



MEET THE WELL-TRAVELED
STYLE EXPERTS LAURA BROWN
AND JUSTINE CULLEN

LEARN FROM LEADING CHEF
WILL COWPER AND SOMMELIER
BEN CABANGUN

THRILL WITH SPORTING
SUPERSTARS IRONMAN DANIEL
MCDONNELL AND TEENAGE
SAILOR ADDISON NEWLAN

R

REEF MAGAZINE

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ISSUE 25
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INTRODUCTION



Welcome to Hamilton Island and to this latest issue of REEF Magazine. 2022 has been really exciting for us. I joined the team as CEO earlier in the year and it's been wonderful immersing myself in island life, and learning more about this beautiful place. In August, we hosted the hugely successful Hamilton Island Race Week, welcoming a fleet of more than 220 boats after a two-year hiatus as a result of Covid. It was so exciting to be there and see sailors and good friends reunite to enjoy their sport and watch the island come alive with an equally impressive line-up of onshore events. Our four Endurance Series events held across

the year saw competitors join us to test their fitness on our dramatic terrain and recover while taking in all the island has to offer. We also welcomed back The Australian Ballet in October for pas de deux in paradise at qualia. This was the first time under the artistic direction of David Hallberg, with the event providing a rare insight into life behind the scenes of The Australian Ballet and culminating in a magical performance under the stars. Hamilton Island's calendar of annual events has been carefully calibrated to provide our guests with a range of colourful, bucket-list experiences on the island, and we look forward to bringing these back in 2023 for all to enjoy. As current custodians of the island we take on a responsibility to care for and protect this incredible environment, and are always looking for ways in which we can minimise our impact. We now treat one million litres of water per day, with 95 per cent reused throughout the island's tropical gardens and lawns. We also have seven liquid food composters on the island that convert food waste to grey water, diverting 125 tonnes from landfill each year.

The best way to understand why our unique environment needs protecting is to experience it first hand, and we are pleased to offer guests many ways to explore our outstanding natural beauty. Our recently upgraded walking trails are designed to encourage visitors to explore the natural bushland that makes up 75 per cent of the island, leading to some newly built lookouts as part of our Icons Trail. Over on Whitsunday Island, Queensland Parks and Wildlife are working on the Ngaro Walking Track, estimated for completion in 2024. This is a multi-day walk and will provide another way to connect with nature and learn more about the traditional owners of the Whitsundays, the Ngaro people. On behalf of the Oatley family, we thank you for joining us here on the island. We wish you a wonderful stay and hope you enjoy taking in the beauty of our incredible surrounds.

Pete Brulisauer
CEO, Hamilton Island

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

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REEF MAGAZINE is published for Hamilton Island Enterprises Ltd (ABN 61 009 946 909)
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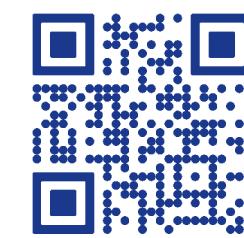
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CONTRIBUTORS



TRACEY WITHERS,
EDITOR AND
FREELANCE WRITER

BEST RECENT ADVENTURE?
“I just spent an incredible few days on the New South Wales South Coast on an Aboriginal immersive experience. Life shifting.”

ULTIMATE HAPPY PLACE?
“Salt water. The ocean fixes everything.”

TRAVEL BUCKET LIST?

“To sail my yacht from Europe home to Australia over a year. Or two? Who knows ...”

TIME TRAVEL. WHERE WOULD YOU RETURN?

“I think about this a lot. I think I’ve got a ’70s soul but I’d probably want a peep at what’s coming next. Send me 100 years into the future.”

PLAYLIST SONG ON REPEAT?
“I’m a chronic channel-flicker so rarely repeat, but if I’m feeling wound up, Gurrumul is my go-to for instant calm. Gorgeous.”

PODCAST?

“I’m taking a breather from podcasts. I need to stop cramming every minute with more noise, thoughts, talk, distractions. I need more ... nothing.”

BINGE WATCHING?

“I’ve just started the new season of *The Crown*. I’m not sure if I love it yet but Elizabeth Debicki is unreal.”

BEST HOLIDAY BOOK?

“I just finished the *The Labyrinth* by Amanda Lohrey. It’s one for reading in a long, leisurely way in a place that makes you think.”

SUNDOWNER?

“Gin. Or a very cold, very crisp and dry Australian riesling.”

CATHERINE
LAMBERT,
JOURNALIST

BEST RECENT ADVENTURE?
“Finally fulfilled a dream to go to Uluru. It’s not just about seeing the brilliant play of colours there but to feel the energy, especially if you can get away from the tourists, it is really special.”

ULTIMATE HAPPY PLACE?
“Every time my husband and I leave Queensland, we turn to each other with glum faces and ask ‘Why?’.”

TRAVEL BUCKET LIST?
“I’ve travelled a lot alone but there are certain places I’d love to share with my husband: Kyoto, Venice, The Whitsundays.”

TIME TRAVEL. WHERE WOULD YOU RETURN?
“In the right circumstances, the 1930s.”

PLAYLIST SONG ON REPEAT?
“I recently discovered Australian bluegrass singer Kristy Cox. Her *Shades of Blue* album is so well written with sweet melodies.”

PODCAST?
“I don’t listen to many but always check out Dr Norman Swan’s *Health Report*.”

BINGE WATCHING?
“*Hidden*. It’s Welsh, scary, a bit slow, quite different but I have to see it through.”

BEST HOLIDAY BOOK?
“Anything by Paulo Coelho. Currently it’s *Eleven Minutes*.”

SUNDOWNER?
“Always Champagne.”



DARREN JAHN,
WINE EXPERT

BEST RECENT ADVENTURE?
“Hobart and Bruny Island with a little group of foody mates. Such amazing produce, wine and scenery. Loved it.”

ULTIMATE HAPPY PLACE?
“Anywhere by the ocean ideally with a cocktail or glass of Champagne.”

TRAVEL BUCKET LIST?
“I really want to do an African safari tour. I am very keen to see their amazing wildlife in situ.”

TIME TRAVEL. WHERE WOULD YOU RETURN?
“I’d love to go back to the French Riviera. My last European trip was far too short. I loved the amazing views over the Mediterranean.”

PLAYLIST SONG ON REPEAT?
“*Cold Heart* by Dua Lipa and Elton John.”

PODCAST?
“Don’t do them!”

BINGE WATCHING?
“I was late to the party, but recently discovered *Broadchurch* on Netflix. It’s an engaging British television crime drama series starring Olivia Colman and David Tennant who are terrific as detectives solving a compelling murder mystery. The scenery is stunning.”

BEST HOLIDAY BOOK?
“Diana Reid’s *Seeing Other People*. Reid has a real talent for creating complicated, messy characters that get under your skin.”

SUNDOWNER?
“For some reason I’m craving a negroni sbagliato ... with prosecco in it (of course). The stunning Emma D’Arcy is to blame!”

EMMA JOYCE,
WRITER

BEST RECENT ADVENTURE?
“A beautiful walking track near the Hawkesbury River that’s usually closed to the public. It’s a protected area for native wildflowers and opens for a short time once a year.”

ULTIMATE HAPPY PLACE?
“Tramping through the bush, swimmers in my bag, heading to a pool of water for a dip. Bliss.”

TRAVEL BUCKET LIST?
“Japan. It’s been on my list for far too long.”

TIME TRAVEL. WHERE WOULD YOU RETURN?
“London in the swinging ’60s would be pretty cool to see.”

PLAYLIST SONG ON REPEAT?
“Childish Gambino’s *Feels Like Summer*: an instant mood booster.”

PODCAST?
“*Culinary Archive* hosted by food journo Lee Tran Lam. It’s about the foods that make us Australian, from oysters to Vegemite, and the facts she uncovers are fascinating.”

BINGE WATCHING?
“I’m spending too much time at the cinema or theatre to binge much, but I am looking forward to the next seasons of *Succession*, *The Bear* and *Severance*.”

BEST HOLIDAY BOOK?
“Diana Reid’s *Seeing Other People*. Reid has a real talent for creating complicated, messy characters that get under your skin.”

SUNDOWNER?
“I live in The Rocks, in Sydney. Nearby is the Hotel Palisade which has a rooftop bar, Henry Deane, that serves up fabulous cocktails with amazing sunset harbour views.”



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CASTAWAY



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Castaway ... MICHAEL “Wippa” WIPFLI

Imagine you're about to be stranded on a remote desert island, but are allowed to take a few essentials with you. What you pack will, after all, define who you are. Funnyman Michael Wipfli, one half of Sydney's Nova 96.9's Fitzy and Wippa breakfast team, tells us how he would survive and thrive.

Three essentials to pack?

“A photo of myself to remember what I used to look like. Some gaffa tape; you can build a house/hut with that stuff. A 100-foot superyacht to park out the front. Is that within the rules?”



What would you most regret not packing?

“Clothes. A power generator. A fridge.”

Your island accessory?

“A hammock, I won't have a lot to do.”

What would you miss most about reality?

“Vending machines. Uber Eats, unless they island deliver? Fresh underwear. Oh ... and my family. Sorry, yes, wife and three kids.”



A book?
“I would find a book written by a futurist, just to know what to expect when I rejoin the world after a decade. ‘Yeah guys, I was reading about flying cars 10 years ago.’”

Your island mantra?
“What is the one funny line I'm going to say when they find me.”

If you could channel one fictional character in the “downtime” – and there would be plenty of that – who would it be?
“Luca, from the Disney film. Luca can become a fish when he enters the water!”

What would you wear?
“Nothing. 100 per cent free, and nothing to worry about.”

How would you send your SOS?
“Smoke signals, a lot of burning off. Not torching the whole island of course but enough for them to think a new pope had been chosen.”

Who would rescue you?
“Have you seen the show *Dog the Bounty Hunter*? He can track down any insurance cheat or debt dodger in town. American, with a wild mullet, maybe him.”



Island hobby?

“Building. I would be able build a tree house like *The Swiss Family Robinson*.”

Favourite island movie for inspiration?

“*The Beach*. Leo in Thailand. Great soundtrack.”

One essential tool for the island?

“A small spade. Have you seen the Survival Builder guys on YouTube? They can dig a five-bedroom house with moat within a day. Very good.”



Your dream dish once you've been rescued?

“Peking duck pancakes. Extra plum sauce.”

First place you'd go when rescued?

“Hamilton Island's swim-up bar.”

TOP 10 TO DO



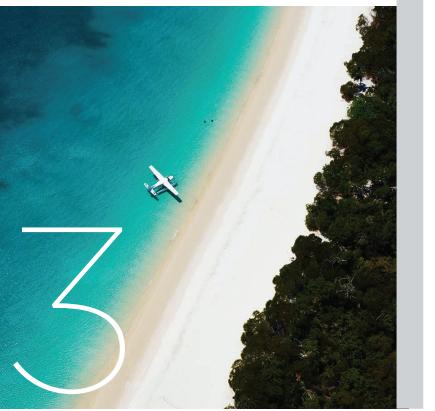
ADVENTURE: GREAT BARRIER REEF

A holiday to Hamilton Island is made complete by taking a trip to the Great Barrier Reef to see the incredible tropical fish and coral up close. There are many ways to enjoy this World Heritage site. One is to join Cruise Whitsundays and head out to Reefworld for a full day of snorkelling and exploring the beautiful Hardy Reef. Cruise Whitsundays also offers a once-in-a-lifetime overnight Reefsleep. This a magical experience sleeping on board the Reefworld pontoon, in a swag, under the stars. Explore Group tours secret spots on the Whitsundays' fringing reefs or outer reefs with the flexibility of a half- or full-day trip.



WONDERFUL: WHITEHAVEN BEACH

Its perfect seven kilometre-long stretch of bone-white silica sand, bordered by clear, turquoise sea, makes Whitehaven Beach a pinch-yourself paradise that is truly wonderful. It is 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 with half- and full-day options. Once you arrive, walk, swim or simply relax on the sand and marvel at a natural environment that regularly stars in glossy travel books and Instagram feeds.



PANORAMA: SERIOUS 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 range of scenic tours from which to choose, including helicopter, seaplane and aeroplane trips. Experiences range in price, with the one-hour Heart Reef & Whitehaven Beach Express aeroplane flight being the most affordable way to see the wondrous Heart Reef and also take in Hill Inlet, Whitehaven Beach and the Whitsunday islands from above. The Whitehaven Beach Funseeker seaplane trip reveals the full glory of this incredible natural wonder with its azure waters, a topographical treat that is followed by a perfect water landing and 75 minutes on the beach. The Best of Both Worlds outing affords amazing views of the Great Barrier Reef and includes a landing at the Reefworld pontoon and at Whitehaven Beach with time to swim, stroll or just relax.



FAUNA: HAMILTON ISLAND WILDLIFE

Hamilton Island Wildlife is a great activity for the whole family, giving you and the kids an opportunity to see some of the most familiar members of Australia's animal kingdom (bonus: the entry fee includes unlimited park visits). Take a guided tour with one of the expert keepers to learn about the country's unique fauna. Or join a Wildlife

Encounter, a group activity with a choice of five animals: a koala, cockatoo, reptile (python or lizard) or dingo. For the ultimate 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 and learn all about these amazing creatures. Afterwards, enjoy a coffee or light lunch at the wildlife park's café.



DRIVING: FOUR-WHEEL THRILLS AND 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 they're a great way to let off some city steam. No licence is required and the karts can reach up to 45km/h around the track. Kids too young to drive can still join in the fun, riding as passengers in a double kart. Offroad Adventure Tours offers exciting experiences for riders aged 20 years old and above. Drive an all-terrain vehicle (a full drivers licence is required) or let an expert guide you through scenic fire trails and up to the Resort Lookout. For children aged six to 14 years, Hamilton Island's Quad Bikes for Kids operates a short, child-friendly circuit that gets the adrenalin flowing.



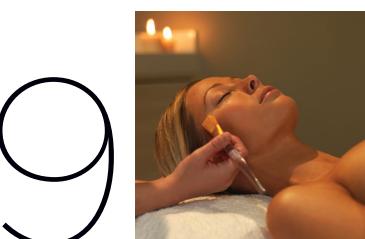
SUNSET: WAYS TO WATCH AND ENJOY

Hamilton Island sunsets are spectacular and to be enjoyed with friends. One of the best places for sunset drinks is at One Tree Hill where everyone gathers together to watch the big orb sink slowly into the sea, or enjoy a stylish sundowner at Hamilton Island Yacht Club's Bommie Deck. A privately chartered sunset cruise can be booked on one of three luxury vessels: Alani, Palm Beach or La Mar. Explore Group offers a daily sunset sail on board their catamaran On The Edge, around the Whitsunday islands, and a longer barbecue-dinner cruise aboard their Ocean Explorer. Ricochet Yachting's sunset sail is onboard their supersleek 47-foot catamaran, which takes up to 16 people. As darkness falls, enjoy live music at Marina Daze, or the whole family can head to the Hesperus Lawns for the weekly complimentary Moonlight Movie.



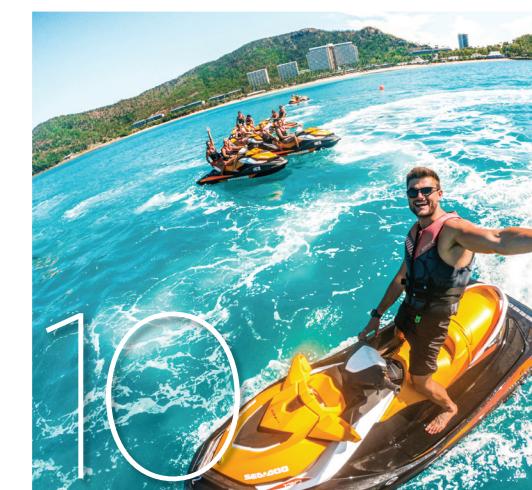
EPIC: HAMILTON ISLAND GOLF CLUB

Dent Island is home to one of Australia's most spectacular 18-hole courses: the Hamilton Island Golf Club, designed by five-time British Open champion, Peter Thomson. It's an incredibly beautiful course to play a 9 or 18-hole round, 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 type of menu that will satisfy a hungry golfer after a day on the course. There's also a well-stocked pro shop for any last-minute needs. The 10-minute ferry ride across to Dent Island is a wonderful way to begin and end a day's play, too.



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Booking ahead of your stay is highly recommended for all tours and activities. Scan the QR code to book, or 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.



BULLETIN BOARD

Race Week's ultimate battle; the Endurance Series' returning stars; skin checks and sunscreens; and an island restaurant wins big.



AND THE AWARD GOES TO ...

The TripAdvisor 2022 Travellers' Choice Best of the Best Awards for Restaurants has named Hamilton Island's Beach Club restaurant a winner. Travellers' Choice Best of the Best are TripAdvisor's top awards and identify and rank travellers' and diners' favourite restaurants across the globe, chosen not by a panel of judges, but by those who matter most: the diners. Beach Club restaurant, apart from delivering a delicious menu, also has amazing views over the resort's private infinity-edge pool to Catseye Beach, which was no doubt a huge factor in it being named in the top 10 Australian Date Night restaurants by TripAdvisor's 2022 judges.



Explore's new Whitsunday Reef Explorer offers a glimpse below.

UNDERWATER LOVE

Explore's new underwater adventure is now live, with guests able to experience the vibrancy of the reef from the comfort of an authentic glass-bottomed semi-submersible. The boat's ultra-wide glass viewing windows, and the accompanying expert commentary enjoyed during the 1.5-hour Whitsunday Reef Explorer tour, is a great way to enjoy the wonderworld of the corals and marine wildlife around Hamilton Island and the surrounding Whitsunday islands. We rate this the best way to see the reef while staying dry.

CHECK MATE

One of the biggest skin check campaigns of the year happens during Hamilton Island Race Week as Scott Maggs descends with his clever Skin Check Champions. Yes, check your skin is a simple message and it helps save lives. For the fifth year, the team provided free educational skin checks on Front Street, utilising world-class technology, talent and artificial intelligence. The week's wrap: 750 skin checks carried out; 1012 clinical images captured; 568 potential skin cancers diagnosed; and 56 potential melanomas detected. This awareness-raising service has literally saved hundreds of people from skin cancer during the years and is especially important for high-risk communities such as sailors who spend a lot more time in the sun.



PHOTOGRAPH: SALTY DINGO; RHIANNON TAYLOR; KARA ROSENBLUND; HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY.

FACING MECCA

Mecca Cosmetica is our go-to beauty brand and guests were thrilled to experience it during Hamilton Island Race Week. Neat Mecca Cosmetica golf buggies with deluxe samples on board toured the island, affording everyone day-long sun protection with top-ups of the brand's cult classic, To Save Face SPF50+ Superscreen Oxybenzone Free Formula. With Mecca's new superhero, To Save Face SPF50+ Brightening Sun Serum, also launched during the week, good skincare and sun protection was top of mind - and face - for guests. Remember always read the label, follow the directions for use and most importantly - avoid prolonged sun exposure, wear protective clothing, eyewear and a hat. Reapply as directed.



Mecca Cosmetica Race Week buggy.

THE AMAZING RACE

The final race of the 2022 Australian Yachting Championships at Hamilton Island Race Week was a battle for the ages, with Sandy Oatley taking to the helm of *Hamilton Island Wild Oats XI* and John Winning Jr skippering *Andoo Comanche*. Oatley, the chairman of Hamilton Island, doesn't normally race aboard or skipper the supermaxi: that duty usually falls to the legendary and highly respected Mark "Ricko" Richards. Oatley's presence made "*The Oats*" line honours win extra thrilling. "It was good fun," Oatley said after the race. "It was also very tense, swapping the lead a couple of times. It was a great competition; great sportsmanship and some luck fell our way at the end. It was fantastic helming." We like a win.



Sandy Oatley (second from right) celebrates with the crew of *Hamilton Island Wild Oats XI*.



The Australian Yachting Championships close out Race Week 2022.



WE ARE THE (RETURNING) CHAMPIONS

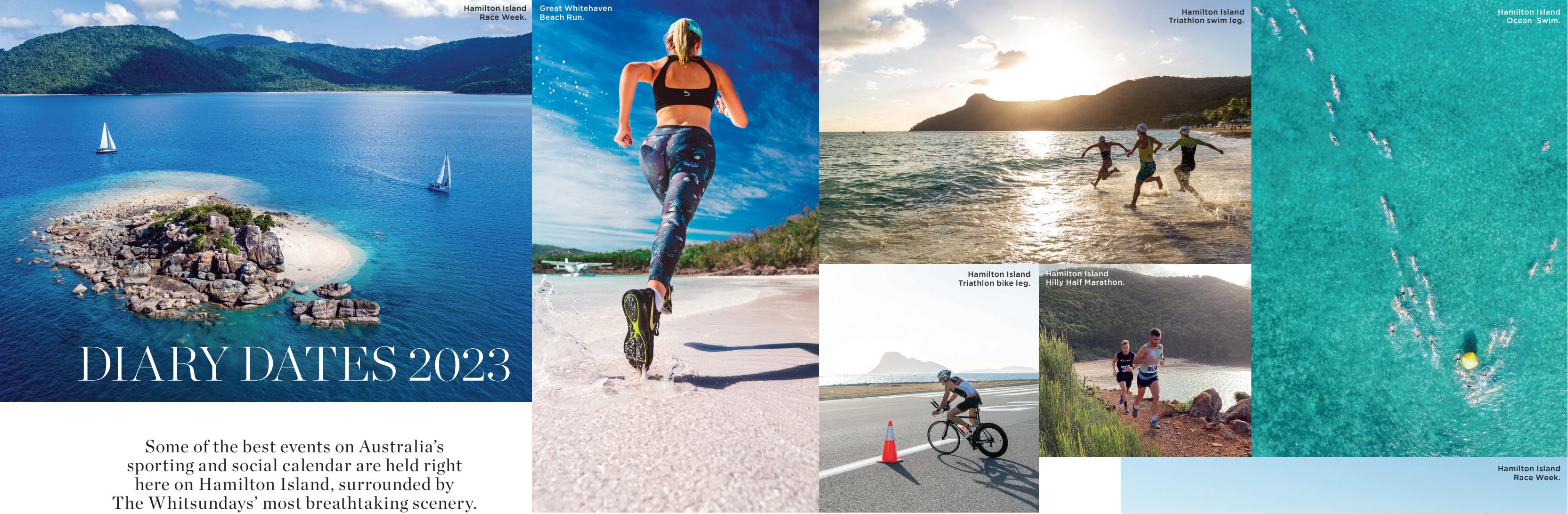
It proved a happy hunting ground for the 2022 Hamilton Island Endurance Series Triathlon and Ocean Swim champions, with all four winners previously tasting success in the tropics. Rising star and 2019 triathlon champion Emma Hogan returned after a Covid-enforced hiatus and dominated from the opening leg. Hogan opened a strong lead in the swim, pulling away on the bike leg and maintaining a four-minute lead through the run leg. The Proserpine native has been continuing her development under the tutelage of the legendary former World Triathlon Champion Emma Carney in Melbourne.

Local aviation firefighter Daniel McDonnell (see page 30) added a second Endurance Series title for 2022 to his collection and Luke McKenzie, more known for his long course racing – he has won nine Ironman titles during his illustrious career and finished second at the Ironman Hawaii event – rounded out the podium.

History repeated in the Ocean Swim, with young guns Jett Clayton and Hayley Andrejic successfully defending their titles with Clayton also holding off Whitsunday stars Jye Parkinson and Jacob Bell.

Hayley Andrejic showed her swimming pedigree by producing the fifth fastest swim of the day overall. Triathlon champ Hogan was second home, while Hayley's younger sister Maddison Andrejic was third on the podium, just ahead of swimming royalty and Olympic gold medallists Linda Single (nee Mackenzie) and Susie O'Neill. By Stephen Jackson

CALENDAR



DIARY DATES 2023

Some of the best events on Australia's sporting and social calendar are held right here on Hamilton Island, surrounded by The Whitsundays' most breathtaking scenery.

APRIL 25 ANZAC DAY

The dawn service is held at the time of the original landing at Gallipoli during World War I. Like those who congregate at memorials in cities, suburbs and towns across Australia, on Hamilton Island we gather to commemorate the lives of all Australians who have been lost in military operations. It's a poignant day for us all on the island. Join us at the Beach Pavilion for the dawn service, followed by a seaside sausage sizzle and then games of two-up at the Marina Tavern. Gold coin donations are directed to Airlie Beach RSL.

JUNE 25 THE GREAT WHITEHAVEN BEACH RUN

Calling all ages and abilities. The Great Whitehaven Beach Run is an event like no other, taking place at low tide on the hard-packed sand of one of the most photogenic beaches in the world. There's a race to suit all levels, from the fun of a kids' run through to a serious half-marathon, plus the five-kilometre and 10-kilometre events. Perhaps the trickiest challenge of all is remaining focused – try not to be mesmerised by that incredible turquoise tide – as everyone sprints to the finish line.

APRIL 30 HAMILTON ISLAND HILLY HALF MARATHON

It's an epic endurance run and we're already gearing up for the challenge. There's a race for everyone: a half-marathon for the fearless, a relay, and three distance options for the kids. The exciting courses weave through the island's dramatic bushland, along roads, fire trails and walking tracks. The diverse terrain makes this an interesting and ever-changing running experience that challenges athletes of all levels.

AUGUST 4-8 BRISBANE TO HAMILTON ISLAND YACHT RACE

Welcome competing yachts and crews as they arrive at Hamilton Island Marina, at the end of one of Australia's longest tropical Category 2 offshore races. Think of this as the lead-up to Hamilton Island Race Week. And we're off ...

AUGUST 19-26 HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK

One of the world's most prestigious yachting regattas and undeniably Australia's favourite.

The week features a well-planned blend of short races staged close to Hamilton Island, plus longer passage races around the beautiful tropical isles of the Whitsundays. Race Week has become an annual social event for competitors, their families and guests with onshore celebrations including plenty of feasting with special events hosted by renowned visiting chefs. The fun factor stretches from daylight to dusk and beyond, starting at the marina, where crews begin preparing their yachts, and continuing throughout the day.

NOVEMBER 25 HAMILTON ISLAND TRIATHLON

The combination of a swim in idyllic waters with a scenic cycle and a run that has both breathtaking views and challenging hills makes Hamilton Island Triathlon a truly memorable event. The spectator-friendly course means everyone can watch the action as it unfolds. The main race is followed by the Junior Triathlon and a splash'n dash event, guaranteeing a great day of family fun.

PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRIS BENNY; KEN BUTT; HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY.

NOVEMBER 26 HAMILTON ISLAND OCEAN SWIM

Dive into the island's Endurance Series with the Hamilton Island Ocean Swim, held in the clear, calm waters of Catseye Beach. There's a two-kilometre option or a more leisurely 750-metre course. The hardest part may well be post-race, when you'll have to choose between soaking up some sun on the sand or getting those weary muscles back into the beautiful sea for some much-needed hydrotherapy. There is also a hotly contested junior event, run over 350 metres, for competitors aged 13 and under.

DECEMBER 24 CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Join the Christmas festivities at the Beach Pavilion as the sun goes down, including a fireworks display that will light up the skyline. It's a great evening for the family and a chance to enjoy live entertainment, 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 make an appearance. Pack a picnic or pick up food and drinks at the Beach Pavilion kiosk.

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



Hamilton Island
Ocean Swim.

Hamilton Island
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Maritimo 11 competes at Hamilton Island Race Week 2022.

Small but MIGHTY

Writing to Santa as a young child asking for houses for homeless people is fairly atypical, unless your name is Addison Newlan. The Gold Coast teen is counting down the years until her first Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, not to mention eyeing off an Olympic sailing spot at Brisbane 2032. By Lisa Ratcliff.

To be ready for her first "Hobart", 14-year-old Addison "Addy" Newlan sails multiple classes and jumps at the chance for big-boat experience alongside her Hobart heroes, who have stood up to Bass Strait's unpredictable personality since the 1970s.

The idea of three to four days at sea waking around the clock, staying in the same clothes, and trying to eat while the boat pitches endlessly is thrilling to this unique young woman, who wants to go all the way in the sport. The minimum age to compete in the Hobart is 18. But supporting Addy's passion for offshore experience and clocking racing miles in the interim is Bill Barry-Cotter, owner of the 54-foot yacht *Maritimo 11*, and 44-time Sydney Hobart campaigner Michael Spies, its skipper. *Maritimo 11* joined a fleet of more than 220 boats that converged on The Whitsundays in August for a spectacular Hamilton Island Race Week reunion after a two-year Covid-inflicted hiatus. *Maritimo 11*'s savvy Queensland crew

of 13 men plus Addy earned a second in division at the end of six days trade-wind sailing in paradise.

"I loved the opportunity to meet and look up to so many amazing people who love doing what I do. Racing was a great experience and I learnt things I'll be able to put into my everyday sailing," says Addy of her Race Week debut.

While the adults debriefed each evening, Addy would call her mum to recap – often failing to mention that she'd been live on Channel 7's *Sunrise* weather cross that morning or photographed on board supermaxi *Wild Oats XI* – before hitting the books to keep up with her Year 8 schoolwork.

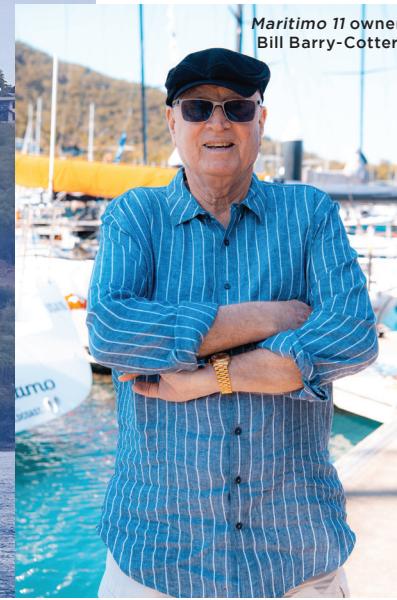
A typical path for budding sailors is a parent or parents in the sport. But in Addy's family of five she is the only sailor and has been known to employ a whiteboard at home to instruct mother Tina and father Glen on the basics.

PHOTOGRAPHY: SALTY DINGO; KEN BUTT

"Her dad grew up fishing and surfing so has a bit of an idea what Addy is talking about whereas I'm definitely ground crew," says Tina Newlan. "At most regattas the other kids have a parent giving them tips, whereas Addy must work it out herself. I think she fares very well, considering."

Addy's entry point was a learn-to-sail group at Southport Yacht Club's (SYC) training facility at Hollywell on the Gold Coast. "I saw the group on a morning walk with my family and asked my parents if I could join. I was six."

It was during the time that Australia's most successful Olympic sailor, Mat Belcher, signed on to be more involved with SYC's sailing



Part of Race Week's serious 220-strong fleet.



Addison Newlan has Olympic and Sydney Hobart sailing dreams.



program following his Olympic 470 silver medal at Rio de Janeiro 2016. Twice a week Mat would spend time with the juniors aged from seven up to 18 in a performance-pathway program.

Addy immediately stood out from the group, says her unofficial mentor and friend. "She arrived at training earlier than everyone else and had her boat rigged first. That love for her sport really touched me: her dedication, passion and willingness to improve."

"Over the years, to see her grow and take her sailing overseas to international events and seeing her compete at Hamilton Island Race Week on *Maritimo* is fantastic."

Skipper Michael Spies concurs. "I've never seen a kid more keen. She wants to get her hands dirty in the workshop and understand how to fix things. After racing she'll ask why we made the choices we did. When someone demonstrates unlimited potential, ability and enthusiasm, you have to embrace it. I had good mentors and it's great to put something back."

Among her schoolmates Addy is alone in her sport of choice but they always remember to ask how she went in a race or regatta. "If I don't have a great day, I can call one of them and they'll listen to me – even though they may not understand the situation."

Her school supports a balance of study and time off for sailing via an elite sport program. In July, she and her mum spent three weeks in France for the O'pen skiff (formerly BIC), world championship during the school term. Ahead of this overseas travel Addy was given

SAILING



"SHE LIVES AND BREATHES SAILING. EVEN WHEN RACING IS CANCELLED, SHE'LL SPEND ALL DAY AT THE CLUB."

her first mobile phone, so she could keep those back at home updated. During the regatta Tina had to repeatedly remind Addy to post on her Instagram account and reply to her supporters' messages. That same phone is now out of battery somewhere in Addy's bedroom and her social media profile is once again dormant. Even her music taste is broad and unorthodox, spanning ACDC and Johnny Cash to US feelgood pop group Surfaces. Addy listens to the clean versions of Eminem's work and can sing *Maggie May* by Rod Stewart.

Next up for the keen sailor is the delivery of *Maritimo* from Southport to Sydney for the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race 2022 and then flying back south for one of the lead-up weekend coastal races. These will be Addy's first night-sailing experience, and the quiet calm of darkness and interrupted rhythm of sleep will be another new adventure to take in.

In January she will travel to Tasmania for the NS14 Nationals, crewing for Michael Spies in the two-person boat, and from there will fly direct to Perth for the O'pen skiff Nationals, racing solo in a chartered boat as part of the highly competitive under-15 division.

It might sound like an intense summer program, and there have been accusations by other sailing parents of Addy being pushed, but Tina says that there is no question that it's her daughter who is in the driver's seat. "She lives and breathes sailing. Every weekend there's no ifs or buts when it comes to heading to the club. Even when racing is cancelled, she'll spend all day at the club doing jobs on her Paper Tiger [catamaran], O'pen skiff or splicing ropes. Everything surprises me about Addy. She's an absolute joy and I'm confident she'll get where she wants to be."

Mentally, Addy is tough on herself when it comes to performance, but always kind and caring towards others.

"There's only disappointment with herself," says Tina. "I've been waiting for the usual teenage moodiness, and it just hasn't come. She worries about other people, and this can be challenging when she wants to do well against much bigger adults and even her teenage peers."

The competition sometimes misjudges Addy's ability due to her diminutive size – she is 38 kilograms and just on five feet tall – and she is targeted on the racetrack.

PHOTOGRAPH: SALTY DINGO

Tina says Addy is working hard to find her voice, which goes against her gentle nature and preference to blend in but important if she is to be competitive in the highly technical sport. When any fleet of boats – America's Cup, Sydney Hobart Yacht Race or O'pen Skiff – is jostling for prime position behind a start line, getting to the front row with momentum just seconds before the gun goes is where the shouting tends to reach a crescendo, and where races can be won and lost.

In a tight cluster, Addy's knowledge of the sailing rules and her confidence and ability to protect her patch of water will be critical to the outcome. In addition to pursuing a dream to represent her country at the Brisbane Olympics in 2032, Addy says she would like to study marine biology and combine university qualifications with a trade such as boat building or sail making.

It is this drive to understand how all the moving parts fit together that make her such a unique young individual.

"Most kids coming through are interested in one aspect of the sport," agrees Belcher. "Addy wants to try it all, and that makes her one of a kind."



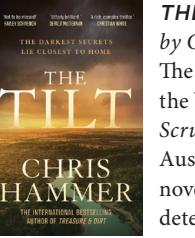
Addison Newlan will help sail *Maritimo* 11 south for the 2022 Sydney Hobart race.



All the on-water action.

BOOK IN HAND

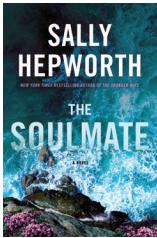
Fans of thrillers and lovers of crime fiction, take note: these are the Australian-made reads we're packing this summer.



THE TILT

by Chris Hammer

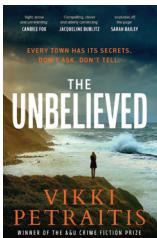
The latest thriller from the bestselling author of *Scrublands* is the classic Australian crime-fiction novel. Newly qualified detective Nell Buchanan returns to her hometown and is given a decades-old murder case to review. It triggers a chain of events that will implicate perhaps even her own family.



THE SOULMATE

by Sally Hepworth

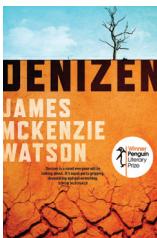
Gabe and Pippa Gerard move to a quiet coastal town to start afresh and raise their family. But when Gabe becomes embroiled in a death that is ruled suicide, everything rapidly begins to unravel. The illusion of a perfect marriage is laid elegantly bare by *The New York Times* bestselling author.



THE UNBELIEVED

by Vikki Petraitis

Acclaimed true-crime author Vikki Petraitis's debut fiction offering is a timely, compelling novel and the winner of the inaugural Allen & Unwin Crime Fiction Prize in 2022. It follows a dogged but disenchanted detective who demands answers in the face of overwhelming silence.



DENIZEN

by James McKenzie Watson

The 2021 Penguin Literary Prize winner explores the hidden truths that exist behind the stoic illusion of rural Australia. This gothic thriller, set on a remote property, centres on Parker, who returns to the place he grew up. There he must deal with the consequences of deadly choices made in childhood.



LEADING ROLE

George Clooney and Julia Roberts filmed much of 2022's blockbuster rom-com *Ticket to Paradise* on Hamilton Island. *REEF* takes a look behind the scenes.

They are the onscreen stars of a light-hearted romantic comedy that offers pure escapism, with a plot that follows two bitter divorcees reuniting in an attempt to sabotage their daughter's impetuous and impending wedding. Director Ol Parker wrote the screenplay specifically for stars George Clooney and Julia Roberts, who were last in a film together in 2016 (*Money Monster*). "It was a great script and nothing but fun every day on set, which is quite rare," Clooney told Australian publication *TV Week* of the experience. Filming began in late 2021, with Clooney and Roberts (also executive producers of the film) joining the 150 members of cast and crew based on Hamilton Island for three weeks.

Although the narrative of *Ticket to Paradise* takes place in Bali, as Lily (*Booksmart's* Kaitlyn Dever) prepares to marry Gede (Maxime Bouttier), the film was in fact shot on location in Queensland, with parts of Hamilton Island transformed briefly into an Indonesian paradise. The outline of the Whitsundays is unmistakable in many of the beach scenes and the ocean is definitely a turquoise shade of Coral Sea. Parts of the scenes during which Clooney's character David and Roberts' character Georgia stay separately at a smart "Balinese" hotel were filmed at qualia's entrance, directly outside the Long Pavilion, with the space transformed using a thatched roof and props.

PHOTOGRAPHY: © UNIVERSAL STUDIOS; TIM P. WHITBY/GETTY IMAGES FOR UNIVERSAL

Interior scenes of the plane that takes David and Georgia to Bali were built inside the Hamilton Island Conference Centre, as were the two bars featured inside the plane, with hydraulics used to simulate movement. Numerous sets were built at the Conference Centre and the nearby Reef View Hotel walk-bridge was also used for filming.

The Hamilton Island Airport arrivals hall had a role for the arrivals scene in Bali and some pre-wedding party scenes were captured at Catseye Beach. One Tree Hill was used as a filming location and in addition housed the on-island production unit, with trucks lining the length of the road. The all-important green room for some of the off-island filming was on board the 82-foot yacht *MY Alani*, which can hold up to 35 people.

Clooney hung out regularly at Hamilton Island Golf Club on Dent Island and was frequently sighted off duty, driving his golf buggy with wife Amal and the couple's five-year-old twins Ella and Alexander.

Roberts, meanwhile, stayed in a private house on the island.

"[George and I] are motivated to make people laugh, so this environment was incredibly joyful, and [the rom-com genre] gives people a holiday. We were on an island with nowhere to run, so we spent sweet time together as a cast which isn't always afforded to you," Roberts also told *TV Week* after the film had wrapped. "Most of the time it doesn't feel like a job but this one in particular really felt like it wasn't," Dever told the *AU Review*.

"I was just on vacation. And it was the best. Even my first day I got on a speedboat and we drove to all these little islands. We were shooting on Hamilton Island, but there were all these little surrounding islands we were just popping over to. I rode in a helicopter for the first time on this movie, which I was not going to do, and I was just refusing it up until a point where I was finally convinced, and I just did it. And it was amazing."

And cut. That's a wrap.



Friends FOREVER

The on-stage magic seen during The Australian Ballet's pas de deux in paradise performance confirms that the chemistry between star dance partners is built on trust and shared history, as much as it is hours in the rehearsal room.

By Catherine Lambert.

For The Australian Ballet's principal artists Amy Harris and Adam Bull, a 21-year friendship is at the heart of their on-stage connection and star power. It means having a laugh in stressful moments, applauding each other's triumphs and, perhaps most importantly, sharing an implicit trust in their mutual loyalty. That trust is the foundation of the way they dance together and the value they place on their friendship.

It also means they feel safe and familiar enough to bring out different qualities in each other.

"It's so much about trust," Harris says.

"I started my career a bit later, having become a principal artist in 2018, so I've learnt to value the experience of my partners but especially Adam who has been in the game for such a long time that I feel completely relaxed with him. Everyone gets a lot more out of it that way and that's the most beautiful thing for me because I know I'm a very different person and artist when I'm more relaxed."

Harris started dancing in her hometown of Ararat in regional Victoria when she was three years old, successfully auditioning to join The Australian Ballet School when she was 15, in 1999. Bull, who had started ballet a bit later when he was at school in the western suburbs of Melbourne, was accepted the same year. His transition was less life-changing, however, commuting daily from his family home rather than leaving family at a young age and relocating from the country, as Harris did.

Bull and Harris had already met many times before joining the school, as children on the ballet competition circuit. As a result a comfortable familiarity was firmly established by the time their shared next chapter began.



PHOTOGRAPHY: JUSTIN RIDLER

The Australian Ballet's principal artists, Amy Harris and Adam Bull.



The artists rehearse on the outdoor stage ahead of their performance.

"WHEN SHE'S GIVEN A LITTLE MOMENT, SHE TAKES THAT AND TURNS IT INTO GOLD."

"It feels like we've always known each other, even though our dance journeys went their own way after graduating. But in the past few years we've had lots of moments together on stage," Bull says. "It's nice to go through our careers and share these special moments. When we're in the studio, we're back at being 15 again. We're the best of friends outside the studio because we've been through it all, through thick and thin. We've shared so much of the journey together, not just the performances, but through our own changes individually and through the company."

After three years of training at the school, Bull and Harris were both accepted into The Australian Ballet at the same time. Bull rose through the ranks of the company quickly and was promoted to principal artist in 2008, whilst Harris' move was more gradual, achieving her dream of being a principal four years ago. She has since flourished in ever more astounding ways, perhaps intensified by the perspective that's come with being a mother to her children Willow,

8, and Phoenix, 3, combined with the artistic confidence and support found at the company. "She's one of the most determined people I've ever met and has always been so incredibly driven," Bull says.

"She's loyal as a friend and as an artist. She's never given up and has always persevered so that when she's given a little moment, she takes that and turns it into gold. She's an incredible artist and there's still so much more she can do."

One of those great opportunities was presented to her when she was invited to perform in the pas de deux in paradise event at qualia on Hamilton Island in 2022. Bull has been lucky enough to perform here four times already, but this was Harris's debut under the stars in the most picturesque location imaginable.

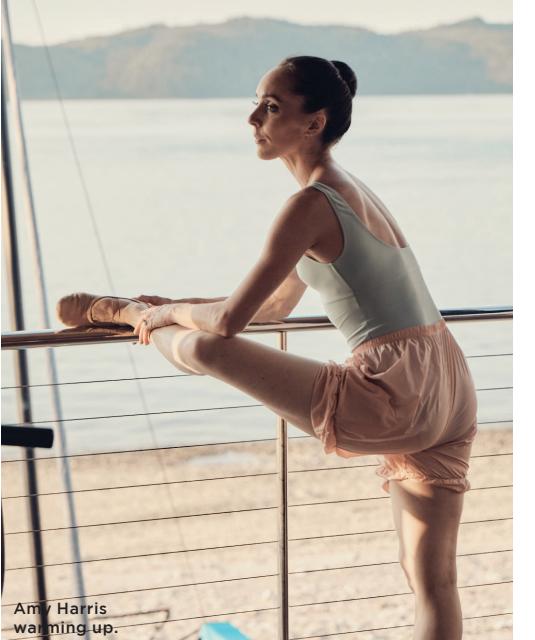
Bull describes the performance as "the prized gig of the season" and, as senior members of the company, the duo treasures these experiences even more. Whenever they dance the classic story-based works – the repertoire at qualia

PERFORMANCE

Performing the pas de deux from *The Merry Widow* as the sun sets.



Adam Bull, principal artist since 2008.



Amy Harris warming up.



included the charming Act III pas de deux from *The Merry Widow* and the virtuosic Act III pas de deux from *Raymonda* – they're reminded of the depth of their experience.

"When you're younger, it's about how many turns you do and when can you finish your pas de deux to get to your solo, but now we both appreciate that's it's about the whole," Bull says.

"The investment in character is so much more rewarding and when you have a partner with the same ideal, it's heavenly."

Harris may not yet have had the chance to dance every role on her bucket list, as Bull has, but there are also many she never expected to perform yet has been fortunate enough to do so. She describes the past eight years as the best in her career and the principal artists both become emotional when she touches on the even greater reward of sharing so many of those moments with Bull.

"It's the most wonderful thing to see friends succeed but to also know that Adam has never changed in all the time I've known him," she says. "As a person, he's always been loyal, he's always been there for me and others, making him a real gem of this company. That's why he's shone in every role and every moment we've had in the studio. Now that we have so many moments together on stage, too, it's everything to me." They're also keenly aware of the rich 60-year heritage they are upholding when they perform with a company celebrating its milestone anniversary in 2023. But it's still the future that is sharply in focus for them both, inspired by the

arrival of David Hallberg as the The Australian Ballet's new artistic director in 2021.

Harris says the bold, assured energy Hallberg brings to the company helps her enormously. "It almost breathes and is a beautiful energy to have in the studio," she says. "It's a nice working energy that breeds confidence."

It's been just as affirming and positive for Bull: "David's idea of what he wants is challenging and going beyond what you think you're capable of and not worrying about whether it's right or wrong. We don't want to be safe all the time and that's exciting for us and the next generation of dancers, pushing that vision of where you can go as an individual and as an artist."

This approach is no accident, with Hallberg acknowledging that it's important to him to instill confidence in the dancers. He both gives and lets go when working with his elite team of artists.

"They need to manifest their roles, their discovery of the roles, their time on stage as much as they can because it's not about my opinion or how I direct them, but it's about what their natural instincts are as artists and that goes into confidence," Hallberg says.

"It also goes into creation, into pushing themselves beyond the limits they set for themselves, and I see that as my job – to push the dancers, and any artist in the company, beyond their sense of their limits. Sometimes that may not always be comfortable, but I think it always produces the best results, when someone is pushed and surprised beyond their capable limits that they set themselves."

PHOTOGRAPHY: JUSTIN RIDLER.



More than 20 years of friendship informs the artists' intuitive on-stage chemistry.

SWIM RUN REPEAT

If there's a blueprint for living the dream, then Daniel McDonnell has it framed and on his wall. Tracey Withers sits down with the Hamilton Island firefighter turned record-breaking triathlete.

When Daniel McDonnell joined the crew at Airservices Australia, he became the youngest aviation firefighter in the country at that time. The Cairns native made the shift to Hamilton Island to take up the job, but very quickly, the island's running trails and spirit of competition got to him. He started clocking off at the station in the golden afternoon and hitting Catseye Beach and Passage Peak to swim, run and repeat until he lost the light. Flash forward two years (a blink in training terms) and the 24-year-old McDonnell is one of North Queensland's most exciting young athletes, having just smashed out a 4:04:54 result at his first 70.3 Ironman World Championship in the US. The desert course in Utah was a grind, he says, but this island breeds them tough ...

GOING FROM WOAH TO GO ON AN IRONMAN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN TWO YEARS IS ALMOST UNHEARD OF. WHAT GOT YOU SO FIRED UP?

"I did a bit of triathlon when I was a junior but quit when I was 13. It wasn't until I was standing with the fire truck at the end of the runway at Hamilton Island airport for the Hamilton Island Triathlon – the cycling leg goes up the tarmac and turns around our trucks at the end – that I wanted back in. The first bike went past, I heard the wheels and that was it. From then, I've been giving 100 per cent."

IS YOUR COACH ON ISLAND? "No, it's pretty cool, everything is remote. My coach is in Ballina in

New South Wales so we use software called Training Peak. He sets all my programs and can see how I've done in sessions, my resting heart rate, everything in data. I've trained the hardest, and most effectively, I have in my life all without being in the same place as a coach."

HAMILTON ISLAND IS A TOUGHER TRAINING GROUND THAN A TROPICAL ISLAND LOOKS. DO YOU THINK THAT HELPS? "For sure. The Endurance Series events that Hamilton Island hosts throughout each year are a real test. There's the Great Whitehaven Beach Run half-marathon on sand. The triathlon is incredible. The ocean

Daniel McDonnell on duty with Airservices Australia at Airlie Beach.



swim event is probably the easiest going of them. The Hilly Half Marathon, which is a 21-kilometre route along fire and walking trails, is a killer, but it's my favourite. [McDonnell won in 2021 and 2022 and holds the course record]. I throw myself around the course so it hurts but you could also do it as a team, take a lap each or walk-run it. It could be gorgeous."

THAT'S THE ISLAND'S TRICK, IS IT: MAKE PAIN FEEL LIKE PARADISE?

"That's it! The running trails are incredible. I like to go out to South East Head and roll along for 20 to 25 kilometres. No headphones, just nature. It's the most refreshing thing ever.

PHOTOGRAPHY: HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY.



"THE HAMILTON ISLAND RUNNING TRAILS ARE INCREDIBLE. NO HEADPHONES, JUST NATURE."

The trails are well maintained and mostly gently undulating. You hug the coast and pop out of the bush at hidden coves with crystal-clear water. I call that my soul run on a Sunday. But then I always finish with a spicy scale up to the top of Passage Peak."

YOU HAVE JUST WON THE HAMILTON ISLAND ENDURANCE SERIES TRIATHLON, SPECTACULARLY TAKING DOWN BONDI RESCUE'S CLINT KIMMINS AND NINE-TIME IRONMAN CHAMPION LUKE MCKENZIE. HOW WAS THE RACE? "The race was epic. So cool to see the island at full capacity and pumping again. It took me until the run to get the job done, but overall it was a great race – and a very special one for me to finally ride my bike on the runway!"

ANY TIPS FOR ATHLETES COMING TO COMPETE ON YOUR HOME TURF? "Trail running definitely makes me a better runner on the road. It makes you so aware of

surroundings and foot placement. Introducing the sauna at the island's Sports Club to my protocol has made a world of difference to thermal regulation. Getting your body efficient at dealing with heat is crucial, even in a moderate climate. I usually finish up at the fire station too late in the day to get in a run, swim and sauna as well as one of the yoga classes, but if I could figure out how to get one of those in, too, I'd love it."

YOU SMASHED YOUR FIRST IRONMAN 70.3 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES. CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 4:04:54 RESULT IN UTAH. HOW DOES THAT FEEL?

"St George is a spectacular part of Utah: red desert, huge rocky canyons, part of the course is in Zion National Park. The two-kilometre swim in a reservoir was good because it's flat but so cold, and the last 10 kilometres on the 90-kilometre bike ride was up Snow Canyon,



this notorious 10 to 15-minute climb up 200 to 300 metres of elevation. And then there's a 21-kilometre hilly run."

WHAT IS YOUR TOP PIECE OF RECOVERY ADVICE FOR WOULD-BE ATHLETES? "I'm learning that a holiday off the back of a race is the best. There's nothing like it. So race hard and then you recover harder! On Hamilton Island I'll usually take an ice bath at the fire station and then a sauna straight after a race, but a float around at Catseye is really good, too. Then I'd finish with a beer on the rooftop of the Marina Tavern. I'm a pretty simple kind of guy."

McDonnell (far right) says training on the Hamilton Island trails improves his road running.

SPECTATOR GOLF

Fascinating facts about Dent Island and the 18-hole championship Hamilton Island Golf Club, whether playing a round or not.
By club superintendent Brad Hole.

A CHALLENGING COURSE FROM THE BEGINNING

The Hamilton Island Golf Club on the island's neighbouring Dent Island was a very tough course to build, as it is a designated national park, within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Its island location meant there were very strict environmental guidelines to follow. Twenty-four environmental-impact statements were completed, covering vegetation, water, the reef, wildlife and birds, before any land was turned.

THE DESIGNERS

Peter Thomson's Thomson Perrett golf course architects designed the challenging but spectacular Hamilton Island Golf Club course. They have been involved in more

than 250 projects worldwide, headed by the now late legendary golfer Peter Thomson, five-time British Open winner. One of the design parameters set out at the time by the island's owner, Bob Oatley, was that the course couldn't be visible except from Hamilton Island. Even if you sail around Dent Island itself, you wouldn't know there was a world-class golf course right here. Chris Beckingham is the man behind the design of the stunning golf Clubhouse, and has designed Hamilton Island's luxury resort qualia, as well as many of the island's private residences.



View from the Clubhouse restaurant.

HEAD DESIGNER ROSS PERRETT RECALLS ...

"Before work began there were two goats and a lighthouse [on Dent Island], and that was about it ... Peter astounded me with his enthusiasm to walk around the site, he was dodging rocks bigger than footballs that were hidden in the high grass. But he was so keen to see how the course was going to take shape." Work began in 2006, transforming the scrub-covered island that rises steeply to about 145 metres from the Coral Sea below. The entire build was fully completed in 2009. "Many people would have given up, but Bob Oatley had the belief that it could be done," Perrett says. "He was patient and willing to tick the boxes to get it done."

FINDING 18 HOLES WAS TOUGH

"The first nine is in and around a valley and has a dam, which we raised by about two metres, and that solved the water problem," says Perrett. "The first four holes go out and then you loop back to finish the nine. The second nine was much more difficult to design. There's a 'razorback'-shaped ridge running south. The course runs out along the ridge but then there's no way back, which is why there is a one-kilometre track between the 17th green and 18th tee. That also had its advantages, because you get that beautiful view from the 18th tee to end the round."

BREAKING GROUND

Once a construction date was set, a major hurdle was getting all the machinery onto the island – no simple task given the steep cliffs, rocky shorelines and coral reefs that ring the island. When it came to sand-capping

the course, the cost to barge sand in from the mainland would have been prohibitive, so seven crushing machines were used on the island to crush hundreds of tonnes of rock. The resulting sand formed the course's foundations on which the TifEagle Bermuda grass and couch playing surfaces now grow.

THE HERITAGE

Dent Island is also home to the only west-facing lighthouse on Australia's east coast. It was built in 1879, converted to solar power in 1981 and manned until 1987. Supplies were delivered fortnightly, weather-depending; a doctor used to visit every six months to check on the keeper's families. Two cottages built in the 1950s replaced the original lighthouse-keeper's cottages from the 1880s. The Dent Island lighthouse is still in operation and maintained by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority. Hamilton Island oversees the cottages, winch house and lighthouse grounds, maintaining them to their original design and condition. The lighthouse is relatively tucked away and cannot be seen or accessed from the course and is not open to visitors.



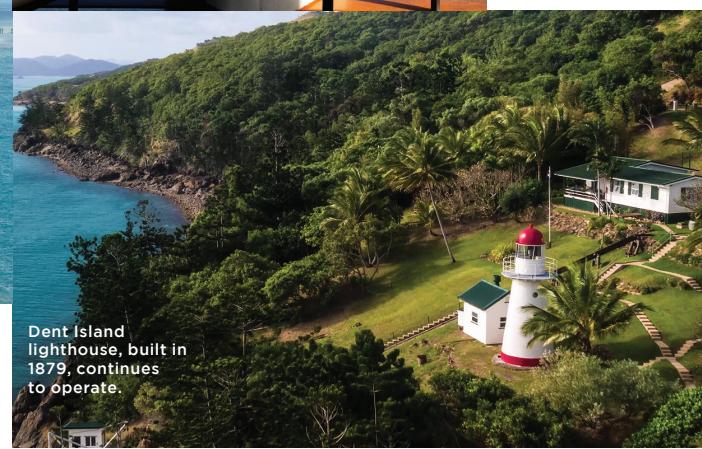
The position is anything but par for the course.

DID YOU KNOW ...

The tees for the course are named after three local species of native vegetation found on the island: Hoop Pine, Pandanus and Grasstree.



Dent Island's natural splendour.



Dent Island lighthouse, built in 1879, continues to operate.

Make sure to keep an eye out for a glimpse when taking to the water on a tour or charter, or adventuring on a scenic flight.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

The dam on Dent Island holds 250 megalitres of water, which is enough if the team on the ground are careful with how they use it. During the wet season, water is collected from the front nine holes of the golf course that runs into and fills the dam. There is an irrigation system covering the entire course with more than 800 sprinklers and four separate pump stations to deliver the water across the 30-hectare site. Computers control the irrigation system so that there is no runoff from the golf course into the ocean. It does this by watering in small doses with breaks in-between, allowing the water to soak into the soil instead of puddling and running off.

NOT JUST FOR GOLFERS

It is only a short ferry ride from the island, but Hamilton Island Golf Club feels like a change of pace. Arriving at Dent Island, you'll be

whisked up the hill by buggy to the Clubhouse, which is perfectly perched to catch the breezes and sea views. The restaurant is relaxed and the perfect place for lunch.

THE STATS

Luke Bulleid, Hamilton Island Golf Club manager, has seen plenty of action on the course. He concedes that while every hole is "tough to play, perhaps the most testing technically is the long par-5 11th hole". Bulleid recommends 12 balls per player per round and when pushed says the average score is 90-120, although this really depends on the individual player.

SPORTING STARS

Should you choose to play a round, you'll be following in the footsteps of many of the sport's elite who have played the course, including Adam Scott and Karrie Webb. Ash Barty has played a round and former Australian cricket captain Alan Border had a hole in one on the 16th.

To find out more, visit www.hamiltonislandgolfclub.com.au



Laura Brown at
The Kangaroo Sanctuary,
Alice Springs.

The girl from Oz

Fashion powerhouse Laura Brown may have achieved incredible international success, but her heart still swells at the sights and smells of Australia, be it Hamilton Island sunsets or the red dirt of Uluru. She caught up with REEF's Alison Veness during a recent trip home.



PHOTOGRAPHY: BRANDON BORROR-CHAPPELL; LAURA BROWN

When US forces pulled out of Afghanistan last year, fashion powerbroker Laura Brown used all her connections to help evacuate 28 people who had been working on a local version of *Sesame Street*. Anyone who knows Brown or follows her on social media will be aware that *Sesame Street* is dear to her heart. She counts Kermit and Elmo as friends. In fact, Brown is excellent with most celebrities, actors, directors, musicians and activists. She has an innate ability to charm people and importantly, to get them to do whatever is needed. To name them would result in an exceptionally long list, but they are a powerful bunch, all exceptional in their respective fields. In part it is perhaps her Aussie spirit, that indefatigable "Give it a go and make it count" attitude that has set Brown apart in the cut-throat world of US fashion publishing and endeared her to many Hollywood heavy-hitters. Those same qualities are what spurred her on to leave Sydney for New York in 2001. Her career trajectory includes articles director at *Details*, senior editor at *W Magazine*, executive editor at US *Harper's BAZAAR*, and editor in chief of *InStyle*, the first Australian to edit a US fashion publication. Two decades spent working at the top of the US luxury magazine industry has cemented Brown's reputation for a fearless and inclusive approach to editing that uses tacit humour to create thought-provoking and inspiring content. Brown currently lives on New York's Upper West Side, close to Central Park West where she goes to get her fix of nature. "Whenever I walk into the park there is a very bad Beatles singer singing *Strawberry Fields* - and I find it quite soothing ..."



Brandon Borror-Chappell and Laura Brown during Hamilton Island Race Week.



At home with the galahs and roos at The Kangaroo Sanctuary.



"My true love," says the lamington fan.



"I REALLY LOVE TO EXPLORE HOME. IT'S UNSPEAKABLY THRILLING. I APPRECIATE IT 100 TIMES MORE THAN I USED TO."

"I was trying to work out how I ended up with this whole wildlife world and it was about five years ago; I was getting profiled on *60 Minutes* and the producers asked me if I wanted to name a wombat at Featherdale Wildlife Park. I was like, 'Obviously'. So, we filmed there, and I became mates with Chad the zookeeper and then I started following @thekangaroosanctuary. It's just magic. I remember being homesick and seeing pictures of adorable joeys. I was sharing it with everyone. We've had one of the best New Year's Eves ever there with a bearded dragon on a table and a snake under the bed. I have a particular affinity for the desert. Particularly a desert in my homeland. If you go to Uluru it almost feels like a forcefield. The only time I've ever felt the same feeling as at Uluru is Stonehenge. Just that 'Wow'. I am still in shock that Uluru exists and thankful that now it is being properly honoured and the people who live there are being properly honoured. If I hadn't come from Australia sometimes, I would think it's made up. There's nothing like it, it's unbelievable."

Brown was born and raised in Camden, on Sydney's rural outskirts, until she was aged five, when she moved to Manly with her mother. They lived "in and around the Northern Beaches", with Brown attending Willoughby Girls High and going on to study journalism and media at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst.

Brown and her husband, writer Brandon Borror-Chappell, were guests of Hamilton Island Race Week in 2022, both attending the landmark event for their first time. "We loved all of it," she says. "I loved the views from the pavilion at qualia, they were unbelievable, I thought that was a dream sequence. And all the wallabies in the park on the way down to Catseye Beach and coca chu restaurant. I loved the local fauna. It just reminded me that you're actually in Australia and not just in a holiday resort."

Brown says her heart is resonant with "weird birds and red dirt".

PHOTOGRAPHY: BRANDON BORROR-CHAPPELL; LAURA BROWN

"I have this relationship as a tourist ambassador [with Tourism Australia]. I'm able to come home and be a tourist in my own country. They'll be like 'Hey do you want to go to Hamilton Island?', and I'm like 'Well, yeah!'. I've felt very lucky to do that. I suppose when I first left, I was so busy trying to get away from Australia that I never really found the time to explore it properly. So now as I inconveniently live in New York City, I really love to explore home. I find it thrilling. It's unspeakably thrilling, I really appreciate it 100 times more than I used to."

When pushed Brown says "Australia is home in my heart, but home in my head is New York". Her heart is resonant with "weird birds and red dirt. The cockatoos are just so ridiculous!"

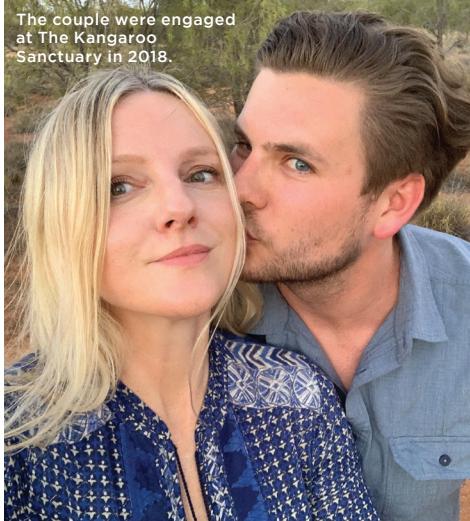
I love when you land at the airport and you hear weird noises. Australia has its own particular symphonic qualities that you don't hear anywhere else. The minute you hear and feel that, your shoulders drop. And then the red dirt of central Australia, Alice Springs. If I could, if there was a nearby shower, I would roll in it. It just palpates. Whenever we go home, we try to go to The Kangaroo Sanctuary now and see the tiny little roos."

Brown and Borror-Chappell became engaged at The Kangaroo Sanctuary in 2018. And after a protracted engagement, thanks to the pandemic, they finally married in Hawaii in April 2022. Naturally, "Kangaroo Dundee", The Kangaroo Sanctuary founder Chris "Brolga" Barns officiated in front of a sparkling group of guests, "He is a living legend and a pure heart of a man. Because we got engaged there on New Year's Eve, we made the local Alice Springs paper. It literally says, 'Bunny man hops into action to pop the question.' She laughs. "We really stuck to the theme. He was our first choice to officiate. Everyone I told who was going asked if there were going to be kangaroos there. I said just imagine..."

The couple were engaged at The Kangaroo Sanctuary in 2018.



Laura Brown and Brandon Borror-Chappell, just married, Hawaii 2022.



The couple were engaged at The Kangaroo Sanctuary in 2018.



Bravely cuddling a wombat at Featherdale Wildlife Park.



Brown with Chris 'Brolga' Barns, founder of The Kangaroo Sanctuary.



With friends at Featherdale Wildlife Park.



SUMMERTIME and the cooking is easy

Keep it simple, says Otto Brisbane's head chef Will Cowper, who shares his recipe for a light, punchy yellowfin tuna crudo with zesty finger lime – "It screams summer to me," he says.

It's an easy dish to master for a relaxing backyard lunch with friends and family. By Emma Joyce.

Taking the stress out of entertaining should be your top priority this summer, according to Brisbane chef Will Cowper. "I believe cooking at home, whether it's for your family or for your partner, should be made as simple as possible so you can enjoy the time together," he says. "I'm also a big believer in using what's on our doorstep. And we have some of the best, freshest seafood available, so why not use it?" Cowper is a champion of plating local produce at Otto Brisbane. He showcased his love of Queensland farming and ocean catches at Hamilton Island Race Week in 2022, cooking Longreach organic lamb and mud crab for 170 guests. "I wanted to show people what beautiful produce we have," says the chef. "I don't think there's words to describe how amazing and beautiful the Whitsundays are. When you fly over and see how light blue that water is, it's something special. You feel like you can start to unwind straight away." One of his most loved dishes at Brisbane riverfront restaurant Otto is the Champagne lobster spaghetti, made with locally caught



Champagne lobster – or barking crayfish, named for the sound it makes in water. It's sourced off the coast of Queensland and if the chef ever took this dish off the menu "there would be uproar", he says, laughing. "Champagne lobster is a deep sea lobster that's different to rock lobster," he explains. "It's more tender, more sweet and more delicate, hence the name Champagne lobster." It's a relatively simple dish in terms of its

ingredients. House-made spaghetti is dressed with sautéed chilli, garlic and white wine, with a stock made using the head of the lobster. The meat is then tossed through with lemon butter and fresh herbs, usually dill and parsley, and finished with bottarga, a dried mullet roe. "People absolutely love it."

Cowper has directed the menu at the acclaimed Italian restaurant for seven years now. He first moved to Queensland from New South Wales after working as senior sous chef, assisting head chef Richard Ptacnik, at Otto Sydney.

"Home is where the heart is, but I call Brisbane my home now," says the jovial chef. "It took me four or five years to let go: I still don't follow the Maroons in rugby, for example. I'm New South Wales at heart, but I don't see myself going back to Sydney, which breaks my mum's heart. I've just bought a house and I love it here."

The 38-year-old lives with his partner, and his ideal summer's day is either spending it on the golf course, or hosting friends for dinner on his deck for an evening of relaxing, chatting and enjoying good food.

"I've got a beautiful pizza oven and a woodfire

grill and a pool," he says, showing off the difference between fast-paced Sydney and the outdoor-focused lifestyle of Queensland. "I love to have people over for the afternoon. I'm a big fan of having simple seafood on my grill, with salads, roasted potatoes and some veggies, and that's as good as it gets. As long as everyone's able to sit around a table with a glass of wine and enjoy the time together, that's what's most important." One of Cowper's go-to dishes for entertaining is a yellowfin tuna crudo, which also appears on

"I'M A BIG FAN OF HAVING SIMPLE SEAFOOD ON MY GRILL."

the menu at Otto Brisbane. "Crudo is usually a raw fish dish and this particular one is a yellowfin tuna, which is caught off Mooloolaba." He dresses the sashimi-grade tuna with the pearls of two or three finger limes, pickled rockmelon, mint leaves and chilli flakes blitzed into a powder.

"It's light, refreshing, and you can still taste the flavour of the tuna. It screams summer to me." The tart, zesty pulp of the finger lime adds a flavour punch to the tuna. It also injects pops of colour, making it a show-stopping share plate. Cowper sources finger limes from the Standard Market Company in Brisbane, but you'll also find them at stores such as Harris Farm, or in freeze-dried form from native Australian food purveyors such as Warndu. "Buying good-quality produce is really important," says Cowper. "The better the product, the more you can let it speak for itself. So spend that extra money on some really good quality fish. It makes such a difference."

At home, Cowper pairs this dish with platters of cooked seafood and low-effort salads. "I also serve it all with what I like to call a 'fridge salsa', where I use anything and everything in the fridge: capers, parsley, mint, lemon zest, really good olive oil, and a little bit of vinegar,"



WILL COWPER'S YELLOWFIN TUNA CRUDO WITH ROCKMELON, FINGER LIME, MINT AND CHILLI

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS

400g yellowfin tuna (sashimi grade)
½ rockmelon
2-3 finger limes
1 lime
10 mint leaves, chiffonade (ribbon cut)
50ml chardonnay vinegar
50ml lemon oil
1 tsp dried chilli flakes, blitzed into powder
10ml extra virgin olive oil
1 punnet lemon balm
Salt

METHOD

- Thinly slice the tuna on a chopping board. Set aside in the fridge until ready to use.
- Peel and deseed the rockmelon. Cut the rockmelon in half again and then using a mandolin, thinly slice the fruit lengthways. Place in a bowl or bag (cryovac if you happen to have one). Add the chardonnay vinegar and set aside in the fridge.
- Cut the finger limes in half, squeeze the pearls out of each end and place straight into a small mixing bowl.
- Take the tuna from the fridge and lay out on a platter. Season with salt and use a microplane to zest the lime over the fish.
- Rub lemon oil onto the tuna and use the remainder to make a dressing with the finger limes and the juice from the zested lime.
- Remove the rockmelon from the bags and place evenly over the tuna. Dress the tuna with the finger-lime dressing. Place mint leaves all over the tuna and garnish with lemon balm. Add as much or as little chilli powder as you like. Finish with extra virgin olive oil.
- Serve immediately.

ESSENTIAL PLAYLIST

Cool tunes for hot island nights.



1. *C-side* by Khruangbin and Leon Bridges
2. *Summer Breeze* by Jackie Mittoo
3. *Dinner* by Blood Orange
4. *La Isla Bonita* by Madonna
5. *Losing My Way* by FKJ and Tom Misch
6. *Junie* by Solange
7. *Rafale* by Alligator
8. *Like A Fool* by Crazy P
9. *Right On* by Marvin Gaye
10. *Get It Together* by Drake, Black Coffee and Jorja Smith
11. *Beijo (Interlude)* by Earth, Wind & Fire
12. *Cola Bottle Baby* by Edwin Birdsong
13. *To The Floor* by Lil Silva and BADBADNOTGOOD
14. *I Love to Move In Here* by Moby
15. *Starry Night* by Peggy Gou
16. *Magnificent Romeo* by Basement Jaxx
17. *Electric Feel* by MGMT
18. *Superstylin'* by Groove Armada
19. *Ooh La La* by Goldfrapp
20. *Summer Renaissance* by Beyoncé

To listen, scan the Spotify code below.





Pour your heart out

Some might say qualia's head sommelier, Ben Cabangun, has the best job in the world: serving amazing wines to appreciative guests at one of the world's best resorts. Darren Jahn finds him madly polishing glassware and checking vintages ahead of Hamilton Island Race Week's impressive culinary lineup.



Ben Cabangun.



PHOTOGRAPHY: KARA ROSENBLUM; RHANNON TAYLOR



Sancerre, the wine that helped inspire Cabangun's career.

The right wine match elevates a memorable meal into a moment of magic. And yes, that's qualia head sommelier Ben Cabangun's day job.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN SOMMELIER AT QUALIA?
"Seven amazing years."

AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED IN RESTAURANTS?
"More than thirty years now."

THAT'S SOME EXPERIENCE. WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT SERVING WINE IN THIS UNIQUE PART OF THE WORLD?
"It's the combination of the calibre of our chefs, delivering diverse regional flavours, and the fact our guests are always so relaxed and filled with enjoyment. It's a dream job for a sommelier."

WHAT WAS YOUR DISCOVERY MOMENT WHEN YOU REALISED YOU'D FALLEN IN LOVE WITH THE WORLD OF WINE?

"It was a glass of Sancerre, a French sauvignon blanc, served to me by a friend over a simple pan-seared salmon. I'd never heard of Sancerre and was amazed by the match. It set me off on my journey to taste and learn more about wine."

YOU'RE KNOWN FOR YOUR WINE AND FOOD PAIRINGS. WHAT'S YOUR CURRENT FAVOURITE AT QUALIA?

"We feature Charles Heidsieck's wonderful Brut Reserve Champagne and I love to serve it with our bay lobster rillette bound with mayonnaise and topped with Avruga caviar, served with warm brioche. The effervescence of the Champagne cuts through the creamy texture of the lobster, while the touch of salinity in the caviar highlights the Champagne's minerality and the brioche bread is a nice element to bring out the Charles's toasty characteristic."

YOU'RE MAKING US SALIVATE! TELL US ABOUT YOUR TALK AND TASTE SERIES?
"I love curating and hosting these sessions – it's a very unique and exclusive qualia guest experience. We present three regular Talk and Tastes, the longest standing of which is the Sake and Sashimi, which covers the different levels of rice polishing that dictates the quality of sake. Whitsundays' seafood is matched with a number of examples, the favourite of which is usually the coral trout. My favourite is the Wine and Cheese session where we blind taste a set of Old and New World wines and then have some fun guessing grape varieties and regions. Once revealed, we then match them to amazing artisan cheeses from around the world. Champagne and Oysters is a popular class, especially as most guests at qualia are celebrating something during their stay. We taste a range of Champagne styles alongside different Australian oysters, such as pacific, Sydney rock and angasi. It always puts a smile on participants' faces. We have so many return guests who have completed all of our regular and Talk and Tastes that we have recently introduced some private Conversations with the Sommelier sessions including a crudo – think Mediterranean sashimi – session along with a luxurious tasting of prestige cuvee Champagne paired with a flight of grand cru caviar. These are all great pairings that I would recommend."

DO YOU HAVE TO BE SUPER KNOWLEDGABLE ABOUT WINE TO ENJOY THESE EXPERIENCES?

"It's definitely a mixture. We have novices who enjoy the discovery experience and aficionados who enjoy the opportunity to taste and discuss multiple wines at once. Everyone seems to really enjoy themselves."

WHAT KIND OF UNUSUAL WINE REQUESTS HAVE YOU HAD?

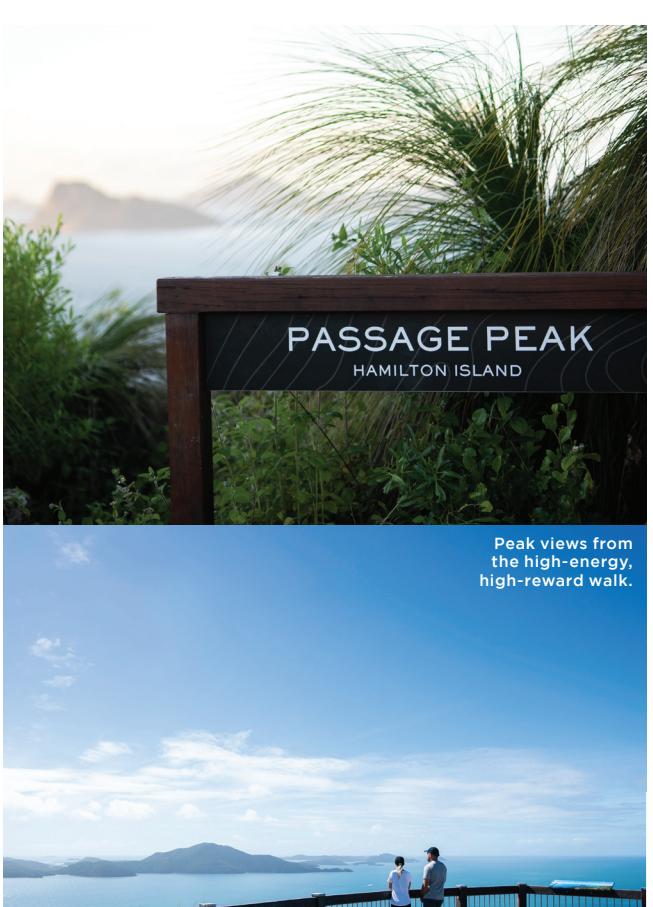
"A couple once joined me in the qualia cellar and said, 'If you could have your pick of the wines on your list here, what would they be?'. I pointed out some amazing vintage Champagnes, top-notch Bordeaux, Burgundy, Barolos and even a couple of Penfolds Granges, ranging in price from \$2500 to more than \$4000 each. To my absolute surprise they said 'Great, pop them in a box please and now, there's a condition to this deal: you have to drink them with us!'. My greatest ever wine-drinking experience followed!"

WHAT'S YOUR PERSONAL FAVOURITE STYLE OF WINE?

"I'm a big fan of Amarone della Valpolicella, a rich, masculine red from Italy. It's a big, almost brutish wine, with layers of flavour, and yet has a smooth, velvety finish."

YOUR DESERT-ISLAND WINE?

"Definitely Champagne, and preferably a blanc de blancs."



The power of PASSAGE PEAK

The walking trail to Hamilton Island's highest point offers an immersive experience in nature that is as much spiritual as it is physical, discovers Roxy Lola.

There is nothing quite like the sensation of being on top of the world. And the Passage Peak Trail, a hike that climbs sharply up from behind Catseye Beach and culminates in unrivalled views across to Whitsunday Island and beyond at the summit, is one of the most memorable experiences on Hamilton Island. On the island we love to incorporate walking into our morning routine. The sounds of the island's birdlife and the rustling of the local wildlife promote a connection with nature that is therapeutic and invigorating. As Stamford Medical School neuroscientist, Dr Andrew Huberman has discovered, two to 30 minutes of morning sunlight upon waking is essential for mental and physical health. This sunlight fix leads to an approximate 50 per cent increase in circulating cortisol, epinephrine and dopamine, which in turn allows for a healthy increase in energy, immune-system function and mood. Exercising in the sunlight – particularly on a high-energy, high-reward walk such as Passage Peak – ticks the boxes both physically and mentally.

Connecting with nature, too, can be somewhat life-changing. Being surrounded by its beauty makes us all the more appreciative of it.

Hamilton Island's recent walking trail upgrade, which included the Passage Peak Trail, was purposefully planned to allow guests the opportunity to see more of the island's incredible natural environment and in turn then be more aware of just how important it is to protect it.

The journey to the peak begins at the Scenic Trail entrance, a short walk from the resort centre to the eastern end of Resort Drive, then a right turn up the hill at the Coral Bay Place junction. From here you weave your way up the early section of the trail where you may hear the sound of tidal waters breaking against the rocks below, and the call of the currawongs ringing out through the dry rainforest.

The perfect podcasts for levelling up in life



HUBERMAN LAB
Dr Andrew Huberman, neuroscientist in the department of Neurobiology at Stanford School of Medicine, has fascinating insights and tools to share on sleep, stress, focus, exercise and everything else, for optimal human performance.



THE MEL ROBBINS PODCAST
Want to change your life? Author and motivational speaker Mel Robbins's podcast features research-backed tactics and mindset shifts, relayed through her motivational speeches, to affect positive change in our daily lives.



NOTHING MUCH HAPPENS
Nothing much happens on this podcast, which is ideal for a series designed to put you to sleep. Yoga and meditation teacher Kathryn Nicolai tells calming bedtime stories for grown-ups, the result being deep relaxation and a peaceful night's rest.



TEN PERCENT HAPPIER
Meditation cynic turned believer, bestselling author Dan Harris speaks to prominent figures in mindfulness to uncover avenues for enlightenment, because as he says, happiness is a skill you can train.



DIARY OF A CEO
Steven Bartlett says there's no personal development without self-awareness. So, he interviews leading experts in health, finance and relationships in order to help listeners navigate adversity and overcome limiting beliefs.



Looking back down to Catseye Beach and the Reef View Hotel.



Low tide at Escape Beach is excellent for viewing traditional fishing traps used by the Ngaro people of The Whitsundays.



"Secret" beaches off the main track.

Turkey Nest Junction. Here, you may spot the brush turkey and the orange-footed scrub fowl hard at work, building large mounds of heaped earth in which they incubate their eggs. None of these ground-dwelling birds like to be approached while busily going about their work. Heading back onto the Passage Peak Trail, there is soon a clearing with a picnic bench, perfectly placed so you can stop, breathe and take in the views back towards the resort. From here, the walk is lined with cycads and ancient

PHOTOGRAPHY: KARA ROSENBLUND-RILEY
PHOTOGRAPH: KARA ROSENBLUND-RILEY / FACEBOOK / KELLIE LEONARD

grasstrees, the stocky plants with a crown of cascading thin green needle-shaped leaves. These slow-growing plants (a mere one to two centimetres per year) are ancient reminders of life during the evolutionary stages of flowering plants. They only exist in Australia, with some individual plants up to 600 years old. Grasstrees are well adapted to Australia's harsh climate; they can survive bushfire, and flower in direct response. A single flower spike shoots up from the centre of the crown and blooms with tiny white or lemon-coloured flowers that run

REEF and Hamilton Island acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, the Ngaro people of the Whitsundays.



Fold you so ...

InStyle editor in chief Justine Cullen has worked in fashion publishing for more than two decades. Following her trip to Hamilton Island Race Week in 2022, she shares her expert packing advice and travel anecdotes.

WHAT DO YOU NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT?

"There's not a lot I'm very precious about. I'm a pretty casual traveller. I recently went on a quick work trip to Bangkok and realised once I got there that I hadn't packed any toiletries, underwear or a wallet. It was as though I'd set off for the airport like I was heading to the corner shop, but thankfully with a passport and a change of clothes."

CAMERA OR IPHONE? OR BOTH? WHICH CAMERA OR APPS DO YOU LIKE TO USE?

"A photographer I admired once told me that the best camera is the one you have with you when a moment is there to be captured. So for me, for most of us, that's an iPhone. I just use the built-in camera editing software. I love a bit of Dramatic Warm on a beach shot."

YOU HAVE VISITED HAMILTON ISLAND MANY TIMES. YOU MUST BE A PRO AT ISLAND PACKING?

"The best part about an island holiday is how little you have to pack, particularly Hamilton where everything you need is there anyway if you forget it. It's a proper holiday, rather than a holiday that you need another holiday to recover from afterward."

PLEASE SHARE: ABSOLUTE DEALBREAKER WHEN IT COMES TO PACKING?

"My phone and a charger, which, guaranteed, I'll leave behind in the hotel room."

BIKINI OR ONE-PIECE?

"I love an Eres one-piece. My stomach hasn't seen the light of day in so many years and she's absolutely fine with that."

BUCKET HAT OR BASEBALL CAP OR ...?

"I unfortunately don't have a head for hats. I'll happily take a shady tree though."

ONE SUITCASE OR TWO? OR THREE?

"One, as small as possible – unless I have to share with a small child. I use Away luggage, which seems to survive anything."

ARE YOU A GOOD "EDITOR" OR DO YOU TAKE IT ALL WITH YOU?

"I start out very planned and edited, and then I usually throw a bunch of things in last minute 'just in case', which sends it all awry."

BOOK (AND WHAT ARE YOU READING CURRENTLY?) OR PHONE? WHICH DO YOU PREFER ON HOLIDAY?

"I was just on holiday and finished Kate Atkinson's *Shrines of Gaiety*, an airport read

that was a fun little romp. I've now returned to a couple of books I hadn't finished prior to entering the vacay vibe, which are *The Status Game* by Will Storr – non-fiction, about the way the urge for status rules subconsciously our lives – and Sloane Crosley's *Cult Classic*, which I'd been saving for the holiday and had ready to pack but forgot to take with me. I was so annoyed about it. I've been trying not to use my Kindle on holiday because paper books just feel more relaxing, but this was one time that proved the advantages of technology."

EVENING CLASSIC LOOK YOU ALWAYS PACK?

"I have a black silk Esse shirt-dress that works for all occasions and comes with me everywhere."

ROLL, FLAT PACK OR STUFF IT ALL IN?

"Combination of roll and fold."

YOU RECENTLY SALLIED FORTH ON A MAJOR EUROPEAN TRIP. WHAT WAS THE FUNNIEST MOMENT?

"I travelled with my husband and four children so most moments were pretty funny. Trudging through the tiny up-and-down cobblestone stairways of Matera, Italy trying to find our Airbnb in the dark with two enormous suitcases, four backpacks, an overflowing carry-on bag, a stroller and a toddler who refused to walk was one of those if-you-don't-laugh-you'll-cry moments. But once we found it, dumped our stuff and looked out from our balcony across the twinkling lights of the other-worldly Sassi, it was all worthwhile. That's always the way when travelling with kids: the inevitable hard moments never last, but the memories are forever."

YOUR TRAVEL MANTRA?

"Never waste a meal ... I have a plan or booking for every breakfast, lunch and dinner. If something better comes up in the moment, that's great, but I like knowing that I have a well-researched back-up and won't

THE HAMILTON ISLAND EDIT



ever end up having to eat somewhere random and not so special because that's the only place you could get into last minute."

IF YOU COULD TIME TRAVEL BACK TO SOMEWHERE, WHERE WOULD YOU GO?
"My favourite trip ever was a cruise down the

Nile with Nour El Nil. It was absolutely magical, eye-opening, breathtaking and relaxing all at once. I'm always trying to convince people to go."

FAVOURITE THING TO DO ON ISLAND?
"Re-fall in love with my husband."

ISLAND RETAIL THERAPY

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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 RESORT WEAR
07 4946 8221

THE ART GALLERY
07 4948 9657

THE HUT
07 4946 8273

TRADER PETE'S
07 4946 0907



CALL of the WILD

It's the heart of the new Paspaley collection, whose debut dazzled at Hamilton Island Race Week. Creative director Christine Salter tells *REEF* how nature's gems inspired the Wild Feather collier's creation.



The incredible Wild Feather ring (top), collier (above), double cuff (right) and earrings (opposite page), from Paspaley's new Song Bird set.



Horizontal Falls
in the Kimberley.

I began thinking about what I would find if I wandered through the Kimberley coastal wilderness. What would be beautiful to wear ... I envisioned a collection that combined pearls with colourful feathers, seeds, berries and leaves. When I went for the first ocean swim of that summer when we started work on Wild, I felt so invigorated. Whether it was the salt on my skin or the sunshine, I felt my most beautiful, because of that connection to nature. And so, I was trying to create a collection that would evoke that particular emotion as well. It wasn't just about showcasing the physical beauty, but about something that would evoke a very personal experience.

For our design-week team getaway we all went into the ocean in the Kimberley, including a couple of the pearl farmers and the designers. And it was an intense feeling because we knew we were about to create a collection using pearls that were growing in the same ocean in which we were swimming. It was a beautiful spiritual moment. We also went foraging all along the coastline where our pearls are grown. We were looking in the undergrowth, we were looking at everything, collecting things as children do; as adults, too. We picked pandanus leaves, we picked red seeds from the crab's-eye bean, and we took our discoveries back to the design room.

The collier [pictured left] is part of the Song Bird set; the elongated feathers inspired by the jabiru, the Australian black-necked stork with

those dark slick colours represented in dark blue sapphires. We collected little hard red seeds along the way and they're represented through garnets. And the burra plant, too, that has these beautiful curvaceous leaves. But not every leaf is the same; that's what is so wild about nature. I remember our designer Joao Vaz saying "Nature is so extravagant. Everything looks harmonious yet every single leaf on one plant is different. Every single petal is different to the next". That's really what this necklace is



"NATURE IS SO EXTRAVAGANT. EVERY PETAL IS DIFFERENT TO THE NEXT."

about: if you look closely at every pearl cap, it is designed around a different flower bud. So the craftsmanship involved in making this necklace took 1000 hours and that doesn't even include the design work or the time it took to select the stones for all the colours to use in the graduations across the petals. The necklace isn't just about the feathers and treasures we found; it's about capturing those moments we all experienced during the design week. We would wake up every morning and our pearl farm at Kuri Bay was alight with the sound of birds. The rising sun lit up the surrounding escarpment and we felt giving the collection the name Song Bird would bring so much, and it would bring the emotion of how we all had felt.

It was about more than one sense, too. It's sound, sight, and the feeling of the pearls when you touch and wear this necklace. You can't help but bring your hand up and feel the pearls against your skin. Of course, the most important part for us was choosing the pearls for this set. We were given the instruction to select the most lustrous pearls Paspaley could possibly provide. My uncle Nick [Paspaley] said, "I want pearls with lustre so sharp you could prick your finger on it". When you look at these pearls, it's really hard to believe that they were created by nature in nature. They look so perfect. But that's what's so beautiful about nature: nothing can create more perfection than the way nature itself can.

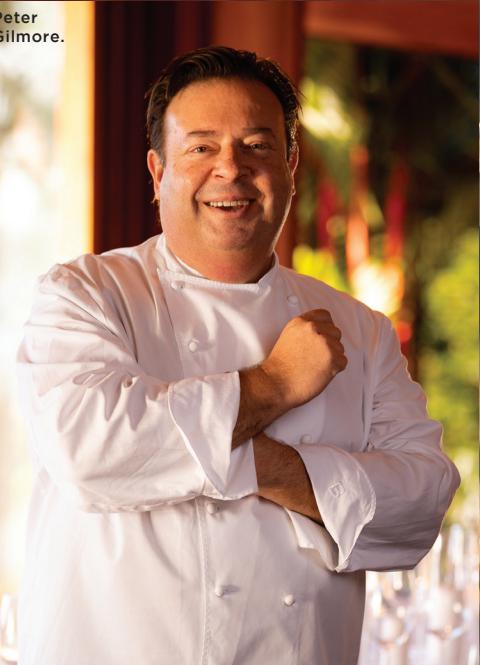


PETER GILMORE DINNER

CELEBRATING: Elegance at its best
LOCATION: Long Pavilion, qualia
Peter Gilmore of Sydney's Quay and Bennelong restaurants is a regular at Hamilton Island Race Week, delivering a carefully curated menu and his globally renowned culinary skills. This year's menu featured seasonal truffles, Queensland mudcrab and of course, a signature Gilmore dessert, The Chocolate Crackl. All perfectly matched with Charles Heidsieck Blanc de Blanc and Robert Oatley Signature Series and The Pennant wines. Gilmore's exquisite food and unrelenting passion for only the very best produce is why he remains one Australia's most celebrated, and awarded, chefs.

Sam Evans and Tilly Smith.

Elle Halliwell, Katrina Israel, Melissa Hoyer or Sarah Stinson.



PAUL CARMICHAEL DINNER
CELEBRATING: Life through food and shared experiences
LOCATION: Pebble Beach, qualia
qualia was the scene for a Caribbean-inspired beachside feast under the stars, with long tables and a share-plate menu by ex Momofuku Seiobo chef, Paul Carmichael. The Barbados-born chef maintains enormous passion for his Caribbean roots and his love of bringing people together was evident, as he treated guests to some of the dishes with which he grew up. Following dinner, guests enjoyed an open discussion between emcee, Food and Wine Victoria CEO Anthea Loucas Bosh, and Carmichael about his culinary journey.



Scott Maggs and Jordan Stenmark.





Analiese
Gregory.



Gregory
mud-crabbing.

ANALIESE GREGORY DINNER

CELEBRATING: Local produce from the sea to table

LOCATION: Spa qualia

Swapping the Michelin-starred restaurants of Paris's Le Meurice and Sydney's Quay for Tasmania means Analiese Gregory hunts, fishes, forages and now lives seasonally closer to nature. Gregory shared some of these experiences with guests after spending the morning with Whitsundays mud-crabbing expert Matt Vickers, sourcing local mud crabs for the intimate dinner held at Spa qualia. The menu also featured scallops cooked in the shell with wild wakame butter; wagyu skewers with angasi oyster sauce; chilled oysters with cumquat mignonette; charred octopus, smoked macadamia and kombucha-pickled currants; and Tasmanian truffle creme caramel.



Joanna Savill and
Analiese Gregory.



Ned O'Neil, Nadia
Fairfax-Wayne
and Darren Jahn.

Justine Cullen and
Rebecca Caratti.

APERITIFS WITH WILL COWPER

CELEBRATING: Sailing at its best
LOCATION: Onboard Quantum

Guests were treated to Will Cowper of Otto Brisbane's menu of oysters, Champagne lobster and Piper-Heidsieck Champagne, enjoyed while relaxing aboard luxury motor yacht Quantum and watching the on-water action of Hamilton Island Race Week.



Will Cowper and
Darren Jahn.

DINNER WITH WILL COWPER

CELEBRATING: La dolce vita
LOCATION: Beach Pavilion, Catseye Beach

Will Cowper, who swapped Sydney for the head-chef role at Otto Brisbane, hosted a relaxed beachside dinner, with two long tables and a Tuscan family feel. Cowper is known for his love of local seasonal ingredients and these were showcased deliciously, with standout dishes Champagne lobster, fennel, finger lime, chilli, ginger, lemon balm; and shell-shaped pasta, Queensland mud crab, cherry tomatoes, chilli, lemon and basil.



Matt Langford
and Gigi Penna.

Susan Gavran
and Richard Broug.



Guests included Laura Brown
and Alison Veness.



PHOTOGRAPHY: RHANNON TAYLOR
WENDELLI TEODORO; YEN BUTT



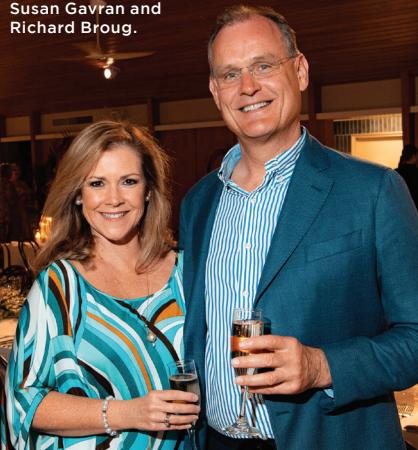
Will Cowper and
Darren Jahn.



Anna and Chris Paspaley,
Christine Salter.

Matt Langford
and Gigi Penna.

Susan Gavran
and Richard Broug.





Lisa Seiffert, Nicky Oatley,
Deborah Symond O'Neil
and Nadia Fairfax-Wayne.

Christine Salter.



Lisa and
Michael Wipfler.



PHOTOGRAPHY: KEN BUTTERFIELD, ENDELL TEODORO,
JACK HENRY, RHIANNE DR.

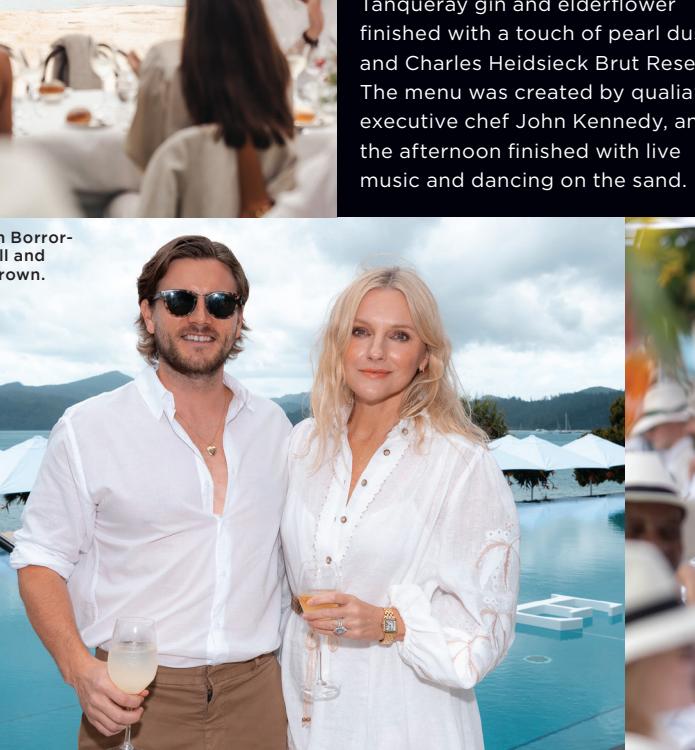


Kate
Waterhouse.



Brandon Borror-
Chappell and
Laura Brown.

PASPALY LUNCHEON
CELEBRATING: The beauty of Paspaley pearls, beachside
LOCATION: Pebble Beach, qualia
The sun was shining, Carolina hats were on, guests were adorned in Paspaley pearls and wearing white against the backdrop of the Coral Sea. Long tables lined the lawns of Pebble Beach, where guests were treated on arrival to a signature cocktail designed for Paspaley: "The Kimberley Dry" blends Tanqueray gin and elderflower finished with a touch of pearl dust and Charles Heidsieck Brut Reserve. The menu was created by qualia's executive chef John Kennedy, and the afternoon finished with live music and dancing on the sand.



R S
V P



CHARLES HEIDSIECK CHAMPAGNE LUNCH

CELEBRATING: The Champagne house, great food and company
LOCATION: Long Pavilion, qualia Sunrise's James Tobin hosted a beautiful lunch prepared by qualia's executive chef, John Kennedy. The menu featured marron with granny smith apple and puffed pork skin; tajima wagyu sirloin with artichoke crisps, intercostal, brown butter and saltbush; followed by cream cheese mousse dessert all matched with Charles Heidsieck Blanc de Blancs. Guests lingered long into the afternoon, with a DJ, dancing and Ketel One espresso martinis.

Nadia Fairfax-Wayne.



athan
rce and
ky Oatley.



Nadia Fairfax-
Wayne and
Alison Veness.



Barren Jahn and
James Tobin.



Rob Mundle and
Carol Oatley.



Kenneth Watkins,
Elizabeth Toohey,
Axel Rogers and
David Hallberg.



David Hallberg and
Catriona Rowntree.



Adam Bull and
my Harris perform.



PAS DE DEUX IN PARADISE

CELEBRATING: A unique performance and behind-the-scenes look at The Australian Ballet's pas de deux in paradise returned to qualia in October 2022, the first under the artistic direction of David Hallberg. The weekend included a chance to take part in a ballet-for-beginners class, an outdoor barre performance by the artists and a masterclass with David Hallberg, hosted by Catriona Rowntree. The weekend culminated in dinner and a spectacular outdoor performance.

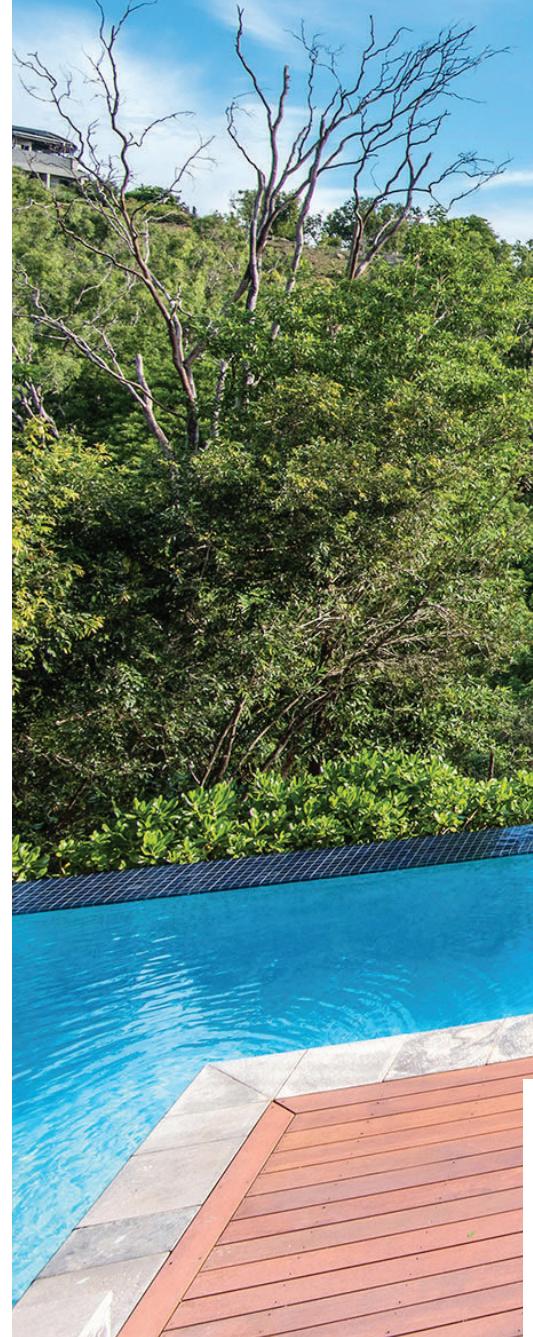


Catriona
Rowntree.



A tall, thin metal lattice tower stands on a sandy beach at sunset. The sky is a warm orange and yellow, transitioning to a darker blue at the horizon. The ocean is visible in the background, and the tower's silhouette is prominent against the bright sky.





Endless opportunity

It's called Infinity for a reason. The Coral Sea vistas enjoyed from this vast home's lofty position on the northern tip of Hamilton Island are without limit.

Infinity literally goes on forever. It is a substantial property set back from the water line to fully capture mesmerising views across native bushlands and gardens to Plum Pudding Island. This beautiful position also guarantees amazing sunsets that can be taken in from any of the home's four decks. Next-level luxury sums up this beautiful property with its abundance of space and light. Infinity sits on a 2035sqm parcel of well-manicured gardens, native green space and natural foliage that stretches down to the water's edge.

The house itself is an incredible 521 square metres and designed for entertaining. Its open-plan, three-level design works beautifully. The kitchen, dining and living areas flow seamlessly.

The generous balcony that leads off the upper level is the perfect place to relax and take in the Coral Sea vistas, which never fail to impress. Infinity is fully furnished and consists of an impressive five bedrooms, four ensuites, one bathroom and an additional powder room. Stairs from the spacious entertaining level lead down to the middle floor, home to the impressive master bedroom and second spacious bedroom, both with vast ensuites. A third bedroom and laundry are also here. The lower level is another house in itself. It features a second enormous master bedroom and an additional large ensuites bedroom, plus a lounge and kitchenette that opens up to an additional large entertaining deck, bathroom and the heart of the house, a wet-edge pool and spa. The property can comfortably sleep up to

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



Ideal for entertaining.



Ensute luxury.



Well-appointed kitchen.



Fine dining.

14 people, making it the luxurious go-to for a family and friends' holiday or for holiday rentals. The current owners have researched holiday guests' needs and furnished Infinity with this in mind. The property comes with two golf buggies and has strong forward bookings. "Infinity is just one of those unique properties that has everything you might want from a home and investment on Hamilton Island," says Liam Kearney, property consultant for Hamilton Island Real Estate. "It's airy and open, and has beautiful view lines to the ocean. It is a well-designed house, with so much light. It has a wonderful natural feel, high ceilings and the dual master beds and dual buggy lock-up garage add an extra luxury. The size and layout are clever – the house works on a small scale as a retreat and also affords a generous entertaining proposition; it never feels overcrowded. The design throughout is impeccable."

ELANDRA

4/10 WHITSUNDAY BOULEVARD
\$3,875,000

5 3 1

Elandra boasts mesmerising 180-degree views across the surrounding Whitsunday islands. The Chris Beckingham-designed property is a sprawling 1000sqm and features a generous master suite with a balcony, two spacious bedrooms on the upper level and two on the lower level with convenient adjoining ensuites. The property enjoys an expansive open living area with generous kitchen and grand, vaulted ceilings that allow for an abundance of natural light. The signature timber floors of qualia designer Chris Beckingham feature throughout. The in-ground wet-edge pool with adjoining kitchenette and manicured gardens complete the home, providing an amazing island getaway.



PAVILLIONS 13

1 AIRPORT DRIVE
\$4,200,000

3 3 1

Pavillions is one of Hamilton Island's most exclusive developments. The island's only waterfront luxury apartments offer an exclusive marina berth right at the front door. This 350sqm first-floor property is newly renovated and features a modern and stylish interior. It is spaciously set on a single level, with spectacular northern views across Hamilton Island Marina. The expansive kitchen, open-plan living and dining area, and luxurious media room and study is complemented by a spacious wraparound balcony and private spa. Other features include a secure garage, 18-metre marina berth and luxury furnishings.



CASUARINA COVE 17

1 ACACIA DRIVE
\$1,500,000 +

3 2 1

Enjoy all the comforts of home and a spectacular location at this spaciously designed 230sqm property, split across two levels. Each level features a large balcony with panoramic views across Dent Passage. The property is in the heart of the marina precinct and is an easy walk to access all the marina has to offer, making this a sought-after prospect for investors and holiday-makers alike. Both bathrooms and deck have recently been refurbished, as well as new furniture and appliances featuring throughout. It is sold fully furnished.



WHITSUNDAY APARTMENTS

14 RESORT DRIVE
CONTACT AGENT

1 1

Conveniently close to Catseye Beach, it is easy to see why these apartments in this lagoon style complex, with pool and spa, are popular holiday homes and a good investment. All needs are met here for a self-contained family holiday. The spacious 84sqm floor plan accommodates up to five guests, with a well-equipped kitchen, open plan lounge and dining area, large bedroom and dual access bathroom. Stepping onto the generous balcony, the view is over the tropical gardens and takes in the Coral Sea.

HIBISCUS 206

16 RESORT DRIVE
OFFERS OVER \$995,000

2 2

Sweeping views from Catseye Bay mean you will never forget you are on an island paradise. Hibiscus is one of the most popular properties for buyers and holiday-makers, thanks to its clever combination of stylish lifestyle and good location. The property is just a short walk to all resort amenities, including the island bus service. Enjoy the apartment's open-plan entertaining spaces and endless views from its private balcony, plus easy access to the complex's pool and grassed area. Hibiscus 206 has been updated since the original build and presents the perfect family holiday home, retiree pad or savvy addition to an investment portfolio.



OASIS 10

2 FLAMETREE GROVE
\$949,000

3 2

This property is perfectly positioned to take in the stunning sunsets for which Hamilton Island is famous and features an open-plan living and dining area, high ceilings and a bright airy ambience. Outdoor entertainment is the central theme of tropical Whitsundays living, and on this Oasis 10 delivers. The spacious and fully renovated balcony is suitable for all weather conditions, with bifolding windows to protect from the elements. The property is being sold fully furnished and is ready for a new owner to reap the rewards of its strong holiday-letting history.



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

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PROPERTY SALES: 07 4948 9101 **PERMANENT RENTALS:** 07 4946 8028 **HOLIDAY HOMES PROPERTY MANAGEMENT:** 07 4946 8746

LA BELLA WATERS 3

1 CORAL SEA AVENUE

CONTACT AGENT

3 3 1

Set in an exclusive complex of just eight townhouses is this stunning three-bedroom plus office property. It features generous king-sized bedrooms, all with ensuites and spacious walk-in wardrobes. The open floorplan is the largest internal floor area in the complex and includes a spacious gourmet kitchen with white granite countertops, a large living and dining area, and exquisite furnishings which flow seamlessly to the large outdoor living area. The property is located on the prestigious northern end of Hamilton Island. There is a pool within the complex, plus beautiful lawns and manicured gardens to guarantee a sense of complete relaxation.



PEBBLE BEACH

10 MELALEUCA DRIVE

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ONLY

3 3 2

It doesn't get much more exclusive than this. As the name suggests, this is the only home on Hamilton Island with direct access to a pebble beach. It is designed by renowned Whitsundays property designer Chris Beckingham and features a split level, indoor-outdoor design with hardwood floors, high ceilings and a multitude of balcony living spaces with spectacular views. Other features of this stunning property include ceiling fans, split-system air-conditioning, eastern view lines, a one-acre plot size and the guarantee of complete privacy for those looking to enjoy a serene island getaway.



POINCIANA 006

2 MARINA DRIVE

OFFERS OVER \$824,000

2 2 1

This north-facing, fully-furnished ground-floor apartment is located in one of Hamilton Island's most popular developments. Poinciana Lodge is a short walk to the Resort Centre, beach and marina, and also enjoys a private and shaded lagoon-style pool. This feature-packed apartment has been well renovated and includes a great kitchen and stylish bathrooms. The spacious outdoor entertaining area provides direct lawn access and beautiful eastern views across Catseye Bay. This property is a perfect paradise for families with young children, or those wishing to avoid stairs.



PANDANUS F

4 BANKSIA COURT

OFFERS OVER \$500,000

2 1 1

The Pandanus apartment complex is highly regarded as a popular development for owner/occupiers and island staff residing in permanent rentals. It is nestled in tropical surrounds and is in a quiet location on the western side of Hamilton Island. Pandanus F is a newly renovated townhouse, with both bedrooms on the upper level and main living area on the ground floor with a spacious open-plan layout. It features a generously sized deck with sea views and is complemented by a well-maintained tropical landscaped garden and lawn area, making it excellent for families with young children.

YACHT HARBOUR TOWER 2

1 MARINA DRIVE

\$2,900,000

4 4 1

This beautifully renovated, full-floor apartment boasts more than 310-square-metres of floor space in one of the island's premiere, centrally located properties. The expansive living space and large balcony take in views across Dent Island, the marina and the Whitsunday waters. Yacht Harbour Tower properties also feature exclusive private lift access straight into the foyer of the apartment, as well as secure lockup basement parking and use of the shared complex pool and barbecue area.



PANDANUS C

4 BANKSIA COURT

\$510,000

2 1 1

Conveniently located in a popular staff and residents townhouse development, this is the perfect option for owner-occupier or permanent tenant investment. This spacious two-level townhouse has an open plan living area with high ceilings and a generous deck leading onto a lawn area with spectacular views out to the crystal waters of the Whitsundays. The complex features tropical landscaped gardens and in-ground pool and private parking.



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

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PROPERTY SALES: 07 4948 9101 **PERMANENT RENTALS:** 07 4946 8028 **HOLIDAY HOMES PROPERTY MANAGEMENT:** 07 4946 8746

YACHT CLUB VILLA 28

5-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY
FROM: \$1660 PER NIGHT
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 8 PEOPLE



Enjoy views over the Coral Sea to the Whitsundays from every level of this incredible home - one of the highest in the Yacht Club Villa complex. The top level that runs off the master suite includes a unique outdoor lounge area, while the main living level features a barbecue and outdoor dining for eight people. The furnished villa includes a private plunge pool surrounded by tropical palms.



NORTH CAPE 4

4-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY
FROM: \$1090 PER NIGHT
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 8 PEOPLE



Perfectly situated on the northern end of Hamilton Island is this luxurious four-bedroom villa, furnished in contemporary Hamptons style. Its impeccable interior, views across tropical gardens to the Fitzalan Passage and private plunge pool makes North Cape 4 an idyllic island escape.

BLUE WATER VIEWS 3

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



This large and bright apartment is located on the western side of Hamilton Island, its wide balcony the perfect place to enjoy the island's renowned sunsets. The airy, open-plan layout is ideal for couples or a family. Enjoy tropical garden and pool views from the covered outdoor terrace, with direct access to the shared pool.

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

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ROLEX SWAN CUP

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 42


ROLEX