

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**  
RESTORING THE REEF

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**SPORTING ACHIEVEMENT**  
THE WOMEN SETTING SAIL

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**FINEST DINING**  
MEET QUALIA'S NEW EXECUTIVE CHEF

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**GOOD DESIGN**  
TAMSIN JOHNSON TALKS INTERIORS

**R**

**REEF MAGAZINE**

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HAMILTON  
ISLAND  
& THE  
GREAT  
BARRIER  
REEF

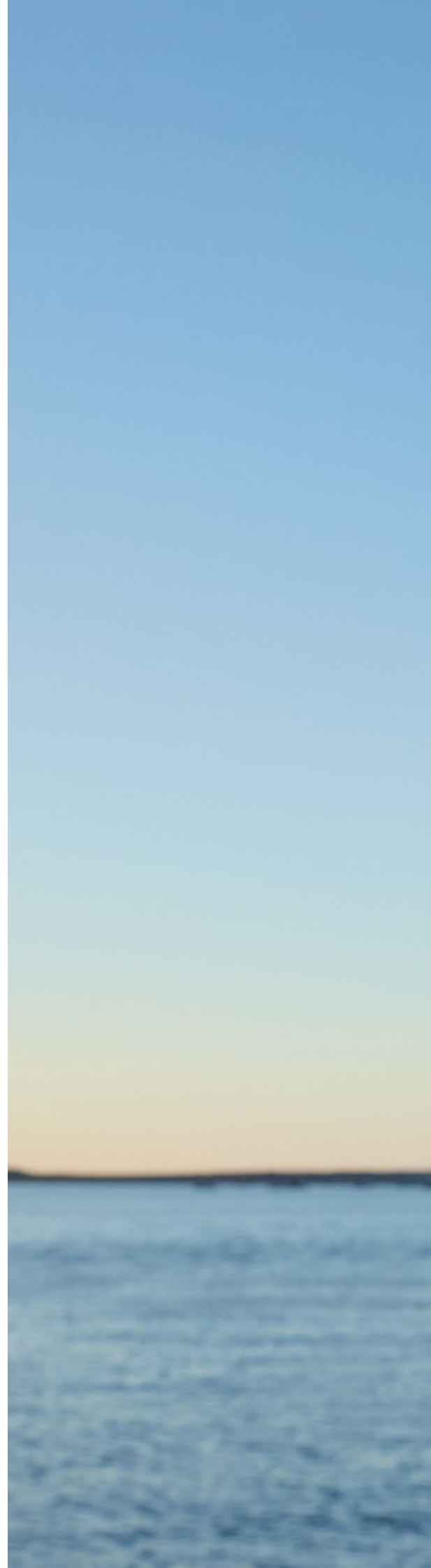
# Wonder World

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ISSUE 27  
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PASPALLEY





# INTRODUCTION



**W**elcome to the latest edition of *REEF* magazine. We're delighted to reflect on another exciting year on Hamilton Island in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef. July marked a significant milestone with our inaugural Hamilton Island NAIDOC Week celebrations. The Whitsundays is the traditional home of the Ngaro people who led a beautiful sunset ceremony that set the stage for a memorable event. In August, we hosted the 38th edition of Hamilton Island Race Week, a highlight of Australia's sailing and social calendar. With

close to 180 boats participating, we were thrilled to welcome back sailors and spectators of this highly anticipated event filled with competition and camaraderie on and off the water. Also in August, we collaborated with Virgin Australia and the Starlight Children's Foundation to celebrate the granting of Starlight's 13,000th wish. It was a rewarding experience for our community to provide a much-needed break for sick kids and their families and help them create lasting memories on our beautiful island and surrounds. In this edition of *REEF*, meet Jeremy Fenech, qualia's new executive chef, and dive into the latest efforts to protect the Great Barrier Reef with Dr Cedric Robillot, the executive director of the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program at the Great Barrier Reef Foundation. Golfers will enjoy strolling the fairways of the unique Hamilton Island Golf Club and design lovers will gain an insight into the inspiration interior designer Tamsin Johnson draws from travel. Our annual Endurance Series, which kicked off with the Hilly Half Marathon in April, culminated in November with Australia's own "Madame Butterfly", two-time Olympic Gold

medal-winning swimmer Susie O'Neill again participating in the Hamilton Island Ocean Swim. Her return to competitive swimming at age 50 is an inspirational read within this issue of *REEF*. Throughout the year, we've remained committed to delivering a world-class experience on Hamilton Island with further island upgrades. For example, at the Reef View Hotel, we've refurbished our Garden View Rooms and introduced luxurious Reef Suites with stunning views over the Coral Sea and Whitsunday islands. We hope you enjoy this edition of *REEF*. On behalf of the Oatley family, myself and the Hamilton Island team, thank you for choosing us. Whether you are a returning guest, or this is your first visit of many, we wish you a memorable stay with us.

Pete Brulisauer  
CEO, Hamilton Island

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

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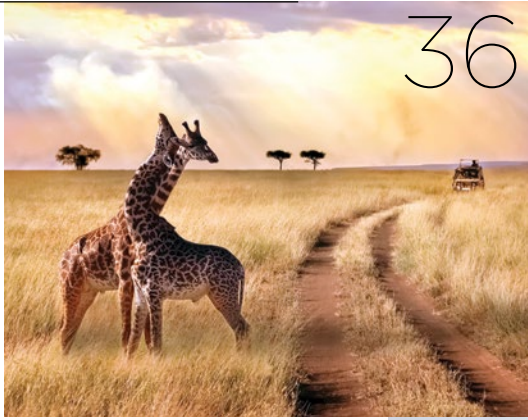
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Race Week**

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# CONTRIBUTORS



## LISA RATCLIFF, YACHTING JOURNALIST

IDEAL 2024 HOLIDAY DESTINATION?  
Skiing in Japan.  
BEST TRAVEL TIP?  
Allow extra time for everything and a more relaxed pace, and take a break from social media.  
YOU ARE LISTENING TO?  
The Teskey Brothers.  
SNORKELLING OR DIVING?  
Snorkelling.  
SAILING? BEST ANECDOTE?  
Swimming in the middle of Bass Strait during the 2019 Rolex Sydney Hobart while becalmed, the only wash in five days!  
ADVENTURE OR BEACH?  
Adventure.  
BOOK OR BINGE ON TV?  
TV binge.  
BUCKET LIST?  
Three Capes Track in Tasmania.  
DREAM DESTINATION?  
Morocco.  
FAVOURITE SUNDOWNER?  
Frozen blood orange Margarita.

## SIMON HUTCHEN, PHOTOGRAPHER

IDEAL 2024 HOLIDAY DESTINATION  
Spring in The Whitsundays is the best time of year. Whales, no rain, perfect temperature for swimming. If you can get on a boat and visit the reefs around the islands, you'll find that it's just as if not prettier as the outer reef.  
BEST TRAVEL TIP  
Spare batteries and a powerbank.  
YOU ARE LISTENING TO  
Elderbrook. And Rūfūs Du Sol is my go-to.  
SNORKELLING OR DIVING?  
Snorkelling. There is more colour at the top. I also love walking down to Catseye Beach and being able to snorkel right on your doorstep.  
SAILING?  
I like wakeboarding and tubing so a powerboat to the beaches around The Whitsundays is my speed.  
ADVENTURE OR BEACH?  
Can we adventure to the beach?  
The trail from Passage Peak to South East Head on Hamilton Island is so picturesque. Then a cheeky swim at Escape Beach on high tide is the best way to refresh.  
BINGE OR BOOKS?  
Bingeing *What We Do In The Shadows* at the moment. Hilarious.  
BUCKET LIST?  
I'm a new dad, with my wedding next year so all I want in life is a house on some land, a couple of dogs and to watch the kids grow up.  
DREAM DESTINATION?  
Cradle Mountain in Tasmania. We go every year in the winter to experience the other side of the thermostat. Plus I proposed down there so it's always special.  
FAVOURITE SUNDOWNER?  
A Whisky Sour is \*chef's kiss\*.



## EMMA JOYCE, WRITER

IDEAL 2024 HOLIDAY DESTINATION OTHER THAN HAMILTON ISLAND  
Lord Howe Island.  
BEST TRAVEL TIP?  
That book you're not going to read? Leave it at home.  
YOU ARE LISTENING TO?  
Doja Cat on repeat.  
SNORKELLING OR DIVING?  
Diving. I learned to dive in Honduras, and it's an experience like no other.  
ADVENTURE OR BEACH?  
I'd rather hike to a beach for a quick dip than sit on the sand all day.  
BOOK OR BINGE ON TV?  
Zadie Smith's *The Fraud* is on my list for summer.  
BUCKET LIST?  
Mexico, Japan, Norway ... too many to mention.  
DREAM DESTINATION?  
Pedro Almodóvar's vibrant, queer Madrid.  
FAVOURITE SUNDOWNER?  
I'll never turn down a Negroni.

## TRACEY WITHERS, WRITER

IDEAL 2024 HOLIDAY DESTINATION?  
India. I'd love to go back with my kids.  
BEST TRAVEL TIP?  
This is a note to myself, really: remember to holiday when you travel. I always want to see, eat, explore and hike everything.  
YOU ARE LISTENING TO?  
I've just started getting into classical music and opera. Driving with me is a wild, emotional ride.  
SNORKELLING OR DIVING?  
Snorkelling. It always astounds me that so much colour and strange, wonderful life is right there, just beneath the surface.  
SAILING? BEST ANECDOTE.  
When I was first learning to sail I was always the only woman in the class or crew. I let it get to me; got cross instead of even. Makayla Paul, who I spoke to for Run The World (page 48) got fired up instead. She's inspired me to get back to it.  
ADVENTURE OR BEACH?  
Beach adventure. I can't loll around for long. I love that so much of Hamilton Island is wild; bush tracks leading to secret coves.  
BOOK OR BINGE ON TV?  
I write for a living, so shows are my switch-off. But a book always comes on a trip. When a character is telling me their story as I'm travelling, I seem to get more out of the book and the place.  
BUCKET LIST?  
Sail a yacht back from Europe over a year or two with my family.  
DREAM DESTINATION?  
Italy. I'm an ancient history nerd and I will never get enough.  
FAVOURITE SUNDOWNER?  
Gin - instead of tonic, I like soda water. It's sparkier, I think.







 ampagne Brut Réserve



**EXPLORING DEPTH**

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

CHAMPAGNE  
**CHARLES  
HEIDSIECK**



Journey to the Heart, Great Barrier Reef

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Chef and restaurateur Guillaume Brahimi with wife Tamie.

# Castaway ... GUILLAUME BRAHIMI

Imagine you've been stranded on a desert island? Acclaimed French-born chef Guillaume Brahimi on what he'd hope to take along for the ride.

**Three essentials to pack?**

"Negroni mix, a lighter, and my wife Tamie."



**What would you most regret not packing?**

"All the things we are addicted to, all the tech. And my children. Also, a knife, so that I can do some nice cooking."

**What would you miss most about reality?**

"My children but they are too busy so they wouldn't come with me to an island anyway!"

**Which book would you bring with you?**

"One of the 30 next to me on my bedside table that I never get around to finishing."

**Dream companion?**

"My wife. If I was lost on an island, maybe Jennifer Aniston... but only if she got lost on the same island as us."



**What would you wear?**

"Not much, we are on an island. Boardshorts maybe."

**Your island accessory?**

"A knife and scuba-diving equipment for exploring, and a fishing tool."

**Your island mantra?**

"Enjoy the moment."

**If you could channel one fictional character in your "downtime" on the island, who would it be?**

"Superman."



**Favourite island movie for inspiration?**

"Any movie set in Sicily. Also, some of the islands where *The Talented Mr Ripley* was filmed."



**Dream meal once you're rescued?**

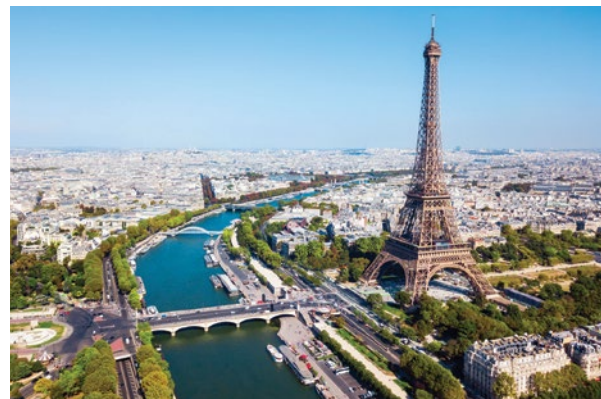
"A beautiful steak."

**What would you grow to eat?**

"Anything I can grow – and you haven't told me where the island is, so I pick Italy, Sicily. Tomatoes and wine and olive oil ... we might not want to leave. That idea is not so bad."

**Who would rescue you?**

"A friend of mine with a beautiful yacht. We would spend some time on it and all my family would be on the boat."



**First place you'd go after being rescued?**

"Paris ... to go to a big city again and the special place where I was born."

**Island hobby?**

"Trying to build things with my hands and wood. And some fishing. If I don't fish, we don't eat."

**What spirituality lessons that you've learned would you apply to your time spent stranded on the island?**

"Meditation because we have plenty of time and it's something we don't have much time for in normal society."

**How would you send your SOS?**

"When I'm ready, try fire. It works; I've seen some movies ..."

**Catch of the day?**

"Sea bass that I cook on the barbecue that I have built and I serve it with a tomato sauce made from the ones I've grown, and a drizzle of olive oil made from my trees, as obviously we've been there for a while now. We'd be drinking my vino bianco from the mountain."

**One essential tool for the island?**

"Your hand is your best tool."

**Top island tune?**

"*Rasputin* by Boney M.."

# TOP 10 TO DO



1

## HEAVEN: WHITEHAVEN BEACH

It is the flawless seven-kilometre stretch of bone-white silica sand, bordered by the clear, turquoise sea that makes Whitehaven Beach a must-visit paradise. Whitehaven, located on neighbouring Whitsunday Island, is one of the world's most unspoiled and beautiful beaches frequently ranking in the top 10 globally. This unreal reality is just a short trip from Hamilton Island by helicopter, seaplane, speedboat, sailboat or high-speed catamaran, and there's a good choice of tours, with half- and full-day options available. Walk, swim or simply relax on the white sands and marvel at this magical natural wonder.

## 2 PANORAMA: SERIOUS SCENIC FLIGHTS

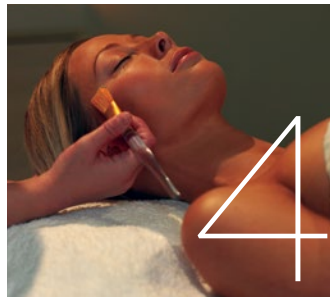
Take to the sky with Hamilton Island Air and appreciate the jaw-dropping scale and beauty of Hamilton Island, the Great Barrier Reef and the surrounding Whitsunday islands. There's a range of scenic tours from which to choose to suit a variety of budgets, with the one-hour Heart Reef and Whitehaven Beach Express aeroplane flight the most affordable way to see the wondrous Heart Reef and also take in Hill Inlet, Whitehaven Beach and the Whitsunday islands from above. The Best of Both Worlds helicopter tour affords amazing views of the Great Barrier Reef and includes a landing at Reefworld - a pontoon moored permanently above Hardy Reef - and also Whitehaven Beach, with time to swim, stroll or just relax. The ultimate bucket-list option is Journey to the Heart, an exclusive experience for six guests who enjoy a helicopter trip out over Hill Inlet and Whitehaven Beach before heading to the new Heart Island pontoon. Guests can enjoy the lounge before taking a glass-bottomed-boat ride around Heart Island and snorkelling in the lagoon. Available exclusively to guests of Hamilton Island.

## EXPLORE: GREAT BARRIER REEF

A Hamilton Island holiday is made complete with a trip to the Great Barrier Reef to see the incredible tropical fish and coral up close. There are many ways to enjoy the World Heritage-listed reef. Join Cruise Whitsundays for a journey to Reefworld for a full day of snorkelling and exploring beautiful Hardy Reef. Cruise Whitsundays also offers the once-in-a-lifetime Reefsleep, a magical experience of sleeping in its supremely comfortable Reefbeds under the stars onboard the Reefworld pontoon. Explore Group tours the secret spots on The Whitsundays' fringing reefs or outer reefs with the option of half or full-day trips.



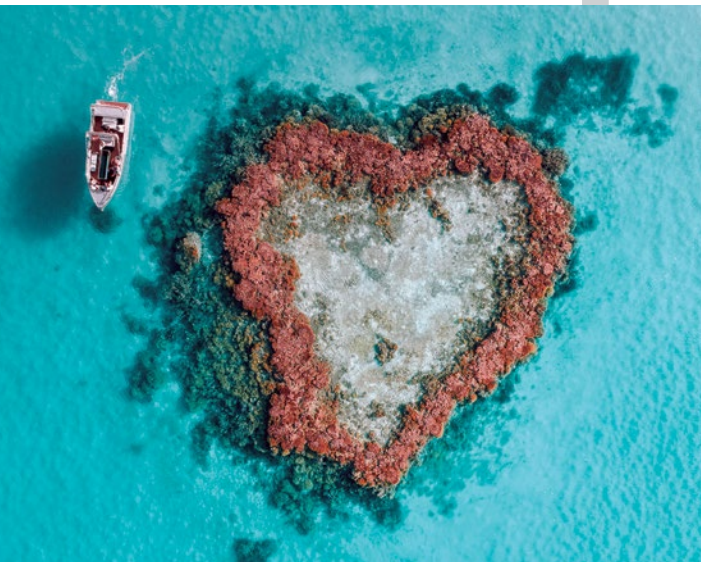
3



4

## RELAX: SPA WUMURDAYLIN

Spa wumurdaylin offers a selection of authentic, rejuvenating and soothing beauty treatments. The spa's highly skilled therapists provide treatments using LaGaia UNEDITED, a pH-balanced, scientifically formulated Australian skincare range. UNEDITED is packed with potent vitamins and hydrating botanical extracts to deliver not just bliss, but genuine results. The day spa is very popular so reserving treatments prior to arrival is strongly recommended.



## NATURE: HAMILTON ISLAND WILDLIFE

Hamilton Island Wildlife is a great family-friendly activity, providing an opportunity to see some of Australia's most incredible creatures up close. Take a guided tour led by one of the expert keepers to learn about our unique fauna. Or book a Wildlife Encounter, a group activity with a choice of animals: either a koala, reptile (python or lizard) or dingo. For the ultimate meet-and-greet, choose the Wildlife VIP Experience, which includes a 30-minute one-on-one encounter. This unforgettable experience also includes souvenir digital photographs and the chance to ask questions about these amazing creatures. Afterwards, enjoy a coffee or lunch at the Wildlife Café. And bonus: the entry fee includes unlimited park visits.



5



## 6 DISCOVER: BUSHWALKS AND THE ICONS TRAIL

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

## 7 KIDS: HOLIDAY TO-DO LIST

The Clownfish Club is the Hamilton Island kids club, offering a wide range of exciting activities and the chance to meet and play with new friends while enjoying your holiday on the island. Kids Fun Zone happens throughout the week. There are also special arts and crafts sessions, table tennis competitions and other games, the chance to create souvenirs to keep, or children can get involved in beach activities. If you fancy learning to paint, classes for the budding mini-Monet are hosted by Hamilton Island's artist-in-residence, with something for all ages and levels of experience. For the ultimate off-road adventure, head to the kid-friendly, purpose-built dirt track and ride a mini 50cc quad bike. At Hamilton Island's bowling alley and amusement arcade, there's a nine-pin version of the game and child-friendly bowling balls, bumpers and ramps. And family favourite, mini golf is also on offer. The course is a maze of tropical plants and palms with all kinds of different challenges along the way.

PHOTOGRAPHY: SALTY WINGS; RILEY WILLIAMS; JASON LOUCAS; HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY.

## SPEED: FOUR-WHEEL THRILLS AND FUN

The go-karts at Hamilton Island's Palm Valley track are fun and easy to drive, and they're a great way to let off some city steam. No licence is required, and the karts can reach up to 45 kilometres/hour around the track. Kids too young to drive can still join in the fun, riding as passengers in a double kart. Offroad Adventure Tours offers exciting experiences for riders aged 20 and above. Drive an all-terrain vehicle (this requires a full driver's licence) or let an expert guide you through scenic fire trails and up to the Resort Lookout. For children aged six to 14 years, Hamilton Island's Quad Bikes for Kids operates a short, child-friendly circuit that gets the adrenalin flowing. Classic on-land experience in the fast lane.



## SUNSETS: WAYS TO WATCH AND ENJOY

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



## PLAY: HAMILTON ISLAND GOLF CLUB

The Hamilton Island Golf Club, designed by five-time British Open champion Peter Thomson, is a breathtakingly beautiful course. Play a nine or 18-hole round but prepare to be distracted by the views of The Whitsundays and beyond. At the 19th hole, enjoy a delicious lunch at the Clubhouse, with a menu that will satisfy a hungry golfer after a round but is also open to non-players who can come for the incredible views and chance to see humpback whales during their migratory season. There's also a well-stocked pro shop for any last-minute needs. The 10-minute ferry ride across to Dent Island is a wonderful way to begin and end a day's play, too.

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



### SLEEK SAILING

A new addition to the Hamilton Island luxury charter fleet is *NISI*, a 25-metre mini superyacht that is perfect for day charters with a maximum of 15 passengers. *NISI* can be taken out for up to eight hours with a customised itinerary depending on what guests would like to do and see. Bespoke menus prepared by the personal chef are also based on guest preferences. Other features we love: two Seascooters; a Fliteboard; inflatable water toys including stand-up paddleboards, tube, kayak and lounges, snorkelling gear, an underwater drone, wifi and a Capelli Tempest 5.7-metre tender. All are fully managed by a professional crew of three.



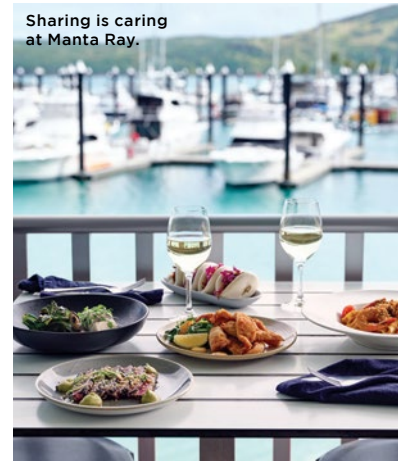
Luxury afloat: *NISI* mini superyacht.

# BULLETIN BOARD

Sleek sailing options; sunsets and sharing menus; superlative new suites; NAIDOC week notes; and making wishes come true.

### SOUND BITE

Views for miles and a relaxed coastal menu designed for sharing. What more could you ask for? Manta Ray Restaurant, overlooking the beautiful Hamilton Island Marina, has launched its new Mediterranean-style menu featuring an array of the freshest seafood and produce, plus a selection of antipasti, classic meat dishes including lamb shoulder, and excellent vegetarian options. Guests are welcome for lunch or dinner and the all-important aperitivo hours are from 3pm until 5pm daily, the perfect time for watching the sun descend into the Coral Sea.



Sharing is caring at Manta Ray.



Families set off for Plane Bingo.

Welcome to Hamilton Island.

### STAR BRIGHT

In August, the Hamilton Island community came together to help 10 deserving Starlight families celebrate a milestone: the granting of the Starlight Children's Foundation's 13,000th wish. Hamilton Island Airport's fire brigade and children from Hamilton Island State School greeted the visitors on the tarmac as Hamilton Island was transformed into "Happiness Island" for the Starlight families. The families were treated to a bingo plane ride hosted by *The Bachelor's* Matty J, emcee for the weekend; a surprise performance by Kita Alexander supported by AV Partners; a fireworks display thanks to Skylighter; and a trip to Whitehaven Beach courtesy of Cruise Whitsundays. In the past decade, the island has welcomed more than 250 sick children and their families, to make wishes come true.





Coral Sea seclusion at qualia's new Sunset Pavilion.



The suite is positioned for maximum privacy.



## PERFECTLY PRIVATE

qualia's new Sunset Pavilion is laidback Australian luxury at its finest, a wonderfully secluded next-level hideaway. The west-facing and extremely private pavilion is thoughtfully positioned in beautiful bushland beside qualia's own helipad. It is blessed with easy proximity to the shoreline and sweeping panoramic views that extend to the neighbouring Whitsunday islands. The airy one-bedroom villa includes a separate study, plus its own kitchen and laundry.

## ROOM WITH A VIEW

The Reef View Hotel is now offering luxury suites. A Superior Presidential Suite, Reef Family Suites and Superior Reef Suites have been added to the current suite collection at the hotel and feature newly renovated rooms spread across double-storey layouts. The suites are located on the 19th and top floor of the hotel, meaning magnificent views out across the Coral Sea, Whitsunday Island and beyond. The Superior Presidential Suite also has its own private plunge pool. Check in to check it out.

Top-floor vistas at Reef View Hotel.



## FIRST NATION

A welcome to country ceremony conducted by Yooribaya Cultural Experiences kicked off Hamilton Island's inaugural celebrations of NAIDOC Week 2023. Hamilton Island guests, employees and residents were treated to an afternoon of ceremony, fascinating stories and dance, all hosted by representatives of Hamilton Island's traditional owners, the Ngaro people, who have lived in the Great Barrier Reef for more than 60,000 years.

Welcome to country for NAIDOC Week.



PHOTOGRAPHY: HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY; SHARYN CAIRNS; LEAN TIMMS.

# CALENDAR

Hamilton Island  
Ocean Swim.



Hamilton Island  
Race Week.

## DIARY DATES 2024

### APRIL 25 ANZAC DAY

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

### MAY 5 HAMILTON ISLAND HILLY HALF MARATHON

This is an epic endurance run like no other and demands some serious training to be ready for the challenge. The event includes a half-marathon for the super fit and fearless, a relay, and three distance options for children. The diverse terrain makes this an interesting and ever-changing run experience that challenges athletes of all levels as the courses weave through the island's bushland, along roads, fire trails and walking tracks.

### MAY 17-21 PAS DE DEUX IN PARADISE

The Australian Ballet performs under the stars at qualia during this truly unique event held every two years. pas de deux in paradise is a beautiful showcase of the company's dancers under the

Sporting fixtures soaked in scenery and incredible social events are key to Hamilton Island's appeal. It's this unrivalled mix of adrenalin and "break-from-it-all" vibes that makes it a place of cherished holiday memories.

exciting artistic direction of David Hallberg. Prepare to be mesmerised by the repertoire and to enjoy some exclusive behind-the-scenes moments in the lead-up to what are incredible performances in a truly breathtaking setting.

### JUNE 16 THE GREAT WHITEHAVEN BEACH RUN

The Great Whitehaven Beach Run takes place at low tide on the sands of one of the whitest, and most photogenic beaches in the world. The run suits a range of abilities, with races including a half-marathon, a five-kilometre course, 10-kilometre course, and a run for the kids. Crossing the finishing line on this epic day out is an achievement to remember.

### AUGUST 2-6 BRISBANE TO HAMILTON ISLAND YACHT RACE

This prelude to Hamilton Island Race Week presents the chance to welcome competing yachts and crews at Hamilton Island Marina, marking the finish of one of Australia's longest tropical category 2 offshore races.

### AUGUST 17-24 HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK

This is undeniably Australia's favourite yachting regatta and ranks among the world's most prestigious. Race Week features a series of short races staged close to Hamilton Island, and longer passage races around The Whitsundays. The event attracts a diverse fleet, from high-performance yachts to trailer-pulled family favourites, and has become an annual social highlight for competitors, their families and guests. Onshore celebrations are plentiful and include exclusive events hosted by a line-up of renowned guest chefs. From daylight, when crews ready their yachts for racing, to dusk when everyone converges at the marina after a full day on the water for post-race drinks and dancing, there's a unanimous agreement that Race Week is a week like no other.

### NOVEMBER 23 HAMILTON ISLAND TRIATHLON

The combination of a hard and fast swim in tropical waters, a testing cycle leg, and a run with amazing views and challenging hills, makes the Hamilton Island Triathlon a standout. The





Catseye Beach.



Hamilton Island Triathlon.



pas de deux in paradise at qualia.



The Great Whitehaven Beach Run.



Anzac Day dawn service.



Hamilton Island Hilly Half Marathon.

spectator-friendly course is designed so that everyone can watch the action as it happens. The main event is followed by the Junior Triathlon and a splash n' dash event, guaranteeing a day of family participation and fun.

**NOVEMBER 24  
HAMILTON ISLAND OCEAN SWIM**

The Hamilton Island Ocean Swim takes place in the clear, calm waters of Catseye Beach and is the final event in the island's Endurance Series. Choose between a two-kilometre swim or a 750-metre course, plus a hotly contested junior event run across 350 metres, for competitors aged 13 and under. Toughest part of the day is universally accepted to be the post-race choice between recovering on the sand or getting weary muscles back into the sea for some hydrotherapy.

**DECEMBER 24  
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**

Celebrate the holidays at the Beach Pavilion as the sun sets over Catseye Beach. Enjoy

the entertainment and carols, followed by a spectacular fireworks display. Light a candle to support the Hamilton Island State School as a VIP guest dressed in red and white arrives with a sack full of treats. Pack a picnic or pick up food and drinks at the Beach Pavilion Kiosk. It's a great evening brimming with all the magic and anticipation we love about the festive season.

**DECEMBER 31  
NEW YEAR'S EVE**

Kick off 2025 with a street party that will have everyone up and dancing to much-loved classics. There is live entertainment at the Marina Tavern forecourt from 9pm and then of course, a spectacular fireworks display when the clock strikes 12. Events are also held at the Beach Pavilion near Catseye Beach and include family-friendly fireworks at 8.30pm. Guests of qualia can enjoy live music and a midnight fireworks display, too. Hamilton Island's celebrations are one of the most memorable ways to see in the new year with family and friends.

PHOTOGRAPHY: HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY; KARA ROSENLUND; SALTY DINGO.



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

# Better, together



A collaborative monitoring field day with scientists from the Reef Restoration and Adaption Program (RRAP).



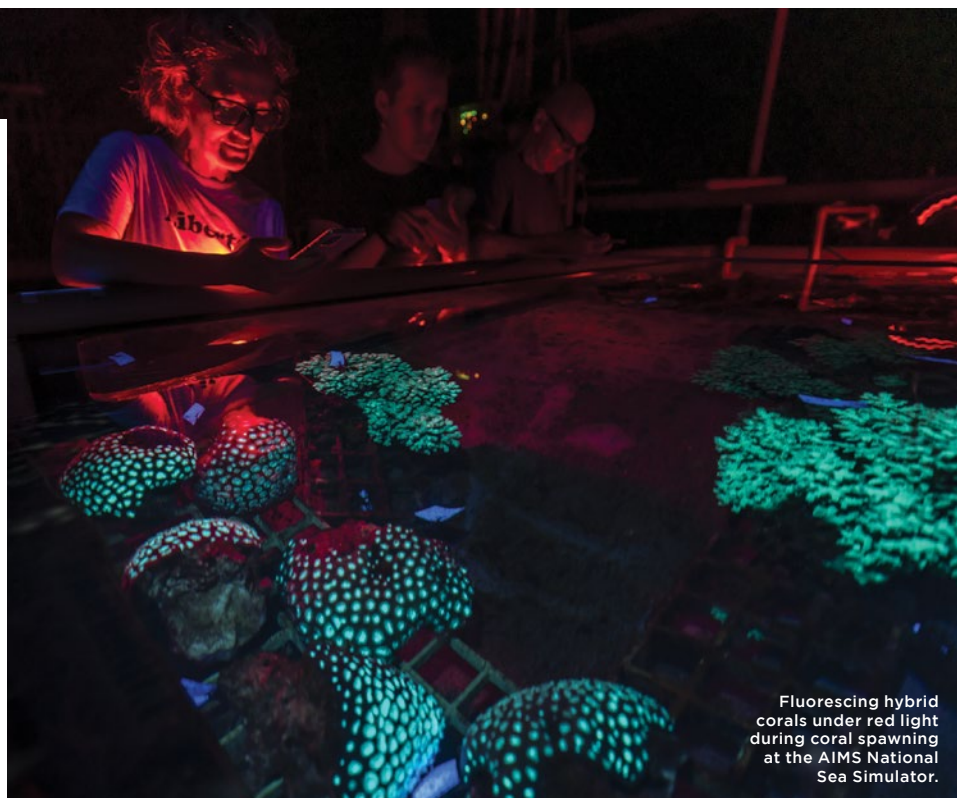
Researchers are racing against the clock to develop scientific and engineering solutions to the impact of climate change on the Great Barrier Reef. But it's a challenge that requires all of us to rise to the occasion.

Protecting the Great Barrier Reef is a mission that can involve all Australians, according to Dr Cedric Robillot. The executive director of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation's Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program (RRAP) is leading a consortium of renowned Australian institutions and experts to deliver significant long-term impact and build hope for damaged coral reefs. "Throughout history our reef has connected people, cultures and stories," Robillot says. "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have incredible stories of creation and connection over thousands of years. Now, modern Australia also feels a deep sense of pride and responsibility for the reef." The main threat to coral reefs not just here in Australia but across the world is climate change, which leads to intense marine heatwaves and coral bleaching. Reducing emissions is the top priority, alongside simultaneously tackling poor water quality, overfishing, pests and diseases. Yet all of this will not be enough to prevent the

decline of coral reefs, says Robillot. He is passionate about accelerating potential new solutions through his work at the Great Barrier Reef Foundation to protect, adapt and restore the reef at a meaningful scale. "The reef as we know it cannot and should not be taken for granted. The fact that it has been so resilient to date does not mean it is not fragile," he says. "The goal of the program is to look at actions that can be scaled up and buy time for the reef while the world tackles climate change." Not only is it one of the world's largest efforts to protect a single ecosystem but it is being delivered by a Australian government-funded collaborative venture that sees the CSIRO, Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), Queensland University of Technology, University of Queensland, Southern Cross University, James Cook University and the foundation join forces. The team's challenge is time and scale, as it faces off against a complex ecosystem larger than many European nations. If an idea has potential, but there is no pathway, technologically or

PHOTOGRAPHY: MATT CURNOCK; DORIAN TSAI.

Simulated coral spawning in a laboratory environment for the cryopreservation process.



Fluorescing hybrid corals under red light during coral spawning at the AIMS National Sea Simulator.

practically to make it effective at a large scale, then the program doesn't pursue it.

"The challenge is a very fast-paced threat, and we have a small window of opportunity to help. That's why we focus our efforts on providing a few interventions to reef managers that we consider able to deal with the scale and magnitude of the challenge" says Robillot. As part of the suite of potential solutions, Robillot and his team are researching and developing the possibility of conservation aquaculture for corals; essentially breeding and growing large numbers of corals in tanks on land, and then delivering the babies back onto damaged areas of the reef.

"We select corals that reproduce in our land-based facilities, like the National Sea Simulator at the Australian Institute of Marine Science, and now have the capability of making millions of baby corals," he says. "They are known as larvae, and settle and grow before being attached to small specially designed devices, with a view to reseeded those by the hundreds of thousands into the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park without the need for divers."

The team is also investigating how it can grow more baby corals in the wild. This process, known as larval reseeded, involves collecting spawn in special pools during annual coral spawning events, helping that spawn become coral larvae and then settling it onto new areas of the reef. From there, the hope is that the babies produced through the program will grow into adults, then reproducing and naturally repopulating the reef.

As the team races to develop and deploy these novel solutions, they witness the severe impact that climate change has already had on the reef. "I think the main challenge for us is to find that sweet spot between despair, which is negative, and blind optimism. We shouldn't despair, there's still plenty we can do. But we should not be naive about it. We need to be very targeted. So our approach is to develop safe and cost-effective technologies and then look at how we could increase the scale by replicating these strategies along the length of the Great Barrier Reef." The success of the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program science is in how it is shared with reef managers and local communities. If proven safe and effective at scale, these technologies will underpin a new reef restoration and adaptation industry across the entire Great Barrier Reef, likely requiring dedicated infrastructure and creating a range of career opportunities on both land and water. "Support from and empowering local communities is essential, and there's plenty of labour and manpower that we can activate. But there's the reality of the terrain. Access to more remote areas, for example north of Cairns, can be very challenging. We hope to work with traditional owner groups and local sea rangers,



## "IF YOU CARE FOR COUNTRY, THEN COUNTRY WILL CARE FOR YOU. THAT'S EXACTLY HOW REEFS WORK."

to develop solutions that they can implement themselves, building on their knowledge of the ecosystem and local conditions. They know how to operate on that terrain. They also have a long-term historical knowledge, so we're looking at a distributed model where we empower people with the right technologies." Reef traditional owners are front and centre of the work of the program. "We want to acknowledge their cultural knowledge, which is extremely important. In terms of reef science, 100 years is not a very long record. The reality is that the traditional owners have a much longer record of how the ecosystem has behaved, over thousands of years ... They are the custodians, and their principles are very much aligned with what we're advocating for, which is if you care for country, country will care for you. That's exactly how reefs work." The core of Robillot's approach is bringing everybody along on the journey, and he describes his role as rooted in "connection, bringing all these skills, disciplines and funders together in a way that is non-competitive, but collaborative and well governed". From local communities and industries to traditional owners, social scientists,

marine scientists and philanthropists, the core of this work is to bring together different voices and different areas of expertise to create sustainable solutions that consider the bigger picture. "There's plenty of appetite to be part of the future implementation of these new solutions. We have a program launching soon that focuses on building a cohort of First Nations rangers, with a focus on the next generation of leaders." The program will further their knowledge about the technologies so they can be part of the development of the restoration of the reef. The Boats4Corals initiative is another success story. It focuses on the collection and relocation of coral larvae to reseed damaged reefs in The Whitsundays. It was once science driven but is now mostly operated by traditional owners, local tourism operators and volunteers. Nature and the ocean are a key part of Robillot's life. He grew up by the sea in Brittany, and his childhood was "very much in direct connection with nature and the ocean". This has driven him to apply his studies in physics and chemistry to addressing environmental challenges. "I was one of the first engineers in that school to embark on a PhD in environmental toxicology at

PHOTOGRAPHY: IAN MCLEOD; SKYREEF PHOTOS; SCU; GARY CRANITCH.

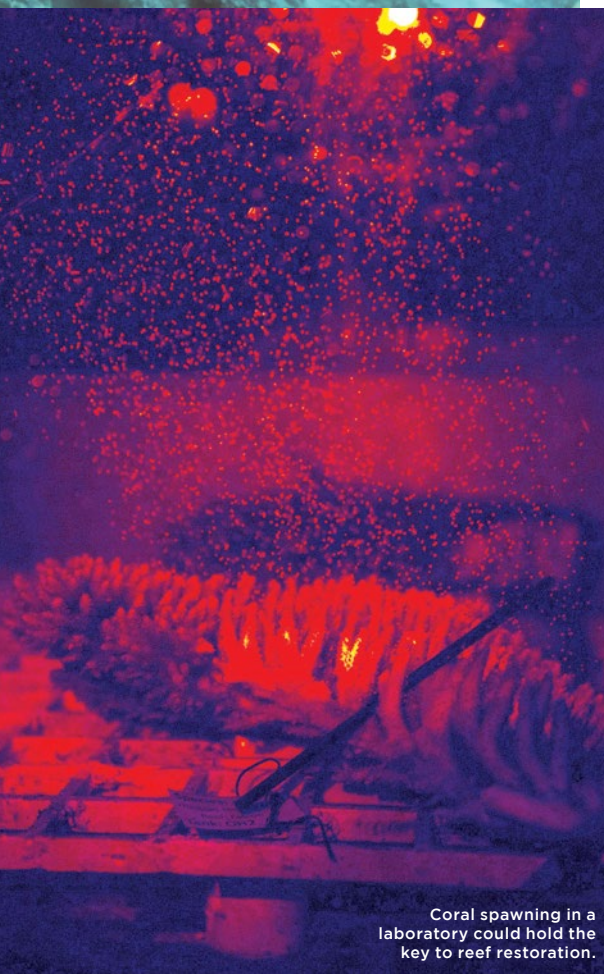
A RRAP team member 3D mapping the central Great Barrier Reef.



A scientist freezing coral egg and sperm bundles through cryopreservation.



Releasing larvae from floating pools.



Coral spawning in a laboratory could hold the key to reef restoration.

the National Museum of Natural History in Paris. I felt there was a lot that could be achieved by integrating a diverse range of sciences to tackle complex issues. The power of combining hard-edge technologies with fundamental ecological science was a revelation.” Robillot’s education has allowed for a sensibly optimistic approach to the reef. “We know the reef will change, but we want the system to remain functional to support the cultural and economic values it provides to local communities and Australia more broadly. The question is not really whether coral reefs will exist – they have existed for millions of years – but how we can preserve their rich biodiversity and our special connection with this amazing environment. Are we prepared as a society to give up on the reef? We’re not prepared to lose this icon and we will

continue to see investment; we will continue to see innovation. Let’s get our act together in dealing with climate change, while also coming together to develop and apply solutions that can support the reef in the meantime. This is a narrow path, but we must remain hopeful.” We all have the power to make a difference, he says, from electing representatives that will drive reef-protection policies, to small everyday actions such as avoiding single-use plastics. But top of his list is to feel and experience the magic of the reef first hand. “Travelling to an island such as Hamilton Island, if you’re lucky enough to do that, allows you to reconnect with your environment. Look around, as our people might well be right around the corner, helping baby corals find their way and settle for the future.”



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WHITSUNDAYS

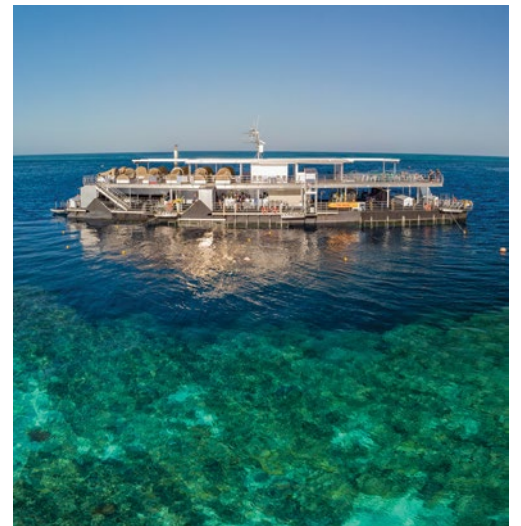
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The small but mighty inshore racer, *Barely Legal*.

# Coming of AGE

Pint-sized sports boat *Barely Legal* took on supermaxi *Wild Oats XI* on the beautiful waters of The Whitsundays to vie for equal spoils during a windy Hamilton Island Race Week.  
By Lisa Ratcliff.



Another strong contingent for Hamilton Island Race Week 2023.

For close to four decades, Race Week has drawn boats of all sizes and everyone from professional sailors to all-age weekend warriors and their sailing families. In 2023 close to 180 boats from across Australia, New Zealand and New Caledonia gathered for the premier annual yachting series that marked 20 years of the Oatley family's custodianship of Hamilton Island. Like any significant endeavour, the toughest battle can sometimes be getting to the start line. The majority of the fleet are delivered to Hamilton Island pre-regatta by the owner and some mates, or they might join the feeder event, the Brisbane to Hamilton Island Yacht Race. Internationals must cross vast stretches of ocean, while for the trailable owners, towing boats to Airlie Beach is the only option. Even before they hit the road for the almost 2000-kilometre coastal road trip from Sydney,

Justin Brownbill and *Barley Legal's* Race Week campaign was beset by challenge, though nothing was keeping the tenacious team from being part of the action. Brownbill, the managing director of Botany Access in Sydney, initially entered the family's Sydney 36, *Cocomo*. In the interim he decided to sell and buy a Thompson 7 sports boat called *Pub Bus*, changing his Race Week entry and nominated division accordingly. However, the day before his 20-year-old son Oscar was to hitch the trailer and drive *Pub Bus* north, they realised key sails were missing. The family's northern campaign included back-to-back regattas at Airlie Beach, Hamilton Island and Magnetic Island, and taking that on without a full suite of race sails was not an option. Brownbill, facing a forfeit of his Hamilton Island entry, spoke despondently to crewman Peter Ray who was at Sydney airport about to hop on a

plane to Tahiti. Ray instantly offered his boat, named *Barely Legal*, and after a third change to Brownbill's entry, the family's planned northern odyssey was back on. "*Barely Legal* needed a safety check to comply and as part of organising our check, Race Week regatta director Denis Thompson had a chuckle and asked me, 'What are we changing to now?'" Brownbill laughs. "I've had people change their entry twice after selling and buying but never to that extent," Thompson says. "They shifted Heaven and Earth to get to Hamilton Island Race Week." En route, Oscar Brownbill drew plenty of comments at caravan parks and petrol stations, and once they reached the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef and were among sailing friends, the curiosity continued. "Having a boat that size in an offshore series meant we had people coming up to us asking,

PHOTOGRAPHY: SALTY DINGO; CROSBIE LORIMER/BOW CADDY.





‘What are you doing here?’ or they’d say ‘Good on you!’. Everyone thought we were mad,” Oscar Brownbill says.

The 38th edition of Hamilton Island Race Week was unusual in that the southeast trade winds kept up their vigour for the entire six days of competition. For a 6.5-metre vessel built to sprint race on flat water, heading to open waters in 20 to 25 knots of breeze and lumpy seas for passage racing brought challenges and opportunities.

“We had the smallest boat in the fleet but one of the fastest,” Brownbill says. “On the second day in the round-the-islands race, we were first back to the marina and had packed up before *Andoo Comanche* and *Wild Oats XI* arrived back from their race, though theirs was longer.”

Peter Ray joined the Brownbills and well-known skiff sailor and sailmaker Andrew Buckland at Hamilton Island. The four-man crew sported the credentials to manage the tough conditions

and squeezed a top boat speed of 22.5 knots (41.6km/h) out of the little blue battler.

“We went for the highs and the lows,” Brownbill says proudly.

A dramatic capsizing in the wind funnel of Dent Passage on the penultimate day is what Oscar Brownbill considers one of the highs. “It was the most fun I’d had all series. I didn’t really think *Barely Legal* would capsize given its hull shape and keel length. I thought, ‘This is awesome!’. Capsizing took me back to my skiff days.”

The sodden but smiling crew recovered and headed out into a gnarly sea and plenty of breeze to complete their race.

They made it as far as South Molle Island, where a significant breakage disappointingly finished their regatta before time.

“Our rudder pins snapped and we lost steerage. As soon as it happened we all looked back at Pete on the tiller and said, ‘Where are you

steering to?’, not realising we were rudderless,” Oscar Brownbill recalls.

“Then we were in damage mode. Our radio was waterlogged and we had no way of calling for help to get back to shore. Another competitor contacted the race committee for a rescue and we just bobbed around waiting for help to come.” The crew wasn’t in danger; in fact, Oscar looked at his dad during the chaos and announced, “This is unreal dad!” “It was actually a bonding moment,” Brownbill says.

While *Barely Legal* sat out the final race the following day, the crew managed to find rides on other boats.

Competing at one of Hamilton Island’s best-loved sporting and lifestyle events was just one part of the week-long experience for the hardy sailors and their families, who made up the shore team. “We made the most of the full Race Week offering both on and offshore,”

Brownbill says. “Our wives and partners loved the social program, especially the Paspaley lunch, and the dinner with Will Cowper and Piper Essentiel was fantastic. We sat with people from New York, Europe and the Middle East.”

The exciting onshore festival of food, wine and daily entertainment for sailors and their guests matched perfect outdoor winter conditions and featured the House of Friends Fiesta by Casamigos Tequila and signature events such as the Paspaley Luncheon and dinner with esteemed French-Australian chef Guillaume Brahim on the beachfront at qualia.

When they weren’t competing, the *Barely Legal* race and shore team trekked to Passage Peak, Oscar Brownbill took the opportunity to book a free skin check at the Skin Check Champions clinic, and he and his partner – they met at Race Week the year before – were part of the nightly throng on Front Street.

The parent-aged members of the group tended to take their tired and sore bodies to bed early in the evenings, while the younger ones enjoyed the bars and outdoor stage with live bands, including showstoppers such as an INXS tribute act and the internationally acclaimed Furnace and the Fundamentals.

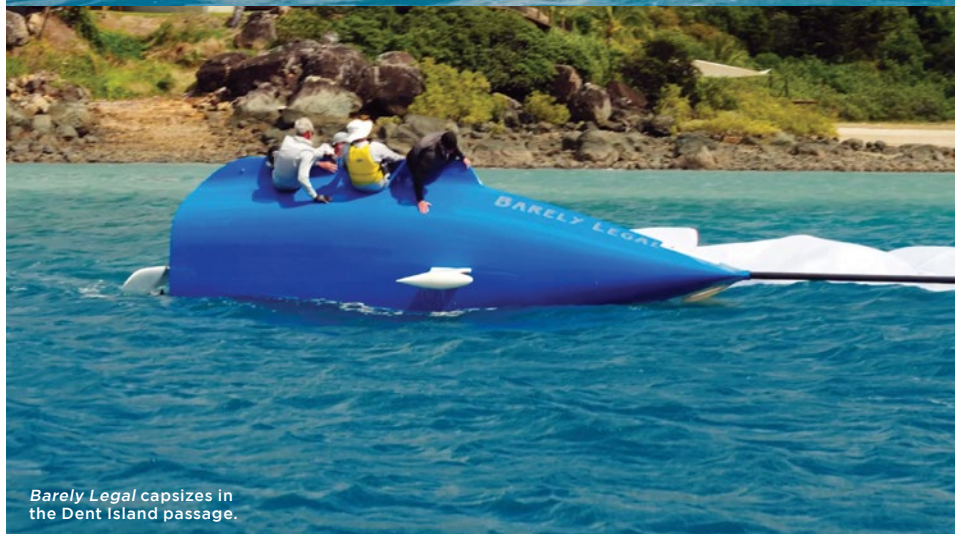
Hamilton Island Race Week 2024 can’t come quick enough for the Brownbill father and son duo. “The whole week was a really great experience and Hamilton Island did an excellent job of facilitating us as a little boat,” says Justin Brownbill.

“Given our size and the fact we brought an inshore boat to an offshore series, some shook their heads at first, but over the week we got a lot of encouragement. It doesn’t matter what size boat you’re on, as long as you’re there.”

Next year the Brownbills may make the pilgrimage with *Pub Bus*, or there is the option of trucking yet another purchase, an MC38 he recently bought to race at his home club, Middle Harbour Yacht Club in Sydney.

“One hundred per cent we’ll be there next year,” Oscar Brownbill declares. “Probably in the T7 but I’m going to try and convince dad to bring the MC38. No matter which boat, I’ll be there next year and every year after that!

“Hamilton Island is the best sailing event to go to, and I’ve raced in Thailand and other places. They really put it on; it’s definitely my favourite sailing event.”



*Barely Legal* capsizes in the Dent Island passage.

“NO MATTER WHICH BOAT, I’LL BE THERE NEXT YEAR AND EVERY YEAR AFTER THAT.”

And the mystery of the missing *Pub Bus* sails was eventually solved. They were mistakenly put in sail bags marked “Cocomo” and delivered along with the yacht to the new owner.

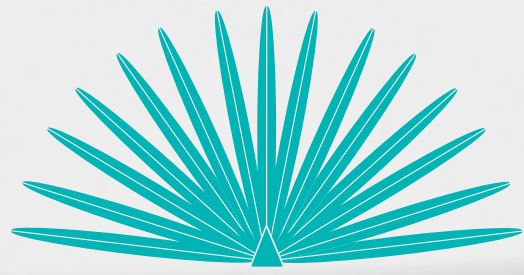
It is 20 years since the Oatley family acquired the largest of The Whitsundays 74-island archipelago. Under their active stewardship, Hamilton Island’s many spectacular additions have made it a world-class holiday destination.

Sailors globally have also reaped the benefits of a family with a passion for the sport that extends back to the 1930s, when Bob Oatley began sailing as a child. His lifelong love for the sport has been carried through generations of boats sporting the now internationally renowned *Wild Oats* moniker.

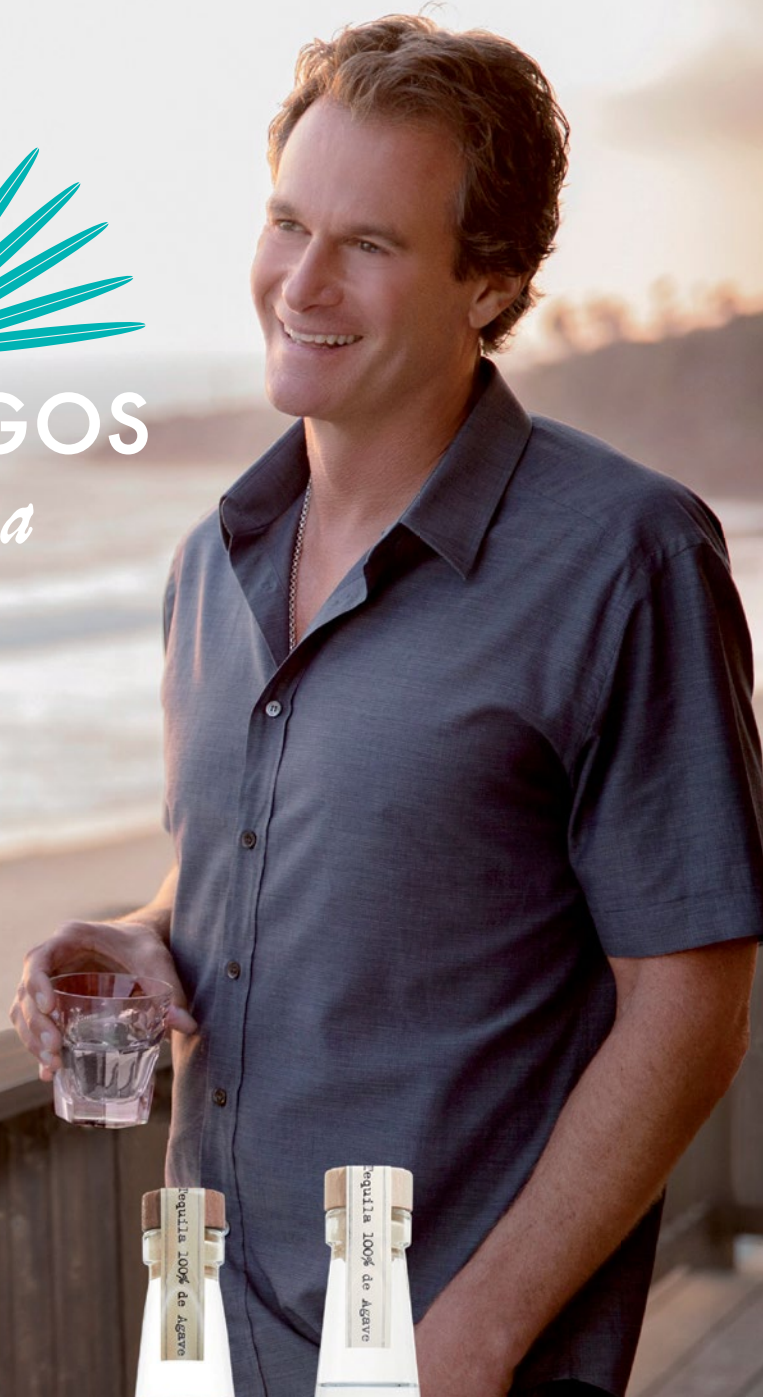
Oatley’s pride and joy, the 100-foot *Wild Oats XI*, – a nine-time Rolex Sydney Hobart Line Honours winner – still proudly represents the family two decades after launch.

*All results, videos, images and news from Hamilton Island Race Week 2023 are available at [hamiltonislandraceweek.com.au](http://hamiltonislandraceweek.com.au) and on Race Week socials.*

PHOTOGRAPHY: BROADCAST.



# CASAMIGOS *Tequila*



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Island queen  
Amy Shark.



# LISTEN UP

Singer-songwriter Amy Shark was in her element when she played an empowering acoustic set at qualia. We spoke to the artist about her next chapter and what she loves about Hamilton Island. By Roxy Lola.

WE REALLY ENJOYED YOUR ACOUSTIC SET ON THE ISLAND. WHAT DO YOU THINK AN ACOUSTIC VERSION BRINGS OUT IN THE SONGS?

"I am addicted to anything acoustic. It's so real, so raw. It really showcases where the songwriter was mentally when they wrote the song."

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING ON? WE'VE BEEN LOVING YOUR LATEST RELEASE, THE REWORKING OF BIC RUNGA'S 1997 HIT *STAY*.

"Thank you. I have a fairly cool surprise up soon, so stay tuned. We have also started shooting *Australian Idol* for 2024, it's been so fun being back on the judging panel."

HOW DO YOU THINK YOUR WRITING AND SOUND HAS EVOLVED SINCE THE PREVIOUS ALBUM?

"I don't really think my writing ever evolves; it just represents where I am at a certain point in my life. I am really happy now so maybe the songs are a little more positive than my last album *Cry Forever*, ha ha!"

WHO HAVE YOU WORKED WITH RECENTLY THAT HAS INFLUENCED YOUR SOUND?

"My next single is with a producer called Dann Hume. He is incredible and has been part of my team since the start. I think Ed Sheeran will influence the way I write songs forever, I went to the UK and worked with him on my last album, and he is so focused and driven, a real hard worker."

WHAT'S BEEN INSPIRING YOU LATELY?

"The Beckhams. I have watched the [Netflix] doco three times this week. Amazing."

WHO IN MUSIC IS EXCITING YOU RIGHT NOW?

"Morgan Wallen is changing the game. I love his approach to everything."



Shark wows the audience with an acoustic set at qualia.

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN WRITING: IN THE STUDIO OR A NATURAL SETTING?

"All songs are written on my couch and then taken to the studio once ready. Keep it simple."

WHAT HAVE YOUR LEARNT ABOUT YOURSELF RECENTLY THROUGH YOUR SONGWRITING PROCESS?

"That I am content and happy with who I am, the person I've become. I have had my challenges, just like everyone else, and I could have turned out very differently."

BEST PART OF YOUR MUSICAL JOURNEY SO FAR?

"Winning my first ARIA will stay with me forever. I watched the ARIAS as a young girl and still can't believe I even attended the event, let alone became an artist on that level."

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM THE NEXT ERA OF AMY SHARK?

"I am more confident now, but I don't want to change for the sake of it, I will always do what feels natural to me."

ULTIMATE COLLABORATION? PRODUCERS, ARTISTS, DIRECTORS ETC? "Eminem, please."

WORDS TO LIVE BY?

"Balance. Balance is everything."

WHAT DID YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT ISLAND LIFE?

"You don't see anyone sad on the island! The smiles, the relaxation, it's a beautiful vibe."

SUNRISE OR SUNSET?

"Both but possibly sunset is a little easier to have a glass of pinot with ..."

WELLNESS WISE, WHAT ARE YOU INTO? ANYTHING THAT HAS LEVELLED UP YOUR LIFE?

"Gym every morning without fail, clears the mind."

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE MEMORY OF HAMILTON ISLAND?

"Sitting on my qualia balcony, watching whales legitimately just 50 metres from us; a moment I will never forget."

WHAT'S ON YOUR ISLAND PLAYLIST?

"Taylor Swift and Blink-182 and then some Beyoncé at night."

BEST PLACE ON HAMILTON ISLAND TO LISTEN TO YOUR MUSIC?

"My music? Anywhere! Please, I need the streams, just keep it on rotation thanks."

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT, ASIDE FROM YOUR MUSIC? SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO USE YOUR PLATFORM FOR?

"I struggle to accept I have a platform, or that I should ever use my name to influence anyone, but I am passionate about autism awareness and the work of Ronald McDonald House."

# Tequila! Tequila!

When reigning princess of pop, Taylor Swift, was spotted drinking a tequila premixer while watching her new boyfriend Travis Kelce play football, sales of the spirit naturally skyrocketed ... By Emma Joyce.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SIMONE HUTCHEN

**B**ut Swift's influence isn't the only thing driving an uptick in tequila consumption this summer. The Mexican spirit is having quite the resurgence, from TikTokers posting videos of satisfyingly layered Tequila Sunrises to bartenders' new favourite highball, the Paloma, a refreshing combo of tequila blanco

and grapefruit soda. Of course, salt and citrus remain a classic pairing for the spicy-sweet liquor made from blue agave plants. Aged varieties such as reposado (rested) or añejo (old) are best enjoyed neat, but the clear and often crisper blancos should be your go-to for cocktails. Here are five ways to drink the spirit of summer.



## SIESTA

An unexpected combination of tequila, Campari and fresh citrus juice. Each sip is balanced and refreshing, with a sweet tart body and a hint of bitter on the finish.

### INGREDIENTS

45ml Casamigos Blanco Tequila  
15ml Campari  
15ml pink grapefruit juice  
15ml lime juice

**METHOD** Add all ingredients to a cocktail shaker. Fill with ice and then shake until cold. Strain the drink into a lowball glass with a citrus wedge.



## CLASSIC MARGARITA

This is the classic sour cocktail combining tequila, fresh lime juice and sweet orange liqueur.

The recipe requires just four ingredients, with the result a beautifully balanced tart and salty cocktail.

### INGREDIENTS

45ml Casamigos Blanco Tequila  
15ml Cointreau  
30ml lime juice  
Salt

**METHOD** Rim the glass with salt to enhance the sweet and sour flavours in the drink. Spread the salt evenly on a plate. Take a wedge of lime, cut a notch in the middle, then slide it around the rim of the glass. Dip the outside edge of the glass in the salt. Add the tequila, Cointreau and lime juice in a cocktail shaker, along with four ice cubes. Shake until cold. Strain into a lowball or coupe glass.

## BLOODY MARIA

Swap out the vodka for tequila, and it's a new take on the classic Bloody Mary.

### INGREDIENTS

60ml Casamigos Blanco Tequila  
120ml tomato juice  
3-10 dashes Tabasco  
3 dashes Worcestershire sauce  
30ml lemon juice  
20ml olive brine  
10 grinds of salt and pepper

**METHOD** First chill the tomato juice and tequila. Shake the mix in a cocktail shaker (no ice) then serve over ice in a highball glass. This results in the perfect consistency and flavour. Rim glass with some extra celery salt and black pepper and garnish with a celery stalk, curl of cucumber, skewered olives and a slice of lemon.





## OAXACA OLD FASHIONED

This modern classic cocktail is the perfect mix of smoky mezcal, tequila, sweet agave and chocolate bitters. The difference between mezcal and tequila is that mezcal can be made from 11 different varieties of agave, whereas tequila is only made from the specific type of blue agave.

### INGREDIENTS

30ml Casamigos Reposado Tequila  
 30ml mezcal  
 5ml agave syrup  
 4 dashes (8-10ml) Angostura Bitters  
 One ice cube  
 Orange peel

METHOD Stir the ingredients directly into an Old Fashioned or lowball glass. Add a single large ice cube. Garnish with a curl of orange peel.



## TEQUILA SUNRISE

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

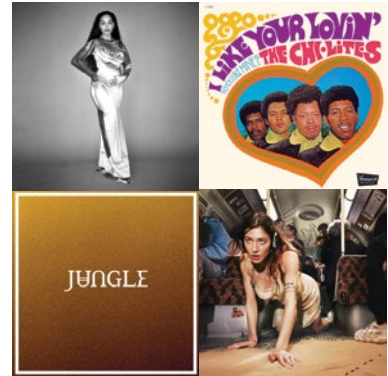
### INGREDIENTS

30ml Casamigos Añejo Tequila  
 60ml orange juice  
 15ml grenadine  
 Slice of orange

METHOD Stir the tequila and orange juice together with ice in a highball glass. Pour in the grenadine so that it settles at the bottom of the glass. (Grenadine is a sweet, tart bright red syrup made from pomegranate juice.) Garnish with slice of orange.

## A TEQUILA-INFUSED SUNSET PLAYLIST

Tunes for watching the sun go down with a cool drink in hand.



1. Palm Trees by Jungle
2. Hello by Q
3. Think About It by Sault
4. Life by AIFF
5. Sunset by Caroline Polachek
6. Moonshake by CAN
7. Easing by George and Glen Miller
8. Had to Come Back Wet by Rogér Fakhr
9. Little Things by Jorja Smith
10. Vous Venez Souvent Ici? by Bien et Toi
11. I Love to Move In Here by Moby
12. Sunny by Biig Piig
13. Unstoppable by Lianne La Havas (FKJ Remix)
14. Pontin Pontin by Bana
15. Hummingbird by Ondatrópica
16. Forget Me Not by Say She She and Piya Malik
17. Rolling Down The Hills by Glass Candy
18. Opendoors by Jitwam
19. Welcome My Love by Steve Monite
20. Are You My Woman? (Tell Me So) by The Chi-Lites

To listen, scan the Spotify code below.



# In pursuit of PERFECTION: Jeremy Fenech

qualia executive chef  
Jeremy Fenech.





qualia's new executive chef grew up on Queensland's idyllic Brampton Island but has spent years honing his craft at luxury resorts in Europe and Australia. Now he's bringing his drive for impeccable fine dining "home" to Hamilton Island. By Emma Joyce.

**W**hen Jeremy Fenech is facing a demanding day leading the kitchens at qualia's Long Pavilion or Pebble Beach restaurants, he makes the most of his island home by starting the morning playing tennis, sailing or challenging a mate to a game of table tennis. "Everyone in the kitchen has that drive, which is refreshing, but it's also nice to get perspective from people who aren't food or service-related. It's nice to have people on the island to connect with that aren't necessarily in hospitality. I grew up in this area, so it brings back memories." Fenech's childhood was split between his home on Brampton Island (about 60 kilometres south of Hamilton Island), where his father managed a luxury resort, and in Rockhampton where he later went to boarding school. "There were no other kids

[on the island], which is why we went to boarding school ... My family lived nearby, but we grew up sailing, ocean kayaking, hiking, and spending the days outside just like a guest would on the island," he says.

When it came to choosing a profession, travel and adventure is what first inspired Fenech to work with food. After school he completed an apprenticeship as a chef so he could move to Europe, which is where he's spent much of his career so far. He took on the role of head chef at Peruvian restaurant Leche de Tigre, Germany, before taking on the executive chef role at German luxury castle Châteaufurm' Schloss Löwenstein.

When he moved back to Australia, Fenech helmed the kitchen at all-inclusive luxury outback resort Mt Mulligan Lodge in Queensland. "[qualia is] my fourth or fifth luxury property experience around the world, and you learn from every place you go, whether it's in the kitchen or how the resort offers historical tours which can be linked back to the food."

He believes working as a team is what achieves the greatest results. Take one of qualia's signature dishes: grilled peach with tea-smoked almonds,

white asparagus, and goat's curd and koji espuma.

Fenech tells us it was perfected through teamwork. "You get a huge sense of freedom [in cooking]. You can create whatever you like when you work with passionate people," he says.

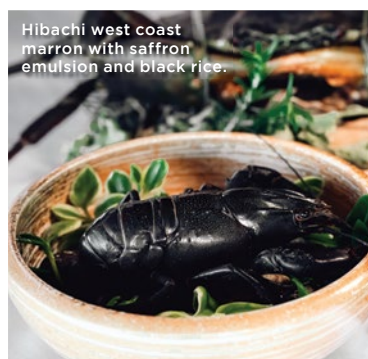
"I think being open and always having the willingness to learn [is key].

If someone around you

has ideas then take that on and work with them – [it's about] realising that a lot of different minds and tastes are better than one."

The grilled peaches and white asparagus dish was one Fenech brought to the menu and, he says, "someone had the idea of putting koji in there [then] someone else mentioned adding lemon in the almonds, which is how I like to work. I get strength out of the team".

Tweaking dishes, working with what's in season, and listening to ideas is par for the course in qualia's kitchens, as is striving for the very best. "I think in a place like qualia, when we push for perfection we may almost get there – and that's better than a lot of people ever will."



Hibachi west coast marron with saffron emulsion and black rice.



At *qualia*, the ethos is “really good technique, really good produce and letting two, three or four elements just shine”. Here, the executive chef focuses on creating meaningful relationships with farmers, fishermen and other artisanal produce suppliers. “On Hamilton Island you have access to the best ingredients in Australia. It’s a dream job.”

But above all, providing genuine hospitality is Fenech’s guiding mantra. “Some of the guests might not want a six-course tasting menu, [so it’s also about] being able to do the best food that you can for those people and enjoying doing hospitality because you care.”

What keeps him motivated to create the most memorable experience for guests is the camaraderie: he enjoys working alongside others at the top of their game. In addition to leading the team at *qualia*, Fenech works on a podcast series for online chef resource *Life on the Pass*. As part of the podcast and events for the publication, he has interviewed accomplished chefs Lennox Hastie (*Firedoor*, Sydney), Tom Gorrington (*Aria*, Sydney) and Tim Scott (*Exhibition*, Brisbane), among others.

## “ON HAMILTON ISLAND YOU HAVE ACCESS TO THE BEST INGREDIENTS IN AUSTRALIA.”

When asked about the chefs he admires most, he names Dave Beran (*Pasjoli*, Santa Monica): “He serves an 18-course degustation in a food court, and I really love his concept and flavour pairings.” Justin James (*Restaurant Botanic*, Adelaide) “is one of the most passionate and enthusiastic chefs I have met, and a real master of his craft”. Plus, Tim Scott (*Exhibition*, Brisbane) and Stephen Peak (*Agrarian Kitchen*, Tasmania): “both have very artisanal approaches to cooking and hospitality which I admire”.

For *REEF* readers, Fenech shares his recipe for grilled peaches with tea-smoked almonds, white asparagus, and goat’s curd and koji espuma (foam), which is one of *qualia*’s signature entrées. It’s a recipe for cooks who relish the opportunity

to get technical. You’ll need a blender to create the espuma, smoking chips for the almonds, plus plenty of patience to work through each stage. “On the top it simply looks like peaches and asparagus, but underneath there’s a lot going on,” says Fenech. “We have a few smoked almonds on the bottom, then we have peach and smoked onion jam, then pickled white asparagus. Then we cover it with espuma made from goat’s cheese and koji, which we make from fermented barley. On top we have roasted white asparagus, grilled peaches and we cover it with ash. “Because everything’s hidden, when you break through it with a spoon and you get to the textures, you feel the fluffiness of the espuma, the crunch of the almonds, and the soft flesh of the peaches all working together. Flavour-wise, the almonds and the smoked onions are really smoky and they cut through the creaminess of the goat’s cheese.” It’s a dish created for the stone-fruit season, which for Australian peaches runs from October to April, and Fenech says you could substitute green asparagus if white isn’t available. “Try as best as possible to utilise super-seasonal fresh produce,” he adds.

PHOTOGRAPHY: SIMON HUTCHEN.



Great technique and beautiful produce is key at qualia, says executive chef Jeremy Fenech.



Grilled peaches with tea-smoked almonds, white asparagus, goat's curd and koji espuma.

## GRILLED PEACHES AND WHITE ASPARAGUS

**SERVES 4. PREPARATION: 1 HOUR**

**COOKING TIME: 10 MINUTES**

### GOAT'S CURD AND KOJI ESPUMA

- 450g goat's curd
- 45g koji
- 50ml cream
- 2 gelatine leaves
- 235g cream cheese
- 1 gas charger

Bloom gelatine in ice water. Put goat's curd, koji and cream cheese in a blender. Dissolve the bloomed gelatine in 50ml of cream over very low heat. Add that to the blender with the rest of the ingredients and blitz. (qualia uses a professional Pacojet for this process, but a blender is perfectly adequate for home use).

### PEACH AND ONION JAM

- 4 parts brown onions
- 1 part peaches
- 50g sugar
- 50ml balsamic/sherry vinegar to taste
- Olive oil

Chop 3 onions and sauté in a pan with olive oil, then smoke them in the same way as the almonds (see above right). Then place in a heavy pan and add 50g sugar and 50g sherry vinegar and cook on a medium heat until the jam is sticky. Blend and refrigerate.

### TEA-SMOKED ALMONDS

- 1kg raw almonds
- Vincotto
- Lemon zest
- 50g Earl Grey tea leaves
- 100g smoking chips

To smoke the almonds, layer a tray with aluminium foil and place tea leaves in with smoking chips. With a blowtorch or long lighter, set the smoking chips alight and cover with a perforated tray. Wrap with aluminium foil and leave to smoke for 10 minutes. Make sure you are doing this in a well-ventilated space, or ideally outdoors. If almonds aren't roasted through in the smoking process then finish in oven. Blitz while still hot so nuts break up into chunky pieces. Season with vincotto and lemon zest.

### PICKLED ASPARAGUS

Cut asparagus into small batons (about the same length as peach wedges) and cold pickle with a sweet chardonnay pickle liquid.

### ASSEMBLY

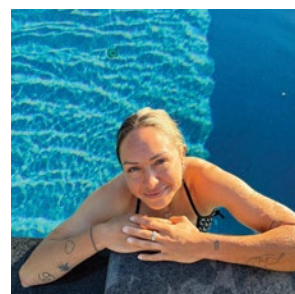
Plate smoked almonds, then peach and smoked onion jam, then pickled white asparagus. Cover with espuma and finally, top with roasted white asparagus and grilled peaches.

## POSTCARDS FROM PARADISE

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



"What the doctor ordered" @kitaalexander



"What a place! Most amazing trip last week, to a beautiful part of Australia. Thank you @hamiltonisland @qualiaresort for having us" @kyahsimon



"It was so awesome to be back in The Whitsundays again, and was very cool to do all my exploring from a wheelchair this time round (with the help of a helicopter, ATV and a bunch of boats as well)." @jimmy.jan



"Happy Father's Day to the Dada who carries us every day. Also, great pins." @sylviajeffreys



Heading out on a game drive in Africa.

# SPELLBOUND

Welcome to travel's new era of enchantment. By Ute Junker.



**T**he leopard disappears into the long grass, stalking the herd of impala grazing peacefully nearby. Until now the predator has ambled leisurely across the plains, its relaxed pace and lack of concern over our presence meaning our safari vehicle never has to shift out of low gear. But we are about to discover just how fast a leopard can move when it wants to. Somehow, the impala have caught wind of the big cat. The herd bolts, and the leopard turns and races past us, aiming for an interception. By the time we turn the vehicle around and follow, the leopard has vanished from view, its spotted coat blending into the sun-dappled background. All we see is the panicked impala bounding away.

Then it happens. As we watch, a baby impala leaps high into the air and the leopard, emerging from its hiding place in the shadows, leaps after it. Its powerful jaws catch hold of the impala mid-air, its momentum so strong that the leopard executes a forward flip as it sails through the air and lands on its feet, still clutching its prey.

Before the leopard can deliver the death blow, however, an interloper appears: a huge hyena that charges the much smaller cat. Like every other beast on the African plains, the leopard knows its place in the animal hierarchy. It lets go of the impala and flees to a safe distance, while the hyena carries off its prize. We sit, gobsmacked by the drama of life in the wild. Nothing removes you from your everyday dramas and lifts you onto a different plane as instantly as safari. Out here in the African bush, where rutted four-wheel drive tracks are often the only sign of human civilisation, the power and wonder of the natural world is unchallenged. Life is a brutal and beautiful battle for survival, a cycle that has continued unchanged over millennia. The rawness of the experience is exhilarating.

Part of the power of safari is its lack of control. Head out on a game drive and you never quite know what awaits. You may come across a litter of young cheetah learning to hunt by following their mother as she stalks some antelope, or marvel at a pride of lions coming together at the end of the day, rubbing

themselves against each other in greeting. You may have ringside seats as hyena fight a territorial battle, or find your way forward is blocked by lumbering rhino. Anything is truly possible.

No wonder that safari is a booming sector. After a gruelling few years, aren't we all yearning to be spellbound, to have our everyday interrupted by the extraordinary? We have come a long way from those pre-covid days when hopping on a plane felt no more exciting than catching a bus. Back then, we had lost sight of an essential truth: that the ability to explore the world is one of the greatest gifts there is.

No longer. After years of being cooped up within our own borders, we have rediscovered the magic in travel. It is a feeling our ancestors knew well. Among the most memorable tales in *One Thousand and One Nights*, a collection of Middle Eastern and Indian stories believed to originate from about the eighth century, is the description of Prince Husain's magic carpet, which instantly transported the prince to any destination of which he thought.

He wasn't the only one blessed with such a transportive gift. The fabled Israeli King Solomon is also said to have had a flying carpet, although it doesn't rate a mention in either the Old Testament or Hebrew Bible's accounts. Instead, the tale of Solomon's carpet appears in a work by 13th-century scholar Isaac Ben Sherira, who claimed to draw his account from two older works.

According to Sherira, the Queen of Sheba sent Solomon the carpet as a token of her love. The green silk carpet, embroidered with gold and silver and studded with precious stones, was some 60 miles long and 60 miles wide, and sailed through the air shielded from the sun by a canopy of birds. The carpet reputedly allowed Solomon to breakfast in Damascus and have supper in Media, in ancient Persia.

Our modern travel industry was born of the same sense of wonder that spawned the tale of the magic carpet. As moneyed travellers of the 1700s and 1800s headed ever further afield on their Grand Tours – first to the ruins of Rome, then the domed cities of the Near East, and finally as far as the elaborately ordered culture of Japan – what they were looking for was the sense of intoxication that comes from being in a place unlike anything you have ever imagined. These days, conjuring up just this sort of experience has become big business for the travel trade. Luxury resorts worldwide compete with each other to astonish their guests, with Asian properties often leading the way.

At the exclusive Soneva Kiri resort on the Thai island of Koh Kood, translucent blue waters lap the pristine shores. One of the most popular experiences here is a relaxing breakfast in the treetops. Step into one of the resort's specially designed bamboo baskets before being gently hoisted high into the canopy overlooking the sea. Your meal is served to you by a waiter who swoops in via zipline. Or head to Bali where the Hanging Gardens of Bali resort – set on a series of terraces cascading down a lush Ubud hillside



The splendour of The Whitsundays.



Treetop breakfast at Soneva Kiri, Thailand.



Shinta Mani Wild in Cambodia.



Vintage details in tents at Shinta Mani Wild.



HAMILTON ISLAND HAS UNFURLED A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO OFFER SOMETHING FRESH TO REPEAT VISITORS AND FIRST-TIMERS ALIKE.

Your nerves may rise as you climb ever higher up the wooden launch tower, but the rush you experience as you fly off the platform, soaring above the treetops and over a small waterfall before landing safely into the arms of your waiting butler, is invigorating. From there, the special moments keep coming. Your first glimpse inside your luxury tent, decked out with a range of vintage furnishings including a magnificent hand-carved bed, will have you entranced, as will the expansive private deck, equipped not just with sofas, dining table and chairs and a fully-stocked complimentary bar (nothing mini about it!) but also a rolled-lipped bathtub. Which is more romantic: a bath as dawn breaks over the river, or a soak under the stars? Try them both, then decide.

Not in the mood to venture far? There are plenty of spellbinding experiences closer to home, with Australia's best-loved destinations finding new ways to deliver for their guests. Take Hamilton Island, which has in recent years unfurled a range of activities designed to offer something fresh to repeat visitors and first-timers alike. A trip to Whitehaven Beach, where the almost luminescent silica sand is washed by waters shimmering in shades of turquoise, aquamarine and eau de Nil, is a must-do. Why not mix it up by arriving on a seaplane, or taking part in a photo safari on the way there, or combining the day with a snorkelling trip? All of these experiences are on offer to guests.

You could also play a round on Dent Island, home to the Hamilton Island Golf Club. The course, designed by British Open winner Peter Thomson, is both challenging and fun – just remember not to be distracted by the

extraordinary views across The Whitsundays. Maybe it's time to head out on a fishing charter for some tips on how to land the catch of the day? Or perhaps you want to time your visit to coincide with the Hamilton Island Endurance Series, which runs from May to November. Whether you opt for the Hamilton Island Triathlon or the Great Whitehaven Beach Run, plunge into the Hamilton Island Ocean Swim or take on the Hamilton Island Hilly Half Marathon, these events let you test your limits while experiencing a favourite holiday destination in a whole new way.

Enchantment, it is clear, comes in many forms. It can come from cocooning yourself in lush lodgings, or from being awestruck by the power of Mother Nature. You can even find it in the heart of a bustling city, where a new future is being constructed in front of your eyes.

In the built-up city of Singapore, one of Asia's economic powerhouses, a new type of metropolis is evolving. A sustainability-focused government is providing fertile ground for the imaginations of architects looking to blur the lines between built form and natural surrounds.

Studios such as WOHA Architects are creating skyscrapers covered in vegetation that give the skyline a soft green edge. At WOHA's new Pan Pacific Orchard hotel, guests can relax on a "beach" high above the city streets thanks to an eye-catching design that creates mid-air terraces. The building's striking shape is about more than just appearance: air flow and orientation help cut down CO2 emissions, while the vegetation incorporated into the building exceeds the amount of greenery that could grow on the site if it were left empty. Now that is pure magic.

– offers a magical temple dinner. Your evening begins when your butler leads you down a candlelit path through the jungle to a hidden temple where the light from hundreds of candles casts a magical glow. Enjoy a Hindu blessing and a relaxing foot massage before sitting down to a sumptuous and supremely private dinner. Then there is Shinta Mani Wild, a luxury tented camp tucked away in the Cambodian jungle. The conservation-focused camp is the brainchild of maximalist hotelier Bill Bensley and every element is designed to dazzle, right from the memorable moment of arrival when you zipline your way into the resort.



Tamsin Johnson  
in the Marché  
aux Puces (flea  
markets) of Paris.

# ADVENTURES in style

Tamsin Johnson is one of Australia's most accomplished interior designers, leading the way with a singular style that balances antique with modern, art and light. She travels the globe sourcing inspiration and incredible pieces.

*REEF* caught up with her on a recent visit to Hamilton Island.



HOW MUCH DOES TRAVEL INSPIRE AND INFORM YOUR INTERIOR DESIGN WORK?

“Almost totally in one sense. It is easy to become blind to your normal environment because the local experience is so repetitious and informed by day-to-day life. Travel forces you to stop and absorb. I think most important is the cultural shift you experience being elsewhere; you get to see how other ‘civilisations’ see, so to speak. You get to see the different forces that drive creativity in another place.”

IS IT A CONSCIOUS PART OF YOUR WORLD THAT YOU KNOW WILL FEED IN AND LAYER YOUR IDEAS? OR MORE A CASE OF HAPPY SURPRISES?

“It is both. Sometimes you just happen across things, like a great concrete texture that may have been an accident, or a new way of looking at an old technique. Often, however, it is about drawing down on a bank of memories, I think. For me, I am often responding to the vintage and antique furniture I am using. It can be a good starting point because often I am allowing for these great designs to be showcased effectively or best used.”

WHAT KIND OF PROJECTS BRING YOU THE MOST FULFILMENT AND PLEASURE?

“It is very hard to say. I think residential perhaps can be most satisfying simply because you know you are quite directly making someone happy or improving their home. But the free range I can be granted with some commercial and retail projects is a great way to stretch the legs.”

WHAT DO YOU HOPE FOR IN A DESIGN COMMISSION?

“Two things. Firstly, a genuine passion or desire in the client to make something great. No.2. — a very different substrate, an unusual building, situation or requirement.”

FAVOURITE WORDS TO HEAR FROM A CLIENT?

“Just go for it.”

IF YOU COULD REVISIT ONE VENTURE, WHICH MIGHT IT BE?

“That is a good question.”

WHERE IS HOME FOR YOU RIGHT NOW?

“Darling Point in Sydney.”

HOW IS IT SHAPING UP? CHANGING ALL THE TIME OR ...?

“I feel pretty resolved about home, actually. I had put a lot of thought into it as you could imagine. There is a small amount of furniture movement, but the place is right in my mind. It had great bones and I liked its formality. It was



Sydney's new Libertine Parfumerie boutique is designed by Johnson.



No rules, just quality, says Johnson.



Mixing old and new in design is a question of “dose”.

more about meeting it with the right ‘intensity’. The garden is most dynamic, which it should be to a degree I think.”

YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR COLLECTING ART. WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR? IS THERE A GENRE YOU FAVOUR OR A PATTERN TO YOUR CHOICES?

“I don’t look for anything in particular. I like to support Australian artists but other than that there is no genre or pattern except that it needs to move me or strike me in some way. I adore [Australian photographer] Bill Henson but my angle is ultimately very wide. Good art is destined to live on in a space, it can handle a lot of disruption.”

HAVE YOU MANAGED TO AMASS AN “ART COLLECTION” OR DO YOU END UP SELLING AND CHANGING IT UP ALL THE TIME?

“I would say it is permanently amassing. Part of my business is sourcing art along with furniture and objects, so there is plenty of cycle in the business without me having to sacrifice the things I hold dearest.”

LAYERED BUT NOT DECORATED, EFFORTLESS RATHER THAN FORCED. HOW CAN WE ACHIEVE THESE THINGS IN INTERIORS?

“I think honesty is the best policy. Each thing needs to assert itself; it needs to have purpose. Mere decorations don’t do that well and actually look alone; they ‘pretend’. Good pieces have an action of sorts in a design.”

IS THERE A SET OF RULES THAT YOU WORK TO OR FOLLOW?

“I have a high threshold for compromise, and a high threshold for quality of finishes. That is it. Rules are otherwise obstructions.”

YOU GREW UP AROUND ANTIQUES AND BUY AND SELL THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PIECES. WHAT DOES THE AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMER LIKE FROM YOU MOST OF ALL? WHAT DO PEOPLE LOVE?

“There is renewed fascination in antiques and vintage pieces. There is more attention paid to art; better art, that is. There is also more attention paid to build quality and specific trades, which is great because that slope was

PHOTOGRAPHY: TAMSIN JOHNSON INTERIORS; @TAMSIN JOHNSON.

Johnson's eye at work in her Darling Point, Sydney home.



Always look for the design value of a piece, says Johnson.



Vintage details in a bathroom of the designer's home.



getting rather slippery. So, in total, Australia is showing growth in interiors, it is beginning to mature and understand their value again. I say 'again' because I think we have historically shown how great we are at times and also found our own voice in it at times."

IN YOUR BOOK YOU SAY "BEAUTY DOES NOT DATE". SO HOW WOULD YOU MAKE, SAY, A MIDCENTURY-MODERN PURCHASE STILL MAKE SENSE NEXT YEAR?

"Great design movements dictate a new language and expression and from these periods fall out great objects and ideas that recycle well. However, context can be important because it can determine the 'usage' versus the 'abusage' of something. In other words, you can fatigue your audience with popularity, so then it comes down to elegant usage of objects and design ideas. 'Re-proposing' them so their intrinsic beauty is spotlighted for the viewer."

HOW IMPORTANT IS EUROPE FOR YOUR EYE? DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE CITY OR MARKET OR ANTIQUE FAIR?

"Europe is central to my eye for more obvious contextual reasons I guess, but the rest of the world is vital, too. We are in South-East Asia, after all. In Europe it is hard to beat Paris and its flea markets. I love the southern French towns and their fairs, too. They have a nostalgic value to me that goes beyond their material value."

ANY RULES WITH ONE-OFF PIECES? PEOPLE ARE SOMETIMES AFRAID; HOW SHOULD THEY BE INTRODUCED?

"Always look at the design value of an object. Ask, is it intrinsically beautiful? Does it have purpose in what it says? It should hold its own but [you should] ask, is it at home where it is?"

MIXING OLD AND NEW. IS THERE A FOOLPROOF WAY TO PULL THIS OFF?

"There is no method here. I guess, it is all about the dose. How much? It is a dialogue of objects and effects. Who talks to who in the space? Who yells more loudly? Who is at peace in the space? What is the balance of the dynamic?"

IS THERE ONE SUREFIRE WAY THAT WE COULD INTRODUCE PERSONALITY INTO A SPACE?

"Hmmm. I don't think so. This is about how well that conversation I mentioned previously is happening, I guess. Some completely empty spaces can have personality, they can survive on less content."

IS A NEUTRAL PALETTE - WALLS, FLOORING - A BASE FOR EVERYTHING?

"To continue with the analogy of it being a conversation, a neutral palette can be a simple clean base for things, an exposé for objects, but such a neutral palette can make for a dry conversation just as easily, with each character having a weakened dialogue. They have less to talk about perhaps. Does that make sense?"

SHOULD A HOUSE OR APARTMENT HAVE ONE MOOD?

"It can but it needn't. I look at a [Japanese architect] Tadao Ando perhaps and I see a single, pure mood and it's wonderful. But most homes I think could benefit from several moods that reflect the use of that particular space better. Bedrooms can feel safe and secluded like a private sanctuary. Bathrooms can feel fresh and renewing etc."

GRAND STATEMENT OR ...?

"Just appropriate statement, that could be grand."

SPACE. HOW IMPORTANT IS THAT TO YOUR DESIGN?

"Important if it is needed. Some rooms don't need to be big to feel great. I prefer to focus on mood. Big spaces can be unrelatable sometimes and even uncomfortable, but then I think of a woody-looking mountain ranch-style home and a big, cavernous space can feel warm with all the stone and wood."

YOU'RE ON HAMILTON ISLAND DURING RACE WEEK. WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT THE ISLAND?

"It is an adventure park really. It seems almost like someone dreamt it up. It is so Australian, so familiar but also so remote and alien feeling at the same time."

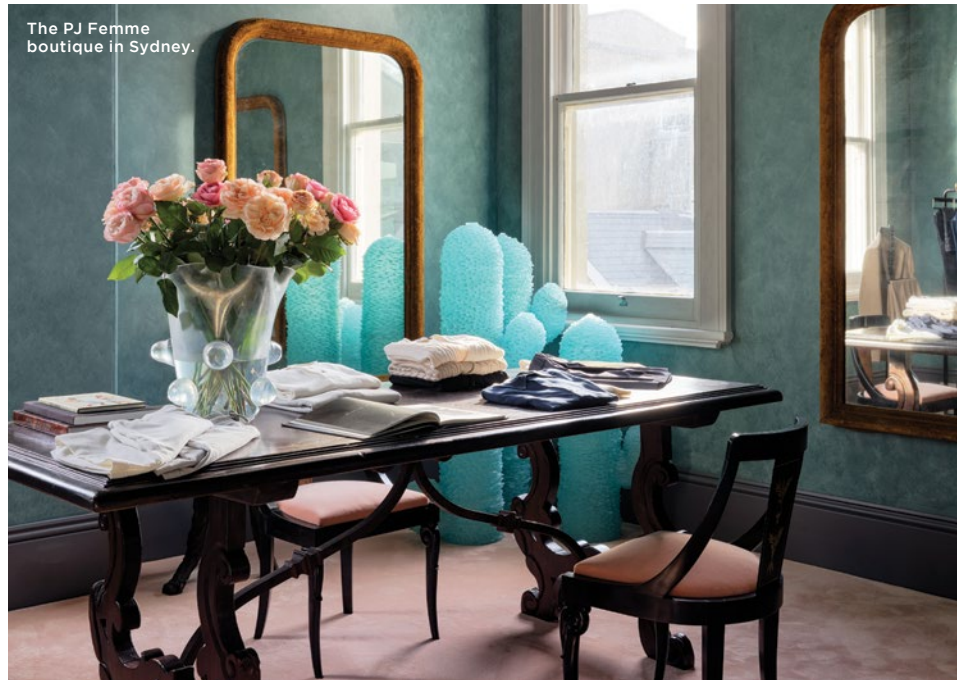
HIGHLIGHT?

"Boats with seafood. Pretty terrible really."

PHOTOGRAPHY: TAMSIN JOHNSON INTERIORS; @TAMSIN JOHNSON.



Travel is a key source of inspiration for Johnson



The PJ Femme boutique in Sydney.



Johnson finds the free range of commercial work satisfying.

# The BUTTERFLY EFFECT

In 2000, Susie O'Neill retired from her highly successful professional swimming career. When she smashed another world record in the pool more than two decades later, it was a surprise to everyone. Especially her.  
By Melanie Colwell.

Most people celebrate a big milestone with a party. Or, perhaps, a holiday. Not Susie O'Neill. The Australian swimming legend chose a very unconventional way to mark her 50th birthday: coming out of retirement. O'Neill absolutely dominated the professional swimming circuit in the 1990s. She won 67 major international medals and earned the nickname "Madame Butterfly". She retired from competitive swimming after scooping up three medals at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, a feat which brought her Olympic Games medal tally to eight. These days she hosts Nova's breakfast radio program in Brisbane, and that's where this unexpected return to the pool first took shape. What started as a bit of fun with her colleagues quickly spiralled into something else. "They said 'Let's do a mixed relay for your 50th at the World Masters. It'll be the two boys and [you], plus we'll do a listener competition and a listener will have a chance to come along and do the relay,'" O'Neill explains. "To compete in the relay, everyone has got to qualify in an individual event. So I went along to Chandler, which is our local pool in Brisbane, and I broke the world record." The record was the 50-metre butterfly in the 50-54 age group. After the unexpected result, O'Neill decided to follow through and compete in the individual event at the World Aquatics Masters in Japan in August. Spoiler alert: she placed first. Two decades on, Madame Butterfly's still got it.



Susie O'Neill broke a world record in 2023.

PHOTOGRAPHY: ADAM HEAD / THE COURIER MAIL

O'Neill admits that her looming birthday played a big part in the decision to go all-in. "It's been really affecting me ... the physical part of turning 50 has been a big deal," she says. "I've kind of got that feeling I've got to try and fit in as much as I can." When presented with the hypothesis that professional athletes are hardwired to be conscious of ageing, O'Neill responds: "It's been a really interesting year. It's affected me a lot more than I thought it would. I hope that's the reason." "When you're competing, you improve, improve, improve and then you stagnate. And that's when you give up."



“IT’S BEEN 23 YEARS SINCE I COMPETED INTERNATIONALLY. I WAS LIKE, ‘WHAT AM I DOING?’.”

She also admits that she is “very, very competitive”, a quality that didn’t switch off when she retired from professional swimming. “The most positive way I’ve used it is that I’ve got into radio now so I can be competitive in competitions and surveys,” she says. “But it pops up every now and again in stupid things like games I’m playing with the family. My son’s got a good way of teasing me about it. Like ‘We get it Mum. We get it. You’re good at stuff.’” There is another, much simpler reason: O’Neill says it’s “hard to replicate the buzz of winning a swimming race”. Yet she is quick to insist this return to the competitive circuit was a once-off.

“It actually ended up being quite stressful in the end. It’s been 23 years since I competed internationally. I was like ‘What am I doing?’ I started to feel a lot of pressure,” she tells *REEF*. “I got really nervous on the day of the actual race. Back in the day, I was well-practised with my routines. But it all went out the window. One of the girls who I was racing against, who actually came a close second to me, ended up calming me down before the race.” But it’s not farewell to the pool for good. “I’m so lucky. I’m one of the few who were elite swimmers who still absolutely love swimming. I love how I feel under the water. I love the silence

# PERFORMANCE

Hamilton Island Ocean Swim regular Susie O'Neill with fellow competitors.



“WHEN I WAS GOING TO DO IT, I DECIDED TO GIVE IT 100 PER CENT. I WOULD GET UP AT 3.45AM AND DO THAT BEFORE I HOPPED ON RADIO.”

of it. If I haven't been for a few days, I definitely start to get a bit antsy,” she says. “When I first finished swimming, I didn't swim for a little bit. After I had my children, I wanted to make time for myself. I really got back into it then.” O'Neill was still swimming “two or three times a week” before the decision to do the Masters kicked things up a notch. “When I was going to do it, I decided to give it 100 per cent,” she says. “There's a squad at my local pool from 4.15am to 5.15am. So I would get up at 3.45am and do that session before I hopped on the radio. I was also doing a lot more weights.” O'Neill says she enjoyed the whole experience, including reminiscing on her time as a professional athlete. “We also got to do some cool stuff leading into it like go to the Queensland Academy of Sport and do some sports-science stuff that was all new since I quit swimming.” There were some downsides. “I was a bit grumpier. When I train for anything, like I trained for an Ironman a couple of few years ago, I get a bit all-consumed, a bit antsy. I don't

necessarily like what I turn into,” O'Neill admits. Maybe she was just tired from all the early starts? “Actually, you know, that's probably a big part of it,” she laughs. Between training and scooping up world records, O'Neill did make time to celebrate her 50th birthday in more traditional ways. Well, sort of. “I had a couple of little things. I had lunch with eight of my girlfriends in the city. That was really fun,” she begins. “And then I also did another swimming-related one. There was another girl turning 50 as well. We did '50 50s on 50'. So the session is 50 metres, you do that 50 times, every 50 seconds.” O'Neill finished off her mega year by competing in the Noosa Triathlon before heading to Hamilton Island for the Triathlon and Ocean Swim events in November. “It's a really hard triathlon. It's really hilly. The swim, I always enjoy that,” she says. “I think we started going from the second year it was on and we've been back every single year. We just love going up, it's such a good atmosphere.”

PHOTOGRAPHY: HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY.



# Before SUNSET

Time to shine this summer  
in pure pops of colour.



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from The Hut.

Seafolly  
micro bag,  
\$69.95, from  
The Hut.

Sea Level  
swimsuit,  
\$159.99,  
from SALT.

Billabong bikini top,  
\$59.99, and bottoms,  
\$55.99, from The Hut.

Billabong bucket hat,  
\$45.99, from The Hut.

## ISLAND RETAIL THERAPY

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07 4948 9473

RESORT CENTRE LOBBY SHOP  
0427 148 952

REEF VIEW LOBBY SHOP  
0427 148 623

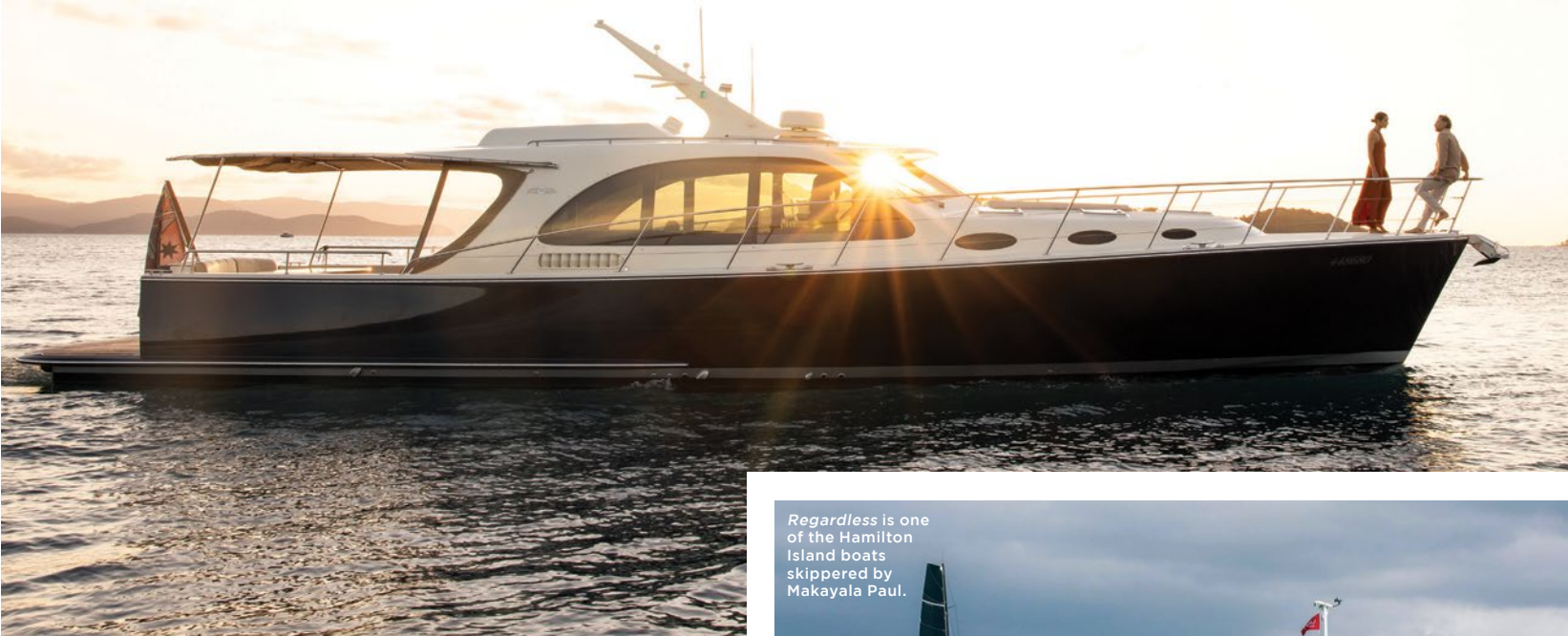
SALT  
07 4946 8221

HAMILTON ISLAND ART GALLERY  
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THE HUT  
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TRADER PETE'S  
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Superluxe motor yacht *Palm Beach* was built for qualia.



From left: Marta Jimenez Guerrero, Holly Stockley-Smith, Makayla Paul, Milly Nesbit and Annie Chen.



*Regardless* is one of the Hamilton Island boats skippered by Makayla Paul.



Paul with her favourite: motor yacht, *Palm Beach*.



# RUN THE WORLD

There's never been a better time to be a woman in boating, with a new breed of female talent in some of the most crucial aquatic roles on Hamilton Island. By Tracey Withers.

**M**akayla Paul manoeuvres the 60-foot catamaran *Regardless* like she was born behind its wheel. As the skipper in charge of high-end charter experiences at qualia, 25-year-old Paul also pushes the throttle on the 40-foot *Pebble Beach*, the Atomic power boat used to take guests out on sunset cruises. But her favourite of the resort's vessels to take for a spin is the super-luxe motor yacht *Palm Beach*. "She is truly special, the one VIPs, celebrities and people who really want the best of the best ask for," says Paul. "I'm the first woman to get to skipper her so taking her out is a real highlight every time." Paul grew up around Sydney's pretty Brisbane Water and Pittwater in a family that was big on boating so she always knew the water would be a lifelong passion. But her path to a career in the industry wasn't always clear-cut.

"I had knowledge, time on the water and a real love for it on my side; still, being part of a male-dominated industry was a massive challenge when I started out," says Paul. "But that just made me want it more."

Paul knew she'd definitely wedged open some doors after gaining her coxswain certificate in 2020. She then took on the prestigious Master Class 5 and a subsequent engineering certificate. "I was the only woman in a class of 20 salty sailors, all of them a decade or more older than me, who didn't talk to me or think I belonged there," she says.

The Master 5 course, requiring more than 300 full days on the water to qualify and a month to pass, can defeat the best of them. "Only four in the class passed, me being one of them," she grins. "They all wanted to know me then."

Having won a skipper's dream job after coming to Hamilton Island in 2018, Paul is now feeling a positive shift in the wind. Rio Olympics star Lisa Darmanin is back to lead the Australian sailing team for the Paris 2024 games. Our country's

first ever women's team heads to the inaugural Women's America's Cup in October 2024. Has there ever been a better moment for women on the water? "We're are starting to get more of a chance commercially, too," Paul highlights. "Here on the island, we're definitely paving the way forward."

Another island skipper, Annie Chen, 32, manages beach activities and the charters at qualia with Paul. Some days, you'll catch Chen behind the wheel of your charter boat. On days off, she catches the spray on her F18-class Hobie Tiger. Chen also grew up in Sydney "but my family caught the ferry maybe once a year", she laughs. After graduating from a biomedical

"HAS THERE EVER BEEN A BETTER MOMENT FOR WOMEN ON THE WATER?"

science degree and working hospital shifts which meant she "didn't really see daylight" for years, Chen made a run for the Queensland sun, first landing a job as a snorkelling guide on Hamilton Island before getting hooked on boats.

"I loved being on the sailing cat," Chen says. "I loved how something so big and heavy could move around so quickly, so gracefully, just using the wind."

She first learned on single-sheet Hobie cats rented from Catseye Beach, soon levelling up to the two-sail versions that learners can take out from qualia, and then her skipper's ticket.

"I've found people on Hamilton Island really open to sharing skills," she says.

The quick learner is now up for the physical and strategic challenge of racing, gearing up for the next Hamilton Island Race Week regatta of

August 17-24, 2024. "There's a balance between the distance you are running, the angle you're getting, and your speed. The fastest way around the course is not always the shortest way. I love that tactical side of sailing."

Chen and Paul take their roles as mentors for other women coming up in the island's maritime ranks seriously. There's Milly Nesbit, the assistant manager at the marina, taking care of the in-and-out traffic and fuelling up. "She's the first voice sailors talk to when coming into the harbour and does an incredible job," says Paul. The first person incoming boaters meet is marina concierge Holly Stockley-Smith, who ties boats into the right berth, gets crews settled in and recently earned her coxswain's qualification. Marta Jimenez Guerrero, a sometime deckhand and an activities attendant who teaches guests the sailing ropes at qualia, says it's inspirational to see women in leadership roles.

"I used to be an accountant in my home country, Spain, and really didn't know much about any boats," she says. "When I came to work on Hamilton Island while travelling, I first fell in love with the freedom of sailing; of switching off the engine and it just being you and the elements." Now she sees a professional future. "Annie, Makayla, Milly and Holly keep me wanting to learn more and Hamilton Island has been really welcoming for someone so new to it all."

The skippers' best advice for new starters is to get involved with your local yacht club. The Cruising Yacht Club of Hamilton Island runs weekly twilight sailing sessions, and you can get on a crew with locals for evening races around the islands every Wednesday from September to April. "I joined up in the first week that I moved to the island and made friends I will have for a lifetime," says Paul. "I've ended up learning on beautiful boats with owners who have been so generous sharing their knowledge," adds Chen. Working your way up the ranks isn't easy. "It's a

lot of study and work to earn your tickets – it’s not just about driving or sailing a boat,” Paul notes, rattling off a shortlist of a skipper’s must-knows. There’s reading weather, tides, sea and wind, understanding the engineering of the boat, maintenance, navigation and knowing what to do if all the electronics and mod-cons go kaput. “To do this job, you’ve got to love it like we do.”

The crew of five – Paul, Chen, Jimenez Guerrero, Nesbit and Stockley-Smith – often ups anchor and goes off to explore together on shared days off. Haslewood Island is one of their favourite spots to stop, swim, snorkel or just dangle their legs off the back of the boat. “Windy Bay is a showstopper – movies like



Marta Jimenez Guerrero, Annie Chen, Makayla Paul and Milly Nesbit.



Skipper Makayla Paul at work.

*Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Ticket to Paradise* were filmed out here but only the locals seem to know about it,” says Paul. “I also love Chance Bay on Whitsunday Island – it’s this pristine spot for a picnic that you really only go into on a northerly wind.”

Chen, who is a scuba- and free-diver, likes to drop overboard at Mackerel Bay on the eastern side of Hook Island, into forests of old, vibrantly healthy coral where turtles hang out. From May to September, she guides the group further up and around to the island’s north to swim with gentle giants at Manta Ray Bay. “One of the most amazing things I’ve ever done is dive down and open my arms wide, and a manta ray swam up and rolled into a somersault with its belly close to my belly,” Chen says.

“It feels like these incredible creatures are responding to you – it’s magical.” Chen sees the helm of a boat as the portal to a life un-ordinary. Australian women from Kay Cottee to Jessica Watson, respectively the first woman and the youngest woman to sail solo and unassisted around the world, have widened the scope of possibilities. “I met Lisa Blair last year – she is the fastest person to have ever sailed alone, unassisted, non-stop around Antarctica,” she adds. “She wrote an incredible book about it.” Does big, bold adventure call? “I don’t know if I could handle the cold!” Chen says. “There are 74 tropical islands around The Whitsundays, and in the four years I’ve been here I’ve probably only even seen a third of them. I’ve still got a lot to tick off.”

LISTEN UP

We love an inspiring podcast, and right now we’re listening to learn how to optimise our lives. Here, our favourites for a new you in a new year.



**ZOE SCIENCE & NUTRITION**  
Join the world’s top scientists to get the lowdown on all things health and nutrition. There’s practical advice for improving overall health, with a focus on current research and trends.



**THE RICH ROLL PODCAST**  
Bestselling author, ultra-endurance vegan athlete and former entertainment lawyer Rich Roll is joined by inspirational thinkers who share their knowledge to help listeners open their minds and become the best version of themselves.



**REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE PODCAST**  
Host John Kempf invites scientists and experts to share their insights on fascinating farming practices for regenerating the health of soil, plants and ecosystems, as well interesting information on developing resilience.



**THE DR. GABRIELLE LYON SHOW**  
The founder of Muscle-Centric Medicine specialises in brain and thyroid health, optimising lean body mass and longevity. Here she explores the science behind lasting quality of life.



**THE DAILY MEDITATION PODCAST**  
Get a dose of mindfulness, via daily short meditations with certified meditation and yoga teacher Mary Meckley. The aim is to teach calm, helping listeners to feel happier, sleep better and stress less.

# MECCA COSMETICA



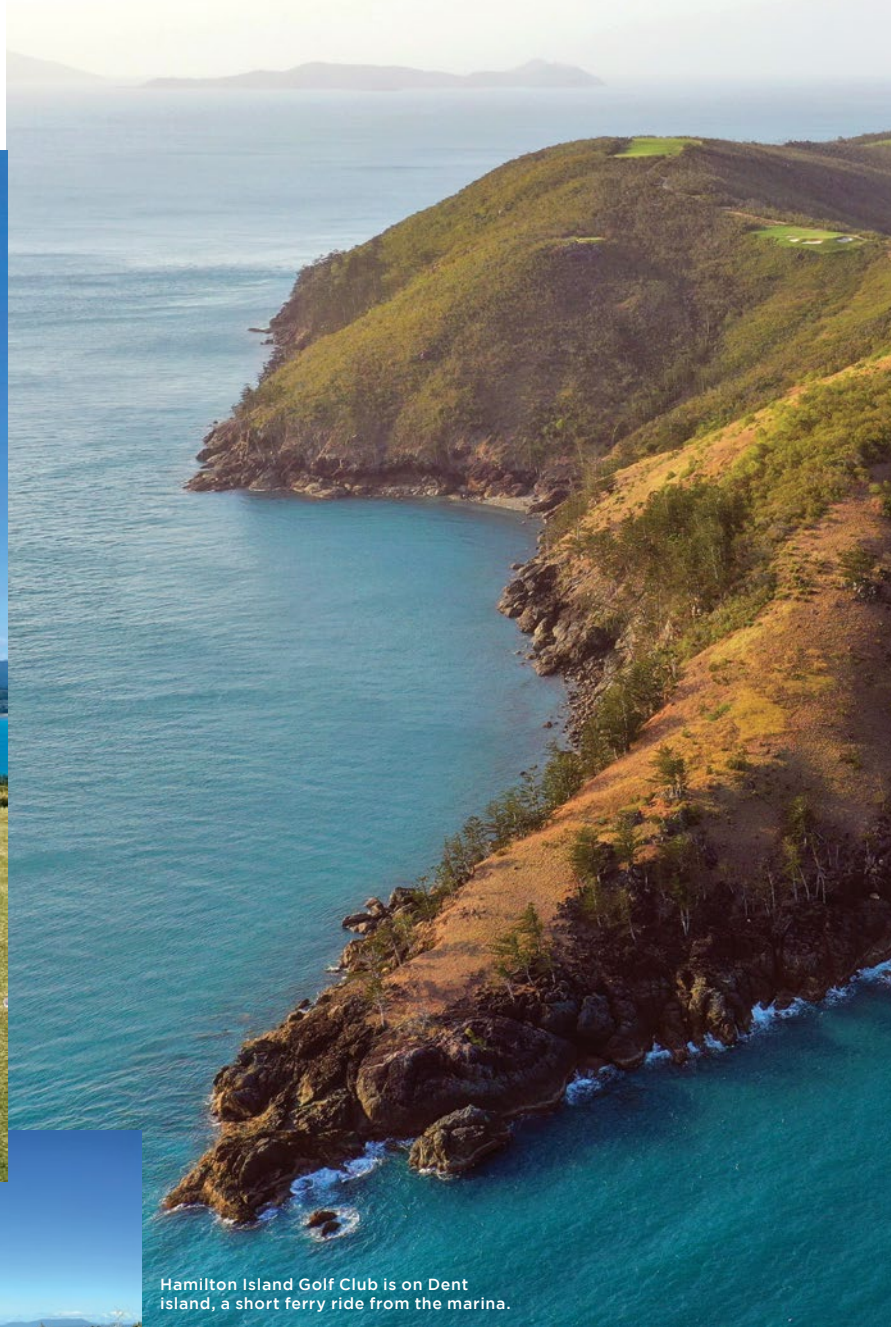
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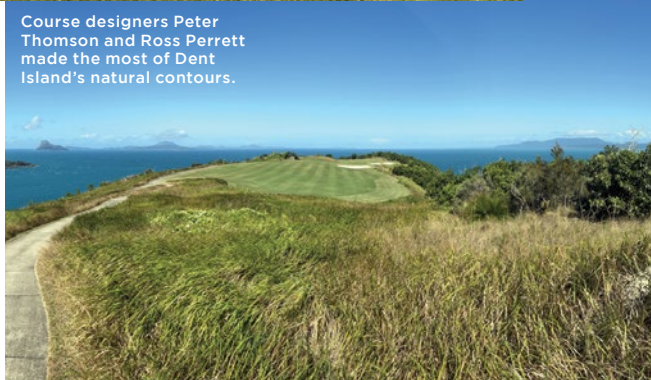
MECCA COSMETICA SPF provides broad spectrum UVA & UVB protection and can help to prevent premature skin aging. ALWAYS READ THE LABEL AND FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS FOR USE. Sunscreen is only one form of sun protection. Avoid prolonged sun exposure and reapply as directed.

# GOLF

Writer Paul Prendergast tees off on the 18th hole at Hamilton Island Golf Club.



Course designers Peter Thomson and Ross Perrett made the most of Dent Island's natural contours.



Hamilton Island Golf Club is on Dent island, a short ferry ride from the marina.

Whether you've visited once or on countless occasions, the majestic beauty of The Whitsundays never ceases to impress.

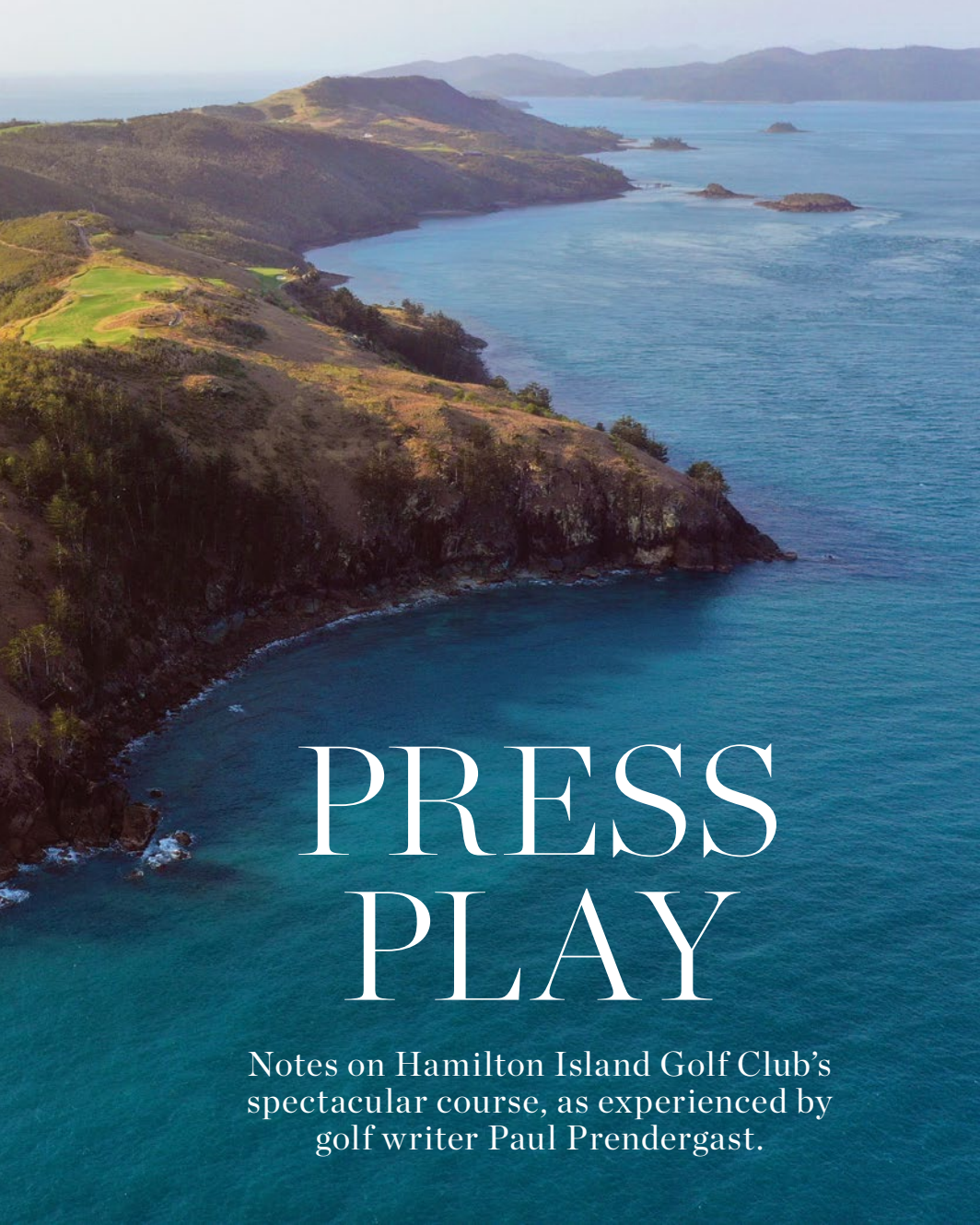
The striking landforms, rainforests, the emerald hues of the waters that envelope her 74 islands are stunning in their own right – before we even begin to mention the World Heritage-listed Great Barrier Reef on her doorstep.

Since 2009, visitors to this glorious region of Queensland have also been blessed with a memorable golf destination on Dent Island, just a short ferry ride from the Hamilton Island Marina. Course designers Peter Thomson and Ross Perrett hiked the exposed rocky outcrop with Hamilton Island owner Bob Oatley, to identify tee and green

locations and where the outline of fairways might already exist in the landscape. Thomson and Perrett were as exhilarated by the environment at their disposal then as golfers continue to be today. Perrett remembers Thomson's spritely energy as he traversed steep inclines and descents, uneven ground and near waist-deep grasslands despite being in his late seventies at the time. During a delicate construction phase that even included setting up a base camp for some 60 workers on the island, Thomson – who passed away in 2018 – and Perrett worked tirelessly with local authorities to ensure the course's construction and ongoing operation would integrate seamlessly with its ancient environment and with as little earthmoving as possible.

Their legacy has been assured, with The Whitsundays now boasting a golf course and destination of world-class stature. The holes wind their way across the island's footprint, daring you to be bold and take risks if your abilities allow or to play more conservatively to avoid errant shots destined for tall native grasses beyond the playing corridors. Knowing the five-time British Open champion, Thomson would have delighted in the knowledge that wind would be a regular feature when playing at Hamilton Island Golf Club, and his design caters for these elements while accentuating as many of the island's considerable attributes as possible. There are exhilarating tee shots aplenty that plunge to distant fairways, greens situated in

PHOTOGRAPHY: GARY LISBON; PAUL PRENDERGAST.



# PRESS PLAY

Notes on Hamilton Island Golf Club's spectacular course, as experienced by golf writer Paul Prendergast.

natural amphitheatres, on the crest of natural rises or hugging cliff edges, plus several blind shots – a rarity of modern design – with which to contend. Also expect a variety of slopes and fairway contours that, when fairways are firm and running, require careful strategy, with some target areas being a little narrower than they might first appear.

While there are many holes worthy of detailed recognition, several serve as prime examples of the designers' ability to render players awestruck when they arrive at the tee.

At the 4th hole, the first of a memorable set of par-threes at Hamilton Island Golf Club's course, the green is set across the top of a ridge with an expanse of the Whitsunday Passage as the backdrop. Even without any breeze, it's a hole that requires precision to avoid the rough and slopes that will penalise you if you're short or long from the tee.

The short par-three 16th is playable for those of all standards but the "wow factor" of its location – across the edge of the island with jaw-dropping views of the Hamilton Island

Marina, Dent Passage and distant Whitsunday islands beyond – ensure this is a hole that will be seared into the memory.

Equally, the par-four 18th provides as unique a vista and end to a round as any, played severely downhill with even more panoramic views to indulge the senses. Players should thank Thomson and Perrett for their wisdom in allowing a round at Hamilton to conclude from this glorious tee location.

Although the par-four appears a backbreaker when looking at the distance on the card, a 40-metre drop from tee to green results in the hole playing much shorter. Most, like me, will eagerly grab their driver and (hopefully) watch the ball sail forever against the stunning backdrop before eventually coming to rest with a short approach shot remaining.

Irrespective of the score or your fortunes with club in hand, the senses and a desire to "grab your camera" are guaranteed to be under constant assault from the sheer beauty of water and island landforms that encircle this memorable course.

## READ ALL ABOUT IT

*We're in the mood for a literary journey that takes in seasons, surfing and surroundings.*



### ESCAPE TO NATURE BY AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHIC

We're drawing up our ultimate national park bucket list, thanks to *Australian Geographic's* new release. The beautiful book covers 75 extraordinary national parks in Australia, detailing history, wildlife, traditional owners, activities and camping.



### ULTIMATE COASTAL ROAD TRIPS: AUSTRALIA

by Lee Atkinson

The new guidebook for Australia's best driving holidays by the beach has arrived. It features 40 road trips from places as diverse as Western Australia's Coral Coast and Victoria's Great Ocean Road to Tasmania's stunning Bruny Island.



### ASK AUNTY: SEASONS

by Aunty Munya

In *Seasons*, Aunty Munya explains the six seasons on her Country, and how they are determined by changes in plants, water, stars and weather. This educational and charming book for children, with illustrations by Charmaine Ledden-Lewis, is a delightful deepening of our connection to Country.



### SURFING

by Jim Heimann

This new release is an unparalleled tribute to the history of surfing, tracing its influence and evolution from the first recorded mention of surfing culture in 1778 to the global phenomenon it is today. The comprehensive tome features photographs from across the world and a series of essays by top surfing journalists.



Florals en masse make a stunning centerpiece.



Event planner Belinda Brett likes a tonal festive table.

# Table talk

What's the secret to hosting an elegant and memorable event? For Belinda Brett, owner of The Curated Life – creator of some of Hamilton Island's most spectacular parties – the answer is a lot less than you think.

By Melanie Colwell.

**B**elinda Brett's advice for planning an event can be summarised in just three words: "Keep it simple". Easier said than done, some may say. But the owner of Sydney-based event planning business The Curated Life insists less is more. "True luxury is doing the simple things really, really well," she tells *REEF*. This is the approach Brett and her team took for a recent beachfront dinner at Hamilton Island's luxury resort *qualia*, presented by acclaimed French-born Australian chef Guillaume Brahimi. "The menu was obviously going to showcase that beautiful pared-back French cuisine. We took a little bit of inspiration from the French restaurants down along the Mediterranean, that very relaxed but glamorous seaside setting. Layered neutrals, soft lighting, delicate florals: all those things tell that bigger story," Brett says. "We also didn't want to overpower the setting so that it was so full-on that the food didn't shine. Plus, you don't want to take away from that view. I mean, it's world-class."

The dinner event reflected an entertaining trend that we can expect to see more of in the coming months. Brett is calling it "restrained elegance". "There's a lot of not-great things happening in the world at the moment. People will be very mindful about what brings happiness to them. [Events] are going to be a lot more intimate rather than a huge 'more is more' take. It's a little more considered, a little pared back," she says. Take, for example, flowers. "[Expect] a lot of en masse florals. One variety en masse paired with another variety en masse, versus overly complex arrangements," Brett says. Another trend she is seeing – or, at least, hoping to see – is people moving away from recycling something they saw online. After all, combatting that "cookie cutter" approach is what first inspired Brett to launch The Curated Life. She works with couples but also brands to plan their big events, and says the creativity is her favourite part of the gig. "Every day, you get to dream up concepts and then see them come to life," she says.



PHOTOGRAPHY: LEAN TIMMS; THE CURATED LIFE

The Curated Life set the scene at *qualia*'s Pebble Beach for Guillaume Brahimi's beachfront Race Week dinner.



“If it’s a private client, we really want to know what their homes look like, where they love to travel, what restaurants they really love the aesthetic of. That gives us a good idea of where they feel most comfortable, what things they love to be surrounded by, and we sort of build from there.”

If you’re really stuck on how to start, Brett suggests going back to basics. “Sometimes we have a general theme in our head. You don’t have to take the whole theme. Maybe we bring a colour in as a focal feature. It’s more a subtle thing in the back of your mind that keeps you on track.”

Despite it being her job, party planning is something of a personal passion for Brett, too. For the festive season, she opts for a coastal look. “I don’t tend to do the classic red, white and green together. I will choose one and layer it up,” she says. “I like to have a basic backdrop and build from there. I’m probably going to do neutral with green. So, green dinnerware, glassware in shades of green and then beautiful green florals.”

Brett believes there are just a handful of key ingredients needed to make a successful bash. The first is a good guest list. “You want great people around you. Otherwise, what’s the point?” she says. “Take the time to consider who you’re inviting. Will they get along? As long as there are a few people there that can meet new people and really adapt to who’s around them.” “Obviously, food is important. If you’re not the greatest chef, I would just go to the seafood market and buy beautiful fresh prawns or lobster and throw it in with a salad. Who doesn’t enjoy that? Don’t overthink it or spend ages in the kitchen. Be out there,” Brett continues. “There are also so many great

delivery services.

Sometimes I’ll get a roast delivered and then just make the sides. It’s cheating but at least I don’t have to spend ages prepping.” And the drinks? “Maybe make a custom cocktail. Something memorable so you’re introducing them to something they haven’t seen before. I love a sgroppino, which is prosecco with lemon sorbet and vodka. It’s a twist on an Aperol spritz.”

The final piece of the puzzle: music. “A great playlist can transform a party.”



HAMILTON ISLAND  
RACE WEEK

RSVP



Nadia Fairfax-Wayne, Nicky Oatley, Deborah Symond O'Neil and Kate Waterhouse.



Luke Ricketson and Kate Waterhouse.



Michael Lo Sordo and Lisa Wipfli.



Ally May Carey.

Lisa Seiffert and Christine Salter.



Nadia Fairfax-Wayne.



Susan and Richard Broug.

PHOTOGRAPHY: LEAN TIMMS.





Tash Sefton and Adam Genovese.



Deborah Symond O'Neil.

## PASPALEY LUNCHEON

**CELEBRATING:** A decade of beauty

**LOCATION:** Pebble Beach, qualia Paspaley celebrated 10 years at Hamilton Island Race Week and 10 years since its stunning Lavalier pearl necklace was created. The guest list included good friends of Paspaley all enjoying the natural beauty of pearls and a menu that included an entrée of yellowfin tuna, whipped goat's feta and Paspaley pearl meat dressing – naturally; a main course of poached coral trout; to finish, a coconut “pearl” white chocolate crumble, gin, broadbean flower gel and crushed meringue.

**THE POUR:** Robert Oatley wines including Finisterre Chardonnay 2020 from Margaret River. The best.



James Tobin and Nicole Foster.



Lauren Sams and Justine Cullen.

# RSVP



Kerrie McCallum and  
Kirsten Galliot.



Carol and  
Sandy Oatley.



## GUILLAUME BRAHIMI DINNER

**CELEBRATING:** Hamilton Island  
Race Week 2023

**LOCATION:** Pebble Beach, qualia  
Guests arrived at Pebble Beach with much  
anticipation for the start of Race Week  
and enjoyed a French-inspired menu  
created by acclaimed chef Guillaume  
Brahimi. To start: chilled pea soup,  
lobster, tarragon, green apple and caviar.  
The main course: sealed coral trout, globe  
artichoke, tombé of mushroom, spinach  
and chicken jus. The divine dessert: duo  
of strawberries, lemon curd, caramelised  
white chocolate and crème Chantilly.  
Details details. Guillaume in top gear with  
the team at qualia.



Guillaume Brahimi

Darren Robertson  
and Magdalena  
Roze.



Tamsin and  
Patrick Johnson.



PHOTOGRAPHY: LEAN THOMAS



Hannah Darby, Maddison Sullivan Thorpe, Alexandra Bokeyar and Ellie Hockley.



Stephanie Darling and Sally Hunwick.



Sally Hunwick.

## MECCA COSMETICA

**CELEBRATING:** The launch of Mecca Cosmetics' new SPF capsule.

**LOCATION:** Pebble Beach lawn at qualia Beauty heavyweights gathered at an intimate Hamilton Island Race Week dinner to enjoy the launch of the latest addition to Mecca's pioneering SPF collection. To Save Body SPF30 Radiant Sun Mousse joins Mecca Cosmetics' bestselling To Save Face SPF 50+ Superscreen, an island-perfect product that is purchased every 60 seconds.



Ally May Carey.



Val.



Amy Shark.

## WILD OATS LADIES LUNCH

**CELEBRATING:** Life through shared experiences with singer-songwriter Amy Shark

**LOCATION:** Catseye Beach  
Surprise guest Amy Shark shared her musical inspirations, poignant career moments and successes with Darren Jahn of Robert Oatley Wines. Guests were enthralled and lunch was served ... Canapés included limoncello-infused watermelon, salmon roe and chervil; pickled lion's mane, soy emulsion and crispy lotus. The entrée: tartare of Little Joe Beef, horseradish, capers, cognac mustard, and crunchy fennel-seed lavosh was followed by a local seafood plate of seared coral trout, Queensland tiger prawns and blue swimmer crab.



WE GIVE A



ABOUT THE  
GREAT BARRIER REEF



Great Barrier  
Reef Foundation

Contemporary design  
for easy living.



**YACHT CLUB VILLA 29**

23 FRONT STREET

**OFFERS OVER \$3,200,000**

4 4 2

Enjoy an unparalleled level of luxury and some of Hamilton Island's most amazing views in this architecturally designed private villa. Yacht Club Villa 29 is generously spread across 262 square metres and offers a rare opportunity to secure the keys to an exclusive property. The three-level villa has had just one owner since it was built and has never been holiday let. The private and gated Yacht Club Villa complex is conveniently located at the end of Front Street, alongside the world-class Hamilton Island Marina and Yacht Club. With lush gardens and a designer pool right on the water's edge, it is not hard to see why these villas are a popular destination. Villa 29 has four generous bedrooms, including an enormous master with views, and four bathrooms, plus an open-plan living and dining level with a contemporary design that allows for easy living. An oversized balcony to take in the stunning ocean vista and remarkable sunsets completes the picture.



The enormous  
master suite with  
spectacular view.



Perfect al fresco  
dining.



Luxury on every level  
of this Yacht Club villa.

**Some of the outstanding features include:**

- Secure and private gated complex
- Manicured gardens
- Short walk to shops and restaurants
- Modern design and immaculately presented
- 2 buggies included in the sale
- Air-conditioning and ceiling fans throughout
- Shared designer pool in complex

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

The properties featured in the REEF Magazine Real Estate section are available at time of print. For a full listing of properties for sale or to review recently sold properties, visit the Hamilton Island Real Estate office on Front Street, or go to [www.hamiltonislandrealestate.com.au](http://www.hamiltonislandrealestate.com.au)

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

### POINCIANA 004

2 MARINA DRIVE

\$1,325,000

3  2  1 

The unique floorplan of this elevated apartment combines the typical area of two units. Its generous spaces, easy ground-floor access and stunning views make it a clear stand-out. Poinciana Lodge is a popular complex, a favourite with holidaymakers thanks to its close proximity to the marina and resort precincts. The apartment's one-of-a-kind 216-square-metre floorplan makes it exceptional value. It offers a spacious kitchen and expansive living area that flows out onto the north-facing undercover patio. Enjoy the magnificent views across Catseye Beach and beyond to Whitsunday Island. With three bedrooms and two bathrooms, this is an ideal property for the whole family.



### PAVILLIONS 13

3/1 AIRPORT DRIVE

\$3,200,000

3  3  1 

Pavillions is one of Hamilton Island's most exclusive developments, and the island's only waterfront luxury apartment complex to offer an exclusive marina berth right at the front door. This 350-square-metre first-floor property is newly renovated and features a modern and stylish interior. It is spaciouly set over a single level, with spectacular northern views across Hamilton Island Marina. Its expansive kitchen, open-plan living and dining area, plus media room and study is complemented by a spacious wrap-around balcony and private spa. Other features include a secure garage, 18-metre marina berth and luxury furnishings, all within walking distance to the marina precinct.

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



**INFINITY**

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

5 5 2

This luxurious home is a masterclass in elegant design and interiors, comfortably sleeping up to 14 people within its impressive 521-square-metre floorplan. The open-plan, three-level residence sits on an enormous 2035-square-metre parcel blessed with Whitsunday island views and gentle sea breezes. The kitchen, dining, living and balcony are on the upper level to ensure maximum impact when entertaining. The middle level comprises a generous master bedroom and a second spacious bedroom, both with open-plan ensuites, along with a third bedroom and laundry. The lower level is another contained house, with a second master and an additional large bedroom with ensuite, plus a lounge and kitchenette that opens to a large deck. The centrepiece of this home is a breathtaking infinity pool and spa. This is a property designed for holiday rentals, with strong forward bookings already secured.

**LAGOON 103**

18 RESORT DRIVE  
**OFFERS OVER \$1,150,000**

2 2 1

Lagoon Lodge, on the resort side of Hamilton Island, is a popular choice for holidaymakers and investors alike. With a family-friendly layout, and an unbeatable location across the road from Catseye Beach, this apartment enjoys easy access to all resort facilities, including five swimming pools. Impressive full-width, sliding glass doors with direct access to the balcony from the living room and master bedroom ensure round-the-clock ocean views and never missing out on the stunning sunrise over the water. Enjoy all that Hamilton Island has to offer with this level of investment. Whether looking for a forever home or the perfect holiday destination, Lagoon 103 is a piece of paradise with potential. Capitalise on holiday-letting returns along with day-trips to the reef, world-class golfing, kayaks, catamarans and snorkelling just off the beach.



### HELICONIA GROVE 1

1 FLAMETREE GROVE

**\$1,050,000**

3  2  1 

This beautifully appointed three-bedroom villa is located just a few minutes walk from the picturesque Hamilton Island Marina, restaurants and popular retail outlets. The townhouse-style villa enjoys views of Henning and Whitsunday islands and has a strong booking history, making it an ideal investment. With its three large bedrooms, spacious entertaining deck and generous kitchen, this truly is the perfect family island getaway opportunity.



### COMPASS POINT 3

4 ACACIA DRIVE

**OFFERS OVER \$650,000**

1  1 

Compass Point 3 is a spacious one-bedroom property with stunning views over the crystal blue waters of the Whitsunday islands. Its generous deck and direct grass access provides the ideal vantage point for taking in those memorable Hamilton Island sunsets. The open-plan single-level living flows seamlessly from indoors to out. The deck is also accessible from the large bedroom, which also enjoys mesmerising views out across the islands.

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

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





**SHORELINES 22**

5 ACACIA DRIVE

**\$1,200,000**

2 2 1

This apartment is all about the breathtaking views. Just spectacular. The upper level opens to a sleek kitchen with stainless-steel appliances and Caesarstone benchtops. The spacious dining and living area flows out to a generous balcony, affording outstanding views over the Whitsunday islands. The lower level offers two large bedrooms, each with built-in robes. The master bedroom enjoys stunning views and its private balcony has an open plan-style ensuite with spa. This apartment is well established in the holiday rental market, and boasts good rental returns with the option to utilise the property as often or as little as desired.

**PINNACLE 4**

1 ACACIA DRIVE

**\$1,195,000**

2 2 1

This beautiful two-bedroom townhouse has been recently refurbished. It boasts a large open-plan living and dining area with huge windows that flood the space in natural light and also offer scenic views across Whitsunday Passage. Its sliding doors open out onto a spacious balcony that is perfect for entertaining and enjoying the magical Hamilton Island sunsets. The master bedroom is the perfect retreat, complete with a smart ensuite featuring a double vanity and spa bath. It also features a large walk-in robe and a private balcony. The second bedroom is serviced by the main bathroom with its own private entry. A separate laundry with linen cupboard adds to the practical appeal of this impressive property.



**YACHT CLUB VILLA 28**

FOUR-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY  
**FROM: \$1500 PER NIGHT**  
**MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 8 PEOPLE**

4  4  2 

This architect-designed villa is set across four distinct levels and offers spectacular views of The Whitsundays. It is a showcase of the tranquillity of Hamilton Island, with flawless interior style, an indoor spa, private plunge pool and plenty of space for families and groups to relax. The home is part of the Yacht Club Villa complex, meaning guests have access to the shared lagoon pool. The villa is a short walk from Front Street and comes with two buggies for exploring further.



**NORTH CAPE 4**

THREE-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY  
**FROM: \$1300 PER NIGHT**  
**MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 8 PEOPLE**

4  4  1 

This luxurious four-bedroom villa offers impeccable contemporary style and an unbeatable location on the northern end of Hamilton Island. With high-end interiors, spectacular views and its own plunge pool, North Cape 4 provides an idyllic island escape.



**YACHT HARBOUR TOWER 3**

THREE-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY  
**FROM: \$1300 PER NIGHT**  
**MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 8 PEOPLE**

4  4  1 

The newly renovated apartment is the ideal getaway for young families or groups. The spacious four-bedroom property has fresh, contemporary interiors and spectacular views over the Hamilton Island Marina. The apartment also has access to the complex's shared pool.



**HIDDEN COVE 11**

THREE-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY  
**FROM: \$1200 PER NIGHT**  
**MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 6 PEOPLE**

3  2  1 

This three-bedroom apartment has been recently completed, and boasts an idyllic location, access to a private beach, contemporary interiors and stunning sea views from all living areas and bedrooms. The balcony also has water views, a barbecue and seating for up to eight.

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

To view the full Hamilton Island Holiday Homes rental listings go to [hamiltonislandholidayhomes.com.au](http://hamiltonislandholidayhomes.com.au)  
\*RATES AND MINIMUM STAYS QUOTED ARE BASED ON LOW SEASON. OTHER RATES AND DURATIONS OF STAY APPLY, PLEASE ENQUIRE AT TIME OF BOOKING.

**PROPERTY MANAGEMENT: CONTACT HAMILTON ISLAND HOLIDAY HOMES 07 4946 8746**

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

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ROLEX FASTNET RACE

## NEVER STRAIGHT

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

*#Perpetual*



OYSTER PERPETUAL YACHT-MASTER 42

  
**ROLEX**