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BAN FOR KIDS EXPLAINED

BOOTLEG CELLAR DOOR
HOLIDAY OFFER

METRICON
DESIGN-LED LIVING

CATALINA RESTAURANT & BAR
A FLAVOUR FIESTA



Ted Grambeau
MASTER PHOTOGRAPHER'S NOMADIC LIFE

ap.





amir prestige

A MARKET **ON THE MOVE**

Words From Amir Mian
Principal – Amir Prestige

As we move further into 2025, the Gold Coast real estate market continues to evolve, offering exceptional opportunities for both buyers and sellers. We remain at the forefront of this landscape, consistently delivering premium results and setting new benchmarks.

With a dedicated team, an expansive database of over 150,000 clients, and an innovative marketing approach, our success speaks for itself.

This year alone, we have surpassed \$150 million in property sales, reinforcing our position as the leading luxury agency on the Gold Coast. Among our standout achievements are the landmark \$7,700,000 sale of '5 Kootingal Street, Ashmore', and two consecutive multi-million-dollar transactions in the prestigious 'Natura' building on 'The Esplanade, Burleigh Heads,' exceeding \$10,000,000.

With continued migration from NSW and Victoria, we are seeing increased demand from interstate buyers who are prepared to pay a premium for Gold Coast properties—particularly in the waterfront, beachfront, and acreage sectors.

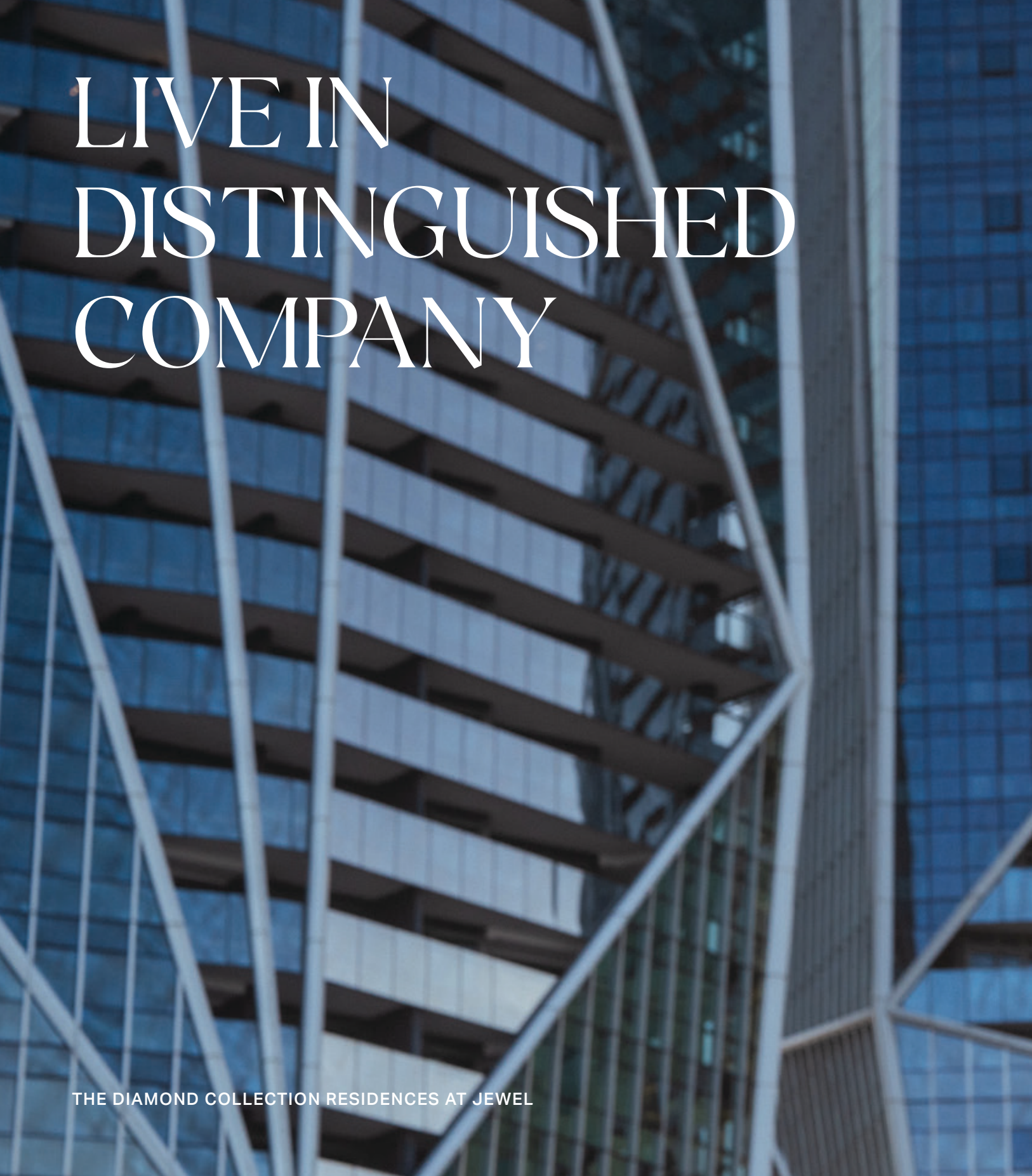
For those considering selling, now is the opportune moment to capitalise on heightened demand and tightening stock levels.

With seven offices across the Gold Coast and Northern NSW, we remain committed to delivering an unparalleled level of service. If you're considering buying or selling, now is the time to take action. Contact us today for an exclusive market insight and discover how we can help you achieve your real estate goals.



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The image is a high-quality architectural rendering of a modern building's exterior. A large, curved concrete structure with a series of thick, cylindrical columns dominates the upper half of the frame. The columns are partially covered in climbing green vines. In the foreground, a swimming pool with clear blue water reflects the sky and the building. The pool is surrounded by lush landscaping, including various tropical plants like palm trees and agaves, and several large, circular concrete planters. The overall atmosphere is one of sophisticated luxury and modern design.

A NEW ERA OF LUXURY

ROYALE GOLD COAST



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CYCLONE ALFRED A RESILIENT GOLD COAST FACES THE STORM

Cyclone Alfred hit the Gold Coast with fierce force, reminding us of nature's unpredictable power. The storm, which finally made landfall, brought torrential rain, intense winds, and widespread damage, affecting homes, businesses, and beaches from Surfers

Paradise to Coolangatta and beyond. Winds reached up to 130 km/h, uprooting trees, damaging buildings, and

knocking out power to thousands. For days, parts of the Gold Coast were in darkness, as crews worked tirelessly to restore electricity. In addition to the devastation of property, coastal erosion took a heavy toll on our beaches. Sand dunes and beachfront infrastructure were destroyed, and familiar landmarks like cafes and boardwalks were swept away. The sight of these beloved spaces vanishing left many in shock, highlighting how vulnerable our coastline is to the forces of nature.

Yet, while the storm wreaked havoc, it also created extraordinary conditions for surfers. Cyclone Alfred brought massive swells, transforming the southern Gold Coast into a surfer's paradise. The iconic Kirra Barrels, known worldwide for their perfect, hollow waves, came to life with conditions rarely seen (pictured above by Ted Grambeau). Surfers from around Australia and beyond flocked to the southern beaches, chasing the once-in-a-lifetime waves that offered long, fast barrels. It was a surreal contrast: while the storm left destruction in its wake, it also showcased the natural beauty of the Gold Coast's surf breaks, proving once again why this stretch of coast is considered a global surf mecca.

For local businesses, the storm posed significant challenges. Many were forced to close for days, impacting the tourism-driven economy. Yet, the resilience of the Gold Coast community shone through. Businesses quickly adapted, offering takeaway services, while neighbors looked out for one another, ensuring that those in need had support. In the aftermath of the storm, the focus turned to recovery, and the conversation about the future of our coastline intensified. Coastal erosion has become a pressing issue, with experts calling for sustainable measures to protect our beaches from future storms. Cyclone Alfred may have tested us, but it didn't break us. The Gold Coast is known for its resilience, and this storm was no exception. As our community rebuilds, the spirit of togetherness and determination is clear. While Alfred left its mark on the city, it also reminded us of the unique beauty and strength of our coast.

In the end, the Gold Coast has weathered storms before, and it will weather them again. The beaches will be rebuilt, businesses will reopen, and surfers will return to the perfect barrels of Kirra. Through it all, the heart of this community remains unshaken. Here's to the recovery, the rebuilding, and the enduring spirit of the Gold Coast.

Regards,

Brian Usher

Managing Director, Editor-in-Chief & Photographer

Melissa Usher

Fashion & Beauty Editor, Social Media



**CHRIS
NYST**

Shares his wisdom on life matters that may affect us.



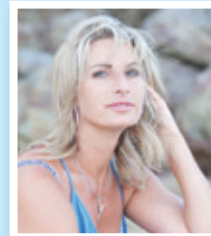
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Over the past 13 years, we have worked hard to diversify our city's economy. Today, our city's Gross Regional Product (GRP) is \$45 billion, a 50 percent increase on 2012 (\$30 billion annually).

This has resulted in the Gold Coast boasting Australia's fastest-growing economy. Massive growth in industries such as marine, screen, sports administration, health and knowledge, the arts, light manufacturing and IT have anchored that growth.

Growth is good but not if it comes at the expense of debt. In 2012 when I was first elected, City debt was heading for \$1 billion. Over the past four elections, I have directed the administration to deliver two key objectives: deliver low annual rate increases (at, or below CPI) and deliver greater efficiency of services for ratepayers.

The organisation has been heavily restructured, operational efficiencies are now core business and we have reduced our City debt to around \$495 million (at the end of 2024/25). As a comparison, Brisbane City Council's debt is now north of \$4 billion.

With 2025 in full swing, Council is increasing its focus on nature-based tourism. Late last year, we shortlisted our preferred options for a range of City-led projects to kickstart the Gold Coast's Nature-Based Tourism Program. One of these initiatives included the acquisition of a major property in Springbrook. In late 2024, we finalised the purchase of Eaglemont Estate adjacent to Springbrook National Park, consisting of five land parcels covering 63.17 hectares and just a short walk to Purlingbrook Falls. This acquisition presents a fantastic opportunity to drive nature-based tourism and improve community infrastructure for those in the area.

Investing in this idyllic property will enhance community and tourism infrastructure while encouraging visitors to stay longer. It will also improve amenities for locals.

Apart from Springbrook, we are investigating low-impact eco-accommodation paired with immersive nature-based experiences, upgraded walking experiences in the hinterland, as well as enhancements to Tipplers on South Stradbroke Island and eco-experiences in the Broadwater.

The public will be invited to have its say on all these proposals, once we have draft plans to release. Importantly, all nature-based tourism projects will combine environmental preservation with enhancing visitor experiences, while providing economic growth for the city. A renewed focus on nature-based tourism will create new ways for locals and visitors to explore our natural city.

The other recommended City-led projects include:

- Numinbah Valley – improvements to the Gold Coast Hinterland Great Walk and Woonoongoora Eco-Camp;
- Austinvilla – eco-accommodation and trail establishment;
- South Stradbroke Island – nature-based tourism enhancements to Tipplers precinct hub; and
- The Broadwater – eco-cabins and greater marine tourism experiences.

With 2025 off to a cracking start, let's celebrate the Green behind the Gold and continue to create one of the world's best lifestyle cities.

Tom Tate – Mayor



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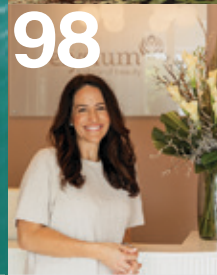
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Master photographer Ted Grambeau saw the light a long time ago, even before he first looked through the viewfinder and clicked the shutter as a young man. Not for him a life spent working 9-5 to accumulate assets and wealth before retirement. For him, it's never been about the destination, but rather the journey, with the world his oyster and no real place to call home. The life of a nomad.

THE NOMADIC LIFE OF TED GRAMBEAU:

A JOURNEY THROUGH LIGHT, WAVES, AND MEMORIES



Ted Grambeau in Maldives by Jon Frank

"My whole mission statement is to have experiences in life, and that is my wealth," Grambeau, who recently turned 70, tells Ocean Road at a café near his Currumbin bolthole. "I'm not taking money or a Lamborghini with me when I die, I'm taking experiences."

Renowned as one of the world's foremost surfing and ocean photographers, with a catalogue of stunning images from his globetrotting escapades to some of the world's most remote and far-flung destinations, Grambeau's life could have taken a much more traditional path had he not been bitten by wanderlust very early on.

Hailing from Victoria's Gippsland region, Grambeau was studying economics at Melbourne's La Trobe University when he had "a bit of a mid-life crisis"—well, an early-life crisis, really.

"At that stage, I was very young and thought 'why am I doing economics?'. At that stage, I knew that all I wanted to do was travel," he says.

Words: Greg Pride Photography: Ted Grambeau & Trent Mitchell



“
My whole mission
statement is to have
experiences in life, and
that is my wealth.

Rodrigo Renosa a Peruvian surfer finds himself in worst nightmare as he gets sucked backwards over the falls at the world's most dangerous break "Teahupoo", in Tahiti.

Grambeau was into surfing but suffered a knee injury playing footy and had taken up photography as a weekend hobby between studies.

"So I went back to RMIT (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology) and did a commercial photography course, thinking that—at worst—I could use it in my travels as a bit of fun," he says.

"Not long after that, companies started to offer me trips where they were paying me to go away to Bali and so forth to photograph surfers. My travel was getting paid for, and I was getting paid for turning up."

Major surf brands Billabong, Quiksilver, and Rip Curl had sprung up and were starting to go global, and Grambeau became one of their go-to photographers.

"I was working directly for magazines like *Surfer* in America and *Surfing Life* in Australia," he recalls. "The surf brands were growing quite rapidly, so they weren't just after action shots (of their team riders), but they were also needing commercial photos of their products, almost like a fashion industry."

"So I was one of the few people who was taking surf photos who also had a background in commercial photography, and that really worked out well. And I guess if there was a forte that I brought to the table, it was looking for new places and surf adventure photography."

It was around that time that Rip Curl launched its iconic *The Search* campaign, taking team riders—including American great Tom Curren—on exotic surf safaris around the globe for films and magazine features.

"It was a marriage made in heaven for me," Grambeau says.

"I still did work for the other big brands (Billabong and Quiksilver), but predominantly, the relationship was with Rip Curl. I'd propose the locations and tee up the surfers with Rip Curl."

"I was working for *Surfer* at the time, and they (the surf brands) wanted to have their surfers in the magazine. The magazine liked it because I could get access to the top surfers through the (surf) companies, so it was a really nice symbiosis and collaboration."

Then along came renowned surf exploration adventurer Martin Daly, skipper of the famed *Indies Trader*, with whom Grambeau teamed up for voyages of discovery on projects including *The Search*, Quiksilver's *The Crossing*, and the Billabong *Odyssey*.

"Martin's been a best friend over the years and that relationship still extends," he says. "He's got a surf adventure empire, I guess, that's at the forefront in the top end of surf adventure travel. And I do a bit of work with him still, we're great mates."

"I think there was just this golden period of 20 years of discovering waves, and now surfing's probably boomed more than ever with people of all sorts of incomes. But particularly, there's a market in very high-income earners wanting fun surfs."

"There are very well-heeled people now that are into surfing. Not millionaires, but billionaires, and they're just infatuated with surfing. They're "discovering" places I discovered 20 or 30 years ago."

Over the years, Grambeau has travelled with and photographed the world's best surfers, including world champions Tom Curren, Tom Carroll, Mick Fanning, and John John Florence, riding and documenting breaks from the iconic to the unknown.

"I've probably had the best run of connections with Tom Curren, the legendary American surfer," he says.

"I've worked a lot with Mick, who was fantastic to work with and a great bloke and probably one of my favourite surfers. But the earlier work with Tom Curren tends to fall into a number of historic moments. I think his first wave at J-Bay (Jeffreys Bay in South Africa) at the time was just a very well-surfed wave that I documented, but later on it became a measuring stick for all waves surfed at J-Bay."



Mark Mathews inside the vortex of a Teahupoost.

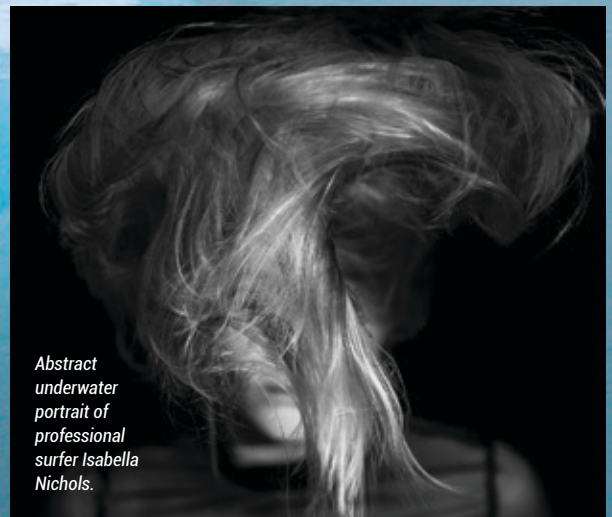
Kelly Slater the world's greatest ever competitive surfer.



Mick Fanning alongside a Silverback Gorilla in the wild in Rwanda for Mick's surf film "Missing".



Abstract underwater portrait of professional surfer Isabella Nichols.





Ted Grambeau by Jon Frank.



Silhouette at Snapper Rocks during Cyclone Alfred.



Extreme ocean during Cyclone Alfred.



Ted Grambeau with waterhousing by Trent Mitchel.



Ted Grambeau immersed in Iceland by James Taylor.

“

*I'm not taking money or
a Lamborghini with me
when I die, I'm taking
experiences.*

*I've probably had the best run of connections with
Tom Curren, the legendary American surfer.*

Surfer Adam Wickwire plunges in to frigid waters of Iceland during a wetsuit shoot for Rip Curl.

"So nothing's historic when you shoot it, but later on it gets put into that category and becomes historic... so that was one with Tom. Then I had another session with Tom at a place we named Fish Bowls in Indonesia, and it was a famous session because Tom surfed a very small board (called a fireball fish) made by Tommy Peterson (brother of Gold Coast surfing legend Michael 'MP' Peterson) in about 10-12ft surf. So that became quite famous.

"I also shot Tom at Pipeline on probably one of the most perfect Backdoor waves ever surfed. I shot that on film, almost 36 shots of him surfing this wave, and it became a historic sequence in retrospect."

Grambeau landed his first of many surfing magazine covers in the early '80s with surfing's other world champion Tom, Australia's Tommy Carroll.

"It was a shot of him surfing Sunset (in Hawaii) for Surfing World, which was—and still is in some sense—the bastion of glossy surfing magazines. (Publishers) Bruce Channon and Hugh McLeod were very artistic in their approach and interpretation of surfing, and Surfing World was less about news and more about beautiful presentation.

"Bruce and Hugh also produced some books on Hawaii at that time, and I had some incredible shots of the volcano going off on the Big Island. So it was just like a dream come true when you start to see your work published. And covers were a real measuring stick, a badge of honour, so to speak."

Grambeau also formed a close bond with Peter Morrison, publisher of Gold Coast-based Surfing Life, scoring dozens of covers for what also became one of the world's top surf magazines. He was the only non-American whose work was featured in a hardcover book called Masters of Surf Photography, showcasing the doyens of the craft such as Jeff Devine, Warren Bolster, and Tom Servais.

He has produced two books in his own right—The Surfer and The Mermaid, a children's book in collaboration with renowned surfing journalist Tim Baker, and Adventures in Light, his seminal coffee-table tome featuring stunning and ethereal images from his four decades travelling the globe.

"Books are not a moneymaking prospect but they probably end up being your biggest badge of honour—every photographer wants to have a book," he says.

"I think I've still got a few books left in me. It's an interesting phase of your life, when I think all people (aged) 50-plus probably realise they have the most knowledge they've ever had in a particular industry, but it seems to be harder to actually get work because they're not at the right cocktail parties or whatever to get the job."

Grambeau has visited more than 100 countries and I ask him if he has a favourite.

"Tahiti is clearly one of the favourites because of the image-creation potential—it's just like a beautiful watercolour," he says.



Legong Dancer shedding a tear Bali.

“
Books are not
a moneymaking prospect,
but they probably
end up being
your biggest
badge of honour.

Underwater portrait of young model Aminah Ada.

Carnival Rio Brazil.

Madame Pele Volcano erupting on Big Island of Hawaii.

"It's got the world's best surfers residing there for those particular waves and the lifestyle, and the people there are like family to me. I've had some great trips around Australia, which is definitely the lucky country and will always be home.

"But as a photographer, it's the new places that I really like. I've had multiple trips to Iceland, and the lighting in Iceland for a photographer is amazing. It's such a high latitude, the sun never goes down – it's almost always just below the clouds – and it's quite photogenic in every aspect.

"Norway's another favourite, and Russia. The cold-climate places are really good to me for that lighting aspect. You'll get horrible weather followed by just amazing moments of beautiful light. But then you've got places that are not unlike Australia, like Namibia, which I find really fascinating with some perfect waves.

"I've been to Liberia and Russia and Madagascar and Mozambique—all these bizarre places—in the name of surf. I would see surfers go to these places and just go there for surf and turn around and go home, whereas I'd be in Peru and I want to go up and see Machu Picchu and shoot over to Bolivia. And I had young kids (surfers) with me that just wanted to get home for Friday night at the pub, and I was like, 'you're kidding!'

"Places like Liberia, which had just come out of a civil war and is a tragedy, but almost blossoming again with peace, are fascinating. I think travel is one of the best educations you can have. I think all our politicians should have had to travel because they would learn a little bit about the world and not be as bigoted. They would understand that wars don't solve anything, that both sides lose. And it's a really interesting thing, being the minority person, a white person and everyone's black or something like that. And you start to appreciate what prejudice really is."

Grambeau has been to Israel, where he was struck by the local population's passion for surfing and welcoming ways.

"They've got a pretty big surfing culture and I was treated incredibly well there," he says.

"I was trying to do a trip into Gaza because one of the surfers had this program, Surfing for Peace, and it was trying to bridge the gap through surfing.

"But from being an observer in a sense, I could see the writing was on the wall for Israel—there was a nurturing of

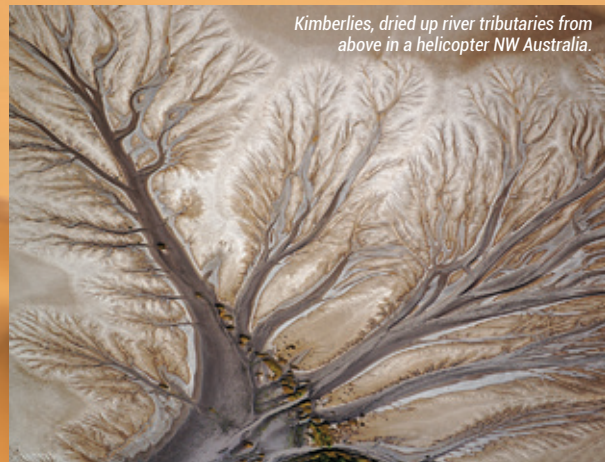
discontent that was so extreme it was going to blow up. And it literally has blown up recently. And again, I wish countries could learn by having the best relationships with their neighbours. I fully appreciate the complexity of the history and the nature of those things, but we do have to learn from history and we don't seem to learn a lot of the time.

"So, on a global scale, I'd love politicians to start to understand that you can't just keep building fences and firing rockets at each other and think that solves anything."

*Model "Got Maul"
portrait in water.*



*Kimberlies, dried up river tributaries from
above in a helicopter NW Australia.*



tedgrambeauphotography.com
*Fine Art Images of both
Action and Art
(Anything to do with water)*



Surfing, Grambeau believes, unites people.

"I'll run into people from all different nationalities in similar destinations," he says.

"I'll see them in Indonesia, I'll see them in Nazare, I'll see them in South Africa or Namibia or Tahiti or even much more remote places. And it's the same people from different nationalities and there's a link and a bond that is very strong with surfing. It's almost like a common language in a sense and can be used to unite people, to actually get them on the same page. You know, 'he's not bad, he loves to surf'."

Grambeau has had more than his share of adventurous and at-times hairy travels, from hitchhiking from Morocco across Algeria to Tunisia in his youth to a motorbike trek from Los Angeles down to Patagonia and numerous trips through war-torn Africa.

He was on a trucking trip in Africa, seeing the gorillas, when they stopped at a border checkpoint.

"A little guy comes running out and says 'hello mister, it's not safe for you to be here—the Zairians are shooting people today,'" he says.

"So we drive back down the road and see masses of people hanging around. And apparently, there was an incident at the border and the guard, who had been drunk, shot two people and one of them he didn't kill and got back to the village.

"The villagers came back with machetes and chopped up the guard into little pieces. And we had arrived about an hour after that. We went through the border (checkpoint) the next day and there were chairs through the window.

Surfers hike up a massive sand dune in Namibia, SW Africa.



“

For me, the last few decades have been about enjoying the journey.



Ted Grambeau at Four Seasons in Maldives courtesy Tropi Surf.

There was a guy just giving a stamp and the place was in disarray and he's like 'oh no, it's okay today everything's fine'. So you travel to cheap places, and life's cheap."

Then there was the time Grambeau was thrown out of a boat by a monster wave at treacherous Tahitian break Teahupoo. He wasn't hurt, but lost \$30,000 worth of camera gear and, more painfully, a killer image of an extreme bodyboarder taking on the notorious big-wave spot.

"I've had lots of heavy experiences that sometimes at the time you don't even think are heavy because you're blundering through places," he says

"There probably no more scary experience than being thrown out of a boat by a 12-15ft wave at 'Chopes' (Teahupoo), but I think just living is a dangerous occupation (laughs). Just trying to stay fit and healthy is probably my biggest aim lately, so I can extend my photographic agenda for a longer period.

"For me, the last few decades have been about enjoying the journey. I know surfing's not the be all and end all of everything, it's just a reason to go somewhere. And I get to smell the roses by documenting cultures, people and places, something 90% of the population doesn't have an opportunity to do.

"Travel does enhance or refines your values compassion, understanding and tolerance, the sort of things which are essential for everyday life.

"We just seem to be in such a fast-paced 24-hour cycle of life at the moment, and it's all based on accumulation and not experiences. You can't buy those experiences all at the end and go, 'oh, I'm about to retire and I've got the most money I've ever had, but I can't do anything now. I'm too old'.

"Now I just want to take the best photos that I can take. It's still a really exciting time in my photographic life and I literally have too many things I want to still do."



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The Burgundy of Italy has a King and Queen!

EXPLORING THE ALLURE OF NEBBIOLO, BAROLO AND BARBARESCO.

Words: **Peter Panousis – Wine Consultant, Wine Writer, Educator and Fine Wine Specialist**

Nebbiolo's unique qualities and ability to reflect its environment have led to a growing interest among wine enthusiasts worldwide, making it a must-try for anyone looking to explore the depth and diversity of Italian wines. Whether enjoyed young for its vibrant fruit or aged to reveal complex layers, Nebbiolo remains a captivating choice for wine lovers. As Jancis Robinson, the esteemed wine writer, states... "If Pinot Noir is the world's most tantalizing grape, Nebbiolo runs a close second and for very similar reasons." Enter Nebbiolo from the specific region of Piedmont and hail the Italian King and Queen of wine, otherwise known as Barolo and Barbaresco... and for me, I'll take both!

WHAT IS NEBBIOLO?

Nebbiolo, pronounced neeby-oh-low, is a small to medium, ellipsoidal-shaped grape with a consistent blue-black, thick-skinned exterior. The bunches are medium-large, pyramidal, winged, elongated, and of medium tightness. The variety is early-budding and late-ripening; it needs long periods of sunshine to ripen fully, which clearly determines where it grows. The history of the variety dates back to around the 13th century, and Ampelographers (those who study botany and specifically grapes) believe that Nebbiolo is indigenous to the Piedmont region of Italy. Although there is some DNA evidence to suggest that it could have originated in the nearby Valtellina area of northern Lombardy, Italy. Oz Clarke, from his Grape Encyclopaedia book, wrote the first explicit mention of Nebbiolo dates back to 1268, in which a wine known

as "nibiolo" was described as growing in Rivoli near Turin. This was followed by a 1303 account of a producer in the Roero district of Italy describing a barrel of "Nebbiolo". Further to these historic accounts and through DNA testing, conclusions were made that its parents are thought to be extinct now, though it is impossible to determine whether it was originally from Piedmont or Valtellina.

The grape's name is thought to be derived from the Italian word "nebbia," meaning fog, alluding to the misty conditions often present during the grape's harvest season. Nebbiolo has long been associated with prestige, symbolizing the aristocracy of Piedmontese wines, and is one of Italy's most prized grape varieties. As a variety, it is held in the highest regard by winemakers and wine drinkers across the world.

Nebbiolo is quite finicky and does not grow well in all soils or climates. In terms of its profile, Nebbiolo makes wines with high levels of acidity and tannins, making them a little tight and austere in their youth but providing enough backbone to make them particularly age-worthy. The wines show cherry, plum, and strawberry fruit, backed by floral notes like rose and violet, along with tar, leather, liquorice, and herbs. With age, Nebbiolo's tannins soften, its colour turns to a brick hue, and its flavour profile develops notes of dried fruit, game meats, mushrooms, and sometimes truffle, but usually with pronounced earthy notes.

BAROLO OR BARBARESCO?

Clearly, the King and Queen of Italian

wine are Barolo and Barbaresco, and both are made with Nebbiolo. Barolo and Barbaresco are also classified as DOCG, an acronym for Denominazione di Origine Controllata e Garantita, meaning "Denomination of origin has been inspected and guaranteed" and representing the highest quality. Although Barolo is much older, both received DOCG classification in 1980. Specifically, Barolo is regarded as the King, as it's quite masculine due to growing in less fertile soil, making the wine higher in tannins, slightly more powerful, and age-worthy. Barbaresco, on the other hand, is more feminine and is known as the Queen because the grapes grow in more fertile soil, resulting in softer tannins, slightly less powerful, and can be consumed younger.

Barolo is produced in the Barolo wine region, which is located to the southwest of Alba, while Barbaresco comes from the Barbaresco region, situated to the northeast of Alba, about 20 km away, also in the northwest of Italy, closer to the Tanaro River. The main difference between these two regions is the soil structure. Both have calcareous marl soil, which is basically a lime-rich, clay-based soil. The lime-based soil adds a much higher pH, which in turn makes the vine produce grapes with a low pH. Specifically, grapes with a low pH have much higher acidity, and this is vital for producing wines of very high quality and age-worthiness.

On the other hand, Barbaresco's soil is much sandier and softer than that found



in Barolo, even though the core structural formation of calcareous marl is the same. The soil structure in Barbaresco is also much higher in nutrients, which assists the vine in producing less tannin. As a result, the wines of Barbaresco are softer and more approachable than those of Barolo.

With regards to aging requirements, Barolo must be aged for a minimum of 38 months (with at least 18 months in wood barrels) before release, and it often benefits from longer aging, with Barolo Riserva being aged for a minimum of five years. On the other hand, Barbaresco has a shorter aging requirement, with a minimum of 24 months (with at least 9 months in wood), making it typically more approachable in its youth. Barbaresco Riserva must be aged a minimum of four years.

When it comes to flavour profiles, Barolo often exhibits deeper, more powerful flavours, with more pronounced tannins and a complex bouquet of red fruit, rose petals, liquorice, and earthy notes. Alternatively, Barbaresco tends to be more elegant and softer in style, showcasing vibrant cherry, floral aromas, and subtle spice, with a slightly less pronounced tannin structure. Also, Barolo is generally considered fuller-bodied and more robust, making it suitable for extended aging, while Barbaresco is usually lighter and more refined, offering a more immediate drinkability, but will improve with aging.

WHAT FOOD PAIRS WELL WITH BAROLO AND BARBARESCO?

Technically, they are both made from Nebbiolo, therefore the rules for pairing with food should be the same. But notwithstanding that, Barbaresco is lighter than the two and therefore should be paired with lighter food than Barolo. But remember, when pairing food with Barolo, keep the food simple. One does not want to overpower the wine with too many flavours and miss the magic of Barolo's finesse and aromatic expressions. At the same time, one needs enough protein to match the tannins and structure of the wine.

Dishes like slow-cooked beef brisket, roast beef, and perhaps beef cheek ragout are just some of the dishes that come to mind to partner with this grape variety.

I maintain the weight of the food has to match the weight of the wine, and vice-versa. Consequently, bigger wines for bigger-flavoured foods and or meat dishes, and alternatively, lighter wines for lighter-flavoured and delicate foods. Therefore, Nebbiolo will do the trick with its varied styles, especially with meat protein-based dishes. They also work particularly well with hard cheeses, risottos, mushrooms, and pasta dishes.

WHAT TO CONSIDER...

From my favorite pocket in La Murra, Piedmont is Cannubi, so try Serio & Battista Borgogno Barolo Cannubi DOCG. Cannubi is regarded as a Cru-class wine (meaning a great or superior growing site or vineyard) of Barolo, with a history dating back to 1752. The Cannubi site has elevations of around 280 to 300 meters and consists of sand, clay, and limestone soil structure. The area is southeast-facing and is considered fantastic exposure because of its bright, softer morning sun and time to cool off the grapes during the afternoon and evening as the sun sets. This is a family-owned estate with a long history of well over 120 years of family traditions, passion, and expertise. The

winery is now run by daughters Anna and Paola Borgogno, Federica Boffa, Emanuela Bolla, the fifth generation of the family, and Marco Bolla. Their Barolo is made from vines that are a minimum of 40 years old. The wine is macerated in wooden vats with pump-over, the juice is then fermented in stainless steel, and aged for a minimum of 30 months in large-format Slovenian oak barrels (of 2500 – 5000 litres capacity). The wine is quite masculine with a deep ruby colour and has aromas of roses and balsamic. The palate is complex and brooding, yet with wild strawberry and blueberry jam notes, finishing with grippy tannins. Try it with a big hearty meal of steak, rib-eye, or a ragout of beef cheek on pappardelle.

Try Prinsi Barbaresco D.O.C.G. The Prinsi vineyard is located in Neive in the Piedmont region, about 50 km southeast of Turin. The Prinsi vineyard is owned by the Lequio family and has been farming and making wine for three generations. The vineyard is approximately 25 hectares

in size and mainly grows Nebbiolo for Barbaresco, with some minor plantings of Barbera. Since 1999, after graduating, Daniele, the son, is the grower and winemaker for Prinsi. The grapes are grown from vineyards with elevations of 320 meters on soil of marl and clay.

The wine is beautifully feminine with a garnet ruby colour. On the nose, there are persistent notes of cinnamon, roses, and pepper, while the palate is soft and elegant with notes of vanilla acquired from the 30 months of maturation in small French oak barrels. Try this wine with roast lamb or beef, or slow-cooked or braised lamb shanks. But this is also a wine that can be sipped on its own.

Palladino was started in 1974 and is family-run and operated. The property is roughly 11 hectares in size and has multiple vineyards, including a 2-hectare site in the prized Serralunga commune in the heart of the Langhe region. Barolo from Serralunga is usually elegant, and the soils mainly consist of clay and limestone. The good exposure to sunlight from both east and west-facing slopes contributes to the darling qualities of this commune.

The wine is aged in old Botti barrels, which are large capacity and made from Slovenian oak. The wine is matured for around 24 months but may see some initial fermentation in concrete. It receives a further six months of aging in the bottle before release. The wine has notes of rose, violets with spice, liquorice, and nutmeg. The colour is garnet red, while the palate is soft yet well-structured with good acidity and tannins.

This is a serious wine and needs to be enjoyed with serious food, like rich red meat such as Wagyu. The wine will also work well with rib-eye, Osso Bucco, Cottage Pie, or Greek-style Moussaka. Barolo will also pair wonderfully with cheese, particularly hard salty cheeses like Pecorino or Parmigiano. The wine has received many awards, including 92 points from the famous wine scribe James Suckling.

■ **Enjoy and happy but safe drinking. You can catch Peter on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram as @peterpanwine**





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TEQUILA & TACO TUESDAYS AT CATALINA: A FIESTA OF FLAVOUR BY THE BROADWATER

The Gold Coast's vibrant dining scene is about to get a whole lot spicier! Catalina, the beloved waterfront venue known for its stunning Broadwater views and fresh, innovative cuisine, is launching an exciting new weekly event—Tequila & Taco Tuesdays. Get ready for a midweek escape into a world of bold flavours, handcrafted cocktails, and the finest selection of premium tequilas on the coast.



A TASTE OF MEXICO WITH A CATALINA TWIST

Taco Tuesdays have never been this indulgent. Catalina's culinary team has curated a mouthwatering menu of Mexican-inspired fusion dishes, bringing together fresh local ingredients with the bold and zesty flavours of Mexico. Think slow-cooked pork carnitas tacos with pineapple salsa, crispy beer-battered snapper with chipotle aioli, and succulent beef birria with rich consommé for dipping. And for the plant-based foodies, there will also be an array of delicious vegetarian and vegan options to ensure everyone can join the fiesta.

EVERY TUESDAY:
Fresh Tacos, Premium Tequila & a Vibrant Broadwater Atmosphere



GOLD COAST'S LARGEST TEQUILA SELECTION

No tequila lover will want to miss this. Catalina proudly boasts the largest selection of premium tequilas on the Gold Coast, and Tequila & Taco Tuesdays will be the perfect opportunity to explore the artistry behind Mexico's most celebrated spirit. From smooth sipping Añejos to crisp, citrusy Blancos, the dedicated tequila bar will offer curated tasting paddles, expert pairings, and signature tequila-based cocktails that elevate the entire dining experience.

Sip on a perfectly crafted margarita, a smoky mezcal Paloma, or dare to try one of the specialty tequila infusions that the Catalina bartenders have been passionately creating behind the scenes. Whether you're a seasoned tequila aficionado or a curious newcomer, there's a pour for every palate.



TUESDAYS JUST BECAME YOUR NEW FAVOURITE NIGHT

With live Latin-inspired DJ music setting the mood and the unbeatable combination of tacos and tequila, Catalina's Tequila & Taco Tuesdays will be the ultimate weekly ritual for foodies, cocktail lovers, and social butterflies alike. It's the perfect way to shake up your routine, catch up with friends, or simply soak in the waterfront ambience while savouring a fiesta of flavours. So, why wait for the weekend? Let Catalina bring the party to your Tuesday nights. Whether you're in it for the tacos, the tequila, or the irresistible energy of it all, one thing's for certain—you won't want to miss a single bite (or sip) of this weekly fiesta!

Tequila & Taco Tuesdays—launching soon at Catalina on the Broadwater. Gather your crew, bring your appetite, and get ready for a night of unforgettable flavours. Visit cafecatalina.com.au to book your table now!



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Arakawa is a modern Japanese dining experience like no other. The name "Arakawa," meaning "wild river," reflects the dynamic and seamless blend of tradition and innovation that defines the restaurant. Here, every visit is a meticulously curated culinary and beverage journey that captivates the senses and elevates your dining experience.

From the moment you step inside, Arakawa immerses you in its unique atmosphere. The vibrant murals of Japanese women dressed in traditional attire evoke a sense of grace and movement, offering a subtle nod to Japan's rich cultural heritage while infusing the space with contemporary flair. Dark flooring and accents throughout the restaurant provide a striking contrast, allowing the vivid colours, intricate textures, and delicate garnishes crafted by the talented chefs to take centre stage.

At Arakawa, dining is not just about eating – it's a sensory adventure. Each dish is a work of art, showcasing precision and technique in every bite. Whether you're enjoying expertly cut sushi or perfectly arranged sashimi, every plate is

thoughtfully composed with the utmost care. À la carte dishes are plated with a fine-tuned aesthetic, where every ingredient is purposefully chosen and every presentation a visual delight. If you're looking to enhance your experience, choose the thrill of the Teppanyaki tables, where the performance of cooking becomes a show in itself. Looking for a more intimate dining experience, try our traditional tatami tables.

Arakawa is not just a restaurant; it's a destination for those who appreciate the finer things in life. Whether you're celebrating a special occasion or simply enjoying a casual yet elegant meal, Arakawa offers a dining experience that is both luxurious and approachable. The restaurant effortlessly caters to every occasion, making it the perfect setting for both long-time Gold Coast locals and guests of RACV Royal Pines Resort.

For those seeking the finest in Japanese cuisine, Arakawa promises an unforgettable dining experience, combining culinary mastery with a truly immersive atmosphere. With every meal, it's clear why this exceptional venue has become one of the Gold Coast's most sought-after dining destinations.

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TRUST FUNDS: *getting your share faster*

Q. I'm the beneficiary of a trust, and I do not want to wait years to receive my share of the trust property. Is it possible for me to get my share earlier?

Words: **Brendan Nyst** Dispute Resolution & Litigation, Wills & Estates, Defamation, Nyst Legal www.nystlegal.com.au

This is a common question, particularly in relation to testamentary trusts. In my experience, many people, when deciding on the terms of their final will and testament, choose to set up testamentary trusts that effectively 'drip-feed' the bequeathed assets to their children and other loved ones over an extended period. Structuring trust

distributions in this manner can be quite attractive to a cautious testator keen to ensure their beneficiaries don't injudiciously squander their inheritance in one fell swoop. However, from the recipient's perspective, not being able to access their inheritance promptly can be frustrating and, in some cases, financially distressing. For this reason, I often have beneficiaries approach me to inquire whether there is any way they can sidestep the terms of the trust and access their share immediately.

The answer is potentially yes, subject to certain requirements.

Notwithstanding the terms of any given trust, it is possible for the beneficiaries to terminate it to enable them to immediately receive their share of the assets. Provided the beneficiaries have an absolute indefeasible vested interest in the trust assets, and there is unanimous consent among them to terminate the trust, the beneficiaries can bring it to an end. Indeed, even where there is not unanimous agreement among the beneficiaries, a beneficiary may be entitled to have their interest in the trust property paid out to them, provided that doing so does not prejudice the interests of the other beneficiaries.

“
THE ANSWER IS
POTENTIALLY
YES, SUBJECT
TO CERTAIN
REQUIREMENTS.”

From the perspective of the nominated trustee of the trust, the question of whether the trustee should, or is entitled to, pay out a beneficiary's share of trust property upon request requires careful consideration. If there is a request for one or more beneficiaries to receive their entitlements immediately, it is open

to the trustee to apply to the courts for directions regarding whether they are legally entitled to pay out the beneficiary. The Trusts Act 1973 provides that trustees can seek advice from a court regarding any action they may be considering in relation to the trust, including the

prospective termination of the trust or early payout to a particular beneficiary. Seeking this direction allows the trustee to ensure that their proposed actions are lawful and that they will not face personal liability for their decisions.

Ultimately, whether the court will allow the trustee to terminate the trust depends on the specific facts of the matter at hand and the wording of the trust. Therefore, for those testators keen to ensure their final wishes are faithfully upheld, it is important that their legal representative gives very close consideration to the wording of their will.



Australia's new SOCIAL MEDIA BAN FOR KIDS *EXPLAINED*



**NEW LEGISLATION SEEKS
TO LIMIT YOUNG AUSTRALIANS'
ACCESS TO MAJOR SOCIAL
MEDIA PLATFORMS, BUT
THE POTENTIAL IMPACT IS
STILL UP FOR DEBATE.**

Words:
Caitlin Lea & Yvette Holt,
Southern Cross University
Lifestyle Photography:
freekpi.com
Portrait Photography:
Southern Cross University



“Social media can really pull in two different directions for children. There are the very well-established harms, but it’s also quite important in helping marginalised children find their people”

**– Yvette Holt
SCU LAW LECTURER**

Over two hours a day. Or 14.4 hours a week. That is how long Australian teenagers are reported to spend on social media platforms, according to the Australian eSafety Commissioner.

The internet, and social media in particular, has played an increasingly significant role in the social and emotional lives of Australian teenagers. From Snapchat streaks to TikTok trends, ‘get ready with me’ reels, and group chats on Messenger – for many young people, it’s as much a part of daily life as doing homework or watching TV.

But things could be about to change. Under a controversial new law, which comes into force at the end of 2025, youth under 16 will not be permitted to hold an account on social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, and X.

Southern Cross University Law Lecturer Yvette Holt explains how ‘on paper’ this new legislation proposes to protect young Australians, but how it could have unintended – and harmful – consequences.

“The Social Media Minimum Age Act amends the existing Online Safety Act. This requires age-restricted social media platforms to take reasonable steps to prevent anyone under the age of 16 from holding an account,” Ms Holt said.

“This legislation is the first of its kind globally and places the obligation on social media companies, rather than parents, to ensure compliance.”

Currently, messaging apps and online games such as Fortnite and Minecraft do not fall under the ban. YouTube is also exempt due to its use for educational purposes.

While social media companies will have a period of 12 months to comply with the new laws, once they are in effect, they are liable for penalties of up to \$50 million for a corporation or \$10 million for an individual if breached.

Penalties do not apply to age-restricted users, or their parents, carers, or educators.

A national survey on children and social media by the eSafety Commissioner reveals that most 8 to 12-year-old children in Australia have used social media or messaging services, despite

being under the age limit. So how will this new law be enforced?

“The government is undertaking a trial on age assurance technology. By the end of the year when the law comes into effect, the government will be able to give a clearer outline of what constitutes reasonable steps for the purposes of the legislation. Social media platforms will then have a clearer picture about what’s expected of them,” Ms Holt said.

While the new law will encourage face-to-face over digital interactions for those affected by the ban, it may leave others feeling isolated or disconnected.

“We have to understand that this generation of children have grown up as digital natives and a lot of their social engagement and sense of community actually comes from the online world,” Ms Holt said.

“Social media can really pull in two different directions for children. There are the very well-established harms, but it’s also quite important in helping marginalised children find their people. For example, children who are neurodiverse, children who are struggling with their mental

health or their sexuality, or from a particular ethnic background, it can really help them find other kids in the same situation and to connect. It can also help regional and rural kids who might not have the same access to community."

The ban will also restrict their ability to mobilise politically. A great example of this is Greta Thunberg and her powerful Student Strike for Climate that went global via social media in 2019.

According to Southern Cross University Professor of Counselling, Ebi Cocodia, social media is a primary source of news and information for many young people.

"A ban may lead them to seek information from less reliable or potentially harmful underground platforms," Professor Cocodia said.

She says it can also lead to increased feelings of social isolation.

"For young individuals who struggle with in-person social interactions, social media serves as a crucial means of connection. A ban could exacerbate feelings of loneliness and exclusion."

Professor Cocodia says the social media ban could also lead to positive outcomes, including a reduction in cyberbullying, increased physical activities and outdoor engagement, strengthened social skills and face-to-face relationships, and improved academic performance.

"Educators often report that students struggle with concentration and productivity due to excessive social media use. A ban could potentially improve focus and academic outcomes," she said.

"Restricting social media use may also contribute to improved sleep patterns, reduced anxiety, and lower rates of depression among young people."

A more effective approach than an outright ban might involve implementing measures to ensure young people's safety while allowing them to engage with social media in a safe manner.

"Government regulations should hold social media platforms accountable for safeguarding young people, while parental guidance and digital literacy programs can equip youth with the

skills needed to navigate social media responsibly," Professor Cocodia said.

"Social media use is deeply ingrained in contemporary society, and rather than prohibiting access, efforts should focus on protecting younger users from commercial exploitation and harmful online experiences."

Law Honours student Jayne Phillips takes the argument further, saying that greater regulation of social media platforms is required to protect adults, as well as children, from harm.

"In fact, greater regulation is necessary to protect our system of representative democracy itself," Ms Phillips said.

"Social media platforms should be required to ensure that the way in which they process users' personal data is compatible with deliberative democracy, rather than being simply designed to ensure maximum online engagement and profit."

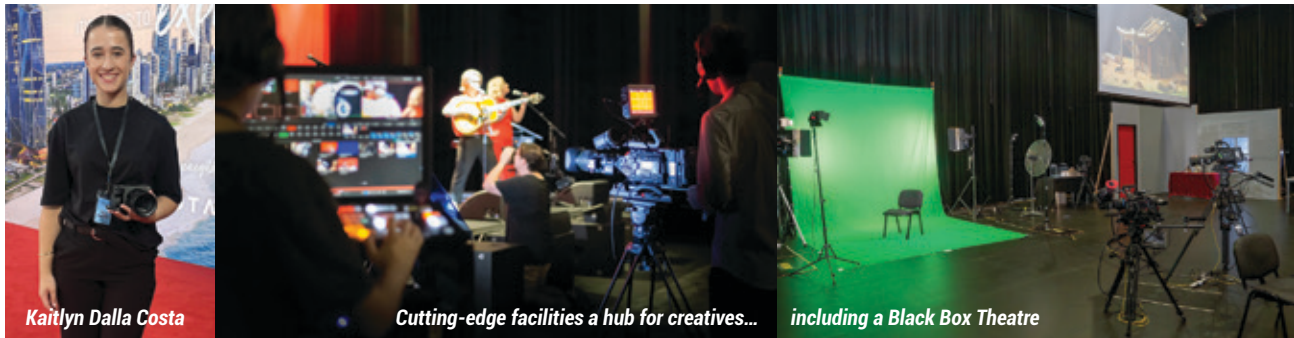
■ **Law lecturer Yvette Holt and Law Honours student Jayne Phillips discuss social media and the law on the Southern Cross University podcast. Search 'SCU Buzz' on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or Soundcloud.**



Pictured left to right: Yvette Holt, Lecturer, Law Discipline, Southern Cross University; Ebi Cocodia, Professor of Counselling, Southern Cross University; Jayne Phillips, Law Honours student, Southern Cross University

KAITLYN'S *Cinematic Break*

FROM TAFE
QUEENSLAND TO
THE AACTA AWARDS:
KAITLYN DALLA
COSTA'S CINEMATIC
JOURNEY...



Kaitlyn Dalla Costa

Cutting-edge facilities a hub for creatives...

including a Black Box Theatre

For 20-year-old Kaitlyn Dalla Costa, studying the Diploma of Screen and Media at TAFE Queensland has been more than just a course – it's been a launchpad into the heart of the film industry.

Nothing proves that more than her recent gig capturing the magic behind the scenes at the 14th Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) Awards on the Gold Coast.

With a childhood shaped by her father's work as a stunt performer, Kaitlyn has always had a passion for film. But scoring a spot as a videographer at Australia's biggest night in cinema and television? That was next level.

"When I found out I was selected to volunteer at the AACTAs, I was really excited and honoured to have been chosen out of my class for this experience," she said.

Over five action-packed days, Kaitlyn filmed candid red-carpet moments, behind-the-scenes magic, and exclusive industry panels. But the real pinch-me moment? Filming Paul Kelly's legendary live performance of 'How to Make Gravy' up close and personal.

"The most surreal moment was capturing Paul Kelly's performance. Being that close to such an iconic artist

is something I'll never forget."

"It was also amazing to capture candid moments between people on the red carpet at the Industry Gala Awards," Kaitlyn said.

The event wasn't just about getting the shot – it was about immersing herself in the industry. She rubbed shoulders with some of Australia's biggest names, including actor and comedian Shane Jacobson and *Home and Away*'s Jake Ryan.

"Something that really surprised me was how close I got to be to the actors and seeing them around the venue. It was cool being in the same building as Shane Jacobson – I will admit that," she said.

The Coomera Creative campus student credits TAFE Queensland for preparing her to take on this career-defining moment.

"TAFE Queensland helped prepare me for this experience by teaching me the fundamentals of the film industry. When I first started, I had no idea how things worked. But after a year of studying and creating my own film, I now feel confident using a camera, setting up shots, and understanding the etiquette of a film set," she said.

And this is just the beginning. With her

AACTA experience under her belt, Kaitlyn is setting her sights on becoming a First Assistant Director.

"The connections I made and the experience I gained will help me land a paid job soon," she said.

Her advice to other aspiring filmmakers? Say yes to every opportunity.

"If you're thinking about studying screen and media at TAFE Queensland – do it! The freedom to create your own projects, the knowledgeable teachers, and the hands-on learning make it all worth it," said Kaitlyn.

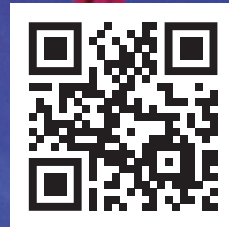
"Take every opportunity that comes your way. This is an industry where you learn by doing, so the more you put yourself out there, the more you'll grow."

STUDY AT TAFE QUEENSLAND'S COOMERA CREATIVE CAMPUS

A hub for creatives, offering hands-on training in screen and media, music, graphic design, interior design, IT, and more. Just a short walk from the Coomera train station, it features cutting-edge facilities, including recording studios, digital editing suites, and a Black Box Theatre. Whether you're into filmmaking, cybersecurity, or interior design, TAFE Queensland is the perfect place to turn your passion into a career.

■ Visit tafeql.edu.au for more.

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OLLIE TWOHILL HAS
NEW MUSIC RELEASING
LATER THIS YEAR.



The Autumn 2025 **GOLD COAST** New Music Playlist

FRESH SOUNDS FROM THE COAST: A NEW WAVE OF TALENT TO WATCH IN 2025

Words: **Glenn Tozer**

The first quarter of 2025 has already been filled with an exciting array of Gold Coast music. If only the same could be said for the weather! Amid the chaos brought on by Cyclone Alfred, it's been a welcome reprieve to dive into the vibrant new tunes coming out of the Gold Coast. From rising stars to established talent experimenting with new sounds, here's a snapshot of what's hitting the airwaves this season.

THE RISE OF NEW GOLD COAST TALENT

First up, we're diving into the world of Kirsty Abrahams and her burgeoning

indie management group, Konnection Artist Assistance, which is quickly gaining recognition for nurturing a fresh roster of talent.

Bianca Hinton, known to many as @thatcameragal, has made a name for herself in the visual arts, working with big names like Sheppard, Jaguar Jonze, and Casey Barnes. But now, she's stepping into the spotlight as an artist herself, releasing "Hold On (Psycho)" under the stage name ALBII.

This catchy pop/rock track taps into the all-too-familiar theme of a past relationship that didn't quite go as planned.

Konnection is also representing a rising artist discovered by the Madden brothers of Good Charlotte when he was just 15.

Now recording in the US, Parker has already picked up the Youth award at the 2024 Queensland Music Awards. His latest track, "Hang Up, Move On", features Californian indie-pop star Naomi Jane, continuing the broken relationship theme, while offering a refreshing sound to start the year off right. The Konnection roster also includes Ollie Twohill, an indie rocker whose new material is set for release in August 2025. Beyond the Konnection label, the Gold Coast's musical talent continues to shine across various genres.

A DIVERSE MUSICAL LANDSCAPE

In the world of jazz, young Charlie Mitchell has just released his latest EP, "Bright Lights", which features collaborations with renowned LA Wrecking Crew producer Louie Shelton. The title track, in particular, is a must-listen for any jazz enthusiast.

Over in dance-pop, Logan Priest is already making waves with his upbeat track "Welcome to the New World". The track has been gaining traction with radio programmers across the country and is sure to get listeners moving.

First Nations artist Birren, who has followed in the musical footsteps of his award-winning cousin Budjerah, has also released the beautiful "Summer". Though the release coincided with the season's change, there's no denying that Birren's popularity is only heating up as the months go by.

Alternative folk band These Idle Hands, a six-piece act that has previously graced smaller stages around Brisbane and the Gold Coast, are back with a self-titled album.

"The year has already been a whirlwind of new Gold Coast music – a welcome distraction from Cyclone Alfred's chaos."
– GLENN TOZER

Their third release since 2020, it's an introspective album driven by frontman Murray Webber's striking vocals. One standout track is "Stringy Mangoes", which perfectly captures the melancholic beauty of the final days of summer. Benny D Williams, a talented instrumentalist known for his solo work, also showcases his skills as a pianist on this album.

EXPANDING THE HORIZONS OF R&B, HIP-HOP, AND POP

Moving into the realms of R&B and hip-hop, the album dasteWORLD from Daste offers the perfect soundtrack for those lazy Sunday afternoons. The album's title track invites listeners to metaphorically

"jump in the river" with them, setting the tone for a laid-back, reflective journey.

Saint Lane has also been busy this year, collaborating with Gold Coast Music Award winner mattymadeit on "Flashback" and indie pop artist Lily Papas on "How to Fall in Love". Both tracks add a fresh take to their respective genres and are worth a listen.

For emotional alt-pop fans, Lyric has released a follow-up to her Nostalgia EP with a powerful new ballad, "Friends", which explores the complexities of the friend zone. Similarly, Alisha Todd, one half of the duo Geniie Boy, has turned down the tempo with her hauntingly beautiful track, "Don't Let Me Down". Her vocal performance is truly unforgettable.

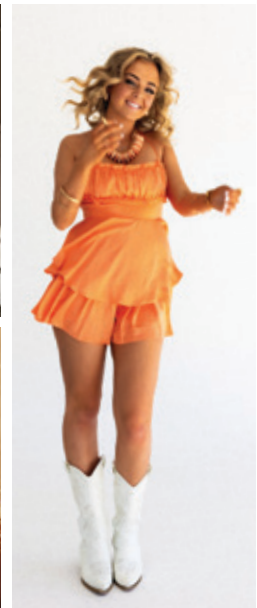
GOLD COAST GOSSIP

In other exciting news, emerging country artist Lily Grace, hailing from Mudgeeraba, has recently relocated to Nashville, setting her sights on cracking the American market. With her incredible talent, Lily Grace is definitely an artist to watch closely in 2025.



AUTUMN RECOMMENDATIONS

"Hold On (Psycho)"
by ALBII: A catchy reflection on the regrets of past relationships.
"Hang Up, Move On": A standout collaboration between Parker and Naomi Jane.
"Stringy Mangoes" by These Idle Hands: A nostalgic nod to the fading days of summer.



GOLD COAST MUSICAL TALENT TO WATCH (PICTURED CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE): ALBII, PARKER AND LILY GRACE.



Introducing a leading Australian producer of feature films and documentaries and a former ABC TV journalist. Trish Lake is CEO of Freshwater Pictures based in Brisbane, which she founded in 2001. Among her works are *Gettin' Square*, *Alick and Albert*, *Frackman* and the new movie, *Spit*, set on the Gold Coast.

Spotlight on Producer Trish Lake

Interview: **Caroline Russo** hushhushbiz.com Photography: **Supplied**

Your career spans from journalism at ABC TV to producing award-winning films and documentaries. What drew you to film production?

Our family told stories, talked politics and loved singing and all sorts of music. I also spent a lot of my childhood on North Stradbroke Island, running wild, fishing, swimming and enthralled with nature. Journalism allowed me to figure out a lot of things by asking questions, closely observing human behaviour and

honing my research and writing skills. I learned the craft of filmmaking at the ABC in the 70s well before the digital era. In the 90s I began a media production company, Freshwater Productions, to make documentaries for television, and develop manuscripts with authors as a literary agency.

All the while I was refining my taste by consuming lots of films and I started by learning as much as I could about distribution and marketing. I realised the

only way to get anything actually financed and produced, was to be a producer. So I went to industry gatherings like AWG and SPA conferences, and using my journalism skills, tried to prise open what had always seemed like tightly-closed film industry doors.

By the time one of the authors I represented as a literary agent, Chris Nyst, showed me an outline of a screenplay, I knew I had found a project with which I could launch my producing career.

That screenplay was *Gettin' Square*, the original film which also launched the character, Johnny "Spit" Spitieri.

Spit comes 22 years after the cult Indie classic, Gettin' Square, for which you won a SPA award as Producer of the Year. How long did it take to get Spit into production?

Most of my work is spent developing new projects, as well as marketing upcoming and past films. Production is a small part. It is exciting, demanding, scary and gruelling, especially narrative features with a substantial budget like *Spit*, involving sometimes many hundreds of people on set, and with a core crew every day of around 100 technical crew and key cast. Chris Nyst and I have been collaborating on this and other film and book projects ever since we first worked together in the late 90s. Chris first showed me the outline of what was to become *Spit* in 2014. During that decade we had numerous false-starts with different producers and distributors. Ten years of on-and-off development is not unusual. There's always a lot of rejection and false-starts, but if anything is really worthwhile, and you have the creative team to back it, then dreams can come true!

Meanwhile, since 2001, Freshwater Pictures has made many films for cinema, all with amazing directors, and the business of financing and marketing them has taken me all over the world to film festivals and markets such as Cannes.

Films such as Frackman and The Burning Season, have tackled powerful environmental and social issues. How do you approach storytelling in these impactful documentaries?

My journalism training and experience helps but it's because I work with strong and intelligent storytellers. I look for different ways to tell stories to attract audiences from diverse political and cultural points of view, to create meaningful debate on a topic. I like to try to break through our media silos that are becoming increasingly isolating. I begin by taking the creative team through a series of story and impact workshops.



"Ten years of on-and-off development is not unusual. There's always a lot of rejection and false starts, but if anything is really worthwhile, and you have the creative team to back it, then dreams can come true!"



Cinema is about emotion. You have to grab people's hearts and minds in 90 minutes.

What are the distribution and financing challenges facing Australian cinema?

Cinema has been around for a century, and storytelling – well for as long as humans have existed. But there is no doubt that traditional distribution and financing methods are falling away, and we are not sure what will replace them. I am all for disruption if it means change is for the better, but right now, I am not so sure. I think it begins with Australians wanting to see their own stories on their own screens. Imagine a world where the only stories we see are from overseas, and on screens owned by foreign media empires.

We could only make *Spit* because more than half of our finance came from private investors in Queensland who believe in Australian stories. We need to ensure that our government policies defend independent cinema and Australian content.

How do you choose projects, and what stories are you most passionate about telling?

Stories about everyday people up against adversity, stories about our

natural world, political stories affecting the future, and stories that showcase our Australian artists and musicians.

Currently I am consulting with creative teams on the feature documentaries *Swindle: Australia*, *East Timor* and *the Art of the Steal* with filmmaker Gil Scrine; *Chasing Chaos* about the politics of international disaster relief, with Darwin-based filmmaker, Andrew Hyde; and a film about *Lethal Autonomous Weapons – LAWS*, with producer Bobbi-Lea Dionysius and director Heather Faulkner.

Are there many projects on your table now, and is there a dream film or doco you would love to produce?

There are a lot of stories out there still to be told, but I am *Grandma* to three toddlers now.

Right now I will be happy to consult on other people's films, and continue with my workshops where I can facilitate and empower filmmakers to make their stories stronger and more appealing to audiences.

If you could go back and give yourself one piece of advice at the start of your career, what would that be?

It gets better!

The Light Rail Debate: A SETBACK *for the Gold Coast*

GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO HALT THE EXPANSION MARKS A BLOW
TO THE CITY'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM POTENTIAL.

Words: **Wildcat** Lifestyle Photography: **City of Gold Coast & Josh Withers @unsplash.com**

Many moons ago, way back in 2010, the State Government and the Gold Coast City Council decided they'd team up to build a world-class light rail system.

It would link Helensvale to the Gold Coast University Hospital, connecting Southport, Main Beach, Surfers Paradise, and down to Broadbeach. It was opened in 2014, and those who have used the light rail would be the first to acknowledge it works beautifully well, especially during peak holiday times.

Work is now well underway on the link from Broadbeach to Burleigh Heads, and the plan was that it would ultimately traverse through Palm Beach and down to Coolangatta Airport.

The plan was that you could jump on

a train in Brisbane and then use the light rail to finish up at Coolangatta Airport.

A world-class light rail system for a world-class tourism destination. Until now.

In recent weeks, the Crisafulli Government has announced it will not part-fund the final stage of the light rail from Burleigh Heads to Coolangatta.

Instead, the light rail will finish at Burleigh Heads, and those wanting to go to the airport will be ferried to Coolangatta via a big bus.

It is a massive win for the anti-light rail lobby, which has waged a resourceful and powerful campaign to stop the light rail coming through Palm Beach.

This is a terrible outcome for the larger Gold Coast population. It makes a mockery of the sacrifices experienced by hundreds of businesses, many of whom went broke during the early stages of construction. The stories of horror are infamous.

Mayor Tom Tate is not impressed, but he's not in the business of picking a fight with David Crisafulli in the new Premier's first few months in the job. But this is seriously dodgy, and it is all about politics, not what's

best for the city. And the losers are the people of the Gold Coast, and of course, the millions of people who come to holiday here every year.

"A world-class light rail system for a world-class tourism destination. Until now."



Gold Coast Light Rail stage one opened in 2014.



Final light rail stage to the airport is no longer part-funded by the Queensland government.



Night racing at the Gold Coast Turf Club.

Leadership in politics is important, and tough decisions come with being a leader.

The decision to end the light rail at Burleigh Heads is a win for people power on the southern Gold Coast, but it's not a good outcome for the city as a whole.

Progress is inevitable. Take a look at our sister city, Dubai. They'd have built a light rail between Helensvale and Coolangatta within five years. Ours has been dragging on for at least 15 years thus far.

The light rail would have set the city up for the next century. Now, it's got the potential to turn us into a big, fat joke.

Speaking of tourism, how good is the Gold Coast Turf Club going right now?

If you haven't been along to the races on a Friday night at Bundall, do yourself a favour and get along.

It's a spectacular night out, and the great thing about night racing is that it's attracting younger people to the races, which is a challenge for turf club bosses.

Full credit to chair Brett Cook and CEO Steve Lines, who have shown the vision and leadership required to take this club into the 21st century. With a massive 10-year plan underway to revolutionise the

Bundall precinct, including development, the Turf Club has now become one of the city's key stakeholders.

They understand the value of spending money to make money, expanding exponentially over the past decade.

The success of the Magic Millions is another pivotal factor. Now, we're looking down the barrel of the major Magic Millions raceday being under lights in the coming years.

Can you imagine that as a spectacle? This is the type of tourism vision we need.

Let's just hope they don't need to catch a tram to the airport!

"Progress is inevitable. Take a look at our sister city, Dubai."





Medland Orthodontics *expands with a* state-of-the-art facility

**WORLD-CLASS CARE AT UPPER COOMERA, OFFERING CONVENIENCE,
INNOVATION, AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT.**

DELIVERING EXCELLENCE IN ORTHODONTIC CARE SINCE 1990

For more than three decades, Medland Orthodontics has been a trusted household name for orthodontic care across South East Queensland. Established in 1990, the practice has built a reputation for exceptional results, combining advanced treatments with a patient-first approach. With established locations in Benowa and Robina, Medland Orthodontics has now expanded with a brand-new, state-of-the-art facility in Upper Coomera.

This new practice represents more than just growth – it's an opportunity to bring high-quality orthodontic care closer to families in the northern Gold Coast communities. Designed with patients in mind, the Upper Coomera

clinic will offer greater appointment availability, cutting-edge technology, and a continued commitment to making orthodontic treatment both affordable and convenient.

"We've spent decades building the business based on one core principle – treat and respect every patient as an individual, and work with them to achieve a smile that lasts a lifetime," says Dr Bill Medland, Orthodontist at Medland Orthodontics. "A perfect smile is a collaborative journey with each patient. The best results come from those patients who are as committed to the process as we are as practitioners! With this new practice, we're ensuring that more families have access to industry-leading orthodontic care, closer to home, at times that suit their busy schedules."

MORE CAPACITY, MORE CONVENIENCE, MORE SMILES!

Conveniently located just off Days Road, the new Upper Coomera practice has been designed to enhance patient access and comfort. The facility will accommodate up to 14 patients at a time – a 40% increase in capacity compared to Medland Orthodontics' other locations – allowing for shorter wait times and more flexible scheduling.

"We understand that families have busy lives, and we want to make orthodontic care as seamless as possible," explains Dr William Luong, Orthodontist at Medland Orthodontics. "By expanding our capacity, we can ensure patients get the care they need without long delays. The expansion isn't just a physical one either – our specialist



Dr William Luong,
Dr Bill Medland,
and Dr Patty Medland.



Dr Laura Truong



Dr Keith Chan

"A perfect smile is a collaborative journey with each patient."

– DR BILL MEDLAND, ORTHODONTIST

The programme will work closely with schools in the northern Gold Coast and southern Brisbane regions, providing direct support for initiatives such as sports programs, STEM education, and career pathways.

A NEW ERA OF PATIENT-FOCUSED CARE IN UPPER COOMERA

With state-of-the-art technology, increased capacity, and a strong commitment to affordability and community support, Medland Orthodontics' Upper Coomera practice

is poised to become a leading destination for orthodontic care in the northern Gold Coast.

"We're not just opening a new clinic – we're expanding our ability to serve patients and support the local community," says Dr Medland. "Our goal is to make expert orthodontic care more accessible, more convenient, and more affordable for families across the region."

As April 2025 progresses, the Medland Orthodontics team is excited to welcome new and returning patients to this cutting-edge facility. With a focus on patient well-being, advanced treatment options, and strong ties to the community, the Upper Coomera practice will continue the legacy of excellence that Medland Orthodontics has built over the past 35 years.

For families seeking high-quality orthodontic care in a world-class setting, Medland Orthodontics Upper Coomera is ready to deliver brighter smiles and better futures – one patient at a time.

■ www.medlandorthodontics.com.au

orthodontic team has also grown. We're excited for our patients to meet Dr Laura Truong and Dr Keith Chan, who'll be based at the new practice!"

The practice boasts the latest in orthodontic technology, including personalised 3D scans, computer assisted design, advanced treatment solutions, and a fully equipped laboratory – all for the exclusive benefit of their patients. These innovations enable more precise treatments, faster results, and a more comfortable experience for patients of all ages and treatment complexities.

MAKING ORTHODONTIC CARE AFFORDABLE

Medland Orthodontics has always been committed to making high-quality orthodontic care accessible, and the Upper Coomera expansion is a continuation of that mission. The practice offers a range of flexible payment plans, ensuring that families can access the treatment they need without financial strain.

"Orthodontic treatment is an investment in a person's confidence and well-being," says Dr Luong. "We believe that cost shouldn't be a barrier to achieving a healthy, beautiful, functional smile. That's why we offer affordable

options and interest-free payment plans, in partnership with DentiCare, to make treatment accessible to more people."

Much like the Benowa and Robina practices, the new Upper Coomera clinic will provide complimentary smile assessments and the five-star service they are known for, giving patients the opportunity to explore their treatment options with no obligation.

SUPPORTING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY: MEDLAND ORTHODONTICS SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAMME

As part of its commitment to the Gold Coast community, Medland Orthodontics will also extend its School Support Programme with the launch of the Upper Coomera clinic. This initiative provides fundraising support for school communities and educational resources to pupils, helping students access vital learning, extracurricular, and personal development opportunities.

"We believe in giving back to the communities that support us," says Dr Luong. "Through our School Support Programme, we're able to contribute to the well-being and success of young people – not just through orthodontic care, but also by supporting their education and growth."



Medland
ORTHODONTICS

A full-page background image showing four women jumping joyfully on a beach at sunset. They are all smiling and have their arms raised in the air. The woman on the far left is wearing a floral dress and sunglasses. The woman next to her is wearing a denim jacket and sunglasses. The woman in the center is wearing a white shirt and sunglasses. The woman on the far right is wearing a white shirt, a straw hat, and has her mouth open in a joyful shout. The background is a warm, golden sunset over the ocean.

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The above successful and renowned companies paved their way with AI

*Pictured right:
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and ambassador
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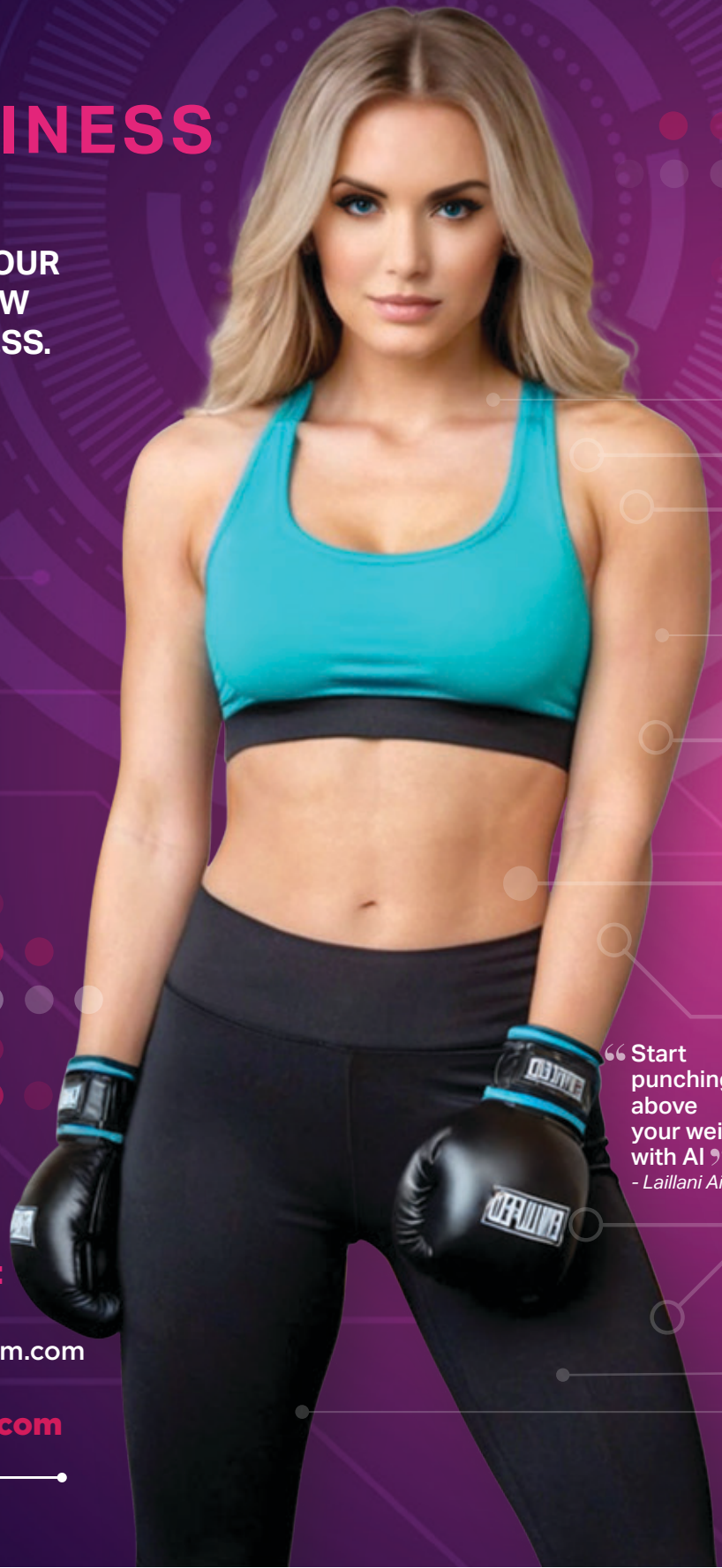
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Our track record is a testament to our relentless pursuit of excellence. Among our most defining achievements is the landmark sale of 41-45 Hedges Avenue, Mermaid Beach to Queensland's wealthiest individual, Clive Palmer, for an extraordinary \$28,000,000. This sale not only set a new residential benchmark for the Gold Coast, but eclipsed our own previous record of \$27,000,000 set with the sale of 41 The Promenade, Isle of Capri. These results are not anomalies — they are the standard we hold ourselves to.

Our success extends beyond beachfront mansions. Amir Prestige proudly holds the Queensland Apartment Record, having sold the iconic 'Glasshouse' in Burleigh Heads for \$24,000,000 — a true reflection of our ability to connect the finest properties with elite, qualified buyers.

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- \$22.6 million for a prestigious residence on Hedges Avenue, Mermaid Beach
- \$22 million for a 'Coopers Shoot' Estate in Byron Bay
- \$20 million for 10 Maryland Avenue, Carrara
- \$19.3 million for 91 Commodore Drive, Paradise Waters
- \$19 million for 1 Heron Avenue, Mermaid Beach

No other agency in Queensland has achieved this volume of high-calibre sales. In fact, Amir Prestige is the only firm in the state to have completed eight individual sales above \$20 million — a milestone unmatched by any competitor. Our results are consistent, our strategies proven, and our commitment to excellence unwavering, with multiple REIQ Agency of The Year awards under our belt.

Supporting our success is an unparalleled buyer network of more than 150,000 qualified domestic and international contacts. This powerful database, combined with our refined negotiation skills and seven

offices across the Gold Coast & NSW, ensures that we don't just find buyers — we find the buyer.

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70 ADMIRALTY DRIVE **PARADISE WATERS**

5 7 8 720m²*

This architect-designed masterpiece combines timeless elegance with enduring quality. Constructed entirely of concrete slab, the quad-level home is built to stand the test of time. Striking sandstone feature walls climb two- and three-storey voids, creating a sense of grandeur, while limestone tiling throughout brings sophistication to the interiors without compromising on everyday practicality. The main living area is perfectly positioned next to the poolside terrace, seamlessly connecting indoor and outdoor spaces through glass stacking pocket doors. This design allows for effortless flow, making it ideal for entertaining or relaxing

Disclaimer *= approx.

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amir prestige

2062 THE CIRCLE **SANCTUARY COVE**

4 5 6 912m²*

Introducing Liora, a home that redefines luxury living and craftsmanship in the prestigious Sanctuary Cove. From its unparalleled design to its world-class location, this waterfront residence stands as a testament to exceptional quality, thoughtful detail and a lifestyle that's simply unmatched. Liora conveys warmth, radiance and a sense of illumination, perfectly aligning with the residence's bright, airy design and its status as a shining example of luxury and elegance. Every element of Liora has been meticulously designed with no expense spared.

Disclaimer *= approx.

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amir prestige

54 GRETTEL DRIVE **MERMAID WATERS**

5 5 3 640m²*

Discover a realm of modern elegance with this brand new waterfront home. Exhibiting impeccable style and lavish finishes on a 640m²* allotment, it maintains a tranquil atmosphere. The understated colour scheme, textured details, and plentiful natural light reflect this, as does the internal atrium. Spanning two levels, the residence encircles this peaceful, verdant feature, tempering the gleaming white concrete floors, high square-set ceilings, and refined Italian porcelain that extend throughout. Equipped with an external kitchen and views of the waterways, pool, and a 27-meter sandy beach, it offers an idyllic setting for evening celebrations or relaxing family time.

Disclaimer *= approx.

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A portrait of Amir Mian, a middle-aged man with a receding hairline, smiling at the camera. He is wearing a light blue textured blazer over a dark navy blue t-shirt. The background is a plain, light grey.

Q&A with AMIR MIAN

PRINCIPAL AMIR PRESTIGE GROUP

Amir, your Grand Winter Auction Event is happening at The Langham Hotel, Surfers Paradise on July 12, from 11am – what can people expect from this incredible event?

This isn't your average auction. The Grand Winter Auction is a signature Amir Prestige experience – held in one of the Gold Coast's most luxurious venues, The Langham Hotel.

We curate a lineup of exceptional properties, bring together a qualified database of high-intent buyers, and create an exciting, fast-paced environment that drives premium results.

Expect stunning waterfront homes, architectural masterpieces, penthouses, and lifestyle properties – all going under the hammer in one of the most elegant auction rooms in the country. It's high energy, high quality, and high performance.

What makes this event different from traditional on-site auctions?

The Langham provides a unique, controlled environment that elevates the experience for both buyers and sellers.

Buyers can view multiple properties back-to-back in a single day, and sellers benefit from the energy in the room – competition feeds competition.

It's a true marketplace, and we've seen time and time again that this format achieves outstanding, above-market results.

Why is now an ideal time to buy or sell on the Gold Coast?

The Gold Coast market is experiencing strong demand, especially for prestige and lifestyle properties. We're seeing continued migration from interstate and a lot of buyer confidence heading into the new financial year. Interest rates have stabilised, and people are making bold moves again.

If you're a seller, now is the time to capitalise. If you're a buyer, you want to get in now.

How are you preparing sellers for success on auction day?

We work closely with each client to ensure their property is marketed with impact. That means premium photography, tailored campaigns, exposure to our 150,000+ strong database, and social media and digital advertising that truly cuts through. Our in-house AP Media Group ensures every listing is polished and positioned for the right audience. We also conduct multiple open homes, private inspections, and buyer meetings to build momentum. By auction day, we're walking in with qualified, motivated buyers – not just interest, but intent.

What would you say to someone who's unsure if auction is right for their property?

Auctions are one of the most transparent, competitive, and effective methods of sale – particularly in this current market. They create a deadline, a sense of urgency, and they remove price ceilings. We've had countless results where the price exceeded expectations simply because multiple buyers emotionally committed and didn't want to miss out.

Can anyone attend The Event at The Langham?

Absolutely. We encourage anyone considering a move – whether buying, selling, or just observing the market – to join us. It's a great way to understand property values, watch live negotiations, and experience the unique energy of our auctions. Plus, it's a stunning setting. There's nothing quite like seeing a multi-million-dollar property sell in a ballroom surrounded by serious, engaged people all looking to make bold moves in real estate. Final Thoughts from Amir:

This is more than just an auction – it's a statement about where the Gold Coast market is heading.

The calibre of homes, the strength of buyer interest, and the luxurious atmosphere of The Langham combine to create a premium platform for success. If you're thinking of making a move, there's no better moment than now – and no better stage than our Grand Winter Auction."

■ **If you have any Property and Real estate questions for Amir Mian please scan the QR Code and Amir will answer them in the next edition of Ocean Road.**



"We encourage anyone considering a move – whether buying, selling, or just observing the market – to join us at The Auction Events."



SCHULZ *drives success* with *EXPANSION*

When Andrew Schulz was looking to expand his second-generation family luxury auto business, he did his homework on finance options which best suited his business Schulz Prestige Cars.

That led to a meeting with Preston Point Capital Managing Director Shelley McGinty who was able to provide expert guidance and a finance solution which enabled Andrew to grow his business.

Ocean Road caught up with Andrew to talk shop and discovered that the Gold Coast is a prime market for prestige product.

"Having dealt with numerous banks and brokers before, I can confidently say that Shelley made the entire process of securing finance remarkably seamless." – Andrew Schulz

"Securing capital has empowered our luxury car business to purchase the site next door, paving the way for significant expansion without straining our cash flow or reserves." – Andrew Schulz

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT SCHULZ PRESTIGE CARS?

Established in 1967, our family-run business proudly holds the title of the longest-established non-franchised motor dealer in Southeast Queensland. Specialising exclusively in used luxury cars, we offer a unique blend of heritage and expertise.

Our commitment to quality is matched by our stability, as we operate from freehold premises, ensuring both security and reliability for our customers. Our deep roots in the Gold Coast community and dedication to personalised service sets us apart.

Offering an unparalleled experience for discerning buyers seeking luxury vehicles, our legacy and ownership provide peace of mind.

HOW WAS THE PROCESS OF SECURING FINANCE?

Having dealt with numerous banks and brokers before, I can confidently say that Shelley made the entire process of securing finance remarkably seamless. Her professionalism and dedication shone through as she

expertly navigated strict deadlines, ensuring everything was in place on time. Shelley and her team were incredibly reliable, consistently delivering results without adding any stress to the situation. They provided clear guidance on what was required from us, making sure every document and detail was handled efficiently. Shelley's expertise turned what could have been a daunting process into a smooth and successful experience.

WHAT WILL THE CAPITAL ENABLE THE BUSINESS TO DO NEXT?

Securing capital has empowered our luxury car business to purchase the site next door, paving the way for significant expansion without straining our cash flow or reserves.

This strategic acquisition allows us to increase our inventory, offer a wider range of premium vehicles, and enhance our customer service facilities.

Our expansion plan includes the development of a state-of-the-art showroom and service centre, ensuring an unparalleled customer experience. By broadening our footprint, we are set

to capture a larger market share and solidify our position as a leader in the luxury automotive industry.

This positions us for sustained growth and success.

WHAT KIND OF MARKET ARE WE SEEING ON THE GOLD COAST FOR PRESTIGE VEHICLES?

The Gold Coast has consistently been a hotspot for prestige cars, and our position as the established home for luxury vehicles ensures a loyal client base. With extensive advertising fuelling demand, we see significant interest in mid-range prestige cars, particularly those under \$100k. The trend is shifting towards more efficient SUVs, stepping away from traditional V8s. Diesel SUVs are notably more popular than electric vehicles at present.

While we maintain a strong foothold in the local market, the demand has seen us sending more cars interstate. Our comprehensive services like cashback, trade-ins, finance options, and warranties cater to this bustling market effectively.

■ *If you would like further information from an expert visit www.prestonpointcapital.com.au.*

"No fuss, no delays, just results!"

Preston Point Capital is in the privileged position to have access to over 60 funders, allowing us to find the best solution tailored to our clients' needs.

- ◆ You'll discover your borrowing power, and we'll unveil your maximum equity potential within three hours of our initial chat – you'll gain crystal-clear clarity for the possibilities ahead!
- ◆ Once you provide all the necessary documents, approvals are typically secured within a whirlwind 24 hours, propelling you swiftly towards your goals.
- ◆ As a cherished Preston Point Capital Client, you'll receive ongoing support and meticulous management of your loan portfolio, with periodic reviews conducted to ensure you're maximising savings – a testament to our unwavering commitment to your financial success.

We take immense pride in sourcing solutions for even the most unconventional scenarios. Tight time frames? No problem whatsoever! Our team will race against the clock, working hand-in-hand with you and the funder to ensure we meet your demanding deadline. Our passion for overcoming challenges fuels our unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional results, no matter how daunting the task may seem.



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EXCLUSIVE LOOK at ODYSSEY ROBINA'S *Fourth Tower*

A LUXURIOUS NEW ADDITION IS SET TO REDEFINE INDEPENDENT
LIVING WITH EXCEPTIONAL AMENITIES AND TAILORED CARE.

Words: **Melinda Burton**



Living at Odyssey Lifestyle Care Communities is like checking into a luxury cruise ship, except the destination is home. Here, independence meets indulgence in a setting that feels more like a five-star resort. With exceptional dining, upscale amenities, and tailored care that fits into your schedule, every day is designed for comfort, independence, and peace of mind.

And now, Odyssey's Robina community is about to reach new heights with the fourth and final tower taking shape. Set to deliver an additional 68 apartments to the community, and developed in consultation with residents, construction on the eight-storey building is scheduled for completion later this year.

CEO and founder Phil Usher says Odyssey really listens to what residents and the market are asking for and adapts to their needs, steering clear of the 'here's what you get' model.

"Apartments in the new stage will include a mix of one, two, and three-bedroom options, as well as another

Memory Lane section, which is a dedicated space for seniors requiring memory support," says Mr Usher.

"Our market has been asking for more two-bedroom and even three-bedroom options, and the new building, Biarritz, will offer both. We'll be adding a lot more amenities in Biarritz to promote a greater variety of activities and build on our sense of community by expanding socialisation spaces."

Building company Mettle has been appointed to construct the project, which is expected to create between 100 to 150 jobs over the estimated 18-month development period, which commenced on 5 September 2024.

Named after the stunning French seaside destination, amenities in Biarritz will include a larger activities hub, more visiting medical areas for doctors, physiotherapists, and other allied health disciplines, a place of worship, a movie area, a hairdresser, a gym, a bocce green, and outdoor sitting areas.

Mr Usher says Biarritz will connect with one of the existing towers, Malibu, via a semi-enclosed skybridge.

"The Odyssey model is built around a resort-style environment where dignity, independence, and wellbeing are highly respected."

"There are many skybridges across the community, which allow for easy above-traffic travel across the buildings, and friends can easily meet up without having to go far," says Mr Usher.

"Most skybridges have communal garden areas at either end, so they have been similar to having a park at the end of the street where socialisation is encouraged."

The Odyssey model is built around a resort-style environment where couples stay together, pets are welcome, grandkids can have sleepovers, and most importantly, the dignity, independence, and wellbeing of residents are highly respected.

■ Visit odysseycommunities.com.au for more information.

DESIGN-LED LIVING

METRICON'S STUNNING DISPLAY HOMES AT SKYRIDGE REDEFINE MODERN FAMILY LIVING.

Thoughtful design and superior craftsmanship come together in perfect harmony at Metricon's latest display homes in SkyRidge. Designed for the discerning home upgrader, these four refined residences are a testament to light-filled, smart, and insightful designs that merge the best of local Australian aesthetics with timeless functionality.

Each Metricon home at SkyRidge has been crafted to offer a seamless blend of form and function where cohesive layouts balance sophistication with practicality, and every space is designed to enhance the rhythm of daily life. Whether it's a bright, fresh, and warm atmosphere, an open social space for gatherings, or intuitive zoning that provides both privacy and connection,

these homes epitomise modern living at its finest.

"We know that our customers are looking for more than just a house. They want a home that feels bright, welcoming, and considered in every detail," says Adrian Popple, Metricon's Design Director. "Our SkyRidge display homes showcase this philosophy, where every space has a purpose, the



kitchen is the heart of the home, and natural light flows seamlessly through open-plan living areas to create a modern yet timeless expression."

WATERFORD 47, PACIFIC FAÇADE – A BOLD STATEMENT IN MODERN CONTEMPORARY DESIGN

For those seeking wow factor, the Waterford 47 is a true showstopper. The Pacific façade, with striking cantilevers and bold geometric forms, sets the tone for modern luxury. A well-appointed guest suite, entertainer's kitchen with a butler's pantry, and expansive living spaces framed by dramatic two storey voids offer effortless sophistication. Upstairs, three bedrooms with ensuites and a secluded master suite provide a private retreat. Modern contemporary interiors are embodied by sleek dark cabinetry, metallic accents, and statement tiles to create a moody yet inviting ambience.

"This home delivers on both grandeur and warmth," says Popple. "It is refined yet welcoming, with every detail meticulously considered to create an open, social space for friends and family."

VANTAGE 48, LAS PALMAS FAÇADE – A PALM SPRINGS-INSPIRED SHOWPIECE

The Vantage 48 with its Las Palmas façade channels mid-century modern charm with clean lines and statement expressions. Grand voids and arched windows invite natural light into the open-plan living and dining spaces, seamlessly connecting to an outdoor entertaining area. Upstairs, a master retreat and additional

bedrooms complete the home. Palm Springs-inspired interiors including curved forms, pastel accents, and a sophisticated wine storage room exude relaxed elegance.

"The seamless connection between indoor and outdoor spaces creates a flow that is both inviting and functional," Popple explains. "This home is about lifestyle with open, airy spaces perfect for entertaining."

CLARA 27, ESCAPE FAÇADE – A SCANDI LUXE SANCTUARY

The Clara 27 with its Escape façade blends tradition with modernity. A dedicated bedroom wing ensures privacy, while the media room and open-plan living areas enhance relaxation and entertaining. The kitchen, featuring a walk-in pantry and raked ceilings, serves as the heart of the home. Scandi Luxe interiors featuring veined tiles, soft hues, and brass finishes add warmth and understated luxury.

"This home embodies effortless elegance," says Popple. "Every element has been carefully selected to create a

cohesive, welcoming atmosphere where everything has its place."

MARION 40, PRINCETON FAÇADE – COASTAL ELEGANCE MEETS GRAND LIVING

The Marion 40 with its classic Princeton façade offers a refined yet functional design. A grand entry leads to a light-filled stair foyer and study, while upstairs, the master suite boasts two walk-in robes, a private balcony, and an indulgent ensuite. Multi-zoned living ensures privacy and connection, while the coastal-inspired interiors crisp whites, and soothing greys create a serene retreat.

"We envisioned the kitchen as a space where everyone could gather while cooking, ensuring it is both highly functional and welcoming," adds Popple. "The carefully selected lighting enhances this, adding a touch of understated luxury."

EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES WITH

METRICON Each of these meticulously designed homes at SkyRidge is a testament to Metricon's commitment to quality and innovation, offering homebuyers a glimpse into the elevated lifestyle that is possible with Metricon. With bespoke styling, design brilliance, and thoughtful layouts, these homes redefine what it means to love where you live.

■ For more information visit the Metricon display homes at Parkway Circuit, Worongary 4213, open daily from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. For more information, visit www.metricon.com.au or call 1300 638 742.



Vantage 48
Palm Springs-inspired showpiece



Waterford modern
contemporary interior



Adrian Parsons

elevating luxury living IN SOUTHEAST QUEENSLAND

TOTAL PROPERTY GROUP SETS THE STANDARD

TOTAL Property Group is redefining luxury apartment living in Southeast Queensland, particularly in the high-demand markets of the Gold Coast and Brisbane. With a reputation built on integrity, exceptional customer service, and unparalleled market expertise, TOTAL Property Group has been instrumental in shaping the region's premier residential developments.

For over 24 years, TOTAL Property Group has been at the forefront of the luxury property sector, guiding leading developers with insightful market intelligence for the benefit of the end buyer. The company's commitment to delivering premium apartment living experiences is underpinned by a dedication to excellence and a deep understanding of affluent buyers' expectations.

A Commitment to Excellence in Luxury Living

TOTAL Property Group's extensive knowledge and expertise extend far beyond traditional sales models. By collaborating

closely with developers from the inception of a project, the team ensures that every luxury apartment development meets the highest standards of design, functionality, and exclusivity.

"Our role is to help developers create residences that seamlessly integrate with the lifestyle aspirations of high-end buyers," says TOTAL Property Group Managing Director Adrian Parsons. "Every element, from architectural design to interior finishes and world-class amenities, must align with the expectations of discerning homeowners."

Through its extensive database of over 90,000 buyers and ongoing research into national and international trends, TOTAL Property Group provides developers with invaluable insights, ensuring their projects appeal to the evolving needs of luxury home seekers.

This strategic approach has played a crucial role in elevating the standard of high-end apartment developments across Brisbane and the Gold Coast.



Mondrian, Gold Coast



Aire Newstead Penthouse



Argyle, New Farm balcony



Argyle, New Farm exterior

Gold Coast and Brisbane's Booming Luxury Market

The demand for luxury residences in Southeast Queensland continues to rise, fuelled by strong interstate and international migration. According to the Queensland Government Statistician's Office, the Gold Coast welcomed approximately 26,200 new residents last year, including 12,500 international arrivals and 8,500 interstate relocations. Brisbane saw even greater growth, with 52,260 new residents choosing the city as their home, reinforcing the demand for premium apartment living.

Exclusive Projects Defining Prestige Living

TOTAL Property Group is leading the sales and marketing campaigns for some of the most prestigious residential developments in the region. Among its standout developments is the internationally acclaimed, soon to be completed Mondrian Gold Coast Residences at Burleigh Heads with its luxury branded residences enjoying world-class hotel and concierge services provided by Australia's first Mondrian branded five-star hotel.

"We're thrilled to have led the highly successful sales and marketing campaign for the sold-out Mondrian Private Residences and with construction nearing completion, this landmark development is set to bring an unprecedented level of luxury and sophistication to Burleigh Heads."

Mr Parsons says "As luxury Branded Residences, this development is unlike anything the Gold Coast has seen before and whilst all the apartments were sold out very quickly in 2021, we continue to have strong interest from buyers all around the world wanting to own one of these rare properties."

Also on its books is the iconic landmark Jewel Gold Coast, an extraordinary absolute beachfront development positioned between Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise. Offering move-in-ready private residences, Jewel Gold Coast provides residents with world-class amenities curated by the internationally renowned The Langham Gold Coast hotel.

The exclusive Royale Gold Coast, currently under construction on Northcliffe Terrace, boasts six-star beachfront apartments with two levels of luxurious resident-only facilities. Designed to offer an ultra-premium lifestyle, Royale Gold Coast is redefining high-end beachfront living with exquisite design and meticulous attention to detail.

In the heart of North Burleigh, Burly Residences is attracting high-net-worth professionals and entrepreneurs, drawn to its spacious, home-sized residences, state-of-the-art amenities, and proximity to Burleigh Heads' vibrant social scene.

In Brisbane, TOTAL Property Group has been at the forefront of promoting high end apartment living, particularly in areas like Newstead, New Farm, Kangaroo Point and Hamilton, where developments have catered to the growing demand for luxury inner-city residences with top tier amenities. Just launched and under construction Aire Newstead, a boutique collection of only 40 meticulously designed apartments, offering a sophisticated urban sanctuary with expansive layouts, premium finishes, and an unrivalled location close to Brisbane's best dining and lifestyle precincts.

An Unrivalled Dedication to Customer Service

TOTAL Property Group's success is founded in its unwavering commitment to customer satisfaction and integrity in the property market. The company provides an unparalleled level of service, ensuring buyers are guided through every step of their purchasing journey with professionalism and care.

"Our approach is personalised and tailored," explains Mr Parsons. "We understand that purchasing a luxury apartment is not just about securing a residence—it's about a desired way of life. That's why we ensure that every client receives a seamless, stress-free experience, from the first enquiry to settlement and beyond."

■ **TOTAL Property Group – Call 1300 393 855 or visit totalpropertygroup.com.au**



JEWEL PRIVATE RESIDENCES DIAMOND COLLECTION:

where luxury **MEETS LEGEND**



For those who demand the extraordinary, a residence is never just a home—it is an experience. The Jewel Private Residences Diamond Collection, with lifestyle by The Langham, Gold Coast, redefines opulence, offering a rarefied sanctuary where architectural brilliance meets the sophistication of world-class hospitality. This is more than an address; it is a statement of prestige, exclusivity, and the pinnacle of coastal luxury.

JEWEL OF THE GOLD COAST

Set against the crystalline waters of the Pacific Ocean, the Jewel Private Residences Diamond Collection commands an unrivaled beachfront position in Australia's most iconic coastal enclave. This collection of private residences offers uninterrupted panoramic views—where sunrise over the ocean and sunset over the hinterland are part of the everyday experience.



Each Diamond Collection residence is a masterclass in design, blending contemporary grandeur with a timeless sense of refinement. Floor-to-ceiling glass façades frame the breathtaking natural surroundings, while expansive terraces extend the living space beyond the walls. These residences are not simply designed; they are sculpted to perfection, with every detail speaking to the tastes of the world's most discerning buyers.

THE LANGHAM TOUCH: A LIFESTYLE OF BESPOKE INDULGENCE

True luxury extends beyond architecture—it is found in the effortless, intuitive service that transforms everyday living into an art form.

Residents of the Jewel Private Residences Diamond Collection are granted privileged access to The Langham's signature five-star amenities and services, redefining what it means to call the Gold Coast home. The Langham Gold Coast is not just your neighbour; it is an extension of your home.

The Jewel Private Residences Diamond Collection is more than just a home—it is an elite lifestyle experience enhanced by the exclusive Diamond Collection Concierge.

This bespoke service is dedicated to fulfilling residents' every request, from securing reservations at the most coveted fine dining establishments to organising private yacht charters, personal shopping experiences, and exclusive cultural events. Whether arranging a personal trainer, a private chef, or last-minute luxury travel, the Diamond Collection Concierge ensures that every need is anticipated and effortlessly executed.

THE ART OF ULTRA-EXCLUSIVE LIVING

To own a residence within the Diamond Collection is to possess a piece of architectural history—an address that transcends real estate and enters the realm of collectible art.

Each residence is an expression of its owner's discerning taste, offering sophisticated interiors designed to complement the natural beauty

outside. Expansive living spaces transition seamlessly between indoor and outdoor, creating an ambiance of tranquil sophistication.

A DESTINATION FOR THE WORLD'S ELITE

The Langham Gold Coast is synonymous with glamour, attracting a distinguished clientele that includes celebrities, business magnates, and international dignitaries. From Hollywood A-listers to elite sports stars, The Langham has played host to some of the world's most influential figures, making it the preferred luxury retreat for those who demand nothing less than perfection. The Diamond Collection places residents in the heart of this exclusive world, where impeccable service, privacy, and unparalleled luxury create a lifestyle beyond compare.

The Jewel Private Residences Diamond Collection is more than a place to live—it is a legacy investment, a trophy home for those who have arrived. The rarity of absolute beachfront luxury, coupled with the unparalleled prestige of The Langham lifestyle, ensures that these residences are among the most sought-after in Australia, if not the world.

For those who seek the rarest of jewels in the world of luxury living, this is an opportunity that will never be replicated. The Jewel Private Residences Diamond Collection awaits—a masterpiece of design, a symphony of service, and a sanctuary of sophistication.

■ **To secure your place among the world's elite, private viewings are now available by appointment with TOTAL Property Group, phone 1300 393 855 or visit totalpropertygroup.com.au**





NORTHCLIFFE TERRACE:
the new ultra-luxury
BEACHFRONT
DESTINATION

Royale Gold Coast offers a rare opportunity to own a piece of beachfront perfection
in one of Australia's most sought-after locations.

"EVERY DETAIL HAS BEEN METICULOUSLY CRAFTED TO EVOKE REFINED LUXURY, CAPTURING THE EVER-CHANGING SEASCAPE."

Northcliffe Terrace in Surfers Paradise is fast emerging as Australia's most coveted ultra-luxury beachfront destination. With a wave of brand-new, high-end developments redefining oceanfront living, this exclusive enclave is attracting discerning buyers who seek sophistication, prestige, and the ultimate coastal lifestyle. Offering direct beach access, panoramic ocean views, and an unparalleled standard of opulence, Northcliffe Terrace is becoming the premier address for those who refuse to settle for anything less than extraordinary. This is your chance to be part of the next era in elite beachfront living—don't miss out!

ROYALE GOLD COAST: WHERE THE BEACH MEETS ELEGANCE

Few addresses define the essence of luxury living quite like Royale Gold Coast. A symphony of opulence and sophistication, this premier beachfront development on the exclusive Northcliffe Terrace redefines high-end residential living in Australia's most coveted coastal locale. With its breathtaking design, world-class amenities, and unrivalled oceanfront views, Royale Gold Coast stands as the ultimate sanctuary for those who demand nothing less than perfection.

Perched on the sun-drenched shores of Surfers Paradise, Royale Gold Coast offers an unparalleled location that seamlessly blends coastal serenity with cosmopolitan convenience. Situated on the exclusive Northcliffe Terrace, these exceptional residences provide

direct access to golden sands and the endless blue horizon of the Pacific Ocean, allowing residents to indulge in the most breathtaking beachfront lifestyle imaginable. Whether it's an early morning walk along the Oceanway, a sunset cocktail on your private balcony, or the vibrant energy of the Gold Coast's finest dining and entertainment precincts just moments away, Royale Gold Coast places the very best at your doorstep.

ARCHITECTURAL BRILLIANCE: A VISION OF TIMELESS ELEGANCE

Architecturally designed by the internationally acclaimed DKO Architecture and with interiors by Mim Design, Royale Gold Coast is a masterpiece of modern sophistication. Every detail has been meticulously crafted to evoke a sense of refined luxury, with flowing interiors, natural textures, and an emphasis on open-plan living that captures the ever-changing seascape.

Floor-to-ceiling double glazed windows allow natural light to cascade through each residence, offering uninterrupted panoramic views that create an atmosphere of tranquillity and grandeur.

Each apartment has been designed with the discerning buyer in mind, boasting expansive layouts, premium finishes, and bespoke detailing. From the finest European appliances to the exquisite stone benchtops and custom joinery, every element reflects a commitment to unparalleled quality.

The residences range from elegantly appointed two-bedroom apartments to grand four-bedroom penthouses, each

offering a bespoke living experience that caters to individual tastes and lifestyles.

WORLD-CLASS AMENITIES: A RESORT-STYLE HAVEN

At Royale Gold Coast, luxury extends beyond your private residence. This landmark development offers a suite of six-star amenities that rival the world's most prestigious resorts. Residents can enjoy two swimming pools overlooking the ocean, rejuvenate in the wellness amenities featuring a gymnasium, yoga terrace, sauna, spa and cold plunge, or entertain guests in the exclusive residents' lounge and private dining area within Club Royale.

For those seeking the ultimate convenience, Royale Gold Coast provides concierge services tailored to enhance every aspect of daily life. Whether it's securing reservations at the city's finest restaurants, arranging private transport, or facilitating personalised experiences, the dedicated concierge ensures a seamless and sophisticated lifestyle.

A PRESTIGE LEGACY: A HOME LIKE NO OTHER

Royale Gold Coast is more than just a residence—it is an exclusive sanctuary designed for those who seek the extraordinary. With a limited collection of luxury apartments, beach homes and penthouses available from \$4,987,500, this is a rare opportunity to own a piece of beachfront perfection in one of Australia's most sought-after locations. Construction by Hutchinson Builders is due for completion in 2026.

■ **Visit the display at TOTAL Property Group Gold Coast headquarters, open seven days by private appointment. Call 1300 393 855.**



Burly Residences THE PINNACLE OF *COASTAL LUXURY* AT NORTH BURLEIGH

Burly Residences offers 40 meters of beach frontage overlooking North Burleigh Beach, presenting a rare opportunity to claim a piece of one of Australia's most coveted beachfront enclaves.





For those accustomed to the extraordinary, Burly Residences offers 40 meters of beach frontage overlooking North Burleigh Beach and presents a rare opportunity to claim a piece of one of Australia's most coveted beachfront enclaves. Here, the allure of an uninterrupted oceanfront lifestyle converges seamlessly with the highest standards of design and amenities, creating an unparalleled living experience reserved for the elite.

A Masterpiece of Architecture and Design

Designed by acclaimed architect Koichi Takada, with an unwavering commitment to innovation and aesthetic perfection, Burly Residences showcases a sculptural presence that harmonises effortlessly with its natural surroundings. The architecture embodies a refined yet commanding presence, incorporating fluid lines, expansive glass façades, and an organic palette that mirrors the coastal landscape.

Each residence is an exquisite expression of space and light, featuring grand open-plan layouts that celebrate panoramic ocean vistas. From the moment one enters, there is an immediate sense of serenity—an immersive embrace of the horizon, where floor-to-ceiling windows frame a breathtaking tableau of sun-drenched waves and golden sands. The interiors, curated by Mim Design, are a seamless

blend of sophistication and warmth, with bespoke finishes, natural stone accents, and the finest Swiss V-Zug appliances.

A Range of Residences to Suit the Most Discerning Buyers

Burly Residences offers an exclusive collection of meticulously designed apartments, catering to those who demand the finest in beachfront living. The development features an exquisite range of two-, three-, and four-bedroom residences and penthouses, each thoughtfully crafted to maximise space, privacy, and breathtaking ocean views. Each home is a testament to superior craftsmanship, with expansive layouts and premium materials ensuring an unrivalled living experience.

Expansive private balconies extend the living spaces seamlessly into the open air, offering a generous retreat where residents can immerse themselves in the beauty of their surroundings.

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Burly Residences is more than a home—it is a lifestyle reserved for those who appreciate the rare and exceptional.

The development's six-star amenities have been meticulously crafted to cater to the refined tastes of its residents, ensuring every moment is infused with effortless luxury and tranquility.

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A Rare and Coveted Opportunity

True luxury is defined by exclusivity, and Burly Residences offers a strictly limited collection of homes, each crafted to an uncompromising standard. This is not a development for the masses—it is a sanctuary for those who demand the extraordinary, a place where unparalleled craftsmanship meets the serenity of beachfront living.

■ **For your exclusive viewing contact TOTAL Property Group on 1300 393 855 or visit totalpropertygroup.com.au.**

Chief Executive
Mark Evans, Coach
Damien Hardwick
& Chair Bob East.

SUNS GO EAST

THE GOLD COAST SUNS ARE ON A MISSION.

Words & Photography: **John McJannett** www.twohandsphotography.com.au

About the author: After a career of over 30 years in senior management in the Australian Hospitality Industry John McJannett has returned to where it all started on the Gold Coast. In semi-retirement he now has time to pursue his interest in photography and writing. Instagram @johnmcj

Bob East is both an optimist and an opportunist – two characteristics that have served him incredibly well in his journey to his present role as Chair of the Gold Coast Suns Football Club. He is the chairman of numerous ASX-listed companies and has been at the forefront of two corporations that have achieved valuations of over \$1 billion AUD. He has been heavily involved in a multitude of successful private equity startups, and his government roles have included chairing Tourism Australia and Tourism Events Queensland.

Throughout his decades of business experience, Bob has maintained a key philosophy. This mantra is centred around remaining true to the basics, doing the things that matter most, and surrounding himself with the right people to achieve success.

This winning formula has resulted in an abundance of success in the Australian business landscape, and Bob is certain that it will be instrumental in delivering success to the Gold Coast Suns.

Like all players, officials, sponsors and loyal supporters of the club he is aware that fourteen years in the competition without a finals appearance needs to be turned around.

Bob and the team at the Gold Coast Suns Football Club are on a mission to prove the doubters wrong and achieve a new level of success that will lift the credibility of the club to a new level.

Having been on the Committee since day dot in 2011, he is extremely passionate and proud of the effort by all of the team associated with the club in striving to “break their duck” and play finals in both the mens and womens national competition!

Bob believes that the relatively young club is getting closer to playing finals. This is being helped by the increased strength of their playing squads and support staff and by greater community involvement and the backing of their two major sponsors – HOSTPLUS superannuation and Sixt car rentals. People First Bank is their stadium partner at Carrara.

A true Queenslander, Bob was born in Toowoomba as the

youngest of two children. He came through the public school system, played soccer and competed in athletics all through before attending University in Toowoomba and completing a teaching degree.

He was later to complete his MBA through the University of New England.

Whilst he completed his teaching qualifications Bob hastens to add that he never actually went into teaching. Instead, he opted for the unconventional, broke the mould and went travelling.

Previously, he had "some exposure to the outside world" and he decided it was in his better interests to explore his new found fascination with the world away from Toowoomba.

He began his full-time working career in the late 1980's working in the tropical Whitsundays region as a Watersports Assistant in the five-star luxury resort that was Hayman Island. He then travelled through Asia and his first long stop was in Japan where he worked as a labourer and landscape gardener on a couple of golf courses before he obtained a visa that enabled him to teach English and "get a legitimate job". He travelled up to the north of Japan and worked on the island of Hokkaido in the tourism sector.

He describes his two years in Hokkaido as a fantastic and very interesting experience. "At that time, the island was quite remote, there were not a lot of other foreigners there and I did immerse myself into all things Japanese. I grew my understanding of the culture and my language skills reached a moderate level informally."

Bob celebrated his twenty-first birthday in Japan but shortly afterwards realised that he was perhaps spending too much time on the ski slopes of Hokkaido and that it was time to move on with his life.

He returned to Australia where he landed a position in Cairns at the Cairns International Hotel.

At that time, in the boom stage of the 1990's, this 321 room five star hotel was the flagship property of the largest overseas investor in tourism and hospitality in Queensland, a Japanese company called Daikyo.

Bob spent nine years living and working in Cairns and it was during this time that he met his wife Susan. She hails from the Gulf of Carpentaria region, a little town called Normanton and Susan, like Bob, had ventured away from her home town seeking greater opportunities. She was also working at the Cairns International Hotel when they met.

Susan's family owned a motel in Normanton which became known as The Big Barramundi in honour of a large fibreglass barramundi replica which Susan's dad built out front of the property. Susan is the eldest of four girls and once again – a very tight-knit and close family.

Bob and Susan have been together for twenty nine years and have four children, three boys and one girl. Two of the boys are at University and the two youngest are at High School.

In Bob's words "Susan and the children are the heartbeat of my life. We are a very close family and it's both very pleasing and important to Susan and myself that our children are fit and healthy and have a very balanced outlook on life."

In 1999, Bob left Cairns as he was recruited to join Mirvac Hotels and Resorts, a then subdivision of one of Australia's most successful property developers. Bob spent a short time as General Manager of the Sebel Coolangatta before being transferred to Melbourne to open The Sebel Melbourne in 2000. Bob was General Manager of that hotel in Melbourne for about eighteen months before he was offered a role in development at the Mirvac Head Office in Sydney.

"This was the most transformative part of my career when I was given the opportunity to work with Bob Hamilton, the founder of the Mirvac Group. Bob was an icon of the industry, a gentleman and a very smart man. I had the opportunity to work with him for about a year until he retired. I had the privilege of working with a team whose prime focus was the best interests of customers, they acted with integrity and within the parameters of what the whole brand stood for."

Bob left Mirvac, returned to the Gold Coast and went straight into a private equity model – one that was taking a public company private. This was his first experience in investment and was the birth of the eventually very successful Mantra Hotels Group.

The venture struggled to get off the ground as a consequence of the GFC but thanks to the support of the bank it weathered the initial storm and over time, despite some dark days that the company experienced, Mantra Hotels expanded from 12 to 140 properties across Australia.

Like all players, officials, sponsors and loyal supporters of the club he is aware that fourteen years in the competition without a finals appearance needs to be turned around"



"As CEO of the company, I was able to gather a loyal team together and build the business into Australia's largest accommodation provider. We listed the business in 2014, it became the largest listed business on the Gold Coast and we eventually sold it to Accor Hotels in 2018 for \$1.3 billion."

"In the beginning, it was a Gold Coast company that had folded and was a bit messy and it took us a long time to build our credibility. It was a challenge for us to prove that you don't have to be in Sydney or Melbourne to do great things. We knew we couldn't do it as if we were in one of those locations, and that we had to find our own way."

"We had to find our points of difference and our approach was where you can't compete, don't compete and where you can compete, double down on that and make sure that you differentiate and find a way of adding value."

"We wanted to be an Australian service operator that focused on those things that mattered."

So we surrounded ourselves with good people and were able to build the biggest company in Australia in the hotel space at that time.

"The true lesson in that business was the constant lesson in life – If you surround yourself with people who are fantastic and better at things than you are, and you allow them to apply their skills and knowledge – then that will always work to your advantage."

There is no doubt that in the catalogue of successful Gold Coast based businesses Mantra Hotels rates somewhere near the very top of the list. As Bob proudly states – "It was a Gold Coast business success mostly driven by locals. We were able to attract some amazing local talent to work in our head office and drive the business and that talent remained loyal to us. People love to live here and with meaningful and challenging employment, they will stay."

"Our early days at Mantra were very similar to this footy club. You can't just drag people up here from down south – you have to build and create your own unique approach to things."

Bob freely admits that his own pedigree in Australian Rules is not that great but it is a game that he loves. His time in Melbourne fuelled his fire and passion for the game and he became a foundation Board member of the Gold Coast Suns when the club came into being.

"I saw the formation of this club as being important to the Gold Coast community. It genuinely does a terrific job with young people and provides talent pathways for those who are focused on a career within the industry itself."



"I also believe that the Gold Coast is a natural hub for sports people and especially for those striving to be elite. The climate is fantastic and the facilities are constantly being improved."

I believe in the product and I believe in the worth of having a national sporting team in the community and I can see that it has far-reaching benefits beyond trying to win premierships for those young women and young men who enter into the league.

"There is great diversity in the role of Chair of the footy club. One minute I may be chairing a meeting or making a speech or a media commitment, and then the next minute I may be down in the trenches with members or with the cheerleading team finding out what is meaningful to them. I find that is what brings the spice and fun to the role!"

Bob generously acknowledges that the Suns have a committed Board of Directors at the club.

"These are fantastic men and women who give freely of their time in the best interests of this football club. All of them genuinely engage with the community and our sponsors. They don't get paid for their efforts but it is our 'give back' to our community and we all know that we'll get payback to the level that we put in. I particularly enjoy my role of trying to set up a structure and get the resources so that people can experience success."

We are also extremely fortunate to have a such a capable group of management, administration staff, service staff, coaches and support staff. And of course a fantastic group of young men and women who make up the playing squads!

"There are some amazingly talented and wonderful young people in this club and I like to do everything that I can to bring some success into their world."

When he took up the Chair of the club, Bob identified that three things needed to be given priority.

NUMBER ONE IS TO TAKE A "FOOTY FIRST" APPROACH.

"The players and the parents and families of those young men and women athletes have put in an incredible effort to get to an elite sporting level. We feel an absolute obligation to do everything we can to give those kids a chance of success. We also have a thousand young people in our Academy and we aim to provide them with a pathway to professional sport where they can do it in their backyard. We want to grow our own local sporting heroes."

NUMBER TWO IS TO GENERATE ENGAGEMENT AND TAKE THE GOLD COAST COMMUNITY WITH US.

"We want people to join our journey and feel that they are part of something special. We've increased the membership to nearly 30,000 now, and we need to maintain and grow the belief that we are taking the Gold Coast community with us."

NUMBER THREE IS TO TURN THIS FOOTBALL CLUB INTO A FINANCIAL SUCCESS.

"We are unapologetic about the fact that we need to find ways to generate income beyond the footy field.

"There are limits to the amount of money that we can make from a footy-only approach. We have decided on a clubhouse/venue that will have food and beverage facilities and we have opened a childcare facility over the road from the club. We are looking to achieve financial sustainability and build pride in the club as we bolster our own balance sheet. I believe that these types of endeavours can even offer a good prospect for some of our players post their playing days."

Bob's time in the Chair came with some immediate challenges.

"It is also a priority of the Board to set up a football department that looks like a winning proposition. We completed an analysis of the department and the decision was made to part ways with the coach of our men's team. He had done amazing things for the players and the club but we felt we needed a new direction.

"Damien Hardwick had retired from Richmond so the club CEO Mark Evans and I met with Damien while he was taking a break in Italy. After two days of intense discussions we were able to announce Damien's appointment as Senior Coach of the men's team.

"Damien has won premierships as a player and a coach. On his own, he may not be the complete saviour but he has the capability to get good people around him to build a winning team. We are already starting to see real evidence of that and it is no secret that we are all walking a little taller as we see this coming to fruition."



"I saw the formation of this club as being important to the Gold Coast community. It genuinely does a terrific job with young people and provides talent pathways for those that are focused on a career within the industry itself"
– BOB EAST

The Suns have also appointed a new coach for the women's team – Rhyce Shaw. Like Damien Hardwick, Rhyce has experienced the joys of being part of a premiership winning team.

"Rhyce has a great pedigree in the game and we are excited and confident that our women's team will also be heading in the right direction.

There are some talented people working with them and the talent in that squad is fantastic.

"We feel that we are making good progress with both teams and we hope that we are on the cusp of some greater success with both.

"The Gold Coast has seen sporting clubs come and go at the national level and if we get this right – and we will get there – we can build something that will be quite iconic. We want to flip from being a club that is working hard towards getting people to come here to being a club where people aspire to join."

Bob may not have followed a traditional career path to the executive positions that he has held in the corporate world and now in the sporting world.

His experience at the grass roots level of the hospitality Industry and his subsequent 'move through the ranks' into management roles have given him a balanced outlook and approach to business that brings quality decisions, growth and positive results.

At heart he is a family man willing to do everything within his power to ensure that his family is happy and successful.

One cannot help but be left with the impression that he sees the Gold Coast Suns Football Club as his extended family.

His level of commitment to the club is exemplary. His desire and passion for the club and the people associated with it to experience greater success – both on and off the field – is both admirable and so openly visible in everything that he does for the club.

Bob recognises the challenges ahead, he knows that nothing will come without dedication and hard work. He is extremely confident with the progress and growth of Queensland's youngest AFL club and he exudes a determination to achieve better outcomes for the club.

In the meantime, Bob is Chair of the Board of the Gold Coast Suns AFL team and the 'new Mantra' for him, the Board members and the team is:

"Let's aim to be a sporting and financial powerhouse in the next ten years."

Only time will tell.

Far left: Suns Club Chair Bob East.

Left: Bob East and his wife Susan Millar-East.



Magic United FC: GROWING OUR Women & Girls Program

EMPOWERING THE FUTURE OF WOMEN'S FOOTBALL.

Words: **Andrew Robinson**

At Magic United FC, the vision for women and girls in football extends far beyond just playing the game. It is about creating a thriving, inclusive, and sustainable environment where girls can develop both their sporting and leadership skills.

Charlie Lee, the Women and Girls Technical Director, shares the club's commitment to expanding opportunities for young female players. "Our primary goal is to get as many young girls as possible playing the game, fostering a love for football in a fun, supportive, and development-focused environment," he says. But the club's ambitions don't end there. "We aim to empower women and girls to take on key roles within the club, including coaching, refereeing, and administration," Charlie adds. Through structured training, mentorship, and clear pathways, Magic United FC seeks to ensure that women and girls see a future in football, both on and off the field.

The passion for girls' football is also reflected in the words of Allie Harrison, a coach at the club. "I am incredibly fortunate to work with such an exceptional group of girls," she says. Allie notes the growth in girls' football at Magic United, with the introduction of several junior girls' teams and a supportive environment that encourages athletes to empower one another. "Their enthusiasm and positive attitude make coaching such an enjoyable experience," she explains. "Coaching girls' football provides a unique opportunity to foster both athletic and personal development in young women." Allie's pride in watching the players grow is evident, and she looks forward to seeing them excel further in the 2025 season.

The commitment to creating a positive environment is not only appreciated by the coaches but also by the parents. Emma Corcoran, a parent of two young players, speaks to the welcoming atmosphere at Magic United. "The coaching staff

were incredible with both girls despite the differences in their abilities, and it was clear they were truly engaged and focused on skill development," Emma says. Her daughter, Pippa, has continued to thrive in the U8s and loves playing alongside boys.

"Pippa is very competitive and loves a challenge, so the ability to play and train with the boys is something of a win-win for us," Emma explains. She highlights how the structured and community-focused approach of the club makes the commitment to football manageable and enjoyable for both players and parents.

Magic United FC's dedication to growing the sport for women and girls is setting the stage for a promising future in football, where everyone can find their place. The club's passion for development, empowerment, and community is creating a lasting legacy for the next generation of players, coaches, and leaders.

■ For more info visit magicunited.com.au

Magic *United*

FEMALE PROGRAM



CHALLENGES sports clubs face *after a natural disaster*

A FOCUS ON TROPICAL CYCLONE ALFRED.

"The emotional toll of a disaster extends beyond physical damage – mental health support is just as crucial."

Words: **Jake Savage** Colour Photography: **@freepik.com** Black & White Photography: **Brian Usher**



Natural disasters, such as Tropical Cyclone Alfred, can have devastating effects on communities, and cricket clubs are no exception. These organisations often serve as vital social hubs, and the destruction wreaked by such events can pose significant challenges to their operations, members, and the local community.

Here, we explore some of the key challenges faced by cricket clubs in the aftermath of a natural disaster.

DAMAGE TO FACILITIES

One of the most immediate impacts of a natural disaster is the physical damage to club facilities. Cricket grounds, clubhouses, and practice areas may suffer from severe flooding, wind damage, or debris accumulation.

Repairs can be costly and time-consuming, often requiring extensive resources that clubs may not have readily available.

The loss of these facilities directly affects the club's ability to host matches, training, and community events.

FINANCIAL STRAIN

The financial implications of a natural disaster can be overwhelming for cricket clubs. Many clubs rely on membership fees, sponsorships, and event revenues to sustain their operations.

Natural disasters can lead to a decrease in membership, as people may prioritise other expenses in the aftermath of such events.

Additionally, clubs may face increased insurance premiums or even difficulty

claiming insurance if they lack proper documentation of damage.

This financial strain can hinder the club's ability to fund repairs, maintain equipment, or provide coaching and training programs.

DISRUPTION OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Cricket clubs often play a crucial role in fostering community spirit and engagement. After a disaster, the focus of the community may shift towards recovery efforts, and the cricket club may find it challenging to maintain engagement with its members.

Loss of facilities and the emotional toll on members can lead to a decline in participation in club activities. Clubs must navigate the delicate balance between supporting the community's recovery and reviving their own operations.

EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT

The aftermath of a natural disaster can be emotionally taxing for individuals and communities. Club members may experience trauma, loss, or displacement, affecting their mental health and willingness to participate in club activities.

Cricket clubs must consider providing support systems to help members cope with these challenges, which may require additional resources and training for club officials.

REBUILDING MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNITY TRUST

Rebuilding a cricket club's membership base after a disaster can be a slow process. Potential members may be hesitant to join if they perceive the

club as unstable or unable to provide a safe environment. Additionally, restoring community trust takes time, as clubs must demonstrate their commitment to recovery and resilience.

Engaging in community outreach, hosting events, and providing support to those affected can help rebuild this trust.

NAVIGATING REGULATORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHALLENGES

In the wake of a disaster, cricket clubs may encounter bureaucratic hurdles when seeking permits for repairs, rebuilding, or hosting events.

Local regulations may change, and clubs must stay informed and compliant to avoid delays in recovery efforts.

Additionally, accessing government aid or grants can often involve a complex application process, requiring clubs to dedicate time and resources to secure necessary funding.

CONCLUSION

The challenges faced by cricket clubs after a natural disaster like Tropical Cyclone Alfred are multifaceted and require a comprehensive approach to address effectively. From the immediate need for facility repairs to the long-term goal of rebuilding community engagement and trust, cricket clubs must navigate a complex landscape of financial, emotional, and administrative hurdles. By fostering resilience and adapting to the evolving needs of their communities, cricket clubs can emerge from such crises stronger and more united than before.

■ Visit www.bvbcc.com.au for more.





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ERIE HITS the big leagues IN US SOCCER

**Erie Sports Center
granted access to
USL2 and USLW
leagues, marking
a milestone for
the facility and the
community.**

Words: **Jason Oxenbridge**

Erie Sports Center has taken another giant leap towards the 2026 World Cup in the US after it was granted access to the eminent USL2 and USLW soccer leagues.

The United Soccer League announcement comes as Erie Sports Center owner Troy Bingham gears up for a significant growth year at the Pennsylvania super sports facility he founded in 2021.

"We have invested in building from the ground up each year. In year one, we launched our youth club focused on individual player development and teaching players how to play the game the right way.

"In year two, we launched our full-time residential academy to create a full-time training program for young players with potential. This year we're introducing a

**"We can control
player development
right up to
pre-professional
level and then create
opportunities
for them at the
next level"**

**– former Gold Coaster
Bingham**

include an ambitious goal to move to USL1 and USL Super League—professional teams with licenses for men's and women's players.

Joel Nash is the Senior Vice President of Youth & Pre-Professional Properties at the United Soccer League and is excited about Erie's entry into the leagues.

Both Erie teams will play their home matches at Erie, which boasts a 1486 square metre performance facility and its own residential academy.

To be granted a licence, Erie first had to meet stringent criteria where facilities,

pre-professional program to give our players the opportunity to develop at the next level."

Bingham says the ripple effect has profound impacts on players to showcase their skills at the next level and also has social benefits for the local Erie community.

Some of those plans

management, and community benefits were assessed.

For Bingham, the game plan is all coming together as the reputation of Erie Sports Center continues to make its mark.

"We are scouting globally through our agents, partner clubs and global soccer relationships," he says.

"We are also investing in growing our soccer and education opportunities, which is attracting increasing international interest."

The club's mission is to provide world-class facilities and development opportunities to athletes vying to reach the professional level, regardless of their background.

Providing players for a professional development opportunity with education and pathways to the next level internationally is a solid game plan.

■ **Scan QR to receive more
information on attending the
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Football Academy.**





Train Smarter **NOT HARDER** *Why men and women need different strength and nutrition strategies*

UNDERSTANDING THE BIOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES FOR BETTER FITNESS AND HEALTH OUTCOMES

Have you ever wondered why your gym partner, who eats just as clean and trains just as hard, seems to be progressing at a different rate? It's not luck. It's not effort. It could be biology. Men and women are not created equal when it comes to nutrition and strength training, yet most fitness advice still takes a one-size-fits-all approach. The result? Frustration, plateaus, and wasted effort. Understanding these differences isn't about making excuses; it's about working smarter, not harder. No one sets out to fail when taking on a new health and fitness routine, but failure is more likely when you apply the wrong strategy. So, let's explore how to apply the right one.

When it comes to muscle growth, testosterone is the real MVP. Men have up to 15 times more testosterone than women, which means muscle-building happens faster and with heavier loads. More testosterone also means quicker recovery and more explosive power. However, women are not weaker; they just develop strength differently.

Women have more slow-twitch muscle fibres, which makes them better at endurance-based strength training. They can handle higher training volume and recover faster between sets, even if they don't bulk up as quickly. Despite this, women are often told to train like men, lifting heavy, focusing on low reps, and pushing through regardless of how their bodies feel. Meanwhile, men often overlook endurance and mobility, seeing it as secondary to building raw strength.

The differences between men and women also extend to fat loss and storage. Women naturally store more body fat, especially around the hips and thighs, because estrogen makes their bodies prioritise long-term energy reserves for survival and reproductive purposes. Men, on the other hand, store more visceral fat, which sits around the organs and increases the risk of heart disease. However, their higher muscle mass and faster metabolism allow them to burn fat more efficiently. This is why, when a man and a woman go on the same calorie deficit, the man will often see the scale drop twice as fast.

Meanwhile, a woman's body may fight to hold onto fat, especially if calorie intake is too low. Despite this biological reality, diet culture continues to push extreme calorie cuts on women, leading to hormonal imbalances and a slower metabolism.

I have always maintained that muscle is the organ of longevity and strength training should be a priority for both men and women of all ages. Muscle mass impacts far more than just aesthetics; it plays a crucial role in metabolism, strength, and resilience against injury. Men naturally gain muscle mass faster due to higher testosterone levels, so women need to prioritise resistance training and ensure adequate protein intake to maintain muscle as they age. A poorly designed training or nutrition plan doesn't just lead to plateaus; it can accelerate muscle loss, increase fatigue, and make recovery harder. It is not about working out more, but about training in a way that protects and optimises long-term health.

The role of protein and fats in the diet also varies between men and women.



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SCAN TO BE THE
BEST VERSION
OF YOU



**"MEN SHOULD FOCUS ON BUILDING POWER AND RECOVERY,
WHILE WOMEN SHOULD EMBRACE STRENGTH TRAINING
THAT ALIGNS WITH THEIR NATURAL CYCLES."**

Men generally thrive on high-protein diets, as their testosterone drives muscle protein synthesis. Consuming 1.6 to 2.2 grams of protein per kilogram of body weight can help men build and recover muscle more effectively.

Women also benefit from higher protein intake, which supports better body composition. However, women often need healthy fats just as much as protein. Fats are essential for hormone balance, brain function, and metabolism. Cutting fats too low can lead to low energy, hormonal imbalances, and stalled progress. This is why diets like fasting, keto, and aggressive calorie cuts might work short-term for men but often backfire on women. Different bodies need different fuels for optimal performance.

When it comes to stress, recovery, and avoiding burnout, men and women again respond differently. Men's bodies react to stress by increasing cortisol and testosterone levels, which can temporarily enhance performance. Women, however, often experience a

drop in estrogen when stress is high, negatively impacting energy, mood, and metabolism. This is why a man can train hard, eat aggressively, and recover well, while a woman on the same program might feel fatigued, bloated, and hormonally out of balance. Instead of applying the same approach to both genders, training programs should be adapted to these biological differences.

The reality is that men and women do not just burn fuel differently, they also recover, respond to stress, and adapt to training in unique ways. Yet, most fitness trends ignore this truth. The problem is not that one gender has it easier than the other; the problem is that most people are playing the wrong game.

Men should focus on building power and recovery, lifting heavy, prioritising protein intake, but not neglecting endurance or mobility work. Women should embrace strength training that involves higher volume and aligns with their natural cycles, prioritising healthy fats and avoiding overtraining during low-energy periods.

Ignoring these differences often leads to burnout, frustration, and the sense that you are "doing everything right" but not seeing results. However, when you start to work with your biology, not against it, that is when real progress happens. Your body is not broken and you are not failing – you might just be following a strategy that does not align with your specific needs.

The key question to ask yourself is this:
Are you training and eating in a way that suits your body, or are you following a plan designed for someone else entirely?

The path to achieving fitness and nutrition goals is not about working harder, but about smarter strategies. By understanding and respecting the biological differences between men and women, you can create a more effective and enjoyable approach to health and fitness. Embrace a tailored strategy that aligns with your unique physiology, and you will not only see better results but also build a healthier, more resilient body for the long term.

Dear future bride, THIS IS YOUR SIGN

Close your eyes. Picture your wedding day. Not just the Pinterest board version – but the real thing. From the excitement of getting ready, to saying ‘I do’, to those first photos as newlyweds, and finally, dancing the night away at your reception – now imagine it all unfolding without a hitch, and all in one location. At Robina Events Centre (REC), they make the magic happen, effortlessly.

Here's the deal with 2025 weddings: couples want an entire experience, not just a location. And that's exactly why REC is stealing the spotlight.

Director at Style onQ, Tammie Fowler has been in the wedding industry for over 24 years and describes REC as a venue that effortlessly transforms to suit any wedding vision.

“REC offers a large variety of wonderful spaces, which seamlessly adapt to many different styles, aesthetics, and options,” said Tammie.

And the photo opportunities? Endless.

“The photo opportunities are expansive and also offer some very unique options for capturing those precious wedding shots,” she adds.

One of the standout spaces is the Anna Rose Room. Think modern, sleek, and effortlessly chic. Want romantic florals or a bold, contemporary look? It's got you. With space for 300 guests, state-of-the-art tech, and a design that flows with ease, it's the perfect spot for your intimate vows and grand celebrations.

More of a ‘celebrate under the stars’ type? Green Fields Bar + Restaurant offers hinterland views and an intimate vibe that feels like a secret garden party with capacity for up to 90 seated guests or 150 cocktail style.

And here's where REC really changes the game. Everything is designed to make your life easier. Ceremony and reception in one place? Done. An entrance foyer that feels like a luxury 5-star hotel? Yours. An on-site beauty and hair salon, so you and your bridal party can sip mimosas while getting glam? Obviously.

And let's not forget the gents. How about kicking back in a classic barbershop setting, with Chesterfield chairs and a saloon-inspired atmosphere. At REC, the groom and his crew have a dedicated space to relax, share a toast, and add those final touches before the ceremony.

Even the planning process at REC is exceptional, with esteemed wedding planner and stylist Tammie Fowler describing it as ‘next level’.

“The experienced and dedicated team always strive to please with a very high level of detail and execution, whilst remaining very down to earth and helpful,” said Tammie.

“REC is the first venue to include Plan onQ, a step-by-step, pro-designed wedding planning guide in every package. The online month-to-month



action list comes with advice and guidance from planning experts to make the journey as stress-free as possible,” she said.

And let's be real – your wedding should be unforgettable for all the right reasons. REC is ahead of the curve in sustainable celebrations, making sure your love story leaves a lasting impact without leaving a footprint. It's elegance with purpose, intention, and less waste.

With wedding packages starting from \$140pp, REC isn't just a venue – it's where style, flexibility, and affordability come together in one place to create a unified experience. After all, it's not just about the venue; it's about those big and little moments in between that make your day perfect.

So, if you're looking for a sign – this is it. But don't take our word for it. 2025 dates are disappearing fast. Book a tour today and start turning your Pinterest dreams into reality.



Download the wedding kit from
Robina Events Centre.

On-site beauty and hair salon including classic barbershop setting for the guys.



COULD WE
BE YOUR
SOMETHING
BLUE?

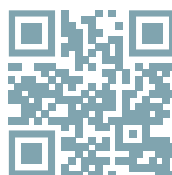


WEDDINGS AT ROBINA EVENTS CENTRE

The Robina Events Centre (REC) is a modern wedding venue that effortlessly caters to both intimate gatherings and grand celebrations of up to 200 guests, with options to suit all budgets. Whether you're planning a weekend or a mid-week wedding, REC offers flexible packages designed to meet your needs.

The stunning Anna Rose Room is a versatile space that will complement your wedding theme and is equipped with state-of-the-art technology, while Green Fields Bar + Restaurant provides breathtaking hinterland views and serves as an ideal backdrop for your special day. You can also enjoy exclusive use of our elegant entry space for welcoming guests and capturing memorable photos for weekend and evening events.*

Our experienced event planners will work closely with you to tailor every detail, ensuring your day is perfect. At REC, we pride ourselves on our commitment to excellence, with every wedding receiving unparalleled attention to detail and exceptional service.



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A TOUR

Robina Events Centre

TAFE Queensland – Robina campus
Level 4, 94 Laver Drive
Robina QLD 4226
P 07 5559 7556
E rec@tafeqld.edu.au

  @robinaeventscentre

*Subject to availability, dependant on wedding time and day.



THE VALLEY ESTATE
SURREY HILLS, AUSTRALIA

Photography: Evernew Studio

SOPHIA & VICTOR

Let yourself get lost in love at The Valley Estate, the bespoke, one-off venue crafted to inspire celebration and reflection with loved ones. Here's a peek inside the dreamy wedding of Sophia & Victor.

The story of how you both met?

We met via mutual friends at a bbq, not long after that we became good friends and somehow, we were always seeing each other or hanging out within group settings. We were best friends for a while before we started dating.

How did the proposal occur?

Victor proposed in Japan which is also where we had made it official back in 2018. He planned a dream proposal in Kyoto. We were surrounded by the most gorgeous Autumn foliage. He dropped to one knee as we were crossing the bridge, and it was the perfect backdrop. This truly was a dream come true moment.

Why did you choose The Valley Estate?

The Valley Estate has a certain atmosphere which other venues couldn't replicate for us. From the moment you enter the front gates, you're whisked away to a luxurious and grand setting; it's truly a one-of-a-kind venue. We fell in love with it, and we just knew it was the perfect location. Our guest count exceeded the venues limit however, as we loved it so much, we chose to host a weekend long celebration to accommodate. It was the best weekend of our life so far. The Valley Estate has truly thought of every small detail from the gorgeous bridal sanctuary and grooms retreat to the stunning grounds which are picture perfect from every angle; and not to mention the delicious food – it's a complete package and more.

What inspired you to choose the ceremony location?

For our traditional Chinese/Vietnamese tea ceremony we chose to have it in The Glasshouse. The morning

sunshine coming through the glass panels and softly illuminating the space was magical. The greenery from the plants which hung from the roof paired with the rich red colours of our Chinese tea ceremony outfits complimented one another perfectly. For our wedding ceremony itself, we chose The Chapel as we wanted a classic look which this location was able to offer. We wanted The Chapel to have the same romantic feel, filled with lush florals and live music from the amazingly talented Lauren Bradnam playing violin.

Your fondest memory of the wedding?

In The Chapel, seeing all our nearest and dearest there to celebrate our love. There was also a moment during the reception, seeing everyone laughing and having fun, that made us realise how fortunate we are to have each other and such an amazing support system of friends and family surrounding us.

The inspiration behind your styling?

It is essentially our fairytale wedding brought to life- romantic yet elegant and classic. We wanted to enhance the already gorgeous surroundings and create something that was uniquely our own. We worked with Athena from Celebrating in Style, who was not only able to understand our vision but meticulously brought it to life!

The dresses:

We had the wedding celebrations over two days, so a total of seven dresses was organised. The traditional wedding dress, a Chinese tea ceremony outfit, a traditional Vietnamese dress, a first dance dress, and three other dresses we alternated for cake cutting, entering

the reception and greeting guests. For my wedding dress we went to about four bridal shops but the one that stood out to us was White Atelier Bridal. We loved how elegant and personalised their showroom experience was. We went with a flattering A-line dress which had intricate beading, lace detailing and detachable straps.

The suit:

Victor's suit was from Tony Barlow, a classic black suit with satin detailing.

Favourite dish of the night?

We love a good steak, so it was definitely the Beef Sirloin with potato puree, mushrooms and black garlic jus. We also had a lot of people tell us that they loved the Crispy Skin Barramundi with salsa verde and lemon.

Favourite photo location?

The gardens were our favourite photo locations. We can't pinpoint a single area because it was all so picturesque. If we had to choose, it would be in front of The Manor and the tree-lined bridal driveway, which is absolutely beautiful.

Words of advice for future couples who are planning their wedding:

Enjoy yourself! Planning a wedding can be stressful and time consuming but ultimately it should be fun and something to look forward to. Ask for help if you need it and create a strong support system around you. Having an amazing stylist and event coordinator really makes a world of difference.

THE VALLEY ESTATE
393 Currumbin Creek Road
Currumbin Waters Qld
1800 908 090



Indulge in unmatched LUXURY & REVITALIZATION *with Jen Tagget's Expertise*

WHERE CLINICAL BEAUTY MEETS TRANQUILITY:
ELYSIUM BEAUTY SPAS CELEBRATING 20 YEARS ON THE GOLD COAST!

Words: **OR Editorial Staff** Photography: **Kit Wise Photography** Interior Design: **Twelve Senses**

Nestled along the stunning coastlines of Burleigh, Tugun, and Kingscliff, Elysium Beauty Spas are the epitome of relaxation and rejuvenation. With a reputation for creating transformative beauty experiences, the renowned spa brand has quickly become a haven for those seeking luxurious self-care and holistic treatments with a focus on results.

At the heart of Elysium Beauty Spas is Jen Tagget, a passionate dermal therapist with an unwavering commitment to providing the highest quality services in the most tranquil of settings. Her spas are not just places to visit – they are immersive experiences designed to transport clients to a serene oasis, away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life whilst achieving life changing skin results with the use of DMK's high tech Enzyme treatments and Cosmeceutical range of skincare.

THE VISION BEHIND ELYSIUM BEAUTY

Jen Tagget founded Elysium Beauty with a singular goal: to offer a personalized and premium spa experience to those who deserve nothing less than excellence. Drawing from years of expertise in the beauty and wellness industries, Jen's vision was to create spaces where every client can feel relaxed, and confident in their own skin.

With locations on the iconic Gold Coast in Burleigh and Tugun, and in the vibrant Tweed Coast community of Kingscliff, Elysium Beauty Spas have earned a loyal following of clients who trust Jen and her team of skilled therapists to meet their individual beauty needs.

Whether you're looking for Advanced Enzyme Therapy, Skin Needling, Relaxing facial, or a soothing massage, or expert waxing services, Elysium's highly trained professionals will ensure you leave feeling refreshed and revitalized.

"Elysium Beauty isn't just a spa; it's an immersive experience designed to leave you feeling refreshed, rejuvenated, and radiant."



A FULL RANGE OF LUXURIOUS TREATMENTS

One of the many reasons Elysium Beauty stands out in the crowded beauty industry is its dedication to offering a wide variety of services designed to cater to every client's unique needs. From advanced skin treatments to soothing massages, Elysium is a one-stop-shop for self-care and indulgence.

"The reason we stand out to be different is we blend the benefits of spa with outstanding results. We have an extremely loyal clientele and a low staff turnover and offer a high end service whilst achieving outstanding results.

"Elysium Beauty is a passionate DMK brand, awarded Top 3 DMK Clinic in Queensland in 2023," Jen proudly says.

Signature Enzyme Therapy Treatments:

A powerful treatment that targets the Lymphatic System to detoxify, purify and remove toxins, followed by stimulating fresh oxygenated blood and lymph to heal and hydrate and oxygenate naturally, great for all skin conditions including but not limited to Acne, Rosacea, Impaired Barrier Function, Age management and prevention.

Dermapen Skin Needling and Healite LED: for optimal skin rejuvenation.

Relaxation Facials: Elysium Beauty's signature facials are more than just a skin treatment – they're an experience. Using only the best products and the

latest techniques, these facials are customized to target your specific skin concerns. Whether you're struggling with aging, acne, or skin sensitivity, Jen's team will create a tailored treatment plan to bring out your skin's natural glow.

Massage Therapy: Let the tension melt away with Elysium Beauty's range of massage therapies. From calming Swedish massages to invigorating deep tissue treatments, each massage is designed to soothe the body and mind. The therapists at Elysium are highly trained in multiple modalities, ensuring that you leave with a sense of balance and relaxation.

Body Treatments: Looking for body treatments that make a difference? Elysium Beauty's range of body treatments – including detoxifying body enzymes, fat cav, IPL and indulgent body massages – are perfect for enhancing your natural beauty and giving your skin the attention it deserves.

Waxing and Tinting: No matter your beauty needs, Elysium's waxing and tinting services are designed to leave you feeling confident and polished. With a focus on comfort, the spa offers fast, effective, and virtually pain-free waxing for every area of the body, while their tinting services will help you achieve defined, natural-looking brows and lashes.

A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

When you step into Elysium Beauty Spa, you'll immediately notice something different. From the moment you walk through the door, you're welcomed with warmth and care – an atmosphere designed to ensure that each visit is nothing short of extraordinary. The team at Elysium is committed to maintaining the highest industry standards, ensuring that every client feels like royalty.

The spa's luxurious décor, calming ambiance, and exceptional customer service combine to make each visit feel like a true escape from the everyday. Jen's team is not only skilled in their craft but is genuinely dedicated to helping

every guest achieve their personal beauty goals in an environment that's both welcoming and serene.

WHY CHOOSE ELYSIUM BEAUTY?

What sets Elysium Beauty apart from other spas? It's the combination of professional expertise, luxurious settings, and personalized service. When you choose Elysium Beauty, you're not just opting for a treatment – you're treating yourself to an experience.

- **Expert Therapists:** Each therapist at Elysium Beauty is carefully selected for their skills, experience, and passion for delivering exceptional service. They're dedicated to making every treatment a special experience, tailored specifically to your needs.
- **Premium Products:** Elysium only uses top-tier, professional-grade products for all their services, ensuring that your skin and body receive the best care possible.
- **Personalized Experience:** The team pride themselves on providing a personalized experience for each client. Whether you're coming in for a regular treatment or a special occasion, you'll be treated with the attention and care you deserve.

YOUR INVITATION TO INDULGE

Elysium Beauty Spas have become a cornerstone of relaxation and luxury on the Gold Coast and Tweed Coast, and they're ready to welcome you. Whether you're a local or visiting from afar, Jen and her team invite you to experience the tranquillity and beauty that Elysium has to offer.

■ **Book your next appointment today and let Elysium Beauty take you on a journey of relaxation, rejuvenation and indulgence. The path to beauty and wellness starts here! For more information or to make a booking, visit elysiumbeauty.com.au or follow them on social media for the latest news and promotions. For collaborations or to join our team email jenni@elysiumbeauty.com.au**
Are you ready to experience the ultimate in relaxation and beauty? Elysium Beauty is waiting to welcome you into their luxurious spas, where every visit is designed to make you feel your absolute best.

lifestyle essentials

OOGEE AUSTRALIA X TIMOTHY JOHNSTON UNVEIL 'WEARABLE ART' FOR REEF CONSERVATION RRP \$175

Fashion has the power to inspire change. Now, it can protect our oceans too. ooGee Australia has partnered with renowned Sydney-based artist Timothy Johnston. Together, they have created the Art Series Collection. This headwear range features stunning aerial paintings of Australia's deserts and reefs, turning these paintings into wearable art. It is also a collaboration with Taronga's Reef Recovery Program, helping support vital coral conservation efforts. The collection blends artistry with purpose, with the goal of safeguarding one of the world's most fragile ecosystems.

Visit: www.oogee.com.au



**NEW
RANGE**

DOYOUVEEN DESIRE KHAKI ONESIE RRP \$95 & BOLERO RRP \$55

Doyoueven is a fitness apparel brand known for its high-quality workout gear. They offer a variety of products, including leggings, shorts, sports bras, tanks, and tops for both men and women. The designs focus on performance, comfort, and style, with materials that are breathable, durable, and flexible for intense training.

Visit: www.doyoueven.com

**BUTTERY
SOFT**

INDULGE IN THE FINER THINGS THIS SEASON WITH A COLLECTION OF LIFE'S LITTLE LUXURIES.

Compiled by:

Melissa Usher, Fashion & Beauty Editor

GLASSHOUSE FRAGRANCES COUNTRY COUTURE 380G CANDLE RRP \$59.95

This limited edition scent will take you on a trip to the countryside with feelings of nostalgia and a warm hug. Close your eyes and imagine this is your home away from home, and there's no better place to spend the autumn months.

Visit: www.glasshousefragrances.com



**ORM
LOVES**

**MUST
HAVE**



CIRCA VANILLA BEAN & ALL SPICE RRP \$39.95

Warm, welcoming, and deliciously calming, the blend of vanilla and all spice is guaranteed to soothe the senses. With sandalwood, patchouli, and a citrusy hint of bergamot, this fragrance brings all the comfort of a hug to your home.

Visit: www.circa.com.au

UGG EXPRESS AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD RILEE PLATFORM UGG SLIPPERS RRP \$210

Step into ultimate comfort with the Australian Shepherd Rilee Platform Slippers, designed to keep your feet cozy and stylish all day long. The plush shearling lining offers luxurious warmth, while the platform sole adds a modern twist to the classic style.

Perfect for lounging at home or stepping out in casual chic, these slippers are your go-to for comfort without compromising on fashion.

Visit: www.uggexpress.com.au

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IT'S TIME TO HIRE IT.
STYLE IT. RETURN IT.

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beauty essentials

As the crisp air of autumn settles in, it's the perfect time to refresh your beauty routine. We're embracing rich, warm tones, nourishing skincare and bold, transformative looks that reflect the season's natural beauty. From cosy yet vibrant makeup shades to skincare products that combat the cooler weather, let's dive into everything you'll need to look and feel your best.



Compiled by:
Melissa Usher,
Fashion & Beauty Editor
Lifestyle Photography:
Look Studio @freepik.com

THE COLLAGEN CO APPLE BLACKCURRANT SUPERGREENS, 308G RRP \$65

Apple Blackcurrant Super Beauty Greens is everything you're looking for in a greens supplement ... and more. Alongside plenty of leafy organic greens, expect phytonutrient-rich superfoods, digestion-supporting pre- and probiotics, uplifting herbal extracts, and beauty-boosting hydrolysed collagen peptides.

Visit: www.thecollagen.co

**MUST
HAVE!**



**ORM
LOVES**



DALAN D'OLIVE HAND & BODY LOTION 400ML RRP \$19.95, HAND & BODY CREAM, 20ML RRP \$4.95, 75ML RRP \$9.95, 250ML RRP \$16.95

Dalan D'Olive is the beauty brand to keep on your radar for 2025. Rooted in Mediterranean beauty traditions, Dalan D'Olive harnesses the power of Aegean olive oil from Turkey, praised for its rich vitamin E content and powerful antioxidant properties. This hero ingredient aids in restoring hydration, deeply nourishes, and shields the skin from environmental stressors that contribute to dryness and premature ageing, while supporting overall skin and hair health.

Visit: www.dolive.com.au



ILLUMIA SKIN ESS LED MASK: CLEAR SKIN, NO COMPROMISES RRP \$299

This mask is a revolutionary breakthrough, combining clinically proven red and blue light therapy to target acne at its core – without the use of harmful chemicals, harsh side effects, or UV exposure. With 132 medical-grade LEDs and innovative “pillow” technology for a snug, comfortable fit, the ESS LED Mask works to:

- Eliminate acne-causing bacteria with powerful purple light therapy
- Reduce inflammation and redness to soothe irritated skin
- Accelerate healing to prevent scarring and long-term damage
- Strengthen the skin barrier for improved resilience and radiance.

Visit: www.illumiaskin.com

MODELROCK PLANT FIBRE LASHES RRP \$35

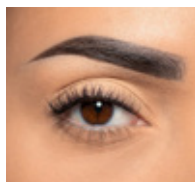
Nurture nature, beauty, and beyond with ModelRock's Plant Fibre Press-On Lashes. Say goodbye to messy glues, and hello to convenience and instant lash transformations in just seconds! Unleash your creativity and experiment with different lengths – customise the clusters to create a look that is uniquely yours! Made from hemp-derived plant fibre.



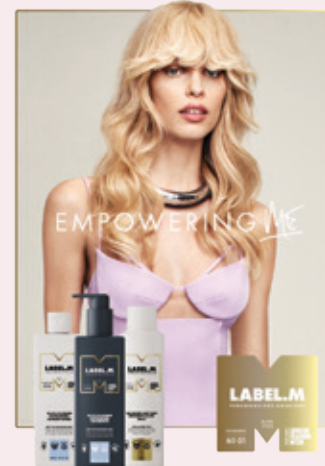
MODELROCK SALON EDITION LASH CLUSTERS RRP \$35/SET

ModelRock's Salon Edition Lash Clusters take lash customisation to the next level! Whether you desire a full voluminous look, a wispy textured look, a delicate natural look, or a more dramatic look to blend beautifully with your natural lashes, there is a cluster style to suit everyone! Available in six different categories, each cluster is meticulously handmade to ensure lightweight comfort and durability.

Visit: www.modelrocklashes.com



EXPERT HAIR, ANYWHERE! HAIRCARE SOLUTIONS BY TONI&GUY



EMPOWERING ME BY LABEL.M A JOURNEY TO INNER CONFIDENCE

Words: **Bernadette Cliff**

Our brand new LABEL.M campaign shows empowerment begins with expertise providing clients with the knowledge, guidance, and personalised products they need to maintain beautiful healthy hair – not just when they visit us at our Broadbeach salon, but every day at home or wherever they are.

The five-step system targets primary haircare solutions with innovative complexes and key ingredients the product range includes a colour-coded navigation system to help clients find their personalised haircare regimes – all created by the experts at TONI&GUY.

Like any good skincare routine our ideal haircare regime is based on key steps to healthy, beautiful hair with everyone will have a different personalised routine depending on their hair, what they do with it and their desired result.

Someone who lightens their hair blonde and heat styles it, is going to need to use different products to a natural brunette who lets their hair dry naturally. Texture, age and density can also play an important role when deciphering the correct product.

For a complimentary hair assessment and consultation book in with our LABEL.M product expert and Artist Director Kelly on 55399444.

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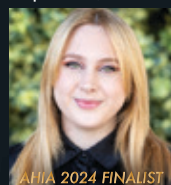


MEET THE TEAM

With over 75 years combined experience, the team at Broadbeach are sure to look after all of your hair needs



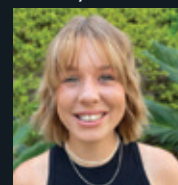
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PAIGE
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AUTUMN SCENTS

Embrace autumn with fragrances featuring Sandalwood, Mandarin, Rose, and Vanilla notes for warm aromatic accords.

Recommendations by Nick Smart of Libertine Parfumerie

1. Parfums de Marly Valaya Exclusif 75ml \$559 (Mandarin, Sandalwood, Vanilla, Almond, Bergamot)
2. BDK Impadia 100ml \$369 (Mandarin, Bergamot Oil, Rose Absolute, Orange Flower)
3. Fugazzi Passionfroudh Extrait de Parfum 100ml \$339 (Pepper, Tea, Mango, Rose, Oudh Assafi)
4. Creed Eladaria 75ml \$489 (Mandarin, Trio of Rose, Musk, Vanilla, Cashmere Wood)
5. Matiere Premiere Vanilla Powder Hair Perfume 75ml \$109 (Coconut, Vanilla Absolute Madagascar, White Musk)
6. Amouage Purpose 50 Extrait 100ml \$859 (Bergamot, Pink Pepper, Rose, Sandalwood, Vanilla)
7. Frapin 6 Hours to Rio 100ml \$359 (Ginger, Mandarin, Cardamom, Rose, Santal, Vetiver)
8. Juliette Has A Gun Miami Shake 100ml \$235 (Vanilla, Wild Strawberry, Ice Cream Cone, Creamy Musk)
9. Trudon Vixi Liquid Soap 350ml \$159 (Sandalwood, Sage, Jasmine)

Available at libertineparfumerie.com.au



OCLEAN X PRO DIGITAL SONIC ELECTRIC TOOTHBRUSH RRP \$299.95

The Oclean X Pro Digital Sonic Electric Toothbrush uses advanced sonic technology to deliver up to 42,000 brush strokes per minute for a deep and efficient clean. It features a smart touch screen for easy control, offering multiple brushing modes and real-time feedback on your brushing habits. With a long-lasting battery and built-in pressure sensor, it helps ensure optimal brushing performance and better oral care.

Visit: www.oclean.com.au

CUTISE COSMECEUTICAL SKINCARE OMNIGEL CLEANSER RRP \$68, BRIGHTCARE DAY SERUM RRP \$88, ASSENCE NIGHT CREAM RRP \$98 AND COMPLIFT EYE GEL RRP \$78.

Cutise cosmeceutical skincare products combine the power of cosmetics and pharmaceuticals to target specific skin concerns with scientifically backed ingredients. These products typically focus on improving skin health, enhancing texture, and addressing issues like ageing, pigmentation, or acne. With advanced formulations, they offer visible, long-term results by working deep within the skin layers to repair and rejuvenate.

Visit: www.cutise.com.au



JSHEALTH VITAMINS VITA-GROWTH SERUM RRP \$64.99

JSHealth Vitamins is providing Aussies with their new Vita-Growth Scalp Serum, the perfect solution with clinically proven actives, peptides, vitamins, and amino acids for thicker, healthier hair! Backed by science and clinical research, all active ingredients included within this powerful serum deliver measurable results including:

- 89% reduction in hair loss
- 35% stimulation in hair growth
- 50% increase in hair density

Visit: www.jshealthvitamins.com





REF ILLUMINATE COLOUR INSTANT SHINE RRP \$47.50

This weightless illuminating liquid lotion provides maximum shine to all hair types and is the perfect finish to your washing routine when you want enviable glass-like, glossy, silky hair.

Infused with camellia oil and wheat bran extract for moisture, it also protects hair colour and fights frizz in minutes, giving you salon-worthy results at home! 100% vegan, sulphate, paraben & cruelty-free. Climate compensated.

MUST HAVES



REF INTENSE HYDRATE STYLING CREAM RRP \$47.50

Perfect for effortless styling, pamper your hair with hydration & moisture with this NEW moisturising styling cream from REF Stockholm that delivers a light hold, smooth definition, and lightweight control.

Enriched with organic coconut oil and jojoba oil for moisture, it

hydrates deeply, tames flyaways, and shields your hair against humidity for a frizz-free, silky finish.

Visit: www.smithscollectivebrands.com.au

THE COLLAGEN CO SALTED CARAMEL MILKSHAKE COLLAGEN MEAL REPLACEMENT 756G RRP \$79 – LIMITED EDITION!

Craving something sweet but watching your waistline? Salted Caramel Milkshake is a luscious, caramel-kissed delight that helps you slim down while sneaking in your daily dose of collagen. With every sip, you're treating your taste buds, boosting your glow, and keeping those cravings in check.

Visit: www.thecollagen.co



iS CLINICAL CREAM CLEANSER

The iS Clinical Cream Cleanser is a gentle, hydrating cleanser designed to effectively remove impurities, makeup, and excess oils without stripping the skin's natural moisture. Ideal for dry, sensitive, or ageing skin, it helps maintain the skin's barrier function while providing a deep yet non-drying cleanse.

iS CLINICAL BODY YOUTH SERUM

iS Clinical Body Youth Serum is a powerful treatment designed to improve the appearance of ageing skin on the body by promoting smoothness, firmness, and overall skin vitality. Formulated with a blend of antioxidants, peptides, and exfoliating agents, it helps reduce the appearance of fine lines, sun damage, and uneven texture. A must-have as the weather cools down.

iS CLINICAL ACTIVE PEEL SYSTEM

The iS Clinical Active Peel System is a professional-grade, two-step skincare treatment designed to provide deep exfoliation and enhance skin renewal. This system is ideal for individuals seeking a smoother, brighter, and more youthful complexion. With its powerful formula, this system helps to accelerate cell turnover, remove dead skin cells, and refine the skin's surface, all while minimising irritation. Perfect for at-home use.

Visit: www.isclinical.com.au



MUST HAVES



FIND YOUR FAVE!



DESIGNER BRANDS (DB) COSMETICS

Looking for that instant lit-from-within glow? Designer Brands (DB) Cosmetics has you covered with their hottest launch yet, the Glow Getter Radiance Drops from their dazzling new collection, Glow Get 'Em. Inspired by Drunk Elephant and at only \$19.99 each, DB Cosmetics' radiance drops deliver the same premium-quality bronzing and blush with a radiant glow, but at less than half the price. We also love Bombshell Luminising Lip Gloss, \$14.99, and Colour Perfect Correcting Primer 02, \$24.99.

Available at Big W and online at dbcosmetics.com.au

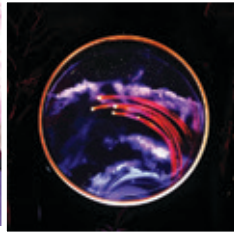
ASTRA LUMINA LIGHTS UP THE GC AN ENCHANTING EXPERIENCE AT CURRUMBIN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

The stars aligned for an unforgettable night on the Gold Coast as Astra Lumina, the immersive light and sound experience, debuted at the iconic Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary. Opening night was a spectacle of vibrant lights, ethereal sounds, and a sense of wonder, taking attendees on a journey through the cosmos. From the moment guests stepped onto the illuminated pathways, they were transported into a world where science met imagination. The event blended art, nature, and technology in a truly unique way. As the sun set, the sanctuary's lush grounds glowed with dynamic light installations, inviting visitors to explore the universe like never before. Every corner sparkled with radiant colour and captivating patterns, creating an immersive experience for all ages.

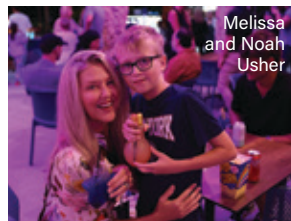
Words & Photography: Brian Usher www.usherusher.com



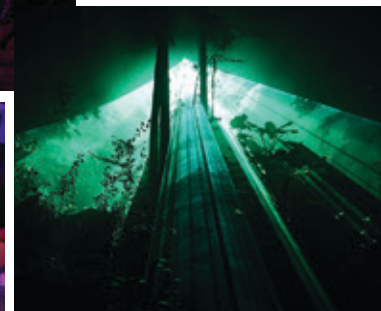
Travis Couch –
General Manager of
Currumbin
Wildlife
Sanctuary



Usher
family night
out at CWS



Melissa
and Noah
Usher



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AMIR PRESTIGE GRAND SUMMER AUCTION

The Grand Summer Auction Event at The Langham Hotel was nothing short of extraordinary. The atmosphere was dynamic, with incredible energy as bidders competed for some of the Gold Coast's most sought-after properties. The event proved an outstanding success, with numerous properties sold before the auction, several under contract, and many others in active negotiations.

Our dedicated team of agents showcased properties across multiple locations, delivering a smooth, professional experience for both buyers and sellers. A heartfelt thank you to Ocean Road Magazine for their fantastic coverage, capturing the essence of this memorable day. Congratulations to all involved in making this event a triumph!

Words: Amir Prestige

Photography: Brian Usher www.usherusher.com



Amir Mian –
Principal
Amir Prestige



WHO DOESN'T LOVE A SALE?



Angie BELL MP

MEMBER FOR **MONCRIEFF**

Let's Get Australia Back on Track.

Authorised by B. Riley, LNP, 281 Sandgate Road, Albion QLD 4010.



USHER CUP WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE 2025 PRESIDENTS DINNER

A new venue, more international Boardriders clubs, the best of Australia's surfing fraternity, and for the first time, an Australian First Nations team—this year's Usher Cup World Club Challenge Presidents Dinner had it all.

The World Club Challenge draw became a key highlight of the dinner, as over 280 competitors, club representatives, and celebrities gathered to celebrate the 2025 contest. US Commissioner Darren Brillhart was invited on stage by contest director Wayne "Rabbit" Bartholomew to draw the teams, setting the tone for an epic day of international action.

Words: Usher Cup

Photography: Brian Usher www.usherusher.com



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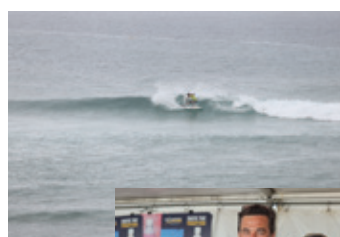
1. Theo Vairaktaris & Dunja Vairaktaris.
2. Kirk Pengilly & Layne Beachley.
3. President Snapper Rocks Boardriders Jay Phillips.
4. Pip Wood, Alex Wood & Melissa Usher.
5. Team USA
6. Rabbit Bartholomew.
7. Billy Webb & Ronnie Blakey.
8. Linda Sutton & Chris Gadd.
9. Luther Cora.
10. Laura Gerber & Tamika Smith.

USHER CUP 2025 WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE

The fifth annual World Club Challenge was back, more pumped than ever. This year, we introduced a new team-only format designed to bring more energy to Snapper Rocks. From 17th to 19th January 2025, 48 boardrider clubs from Australia and around the world competed in a team-focused showdown unlike any before. For the first time in World Club Challenge history, there was no individual category. This year, it was all about repping your club with pride as clubs battled head-to-head for team and international bragging rights.

Words: Usher Cup

Photography: Brian Usher www.usherusher.com



GNARLY DUDE!



As Australia's only complimentary delivery service, Serving Our People (SOP) has been a vital lifeline for so many individuals and families since its inception on the Gold Coast in March 2020. SOP, initially borne to assist those affected by COVID-19, has grown where demand is never in short supply. SOP picks up and delivers anything from medication to the sick; baby formula for a mother, groceries for the elderly, a pillow and blanket for the homeless, cooked meals for a family to help a very unwell parent who can no longer cook or provide.

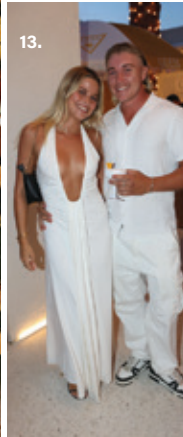
Make a pledge to help and visit www.sop.org.au today!

GLOBAL ICONIC FASHION BRAND GUESS LAUNCH FIRST-EVER AUSTRALIAN BEACH CLUB POP-UP

The iconic American fashion and lifestyle brand known for its fashion-forward apparel, handbags, footwear, and accessories, launched the first-ever Guess Beach Club in Australia at La Luna Beach Club, Main Beach. From 23rd to 31st January, Guess staged a complete takeover with custom Guess Beach Club items, including beach towels, sun lounges, cushions, umbrellas, and bar accessories in burnt orange and sunset yellow. Guests fully immersed themselves in the Guess Beach Club experience.

Words: Guess.Inc.

Photography: Brian Usher www.usherusher.com



1. Amber Mitchell & Melissa Usher.
2. Rubie Irvine & Mollie Zaharis.
3. Soffia Ribotta & Pans Gascoigne.
4. Yasmin Ganzevoort, Cameron Duff & Silka Kurzak.
5. Nikita Trott & Sienna Espie.
6. Georgia Donohue & Sae Hunt.
7. Adam Simons & Harry Boucher.
8. Charlotte Thiesfield & Rachel Williams.
9. Tammy Hembrow & Tynielle Markham.
10. Lili Eastwood & Carly Porter.
11. Sarah Magusara & Emily Ward.
12. Kaman Pamudji & Jeremy Hansen.
13. Layla Graham & Darcy Littlechild.
14. Tilly Smith & Hannah McHutchinson.
15. Nyah Morris & Zali Nicholas.



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WOMEN IN TOURISM HIGH TEA WITH HEART

Grace, confidence, and community flourished at the WIT high tea at Austinville Estate. Guests gathered for an afternoon of inspiration, gaining insights on leadership, confidence, and style from Erin Pickering (Holystone) and Jasmine Grace (Austinville Estate). Bella Frizza hosted, filling the room with laughter, wisdom, and meaningful connections. We were honoured to welcome Jann Stuckey, who bravely shared her journey battling pancreatic cancer. A long-time supporter of Women in Tourism, Jann shaped Queensland's tourism landscape as former Minister for Tourism, Small Business, and Major Events. She now continues her advocacy as an Ambassador for the National Trust Queensland and a fierce advocate for those facing less common cancers.

Words: Katrina Sanguigno

Photography: Brian Usher www.usherusher.com



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1. Jann Stuckey & Allison Forner.
2. Naomi Fowler & Melissa Usher.
3. Katrina Sanguigno, Diana Brittain & Tara Brittain.
4. Lauren Coad, Sarah Watkinson & Carly King.
5. Alison Geale & Kylie Hewitt.
6. Jasmine Grace & Jenny Rees.
7. Sarah Crawford & Mandy Spooner.



1.

TONI&GUY BROADBEACH CHRISTMAS PARTY 2024

The TONI&GUY Broadbeach Christmas party brought festive cheer with drinks, nibbles, and a celebration of the year that was. Local brewery Hard Fizz provided their selection of seltzers, and the team, along with guests, partied the night away. Doing their part for the Gold Coast Hospital Foundation, charity raffle winner Shelley Read took home the grand prize valued at over \$2,000, with donations from TONI&GUY, Label.m, Wella, Chemist Warehouse, Broadbeach Giftery, Elk Espresso, Gold Coast Suns, Tyalgum Hotel, and Blowfish.

Words: TONI&GUY Broadbeach

Photography: Brian Usher www.usherusher.com



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1. Axl Cliffe, Huxley Cliffe, Jack Cliffe & Bernadette Cliffe.
2. Kelly Coats, Olivia Vella, Bernadette Cliffe, Page Peters, Georgina Luther & Kaia Walton.
3. Andrew Winter & Caroline Winter.
4. Casey Evans & Vella Olivia.
5. Ashleigh Pearson, Blayde Walker & Lissy Pearson.
6. Marie Bayton & Michele Jackson.
7. Bernadette Cliffe & Melissa Usher.
8. Lottie Pochin, Asha Pochin & Mike Pochin.
9. Steve Cunliffe & Christine Johnson.
10. Vanessa Brimson & Kerry Knight.



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PORSCHA USHER TURNS 21 AMID THE GLITTERING EXPANSES OF THE BROADWATER PARKLANDS

Catalina, one of the Gold Coast's most exclusive waterfront venues, hosted an unforgettable soirée for Porscha Usher's 21st birthday celebration. A carefully curated guest list of 100, including the crème de la crème of the Gen Z social set, gathered for an evening of elegance. Guests enjoyed gourmet canapés and expertly crafted cocktails, complementing the balmy summer night. Catalina's impeccable service and breathtaking waterfront views set the stage for an event that blended opulence with effortless chic—a perfect reflection of the birthday girl herself. From the fashion to the festivities, Porscha's coming-of-age celebration was a masterclass in modern luxury, leaving guests buzzing long after the final toast.

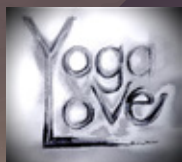
Words: Anthony Do Rozario

Photography: Brian Usher www.usherusher.com



1. Porscha Usher & Melissa Usher.
2. Amber Mitchell & Sydney Mitchel.
3. Jake Simons & Hunter Usher.
4. David Simons & Daniel Brinsmead.
5. Jason Harris & Sayaka Umezawa.
6. Alana Pringle, Yasmin Pringle & Wayne Pringle.
7. Glenn Parker & Liliana Parker.
8. Liam Parker & Porscha Usher.
9. Tamara Dodd, Kate Edrich & Mady Falcon.
10. Brendan Westaway & Danielle Westaway.
11. Gerri Simons, Porscha Usher & David Simons.
12. Emily Feld, Chelsea Pearce, Sydney Mitchell.
13. Wayne Usher, Miriam Usher, Tim Usher, Ethan Usher.
14. Anastasia Parker & Brett Thomas.
- 15: Caitlin Boucher, Madison Meadway, Hailey Meadway & Garry Graham.

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| Thursday | 6am Mudgeeraba Showgrounds |
| Friday | 9am Mudgeeraba Showgrounds |
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the evolution of LUXURY LIVING

Managing Director of Pezet Matheson, Jayde Pezet, has played a key role in shaping the Gold Coast's high-end property market. With over 20 years of expertise, he continues to drive the success of premium developments and luxury apartment sales.

How has the Gold Coast property market evolved over the years?

Having spent over 20 years in real estate, I've witnessed the Gold Coast evolve from a holiday and investor-driven market into a refined lifestyle destination. Pezet Matheson has been at the forefront of luxury apartment sales for more than a decade, officially launching three years ago after a successful tenure as KMSM with the same core team. Over this time, we've seen a major shift—cashed-up professionals, business owners, and locally established entrepreneurs are now one of the most dominant buyer groups, driving demand for high-end residences tailored to a premium coastal lifestyle.

Which Gold Coast suburbs are leading the way in luxury property?

We're seeing incredible transformations in Nobby Beach, Broadbeach, Main Beach, Palm Beach, Rainbow Bay, Kirra, and Coolangatta. These areas are no longer just hotspots for downsizers—they're attracting high-earning professionals who want to live in luxury while staying close to their businesses, networks, and lifestyle hubs.

How is the current development landscape shaping up?

Rising construction costs have undoubtedly reshaped the development landscape, limiting the volume of new projects despite continued demand. What we're seeing now is a flight to quality.

As a result, new developments are now largely driven by larger interstate and international developers with strong balance sheets, local developers with in-house construction teams capable of absorbing higher costs, or boutique developers catering to strong demand

for premium, smaller-scale projects. This shift has created a market defined by a mix of large-scale projects and smaller, high-end boutique developments. Buyers today are increasingly seeking confidence in the development team, certainty around the builder, and exceptionally well-crafted residences.

What are some of the most exciting projects you've worked on?

Over the years, I've had the opportunity to work on some of the Gold Coast's most transformative projects, from The Oracle at Broadbeach to The Star Casino and a range of boutique luxury residences that have transformed high-end living.

A standout collaboration has been with Paul Gedoun's S&S Projects, where I've worked on high-end coastal developments Awaken, Flow, Esprit, and most recently the \$200 million Radia, which is currently in the demolition phase in Rainbow Bay. These projects speak directly to the new wave of professionals seeking cultural-premium residences in boutique, lifestyle-driven locations.

What are today's buyers prioritising in the luxury apartment market?

Buyers are more discerning than ever, seeking expansive, impeccably designed residences that don't compromise on space, premium finishes, and high-end amenities that enhance their lifestyle. There is a growing demand for wellness features such as infrared saunas and ice baths, private dining and entertainment space, and concierge-style services that offer a seamless living experience.

With more buyers focused on quality, location, and long-term value, we are seeing a clear preference for developments that offer effortless luxury

while providing easy access to the Gold Coast's premier dining, entertainment, and lifestyle precincts.

At Pezet Matheson, we work closely with developers to align projects with these expectations, ensuring that every residence delivers a high level of sophistication.

Looking to the future, what do you expect to see from the market in the coming years?

The Gold Coast will continue to evolve as one of Australia's most desirable coastal property markets, but we expect to see even greater emphasis on quality and liveability.

Buyers are becoming more sophisticated in their expectations, and developers who can deliver highly considered, premium residences will continue to see strong demand. I anticipate more boutique, high-end projects that cater to a lifestyle-driven market, with a focus on sustainability, smart technology, and elevated private amenities. With ongoing investment in infrastructure, transport, and lifestyle precincts, the Gold Coast is cementing itself as a world-class destination—not just for holidaymakers but for those looking to establish a permanent home in a truly connected and luxurious environment.



GIG GUIDE

Gigl has the most comprehensive searchable free gig guide app and website for the Gold Coast to Byron Bay.

Scan the QR code for the full list of live music on offer, listed below is just a small selection of artists and venues!



APRIL

DATE	ARTIST	VENUE
01	Perfectly Imperfect	Twin Towns Showroom
02	Tony & Patti	Twin Towns
03	Ben Whiting	Hotel Brunswick
03	Wolfie	Twin Towns
04	Timbre Grains	Twin Towns Juniors
04	Taking Back Saturday	Mo's Desert Clubhouse
04	Ignition Duo	Twin Towns
04	Smashed Crabs	Twin Towns
04	Echoes of Pink Floyd	Twin Towns Showroom
04	Babe Rainbow	Hotel Brunswick
05	Jock Barnes	Hotel Brunswick
05	Geoff B.	Twin Towns Still & Barrel
05	Sidefx	Twin Towns
05	Pink Zinc	Twin Towns
05	White Noise Duo	Club Banora
06	Bobby Alu	Hotel Brunswick
06	Matty Neal	Twin Towns
06	The Dolly Show	Twin Towns Showroom
08	Back to the Tivoli	Twin Towns Showroom
09	Kris Knight & The Boogie Men	Twin Towns
10	Dizzy J.	Twin Towns
11	Whitey	Twin Towns Juniors
11	Vanessa Lea & The Road Train	Twin Towns
11	Radio City	Twin Towns
12	Nick Laganin	Twin Towns Still & Barrel
12	The Classics	Club Banora



12	Johnny Cash and the Outlaws	Twin Towns Showroom
12	Venus Envy	Twin Towns
12	Powderstreet	Mo's Desert Clubhouse
12	Wear The Fox Hat	Twin Towns
13	Captain Wow Duo	Club Banora
13	Ashraya	Justins Park
13	Triple Treat Tribute	Mo's Desert Clubhouse
13	Old Skool Duo	Twin Towns Juniors
13	The Classics	Twin Towns
15	Simone Waddell	Twin Towns Showroom
16	Tommy Memphis	Twin Towns
17	Remedy	Twin Towns
17	Scott Whatman	Twin Towns
18	Gary Hudson	Twin Towns Juniors
18	The Drunken Midnight Choir	Cavill Lane Surfers Paradise
18	MDM	Twin Towns
19	Rachel Bostock	Twin Towns Still & Barrel
19	Abby Skye Band	Twin Towns
19	Off The Grid	Burleigh Sports Club
19	Jimeoin	Twin Towns Showroom
19	Captain Wow Trio	Twin Towns
19	Soul Kitchen	Club Banora
19	Juztone	Cavill Lane Surfers Paradise
20	Taylah Little	Club Banora
20	Abby Skye Band	Twin Towns
20	Tonic Quartet	Cavill Lane Surfers Paradise
20	Body and Soul Duo	Twin Towns
23	Big Bad	Twin Towns
24	Martin Way	Twin Towns
24	Koby Lee Trio	Twin Towns
25	Aussie Pride	Twin Towns
25	Chester Duo	Twin Towns Juniors
25	The Hodads Duo	Twin Towns
25	Runes	Twin Towns
26	Berst	Twin Towns
26	Fat Albert	Club Banora
26	Craig Shaw	Twin Towns Still & Barrel
26	The Hitmen Trio	Twin Towns
27	Spill The T Tour	Mo's Desert Clubhouse
27	Paully	Twin Towns
29	Manilow Magic meets The Divine Miss M	Twin Towns Showroom
30	Little Stevie & The Tailfins	Twin Towns

MAY

02	Gilbert O'Sullivan	Twin Towns Showroom
03	Liam Cooper's The Kings Of Keys	Twin Towns Showroom
06	Peter Tuitama	Twin Towns Showroom
09	The Wet Whistles	Mo's Desert Clubhouse
09	One More Night of Phil Collins	Twin Towns Showroom
09	Lime Cordial	Hotel Brunswick
10	Mirusia	Twin Towns Showroom
11	Jodie-Joy	Cavill Lane Surfers Paradise
13	Comedians At Work	Twin Towns Showroom
16	The Burt Bacharach Songbook	Twin Towns Showroom
17	Soulcutz	Burleigh Sports Club
17	Anthony Callea & Tim Campbell	Twin Towns Showroom
24	The Stars of Countdown	Twin Towns Showroom
25	Valhalore	Mo's Desert Clubhouse
25	Letz Zep	Twin Towns Showroom
31	Kim Churchill	Mo's Desert Clubhouse
31	Who's Bad - The Ultimate Michael Jackson Tribute Band	Twin Towns Showroom

JUNE

07	Anthems of the 70's	Twin Towns Showroom
08	Riot Act	Mo's Desert Clubhouse
08	The Johnny O'Keefe Story	Twin Towns Showroom
14	Sex & Chocolate	Burleigh Sports Club



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