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MATT MORAN

MARCUS BLACKMORE

ADAM WOODFIELD

GEORGE FREEDMAN

ISSUE 11
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INTRODUCTION



We are very proud this year to stage the 31st Audi Hamilton Island Race Week, it's lovely to see so many people returning year after year to enjoy this event. We staged a new sporting event earlier this year in June, celebrating one of the icons of the region, with the inaugural Great Whitehaven Beach Run. There aren't too many more incredible places in which to do a half marathon and it was good to see families and groups of friends making a great day of it. It is important to us to continually invest in the island, to ensure our guests enjoy their time here and keep coming back. And so this year sees both the opening of the newly refurbished Beach Club rooms and the new Manta Ray Café. The Beach Club has always been popular with couples seeking out its boutique atmosphere and enjoying its fantastic location right

on the beach. The new rooms have a refreshed sense of Australian luxury and of course maintain the excellent service that the Beach Club is renowned for. Manta Ray Café has always been an island favourite with its central location in the Marina Village. The newly refurbished restaurant now offers delicious breakfast, lunch and dinner menus inspired by one of my other favourite regions in the world, the Mediterranean. However you spend your time on Hamilton Island, whether it's participating in any of the sports on the sea or dry land, or just taking an evening stroll to watch the sunset from One Tree Hill, I hope that you will enjoy your time here with family and good friends.

Bob Oatley,
OWNER
HAMILTON ISLAND

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Typically Charles

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CHARLES HEIDSIECK
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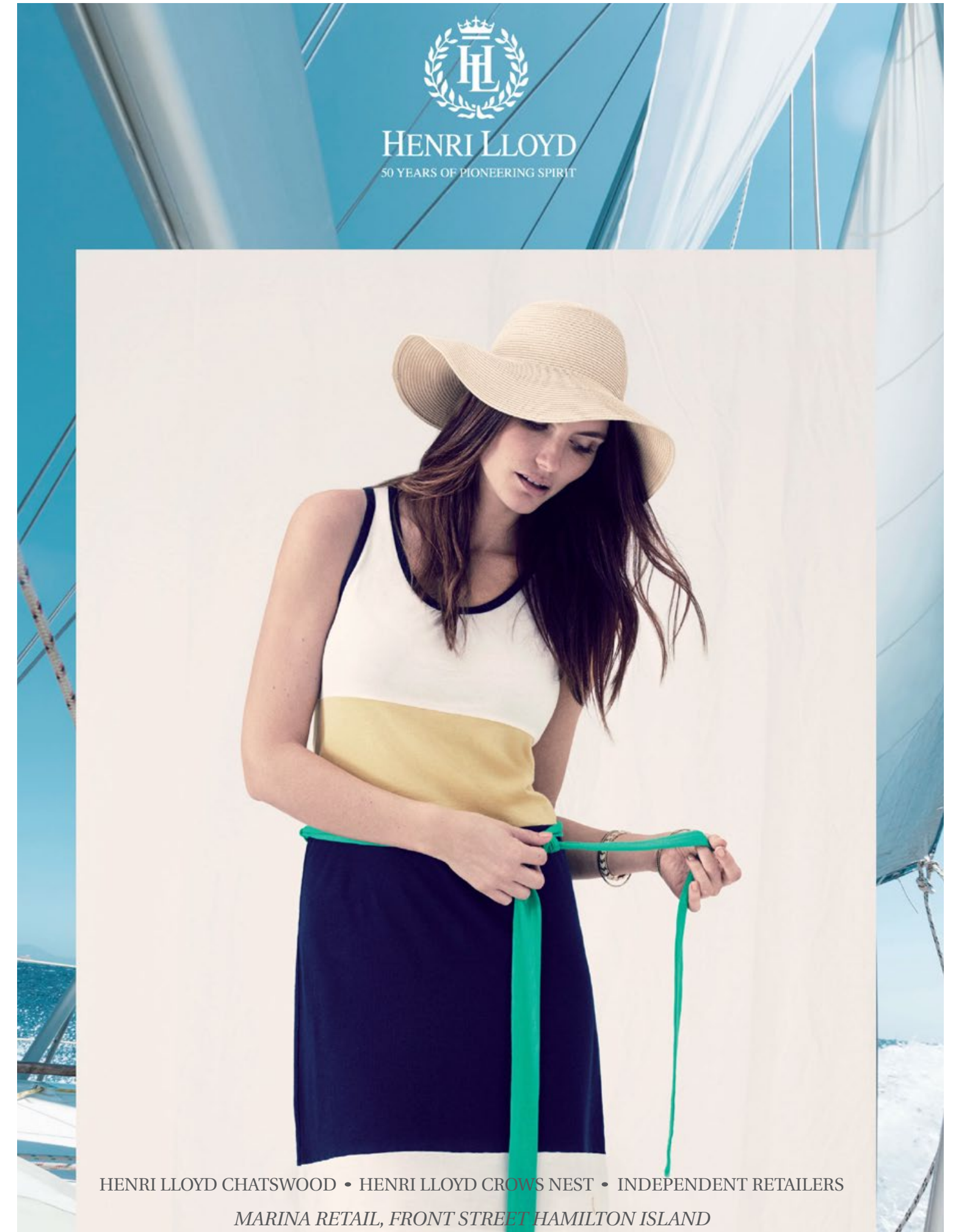
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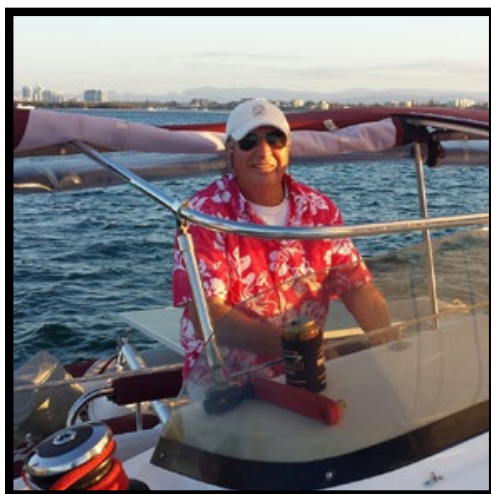


SUSIE BURGE

Best sailing anecdote? Sailing all the way up the East River from New York Bay to Long Island Sound on a little J24 with no motor power, hair-raising currents, fabulous perspective on Manhattan. **Spectator or sportswoman, which code?** I occasionally race on a friend's beautiful vintage Eight Metre on Sydney Harbour. Otherwise I'm a spectator and an AFL Sydney Swans supporter. **Best thing you've ever won?** Dr Colin Roderick Prize in Australian Literature at Sydney University. **How do you relax?** Playing with my Dalmatian dog, Poppy. **Sundowner?** Campari. **Paradise?** The beach.

ANDREA FRANCOLINI

Best sailing anecdote? I once shot Richard Branson's boat while it was being built in Australia. Finally he came to look at the boat. I was asked to take pictures from a distance and not to disturb him, except at one stage both he and the captain walked towards me, I was cornered - no way out. I stepped aside, nodded and smiled. He looked at me, kept on walking, then came back, shook my hand and said "Hi I am Richard". I did appreciate the politeness, regardless of who he is. **Spectator or sportsman, which code?** I used to play golf a lot (7 handicap) so I loved playing. Now I just watch it on TV. **What's the best thing you've ever won?** I hope I haven't won it yet - otherwise I missed the moment! **How do you relax?** Drinking a Japanese beer in my garden looking through a black and white photographic book. **Sundowner?** Strawberry caprioska or sauvignon blanc from New Zealand. **Paradise?** Tokyo fish market and all its sushi for breakfast with local beer.



ROB MUNDLE

Best sailing anecdote? The most memorable moment of all, is the day I first went sailing as an 11-year-old. It gave me my destiny, and it's been fun ever since - except for the time I went over the side from the maxi yacht, Ondine, 20 miles off Cuba at 10 o'clock at night while competing in the 1971 Miami to Montego Bay, Jamaica race. Obviously, I survived because I am here to tell the story. **Spectator or sportsman, which code?** I am certainly not an armchair admiral. I'm very much an active sailor. **Best thing you've ever won?** The chance to call - for Australian and worldwide television - Australia's historic victory in the 1983 America's Cup. **How do you relax?** Being aboard my catamaran, Toucanoes. **Sundowner?** Caprioska. **Paradise?** Sailing among islands in the tropics, especially the Whitsundays.



LUKE ELVY

Best sailing anecdote? I covered the 18-foot skiffs in my first year with the Sydney Morning Herald and David Witt (the skipper of Nokia) at the time took me out for a joyride in strong winds on Auckland Harbour. If you don't know Witty, his nickname is the Kid (because he acts like one) - anyway he had the thing flying and high out of the water, it was a great buzz. **Spectator or sportsman, which code?** Sportsman, rugby union or golf PGA Tour. **What's the best thing you've ever won?** I've played in eight rugby grand finals and was lucky to never lose one. **How do you relax?** Beach or lying by a pool. **Sundowner?** A (few) cold beer(s) or a Vodka Agrum. **Paradise?** qualia, Hamilton Island...



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DIARY

2014/2015



2014 16-23 AUG AUDI HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK

The countdown to Australia's favourite yachting event is coming to an end - and as sailors from both local and international clubs, their families and friends descend upon Hamilton Island for seven days of excitement and water-sporting thrill, there's nowhere else you want to be. If you're into yachts, get psyched - this year we're upping the ante and competition is geared to be fiercer than ever. If you're not so into yachts, you can still get excited - the on-shore flavour, from fashion to food and wine, will be just as much of a buzz. Racing will be split into a Grand Prix class for the top-end racers, an IRC Passage class for modern fast-cruising yachts, performance racing and also a sports boat competition. Cruising, corporate, bareboat and non-spinnaker divisions are also in the line-up while maxi yacht and SB20 divisions are injecting yet another dimension to this year's regatta.

27-30 OCT PGA PROFESSIONALS CHAMPIONSHIP AND HAMILTON ISLAND AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Have you been getting enough swings in lately? It's time to clock

up some extra practice-hours up on the green - and Australia's top order club and teaching professionals will be waiting for you at the Hamilton Island Golf Club for the PGA Professionals Championship. If you missed out last year, don't make the same mistake twice - the competition's hot, places are limited and you'll need to book in fast. That goes for the non-pro event, the Hamilton Island Amateur Golf Championship, too. Now in its second year, the popular stableford event tees off at the same time as the PGA and will host a Pro-Am on day one, followed by a 36-hole competition open to women and men, with \$5,000 in prizes to be won.

31 OCT - 2 NOV PAS DE DEUX IN PARADISE

The Australian Ballet returns to qualia for the seventh year this October, dancing some of the ballet's most iconic pas de deux on an open air stage under a glittering Whitsunday sky. In a rare opportunity to see inside The Australian Ballet, guests are also invited to join the performers at a post-event black tie dinner by Executive Chef Alastair Waddell at the renowned Long Pavilion restaurant and attend a morning barre session.



14-16 NOV FUJIFILM HAMILTON ISLAND TRIATHLON AND WHITEHAVEN BEACH OCEAN SWIM

We suggest lots of green juice and extra protein, starting right now. The Whitsundays' very own triathlete's endurance event is back this year and we're expecting a bigger, tougher field than ever. On your marks - here's your chance to face off against professionals like Australia's Ky Hurst, Craig Alexander and Courtney Atkinson as well as all other amateur-but-unrelenting competitors who come to Hamilton Island to test their mettle. And, trust us, they're in training already. It's a gorgeous course, covering some of the iconic scenes and idyllic natural spots of the island, but there is serious

sporting glory to be won - we're talking a 750m swim across Catseye Bay, an up and downhill 20km cycle, a speed-riding stretch on the airport runway, and, just when you're feeling the burn, a 5km foot-race through the

Hamilton Island Marina Village to a beachside finish. Just crossing the line earns extensive bragging rights. If the adrenalin's still pumping, cap off your weekend on a high at the Whitehaven Beach Ocean Swim, a 2km or 750m swim meet. Bring the family - there's also a junior triathlon (in varying lengths), Splash and Dash run and swims for athletes 15 years and under. You know what they say - the family who trains together, stays together. If social Sunday sport is more your kind of thing, sign up for the Dent Dash on 16 November to walk or run the buggy paths of the picturesque Hamilton Island Golf Club. No pressure - there are no prizes and the matter of timing is left up to you. But a victory breakfast buffet (think eggs, fresh fruit, organic

yoghurt) awaits everyone at the finish line. It comes completely gratis with your entry ticket - after all, you'll have earned it.

2015 3 MAY STAMFORD FINANCIAL HILLY HALF MARATHON

Lace up, kick training into top gear and remember to stretch, stretch, stretch. Whether you're a seasoned distance runner or taking your morning jog to the next level, preparation starts now. Events will include a half marathon, corporate and open relays, and a junior run for kids - and competitors will take on kilometres of uphill road, fire trails and the bush-lined tracks of Hamilton Island's up-and-down interior, in one of the most scenic courses in all of Australia. Are you ready?

11-14 JUN GATORADE CLASH OF THE PADDLES

Calling everyone, everywhere with a passion for the paddle - the battle will be back next winter and nobody's messing around. Bring your surf ski or outrigger skills, bring your physical grit and pack your mental toughness - some of the toughest athletes on the water are expected to throw down the gauntlet for the 2015 contest. Bring it.

20 JUN THE GREAT WHITEHAVEN BEACH RUN

You know what they say: there are soft-sand runners, and there are hardcore silica sand marathoners. No, don't let the idyllic island paradise-scene fool

you - this is the ultimate fitness test. There's a full-throttle 21.1km half marathon, an 11km run from Hill Inlet along the long white stretch of Whitehaven Beach or a shorter 5.5km circuit. Are you a solo competitor or a group-runner? Team up with friends or even bring the kids along for junior events - there's a challenge for everyone. And if spectating is more your speed, could there be anywhere

more glorious to do it than by the turquoise water of one of the most photogenic beaches on the planet? Yes, everyone's a winner.

JUL AWAY - THE ART OF PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

You'll never feel like a point-and-click amateur again. Tailored to beginners or photographers ready to advance their skills, this four-day

workshop will show you expert tips and techniques in one of the most stunning shoot locations in Australia. You'll be coached on equipment, editing, shot composition and tricks of the trade by Photography Masters. Touring the absolute highlights of the Whitsundays by land, sea and air, in light and colour conditions from sunrise to spectacular sunset, you'll pick up more from our experts than you ever thought you could know.



FOR THE LATEST EVENT INFORMATION AND MORE DETAILS, VISIT WWW.HAMILTONISLAND.COM.AU/EVENTS

ISLAND NEWS

TEXT BY TRACEY WITHERS



BEACH CLUB BLISS

Check in and yes, bliss, bliss out. Boutique accommodation in the freshly refurbished Beach Club Premium Rooms has a unique way of spoiling you like it's your own personal resort, secluding you as though you're a world away and yet making you feel right at home. This is Australian island luxury at its finest. Wake up on the absolute beachfront and watch sun-up over the Coral Sea, have breakfast by the pool, book your massage session at the island's day spa or find the sunniest spot on the hotel's exclusive beach. At the end of the day, in your room, relaxation turns transcendental. Soft, natural light and tropical breeze flood your balcony, the free-standing bath and rainshower will take you back to nature. This is home away in heaven. Beg for a late check-out.



LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION, EXPLORE, EXPLORE, EXPLORE

This is why you came to the Great Barrier Reef, after all. There is nowhere else in the world to see technicolour coral formations or truly astonishing marine life quite like this – and there's nobody better to guide you than an expert from Hamilton Island's new dive service, the Explore Group. Small, way-below-capacity groups cruise to the best swim, snorkel and dive sites around Bait Reef, including Stepping Stones, Paradise Lagoon and Manta Ray Drop Off. They've got the gear, the day's not rushed, they serve a sumptuous on-boat lunch along with morning and afternoon tea plus a cheese platter. The catamaran is custom-designed for diving and snorkelling and slips into uncrowded, hidden spots of the reef comfortably and quietly. Don't forget your underwater camera. To find out more visit exploregroup.com.au



GLOBAL CHEERING

We always knew it. Holiday-makers have always said so and now Whitehaven's status as the best beach in Australia, and one of the finest the globe's got, is again official. The seven kilometre stretch of white silica sand, so pristine it squeaks under your bare soles, we love this fact, has just been voted the number one beach in the country by TripAdvisor. And, guess what, you're only a short boat trip away, right now.

STRAIGHT TO THE POOL ROOM

Hamilton Island's qualia recently notched up another two awards for world-beating luxury with uniquely Australian flavour. For the second year in a row, the resort, which sits on the sun-drenched northern tip of the island with mind-blowing views across the Whitsundays, won Luxury Travel Magazine's Best Australian Resort award for 2014. It got the popular vote too, winning three 2014 TripAdvisor Traveller's Choice Awards (the private pavilions also ranked second for Best in Romance). General Manager of qualia Matthew Taverner says, "We're committed to offering an experience that is uniquely personal in style, authentically Australian and at parity with the highest international benchmarks. Having garnered over 20 awards in the past 12 months, we are proud to be creating extraordinary lifelong memories for guests."



RAY OF LIGHT

Book yourself a table at one of the island's favourite dining hotspots, the freshly-refurbished Manta Ray Café. It's waterfront and right in the Marina Village – casual Mediterranean style with first-class views. Reflecting the light yet deeply-satisfying menu, the new fit-out puts a tropical spin on nautical styling – the glossy mint tiles, white stone walls and light, breezy colour palette have a warm and inviting vibe. "It makes you feel like standing at the edge of the sea and wanting to dive in," describes interior designer Belinda Cendron. The 57cm wide real giant clamshell water basin is the standout feature right by the bar and the over-sized sea green fish wallpaper will follow you all the way to the bathroom. There's not a bad seat in the house. "Put it this way – you'll find me on the quiet street-side for a sunny breakfast, at the bar for pre-dinner drinks, then out on the deck with friends to watch sundown across the marina." Families with children will appreciate the spacious undercover area. The only tough call: what to order? "I'd start with the grilled squid with chilli, then the chermoula-rubbed chicken, cooked on the bone and over coals and served with red quinoa, roasted cauliflower and green olives," says Cendron. Sold.



FLYING IN JUST GOT EASIER

Consider it your express-pass to paradise. In addition to the list of flights that connect the island to cities across Australia, starting 2 July, Qantas reintroduces direct services between Sydney and Hamilton Island, running three flights per week throughout peak season. "The timing of this has been impeccable as Audi Hamilton Island Race Week is happening in August before The Australian Ballet's pas de deux in paradise at qualia in October and the Great Barrier Feast event in November," says Hamilton Island's General Manager of Sales, Phillipa Harrison. Giving international travellers a seamless connection to the island, economy fares from Sydney are expected to start at \$139, a business class service will start at \$569, one-way.



TOP TEN TO DO, RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW

TEXT BY TRACEY WITHERS



1 SWIM THE REEF

Whether you have a few hours, a day or a week, you can explore the natural wonders of the Great Barrier Reef at your own speed. The most spectacular way to soak up the big, postcard-perfect picture? Take a once-in-a-lifetime scenic helicopter flight. Taking it slow? You can take a day trip out to the Reefworld viewing platform, where you can snorkel and dive amongst the brilliant, coloured coral formations and marine life - or even spend the night on the reef. Or stay a little closer to home and explore the fringing coral gardens around the Whitsunday Islands.



5 GO WILD

We've got slippery lizards, creepy-crawly spiders and slithering snakes, there are kangaroos, birds and even Hamilton Island's own resident croc - take a guided tour of Wild Life Hamilton Island, and you can meet and even feed some of Australia's most unique and amazing animals. Stop for brekkie or lunch at the café after your tour, but make sure you don't leave without a cuddle with a koala.

6 HOIST SAIL

Are you in it for the sport, the buzz or to relax and ride the breeze? Hire a skippered yacht charter, cruise the easy-to-navigate islands, beaches and bays on your own bareboat charter, or enjoy the best of both land and sea with a sail-and-stay package. Budding captains can book lessons or earn internationally-accredited qualifications with our expert sailing crews.



7 REV IT UP

Done with lazing (well, for now)? Hire some wheels and ride the fire trails and bush tracks on a quad bike or a two-seater ATV to discover the best outlooks and photo opps on the island. Prefer to stay on road? Why not tour the island at your own pace on a golf buggy or burn around the track on a go-kart.

FAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

Jump on a quick ferry in time for tee-off at the award-winning Hamilton Island Golf Club. Designed by five-time British Open champion Peter Thomson, the 18-hole championship course throws down a challenge to enthusiasts and weekend-hitters, too. But if you aren't into golf, it's still worth a visit - with the Golf Club lunch special, you can do a tour to check out the unbelievable scenery followed by a laid back long lunch at the Clubhouse.

2



3

ZONE OUT

Hidden in the lush tropical gardens near the Resort Centre, Spa wumurdaylin is a sanctuary - check in to rejuvenate your body, mind and soul. Intuitive therapists apply natural Waterlily and LI'TYA products to customise body cocoons and scrubs, massage rituals and facial therapies with a healing touch. For a humidity-proof blow-dry, wedding upstyle or emergency tan, book into Island Hair and Beauty, also near the Resort Centre.

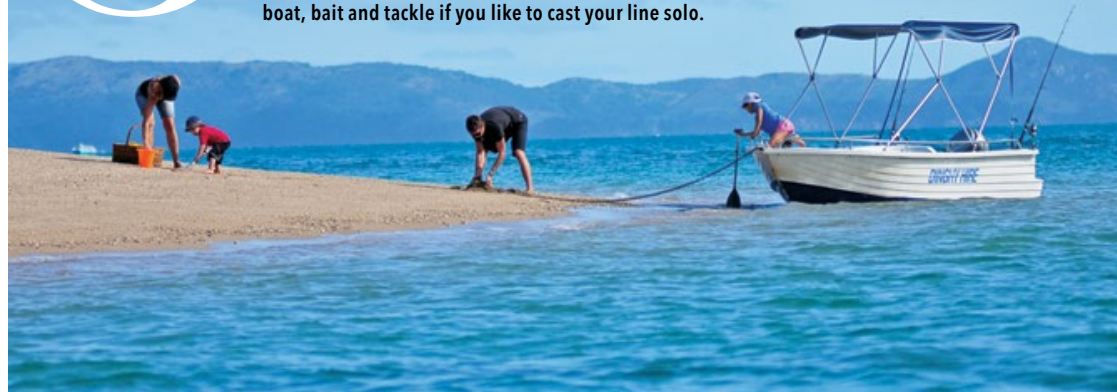
9 JUNIOR THRILLS

Fun comes in all shapes and sizes on a Hamilton Island holiday. Sports fans are guaranteed to get a kick out of a few rounds of mini golf or a strike at the seven-lane ninepin bowling centre. Thrill-seekers aged 6-14 can take on the Quads for Kids adventure course in Palm Valley. A game of BumperZ (everything's fun when you're bouncing around in a big bubble!) can't be missed and littlies will find some new friends to hang out with in the Kids Fun Zone play area or the island's own childcare centre, Clownfish Club.

8

DROP A LINE

There's nothing quite like a fresh catch. Hook up with Renegade Fishing Charters - seasoned and salty fishermen can hire a private or share charter and first-timers can ask a guide where the big fish are biting. The crew will even demonstrate how to clean and prepare your fresh catch for dinner. Visit Hamilton Island Dinghy Hire for your own boat, bait and tackle if you like to cast your line solo.



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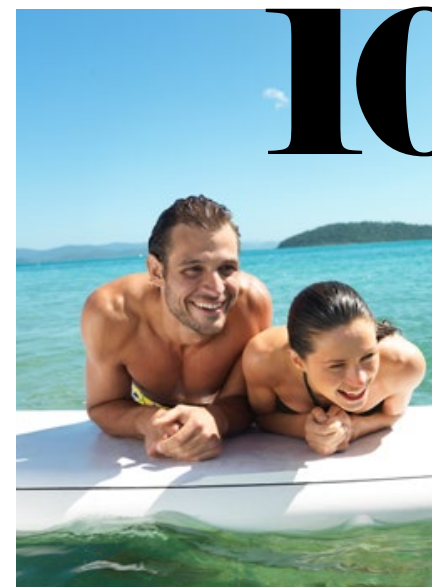
WHITEHAVEN AMAZING

If you can tear yourself away from the blink-to-believe-it gorgeous expanse of beach, and adventure deeper into Whitsunday Island, the largest in the archipelago, it will be a highlight of your holiday. Walk north, up to the pristine Hill Inlet and track the history of the Indigenous Ngaro people. Stroll south through the native bush to discover spectacular swimming and hidden snorkelling spots. You'll feel a world away, but in reality it's just a short skip by helicopter, yacht or motorboat from Hamilton Island. Fancy a picnic and afternoon dip? You can do both, today.

10

GET SPORTY

As a guest staying in Hamilton Island-owned accommodation (Reef View Hotel, Beach Club, Palm Bungalows and Holiday Homes), you can collect a complimentary catamaran, kayak, windsurfer or paddleboard from the Beach Sports Hut on Catseye Beach, get wet and go for it. After you've answered the call of the Coral Sea, take on the 20kms of bushwalking trail that lead to breathtaking lookouts and secret spots across the island. On the Passage Peak or Village Trail walks, a free audio tour (available in various languages) will highlight the flora and fauna that cross your path.



THIRTY ROCK

MARCUS BLACKMORE IS A FINE SAILOR, A WINNER, ONE TO KEEP AN EYE ON COME RACE DAY, WELL HE'S BEEN COMING FOR THIRTY YEARS... BETTER WATCH OUT, WRITES ROB MUNDLE.

It's not always possible for Marcus Blackmore to be on Hamilton Island, but the life he leads is the next best thing to living full-time amidst the island's lush tropical environment and the serenely beautiful surroundings of the Whitsunday Islands.

Commitments to his business – the one where his surname is the brand for Australia's leading vitamin company – keeps Blackmore, and his wife Caroline, headquartered in Sydney, but even so, they spend every possible moment “on island”.

It's been that way for some years and it all started with Audi Hamilton Island Race Week, an event now recognised as Australia's premier keelboat regatta, and one of the best in the world.

It was Blackmore's evolving passion for sailing that saw him sail his yacht, Manly Ferry, all the way north from Sydney to compete at the inaugural Hamilton Island Race Week in 1984. He competed in what he refers to as “The Chocolate Box Division” – the Arbitrary Handicap Division for cruising yachts – and he came home a clear winner. But it was the excitement of the Grand Prix Racing Division that grabbed his interest that year. That was where the crème de la crème of offshore racing yachts were competing, and Blackmore vowed that one day he would stand at the top of the podium for that division at Race Week. Not only did he achieve that, but also he did it at three consecutive regattas – between 2011 and 2013 – and he was the first yachtsman in the colourful history of the event to do so. However, it is not just the competition that has continued to bring Blackmore and thousands of other sailors and supporters back to Hamilton Island Race Week each year – it's the uniqueness of the event.

“It's the destination, the level of competition,

the colour of the water, the fun and the amazing party agenda that makes Audi Hamilton Island Race Week better than any other regatta in Australia, and one of the best in the world,” Blackmore says with confidence. “You will never experience any other regatta like it.

“The fact that it is also what you might call a family regatta confirms this. Every year, the sailors are joined by their wives, family and friends so they too can share in something special.

“Add to this atmosphere the scenery, and the climate, and you have everything you want from a sailing series. You know you've arrived when you are at Race Week in August, there's a beautiful 20-knot southeast trade wind blowing, and you're wearing a T-shirt and shorts. You can't do that in August in the southern states.” Blackmore explained there was another, very evident, reason to be at Audi Hamilton Island Race Week in August: the whales.

“There are whales everywhere in the Whitsundays in August,” he said. “And, if you think about it, these magnificent creatures have had it worked out for probably thousands of years. They don't stay down south in winter – they head to the Whitsundays... as we do!” Blackmore's association with Hamilton Island goes back more than 30 years, to the very early days of its development: back to when the resort was being created with the aim of becoming one of the best tropical island destinations in the world.

“It was the early 1980s, and I flew to the island from Sydney aboard a friend's light plane,” he explained. “There wasn't even an airport back then – just a gravel airstrip. But everything was happening around the vision, enthusiasm and passion of the original developer, Keith Williams. It was impressive.

“I came with a view to buying a property



MARCUS BLACKMORE

on the island, and while I didn't make that commitment back then, I was always certain I would be part of the island community in the future.

Its potential was all too obvious even at that time.”

Blackmore is adamant that now Hamilton Island “has never looked or been better, thanks to the stewardship of the Oatley family”, who took over ownership of the island in 2003. It was three years ago the couple decided they needed more – and that meant only one thing: it was time to buy an apartment.

“We realised that it offered everything we wanted when it came to our lifestyle. Apart from it being a world-class resort located in the heart of the Whitsunday Islands, it had one appealing element above all – convenience.

I struggle to understand why Australians go overseas to find what we have at Hamilton Island and in the Whitsundays – and it's only a matter of a few hours away from home.

“We proved that point just recently: we flew out of Sydney, landed at Hamilton Island, went to our apartment, got changed, then boarded our boat and went to one of the most beautiful beaches in the world, Whitehaven – just eight miles away – and we were anchored there in solitude within three hours of leaving Sydney. You just can't beat that!”

The couple made it the venue for their marriage in May last year. They had more than 150 friends join them at the island for a magnificently casual, three-day wedding celebration. It was an event that embraced many of the island's signature facilities, including the Golf Club, the Outrigger reception facility and, of course, the hillside chapel that overlooks Catseye Beach. It was a huge party that launched them into matrimonial bliss in grand style and an event no one will forget.

...WITH ASHER KEDDIE

SHE'S THE GOLD LOGIE WINNING ACTRESS, WHO STEALS OUR HEARTS EVERY TIME. WE'RE SO IN LOVE AND SHE'S IN LOVE WITH HAMILTON ISLAND. IT'S A LOVE IN QUITE HONESTLY.

YOU'VE BEEN TO AUDI HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK A FAIR FEW TIMES, SO WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT IT?

ASHER KEDDIE: It's a great atmosphere. The island is a buzz with excitement and everyone who visits the island during that week is so energised to have a fabulous time.

ARE YOU A GOOD SAILOR?

ASHER KEDDIE: No!

BEST OR WORST OCEAN MOMENT?

ASHER KEDDIE: My best ocean moment was definitely sailing out to Whitehaven Beach from Hamilton Island about two decades ago... I've been visiting the island for so long now, and on that occasion I had my first glimpse of the beautiful whales frolicking around the boat... I'll never forget how special that moment was.

FAVOURITE HAMILTON ISLAND PLACE TO EAT?

ASHER KEDDIE: Always qualia. No one does it quite like them...

DO YOU TRAVEL LIGHT, MASSES OF LUGGAGE OR OVERNIGHTER?

ASHER KEDDIE: I never travel with more than carry on baggage, it's too much fun to collect pieces from different destinations. You can always pick up another suitcase right?

ONE-PIECE OR BIKINI?

ASHER KEDDIE: Bikini.

BOOK OR IPAD?

ASHER KEDDIE: Both!

MUSIC DOES IT FOR US, WHAT ARE THE TOP HOLIDAY TRACKS ON YOUR IPOD?

ASHER KEDDIE: A selection... Travel incites so many emotions for me, and I love listening to music while I'm away... Wistful, adventurous or upbeat if I'm feeling inspired and excited. Matt Corby gets a lot of playtime.

FAVOURITE HOLIDAY ACTIVITY (OTHER THAN SLEEPING)? YOU CAN SHARE...

ASHER KEDDIE: I seem to do a lot of wandering around wherever I am, soaking up the sites is inspiring... And I'm forever trying to seek out the best places to eat.

WHAT ARE YOUR FIVE TOP WORDS THAT YOU LOVE TO USE?

ASHER KEDDIE: Amazing, beautiful, ridiculous, funny, love.

HARD TO PICK WE KNOW, BUT THEATRE OR FILM?

ASHER KEDDIE: Film.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE ROLE SO FAR?

ASHER KEDDIE: Ita Buttrose.

WE LOVED YOU AS ITA IN PAPER GIANTS, NOT SURE IF YOU CAN TOP THAT, WHAT'S YOUR NEXT ROLE?

ASHER KEDDIE: Political drama, Party Tricks.



ASHER KEDDIE,
PEBBLE BEACH QUALIA.

FIRST PERSON

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISSIE GOLDRICK

BIRD MAN OF THE ISLAND

PAUL MANDER COMES TO HAMILTON ISLAND REGULARLY TO HELP REBALANCE THE HARMONY OF THE BIRDLIFE, IMPORTANT FOR BOTH THE HEALTH OF THE BIRDS AND ISLAND LIFE, GETTING THEM BACK INTO THE ROUTINE OF NORMAL BEHAVIOUR. HE'S A BIT OF A SAVIOUR.

We were first contacted by Hamilton Island to help them manage the bird population on the island, including cockatoos that were sneaking into rooms to help themselves to what was inside, even opening bar fridges to get at the peanuts and chocolates. Birds are very smart. But this behaviour was causing issues, impacting on guest experience and just as importantly, it was having an impact on the health of the birds who were getting so used to relying on this dependable food supply for their next meal. So I developed a programme that would help solve this problem in an environmentally safe way, as we can't kill or trap them of course. We are now in a position where we are bringing the problem under control, to the point where numbers have dropped dramatically and bad behaviour is minimal.

The programme involves using eagles to disrupt the cockatoo's new, unnatural behaviours. The birds of prey help break their patterns, it's all psychology really. We take the eagles on to the island before the cockatoos leave their roosts on the quiet north side, bound for the more populated resort side and we release them. Because the cockatoos have a natural instinct that says 'stay on guard, stay up above' the eagles pressure them into an area retreating into the bush instead, as they should in a natural environment. We use Peregrine Falcons to target other birds like crows and Currawongs, that have become accustomed to seeking out human food, as they aren't as intimidated by the eagles. If you're looking out for these birds on the island then you might just see a wild pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles - they frequent the Reef View Hotel. If you're lucky enough to be on the upper floors the large, graceful birds may fly straight past your balcony and are often identified by the sound of their wings pushing through the air. I take Soren (Norwegian for strength), my favourite Wedge-tailed Eagle, with me to Hamilton Island. He's like a son, he's very gentle and the relationship I have with him means he is

emotionally attached to me really. The best part of what I do is the relationship I have with the birds and watching them fly free, enjoying their freedom.

I'm well known in the industry for training birds of prey. My father taught me all I know, he was a falconer in Cheshire in the UK and used to work at Colchester Zoo. The best teachers now are the birds themselves, as they always teach you new lessons, things you haven't seen before. I've been training for over thirty years but they still surprise me and my job is to note the details. We have a macaw and really we should have called him Houdini, because whatever the lock is, he gets out. The only thing that stops him is a large padlock - it's amazing to see how quickly he works the new combination, he's very smart. The Guinness Book of Records lists the African Grey as the smartest of the birds, but the macaw is certainly really intelligent.

We breed birds of prey, Peregrine Falcons and macaws now, too, in this last year. All the birds we have are native to Australia and some are endangered. The Grey Falcons are quite rare, but there's not much study done here as funding is hard and our centre is privately funded - so if we decide to do a project we put all the money in ourselves.

To work with birds you need to have lots of patience and you need to be observant, it's all about just watching. I've had so many great moments over the years, we work with the film industry and some of the things directors have asked us to pull off, well, sometimes it seems impossible - like teaching an eagle to catch an axe in mid swing and fly off with it. Soren got it on the second attempt. They leave you breathless, speechless - and he makes me look good.

I think if I hadn't done this, I would have been a soccer player - I was scouted and could have played for Manchester United or Manchester City, but I had to choose, and I chose birds.

For more information go to www.broadwingsevents.com.au



PAUL MANDER WITH SOREN.



PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED BY AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHIC, WWW.AUSTRALIANGEOGRAPHIC.COM.AU

DISCOVERY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON LOUCAS
AND LUISA BRIMBLE

WOW! IT'S A WONDERFUL WORLD

WELL, OF COURSE IT IS WHEN YOU'RE ON A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY, CANDLE MAKING, FLOWER ARRANGING AND MUD CRABBING WITH EXPERTS, INTIMATE AND WARM, FASCINATING AND SO MUCH FUN, SAYS CARLI PHILIPS.

Pool. Resort. Sun. It's my happy place. A trifecta of goodness rolled into hours of luxury spent mostly horizontal. It goes without saying that qualia delivers. Yet its new Weekends of Wonderment series is worth getting up for. Lucky enough to experience the inaugural meet-the-maker, artisanal-themed weekend first hand, I was greeted with a glass of champagne and keys to an island buggy. With the intimate group of guests staggered for arrival, a couple of hours were spent making tough decisions; what temperature should we make the private plunge pool? Which of the 120 complimentary films should we watch? Should I have an indoor or an outdoor shower? We decide on taking a leisurely drive to Hamilton Island's Front Street, but growling stomachs lead us back to qualia's Jurassic Park gates and down to Pebble Beach. Mouthwatering lobster, prawns, oysters and crabs are washed down with a generous glass of champagne that starts to flow like water. It's an intimate and relaxing opportunity to meet fellow guests who, like me, are lovers of all things luxury. Post-lunch, it's a quick drink of sunshine before a little laid-back workshop with Elise Balzac, whose Australian-made candle brand is coveted by the world's coolest international boutiques such as Bergdorf's, 10 Corso Como in Milan, and Colette in Paris. Raised in France where she went on to work at Hermes, and later as a luxury fashion buyer in Australia, the super stylish candle Queen has us stirring, sniffing and pouring scented soy wax into glass jars and bottles. We toast our success with drinks on the helipad at sunset.



SASKIA HAVEKES



MUD CRABBING



MARK BEST



MAISON BALZAC



ELISE BALZAC





PEBBLE BEACH DINNER



MUD CRAB CLAWS



BUTTERNUT PUMPKIN WITH SWEET CORN ICECREAM



With views out to Great Barrier Reef islands, qualia's exclusive, open-air Long Pavilion is our breathtaking venue for dinner. I am mesmerised by the infinite, calm waters and inky sky. That is until dinner arrives and my eyes move to my plate, transfixed at the work of art before me. Created by qualia's Executive Chef Alastair Waddell, it's an inventive and fresh tasting menu that, like all the other artisans I meet on this weekend, is locally made with the utmost care. Butternut pumpkin is paired with sweet corn 'ice cream,' while malted oats, toasted hay and bee pollen gently transitions our palates from main course to dessert. The next morning it's yoga in the open-air pavilion at Spa qualia, followed by tropical fruits and coffee delivered to my pavilion before a hands-on crabbing experience. Decked out in my boating best, the resort's trusty skipper sails us out to meet expert crabber and marine biologist, Matt Vickers where I catch my very first sustainable mud crab.

After a luxury island picnic it's back to qualia for a very special experience with the talented Saskia Havekes, the owner of Australia's best and most beautiful florists, Grandiflora. Strwn with flowers, tables are piled high with palm fronds, banksias and orchids that Havekes has lovingly transported all the way from Melbourne. Enthralled, there's a collective silence as Havekes takes us along her journey – from 3am flower markets to her new fragrance, and skill in being able to decipher any flower blindfolded based on scent alone. It's a passion of vocation that I see glinting in the eyes of all the small-scale creatives I am lucky to meet this weekend. At the mercy of this master (our humble tutor neglects to tell us about working with Chanel, Hermès, and Louis Vuitton), we have a go with our own secateurs, learning how to 'flower arrange' like a pro. The result? Well, they say it's about the journey...

We cap off the weekend with dinner prepared by the award-winning Mark Best whose Sydney-based restaurant, Marque, has been featured in Restaurant Magazine's 'Worlds best 50 Restaurants.' Dinner is so fresh it's as if the bounty was caught only just before sitting down. That's because it was. Mud crab and Macadamia is first up, paired with a Semillon from the Hunter Valley. Best personally details our menu before each serving but where the wine goes the conversation flows and by midnight the only thing left to do is 'cheers!' To a creative and wonderful weekend.

FOR MORE ON WEEKENDS OF WONDERMENT CHECK WWW.HAMILTONISLAND.COM.AU/EVENTS



Australia's favourite wedding destination...

Whether you choose to be married in the island chapel, in the exclusive surrounds of qualia, or to break with tradition and have a barefoot ceremony on the beach, Hamilton Island in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef offers the perfect location for your dream wedding. With more than 10 different ceremony locations and 15 unique reception venues, there is sure to be something to suit your needs perfectly, whether it be for just the two of you... or up to 200 of your family and friends. From the flowers to the cake, photography and video, limousine hire or bridal hair and makeup, there is no detail our experienced team can't look after.

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HAMILTON ISLAND WEDDINGS
Australia's favourite wedding destination!

FOOD

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANSON SMART

THE DISH

MATT MORAN IS A REGULAR AT AUDI HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK, SEDUCING EVERYONE WITH HIS BEAUTIFUL FOOD. WE CAUGHT UP WITH HIM TO FIND OUT WHY HE LOVES IT HERE JUST SO MUCH.

ALISON VENESS: YOU ARE A REGULAR TO HAMILTON ISLAND, WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT IT?

MATT MORAN: It's just a fantastic place to visit. The island always has a great atmosphere and qualia in particular is one of the most amazing resorts in the country.

ALISON VENESS: FAVOURITE MOMENT OF THE DAY ON THE ISLAND AND WHY?

MATT MORAN: Sunset cocktails of course. Can't beat it.

ALISON VENESS: YOUR RESTAURANT IN SYDNEY, CHISWICK, IS SO LUSH AND GREEN, SO HOW IMPORTANT IS A FRESH GARDEN OF HERBS TO YOU FOR YOUR COOKING?

MATT MORAN: It's the most important thing. Anyone can grow herbs whether they're in a house with a garden or in an apartment. It just tastes better and knowing that you've grown and used fresh ingredients is so satisfying.

ALISON VENESS: HARD TO PICK FAVOURITES, WE KNOW, BUT - FAVOURITE HERB?

MATT MORAN: Basil - it's the most versatile herb there is and can be used in so many cuisines.

ALISON VENESS: FAVOURITE CATCH OF THE DAY ON THE ISLAND?

MATT MORAN: Reef fish. To go out and get lucky catching a reef fish is the best thing.

ALISON VENESS: AND WHAT WOULD THE DISH BE?

MATT MORAN: Steamed reef fish - probably steamed red emperor with shallots and ginger.



ALISON VENESS: TOOLS OF YOUR TRADE, WHAT DO YOU ALWAYS TAKE WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU ARE COOKING?

MATT MORAN: Global Knives. As a chef you always need a sharp knife and they're such a top quality product.

ALISON VENESS: ARE YOU A SAILOR OR LAND LOVER?

MATT MORAN: I'd have to say land lover as I like a nice centre of balance, but having said that, who doesn't love a day out on the water too.

ALISON VENESS: HAVE YOU DONE THE SYDNEY TO HOBART YET? IF NOT PLEASE EXPLAIN...

MATT MORAN: Never! It's always a busy time of year for me but I have family members that combined have done it over 30 times! So I feel

like I can get away with this? And I've heard the cooking facilities on the boats aren't quite up to scratch!

ALISON VENESS: BEST AUDI HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK ANECDOTE/S?

MATT MORAN: I'm always working! But it's something I look forward to each year. It's such a great atmosphere and always a lot of fun.

ALISON VENESS: YOUR CHOICE OF SUNDOWNER?

MATT MORAN: On Hamilton Island, I'd say champagne. You always feel like celebrating.

ALISON VENESS: WHAT DO YOU DO TO RELAX?

MATT MORAN: During Race Week it's all work and pretty full on for me. I went out on Wild Oats one time though and even though we were

racing I got to relax a little bit because we were so far in the lead.

ALISON VENESS: WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN, YOU CAN SHARE...

MATT MORAN: I'm a chef - at the end of the night we're always up for a quick beer...

ALISON VENESS: HEALTH FOOD OR CHAMPAGNE? WE LIKE CHAMPAGNE.

MATT MORAN: I love good food and healthy eating, I've always looked after myself and I train well. But at the end of the day there's nothing better than a glass of good champagne.

ALISON VENESS: TOP TIPS, LOVE A TIP, FOR BECOMING A SUCCESSFUL CHEF?

MATT MORAN: It's all about love and passion.

I truly love what I do and have always worked incredibly hard.

ALISON VENESS: UPCOMING PROJECTS?

MATT MORAN: I'm always looking for new opportunities and challenges but over the next couple of months some of my projects are Paddock to Plate Series 2 which airs in spring, my new cookbook, 'Matt's Kitchen Garden' that's coming out in September, the release of Paddock to Plate Series 1 DVD and my new venue at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney.

ALISON VENESS: HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE YOURSELF?

MATT MORAN: Driven, passionate and hard working.

ISLAND RETAIL THERAPY

THE ART GALLERY
07 4948 9657

AUSTRALIA THE GIFT
07 4946 9015

BREEZE RESORT WEAR
07 4946 9277

FLORAL COLLECTIONS
07 4946 9104

FOOT'S ARTWORKS
07 4946 9062

HAMILTON ISLAND DESIGNS
07 4946 8565

HAMILTON ISLAND JEWELLERY
07 4948 9857

MARINA TAVERN RETAIL
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

RESORT STORE
0427 148 793

SWIMWEAR STORE
07 4946 9281

THE HUT
07 4946 8273

TRADER PETE'S
07 4946 9409



ROBERT OATLEY VINEYARDS SHIRAZ REVIEWED BY JAMES HALLIDAY, AM FROM HIS AUSTRALIAN WINE COMPANION 2015.

ROBERT OATLEY FINISTERRE GREAT SOUTHERN SYRAH 2012

Bright crimson-purple; the bouquet is expressive, with spice and red cherry fruits to the fore, the intense palate dramatically expanding into black cherry, multi-spice and plum fruit framed by outstanding tannin structure, plus quality French oak. Will live and prosper for decades.

RATING: 96 DRINK: 2037

FOUR IN HAND BAROSSA SHIRAZ 2012

From clipped, crisp, almost delphic labels, to this retro red and black newspaper tabloid wraparound version is from one constellation to another. It is a voluptuously rich Barossa shiraz that takes all the good points from this stellar vintage, effortlessly showcasing varietal blackberry and plum fruit cushioned by ripe, rounded tannins.

RATING: 94 DRINK: 2032

MONTROSE BLACK MUDGEE SHIRAZ 2011

While the label design is new, and the Robert Oatley Vineyards ownership likewise, the Black Shiraz of Montrose is a wine that has excelled over the years, and this is no exception. There is an abundance of red and black fruits on the supple medium-bodied palate, the flavours framed by perfectly integrated oak and fine-grained tannins.

RATING: 94 DRINK: 2026

INCREDIBLE LIGHTNESS OF BEING

CHRIS HANCOCK, BOB OATLEY, SANDY OATLEY IN BOB OATLEY'S CHARDONNAY PARK VINEYARD, MUDGEE



SHE AIN'T HEAVY, SHE'S A SHIRAZ FROM BAROSSA. FOUR IN HAND 2012, IT'S A NEW WAY OF DRINKING REPORTS KATRINA HOLDEN.

Shiraz from the Barossa Valley in South Australia has been a signature Australian wine for decades, and arguably, the most recognised internationally. Recently, there's been a growing change in the traditional style of shiraz – from bold, rich and concentrated offerings to brighter, approachable expressions with pronounced fruit flavours. Robert Oatley Vineyards have a proud history of making shiraz from regions including Mudgee in New South Wales, McLaren Vale in South Australia and Great Southern in Western Australia, and now have decided the time is right to release their Four in Hand Barossa Shiraz 2012.

Chris Hancock, Master of Wine and long-time winemaker for Bob Oatley since 1975, has had a very direct 'hand' in creating this new drop – already a winner of several accolades, including a gold medal at the prestigious 2013 Royal Melbourne Wine Show.

Happily Hancock began his winemaking career in the Barossa, he is Adelaide-born, and has had a strong affinity for the region since the early days of his very first vintage in 1969 at Penfolds, working for his mentor and making Penfolds Grange under the leadership of the late Ray Beckwith, OAM.

"The Barossa is a leader in the whole reputation of Australian shiraz. An opportunity arose for us to get involved in shiraz in the Barossa and to have influence of the wine stylistically, was pretty important. I have a sense that shiraz in particular, should have what the Bordelaise call "lightness with power" - and there were Barossa styles that I felt didn't always convey that. They were getting quite alcoholic, quite heavy, very big, powerful rich wines, which have never been where our collective heads have been in terms of wine styles. So the objective with Four in Hand Shiraz was to get a little lightness on the palate but with prominent shiraz characteristics and not overtaken by oak or any other sort of artifice," says Hancock.

The Four in Hand Barossa Valley Shiraz 2012 is distinctly 'Barossan' on the nose with a rich, fruitcake bouquet. Fruit is sourced from the slightly cooler, southern sections of the Barossa. The oak influence, deliberately of second and third use French oak, is subtle. "We didn't want the idea of new oak rising into the wine – we want to make it more regional," said Hancock. The name for the wine connects back to a time in Bob Oatley's life in the late 1980s when he lived in the Hunter Valley and took up the sport of 'Four in Hand' horse and carriage racing. "Bob brought the most beautiful house,

'Edinglassie', in the Upper Hunter Valley, designed by the great colonial architect John Horbury Hunt. He became enchanted by the idea of Four in Hand carriage driving. He'd spent a lot of time in Germany, particularly around Hamburg, and it was one of the things that was very popular there. He liked the elegance and the challenges associated with driving four horses. The reigns of four horses in one hand is a pretty big challenge and with rather light carriages designed for speed. As Bob Oatley does, he entered competitions including one at Great Windsor in which Prince Phillip was competing, who crashed his carriage in a creek and was 'rescued' by a lady wearing a headscarf, who arrived at top speed driving a khaki Landrover... her husband was standing down there cursing at the horse..." said Hancock.

The retro inspired packaging of the new shiraz "in some ways reflects the era of when horses were used for transport," says Hancock, the typography is reminiscent of the 19th century. The Four in Hand Barossa Valley Shiraz 2012 has a food-friendly style, ideal with beef, the palate is fresh with bright acidity, dark fruit and chocolate flavours and impressive length of flavour. It should cellar comfortably for five to seven years.

SOME LIKE IT HOT

CHILLIES AND SPICES ARE THE INGREDIENTS THAT FLAVOURED COCA CHU'S EXECUTIVE CHEF, ADAM WOODFIELD'S, RECENT TRIP TO SINGAPORE. HERE HE SHARES HIS FOOD JOURNEY.



ADAM WOODFIELD IN HIS KITCHEN AT COCA CHU



YAM CUSTARD WITH SNOW CRAB AND CAVIAR



EATING SRI LANKAN CHILLI CRAB AND STINGRAY WITH SAMBAL

WHAT DID YOU LOVE ABOUT SINGAPOREAN FOOD?

ADAM WOODFIELD: I loved the diversity of going to a hawker market for lunch and having Indian, Taiwanese, Malaysian, Thai or Balinese, all ranging from 80 cents to \$2, packed full of flavour - or going to a top fine dining restaurant, somewhere like Iggy's and spending \$1,000, where the aesthetics of the restaurant, the service, and the food is amazing.

WHAT WERE THE BEST DISHES THAT YOU DISCOVERED AND HAVE BROUGHT BACK TO COCA CHU?

ADAM WOODFIELD: In the heart of Chinatown there were many stalls selling many types of frog leg dishes - porridge, soup, stir-fries, which I love - but haven't brought back! Stingray was another dish, Singaporeans love it and they're famous for it. It's rubbed in sambal wrapped up in a banana leaf and grilled, I fell in love with it. We've had that dish at coca chu and it sold really well, served with a green pickled chilli relish. And we're doing chilli crab. Of course they used Sri Lankan crab, which is very similar to our mud crab - their crabs are smaller than our mud crabs but are sweeter, the flavours they use are very simple, it's just done in a wok, no fluff. We are using the same elements, sweet and salty with a little bit of chilli, but we're doing a slight variation with XO sauce, on the spicier side with a slight smokiness from the Jamon which we incorporate into the paste. The dish is a real sort of 'get in there with your fingers' - quite messy! We use a really wonderful A-grade mud crab, about a kilo, which we buy from one of the island's local fishmongers, Fishi. Their mud crabs come from Conway Cove, 30 minutes south of Airlie Beach.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREA FRANCOLINI AND ADAM WOODFIELD.

EVERYONE LOVES THE NOODLES IN SINGAPORE, WHAT WERE THE BEST ONES YOU ATE?

ADAM WOODFIELD: The best were in a market in Old Airport Road Market, the chef was blanching the noodles, then he added homemade sambal paste, put it in a bowl and then he dumped the noodles in and tossed them. Then in a separate bowl he had some iceberg lettuce that got poured over with a nice pork broth with pork meatballs. Super cheap and super tasty.

YOU WERE IN SINGAPORE FOR THE SAN PELLEGRINO SPONSORED ASIA'S 50 BEST RESTAURANT AWARDS. HOW WAS THE MASTER CLASS WITH DAVID THOMPSON, EXECUTIVE CHEF AT NAHM RESTAURANT BANGKOK, WHO TOOK OUT THE NUMBER ONE RESTAURANT AWARD?

ADAM WOODFIELD: David actually cooked with me at Betel, the restaurant I had in New York City, that's how we became friends. So I wanted to sit down and listen to his philosophy about cooking, about Thai food and actually watch him and see how he prepares curries, to learn from someone that has so much knowledge about Thai cuisine and its culture. I'm a self-taught South East Asian Thai chef and I've never worked under anyone - I got thrown in at the deep end at Jimmy Liks when I first started! After Thompson's master class I've come back with a different style of cooking my curries - instead of making a curry paste and putting the spices through it, we only add the spices when we actually cook and it's a much more intuitive thing, it's personal. So my chefs on the curry section at coca chu now have a bit of freedom. And as the seasons change, ingredients change flavours, so they have to learn to adapt to this seasonality, adding a little bit more cumin or less



CRISPY PRAWN OMELETTE; CUCUMBER WITH MINT, GARLIC, CHILLI AND SWEET SOY SAUCE; TERRINE OF COLD PRESSED BEEF WITH SPICES



MASTER CLASS WITH DAVID THOMPSON

FOOD



THE INDIAN QUARTER



MARINA BAY SANDS

turmeric powder and maybe more coriander seeds. It was great really. It's opened my eyes to a lot of things.

SO THE SEASONALITY OF THE SPICES IS INFLUENCING THE PROCESS?

ADAM WOODFIELD: Yes, exactly - we use what the season deserves. We've noticed now a lot of people are blown away by the flavours of our curries, we're really getting a lot of compliments and a lot of rave reviews - especially from return guests, they've noticed a difference.

WHICH OTHER CHEFS INSPIRED YOU?

ADAM WOODFIELD: From that trip to Singapore apart from David Thompson, we listened to many big name chefs and restaurateurs talk at the Asia's Top 50 forum. We are all very proud of what they have achieved and have done many great things for their communities, staff and businesses. Ben Shewry, from Attica in Ripponlea, Melbourne, was the stand out in my mind. He is big on foraging and his food is all about self-sufficiency. Attica now has a property just down the road from their restaurant where they grow 90% of their produce. He is very inspiring and I hope one day we can achieve what Ben and his team do, here on Hamilton Island.

ARE YOU DOING THAT HERE ON HAMILTON ISLAND?

ADAM WOODFIELD: Yes we are, on a small scale. We have lime leaf trees, I won't disclose where they are - but we go there and pick lime leaves and there are green mango trees, so when they're in season we use as much as we can, and there are green papayas we find around the island. Also water spinach, which is called morning glory.

DO YOU HAVE A VEGETABLE GARDEN AT COCA CHU?

ADAM WOODFIELD: At the moment, we're talking to the garden department about replacing palm trees out the back with our own papaya and mango trees. Up at qualia, Alastair Waddell's got his little vegetable patch going that produces the finishing touches to his dishes. It's great, when customers ask if anything comes from the island, we can all say yes.



IGGY'S CLAM WITH BABY CURRY LEAF



ANDY WALSH, ESQUINA, CHINATOWN



NOODLE TIME AT OLD AIRPORT ROAD MARKET



SEA URCHIN AND SHAVED TRUFFLES



OLD AIRPORT ROAD MARKET

open your world



I've been to Hamilton Island about six times - but maybe more - I've lost track of how many Race Weeks. What I love about it so much are the colours of the water and the sunsets - those pinks, oranges and blues - and they go so well with my Eres bikinis, always Eres.

I always pack light, minimally. My best advice is be super organised before you get here, make all the decisions at home then you can concentrate on getting to the beach, no fuss, just pack extra swimming pieces. You need glamour, like a pair of print Pucci shorts, retro seventies and a big brimmed hat, which is really hard to travel with - but essential, it's worth the pain.

Audi Hamilton Island Race Week has a real sense of glamour and elegance, it's a sporting week but you can also get dressed up, it just feels right. Especially at qualia, it's very Slim Aarons style, chic and glamorous seventies, and very Lee Radziwill, Jackie's (Kennedy) sister.

Of course it's all about the sailing too and I love the classic nautical look, but what makes it modern is the cut of each piece, so this season it's more of a fitted stripe top worn with a pair of wide leg flared pants. I'll be a bit chic boho, so it's wedges, wedges, wedges, an exaggerated pair of cat eye sunglasses and a floor length Isabel Marant dress with long sleeves, broderie anglaise and white. I'm obsessed with white right now - perfect for partying - which also requires a yacht, a superyacht, a chopper, great friends and loads of vodka...



MIU MIU DRESS
CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN WEDGES
MIU MIU CUFF
HATMAKER HAT
PRADA SUITCASE

**GET
ROMY FRYDMAN
IS A SUPER
STYLIST AND
KNOWS A THING
OR TWO ABOUT
FASHION. HERE
SHE SHARES
HER RACE WEEK
MUST-HAVES.**

STYLIST: ROMY FRYDMAN; HAIR & MAKE UP: JACLYN HNTIKO

PACKING



THE BIG BLUE

DESIGN

PEARLS ARE THE UNCUT DIAMONDS OF THE SEA, RARE AND RADIANT AND THEY ARE THE TEARS OF GODS, DISCOVERS ALISON VENESS IN CONVERSATION WITH PASPALEY DESIGNER AND CO-CREATOR OF LAVALIER BLEU, CATHERINE BUMAN.



PEARL DIVER, BROOME



PASPALEY PEARLING BOAT

ALISON VENESS: WHERE DID THE IDEA FOR THE PASPALEY LAVALIER COLLECTION COME FROM ORIGINALLY?

CATHERINE BUMAN: Because there's been a constant ambition for us to show a pearl in its full glory, and to really celebrate the pearl.

ALISON VENESS: HOW MANY OF YOU WORKED ON THIS?

CATHERINE BUMAN: Well, our creative team consists of Christine Salter, Creative Director, myself and another designer, Jurgen Kammler. We got together in a workshop environment in Sydney, we had a lot of ideas around how we could create something genius, and we came up with a lot of mechanical ideas. It felt like someone said 'can you please fly us to the moon and build a rocket ship!' We created designs that had a lens type mechanism that would open like a flower to reveal the pearl - but it was a little side sketch that I had done, which probably seemed too simple at the time, that ended up being the Lavalier. It was the simplicity of this that pervaded and prevailed.

ALISON VENESS: THE DESIGN OF LAVALIER LOOKS LIKE A FISHING BUOY CAUGHT IN A NET,

IS THAT WHERE THE IDEA CAME FROM?

CATHERINE BUMAN: That's part of it, and the nets that were used back in the early 1900s to harvest and collect wild oyster shells from the bottom of the sea floor. So this is a net, very simply tied in diamond formation.

ALISON VENESS: HAVE YOU EVER BEEN FISHING?

CATHERINE BUMAN: I have been fishing when I was younger and I very much liked it. I'm from Melbourne and I lived in a little sailing port where we would go out on weekends and catch flatheads mostly from Port Phillip Bay.

ALISON VENESS: HAVE YOU EVER BEEN DIVING FOR PEARLS?

CATHERINE BUMAN: I've harvested an oyster; I've pulled a pearl out of an oyster and had that unforgettable experience because it really is unforgettable, you really feel like you've just found a gift from nature. It's a real treasure.

ALISON VENESS: AND SO THE ORIGINAL LAVALIER COLLECTION HAS NOW EVOLVED INTO LAVALIER BLEU, EXPLAIN THE BLEU?

CATHERINE BUMAN: It's really an evolution but staying true to the essence of the concept.

'Bleu' refers to the deep blue sapphires that we are featuring this year and also the idea was to bring the pearl even further back to its environment and create a palette of colours, around the sea. So there are combinations with white diamonds, some vivid Paraiba Tourmalines and white gold that really brings you back to the natural environment.

ALISON VENESS: ARE THE PEARLS EVER HARVESTED IN THE MOONLIGHT, OR IS THAT A MYTH?

CATHERINE BUMAN: I love the idea that pearls could be harvested in the moonlight, it's very romantic, perhaps even once or twice a year on a full moon, but that's not the case. There is an ancient Arabic belief that pearls are created by moonbeams being swallowed up by oysters which then solidified into pearls. It's a very beautiful story - and another belief is that pearls are the tears of gods... But pearls can have a blue hue in Australia, and the South Sea pearls come from a type of oyster which is called a Silver-lipped Pinctada Maxima, so the pearl always reflects the colour of the shell and sometimes the shells are so silvery that they look blue.

ALISON VENESS: WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT WORKING WITH PEARLS?

CATHERINE BUMAN: The limitations. When pearls are harvested they're cleaned and graded, you cannot cut or facet the pearls to fit the piece of jewellery, you just have to work with what you are given and it makes it hard. These limitations though can push you to think harder and break through barriers and it's a good feeling when you do. Lavalier is a good example of this, we're all rejoicing in the fact that we have overcome so many challenges to create a design where the pearl is finally free and moving and playful but also safe. These pearls, Australian South Sea pearls, are not like any other pearls, they are in fact very, very rare gems. It's really my joy and pride to work with inspirational materials that are produced in a pristine environment in the country that I call home, so as a designer that's probably on the top of my list.

ALISON VENESS: THE DESIGN OF LAVALIER BLEU IS ALL ROMANCE AND GRACE, DOES THAT COME FROM THE INTRINSIC MOVEMENT?

CATHERINE BUMAN: I do think it's very romantic. The secret ingredient though is really the experience of someone being able to choose his or her own pearl for the piece. A special bond is created - you are choosing something of a 'character'. I think it also helps that the pearl is maintaining its purity and its full value and feels like it's just plucked from the sea - I can easily see how someone would want to pass this on through generations because it really identifies them.

ALISON VENESS: WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE WAY OF WEARING A PEARL?

CATHERINE BUMAN: I wear a pearl every day as a pendant. I have my own little Lavalier, it's a long pendant, and I've always liked pendants because they are sentimental pieces for me to keep close to my heart. A pearl is also something I can pop into my clothing

and it can be hidden and covert, I really like the feeling that I know it's there. For special occasions I would go for a pair of earrings that swing and have a bit of a twinkle about them. They make me feel radiant.

ALISON VENESS: PEARLS ARE ALWAYS WARM AREN'T THEY?

CATHERINE BUMAN: Yes they warm up with the heat of your body and they feel beautiful.

ALISON VENESS: LAVALIER BLEU - DAY OR NIGHT? JEANS OR TUXEDO?

CATHERINE BUMAN: I think it lends itself to both. There's something unique about it that's loose and free-flowing, it's not a stiff piece so jeans, and if you paired it with a glamorous gown with flowing fabric that would be absolutely beautiful.

ALISON VENESS: PEARLS AT THE BEACH?

CATHERINE BUMAN: I would take them to the beach for a lazy afternoon spent perhaps reading a book or having a picnic, but I wouldn't take them in to the water or the surf, for fear that they might get swept away.

ALISON VENESS: ARE YOU A LAZE ON THE SAND GIRL OR ACTIVITIES?

CATHERINE BUMAN: Activities, I'm passionate for wilderness experiences, to kind of find myself in nature whether it's by the sea, surrounded by trees, animals, hiking. I think I find nature the most rejuvenating experience.

ALISON VENESS: YOU'RE SURROUNDED BY JEWELLERY EVERY DAY, WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE, PERSONAL PIECE?

CATHERINE BUMAN: My most sentimental piece is my wedding ring that my husband made for me; you have to understand that my husband is not a jeweller. So it was a labour of love, one that I see every day.



PASPALEY LAVALIER BLEU COLLECTION

BY GEORGE!

GEORGE FREEDMAN'S GENIUS WITH COLOUR AND FORM IS THE SECRET BEHIND SOME OF AUSTRALIA'S MOST FABULOUS INTERIORS, INCLUDING QUALIA.

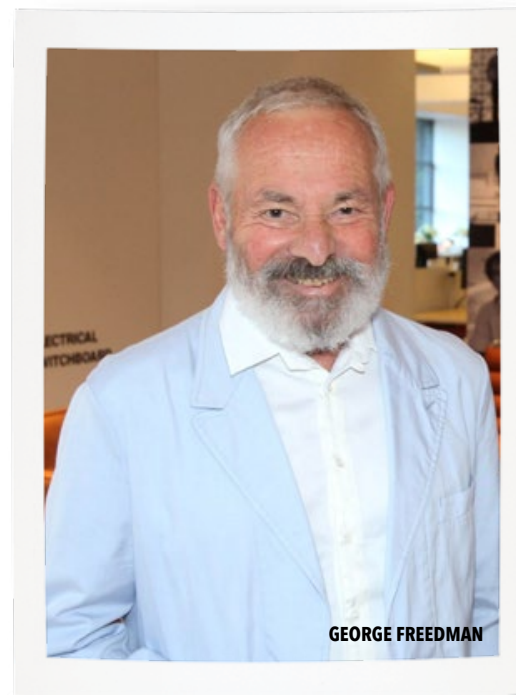


POOLSIDE, QUALIA

New York born interior designer George Freedman has a very impressive track record. Since arriving in Sydney in 1969 on a major commission as representative of international design firm Knoll, he's gone on to design some of Australia's favourite restaurants, corporate and retail spaces and to create private homes for a list of names (Fairfax, Packer, Oatley among them) that reads like a confidential who's who.

In the 1980s Freedman and his partner Neville Marsh were celebrities with celebrity clients. Their designs for Tony Bilson's legendary Kinsella's (with architect Glenn Murcutt), Chez Oz, Claude's, Bilson's and Quay ushered in a new era of contemporary dining glamour that continues today. Later, with Ralph Rembel, he worked on projects as high profile and diverse as the revamped Queen Victoria Building (with Ancher Mortlock & Woolley), set designs for Sydney Dance Company's Mythologia, iconic restaurant Buon Ricordo and Hamilton Island's qualia.

Freedman is loved for his bold, innovative flair with colour, his modernist sensibility and a rare talent for creating interiors with palpable mood and personality. Ian Oatley recalls a particular room at 'Edinglassie,' an old colonial country homestead owned by his father, Bob. It seemed to him to encapsulate Freedman's magic.



GEORGE FREEDMAN



LONG PAVILION, QUALIA



LONG PAVILION, QUALIA



"He's very clever with the colour palette," says Oatley. "In the drawing room everything was green - carpet, curtains, furniture, everything - you stepped into this room and it was like moving into a dream. That's his talent, he's able to create feeling."

At qualia, Freedman's brief was to create interiors that were elegant, relaxed and inviting. He went beyond expectations. Paying passionate attention to detail, he managed to weave a seductive atmosphere of almost meditative sensory awareness and calm. "We went up and looked around at the environment," says Freedman. "The island, the sea, the dawn and the dusk - it was the geography in a sense that influenced the choices."

Working closely with architect Chris Beckingham's serene, harmonious use of timber and glass, Freedman was drawn to tones and patterning inspired by nature. Texture was very important: "Think of where we are! The first criteria was that every fabric selected would be physically comfortable to bare skin," he says. Almost every piece of furniture at qualia is bespoke. "Starting from scratch, making prototypes and making them really comfortable, that was the goal," Freedman explains. "The chairs are big enough that you can be in a T-shirt and a pair of shorts and curl up, if that's what you feel like doing."

Recently Freedman's new wave of fabrics was rolled out at qualia, a fresh, luxurious redesign with an almost mid-century Hawaiian feel replacing the more muted natural colours of the earlier selection. A nod to Freedman's American modernist roots, perhaps? After all, he was tutored as he says, by Florence Knoll's successors Peter Andes and Lou Butler. It's an impeccable design pedigree. Last year, Knoll, the company that brought us some of the most recognisable

furniture of the Twentieth Century, including Mies Van der Rohe's Barcelona chair, Eero Saarinen's Tulip table, designs by Harry Bertoia, Richard Schultz and Florence Knoll herself, turned 75. Freedman was invited to curate a special anniversary showroom at Sydney's dedece and was honoured in a gala anniversary dinner in November. The tributes that flowed in were extraordinary, not just for Knoll and its far-reaching influence on how we live today, but for Freedman himself.

Freedman's collaborative nature was celebrated, as was his ability (and as he says "the fun, the pleasure") in working with clients and with architects. "Every interior is dictated by who the client is, and what their needs in the brief are," he says. "Every interior is unique." Furthermore, Freedman was acclaimed as a mentor. Many famous designers and architects credit a key element of their success as "working with George." Sam Marshall said: "I learned that getting colours right is not as easy as it seems; that anything is possible, that you must never compromise..." Iain Halliday gives a delightful description of meeting Freedman at his first interview: "...Brooks Brothers shirt, blue and red polka dot bowtie, and a charcoal pinstriped suit with matching Scottish Terriers at his feet. He remains the model urbane designer: his quick wit, genius for colour, detail and above all, quality, are exemplary." (These and other tributes were published by Monument magazine - and made available online by John Engelen on the dedece blog - to mark the occasion.) Freedman is currently involved in a number of residential projects with PTW Architects. That's all the information he'll divulge at the moment. Rest assured he'll be doing something innovative and brilliant, and having fun in the process. Watch this space.

REACH FOR THE STARS

BEYOND THE AMAZING HAMILTON ISLAND SUNSET, DEEP IN THE NIGHT SKY, LIES A WONDERLAND OF STORIES, SAYS STARGAZER JAIMEE POWDITCH.

“GREEK MYTHOLOGY IS FASCINATING, AND THE BACKGROUND TO UNDERSTANDING ASTRONOMY.”

PHOTO BY BARKTA FRESHI / GETTY IMAGES

You are high on One Tree Hill in time for sundown, aren't you? Of course you are. This is possibly the most perfect spot from which to see probably the most amazing sunset in all of the Whitsundays. So drain the last of your cocktail, drink in the last pink, purple, flaming orange on the horizon. Then stay a little longer... swivel, now look south. That hyper-bright dot burning and glinting in the deepening darkness? "That's a star called Alpha Centauri," explains Hamilton Island's resident amateur astronomer, Jaimee Powditch. "It's so big and bright because it's the closest star to Earth - it's also one of the pointer stars on the Australian flag. That other bright 'star' is actually Venus - sometimes it gets so huge and close it actually casts a shadow," she says with the kind of spellbound wonder that's catchy and appears to never wear off. Powditch has been gazing upwards "since I was a tiny child," has observed the stars from Kakadu National Park to her hometown in country NSW, and says this tropical island has some of the most brilliant sky watching she's ever seen. "We're so far from even small cities that there's no light pollution, there's no traffic so there's no smog - it's crystal clear. There are so many magical views - down at the qualia helipad, by the water where you get a mirror reflection on a calm night." Now, settle in. Powditch can decode the science of exploding balls of galactic gas, nebulas, supergiants, the red or blue and super-moons, the planets and shooting stars. She believes in other intelligent life somewhere out there in the infiniteness. "There are also 88 constellations up there," she says. And there's a story to go with them. "Greek mythology is fascinating, and the background to understanding astronomy," Powditch says. "But while I was up in Kakadu doing the science bit of star talks, I was with a traditional owner and she'd teach me the Indigenous astronomy stories from her culture." A culture of many clans and tribes with unique legends and stories, Indigenous Australia has one of the richest traditions of stargazing on this planet. "Indigenous astronomy is part of storytelling, passing on of knowledge and often involves enforcing cultural law," she says. "For example, when you're born, you're given a totem animal and you're supposed to look after that totem animal. In the Yolngu story from Arnhem Land, the constellation called The

Saucepan is seen as three young brothers in a canoe. In the dreamtime, these brothers were fishing and one caught a kingfish, his totem. He was not supposed to, but they ate it. So the Sun god, she released a spout of water that pushed their boat up into the sky as punishment. They are stuck up there to remind everybody to protect their totem." We cannot pass up the opportunity to ask about the iconic Australian Southern Cross - it's so incandescent - it's distracting. "The Ancient Greeks saw this line up of stars as a cross called Crux, but some Indigenous people see a stingray, some see a saltwater crocodile with a spear through its side, out in the desert they see an eagle's claw, in Western Victoria they see a possum up in a tree." Powditch makes each tale magnetic. At this time of year, it's also front row theatre from the Greek galaxy's big guns. "There's Sagittarius, Scorpio, Libra... there's a great story I like to tell about a constellation called Vela - it's part of the sailing ship Argo, which was used by Jason and the Argonauts in Greek mythology." Fortunately for first-timers, these take the least squinting and imagination to see. See the scorpion? "Orion was a hunter - the handle of The Saucepan is his sword hanging from his belt - but he started killing animals for fun, rather than to eat. Zeus wasn't having any of that and created the scorpion to hunt Orion. The scorpion stung Orion on the shoulder - that's the supermassive red star called Betelgeuse [pron 'Beetlejuice']. It was an epic feud." Some would blame the ascendancies of the season; others would say Orion has done a runner from these parts for the moment. "The scorpion's up right now, so he's on the other side of the earth. We won't see Orion again until early mornings in summer, after the scorpion has set," notes Powditch. Enough with the ancient. Powditch switches to space-tech in a nanosecond. Eyes wide open for the international space station, everyone. "It's spectacular," she says. "It actually goes around the world every 1.5 hours, passing over us 16 times a day - it's going 8km a minute, so only appears for a few amazing seconds." There are apps to download that will alert you with exactly when it's due to show - conveniently, the best viewing times are just before sunrise and a touch after sunset. "Oh, but if you want to see a wonderful meteor shower, that's more like 3am," says Powditch. We'll stay up.

GOLF

TEXT BY LUKE ELVY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY GARY LISBON AND
HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY

NATURAL SELECTION

**GOLF IS MORE THAN BEING ON PAR,
IT'S ABOUT CAMARADERIE, A CHALLENGING
COURSE, AND A SPECTACULAR VIEW.**

The feeling you get playing the Hamilton Island Golf Club is one of sheer exhilaration. It begins from the moment you're on the boat heading over to its incredible location on Dent Island.

However, it's only when you stand on the heroic tees and look out across the stunning vistas that you realise, when it comes to knockout beauty, this course is better than most, not just in Australia but worldwide. Ian Baker-Finch is one of only 10 Australian men to have won a major. Finchy, as he is affectionately known, was mesmerised when he first set foot on the Hamilton Island Golf Club. "It's absolutely spectacular, right up there with the top 10 most spectacular courses in the world. When you see those panoramic views over the Whitsundays, you think of Kauri Cliffs, Cape Kidnappers, Pebble Beach and Cypress Point, it is that memorable," he says. Baker-Finch is exposed to all the great courses in the world and despite being almost two decades removed from his playing days, he's still hooked on the game, getting in about 4-5 rounds a week. A more passionate golfer you'll struggle to find.

"Cypress Point Club in Monterey, California is the most beautiful course in the world and I'm lucky to be able to play it with friends once a year, along with the Wednesday at The Masters where I get to play the Par 3 Contest - they are my two most favourite days of the year," says Baker-Finch, adding "I'm very much looking forward to taking my family to Hamilton Island, to stay at qualia and play the course again later this year." While his 1991 Open Championship victory will be the signature moment of his career, Baker-Finch is carving out an impressive career as a broadcaster with CBS.

The 2006 US Open winner, Geoff Ogilvy says, "My favourite course in the world would be

THE 15TH TEE, HAMILTON
ISLAND GOLF CLUB

GOLF

HAMILTON ISLAND GOLF CLUB, DENT ISLAND



CRAIG MCLEAN



KARRIE WEBB



GEOFF OGILVY

The Old Course at St Andrews. It may or may not be the best, that could be debated, but it's my favourite to play," he says. Ogilvy won the 2006 major, at famed Winged Foot, a brute of a course that tested every bit of his game, including patience. Ogilvy is a student of golf course architecture, and has recently joined forces with friend and fellow professional Michael Clayton to form Ogilvy/Clayton. Their philosophy: strategic golf - born from the brilliance of the Scottish links courses. He says, "While I've not played Hamilton Island, I would say views and settings are very important. Golf is a game that is great to play anywhere, but the experience is greatly enhanced in beautiful locations. I think it's one of the game's most enduring appeals."

The PGA of Australia contests the National Club Pro title at Hamilton Island Golf Club every year. Nathan King from Manly, on Sydney's Northern Beaches, winner of the inaugural championship in 2012, and Craig McLean from Sorrento Golf Club in Victoria, who took out the championship in 2013, both agree that Hamilton Island Golf Club is the most beautiful course. "It's incredible" says McLean, "No matter how good or bad your round is going, you just look out over that expanse of blue water and forget about how you're playing."

What they have in common is the ability to play in the wind and they both agree the key to playing well on the course, is keeping your ball in play. "I think only three players have broken par in the two years we've been up there," says King. "It's ok to hit 3 wood or long irons off the tee, as long as you keep your ball in play. I like to give myself the opportunity to hit good approach shots because the greens are pretty true," he adds. McLean says the course reminded him of The Old Course at The National Golf Club, one of this country's great designs which is also exposed to



THE OLD COURSE, ST ANDREWS

strong wind on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula. "It's either on the fairway or you're dead off the tee, but in saying that the fairways are pretty generous. I guess being a straight driver is an advantage."

"Amazing, incredible, picturesque, it's definitely one of the best courses I've played. You stand on certain tees and just go... wow!" King says. "For your diehard golfer, you've got to play Barnbougle (Dunes) and Lost Farm, but then you've got to play Hamilton Island." Karrie Webb, Australia's most successful female pro golfer agrees "The Hamilton Island Golf Club has the most stunning backdrop of any golf course I have ever played. With 360-degree views of the Whitsunday Islands and passage, it's hard to get in the right mindframe to play such a challenging course where the winds can definitely blow. I think the four par 3's are four of the best holes on the course with some of the best views on the island. The only other golf course that I have played around the world that took my breath away for its natural beauty and views is the New South Wales Golf Club in Sydney."



IAN BAKER-FINCH



NATHAN KING



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5 MINUTES WITH... BRAD GRAVES, GENERAL MANAGER OF HAMILTON ISLAND AIR, AND THE MAN IN CHARGE OF MAKING HIGHFLYING DREAMS COME TRUE. THUNDERBIRDS ARE GO!

HEART REEF



“
PEOPLE ARE TOTALLY BLOWN AWAY BY THE MAGNITUDE OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF.
”



YOU'RE LAUNCHING A NEW HEART REEF EXPERIENCE, TELL US ALL ABOUT IT.

BRAD GRAVES: Following on from our first intimate and bespoke seaplane destination launched 18 months ago, we have been working on a new concept in the vicinity of Heart Reef. It's essentially a floating glass dry dock in which a small boat is berthed, with a premium glass lounge, where a helicopter can land on top. Guests descend via a staircase into the glass lounge where they are fitted with snorkelling equipment. They then board a small vessel, which is berthed inside the lounge; the vessel exits via something similar to a garage door, Thunderbirds-style, to reveal Heart Reef Lagoon where they can snorkel in an untouched coral garden. When guests return to the lounge they are treated to light refreshments and a glass of Champagne Charles Heidsieck, before returning to Hamilton Island by helicopter via Whitehaven Beach and Hill Inlet.

HOW LONG DID IT TAKE YOU TO GET THIS APPROVED?

BRAD GRAVES: The approval process has taken our naval architects four years to achieve, simply because this style of floating heliport has never been done before.

WHY IS HEART REEF SO SPECIAL?

BRAD GRAVES: It's a naturally occurring heart-shaped reef and an iconic symbol of Australia, the Great Barrier Reef and Hamilton Island, "The heart of the Great Barrier Reef".

WHAT'S IT LIKE SHARING WORLD FAMOUS ENVIRONMENTS AND NATURAL WONDERS WITH GUESTS TO THE REGION?

BRAD GRAVES: The most rewarding aspect of our pilot's and tour guide's day is the ability to be able to share the sheer natural beauty of the Whitsunday Islands with visitors to Hamilton Island. The jaw-dropping look on people's faces

when they see Whitehaven Beach, Hill Inlet and the Great Barrier Reef says it all. Without exception people are totally blown away by the vibrant colours, untouched, protected islands and the size and magnitude of the Great Barrier Reef.

DO YOU EVER GET TIRED OF IT?

BRAD GRAVES: Absolutely, taking people to naturally beautiful destinations, crystal clear azure waters, pure white silica sand beaches and the largest living thing on the planet is a real drag!

WHY IS IT GREAT TO EXPERIENCE THE ENVIRONMENT FROM THE AIR?

BRAD GRAVES: If you don't see Whitehaven Beach and the Great Barrier Reef from the air, then in my opinion you can't truly appreciate the intricacies of either. The swirling silica sand bars covered by the blue sea within Hill

Inlet, snaking up to the inlet's headwaters in the rainforest mountains, and the complexity, size and organic colour range and shapes of the coral of the Great Barrier Reef just can't be fully appreciated from sea-level.

TELL US ABOUT THE FLEET, ARE THEY ALL HELICOPTERS?

BRAD GRAVES: We operate a fleet of small and large helicopters as well as two seaplanes, a five-seater and a 10-seater. 10 aircrafts in total.

SO CAN WE FLY ANYWHERE AND CUSTOMISE OUR ROUTE?

BRAD GRAVES: We operate within a National Park and so there are some restrictions placed upon us, however we will always try to accommodate customised requests. Our tours have all been designed and timed to ensure that guests to Hamilton Island enjoy the best experience possible, and most of our

tours are available on a private basis for a special occasion.

HAS ANYONE GOT MARRIED ON ANY OF YOUR FLIGHTS?

BRAD GRAVES: Yes they have, and there has been the odd proposal too.

WHAT'S BEEN YOUR HIGHLIGHT FLIGHT SO FAR?

BRAD GRAVES: Taking Oprah to the reef, she exuded natural warmth that was infectious. I was fortunate enough to spend a couple of hours with her and she touched everyone she came in contact with. The other Americans were rolling around on the beach crying hysterically – white sand sticking to their tears!

MOST AMAZING FLIGHT, OPRAH ASIDE, WITH ANY UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS?

BRAD GRAVES: The most amazing flight for me

was seeing Migaloo the white whale breaching in the waters between Hamilton Island and Heart Reef.

MOST ROMANTIC TIME TO FLY?

BRAD GRAVES: Without doubt in the morning to see Heart Reef at first light.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

BRAD GRAVES: Working with the island's CEO, Glenn Bourke, the Oatley family and the great team of people who have made Hamilton Island such a dynamic destination, it's a very exciting time to own and operate a business here.

WHAT'S YOUR IDEA OF PARADISE WHEN YOU AREN'T FLYING PEOPLE OVER IT?

BRAD GRAVES: A swim, good friends and a glass of Charles (Heidsieck) on the back of my boat anchored at Whitehaven Beach. www.hamiltonislandair.com

R^{SVP}



ELIZABETH ANN MACGREGOR, LOUISE OLSEN

FROM LEFT: SOPHIE BAKER, KATIE PAGE, KIRSTEN GALLIOTT, ELIZABETH ANN MACGREGOR, JO MCKAY, ANNA BURGDORF, LAYNE BEACHLEY, LOUISE OLSEN, MATTHEW TAVERNER



KATIE PAGE, LAYNE BEACHLEY



INSTYLE JUDGES DINNER

The InStyle Judges Dinner, for the annual Audi InStyle Women of Style Awards, is an intimate event. Of course it is a hard job deciding who from the list of inspiring women should win in each category. And so sunset cocktails were sipped at Pebble Beach, hosted by Matthew Taverner, qualia's General Manager. The judges then enjoyed a delicious dinner, all the better to deliberate over, at Long Pavilion with Executive Chef Alastair Waddell preparing a bespoke menu for the evening. Piper Heidsieck was served and there was lots of laughter, all up, it was a lovely evening.

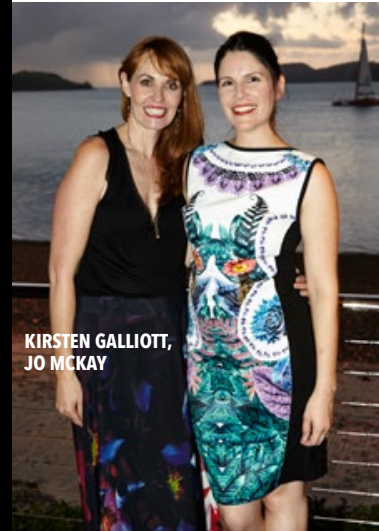
ANNA BURGDORF



MATTHEW TAVERNER, KIRSTEN GALLIOTT



KIRSTEN GALLIOTT, JO MCKAY



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Maui Jim[™] 
Like you've never seen.

R^{SVP}



CHIVA-SOM AT QUALIA

Chiva-Som means "Haven of Life" and you can find this haven nestling in the Gulf of Thailand, but for one weekend it came to qualia with guests indulging in expert Chiva-Som treatments, by their trained therapists before enjoying the cuisine - all without having to travel the nine hours to Bangkok. A win-win. The lunch included beauty and lifestyle editors, plus Chiva-Som ambassador and ex-Sass & Bide's Sarah Jane Clarke. Following all the pampering and relaxing, there was a cooking demonstration, followed by a four course deliciously healthy dinner prepared by Chiva-Som's Executive Chef. State of bliss.



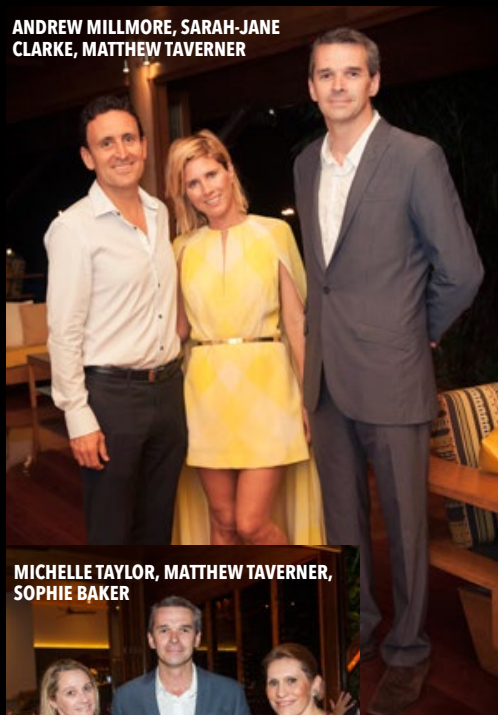
KANYARAT THANOMSAENG, EXECUTIVE CHEF CHIVA-SOM



SHELLY HORTON, UTE JUNKER



JULIANA HIGGINS, BEATRIX HON



ANDREW MILLMORE, SARAH-JANE CLARKE, MATTHEW TAVERNER



JULIANA HIGGINS, ANDREW MILLMORE, KULLACHAT SETTAJIT, MICHELLE TAYLOR, ATHIPAT JITCHAIWAT



MICHELLE TAYLOR, MATTHEW TAVERNER, SOPHIE BAKER



FIONA BAKER, SARAH BERRY, SHELLY HORTON



The iconic Hamilton Island Yacht Club

brings a new standard of excellence to business events, providing a meeting and event venue like no other in Australia. Together with a further diverse range of business facilities across the island and an award-winning team of event professionals, Hamilton Island can cater for groups of 10 to 1,000 delegates. All this within easy reach, with direct flights from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Cairns.

www.hamiltonisland.com.au/BusinessEvents

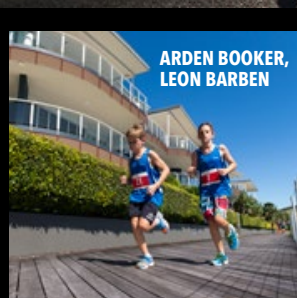
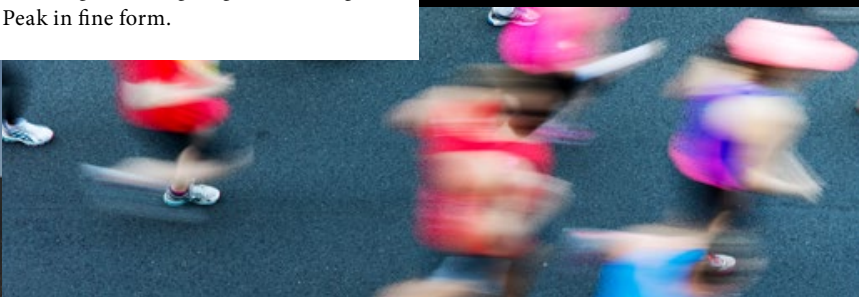


CLINIC WITH HANNY ALLSTON



STAMFORD FINANCIAL HILLY HALF MARATHON

As its name suggests, it's a tough course but this year's cool race conditions made for an exciting event with records and personal bests smashed. Defending champion Hanny Allston shaved seven minutes from her 2013 time and James Tunbridge took eight minutes off his PB to take out the men's title, finishing at 1:37:03; and a whole 36 seconds faster than the record held by former Airlie Beach local, Reuben McLoughlin. The relay races were hard fought with a new local Hamilton Island team scaling the final thigh-burning heights of Passage Peak in fine form.



ARDEN BOOKER, LEON BARBEN



IZZY ROGERS KIDS 750M 1ST PLACE



WATERSPORTS TEAM 2ND PLACE



ALI NAJEM



ALI NAJEM, MITCHEL BROWN, FRANK SHEVLIN

THE GREAT WHITEHAVEN BEACH RUN

This has to be the most breathtaking half marathon on earth – and not because of the distance. Yes the white silica sand of Whitehaven Beach is somewhat of a big distraction. But there were clear winners at this inaugural event in both the men and women's classes. The 21.1km half marathon victory was claimed by Craig Feuerherdt and Belinda Soszyn; Mitchel Brown and Dawn Romanella powered out the 11km race; Jock Campbell and Maja Zepcan clinched the 5.5km win and finally Tom Kubis and Olivia Romanella won in the under 16s, 1km kids race. It was a great day, celebrated with a swim in the turquoise sea.



21KM RACE FINISHERS

ALI NAJEM



JOCK CAMPBELL, RYDER HARVEY, LIN YU-WEI



DAWN ROMANELLA, TRAVIS CLARKE



JOCK ATHLETIC JUNIOR RUNNING CLINIC



HAMILTON ISLAND RESIDENTS



CLOSING CEREMONY CELEBRATIONS

GATORADE CLASH OF THE PADDLES 2014

This is one tough event and it attracts some equally tough athletes. This year's winners included Michael Booth who claimed victory in all three surf-ski races and in the women's surf-ski races, Amanda Rankin, Wendy Reyntjes and Natasha Leaversuch all triumphed. The Outrigger OC6 races were all hotly contested with Outrigger Australia OCC putting in a strong performance to win the 42km marathon, 50 seconds faster than last year. World class.



HAWAIIAN SENIOR MASTER MENS OC6



HAMILTON ISLAND OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB MENS OC6



OUTRIGGER AUSTRALIA MENS OC6



CINDY COBB, TEAM HAWAII



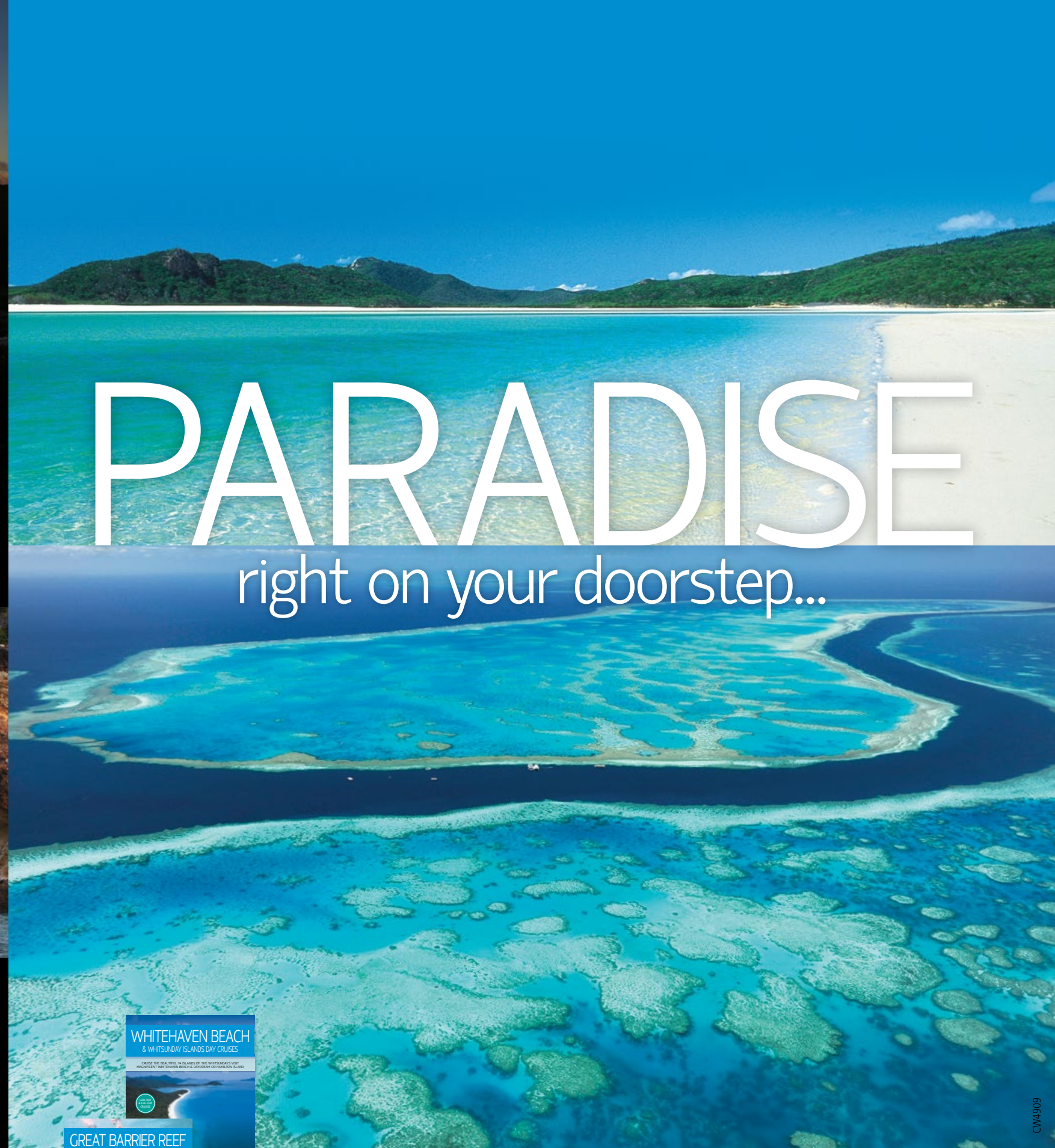
DASH FOR CASH RELAY WINNERS



KEITH WILLIAMS MEMORIAL RACE

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PROPERTY

MY ISLAND LIFE



PETER AND JANE MCFARLAND



WHITEHAVEN BEACH

THIS IS A LOVE STORY ABOUT A MAN, HIS WIFE AND FAMILY - AND THE ISLAND, AND THEIR PROPERTY, (OR SEVEN)... AND COUNTING.

BY PETER MCFARLAND

Right now it's Friday evening and I can see a sunset that a lot of people only get to see on a postcard. Winter's coming, a technicality, but today has been stunning – there's a light north-westerly blowing, the sun's out, it's warm and glorious. I went for a walk on the beach this morning and I've been looking over the water all day. My wife Jane and I have just finished working in the gardens, on a property for owners, who aren't here full time. I really enjoy the palm trees and I have more plants and flowers going than I could name – having a garden in the tropics is amazing all year round. I say it's like the maintenance on the Sydney Harbour Bridge - you get to the end of it and just need to start again. We can both honestly say we love every minute of it.

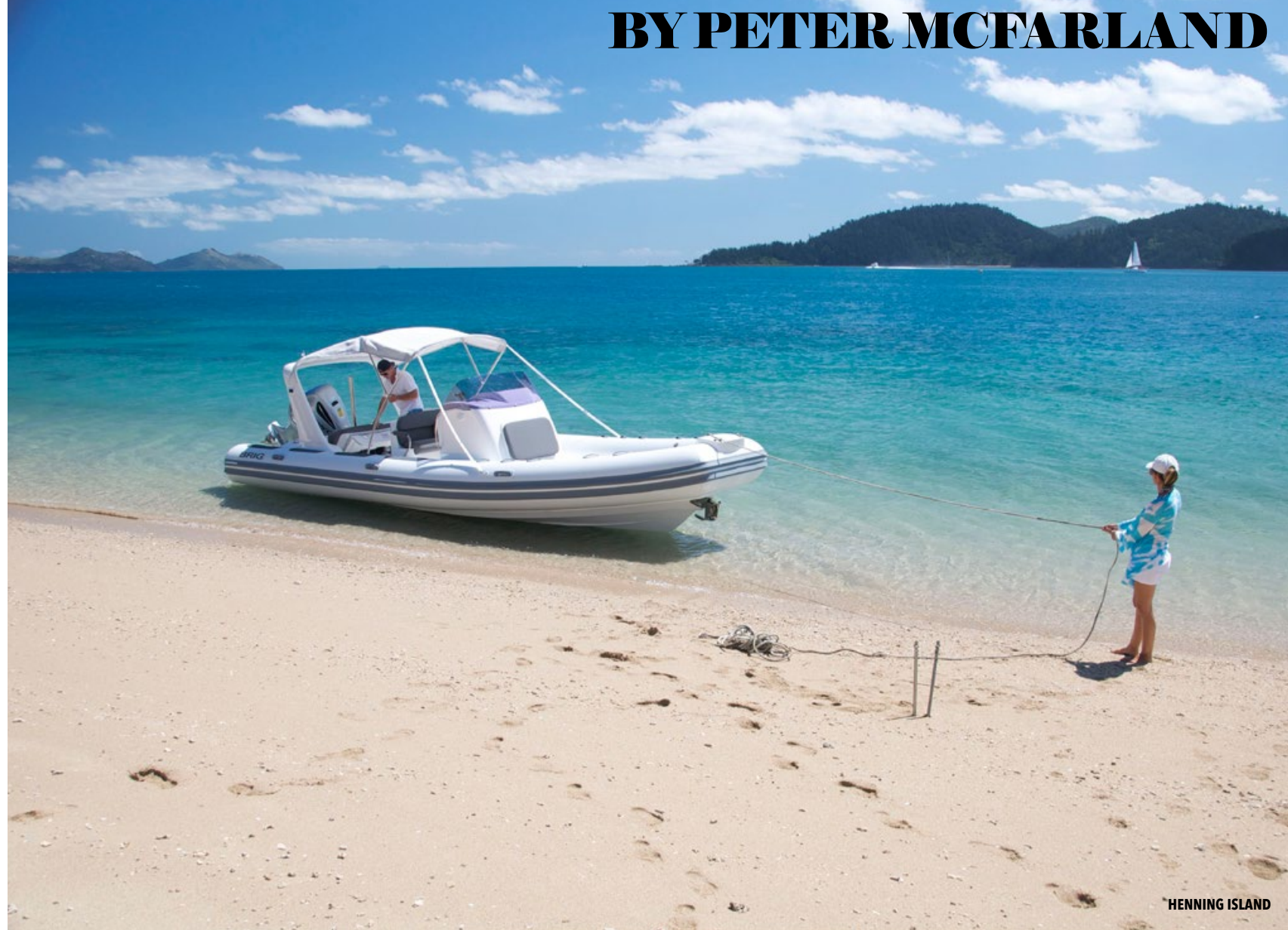
We made a lifestyle choice to get out of the corporate world back in 2003, that's when we bought our first property, an Oasis apartment up near the lookout, on Hamilton Island. We've bought and sold seven since. At present, we own an apartment at The Pinnacles, high up on the hill, it's got a view out over Dent Passage from the front, and from the back door you can see the other side of the island. It's a stunning location, so good that we decided to move into a Mediterranean-design place down near qualia and rent The Pinnacles out. It delivers such a good yield that we can both live here and rent a property out. There's nowhere else we'd ever want to live.

We knew that in 2000, when on our way back from a holiday with our two children on South

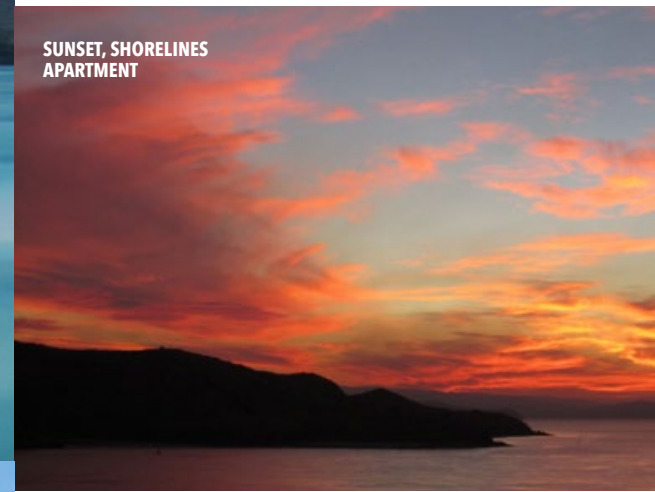
Molle Island, our flight was from Hamilton Island and we got rained in. We were put up at the Reef View Hotel for a night and the next morning, in the clear weather, we didn't want to leave. It's a gorgeous place - the natural beaches, the crystal clear water, the bushwalks and ruggedness – but what really caught our attention was how liveable it is. It's not some deserted island, we couldn't live here if there was nothing to do.

It's a little town, and just the most beautiful one you've ever seen. Our home had always been Bathurst in country NSW. We'd raised a family there and what we liked about it, that sense of safe community, we found here. People wave as you walk, everyone stopped to talk down at the shops – it felt like home to us. We made a pact that as soon as the kids finished school, we'd trade in the cold weather and move here. The infrastructure was so good even back then, that I spent the first couple of years working as the Queensland manager of a recruitment business from here, I could do it remotely or fly in and fly out. It's even easier now and I say we're here in paradise but Australia's only 30 minutes away if you need it.

I think there has been a misconception that living, or owning a home, on a tropical island is only for the very wealthy – but on Hamilton Island you find there are also people working, just making a living or building their family. There are a lot of young, vibrant people too. My youngest son finished his carpenter's apprenticeship on the island and made so many friends with young people who came to the



HENNING ISLAND



SUNSET, SHORELINES APARTMENT

island to work that he lives overseas these days. Now we do a bit of gardening and have the property. We keep reinvesting in Hamilton Island with complete confidence. We've rented out investments all the time we've been here and we've always had solid occupancy. The key is maintenance and the property manager we have is fantastic. The investments the Oatley family keep making in the island, in building and maintaining services and infrastructure, not only keeps this a really great place to live but also means that the island's reliably busy with visitors all year around. February is traditionally 'quiet', but this year it felt consistent. From May, right up until December is the best time on the island. There's always something on, a sporting event, cultural events, the Great Barrier Feast or the ballet. We had a wonderful Chinese New Year this year, too – the dancing dragons and the drums were beautiful. I'm really looking forward to the Race Week regatta – even just for the atmosphere and the entertainment. The standout of Hamilton Island is the environment – but the social life up here is wonderful.

My wife and I love boating, we have a 6L Brig inflatable, and we can cruise the Whitsundays and find our own bays and beaches. If I really want to blow our visitors' socks off, I take them out to Hill Inlet, the quieter spot near Whitehaven Beach, or really, just show them a sunset, there are really no bad views of it; then perhaps out for dinner - my favourite restaurant is Mariners. The seafood naturally is fantastic, but you can't get better than their steak. Yes, that and a cold Corona with lime for me and a glass of red for [my wife]... it sounds pretty perfect, doesn't it? And why not - it's Friday night.

NORTHERN STAR

CLEAN LINES, SLEEK, UNIQUE AND WITH AN AMAZING VIEW, THIS IS A SPECTACULAR APARTMENT AND IT'S ON THE MARKET RIGHT NOW.

We know what they say about a picture saying so much more than words, and this particular picture, of a private slice of tropical paradise, says even more than usual. But let us talk you through three good reasons why, if you're in the market for a home or investment property on Hamilton Island you won't want to miss out on North Cape. Firstly, as one of only five luxury apartments in the exclusive North Cape building on the North East tip of the island, this is the first time that apartment number 4 has come on to the market. Since 2008, when the unobtrusive complex was built amongst the hoop pine trees above Fitzalan Passage, it has stayed in the care of the developer, as an investment property earning holiday rentals of more than \$150,000 a year.

Secondly, sprawling over 310sqm, two levels and soaked in natural light, this immaculately-finished property has the kind of secluded-island feel you rarely find in such a convenient, modern apartment. Each of the three bedrooms has an ensuite, while a fourth room converts to a media nook or the best office-with-a-view in Australia - if you absolutely must work from home.

Thirdly, the parents' retreat - a serene space downstairs, kitted out with a private deck, plunge pool and kitchenette. There is seriously nowhere better to enjoy the soft Hamilton Island breeze and take in the most compelling view from the island, every day.

North Cape is built for entertaining. There is lots of room upstairs to cook with friends and family in the open-plan gourmet kitchen, with granite bench-tops and Miele electricals.

The terrace, with a top-end barbeque and wine fridge, was designed for year-round celebrations in the fresh, salty air. Just look, imagine, now close your eyes for a second and teleport yourself there right now. Like we said, just one of these pictures says it all.

For more information contact Hamilton Island Real Estate on (07) 4948 9101 or visit hamiltonislandrealestate.com.au





Edge 8
5 Acacia Drive, Hamilton Island
FOR SALE. \$1,800,000

Property Size: 230sqm
The Edge Apartment 8 is luxury living on Hamilton Island. Listen to the water lapping and admire the most amazing sunsets in your modern two-level, waterfront apartment. Just off-set from the pool area so you can enjoy the tranquillity and convenience of its location, the apartment features three bedrooms and two bathrooms, main ensuite with spa, double basin and walk-in robe. A gourmet chef's kitchen leads to an expansive entertaining balcony, lock-up garage and separate private storage room, and the apartment also features a C-bus system throughout and a modern furniture package, including bar and wine fridge. The Edge on Hamilton Island complex facilities include a 25-metre wet-edge pool and a great entertainment barbeque area, all within easy walking distance to the marina and restaurants.

3 2 1

Compass Point 10
4 Acacia Drive, Hamilton Island
FOR SALE. \$940,000

Property Size: 167sqm
The Compass Point complex of 12 apartments has always been regarded as a low maintenance development. Enter to an open-plan kitchen, dining and lounge area, that opens up to a large balcony, offering sweeping views across to Dent, Plum Pudding and Titan Islands. On the lower levels are three generous sized bedrooms, the main with its own ensuite and balcony area. With its ideal location on the western side of the island, you are only a walking distance to Front Street and the marina.



3 2 1

Skiathos 3
9 Acacia Drive, Hamilton Island
FOR SALE. OFFERS FROM \$840,000

Property Size: 163sqm
Perched atop Acacia Drive with spectacular, unobstructed 180-degree tree lined views over the surrounding Whitsundays, this lovely townhouse has to be seen to be believed. Now is your chance to purchase this stunning property in a complex comprising of only four apartments. This private home comes fully-furnished and ready to rent and with recent higher island occupancy rates, and greater rental need for good quality accommodation, you should be earning a healthy rental income in no time. Skiathos is regarded as having one of the best views on the island, complemented by a lovely furniture package, private gardens, complex pool, amazing entertainer's balcony and three generously sized bedrooms. This home is a must-see, a unique property investment option on Hamilton Island.



3 2 1

Blue Water Views 10
2 Banksia Court, Hamilton Island
FOR SALE. CONTACT AGENT

Property Size: 151sqm
This luxury apartment is for the entertainer at heart. Featuring a fantastic open-plan chefs quality kitchen, with granite bench tops, breakfast bar and upmarket appliances, the apartment is also fully air-conditioned throughout. The generous living zone is suitable for entertaining and leads directly through the large glass sliding doors onto a large balcony, where you can admire the spectacular sunsets across the Whitsunday Passage, or watch the children in the family-friendly lap pool. The master bedroom, complete with a walk-in robe and private ensuite, is a king-size bedroom perfect for a lazy Sunday lie in as you peer out over the balcony and view. The second bedroom, with individual air-conditioning, is large enough that it accommodates two queen-sized beds and a built-in wardrobe. Blue Water Views Apartments are a popular, highly sought after holiday letting property, the complex also boasting a 25 metre lap pool, an undercover barbeque gazebo area and a level manicured lawn and garden area.



2 2 2





Mermaids Reach

16 Melaleuca Drive, Hamilton Island

FOR SALE. OFFERS OVER \$2,600,000

Property Size: 4,764sqm

Either keep the existing house or build your own luxurious getaway. This island home is situated on an exclusive waterfront block with an eastern orientation, overlooking the Coral Sea. Located on Melaleuca Drive, the property neighbours some of the most prestigious homes on the island. Perched high above the waterline you can hear the waves breaking on the shore below. Designed with the tropical climate in mind, capturing the winter sun

and summer breeze, the house has sweeping balconies and open-plan living. A single level residence, with a gated pool enclosure, this property is ideal for either a family with young children or for a mature family buyer preferring flat, open living. Mermaid's Reach is one of the more private residences on the island, with its land size, proximity to the water and generous, open living making this property one of the more unique options on the island.

3 2 2



Peninsula 8

18 Whitsunday Boulevard, Hamilton Island

FOR SALE. \$1,695,000

Property Size: 344sqm

Located in Hamilton Island's exclusive northern precinct, only a stone's throw from the island's luxury resort, qualia, The Peninsula Apartment 8 is one of only eight properties in this premium development. This exceptionally large stand-alone villa encloses an expansive lounge and dining area, which quickly transforms into a vast outdoor living space with a simple flip of the concertina doors, opening up the entire upper level. The lower level offers you three well-sized bedrooms, with a master ensuite, a second living area and direct access to the gated plunge pool with Whitsunday Island views. Add to this a shared pool and barbeque area, very few neighbours, full contemporary furnishings and a chefs quality kitchen, you could finally be lucky enough to own a piece of The Peninsula, on Hamilton Island.

3 2.5 1

PROPERTY SALES: CONTACT WAYNE SINGLETON 0416 024 168

THE PROPERTIES FEATURED IN THE REEF MAGAZINE REAL ESTATE SECTION ARE AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PRINT, BUT FOR A FULL LISTING OF PROPERTIES FOR SALE OR TO REVIEW RECENTLY SOLD PROPERTIES, VISIT THE HAMILTON ISLAND REAL ESTATE OFFICE ON FRONT STREET, OR GO TO WWW.HAMILTONISLANDREALESTATE.COM.AU

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HAMILTON ISLAND AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

27-30 October, 2014



Join us at Hamilton Island Golf Club in October for the Amateur Golf Championship. **Limited to 50 spots**, this 36-hole stableford event will be held alongside the PGA Professionals Championship, with Australia's leading teaching and club professionals on hand to provide the ultimate golfing experience. The event includes a Pro-Am on day one, followed by a 36-hole competition open to men and women, and also offers more than \$5,000 in prizes, including two nights at Hamilton Island's award-winning luxury resort, qualia. When the competition is over, Hamilton Island offers you an array of other incredible facilities, including a range of hotels, fine restaurants and a choice of over 60 other activities. All this, just a short direct flight from most major Australian mainland cities.



To find out more about the Amateur Golf Championship, visit www.hamiltonisland.com.au/amateurchamps





Yacht Club Villa #8

HOLIDAY RENTALS. FROM \$1,030 PER NIGHT



Maximum Capacity: 8 people

Located in the Hamilton Island Yacht Club private complex, this luxurious waterfront villa enjoys spectacular views overlooking the pool and Dent Passage. With a design emphasis on abundant sunlight, privacy and space, the villa includes a modern kitchen, open-plan lounge and dining rooms, ducted air-conditioning and use of a four-seater golf buggy. There is also four bedrooms and four bathrooms, the master suite boasting a generous deck and walk-in robe. With the lounge area opening up to lawns that lead to the exclusive complex pool, this is the ultimate recipe for relaxation.



North Cape #2

HOLIDAY RENTALS. FROM \$830 PER NIGHT



Maximum Capacity: 8 people

North Cape 2 is perfectly situated on the northern tip of Hamilton Island, offering maximum privacy and breathtaking views over the Fitzalan Passage. Part of a new development, this spacious split level apartment has been fitted out with the highest quality appliances, furniture and accessories and offers balconies on both levels, along with your own private pool.



Casuarina Cove #14

HOLIDAY RENTALS. FROM \$635 PER NIGHT



Maximum Capacity: 8 people

Recently renovated, this freestanding, open-plan villa boasts magical views from the spacious balcony. With timber floors throughout, all bedrooms feature ceiling fans, air-conditioning and built-in robes and the main bathroom features a spa bath. There is a spacious open-plan living area and fully-equipped modern kitchen, along with the convenience of a European laundry area with top loading washer and dryer. This property would suit a family or group looking for a spacious holiday home close to all amenities.



Anchorage #6

HOLIDAY RENTALS. FROM \$412 PER NIGHT



Maximum Capacity: 6 people

This property has been designed to make the most of the cooling sea breezes. Pull back the balcony doors from the living area and marvel at the views over tropical gardens, the pool and Whitsunday waters from your own private covered balcony. Open the window at the back of your living area and reveal the view of the marina side of the island. The main bedroom has its own balcony and a huge ensuite, positioned so you can relax in the spa bath whilst viewing the outside vista.

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

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