

CHEF JOSH NILAND  
CHANGES THE GAME

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**CONNECTING TO COUNTRY  
WITH ROBBIE CONGOO**

---

THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET  
BRINGS PRECISION TO PARADISE

---

**WOMEN FLYING THE FLAG  
AT THE AMERICA'S CUP**

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LUCY BARTHOLOMEW TALKS  
ULTRAMARATHON TRAINING

# R

**REEF MAGAZINE**

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# INTRODUCTION



**W**elcome to *REEF* magazine. This issue features some exciting headlines, starting with the grand reveal of The Sundays, our eagerly awaited boutique hotel created with young families in mind. The Sundays is situated on the original site of Outrigger Restaurant on the serene northern end of Catseye Beach. It is nestled in landscaped gardens to seamlessly integrate with Hamilton Island's natural beauty and also offers easy access to the island's 12 kilometres of walking trails and the Great Barrier Reef. The Sundays opens for bookings in spring

this year and will begin welcoming guests in autumn 2025 to its thoughtfully designed rooms, private pool and waters-edge restaurant. This new addition to Hamilton Island promises unforgettable experiences inspired by everything that makes a Sunday great: relaxation, adventure, and spending time with loved ones.

In other news, we're delighted that the World Cetacean Alliance has recently designated The Whitsundays as one of only two Whale Heritage Sites in Australia. If you're visiting us between June to September, keep an eye out for the majestic humpback whales as they make their way from the Antarctic to warmer northern waters and back again.

On Hamilton Island we are committed to efforts to protect our surrounding waters and so are also pleased to report that our marina has once again earned accreditation as both a Clean Marina and a Fish Friendly Marina.

Our employees and community are the heartbeat of Hamilton Island, a huge part of what makes it such a magical place.

This year, the community achieved a record-breaking milestone, raising \$60,000 during our June CQ Rescue Charity Golf Day, bolstering the life-saving efforts of the CQ Rescue

helicopter service. Hamilton Island is also a proud Gold Sponsor of Volunteer Marine Rescue Whitsunday.

In this issue we delve into the work of culinary pioneer and Race Week-bound chef Josh Niland, celebrated for his innovative approach to cooking with fish. We also explore The Whitsundays' Indigenous heritage with Ngāro man Robbie Congo as we uncover ancient rock paintings on Hook Island and fish traps on Hamilton Island's Escape Beach. We were thrilled to have ultrarunners Ash and Lucy Bartholomew competing in the Hamilton Island Hilly Half Marathon earlier this year. Enjoy Lucy's diary of her visit, which gives a glimpse into what it takes to compete as an endurance athlete.

And finally we celebrate the inspiring team of young sailors preparing for the Women's America's Cup in Barcelona.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *REEF*. We wish you a wonderful stay.

Pete Brulisauer  
CEO, Hamilton Island

*Hamilton Island would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of The Whitsundays, the Ngāro 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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What if the best day of the week,  
was every day of the week?

# The Sundays.

Hamilton Island's new boutique escape opens Autumn 2025

[THESUNDAYS.COM.AU](https://thesundays.com.au)



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# CONTRIBUTORS

## LUCY BARTHOLOMEW, ULTRAMARATHON RUNNER

IDEAL 2024 HOLIDAY DESTINATION? I have already been to so many amazing places and have some amazing trips lined up, but away from those certainties, I would love to visit Iceland.

BEST TRAVEL TIP?

Noise-cancelling headphones are my must-have.

YOU ARE LISTENING TO?

Music that sets the scene. Usually some Ziggy Alberts or Zach Bryan.

SNORKELLING OR DIVING?

I've only ever snorkelled.

BEST RUNNING ANECDOTE

FROM THIS YEAR? Focus on one step at a time – in a race or in life – and focus on what you can control: your effort and your attitude.

ADVENTURE OR BEACH?

Beach adventure?

READ OR WATCH? AND

WHAT CURRENTLY?

I go through seasons of each but currently I am watching the new Netflix *Tour de France* series.

DREAM DESTINATION?

Antarctica.

HAMILTON ISLAND

MUST-DO? Run or walk the trails, especially up to Passage Peak and around to South East Head.

FAVOURITE SUNDOWNER?

Ginger beer.



## CROSBIE LORIMER, WRITER

IDEAL 2024 HOLIDAY

DESTINATION? Sardinia and Saint-Tropez to cover two famous regattas; we're doing it in September.

BEST TRAVEL TIP? Travel much lighter than my wife and I do.

We blame it on our camera gear, but our friends know better.

YOU ARE LISTENING TO?

The podcast *Stuff the British Stole*.

Unbelievable, even for a Pom like me.

SNORKELLING OR DIVING?

Snorkelling, especially on the Great Barrier Reef; no need to dive.

SAILING? BEST ANECDOTE

THIS YEAR? I sail an RS

Aero which is a fast and light singlehanded dinghy. Rounding a mark during a recent race, I watched

a nearby fisherman in a tinnie hooking the boat in front of me. It caused the boat to capsize and when

my mate righted it he had an extra crew member: a squid!

ADVENTURE OR BEACH?

Adventure off a beach for me.

I'm getting braver as I get older and that nervous excitement when I push my boat off the beach,

heading out to a big breeze and a solid sea state, is always rewarding.

READ OR WATCH? AND

WHAT CURRENTLY? Read, every time for me. I'm halfway through Kaliane Bradley's

*The Ministry of Time*.

DREAM DESTINATION.

Currabinny, on Cork Harbour in Ireland. I spent most of my childhood summers there, where I learnt to sail with all my friends.

The stuff of *Swallows and Amazons*.

HAMILTON ISLAND MUST DO?

Sunset on One Tree Hill.

FAVOURITE SUNDOWNER?

Margarita. Straight only for me, no fancy versions thanks.



## ROXANNE ANDREWS, WRITER

IDEAL 2024 HOLIDAY

DESTINATION?

Portugal is calling.

BEST TRAVEL TIP? Go with the flow.

YOU ARE LISTENING TO?

Martha Wainwright.

SNORKELLING OR DIVING?

Snorkelling.

ADVENTURE OR BEACH?

Beach.

READ OR WATCH? AND

WHAT CURRENTLY?

Read. Currently revisiting an old classic, *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

DREAM DESTINATION?

Tahiti sounds nice.

HAMILTON ISLAND MUST-DO?

The Talk and Taste Sushi and

Sashimi experience at qualia.

Sunset sips at the Yacht Club.

A bushwalk to Escape Beach.

FAVOURITE SUNDOWNER?

Manhattan, martini or a mai tai (depending on the climate I'm in).



## DARREN JAHN, WINE EDUCATOR

IDEAL 2024 HOLIDAY

DESTINATION? San Sebastian, a bucket list destination for me.

Anthony Bourdain once said, "There's no better place to eat in

Europe". I'm headed there after Race Week. Can't wait.

BEST TRAVEL TIP? For me,

I generally travel to eat. So, research what the locals love and be sure to be adventurous. Eat what you can't have at home.

YOU ARE LISTENING TO?

A lot of Kylie Minogue of late.

SNORKELLING OR

DIVING? I'm an avid snorkeller, but recently moved near a couple

of perfect dive spots on Sydney's eastern beaches, so plan to finally do a dive course this summer.

SAILING? BEST ANECDOTE

THIS YEAR? I was lucky enough to sail on *Wild Oats* on Sydney

Harbour whilst hosting some UK wine industry guests. Seeing the

joy on their faces was fantastic.

ADVENTURE OR BEACH?

Beach 100 per cent. Oceanside

holidays are my ideal.

READ OR WATCH? AND

WHAT CURRENTLY? Watch.

I have just binged the harrowing

*Baby Reindeer* series on Netflix.

DREAM DESTINATION? I'd love

to do an African wildlife safari.

Ok, that counts as adventure! I'm

full of contradictions.

HAMILTON ISLAND MUST-

DO? A sunrise hike to Passage

Peak. It's such a beautiful view

and reduces the guilt of food

and wine excesses.

FAVOURITE

SUNDOWNER? An Aperol

Spritz. It makes me imagine I'm on the Mediterranean, no matter where I am while sipping one.





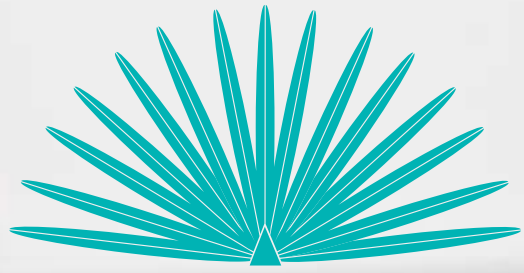
 Champagne Brut Réserve



**EXPLORING DEPTH**

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CHAMPAGNE  
**CHARLES  
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# Castaway ... ANDREW REID

Imagine you've been stranded on a remote desert island, but you're allowed to wash up with a few essentials. Bondi lifeguard Andrew Reid – better known as Reidy – knows a thing or two about being resourceful. He shares his must-haves for surviving in the most challenging conditions.

**Three essentials to pack?**  
"My three kids."

**What would you miss most about reality?**  
"Running, I do it every day as it keeps me sane."



PHOTOGRAPHY: SHUTTERSTOCK.



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

"A Bluey Christmas special. I love reading to my kids."

**What would you wear?**  
"Boardshorts and T-shirt."

**What would you most regret not packing?**  
"Earplugs given I'd have my three kids."

**If you could channel one fictional character in your downtime, who would it be?**  
"Bandit from Bluey to keep the kids amused."

**What spirituality lessons that you've learnt would you apply to your time spent stranded on the island?**  
"Smell the roses."

**How would you send your SOS?**  
"Write it in the sand."

**Catch of the day?**  
"Prawns, love prawns."



**Dream companion?**  
"Will Ferrell, because laughter is the best medicine."

**Your island accessory?**  
"AG1 [drinkable vitamin, mineral and pre and probiotic supplement by Athletic Greens] to keep me healthy."

**Your island mantra?**  
"I'm thirsty."

**Island hobby?**  
"Building fishing rods so we can eat."



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

**What would you grow to eat?**  
"Sweet potato so I can make sweet potato fries all day."

**Who would rescue you?**  
"Wonder Woman."

**One essential tool for the island?**  
"A BIC lighter for fire."



**Top island tune?**  
"In the Summertime by Thirsty Merc."

**Dream meal once you've been rescued?**  
"Chicken schnitzel."

**First place you'd go after being found?**  
"Ironically somewhere quiet and peaceful after being stuck on an island with my three kids."

# TOP 10 TO DO



## 1 THE GREAT BARRIER REEF IS CALLING

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

## 2 HEAVEN IS WHITEHAVEN BEACH

Whitehaven Beach, located on neighbouring Whitsunday Island, is one of the world's most unspoiled places, a flawless seven-kilometre stretch of whiter-than-white silica sand bordered by the clear, turquoise sea. This must-visit spot frequently ranks in the top 10 beaches of the world and it is just a short trip from Hamilton Island by helicopter, seaplane, speedboat, sailboat or high-speed catamaran to enjoy its beauty. There are many tour options for exploring Whitehaven, with half- and full-day options available. Walk, swim or simply relax on the white sands and marvel at this incredible natural wonder.



## 3 SQUEEZE IN A SPECTACULAR SCENIC FLIGHT

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

Great Barrier Reef and includes a landing at the Reefworld pontoon moored permanently above Hardy Reef as well as Whitehaven Beach, with time to swim, stroll or just relax. One for the bucket list is Journey to the Heart, an exclusive experience for six guests who helicopter out over Hill Inlet and Whitehaven Beach before heading to the 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.

## 4 LACE UP AND DISCOVER THE ICONS TRAIL

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



## 5 JUST THE TICKET

The new Hamilton Island activity superpass is here. The superpass includes tickets for four people to enjoy three activities on island. Kick off with a round of mini golf at the 18-hole rainforest course, a family-friendly activity with tunnels, bridges, corners and obstacles for amping up the fun. Follow this with a visit to Hamilton Island Wildlife to see some of Australia's most incredible creatures up close while also learning about our unique wildlife and fauna. Finish things off with a one-hour lane session at Island Bowling. The activities can be done in any order. Just grab your pass and go.



## FULL-THROTTLE FUN FOR EVERYONE

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



## ISLAND SUNSETS TO REMEMBER

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK FITZ; PHILL GORDON; KARA ROSENBLUND; HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY.



## OF COURSE YOU CAN

You don't need to be a golfer to appreciate the magnificent Hamilton Island Golf Club, designed by five-time British Open champion Peter Thomson. This championship course is situated on neighbouring Dent Island, a short and scenic ferry ride from Hamilton Island. Head on over for lunch at the airy Clubhouse, served alongside incredible island views and the chance to spot humpback whales during their migratory season from May until September. Golfers should expect a challenging day's play and expect to find themselves distracted by the views of The Whitsundays and beyond. There's also a well-stocked pro shop for any last-minute needs. The 10-minute trip across to Dent Island is a wonderful way to begin and end a day's play, too.

## RISE AND SHINE WITH YOGA AND BLISS

Imagine starting your morning with a stunning ferry ride ahead of a 45-minute yoga session? Sunrise yoga is held on the first Sunday of each month on Dent Island, meaning you can enjoy a personal reset during one of the most calming and beautiful moments of the day in The Whitsundays. Bookings for the session include ferry tickets and a mat: all you need to bring is water and a hat. Wellness is also the priority at Spa wumurdaylin, with its menu of rejuvenating and soothing beauty treatments. The spa's skilled therapists provide treatments using LaGaia UNEDITED, the Australian-formulated range packed with potent vitamins and hydrating botanical extracts to deliver genuine results. Spa wumurdaylin is highly popular with visitors seeking some self-care while on island so please book early.



## JET SKI A-GO-GO

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

*Booking ahead of your stay is highly recommended for all tours and activities. To book scan the QR code, or visit the Hamilton Island website and submit an online Tour Booking request. To find out more, download the Hamilton Island app or visit the Tour Desk, located next to Sails restaurant.*



### GOLFING GOLD

A new-look interior for The Clubhouse restaurant at Hamilton Island Golf Club makes it even more ideal for long lunches with friends. The Clubhouse's relaxed but vibrant atmosphere has always made it a favourite with players and non-players alike. And the Hamilton Island Golf Club is also always worth a visit, with the spectacular ferry trip across to Dent Island taking in glorious Whitsundays views en route. The Peter Thomson/Ross Perrett-designed course has also benefited from new specialised greenkeeping equipment, which is transformative in its approach to course maintenance.



The Clubhouse at Hamilton Island Golf Club on Dent Island.

# BULLETIN BOARD

A new boutique hotel for young families, luxurious on-water adventures and protecting our piece of paradise.

### AWARD SEASON

Bommie Restaurant, Hamilton Island's signature fine-dining restaurant located within the Hamilton Island Yacht Club, is again a winner in the *Australian Good Food Guide Restaurant Awards*. Bommie received a 2024 chef's hat for a second consecutive year, an acknowledgment of Executive Chef Alice James's deft showcasing of fresh, locally sourced and seasonal produce and the work of her incredible team.

Bommie's dish of pan-seared coral trout, beurre blanc, charred leek, cornichon, caper, dill and finger lime with Yarra Valley smoked salmon roe.



### SUPERSIZE ME

Set sail on a luxurious adventure on board *Murcielago*, an elegant 100-foot (30-metre) motor yacht built by world-class manufacturer Sunseeker. She can accommodate up to 12 guests for half and whole-day trips and four for overnight adventures. *Murcielago* is fully crewed by a master mariner and head steward. They are ready to whisk guests away to spectacular locations around The Whitsundays and Great Barrier Reef at short notice. Visit [hamiltonisland.com.au/fishing-and-boating/my-murcielago](http://hamiltonisland.com.au/fishing-and-boating/my-murcielago) or contact the Tour Desk with any charter queries.



The sleek *Murcielago* is now available for daily and overnight charters.





An artist's impression of new boutique hotel The Sundays, opening on Hamilton Island in 2025.

## SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND

A new boutique hotel will soon call Hamilton Island home. The Sundays is slated to open in autumn 2025 at the northern end of Catseye Beach and, as the name suggests, the vibe will be one of tropical relaxation. The family-focused hotel will feature rooms designed to catch the sea breeze, with views across the mesmerising Coral Sea and hotel gardens. The Sundays will also have a private pool and cabanas for guests only, as well as a waters-edge restaurant. Bookings open in spring 2024.



## THE MINDFUL MARINA

Hamilton Island's commitment to the sustainability of local marine life has seen it again achieve accreditation as both a Marina Industries Association Clean Marina and also as a Fish Friendly Marina. The Clean Marina Program is a voluntary international initiative focused on reducing pollution while the Fish Friendly Marina accreditation underscores Hamilton Island's efforts to support native fish populations and enhance fish habitats, resulting in healthier waterways.



## GREEN FOR THE FUTURE

Ricochet Yachting owner Frank Hobson is committed to transitioning his fleet to renewable fuels. The Hamilton Island-based Hobson has plans to build a hydrogen-powered zero-emissions commercial tourism vessel, the *H2Rendezvous* project, which will use 100 per cent clean, green energy produced in The Whitsundays. Ricochet is also the first island operator to switch to electric outboards for beach transfer vessels, with the new E-class 15 horsepower (11 kilowatt) unit being used for its vessel tender.

## MILESTONES OF AIR AND SEA

This year marks four decades since the inaugural flight landed at Hamilton Island Airport on July 7, 1984. Hamilton Island's airport was the first on the Great Barrier Reef to handle larger aircraft. Prior to its opening, holidaymakers were shuttled to the island in boats, or via light aircraft and helicopter. But on this historic date in 1984, flights arrived from Melbourne and Sydney, establishing Hamilton Island as the gateway to the heart of the Great Barrier Reef. 2024 also marks a milestone for Island Links. The ferry has taken one million people to Dent Island to play golf, enjoy lunch at the Clubhouse, picnic or just enjoy the spectacular views during the journey across to Dent Island. For those who love a statistic, the 135,000 nautical miles travelled is equivalent to circumnavigating the globe 5.6 times.

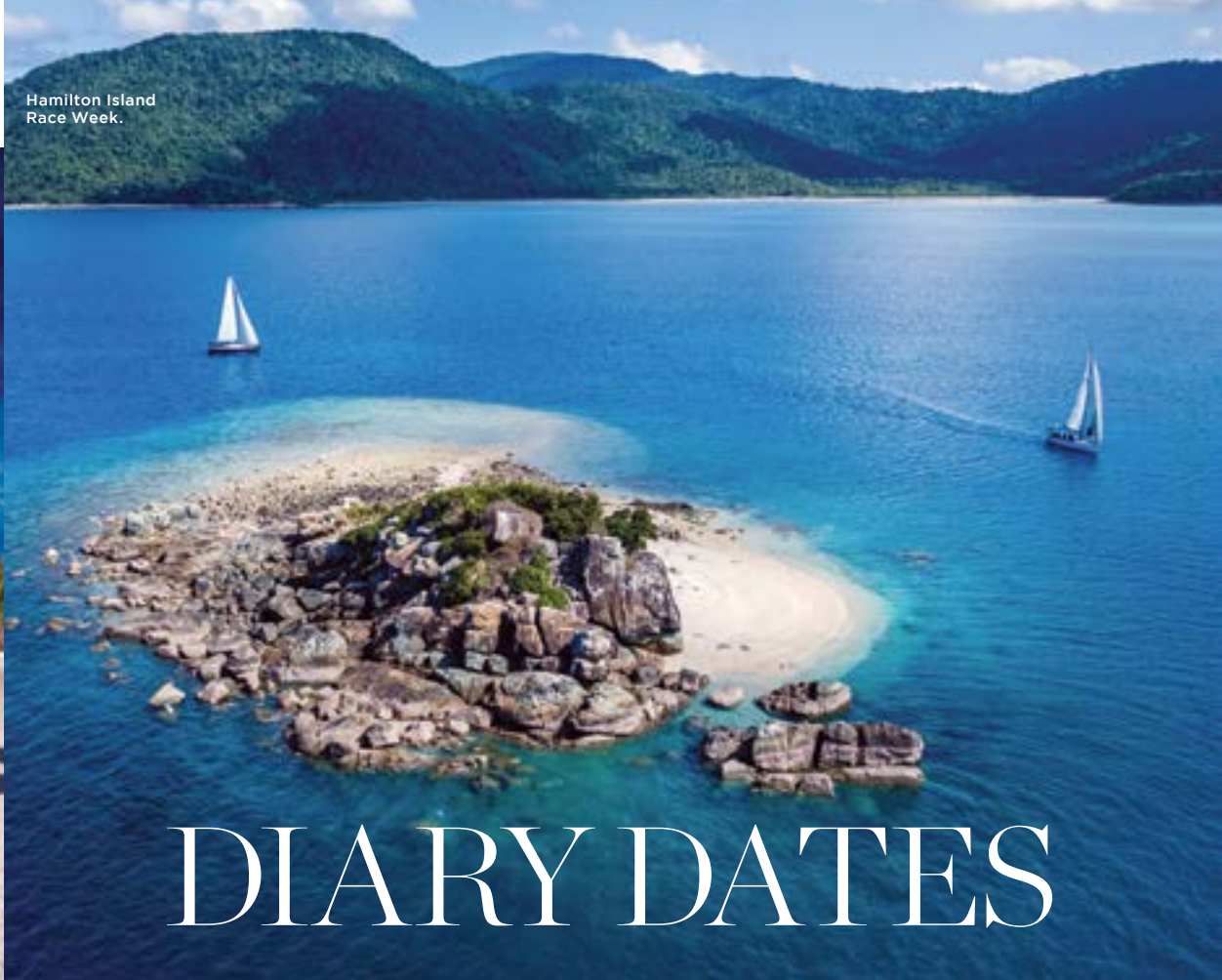


PHOTOGRAPHY: HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY; GREG NATALE.

Hamilton Island  
Race Week.



Great Whitehaven  
Beach Run.



# DIARY DATES

Mark your calendars for the key happenings of 2024-2025 on Hamilton Island. Scenic sporting fixtures, incredible social events plus the unrivalled mix of on-water action and onshore fun that is Race Week. There's nowhere else like it.

## 2024

### AUGUST 17-24 HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK

Australia's favourite yachting regatta and an event that ranks among the world's most prestigious. A diverse fleet ranging from high-performance yachts to trailer-pulled family favourites heads to Hamilton Island to compete. Race Week comprises a series of short races staged close to Hamilton Island and longer passage races around The Whitsundays. It has become an annual social highlight for competitors, their families and guests. Onshore celebrations are many and varied and include exclusive events hosted by a line-up of big-name guest chefs. From sunrise, when crews busily prepare their yachts for racing, to dusk when everyone converges at the marina for drinks and dancing after a full day of racing, everyone agrees that Race Week is a week like no other.

### NOVEMBER 23 HAMILTON ISLAND TRIATHLON

The Hamilton Island Triathlon offers an unrivalled physical challenge, a tough but

rewarding combination of a hard and fast swim in tropical waters, a challenging cycle leg, and a run with amazing views from atop some huge hills. Even better, the spectator-friendly course means everyone can watch the action. The Junior Triathlon and a splash 'n' dash fixture follow the main event, guaranteeing a fun day of family participation.

### NOVEMBER 24 HAMILTON ISLAND OCEAN SWIM

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

### DECEMBER 24 CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

The excitement is palpable as a VIP guest arrives

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

### DECEMBER 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

Say goodbye to 2024 and kick off 2025 with a street party that will have everyone up and dancing. There is live entertainment at the Marina Tavern forecourt from 9pm, followed of course by a spectacular fireworks display once the clock strikes midnight. Events are also held at the Beach Pavilion near Catseye Beach and include family-friendly fireworks from 8.30pm. Guests of qualia can enjoy live music and an exclusive midnight fireworks display, too. Hamilton Island's celebrations are one of the most memorable ways to see in a new year

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





Christmas on Catseye Beach.



NYE fireworks over Hamilton Island Marina.



Hamilton Island Triathlon.



The Great Whitehaven Beach Run.



Anzac Day dawn service.



Hamilton Island Triathlon.



Hamilton Island Ocean Swim.

## 2025

### APRIL 25 ANZAC DAY

The dawn service, held each Anzac Day at the time of the original landing at Gallipoli during World War I, is a poignant way to acknowledge the men and women who have served our country. Like those who congregate at memorials 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 4 HAMILTON ISLAND HILLY HALF MARATHON

The name doesn't lie: you'll have to put in some serious training to be ready for the challenge of the famed Hamilton Island Hilly Half Marathon. 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 ever-changing experience that challenges athletes of all levels as the courses weave through the island's bushland interior, along roads, fire trails and walking tracks.

### JUNE 15 THE GREAT WHITEHAVEN BEACH RUN

An arc of pure white silica sand that routinely makes its way onto lists of the world's most beautiful beaches plays host to The Great Whitehaven Beach Run. Competitors race along the sands of stunning Whitehaven Beach at low tide. The event is suitable for 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.



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



Right: Team Australia Challenge women's squad members Nina Curtis, Sarah Hoffman, Tash Bryant and Lisa Darmanin.  
Left: The AC40 is the high-speed, high-tech boat being raced by the women's squad in the America's Cup in Spain in August.



The America's Cup is a landmark sailing event that continues to grow, with the Women's America's Cup finally joining the world stage in Barcelona this year.  
By Lisa Ratcliff.

# HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Australia ended sport's longest winning streak off the coast of Newport, Rhode Island in 1983 when a crew of tanned men in short green shorts and yellow T-shirts sailed their 12-metre yacht *Australia II* to a life-changing America's Cup victory. After 132 years of American sailing supremacy, Australian talent, a highly controversial winged keel and some clever mental jousting finally turned the tables; victory was ours.

The Australians lost to the Americans in the very next cycle and the America's Cup reverted to again being financially out of reach for most competitors (businessman Alan Bond headed the syndicate that owned and built *Australia II*), although plenty of Aussies have had influence in other nations holding the Auld Mug aloft.

Australia last fielded a national team for the 1999-2000 Louis Vuitton Challenger Series in New Zealand, skippered by a then 19-year-old Jimmy Spithill who went on to helm back-to-back American victories.

The 37th Louis Vuitton America's Cup will be sailed off Barcelona, Spain between August and October this year and a host of top Aussie talent will represent other nations.

Olympic gold medallist Tom Slingsby is a key member of New York Yacht Club's *American Magic*, while gold and silver medallist Nathan Outteridge will support the defender, *Emirates Team New Zealand*. Outteridge's Olympic doubles partner Iain Jensen is sailing for the Brits.

As defender, the Kiwis select the location and the boat design, which this year is the next-generation AC75. New Zealand changed the face of the America's Cup forever when they developed a foiling – when a boat lifts above the water on specially fitted hydrofoils – monohull for the 36th edition in 2021. The new AC75 features several improvements on the previous version, including wider foils and a faster flight that generates so much momentum that it can travel four times the wind speed.

Another watershed moment in America's Cup history came with the announcement of the third youth and first-ever women's series, to coincide with the competition for one of the world's toughest sporting trophies.

The Puig Women's America's Cup aims to re-engage non-competing countries and more importantly, create a pathway for women to the elite level of high-speed foiling.

"It's a brave new world and a huge step in the right direction," says Team Australia Challenge squad member Nina Curtis, an Olympic silver medallist, round-the-world sailor and *Australia SailGP* crew member.

"It gives female athletes the experience, and in two or three America's Cups we hope to see the reward from New Zealand's initiative. It feels slow getting access to the same opportunities as the men but I'm proud to see the progress, and so many female athletes on the steep learning curve."

"This is the biggest moment we've had as women in sailing," agrees senior team member Lisa Darmanin, Rio 2016 silver medallist in the Nacra 17 class, world champion and commentator.

"The ultimate goal is for us to be recognised as being as good as the men; that's what equality looks like in business. Women from offshore sailing to professional leagues have been saying we want more opportunities."

Alongside the New Zealand, Great Britain, Switzerland, Italy, USA and France America's Cup teams, six yacht clubs are fielding women's teams – Sweden, Australia, Spain, The Netherlands, Canada and Germany.

Racing is in the AC40, a scaled-down AC75 that is still capable of cracking 45 knots (83km/hour) of boat speed downwind and high 30s upwind.

Technology overcomes physicality on the battery powered boats designed to train up the next generation of foiling superstars to meet the demands of a modern America's Cup.

Each AC40 team has four sailors. Two helms steer from the forward pods with their racing car look and feel (thanks in part to the all-carbon steering wheels), and two crew who look after sail and foil trim from the aft pods.

Unlike their US, Canadian, New Zealand and some European counterparts, the Aussies must hone their skills in a simulator until arriving in Barcelona. To counteract the advantage of those teams already on the water training for the Puig Women's America's Cup, the Australians must rely on the simulator, high-speed foiling experience from other classes, and coaching and mentoring by some of our most celebrated sailors. The squad practise among themselves and some early mornings and evenings they race virtually against other teams, drilling race tactics, decision-making at high speed and managing the effect of wind shifts, gusts and waves.

An Olympic Games and America's Cup series in the same year is a significant undertaking for Zoe



Olivia Price and Evie Haseldine are competing in the women's dynamic 49erFX Skiff class at the Olympics.



Squad member Zoe Thomson is sailing in the ILCA 6 dinghy for Paris 2024.



Olympic silver medallist Nina Curtis is a round-the-world sailor.

Thomson. Her Paris 2024 solo campaign in the ILCA 6 dinghy will take her away from her Challenge teammates months out, although her fitness and reaction time will be sharp. "The campaigns complement each other in that you're training to be the best you can be," Thomson says. "One boat I'm sailing by myself and the other I'm in a team, managing focus and working on communication and regatta processes. "The AC is super cool in that I get to sail with girls I looked up to as a youth sailor. I can absorb their campaign strengths and implement them at the Olympics and in return, I bring an easygoing personality and good processes to the AC team." Squad member Olivia Price is also heading to Paris 2024 where she and Evie Haseldine will compete in the women's dynamic 49erFX skiff class. Nina Curtis and Tash Bryant are *Australia SailGP* teammates whose season runs to mid July. Sarah Hoffman is aiming for the Los Angeles 2028 and Brisbane 2032 Olympics in the Nacra 17 class and youth world champion Annie Wilmot is another Olympic skiff hopeful. "The foiling principles and being able to communicate at high

speed are similar on the Nacra 17 and the AC40," Hoffman says. "We have a team with different sailing backgrounds, and everyone brings unique knowledge and problem-solving skills. It will take everyone's experience to bring home the cup." Team patron John Bertrand AO, *Australia II's* winning skipper, Olympian and world champion is one of the sailing luminaries spearheading Australia's return to the America's Cup fold. "We have an incredible board and team of volunteers behind us and John as our figurehead and leader," Curtis says. "He has an incredible ability to ignite the passion and unite the team." The Puig Women's America's Cup runs from October 5 to 11, with the final on October 13. The women's final falls within the Louis Vuitton 37th America's Cup Match schedule, guaranteeing global exposure of this path for Aussie women to finally join the men on the world stage. The full Women's *Team Australia Challenge* squad is Tash Bryant, Nina Curtis, Lisa Darmanin, Sarah Hoffman, Olivia Price, Zoe Thomson and Annie Wilmot. Follow the action at [americascup.com](http://americascup.com) and [teamaustraliachallenge.org](http://teamaustraliachallenge.org)

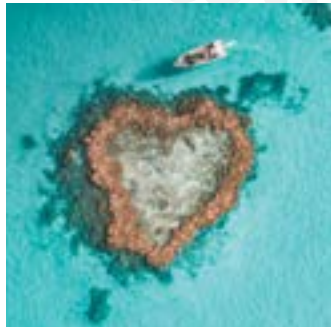
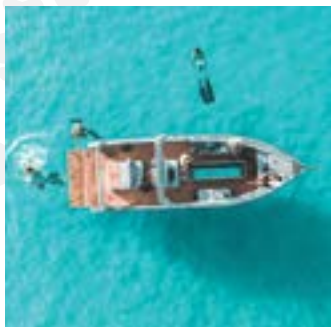
PHOTOGRAPHY: SALTY DINGO; SAILING ENERGY.

*journey to the heart...*



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Like so many of the best stories, it all began with a paper round. “We were living in Dubbo at the time and my father thought it’d be a good idea for the family to get into a hobby. We did a paper round in western NSW and we saved up enough money to buy an old windsurfer; that’s where it started” says Julian Bell, owner of *51st Project*, a Beneteau First 50 that is sailing at Hamilton Island Race Week this year. The Bell family were soon on a trajectory from lake to sea, shifting to the New South Wales Hunter Valley, where they took the next step up the sailing ladder.

“When my wife Elise was pregnant with our first child, Essie, we met another couple, Ralph and Karen Northey, who were right into sailing. They had children around the same time we did, so we ended up going sailing with them.” In the late 2000s, after the birth of their second child, Arthur, the family decided to buy their own boat, a Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 40. “It was a 40-foot cruising boat which we called *Bell’s Breeze* and we used it as a bit of a holiday house; it allowed us to get away from the hustle and bustle of work,” says Bell, who runs a large mining maintenance business in NSW and Queensland. “It was a bit like a floating caravan for us and we cut our teeth as a young family sailing on it.” Bell says they learnt a lot of sailing lessons the hard way and recalls their night-time arrival at

# Shifting gears

*51st Project* is a sailing story of love, family and life choices, and on her way to Hamilton Island Race Week 2024.  
By Crosbie Lorimer.

the entrance to the vast Clarence River, near Yamba in northern NSW, in heavy seas. “We were on our old boat on our first trip north to Yamba and we were green to ocean sailing back then, so rather than respecting the weather, we pushed on to Yamba from Coffs Harbour. We got caught in a 40 knot nor’easter,” Bell says. “One of the Marine Rescue NSW guys actually got in his car, drove down to the entrance and watched us come in to make sure that we got inside safely! We learnt then that you just can’t be in a rush.” The family moved to Nelson Bay in 2014 and started racing at the local club. “We fell in love with sailing at Sail Port Stephens, so we did that for a couple of years and then decided to get into something that was a little bit more competitive than an old cruising boat. So

we started looking around,” he says. “We laughed when we went to sell *Bell’s Breeze* as we found nappies from when our son Arthur was a baby!” The Bells have owned *51st Project* for seven years, in which time they have added more than 12,000 nautical miles of racing and cruising under her keel. But the racing calls for a different approach. “Previously we’d go out with three or four of us and it was no big deal; we’d dock the boat and go to the pub afterwards,” Bell says. “Suddenly we had this bigger boat and while it was only 10 feet longer, it was a lot more powerful. Now we needed eight to 10 crew to race it properly.” To do that they called on some experienced sailors to get them up to speed, with Neil Edwards and Mick Hinchey adding some significant racing experience to a crew of mostly local sailors.



PHOTOGRAPHY: MARK ROTHFIELD.



The Bell family's 51st Project (second from left) is competing at Hamilton Island Race Week in August.

"We've got a really nice bunch of guys for our crew now; they're all really committed and the boat is getting faster" says Edwards.

"We've sailed in every Sail Port Stephens regatta and every year we've improved."

"Julian is very dedicated and focused and he's become a very good helmsman. He just wants to go sailing whatever the conditions. If it's blowing 30-plus knots he still wants to get the spinnaker up. I just say, 'Well it's your boat Julian!'"

While both Bell children grew up sailing with their parents, Essie and her mother now have to be more selective about their sailing, with Elise running a menswear shop and Essie juggling university and work commitments. Hamilton Island Race Week, then, promises a return to a shared family experience.

For Arthur, known to many as Arty, those days as a baby onboard his parents' first boat evidently bred a natural affinity with sailing. The 15-year-old is a member of Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club's junior development squad and is rapidly building experience across a wide spectrum of racing, from 16-foot skiffs to TP52s.

"He's so passionate about the sport and has such a natural ability" says Bell. "He's progressed off

our boat so we've had to let him go on to bigger and better things."

Arty Bell's interest in fixing all things mechanical has also earned him a unique descriptor: "Arthurising Things". His Instagram account, through which he explains his tinkering, has some impressive followers, not least of whom is Hamilton Island Race Week's principal race officer Denis Thompson.

51st Project blends credible racing performance with plenty of creature comforts on board. And whilst the latter come with a weight penalty – the boat weighs some 14 tonnes – she can still hold her own in lighter to moderate airs.

"The best conditions for the boat are 10-12 knots when her overlapping jib comes into its own" says Edwards. But the boat's top recorded speed came with some assistance, admits Bell.

"On our first trip up to Hamilton Island in 2019, we surfed in through the entrance at Southport. It was just the four of us and that was pretty intense. No one looked at what speed we were doing, but it would have been well over 20 knots. We had some two metres of spray coming off the bow," he says.

"That probably takes the cake as the quickest we'll ever go on the boat, and it was one of the most exhilarating rides that actually didn't end in disaster!"

That first trip to Hamilton Island Race Week gave them a taste for the event and inspired them to return in 2021. But no sooner had they delivered the boat to the island than a pandemic lockdown led to the cancellation of Race Week.

"We flew home for three weeks and in that time they'd locked the borders on us so the boat got stuck up there for six months!"

As for the unusual name of the boat, which frequently elicits queries, that came with the purchase of 51st Project. "The boat was named by its former owner Phil Coombs, who is well known on the sailing scene. A lot of people think that 51st refers to its length," says Bell. "But it's just a reverse of the boat design, being a First 50. My first official title was project manager, so the name sort of resonated a little bit with me and we decided to leave the name as it was."

As for so many yacht owners who start out cruising and then enjoy some success on the racing scene – but still want the option to cruise – their next boat choice can present something of a conundrum. It's a tricky decision now being faced by the Bells. "It's a bit of a dilemma at the moment with what to do with the boat, whether we hold on to it and cruise, as one of our ambitions is to sail to the South Pacific. Or do we sell it and go more down the racing line? We want to keep the whole family happy."

Bell would arguably never have imagined he'd be facing such an agreeable quandary when he first started that paper round in Dubbo all those years ago.



The Beneteau First 50 is built for cruising but can also hold its own in the right racing conditions.



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Robbie Congoo is a direct descendant of the Ngaro – the Aboriginal people of The Whitsundays – with a passionate and personal understanding of this incredible region. *REEF* joins the natural-born storyteller for insightful and emotional explorations to Escape Beach and Nara Inlet.

# Connecting to country



Heading out towards the Nara Inlet on Hook Island.

PHOTOGRAPHY: JUSTIN RIDLER; SIMON HUTCHEN.



Left, remains of the fish trap at Escape Beach; below: Robbie Congoo, a descendant of the Ngaro people, leads educational initiatives on Hamilton Island and in the wider region.

Escape Beach, on the southern side of Hamilton Island, has a gently curving shoreline edged with native eucalyptus trees, melaleuca alternifolia (tea trees), peeling melaleuca quinquenervia (paperbark), pandanus and low bushes. The beach faces across the Coral Sea to Whitsunday Island. The wind in the trees, a sense of gentle stillness and the visible traces of an ancient fish trap at low tide. Escape Beach is phenomenal. Robbie Congoo is a descendant of the Ngaro, the Indigenous people who lived here for thousands of years.

“This is what the old people created and remains here today,” he says softly, gazing out across to the low wall of the fish trap. “There are many of them around the islands here but this one still stands, even with the number of cyclones that have come through this area. It’s so simple in its design and would have always harvested food for us. It’s pretty impressive.

“When the tide starts running out, they used to chase the fish over the wall of the trap and then they would go in and pick them out – pretty ingenious.” Fish traps found in the Whitsunday islands have been dated to more than 3000 years old. “This has been here for at least a couple of thousand years,” Congoo says. The remains clearly show half of the trap.



In the 1860s and beyond, the native Ngaro people were forcibly removed from The Whitsundays and taken to Cape Bedford (now known as Bowen) and then dispersed from there into missions. “Most of our people were moved to Palm Island, up towards Yarrabah where most of our family still live today,” says Congoo. Congoo wants to engage and talk about the hard reality of what happened, in the hope that people will learn, understand and it will help effect change. “It’s always really good to be here,” he says. “The first time I came back was two years ago, and every time stepping onto country is always very special, especially for our people who have been removed. Trying to get back and

find a way over is perhaps why I do some of the work that I do.” Congoo is regularly invited to the school on Hamilton Island and others across the region to teach Indigenous culture and the history of the Ngaro people. “It’s about making connections with some of the people in those communities. Visitors come here from all over the world and they ask about us and our culture and it’s very important to us and for people to know,” he says. “Ninety per cent of our people have never been to the islands or been on the water. That’s not to say they don’t have that connection anymore because we are always telling our creation stories for the area.”



The rock paintings at Nara Inlet date back 9000 years.

Recently, through one of his projects with the Reef Catchments Water Quality initiative, he was able to bring two cousins to be on country. “As soon as they got to Whitsunday Island and put their feet in the sand, you could just see it. When you looked at them you could see they were home. You do get emotional, you cry; I think that’s about that reconnection.”

Escape Beach, he says, “is not about looking. It’s about simply being, being present, the wind washes those worries away. I’m here just to be here. The feeling of being here now is overwhelming”.

Congoo gathers some leaves for a smoking ceremony – something only Ngaro people are permitted to do here – and explains that the ceremony is dedicated to cleansing bad spirits, and calling out to the old people to come in. “We sing in our native language so that we know they are listening for us, part of this

“NINETY PER CENT OF  
OUR PEOPLE HAVE  
NEVER BEEN ON THE  
ISLANDS OR BEEN  
ON THE WATER.”

practice is that when they come in they get attached to the smoke and go back up ... then there is a healing side to the ceremony as well with certain leaves.”

Congoo taps out a rhythm with his musical boomerangs as he sings, paying respect to his ancestors. As we watch the smoke curling and drifting away, he talks about the Rainbow Serpent, totem of the Ngaro people, sharing the story of how the islands came to be. “The rainbow serpent is a female and has a resting

hole just off the islands. But before any of this water was here it was flat land and you used to be able to walk way out to the outer reef, about 40 kilometres, before the sea level rose, 10 or 12,000 years ago,” Congoo shares.

“When it began to rise the old people called out for that rainbow serpent and it came out of the waterhole and laid a whole heap of eggs that turned into mountains as the sea level rose, becoming the islands we have today. As the sea level kept rising the rainbow serpent went back out and shed the top layer of her skin, all different coloured scales of the rainbow, and some fell to the bottom of the ocean that turned into the coral and sea life that we have now.”

Congoo’s own totem is a sea eagle that we watch flying way up over the island.

The next day we take the hour-long boat ride out to Hook Island. We pass South Molle Island, whose rare and distinctive hard black stone was



Lilly pilly berries on Hook Island.



The highly significant Nara Inlet.

quarried for more than 9000 years. This valuable currency and commodity was used for making knives and implements. We disembark at Nara Inlet, wading through the water and slithering over giant rocks following Congoo up the stone steps into what is part of the Whitsunday Islands National Park. Hook Island is a Ngaro cultural site of great significance and along the pathway he teaches us about native plants, tasting lilly pilly berries and just standing, listening to the birds, the wind in the trees and the sea way down below. Before reaching the rock shelter, we listen to an installation of audio tapes featuring descendants of the Ngaro people telling their personal stories, each one poignant and compelling. Further along the path ends at the rock shelter. In this deep cave the rock face acts as a beautiful canvas of ochre paintings showing the spiritual connections between the Ngaro people and their ancestors. The paintings here have been carbon-dated to be 9000 years old. "That beats the pyramids," Congoo says proudly. Shields, fishing nets, turtles can all be seen drawn here, some still vibrant while others are fading with water erosion and time. To be here is incredible. This journey is everything.

Robbie Congoo uses his musical boomerangs to sing a song of respect to his Ngaro ancestors.



## VISIT, LISTEN, LEARN

**ESCAPE BEACH** is a moderate 6.2-kilometre, grade 3 hike. Allow two hours to complete. Escape Beach can be accessed directly from Saddle Junction. The trail goes through the bushland. Alternatively, if you are already at South East Head, continue to follow the trail around directly to Escape Beach. This trail follows the southern part of Hamilton Island, with views of the surrounding islands. The trail passes through a creek crossing and then climbs up and around to the top of the ridge of Escape Beach which can be seen from below. Bush and walking trails are open from 6.30am to 5.30pm. The trails are not staffed.

Most trails are rocky. Sturdy, enclosed footwear with good tread is required, plus sunscreen and a hat. Please let someone know when and where you are going.

Pick up a free copy of the Hamilton Island walking map at the Tour Desk on the island. Please note there are no toilets on the walking trails.

**HOOKE ISLAND** is about a 45-minute trip from Hamilton Island. It can only be accessed by boat and the journey should ideally be taken with a guide. The Nara Inlet is signposted on the cliff edge and it is a 10-minute stone-stepped path up to the rock shelter. At the very bottom of the inlet is a freshwater rock pool and waterfall that flows during the rainy season only.

# No bones about it, Josh Niland is a culinary pioneer

Swordfish bacon, fish-fat ice-cream, kingfish pâté ... even the plates at his award-winning restaurant are glazed in fish bones. Meet the Race Week-bound chef who spearheaded an entirely new approach to cooking with seafood. By Emma Joyce.



Chef Josh Niland's magical ways with fish include charcoal sardines (above left) and fish pie.

Chef and restaurateur Josh Niland is celebrated worldwide for his innovative solutions to seafood sustainability. In the past eight years he's been on a mission to use every part of every fish purchased for Saint Peter, his award-winning fine diner in Sydney's Paddington. He's made terrine from the head of coral trout, mortadella from fish sperm, lasagne and cheeseburgers from yellowfin tuna, pâté from kingfish, and sausages and charcuterie from fish offal. But his creativity doesn't stop at food. He's collaborated with local businesses to make candles and soap from the fat of Murray cod and the plates at his restaurants are glazed in fishbones, crafted by ceramicist Sam Gordon. "The initial motivation came from fear of failure," says Niland. "I'd chosen one of the most expensive proteins to focus on and it didn't make sense to throw away half of every fish." When Niland opened Saint Peter in 2016, he knew from TAFE cooking courses and his

experiences at acclaimed Sydney restaurants Est., Pier and Fish Face that as much as 50 per cent of every fish bought for restaurants ends up in the bin. It was a comment from mentor Stephen Hodges – the chef behind the acclaimed Sydney seafood restaurant Fish Face) – that moved the needle for Niland. Hodges said to think of fish like meat. And the philosophy stuck. "Saint Peter is my creative space," Niland says. "I like to think it's that conduit between fish butchery, sustainability, ethics and all of those things we try to package into a meal. We're showing you charcuterie, fish offal, we're showing you fish as meat. "You can do so many things with a fish. It can be a plate, it can be soap – there are many things we want to be able to say, and Saint Peter's always been a safe space to do that. There's trust in that brand and people know what they're getting, and almost expect it." For many diners at Saint Peter, it started with a deep-fried fish-eye cracker. The salty chip was an

entry into eating parts of a fish we'd previously considered texturally and aesthetically challenging. Now, Niland says, diners are more accepting and educated. "I've managed to build some language around the knowledge I've been gifted from people like Stephen Hodges, like Peter Doyle," says Niland. "That was part of why I opened Saint Peter. Stephen had gifted me so much knowledge in terms of fish cookery and I was desperate to make sure we didn't lose that information. For all the plates that were thrown at Fish Face or Pier back in the day [by chefs frustrated when meals were returned to the kitchen by customers uncomfortable with how rare the fish was served], we don't have to engage in that nonsense ... Not to condone the gnarly stuff, but you can now speak to a guest that is more educated in eating fish medium-rare or in consuming red mullet and seeing reverence in it rather than it being seen as a second-class fish."

PHOTOGRAPHY: ©ROB PALMER, COURTESY OF TAKE ONE FISH, FISH BUTCHERY AND THE WHOLE FISH COOKBOOK BY JOSH NILAND (HARDIE GRANT)



Josh Niland's transformative approach to cooking and working with fish has earned him international acclaim.

# DINING

Niland's approach is admired by celebrity chefs including Jamie Oliver and Nigella Lawson, who like to dine at his restaurants whenever they're in Australia. Oliver says Niland is "one of the most interesting chefs working right now", and Lawson has said "his cooking is almost like a religious experience". The two celebs consider Niland a friend, but it wasn't that long ago that they were his idols, their posters and cookbooks adorning his bedroom in Maitland, NSW. "I thought the gesture of cooking somebody a meal was the most valuable thing you could do [for them]," recalled a younger Niland when asked why he wanted to cook.

At age eight he was diagnosed with Wilms tumour, a rare type of kidney cancer that mainly affects children. He underwent chemotherapy and has been ambitious about cooking ever since. At age 17 he moved to Sydney where he worked at Luke Mangan's Glass Brasserie before landing a dream job at Est. He later worked at Fish Face in Darlinghurst with Hodges.

"You have to be resilient," says Niland of being a chef or restaurateur today. "I always say to somebody who says they're having trouble to try to slow it down, mainly because I've found in the past if I get overwhelmed I try to slow everything down. Remember where you are, what you're doing and why you're doing it – for me, it's Julie and the kids, the opportunity to write a book, to feed a group of people. There needs to be poise when things get a little spicy." Niland met his now wife Julie at an apprentice cooking competition when they were in their late teens. They're now business partners and have four children, aged 10, eight, five and two.

"Julie is the force behind the businesses functioning, but as well as that she's showing up for the kids every single day with unwavering love, care and attention. That's incredible," he says. Julie Niland is responsible for running their Sydney businesses Saint Peter, the Fish Butchery production hub, fish market and takeaway option in Waterloo, and bistro Peterman in St Leonards, as well as Fysh in Singapore – the couple's first overseas venue. They also recently opened the Grand National Hotel in Paddington, the renovation of the 1890s-era pub something they have been working on for five years.

Saint Peter relocated into the hotel, doubling the restaurant's capacity, and the Grand National will soon also offer 14 boutique guest rooms. "Julie is the administrative genius behind the work we do," says Niland. "What an image looks like, what font to use, all of that goes by her. Nothing gets decided until both of us are happy. She sees the risks and challenges we may face, and I try to complement that. I feel that's how we've been able to accelerate things in the businesses as well as our family. We try to keep identifying what brings us joy and eliminate the negative as much as we can."

The new iteration of Saint Peter takes Niland's magic to another level. The kitchen has



Agent provocateur: Niland uses his food to challenge, educate and provide a sense of place.







Clockwise from top, salt and vinegar blue mackerel; swordfish bacon and egg muffin; snapper laksa; fish tacos for sharing; red mullet dahl; and raw diced yellowfin tuna.

temperature-controlled oyster fridges, a charcoal grill and rotisserie. Fish continues to be viewed and cooked in the same way as meat, and Niland's inspiration comes from the diverse number of fish species we have in Australia. "And how spoiled we are in Australia for what we can get our hands on," he says. "We need to flaunt where we're from – it's beautiful. It's about trying to show diners a sense of place, but also – through provocation, technique and talent – we're trying to show you the opportunities that exist within a fish."

2024 marks 20 years that Niland has been working as a professional chef. It's a milestone that has him reflecting on why he got into the business in the first place. "I see it as a duty, working in hospitality, making sure that people have a great time," he says.

In June Niland spoke at the Basque Culinary Centre International Council in Peru – a gathering of some of the world's most renowned chefs including René Redzepi and Heston Blumenthal – about the importance of family, but also the economics of running a business. "[There] hasn't been a harder time to write a menu right now, just in general. In terms of where food is from, what you're doing to it, who is doing it, how much labour you need for it, what it costs, how much the consumer is willing to pay, how it looks on social media, what does it look like on the plate ... There are so many decisions that impact a menu."

Niland has written three cookbooks so far, including *The Whole Fish Cookbook*, which was awarded the prestigious James Beard Book of the Year Award (considered the Oscars of the food world). And this year Saint Peter was named No. 98 on the 2024 World's 50 Best Restaurants extended list – another global feat. It's hard to believe that this accomplished chef is just 35.

"There are moments when there's this accelerated sense of momentum, then you stop and go, 'Wait, what's the inspiration?'. You try to stay sharp. That's why I've started to go to the gym, because mentally, when there are times you're on a plane or when you have to head back to yourself, [you need] the capacity to think of the next thing."

One of the next big things is his tenure at qualia during August's Hamilton Island Race Week 2024. Niland is planning a tasting menu served at Pebble Beach that will reference Queensland's produce but also reflect the work he does at Saint Peter.

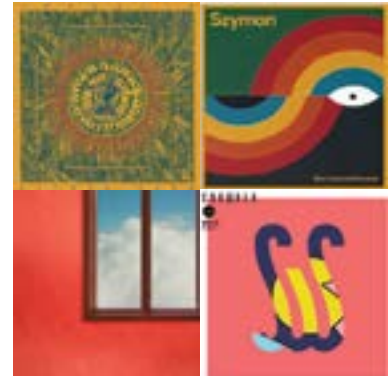
"You can guarantee I'll be setting up a barbecue on the beach," he says. "There's going to be some open cookery. It'll be a family-style approach, whether it's a swordfish on the rotisserie or beautiful Murray cod with crackling skin, almost like roast chicken. It'll involve fire and fish."

"I just got back from [Hamilton Island]. I'd never been before but it's extraordinary. Julie and I always talk about our love of where the bush meets the beach, and qualia sits in that zone. It's a picture-perfect image of what people associate with Australia, all in one place."

PHOTOGRAPHY: ©ROB PALMER. COURTESY OF TAKE ONE FISH, FISH BUTCHERY AND THE WHOLE FISH COOKBOOK BY JOSH NILAND (HARDIE GRANT)

## A BEACH-PARTY REEF PLAYLIST

*Tunes for a gathering that goes late into the night*



1. *Lets Go Surfing* by The Drums
2. *Molten Lava* by Lord Echo featuring Leila Adu
3. *Satan in Love* by La Bellini
4. *Santa Catarina* by Lazywax
5. *Break Away* by Thornato
6. *Dance* by ESG
7. *Freedom* by Folamour
8. *Pon Pón* by Khruangbin
9. *Profite* by Moi Je (Kazy Lambist remix)
10. *One Inch Punch* by Yin Yin
11. *Blue Coloured Mountain* by Szymon
12. *I Need You Tonight* by Punkin Machine
13. *Bang Bang Bang* by Mark Ronson & The Business Intl featuring Q-Tip and MNDR
14. *1+1=11* by Peggy Gou
15. *Lady (Hear Me Tonight)* by Modjo
16. *All Of The Time* by Jungle
17. *Praise You* by Fatboy Slim
18. *Superstylin'* by Groove Armada
19. *She's Gone, Dance On* by Disclosure
20. *Foreign Language* by Flight Facilities featuring Jess

To listen, scan the Spotify code below.



# The business of being Kylie



## The unstoppable Ms Minogue. Great at music and now top notch also at wine. Darren Jahn catches up with the megastar to talk prosecco, performance and prioritising downtime.

She stands alone as a success story in the pop arena. A global superstar. An Australian national treasure. The winner of this year's Grammy Award for Best Pop Dance Recording, with her worldwide hit, *Padam Padam*. A glittering, gruelling Las Vegas residency newly under her belt. It's no wonder that the perennially busy Kylie Minogue now finds herself deliberately seeking some beachside downtime.

Minogue recently visited Hamilton Island, making the most of qualia's relaxed luxury. "I was so happy just taking it slow and soaking up the beautiful, restful days," the incredibly likeable megastar tells REEF.

"One of my favourite days of my short stay was down on the beach, collecting shells – not taking any home! – and chilling with my travel buddies."

Minogue made time for a break towards the end of her successful 20-show Vegas residency as the inaugural headliner at The Venetian's new Studio 54-inspired venue, Voltaire. She was on her way to a break with her family in her home town of Melbourne and popped a bottle of her own Kylie Minogue Wines (KMW) into her bag to share with her friends at qualia.

"It was indeed a thrill to enjoy it in such beautiful surrounds," the star laughs.

Minogue launched KMW on her birthday – May 28 – in 2020 and her wines now enjoy a similar level of success to her music. She has sold some 12 million bottles across more than 30 countries in the short time since the brand's creation and her Prosecco rosé quickly became UK's No.1 seller in the category by 2021, selling some 65 per cent more than its nearest competitor. Prosecco

rosé became *the* alcoholic drink of 2021 and 2022, with KMW Signature Rosé still the bestselling premium branded rosé in the UK.

It is fast gaining a following here in Australia, too, including on Hamilton Island where you'll find it in the island's bottle shop and on a number of the restaurant wine lists.

"It's fresh, light and the perfect pink" says Minogue of the perfect poolside or sunset tippie.

It hails from France's southern coast, the world's best region for rosé wines. The Côtes de Provence version is an alluring, expressive wine, crisp and dry, with a beautifully textured palate.

In 2020, Kylie became the first female artist to have a No. 1 album across five consecutive decades. Her fanbase spans generations and social groupings, from the OGs through to the TikTok generation who've embraced *Padam Padam* since its release. Also on trend with younger fans is the option of zero-alcohol drinks and Minogue's decision to introduce a non-



Kylie relaxing with a glass of her KMW Alcohol-Free Sparkling Rosé at qualia.

alcoholic wine to the KMW stable once again displays her talent for innovation.

"I had never even tasted a zero-alcohol wine before deciding to make one myself. It is now a trend with a lot of traction, but before this, I really just wanted a non-alcoholic proposition for friends and family who didn't drink alcohol or just wanted that option," says Minogue.

"It was a fast learning curve for me in this part of the market and I'm so proud of my team for digging deep to make my KMW non-alcoholic offer as good as it is. Now I tell everyone about it as I believe in it so much. It ticks all the boxes and, it is just delicious."

KMW's Alcohol-Free Sparkling Rosé is light on the sweetness that overpowers some offerings, using a unique fermentation process that reduces the sugars by up to 30 per cent, generates no alcohol, yet delivers many of the flavours and mouthfeel of a traditionally fermented wine. And then there's the inclusion of green tea in the

blend. Hand-plucked tea leaves are brewed into an infusion and added to the grape ferment. It's a clever process that results in a full mouthfeel and lingering finish, with drying tannins so it doesn't simply taste like sparkling grape juice.

Earlier this year, Mattel, the company that manufactures Barbie, released a special International Women's Day edition of the doll dedicated to Minogue, within a collection called Inspiring Women (singer Shania Twain and actors Helen Mirren and Viola Davis also feature). There's little doubt Kylie is inspiring, but the question is, having conquered the music world, and with fragrance, lingerie and now wine also to her name, what will be the next inspiration?

"I absolutely loved my stay at Hamilton Island. It was so relaxing and I realised I hadn't spent much time of late just letting the day pass by with no agenda. I recognised how lucky I felt to be having some time to simply be." Perhaps her qualia sojourn will provide a few ideas?

# FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY

(well, maybe two)

The Australian Ballet's partnership with Hamilton Island is now in its 16th year. It is always an honour to host one of the world's leading dance companies and 2024 was no exception as the pas de deux in *Paradise* played out under the stars. By Alison Veness. Photographed by Justin Ridler.

Sometimes some things happen that are so well rehearsed and orchestrated yet also so fleeting but somehow leave an indelible memory. When The Australian Ballet comes to Hamilton Island and performs at qualia, it is always one of those moments. The pas de deux in *Paradise* takes place as the sun sets, its golden light dropping down into the Coral Sea. There is nothing quite like this. The sunsets on Hamilton Island are always epic. It's almost a cliché to say that it's magical. But it is; that's just the truth. David Hallberg, now in his third year as artistic director of The Australian Ballet, brings a crisp edge to everything that the company performs and the pas de deux of 2024 were no exception. The repertoire for the biennial qualia event included *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *After the Rain*, both choreographed by Tony Award-winner Christopher Wheeldon OBE. The *Black Swan* and the *White Swan* pas de deux from ballet's most famous love story, *Swan Lake*, cleverly interlaced the performance. Both were directed by Hallberg, whose intention was to deliver "the best of all worlds".



The Australian Ballet's principal artists Benedicte Bemet and Joseph Caley perform at qualia's Pebble Beach.





Senior artists Jarryd Madden and Rina Nemoto take on the legendary pas de deux.

BLACK SWAN  
FROM SWAN LAKE

AFTER THE RAIN



Jarryd Madden and Rina Nemoto perform the original work by Christopher Wheeldon OBE.



PHOTOGRAPHY: JUSTIN RIDLER



Principals Callum Linnane and Benedicte Bemet delivered a performance of beauty and skill.

WHITE SWAN FROM SWAN LAKE

Hallberg and Wheeldon declared they brought the A-team to Hamilton Island, with the travelling company of dancers including Joseph Caley, Rina Nemoto, Benedicte Bemet, Jarryd Madden and Callum Linnane. They were a wonderfully muscular tour de force on stage, breathing such depth and resonance in to the “joyful expressions of youth” that Wheeldon spoke of as central to Alice and the knave’s pas de deux. They also brought a spine-tingling poignance to the abstract *After the Rain* as well as to both pas de deux from *Swan Lake*.

Hallberg told REEF that “it was amazing to see the beauty of this art form in its true essence in this setting”. The backdrop of the darkening sky with the mass of Whitsunday Island behind was breathtaking, etching the dancers in outline while providing the blackness of a world-class stage. It’s a mythical place to be watching the dancers interpret these dreams. The tiny bats swooping overhead, the low sound of the waves lapping at Pebble Beach and the smell of the sea all conspired to enthrall the audience.

The pas de deux in *Paradise* always attracts a crowd of super fans. This is an audience full of those deeply committed to following the ballet – some for more than 50 years – who come to immerse themselves in this weekend of wonder. Wheeldon, who was on island for the first time, shared that the relationship between the dancers and nature was something he found particularly moving. “One of the things that was really astonishing for me was when the dancers were still, and the water was moving behind ... nature became part of the choreography.”

We had already watched the morning barre class: a meditative time when the dancers set the day, set their bodies and set the tone for this art form based on movement. As they warmed up, Hallberg reminded us that they were “keeping things simple. This environment can be quite distracting, so we are focused and simple. Let’s go, plié”.

The barre class in itself was enough, poignant, spine-tingling, with company pianist Andrew Dunlop, a Fulbright Scholarship winner, playing tunes including *All that Jazz* from Chicago, that were lighthearted, fun, but also ephemeral and profound. “Just feel the ground” Hallberg instructed the dancers. We felt it and felt lucky to be in this intimate class; to get up close with the principals and senior artists.

Next up The Australian Ballet performs *Oscar*, an original work created and choreographed by Wheeldon. It opens in Melbourne in September 2024 followed by Sydney in November.

It’s inspired by the life and works of Oscar Wilde and promises to be extraordinary. There are too many great Wilde poems, plays and stories to mention but *The Ballad of Reading Gaol* plays a pivotal part, Wheeldon tells us. We are reading ...



Eremito retreat in the Umbrian countryside of Italy.



The "contemporary monastery" focuses on simplicity, silence and regeneration through stillness.

PHOTOGRAPHY: EREMITO; SHUTTERSTOCK.





What remains of the pillar of Saint Simeon Stylites in Syria.

# Soul searching

How can travel nourish the heart and mind? Ute Junker explores the destinations that deliver depth, thoughtfulness and inner calm.

**H**ow much would you pay for a chance to switch off the noise? To leave the world behind and disconnect from the difficulties and dramas that rain down on us every day? For some, the answer is €270. That is the rate charged at Eremito, a picturesque retreat in the Italian region of Umbria that lures visitors not with the standard luxuries but the opportunity for quiet. There is no wi-fi, no phones and meals are served in silence (although after-dinner chats around the fire are encouraged). “Eremito is like a contemporary monastery,” says founder Marcello Murzilli. “If you want to reset something in your life but you don’t want a monk, you don’t want a guru, come to Eremito.” Murzilli, who has a long history in luxury hotels, says that more than ever before what travellers really want is to switch off. “Luxury is not about five or six stars anymore, it is about experiencing the natural,” he says. “Pure air, organic food, harmony in silence – that is the future of luxury.”

The need to retreat, to still the mind and heal the soul, is nothing new. Across millennia, ascetics from many religions took the decision to live apart from the rest of the world to focus on the divine as a higher state. In Hinduism and Jainism, these holy men and women were known as sadhus and sadhvis respectively; their Christian counterparts were known as hermits. You might think retreating from the world would have been easier 1500 years ago, before the advent of planes and highways, the internet and smartphones, but even the earliest hermits often had a hard time finding a place of their own. Back in the days before civil war ruined many of its landscapes, I travelled through Syria. Near the lovely city of Aleppo I stood in front of the pillar of Saint Simeon Stylites. Or what was left of it, anyway. Simeon was a fifth-century Christian ascetic who was venerated for spending 37 years living on a small platform atop an 18-metre-high pillar. There are plenty of quirky details to his story –

including the crowds who gathered twice a day to witness him commit acts of self-mortification. But what stayed with me is that Simeon originally took to his pillar to escape the huge number of pilgrims who were begging him for religious instruction.

The first pillar Simeon settled on was three metres high but apparently that didn’t give him enough distance from the crowd, so he had to find himself a taller tower upon which to retreat. If escaping the world was a challenge back then, how are we meant to achieve it in our ever-connected world? Some travellers opt for a monastic stay, where there are fewer distractions and a rigorous daily rhythm is enforced. You don’t have to be a believer to book a night at a temple in Japan or South Korea, or a monastery in France or Scotland, but bear in mind that creature comforts will be at a minimum. Another approach is to lose yourself in the power of nature. Study after study has shown that time in the natural world can calm your mind,

increase your concentration and even improve your cardiovascular health. Australians know this instinctively, of course. That's why we love our beach holidays. We happily spend hours mesmerised by the sight of waves washing on the shore and then pulling back, a never-ending dance of advance and retreat. Ask any visitor to Hamilton Island and they'll tell you that as much as they love the many restaurants and the world-class golfing on offer, it is getting in or out on the water – whether sailing or diving, kayaking or jetskiing – that is the highlight of their stay. Every dose of nature helps, the experts tell us, but some doses are more beneficial than others. Natural experiences that induce a sense of awe have proven particularly effective at reducing stress, countering negative emotions such as loneliness and improving emotional wellbeing. Again, it's a case of science confirming something that many of us have already felt for ourselves. Awe is a liberating emotion that puts us back in our place, that shows us the smallness of our lives, and our problems, in the greater scale of things. An awe-filled adventure can be the holiday of your life. The adventurous might want to try a driving trip through Bolivia's mountain-ringed Eduardo Avaroa Andean Fauna National Reserve, a high-altitude landscape 4200 metres above sea level and studded with bubbling thermal pools and mineral lakes coloured vivid shades of rusty red and jade green, where surreal scenes follow one another in rapid succession. Of course, you can unleash your sense of awe much closer to home, too. Drive an hour or two out of the city on a clear night and you will be dazzled by the endless stars scattered across the sky, blazing with a brightness that city-dwellers never get to see. Another simple and scientifically-proven way to clear your mind and recharge your soul is to take a walk – the longer the better. Significantly, it's another practice harnessed by many religions in the form of the pilgrimage. In the Middle Ages, Christian pilgrims would seek salvation by undertaking arduous journeys to holy sites such as Santiago di Compostela in Spain or even Jerusalem; the Hajj, the pilgrimage to the



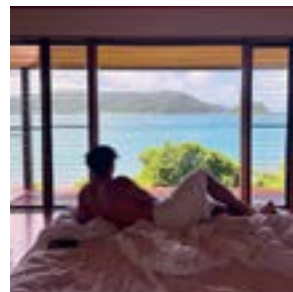
Embracing awe: splendid isolation in the kingdom of Bhutan; sacred shrines of Japan's Kumano Kudo Pilgrimage Route, left; and the holy city of Makkah in Saudi Arabia, below.





## POSTCARDS FROM PARADISE

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



*"Australia, you are an absolute beauty"*  
@pierregasly



*"A little downtime @qualiaresort"*  
@melaniecmusic



*"A few magical moments, from an unforgettable experience, pas de deux in Paradise. All 5 senses working overtime, all the time."*  
@catrionarowntree



*"We were overwhelmed by the messages of love and support after our engagement ... thank you, back to reality after an incredible time on the amazing @hamiltonisland"*  
@james\_tobin

PHOTOGRAPHY: SHUTTERSTOCK.

holy city of Makkah (Mecca in English) in Saudi Arabia, remains popular with Muslims today, more than 13.5 million of whom completed the journey in 2023. In Buddhist Tibet, the three-day, 50-kilometre circuit around Mount Kailash is said to absolve the sins of a lifetime, while for Japanese practitioners of Shinto, the Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage Route through the forests of the Kii Peninsula is as much about the journey as praying at the sacred shrines along the way.

Many pilgrims left behind accounts of how the experience sent their spirits soaring. And it's true that if you want to switch off your mind, a long-distance walk, following the metronomic pace set by your own feet, is guaranteed to lift you above your cares.

No wonder, then, that one of the most in-demand destinations today is the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, a place that might have been expressly designed as a soul escape. This is a country where

the capital city, Thimphu, doesn't have a single traffic light: at its busiest intersection, the traffic flow is maintained by a gloved policeman. It doesn't have a McDonald's. But what it does have is awe-inspiring mountain peaks, a rich Buddhist culture with prayer flags fluttering around every corner, and an endless number of hiking trails that lead to serene temples with to-die-for views.

A week here is spent hiking through verdant valleys inhaling clean mountain air, spinning prayer wheels, being blessed by monks and revelling in the warmth of the people. As the days go by you will feel something shift inside you. Your breathing will slow, those frown lines will relax, and the outside world will feel further away. You will realise it is the simple things in life – a meal when you are hungry, a small kindness from a stranger – are what matter most. And you will go to sleep with a smile on your face.

An aerial photograph of a rugged coastline. The top half shows reddish-brown, layered rock formations. Below the rocks is a shallow, turquoise-colored reef flat with various textures and colors. The bottom half of the image is a deep blue ocean. In the lower right quadrant, a humpback whale is breaching the water, its dark body and white patch visible above the surface.

# Safe haven

The passionate Whitsundays community is striving to ensure its most important – and largest – seasonal guests are protected and respected. Dr Mark Read, director of field management strategy for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, talks humpback whales with *REEF*.



PHOTOGRAPHY: KEN BUTTI, JAMES HUMPHRIS.

Finding ways for humpback whales and tourism operators to co-exist in The Whitsundays is critical to these amazing creatures' survival.

For as many years as tourists have been using the Great Barrier Reef as a retreat from cooler temperatures down south, the majestic humpback whale has been doing the same, but for far longer.

Earlier this year, The Whitsundays was formally recognised as a Whale Heritage Area, one of 10 in the world and only the second in Australia to be designated the status (the other is in Hervey Bay). Six species of whales have been recorded in the Great Barrier Reef. Some, such as the pilot whale, can be found year round but the region also plays an important role in the migration patterns of humpbacks. Pods of these majestic mammals swim approximately 8000 kilometres from Antarctica's icy waters to tropical Queensland annually between June and October to calve, mate and socialise.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's Dr Mark Read says there are many reasons why The Whitsundays is such a significant region for whales.

"There are so many islands, many of which have north-facing bays, which means [the whales] are sheltered from the prevailing winds. It's a beautiful place for whales to give birth and spend that very short period with their bubs as they're getting used to life."

According to Read, who is the director of field management strategy with the authority, there is "upwards of 33,000 humpback whales making that migration along the eastern Australian coastline this season". The numbers are staggering, but even more so when you consider what they've overcome to survive.

Whales were hunted worldwide until the early 1960s, with a number of whaling stations operating along the eastern Australian seaboard.

"It got to the stage where the stations were becoming commercially unviable because the whale population was crashing. There was only between 300 and 500 humpbacks migrating along the [east coast]," Read says. "Thankfully, Australia introduced a prohibition of whaling. What we've seen is one of the true, genuine success stories of species conservation globally. The humpback population has been increasing at an estimated 10 to 11 per cent per year since whaling was banned."

It's positive news but concern for the species remains ever present.

"[Researchers] did some really elegant work a couple of years ago looking at the likely trajectory of the humpback whale population over time. Climate change linked to the krill available in the Southern Ocean is one of the big issues that concerns us," Read says. This changing ocean chemistry is affecting the numbers of humpbacks' primary food source.

"Krill are a crustacean so their external skeletons are formed by aragonite [calcium carbonate]. As the ocean acidifies, there will be an impact on the ability of animals like krill and coral to form a skeleton."

Another challenge is human interference. The number of annual visitors to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park has exceeded two million for eight of the past 10 years, with more than 40 per cent of tourists leaving from The Whitsundays. Whale sightings are an obvious drawcard for many guests. These associated experiences contribute a significant amount to the local economy, so ensuring the tourism industry and whales can harmoniously co-exist is a priority. This is no small feat. "The Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area is 348,000 square kilometres. To put that into perspective, three quarters of countries in the world could individually fit within the boundaries," Read tells *REEF*. "And the second [challenge] is the complexity of the system – not just the biodiversity but its Indigenous and European cultural heritage, the number of stakeholders that use it on a regular basis and the number of people who make their living from it."

Marine park zoning, which came into effect in July 2004, has been "absolutely fundamental", says Read. Throughout the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, boats must remain at least 100 metres away from whales and 300 metres away from a calf. In 2009, the authority strengthened these even further for The Whitsundays, establishing a whale protection area in which vessels must remain 300 metres away at all times and aircraft (including drones) must not come below 2000 feet or within a horizontal radius of 1000 metres of a whale.

"Operating your boat at night is another thing. If you're crossing an open area from the mainland to the reef at night-time, you run a risk of encountering a whale. Ultimately it's about making sure we keep the whales safe but also keep people safe. Just imagine a fully grown humpback whale somewhere between 13 and 15 metres long, up to 40 tonnes, and you're driving a little boat that might weigh a couple of tonnes. There's an inevitable outcome there if you come together." Read says to always exercise caution when on the water in the vicinity of one of these special animals. "If the whale itself chooses to voluntarily approach your vessel, safely move away and maintain that distance because they're pretty big creatures and they're unpredictable. But if you can't get away safely, stay nice and calm ... and enjoy the extraordinary spectacle." Calf whales, he says, are highly intelligent creatures. "They're really curious. Years ago, there were some people in The Whitsundays



An estimated 33,000 humpback whales make their way up Australia's east coast each year in search of warm waters.

who managed to get this extraordinary photo of this little white whale calf breaching beside their boat. This calf had come right up to this boat and the mother was just out of reach. So these guys had this amazing interaction with this wild calf that literally just wanted to come up and check them out. That was a great example of observing the rules of the road but if the whale chooses to come to you, sit tight, stay safe, get some wonderful photographs.”

Visitors are encouraged to share photographs and record sightings via the Eye on the Reef app, a free tool that not only holds the most updated zoning maps but also helps the reef authority build its database. “There are some cryptic species you don’t see very often. One of them is called the sei whale. Sei whales are bigger than humpbacks – so they’re not little critters – but you just don’t see them frequently. We’ve had two sightings in the past 15 years, both reported through citizen science. So it actually has a really valuable role to play in understanding what’s happening in the local area.”

Spreading awareness of responsible practices is a big part of the reef authority’s work. “It’s reinforcing key messages. We often attend boating and fishing shows and we talk about ‘go slow for those below’,” Read says. “We have compliance officers on boats and in helicopters

who stop and talk to thousands of users of the marine park every year and ensure they’re given the best information.”

The tourism industry plays a pivotal role: operators are incentivised to operate above what standard legislation requires and can obtain independent certification via Ecotourism Australia and EarthCheck for their environmental protection and sustainability practices. There’s also the Master Reef Guides program. Individuals from high-standard tourism operators on the reef are nominated to undergo intensive training with reef authority staff, scientists and First Nations leaders to further enhance local knowledge and deliver an unparalleled experience to guests. At present, there are 28 Master Reef Guides in The Whitsundays region.

Initiatives such as Whales of The Whitsundays are helping educate the wider community on these special creatures. The project spearheaded the region’s application to be considered a Whale Heritage Area. It’s also behind a number of local events including Welcome Whale, an annual celebration marking the start of whale season with a traditional welcome to country, a smoking ceremony, an Indigenous dance ceremony and stories from the region’s traditional owners, the Ngaro people, about their connection to whales.



The Whitsundays offer perfect conditions for humpback whales to give birth.

PHOTOGRAPHY: ANDREA FRANCOLINI, SHUTTERSTOCK



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The Whitsundays turn on the charm during Hamilton Island Race Week.

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Seafolly one-piece swimsuit, \$195.95, from SALT.



Seafolly dress, \$229.95, from SALT.



Seafolly bikini top, \$79.95, and bottoms, \$59.95, from SALT.



Seafolly visor, \$49.95, from SALT.



Maui Jim sunglasses, \$259, from The Hut.



Alemais shorts, \$345, from qualia boutique.



Seafolly bag, \$139.95, from SALT.



Billabong T-shirt, \$55.99, from The Hut.



Billabong shorts, \$49.99, from The Hut.







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THE DECKHOUSE  
07 4946 8180

PRO SHOP (HI GOLF CLUB)  
07 4948 9760

QUALIA BOUTIQUE  
07 4948 9473

RESORT CENTRE LOBBY SHOP  
0427 148 952

REEF VIEW LOBBY SHOP  
0427 148 623

SALT  
07 4946 8221

HAMILTON ISLAND ART GALLERY  
07 4948 9657

THE HUT  
07 4946 8273

TRADER PETE'S  
07 4946 0907

Sail Racing cap, \$49, from The Deckhouse.

Sail Racing T-shirt, \$79, from The Deckhouse.

Oakley sunglasses, \$228, from The Hut.

Sail Racing shorts, \$99, from The Deckhouse.

Sail Racing jacket, \$199, from The Deckhouse.

Swims slides, \$219.99, from The Deckhouse.





Ash Bartholomew completes his 100th parkrun on Hamilton Island.



Lucy Bartholomew runs in the community shakeout following the 2024 Hamilton Island Hilly Half Marathon.

# WHAT IT TAKES

Ultramarathon runners Lucy Bartholomew and her father Ash are dynamic and committed competitors. Here, Lucy shares with us the everyday details of life when training for endurance.

## MAY 1, 2024.

It's May. We made it. We turn the calendar and are both excited to see a little escape coming up to Hamilton Island. A little warmth away from the ever-changing Melbourne seasons. I have a swim and a cycle today; I am trying my best to balance training for an Ironman and a 100-kilometre ultramarathon. I also have some pep in my step for the weekend Hamilton Island Hilly Half Marathon. My schedule feels a bit wonky but it also feels right and, most importantly, fun. Dad has already begun slowly packing. There are two types of people in the world: the ones who pack over a few days and fold it neatly. And then there's the chaotic night-before scruncher. That's me. I know he will pack the things I forget. That's what makes us a good team.

## MAY 2.

We finally found Tani, my dog, a home for when we are away. Nothing like the day before to wriggle our butts into action. Dad is heading out for a small run and strides. He's excited to run his 100th parkrun on Saturday on Hamilton Island, the day before the half marathon. It has been his goal for the past few months to time it perfectly, and he is sitting happily on 99 and packing his parkrun bracelet to be ready. We both speak today about how we have never been to Hamilton Island and how exciting it is for him to be 62 and still getting to go to new places in his home country. I do a hard interval run today and feel strong and healthy. At 9pm I decide to pack. This is what I love about running: you don't need much. Just some shoes, a good sports bra, shorts and you're good to go.

## MAY 3.

My alarm: 5.15am. Running by 5.30am. Dad doesn't get up and my dog just rolls over and sighs. It is pitch black, foggy and cold but as always, once the hard part goes – the getting up and putting on the running kit – it feels good. Our flight is at 9.30am. We drop Tani off and fly to Sydney before heading to Hamilton Island. I am typing this on the plane and Dad is snoozing next to me ... you'd think he got up early to run or something. Stepping out of the plane and into the warm breeze feels unreal. Check in, pick up our buggy. Yes, our whip can go 16km/hour, a quirk which brings a smile to both our faces. I am starving, so we hit up the IGA, grab a picnic spread, and sit watching the world of Hamilton Island. We see some markers for the race and decide to hike a bit on the course.

Lucy Bartholomew is both an ultramarathon runner and an Ironman competitor.



PHOTOGRAPHY: LUCY BARTHOLOMEW, HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY.

They weren't wrong to put that word "hilly" in the race title. At one intersection, we collide with the race director, who laughs while watching us walking up in sandals, carrying our picnic. We make a small loop out of the tracks, buggy ourselves "home", shower and have dinner before watching Carlton play Collingwood. We each go for one team; I won't tell you which is which.

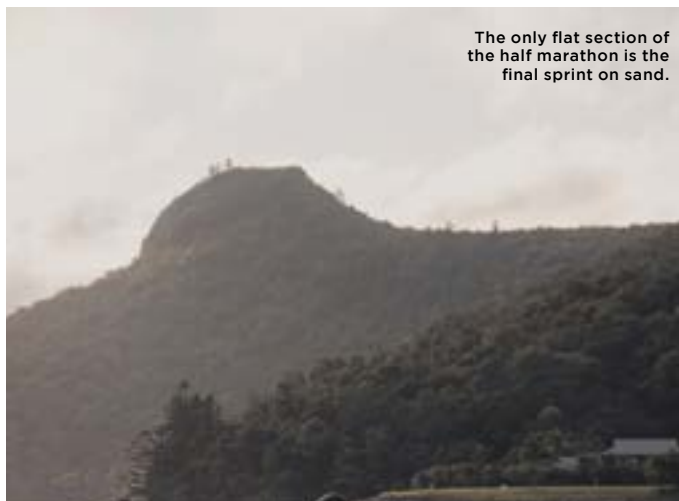
### MAY 4. 5.55AM.

Buffet breakfast starts at 6am and the parkrun starts at 7am. I know I should probably do a warm-up. Instead Dad and I sit, having breakfast and watching the world wake up. I devour the beautiful fruit and Dad goes in for the eggs and pastries. He is playing with fire. The parkrun sees 87 people gather on the resort drive and it is cut into two 2.5-kilometre laps, both with gnarly sections of sand. I could have done one lap and been content. Dad crosses the finish line, his 100th parkrun finish line, his first Hamilton Island parkrun, and slowest parkrun time! There is an incredible food platter for everyone to enjoy and celebrate with him ... except he has to keep running to the bathroom (lesson learned for tomorrow). Dad returns to breakfast, and I join him after jumping in the sea and the pool. This Hamilton Island life is pretty sweet.

Tonight, we are showing the Salomon short film, *Lucy's Dad*. I know he hates being the centre of attention, but it's a great movie we made about his 100-mile run and I know it will inspire so many of the runners for tomorrow. Dinner with the event team, and early to bed because tomorrow, we shred. It's race day!

### MAY 5.

I love races. I love the intense emotions at the start line, the look of anticipation, nerves, excitement, caffeine and hope. After the race briefing, we all walk to the start line. I say goodbye to Dad and make my way to the front-ish. The countdown is sung and the gun goes off. My heart rate was clearly still sitting at the buffet breakfast because it is not ready for the pace and the intensity of this race start. A small down before a steep pinch and a gradual zig-zag leads us through the first loop of three. As we return through the start area, it is buzzing with team relay members getting ready to run and family members eagerly looking for their loved ones. It is electric. Loop two starts with a big climb ... yes, there is a real theme here. It is down if it isn't up; nothing is flat except the 400 metres of sand I know awaits before the finish line arch. I run, eat, drink, cheer on others and take in views that are new to me with every turn. Back through town, and it roars while we soar; the athletes in this race are no joke. I love it! The final loop goes up the highest point, Passage Peak. Stairs on stairs and then the sun comes out to make us work harder but to also reveal the



The only flat section of the half marathon is the final sprint on sand.



Ash Bartholomew heads back down from Passage Peak during the Hilly Half Marathon.



view, so the reward is that much sweeter. Down into town, onto the sand and then a short crawl to lie in the ocean. People often use the word "brutiful" and now I understand and love it. From first to last, the smiles keep coming across the finish line, teams running in together and little kids either taking the glory from their parents over the line or kids whizzing in to finish the three-kilometre dash. I run back out to find Dad finishing off his third and final loop: he trots by and remarks how excellent the trail is and how he is proud of how he ran the race. I love that; you don't need to win the race to win the day - it is your day, and you can do it your way. We sit on the beach with everyone exchanging stories, eating watermelon and soaking up the high that only comes after a really good long run and knowing that an afternoon of a swim-up bar,

sitting and eating is in front of you. A day we won't forget for a long time. Or, forget just enough so that we sign up and do it again.

### MAY 6.

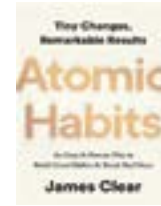
Training doesn't stop for me. I wake at 5am to run for an hour before joining the community shake-out run with some runners who remain on the island. We shuffle six kilometres along the shore. Everyone looks a bit like the Tin Man running along, but it is amazing what a run can do to loosen you up. We follow the run with some yoga, which helps open the body up before Dad and I hop on a boat out to the Great Barrier Reef, spending the day with two ladies who won the experience with us. We snorkel, laugh, eat, listen and learn about each other in a beautiful environment. I have never been to the Great

First time on Hamilton Island was a success for endurance athlete Lucy Bartholomew.



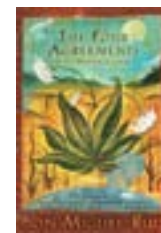
## READ ALL ABOUT IT

*Thinking about the bigger picture? Here, books to help you live mindfully, with purpose and principle.*



**ATOMIC HABITS - JAMES CLEAR**

This is our current favourite self-improvement book, in which James Clear ignites our motivation and willpower by providing actionable tips to transform our habits and everyday life.



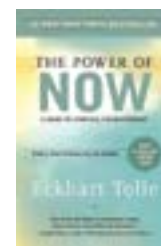
**THE FOUR AGREEMENTS - DON MIGUEL RUIZ**

Ancient Toltec wisdom informs this enlightening guide to freedom, with don Miguel Ruiz using it to create four practical life principles that dissolve any self-limiting beliefs.



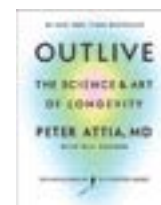
**BIG MAGIC - ELIZABETH GILBERT**

The *Eat Pray Love* author teaches us how to show up for ourselves, taking the pain out of creativity and offering insights into the nature of inspiration, curiosity and fearlessness.



**THE POWER OF NOW - ECKHART TOLLE**

A self-development classic. Tolle creates the ultimate guide to spiritual enlightenment by letting go of the ego and discovering one's true self.



**OUTLIVE - PETER ATTIA**

Dr Peter Attia argues the current medical system focuses on treatments for – rather than prevention of – most chronic illnesses. In *Outlive*, he draws on the latest science to provide key interventions and techniques to improve not just lifespan but more importantly, healthspan.

Barrier Reef before, which I was always slightly embarrassed to say, but now I have swum with the fishes and seen some of the most incredible colours in the ocean. Sunburnt, windswept and tired, we have dinner at the hotel restaurant and an early night. Tomorrow, we leave, but of course, I try to fit some more in. It would just be rude not to!

### MAY 7.

Home day. Boo! Hamilton Island has become my home in the past few days; Dad and I don't want to leave. I wake up early (again!) and get down to the resort pool to cut some laps before jumping out, wrapping up in a towel and sitting with Dad for one last buffet breakfast. It really is a tough life on the island. Dad heads off for a run, cutting one last lap of the trails while I hit

the gym for a bike spin and weights. We shower, pack up, check out and make our rounds to thank everyone who has helped make this a memorable time. One last photo is taken of me clinging to a palm tree as one of the Hamilton Island staff (our knights in shining armour anytime we needed anything during our stay) pulls me away for a post on the 'Gram, saying how much I don't want to leave. We get the shot – I am covered in mud from the wet palm trunk – but that's the final souvenir I take with me as we return our buggy and head to the airport. Dad and I leave with tired legs, a mind bank full of incredible memory deposits, a long list of new friends, and the intense desire to return as soon as possible. Thank you, Hamilton Island. You were everything we wanted and needed. Back to reality, but back soon.

PHOTOGRAPHY: HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY.



Caroline Blackmore tees off at the spectacular Hamilton Island Golf Club on Dent Island.

# DRIVE TO SURVIVE

Social connection with friends old and new is Caroline Blackmore's main aim on the golf course. Oh, that and improving her handicap. By Roxanne Andrews.

Golf has had Caroline Blackmore's heart for 20 years. The sense of community and social connections she has found via the sport are what she finds most profound. And she plays at least twice weekly at her local club in Sydney, at her home away from home on Hamilton Island – where she and husband Marcus have had an apartment for 15 years – or in destinations such as Morocco. Blackmore's obvious adoration of the sport (her eyes light up when she describes her time on the green) has taken her around the globe. But it's the lure of Dent Island's manicured fairways and teeing off with family and friends that anchor her back to the island.

## FRIENDLY COMPETITION

Blackmore is a self-described “average” golfer with a handicap of 22, so it's no disrespect to say that the social aspect of the game is super

important (a sentiment she reiterates when describing the mix of faces and ages appearing at the golfing weekends she plans with her friends). “I've got girlfriends who are scratch golfers and girlfriends playing off a handicap of 45. Once you know the rules and can keep up, you can play with anybody. The other day I played with a 12-year-old girl, but I also regularly play with women in their eighties”. The Hamilton Island Golf Club on Dent Island hosts her annual ladies-only event, with an ever-changing list of invitees that this year included former Australian Businesswoman of the Year, Serena Batten. Blackmore and her golfing friends also have a “state of origin” competition every year, a fun team event with 20 women from Queensland and 20 women from NSW. They recently played in Port Stephens and she's glad to say that NSW won the clash.

Blackmore fell in love with the sense of community she finds in the game of golf.



“IT’S GOOD TO SEE WOMEN USING GOLF COURSES AS A NETWORKING PLACE WHEN, FOR A VERY LONG TIME, IT WAS A MAN’S DOMAIN.”

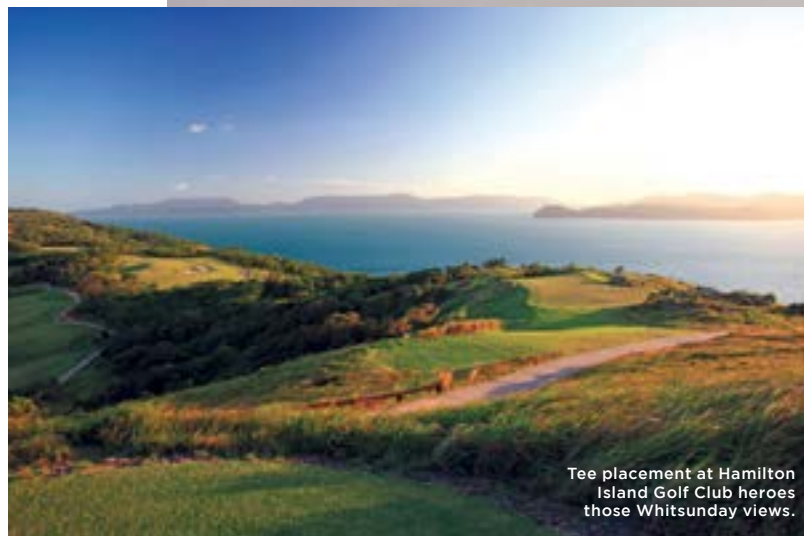
## PLAY THE GAME, LIVE THE LIFESTYLE

When asked about the highlights of golfing at Hamilton Island, Blackmore says there is plenty to love about the Dent Island course. “I love to go over on the boat early. You never know what the course will throw at you weather-wise, it can be a completely different golf course almost every time you play. The views are sensational and it’s a terrific vantage point for whale watching,” she says. “Overall, it’s a great course to play by yourself or with friends. I love going to the Clubhouse after a round for a leisurely lunch. It’s a top spot and non-playing guests can book a restaurant table on the deck”.

Blackmore’s drink of choice at the 19th hole is a shandy on a hot day. And although she doesn’t geek out over her golf equipment, golf fashion is paramount. Expect to see her on the course in elegant Ralph Lauren or J.Lindeberg looks as well as pieces from Malbon Golf. A pair of shoes designed by Malbon Golf in collaboration with Adidas are currently favourites on the fairways. She is a true golf enthusiast and has been to the British Open and, at the other end of the professional golf spectrum, attended the notably wilder LIV Golf event in Adelaide. She also watches the women’s tour on television and is enamoured with LPGA player Nelly Korda’s efforts (at the time of print, Korda had bagged six wins already this season). One rule: Blackmore doesn’t talk business on the course. “I’m a florist now and that’s not much of a business angle for me but it’s good to see women these days using golf courses as a networking place when, for a very long time, it was a man’s domain.”

## A FAIRWAY FAMILY AFFAIR

Blackmore’s two brothers and both of her sisters also play golf, and she credits her parents for introducing her to the game. Particularly her father, who encouraged her to get out on the green and learn the rules and regulations by caddying for him. She happily admits it was a family bonding experience. “Straight after this interview, I’m playing a quick nine at Hamilton



Tee placement at Hamilton Island Golf Club heroes those Whitsunday views.

Island Golf Club with my brother. He lives in Mudgee but comes to see me regularly when I’m up here. My daughter’s partner has just taken up golf, too. He has the golf bug and is now a member of my local club; we often play together in the Saturday comp.”

## GOLF AND THE BENEFITS FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Studies show that golf has many mental health benefits, with time spent in the great outdoors amongst friends a mood booster. It’s something that Blackmore completely believes in also. “I think once you get into golf, all you think about really is your golf game. That’s four hours to forget about anything else that’s on your mind. You just concentrate on that white ball

and enjoy a laugh with your friends,” Blackmore says. The social benefits of gathering a crew of new golfing comrades are a happy bonus. Recently on a trip to Morocco she booked a tee time at the Royal Marrakech Golf Club. Blackmore intended to play solo but instead met three lovely locals who invited her to play. “It was so great. My husband came and joined us for lunch after the game. Experiences like that: if I didn’t have golf, I think I’d miss out on a lot”. As for her insider tips for tackling a round on Dent Island? “Play it low. It’s a sentence I oft repeat as I set up my shot from yet another glorious tee box with magic vistas of the Coral Sea and Whitsunday islands fanned out in a mirror landscape.”





Playing twice weekly is a non-negotiable for Blackmore.



The Peter Thomson and Ross Perret-designed course is an ambitious feat realised.

## LISTEN UP

Here, the third instalment in our recommended podcast series for living your best life. (For earlier lists visit [hamiltonisland.com.au/destination/reef-magazine](http://hamiltonisland.com.au/destination/reef-magazine))



**LIFE KIT**  
NPR's short and simple Life Kit series features back-to-basics advice and life hacks. Host Marielle Segarra talks to experts to uncover the most practical guidance for helping listeners to get their lives together.



**PULLING THE THREAD**  
This one digs a little deeper than the average "self-help" podcast, with author Elise Loehnen exploring philosophy, spirituality and psychology in discussion with leading thinkers to find answers to life's biggest questions.



**THE HAPPINESS LAB**  
Host Dr Laurie Santos is a professor of psychology at Yale who provides listeners with the latest scientific research on building a happier life. She presents discussions and toolkits for overcoming stress and changing the way that we think about happiness.



**THE SCHOOL OF GREATNESS**  
Bestselling author, athlete and entrepreneur Lewis Howes speaks with world-class leaders in science, health, sport, business, entertainment and more, with the focus centred on living your best life.



**THE MEL ROBBINS PODCAST**  
REEF's own tried and true self-development podcast. Robbins has a head-on approach to tackling emotions, using her own experience and advice from guests to deliver life-changing lessons for connection, empowerment and setting goals.

HAMILTON ISLAND

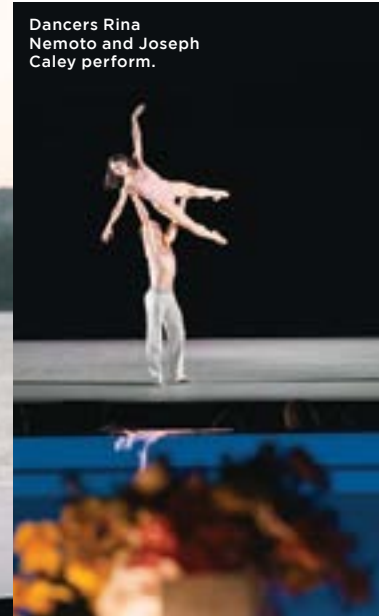
# RSVP



Sandy and Carol Oatley.



The Australian Ballet's artistic director David Hallberg.



Dancers Rina Nemoto and Joseph Caley perform.



Romantic table settings spoke to themes of the pas de deux.



## PAS DE DEUX IN PARADISE

**CELEBRATING:** The Australian Ballet performing at sunset, under the stars on Hamilton Island.

**LOCATION:** Pebble Beach, qualia.

A night to remember with The Australian Ballet entralling us with pas de deux from *Swan Lake*, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *After the Rain*. All were danced as the setting sun fabulously dropped down, right on cue, into the Coral Sea. The evening was hosted by Catriona Rowntree who introduced David Hallberg, artistic director of the company. The ballet-loving audience was captivated by the grace, strength and skill of the principals and senior artists.

Josh and Julie Niland.



Heather and Catriona Rowntree.



Gail Marshall OAM, John Marshall and Kenneth Watkins AM.



A night to remember at qualia.



Yena Choi.



PHOTOGRAPHY: SIMON HUTCHEN.



Amanda Aguilera and Natalie Hazel.



Seven different Charles Heidsieck releases were tasted.



A weekend of expertise and experience.

## CHARLES HEIDSIECK CHAMPAGNE EVENT

**CELEBRATING:** The finest Charles Heidsieck Champagne with Stephen Leroux, chief executive of Charles Heidsieck.

**LOCATION:** Pebble Beach, qualia. Seven different drops were uncorked including the magnificent Charles Heidsieck Millesime 2013 and the legendary Charles Heidsieck Blanc des Millenaires 1996. Each was paired with something extraordinary, including a bump of caviar and a doughnut with Davidson plum jam.



Champagne nights at Pebble Beach.



Western Australian marron for entrée.



Andrew and Tracy Reece.



Beachside bubbles for dinner guests.

Alang Alang Island Retreat makes the most of its incredible location.



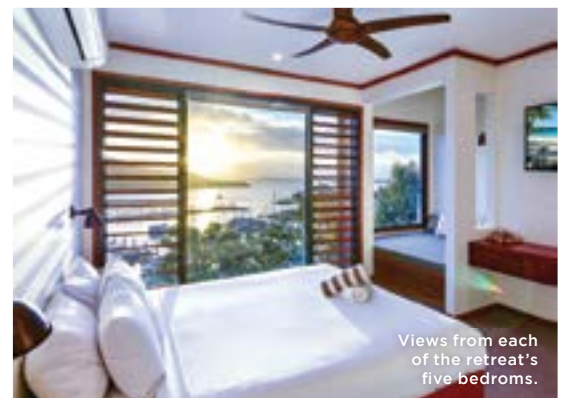
**ALANG ALANG ISLAND RETREAT**  
14 MARINA TERRACE  
OFFERS OVER \$3,950,000

5 4 1

Welcome to Alang Alang Island Retreat, where you'll be greeted by some of the most breathtaking views Hamilton Island has to offer. This property, set high above the Hamilton Island Marina, has everything that families and holidaymakers could desire, with an expansive layout featuring five bedrooms, including an attached self-contained guesthouse. Alang Alang spans two expansive levels, with the entry-level upper floor boasting an airy open-plan living area with cathedral ceilings and generous kitchen, both of which seamlessly extend via bifold doors and windows to a balcony. This is the ideal place for guests to watch the sunset or enjoy a meal while taking in those incredible island vistas. The lounge area also has expansive windows that frame the views and flood the relaxed space with natural light. This upper level also features a second bathroom and two bedrooms, with the master complemented by a large ensuite and daybed nook. On the lower level there are two bedrooms, a bathroom and a second living room, as well as the self-contained guesthouse that comes with its own ensuite, compact kitchenette, and a fold-out sofa bed in the living space. The property is capped off by the magnificent 14-metre private infinity-edge swimming pool.

**Some of the outstanding features include:**

- Four-person modern buggy
- Fully furnished
- Exceptional finishes, including cyclone-rated copper roofing and gutters
- Ceiling fans throughout
- Air-conditioning in all bedrooms
- A seamless open-plan layout
- Two well-appointed kitchen spaces
- A spacious walk-in pantry
- Curved feature timber staircase



Views from each of the retreat's five bedrooms.



Views across the Whitsundays from the deck.



The retreat's supremely private infinity-edge pool.

**HIDDEN COVE 2**

5A ACACIA DRIVE

**OFFERS OVER \$3,995,000**4  4  1 

This stunning property is situated in Hamilton Island's newest build, the award-winning, sustainability-focused Hidden Cove complex, completed late in 2018. It is a seamless and thoughtful mix of size and views, a stylish 410-square-metre property spread over two levels at the very edge of the Coral Sea. The spacious open-plan design features four generous bedrooms, living area, expansive private pool and balcony ideal for capturing the spectacular Whitsundays sunsets. Ensuities in each of the bedrooms ensure this property caters effortlessly for the whole family and guests. It is regarded as one of the strongest holiday-letting complexes on the island, a perfect mix of investment and private getaway idyll.

**OASIS 11**

2 FLAMETREE GROVE

**OFFERS OVER \$1,000,000**3  2 

This exquisite three-bedroom apartment is the ultimate holiday sanctuary and investment prospect. Oasis is located just a short stroll from Hamilton Island Marina, earning the complex a reputation as a favoured vacation spot for visitors. This airy single-level space has a generously proportioned open-plan living and dining area, illuminated by expansive windows that bathe the apartment in natural light. Enjoy great views of Hamilton Island Marina, Dent Island and the pristine waters of The Whitsundays. The well-appointed kitchen and spacious balcony make the property ideal for entertaining, with the spectacular sunsets the stuff of blissful tropical-holiday memories.

**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



### YACHT CLUB VILLA 33

23 FRONT STREET

**\$2,850,000**

4 4 2

Yacht Club Villa 33 is an exclusive four-bedroom, four-bathroom freestanding villa, privately yet conveniently positioned within a gated complex featuring lush pristine gardens and a stunning pool on the water's edge. Their unbeatable position near the Hamilton Island Yacht Club make these villas a favourite with holiday guests. The three-level Villa 33 comes with stylish interiors and outstanding views across the Yacht Club and Dent Passage. Seamless open-plan living and dining areas and a large entertaining balcony complete this impressive picture. The supremely private master suite, perfectly positioned on the top level, features a spacious walk-in robe, elegant ensuite and uninterrupted views from its large balcony.

### INFINITY

11 WHITSUNDAY BOULEVARD

**OFFERS OVER \$3,850,000**

5 5 2

This luxurious home is a study in elegant island accommodation, comfortably sleeping up to 14 people within its impressive 521-square-metre floorplan. The vast three-level residence sits on an enormous 2035-square-metre parcel blessed with Whitsunday Island views and capturing 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 self-contained house, with a second master and an additional large bedroom with ensuite, plus a lounge and kitchenette that opens to a large deck. Centrepiece of this home is a breathtaking infinity pool and spa. This is a property designed for holiday rentals, with strong forward bookings assured.



**SHORE LINES 25**

5 ACACIA DRIVE  
**\$1,275,000**

2 2 1

Be warned, this property boasts spectacular views of The Whitsundays, immersing guests and residents in nature at its finest. The crisp, clean lines and recently updated décor include a sleek kitchen, with stainless-steel appliances and stone benchtops. The spacious dining and comfortable lounge area flow to the generous balcony for more of those outstanding views. Sunsets here are nothing short of amazing. Downstairs, the two spacious bedrooms each have built-in robes. The master suite is additionally blessed with stunning views, its own private balcony and an open-plan-style ensuite complete with spa bath.



**YACHT HARBOUR TOWER 6**

1 MARINA DRIVE  
**\$3,800,000**

4 4 1

This stunningly and serene full-floor apartment is an immaculate offering boasts views from every aspect of its sixth-floor position. Its impressive layout includes four spacious bedrooms, four bathrooms, an expansive open-plan living space and a large balcony with views spanning from Catseye Beach to Dent Island and beyond. The Yacht Harbour Tower has just enjoyed a building-wide refurbishment and all apartments enjoy private lift access directly to their foyer.



**POINCIANA 203**

2 MARINA DRIVE  
**OFFERS OVER \$1,000,000**

2 2 1

This two-bedroom apartment is situated in the heart of Hamilton Island, well positioned for easy access to the Resort Centre, pools, Catseye Beach and a short stroll or buggy ride to vibrant Front Street. Spacious open-plan living and dining areas with large windows flood the rooms with natural light, creating an apartment with a bright and airy atmosphere. It also benefits from the most amazing views of the Whitsunday islands. Step out onto the large balcony, and enjoy the magical sunrises over the bay.



**BLUEWATER VIEWS 2**

2 BANKSIA COURT  
**\$980,000**

2 2 1

As the name suggests, this beautifully refurbished property has a great view. This spacious two-bedroom apartment offers 151-square metres of floor space with generous bedrooms, a large entertainer's kitchen and open-plan living area. This exceptional property comes fully furnished with a practical, exclusive-use secure storage area. Views, and direct access to the complex's 25-metre pool and landscaped gardens via private exterior stairs, deliver an instant "on holiday" mood.

**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

**Great Taste.**  
**Low Carb.**  
**How Good.**

Get the facts  
**Drink  
Wise.**  
org.au





**THE VILLA**

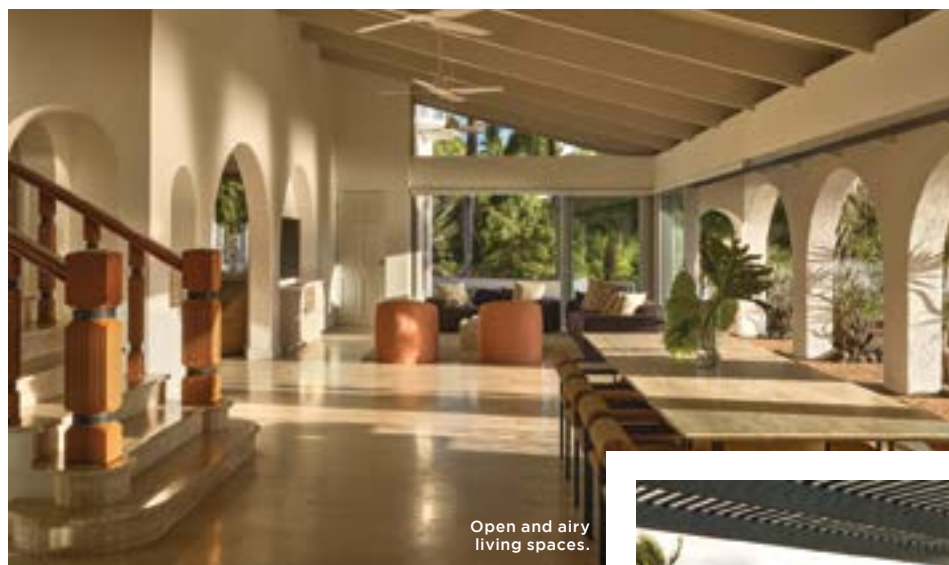
FIVE-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY  
**FROM: \$3200 PER NIGHT**  
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 12 PEOPLE

6  6  2 

This luxurious private estate embodies both the history and effortless elegance of Hamilton Island. The Villa's former owner was Queensland tourism entrepreneur Keith Williams, the custodian of Hamilton Island from 1975 until 1996. It is easy to escape the distractions of everyday life at this secluded and private estate, which is surrounded by manicured lawns and dreamy tropical gardens. It commands arguably the best position on Hamilton Island, with supreme privacy and spectacular views overlooking Catseye Beach and Whitsunday Island. It is also just a short buggy ride from all of the island's key attractions. The Villa is equipped with two electric buggies for guests' exclusive use, plus a large garage. There are six generous bedrooms, each with their own private bathroom. The sixth bedroom is a self-contained studio, with a king bed and two single trundle beds. The Villa's multiple living airy areas, state-of-the-art kitchen, 12-seat dining table, and outdoor entertaining area makes it ideal for families or groups. There is also a sparkling private pool and a covered alfresco entertaining area complete with barbecue. This recently refurbished property offers all the comforts needed for a memorable island holiday.



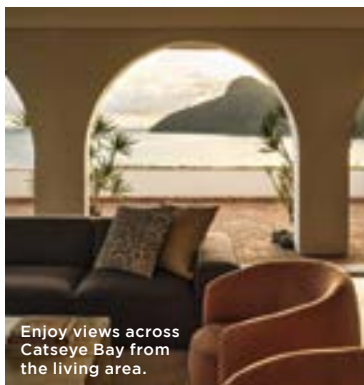
The Villa's six bedrooms each have their own ensuite.



Open and airy living spaces.



The Villa's elevated private pool.



Enjoy views across Catseye Bay from the living area.



The covered alfresco dining area offers perfect Whitsundays vistas.

**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.

**YACHT CLUB VILLA 5**

FOUR-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY  
**FROM: \$1740 PER NIGHT**  
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 8 PEOPLE

4  4  2 

This sophisticated villa has space for up to eight guests, making it ideal for a family or group looking for a stylish and effortless getaway. It offers an abundance of space, with an open-plan design, large entertaining area and state-of-the-art appliances. The Yacht Club Villa complex occupies a superb location at the end of Front Street, behind the landmark Hamilton Island Yacht Club. The villa overlooks landscaped gardens that open to a large, shared lagoon pool.



**WOODLANDS**

FIVE-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY  
**FROM: \$2000 PER NIGHT**  
MAXIMUM CAPACITY:10 PEOPLE

4  4  1 

Enjoy uninterrupted water views from almost every corner of this vast home. This spectacular multi-level property has sleek interiors, well-manicured gardens and a private plunge pool. It is also the perfect place to watch the sunset, offering an unforgettable island experience.



**SHORELINES 5**

THREE-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY  
**FROM: \$700 PER NIGHT**  
MAXIMUM CAPACITY:4 PEOPLE

2  2  1 

This apartment is just steps from the water, meaning unforgettable views over the turquoise Whitsunday waters. Take advantage of this spectacular elevated setting from the large covered outdoor entertaining space, which includes a dining setting for six people plus a barbecue.



**LAGOON LODGE 106**

THREE-NIGHT MINIMUM STAY  
**FROM: \$800 PER NIGHT**  
MAXIMUM CAPACITY:4 PEOPLE

2  2  1 

This first-floor apartment boasts modern interiors and glorious Coral Sea views. The living area opens onto an expansive balcony ideal for relaxing. It is conveniently placed a short walk to Catseye Beach, resort pools, restaurants and activities, making it an excellent option for families.

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

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