. "I remember the first time I visited Hamilton Island. I got a tingly feeling as soon as I boarded the ferry to head over to Dent

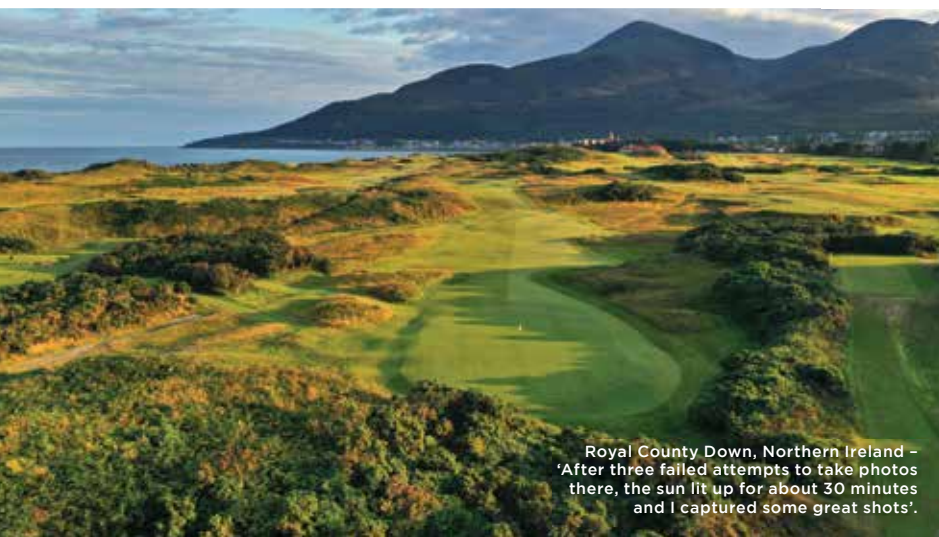
## "TO HAVE A GOLF COURSE CONTAINED ON ITS OWN ISLAND WITH NOT MUCH ELSE IS UNIQUE."

Island. It is a very special golf course. To have a golf course contained on its own island with not much else is unique. The vistas are to die for from numerous places around the course – think 4, 5, 14, 15, 16 and 18 – and it is a photographer's delight. The Whitsunday island backdrops are exquisite, and the dramatic elevation changes create a sense of awe as you stand on the tee, surveying what is before you. The way the holes are carved through the natural vegetation adds to the beauty, but at the same time it makes me shake my head and ask, 'How did they manage to build a golf course here?'"

Lisbon has two pieces of advice for other photographers: "Pick the right time of the day, as that will ensure the best warmth of colours to maximise the beauty of the shot. Yes, it means an early start, but the early bird catches the worm. Secondly, think carefully about the composition of your shots – try to lead the golfer viewing the image into the shot. I generally like to have something in the foreground of my shots, be it a bunker, tree framed to the side of the shot, or a pathway leading the viewer into the shot."



Cypress Point, California – 'A very private course located on the Monterey Peninsula. Wow is the only way to describe it, and the ocean holes are just exquisite'.



Royal County Down, Northern Ireland – 'After three failed attempts to take photos there, the sun lit up for about 30 minutes and I captured some great shots'.



Tara Iti, New Zealand – 'So beautiful, so fun to play'.



Turnberry, Scotland – 'The richness of colour, the drama of the coastline and a lighthouse to boot'.

## CHILL OUT

### The Hamilton Island holiday playlist.



1. *Borderline (Blood Orange Remix)* by Tame Impala
2. *Nana* by Rainer Scheurenbrand
3. *Performer* by Maple Glider
4. *Pink Purple Blues* by Hether
5. *Joanie* by Clairó
6. *Mystery of Love* by Sufjan Stevens
7. *At the Chime of a City Clock* by Nick Drake
8. *Fire* by Rhye
9. *I've Been Daydreaming My Entire Life* by Washed Out
10. *Solar Power* by Lorde
11. *Carry Me Away* by John Mayer
12. *Break Me Gently* by Doves
13. *Alone in Kyoto* by Air
14. *In Another Time* by Sade
15. *Beach Baby* by Bon Iver
16. *Eye to Eye* by Jordan Rakei
17. *Visions* by José González
18. *The Water* by Feist
19. *Myth* by Beach House
20. *Surf* by Mac Miller
21. *Red Room* by Hiatus Kaiyote
22. *Whatever Tomorrow* by Chet Faker
23. *As Does the Sun* by Look Blue Go Purple

To listen, scan the Spotify code below:



# Meet the TRAILBLAZERS



Connor Harris.

Reckon life on a little island would be too quiet for kids? No way! REEF catches up with the local action pack to find out what they've been up to.

If you're hiking the trails that crisscross the bush between beaches and secret coves after 4pm on a Tuesday, look sharp: a streak of green on spinning wheels is likely to go whooshing past. That will be the mountain biking club. Led by Hamilton Island's environmental officer Kyle Pevitt-Scott, this gang of about seven primary school kids slip on their biking team t-shirts and hit the bush together every week. The club's favourite tracks include Coral Cove, Escape Beach loop or Flat Top. But South East Head is the best. "I like it because it's mainly downhill and there are a lot of cool berms," says 10-year-old Brock Childs. "A berm is when you

do tight, fast corners - Turner's Bermer is the best one on the track." Brock and the team are heading to Eungella soon to ride their first race. Kids usually have to be aged 14 to compete but this young crew isn't the usual. "It's so hilly here that the kids are a lot fitter than other kids their age," says Brock's mum, Deb, a recruitment and development manager on the island. "I also do the triathlons and Whitehaven Beach Run," adds Brock. This island breeds 'em tough. And talented. Sixth-grader Russell Harris is officially the island's only unicyclist. It's an ambitious task on such steep terrain, but Russell's no quitter. He also loves sailing squad, where he's in the Open

Skiff class with his twin brother, Connor. Connor won the 2021 Junior Hilly Half Marathon (he remains chill about that - "Yeah, it was pretty good," he says) and just smashed the regional cross-country trials with school. "I came second in the North Queensland trials and participated in the Queensland trials in Ipswich in July." Aha, so he's the guy to ask about the sweetest runs. His favourite trail is Passage Peak. The steepest one. "That's what I like about it - I like the big uphill push and that it's hard." Soft sand's no big deal either. The Hamilton Island edition of parkrun, the free community running session that happens in towns and cities all over the world, happens on the beach. "Lots of kids do it and we run the whole length

of Catseye Beach," Connor says. "Twice!" The twins, like most of the boys and girls on the island, have met loads of the sports stars that come to take on events on the island's sporting calendar. "The footy player from Collingwood AFL Mason Cox and netballer Geva Mentor came and we got to do a trail run with them," says Russell. Boring doesn't really happen around here. The twins' mum, Jeanette, general manager of Hamilton Island Holiday Homes, says island life has been brilliant for her family. A New Zealand native, she and her husband first moved here with the boys, then only three, after a stint in Abu Dhabi. "We figured we'd hang around a couple of years, but now they kids are 11 and we've really enjoyed it."

"I LOVE THE BIG UPHILL PUSH AND THAT IT'S HARD."

In 2017 the family started a two-year "seabatical" adventure, sailing a yacht from the Mediterranean to NZ via Morocco, the Canary Islands, the Caribbean and patches of paradise across the Pacific. But Hamilton Island won them back in the end. "The children have a lot of freedom here," Jeanette says. "Everybody knows everyone's kids, so they can't get into too much trouble." Connor adds: "I love living so close to all of my friends and that we can ride our bikes everywhere." And Russell remembers something else: "I've also been doing windsurfing down at Catseye with my dad." There's always Hobie Cats or kayaking to do next. "I've lived here my whole life and I'm never going to get bored by going to the beach every day," says Brock. "We're always jet-skiing, sailing, swimming or at mini golf, go-karting, or the oval kicking a footy. I like just going out into nature to play."

PHOTOGRAPHY: RILEY WILLIAMS; HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY.



Perfect for relaxing.



Pristine plunge pool.



The aspect across Dent Passage and Hamilton Island Yacht Club.



Room with a view.

# Paradise FOUND

Perfectly positioned close to the Hamilton Island Yacht Club, the magnificently appointed Yacht Club Villa 28 is on the market and one of the most luxurious properties on the island. By Esther Holmes.

The spectacular Yacht Club Villas are by Walter Borda Design, whose work is defined by “an imaginative integration between building and landscapes, incorporating a signature style of natural forms and material”. The flowing roofscapes and sculptural textures are designed to create a casual sense of luxury within this beautiful tropical environment. Yacht Club Villa 28 features a split level design with impressive views across both the marina and the turquoise waters of Dent Passage. Newly-furnished and recently updated with flawless interior design, there are four stylish and generous bedrooms, each with its own private bathroom. The state-of-the-art open-plan kitchen is well

“THE YACHT CLUB VILLAS REALLY ARE ONE OF THE JEWELS OF THE ISLAND.”

equipped with Miele appliances and the entire large comfortable living space opens out on to an outdoor terrace with dining furniture – the perfect setting for elegant entertaining. There’s also fully-ducted air conditioning and a full range of new electronic entertainment systems. To complete the package, Yacht Club Villa 28 not only has access to the shared waterfront lagoon pool, but its own private plunge pool on the lower level balcony. Lynn Milsom, of Hamilton Island Real Estate, says, “The Yacht Club Villas really are one of the jewels of Hamilton Island and Yacht Club Villa 28 optimises the level of luxury the villas represent. With some of the best investment returns on Hamilton Island – these really are one of the finest buys on the market.”



Expansive entertaining.

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

**PAVILLIONS 23**  
1 AIRPORT DRIVE  
**\$3,250,000**

3 3 1

This stylish luxury apartment complex is the only one on the island that offers the convenience and prestige of a private marina berth right at the door. With its views across the marina and to Dent Island, it's not hard to see why these properties are tightly held and much sought after. The recently renovated kitchen adjoins an open plan dining and living area, offering a modern design and a beautiful setting for entertaining friends and family. The living room's concertina glass doors open onto an expansive wraparound balcony that overlooks the marina - another way to enjoy the gorgeous views.



**KINGFISHER**  
6 MARINA DRIVE  
**\$2,990,000**

4 3 1

Beautifully appointed, this stunning holiday home offers everything you could dream of in your lifestyle investment property. With a strong return potential, this fully furnished property offers endless family entertainment, including a kids retreat, in-ground pool, choice of outdoor-entertaining areas and breathtaking views over the marina and Whitsunday Passage.



**SHORELINES 23**  
5 ACACIA DRIVE  
**\$945,000**

2 2 1

This tightly held, popular paradise premises is now available to purchase for the first time since development. Designed to welcome you with mesmerising views of the surrounding Whitsundays, Shorelines 23 features a convenient split level design. A gourmet kitchen and an abundance of entertaining space complete the perfect holiday home for your family, friends and guests to enjoy. The property is being sold fully furnished and ready for use, including the buggy. There is nothing to do but settle in, relax and immerse yourself in the dream island lifestyle.

**PEBBLE BEACH**  
10 MELALEUCA DRIVE  
**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

3 3 2

If you are looking for exclusivity, it doesn't get more unique than Pebble Beach. Designed by renowned Whitsundays property designer, Chris Beckingham, this is the only home on the island with direct access to a pebble beach. This stunning property features a split level, indoor-outdoor design with hardwood floors, high ceilings and a multitude of balcony living spaces with spectacular views. Other features include ceiling fans, split system air conditioning, eastern view lines, a one acre lot size and complete privacy whilst enjoying your very own island getaway.



**BAYBREEZE D**  
5 EASTVIEW LANE  
**\$399,000**

1 1

The cool and breezy southeast-facing aspect, peaceful leafy outlook and water views make this apartment's building popular with island residents and staff for permanent accommodation. Featuring a simple and functional floor plan, the one-bedroom, one-bathroom furnished Baybreeze D is set across a split level and boasts picturesque balcony views and a quiet yet convenient location. Adding to the exceptional value of this property is an exclusive allocated buggy-parking spot with power outlet. Recently renovated with a modern finish, it's ready for the new owner to collect their return.

**EDGE 21**  
21/5A ACACIA DRIVE  
**\$2,195,000 - \$2,300,000**

3 2

Edge 21 is the top end unit of the development, achieving highest price paid off the plan. This stunning apartment is now for sale and provides an excellent investment opportunity. Panoramic views toward qualia and beyond showcase what Whitsunday living is all about. Exquisitely furnished, the open plan living and dining opens to a huge balcony, perfect for capturing the magnificent sunsets. Upstairs boasts a large private master bedroom with a generous ensuite and balcony. A 25m wet edge pool, with dual spa and sun lounge area, complete this amazing package.



**PROPERTY SALES: CONTACT LIAM KEARNEY 0458 178 601 OR LYNN MILSOM 0415 039 060**  
The properties featured in the REEF Magazine Real Estate section are available at time of print. For a full listing of properties for sale or to review recently sold properties, visit the Hamilton Island Real Estate office on Front Street, or go to [www.hamiltonislandrealestate.com.au](http://www.hamiltonislandrealestate.com.au)  
**PROPERTY SALES: 07 4948 9101 PERMANENT RENTALS: 07 4946 8028 HOLIDAY HOMES PROPERTY MANAGEMENT: 07 4946 8746**



**INFINITY**

11 WHITSUNDAY BOULEVARD  
**OFFERS OVER \$3,999,000**

5 5 2

This stunning luxury home that has been exquisitely designed and furnished is situated on 2035sqm of land, with an open plan, three level design. Kitchen, dining, living and balcony are on the upper level which ensures breathtaking views when entertaining. The middle level consists of an impressive master bedroom and second generous bedroom, both with open plan ensuites, along with a third bedroom and laundry. The lower level features a second enormous master and an additional large ensuite bedroom, lounge and kitchenette that open to a large deck and infinity pool and spa.



**PAVILLIONS 13**

1 AIRPORT DRIVE  
**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

3 3 1

Located in one of the most sought-after and exclusive luxury apartment complexes on Hamilton Island, this newly renovated property is the ultimate island home. Spaciously set on a single level on the first floor, it has spectacular northern views across the Hamilton Island Marina and beyond. The expansive kitchen, open plan living/dining area, luxurious media room and study are complemented by a spacious wraparound balcony and private spa. Other features include a secure garage, an 18m marina berth, and exceptional furnishings and fixtures. Not only that, the property is conveniently located within walking distance of the marina precinct.



**THE PALMS**

23 MELALEUCA DRIVE  
**OFFERS OVER \$1,950,000**

4 4 1

Located on the island's most prestigious street, this stylishly renovated home is set high and surrounded by tropical palms, creating a private and secluded oasis. With a large media room and full sized pool table, there is always something to keep you entertained. The lower level fully renovated kitchen and dining opens to a shaded and private outdoor patio. On the upper level, the master suite features a renovated ensuite and private timber deck. Positioned at the back of a generous 1602sqm lot, there is an abundance of space to add a caretaker's cottage and pool, turning your investment into an enviable holiday home.

**WHITSUNDAY APARTMENTS WEST 1003**

14 RESORT DRIVE  
**\$569,000**

1 1

Conveniently close to Catseye Beach, this self-contained apartment is a popular holiday destination and great investment. Situated on level 10, the spacious, 84sqm property accommodates up to five guests and has a well equipped kitchen, open plan lounge and dining area, and a large bedroom with dual-access bathroom. The generous balcony provides stunning uninterrupted views of picturesque Whitsunday Island, and the complex's large, lagoon pool with spa is the perfect place to soak up the sun and enjoy tropical island living.



**FRANGIPANI 203**

20 RESORT DRIVE  
**\$1,190,000**

2 2 1

This stunning, renovated turn-key apartment is perfectly positioned on the top floor of the much sought after Frangipani Lodge. Whether you are looking for a home away from home or your next investment, this property is perfect for holiday letting with consistent high rental returns. Featuring spacious bedrooms, modern kitchen and bathrooms, large open plan living/dining area and an expansive balcony with uninterrupted views over iconic Catseye Beach, Frangipani 203 comes fully furnished and with a four-seater buggy.

**POINCIANA 212**

2 MARINA DRIVE  
**OFFERS ACCEPTED**

3 2 1

One of only six large three-bedroom apartments in this popular holiday let building, this well appointed apartment flows across a generous 156sqm floorplan. The recently renovated open plan kitchen and dining adjoin the large living room and onto the sprawling balcony with a stunning Coral Sea vista. The master bedroom with ensuite provides balcony access and is conveniently separated from an additional two bedrooms at the rear of the apartment. Positioned at the end of the complex, you are conveniently close to the shaded lagoon-style complex pool and barbecue facilities.



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**ELEMENT HILL**

5-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY  
FROM: \$5,500 PER NIGHT  
MAXIMUM CAPACITY:  
17 PEOPLE



8 8 2

With space for up to 17 guests, this brand new and impeccably designed home offers an exclusive and elevated position on the northern side of the island. Split over two levels with a sleek, contemporary interior, Element Hill also features a private pool, gym, outdoor fireplace, activity room and wraparound water views.



**WOODLANDS**

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

4 4 2

Located on the western side of the island, this thoughtfully designed, multi-level luxury home has open view lines over the Whitsundays and offers seamless indoor-to-outdoor living with a large outdoor space that includes manicured gardens and lawns. Four bedrooms and four bathrooms ensure there is comfort and space for all at Woodlands – a tranquil island escape awaits.



**SHORELINES 30**

3-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY  
FROM: \$570 PER NIGHT  
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 6 PEOPLE

2 2 1

Ideal for families or couples, this elevated split level apartment has sleek, modern interiors and furnishings, as well as a covered alfresco dining area with spectacular water views. It's also conveniently located on the marina side of the island, meaning it's only a short walk to the many cafes, restaurants and shops. A shared swimming pool in the complex completes the indulgent holiday experience.



**CLEAR WATER**

5-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY  
FROM: \$1,600 PER NIGHT  
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 8 PEOPLE

4 2 2

Offering spectacular views and one of the highest elevations on Hamilton Island, this luxurious home features an inviting, open plan layout and private heated plunge pool. Surrounded by lush, tropical gardens and with a design featuring plenty of natural timbers and stone, this stylish home is close to Hamilton Island's renowned One Tree Hill lookout.

**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](http://hamiltonislandholidayhomes.com.au)  
\*RATES QUOTED ARE LOW SEASON RATES. OTHER RATES AND DURATIONS OF STAY AVAILABLE, PLEASE ENQUIRE AT TIME OF BOOKING.

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## NEVER STRAIGHT

**It is said the shortest distance between two points is a straight line.** But at sea, charting any course comes with a slew of uncontrollable factors. The winds, the currents, the swell... Only the strongest will, the keenest experience and a sharp intuition can overcome such overwhelming powers. Only by keeping the highest expectations and harnessing the deepest resources can one chart a course between where one is and where one aims to be. There is very little chance it will ever be a straight line. **Yet more often than not, it will be the right one.**

*#Perpetual*



OYSTER PERPETUAL YACHT-MASTER II

