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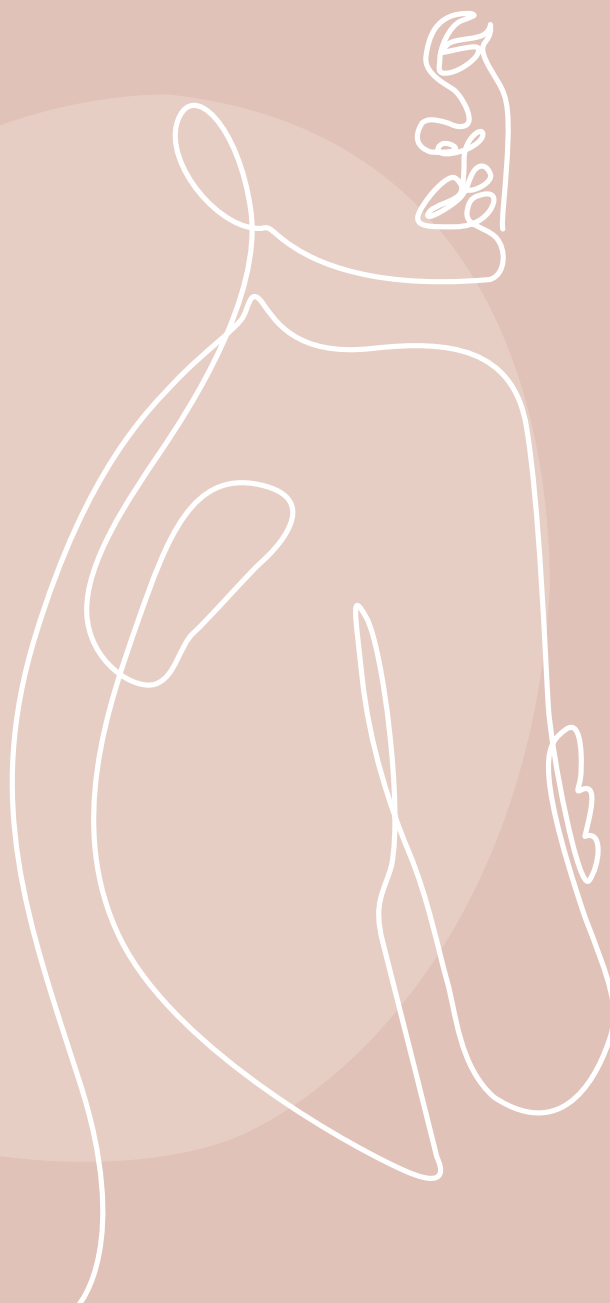
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Dr Peter Widdowson

MB, ChB, FRACS (Plast)
Specialist Plastic Surgeon (MED0001188325)



Dr Peter Widdowson has a background of over 30 years in Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery. Graduating in Australasia, but also studying overseas he specialised in his earlier career in microsurgery, cleft lip and palate surgery as well as burns and trauma surgery. Over the years he has transformed these skills into his Aesthetic (cosmetic) Plastic Surgery in which he now specialises. His qualifications include, Member of Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), Australian Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons (ASAPS), American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) and Fellow of Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (FRACS). Dr Widdowson is recognised as one of Australasia's leading Plastic Surgeons in facial rejuvenation, breast and body sculpturing surgery.



Dr Yez Sheena

MBBS, MRCS, FRCS(Plast) FRACS(Plast)
Specialist Plastic Surgeon (MED0002288756)

With over two decades of surgical experience, Dr Yez Sheena is an internationally trained Specialist Plastic Surgeon offering expertise across all areas of cosmetic and reconstructive surgery. His special interests include cosmetic and reconstructive breast surgery, body contouring procedures (including fat transfer), and skin cancer surgery including melanoma and lymph node surgery. Dr Sheena holds dual specialist fellowships in plastic surgery from both the Royal College of Surgeons of England FRCS(Plast) and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons FRACS(Plast) – the highest specialist qualifications in plastic surgery in both the United Kingdom and Australasia. He is a specialist staff member at Gold Coast University Hospital and currently chairs the Breast Reconstruction Multidisciplinary Team. He also holds the position of Honorary Senior Lecturer at Griffith University and Assistant Professor at Bond University. Dr Sheena is known for his warm, patient-focused approach – taking the time to understand each person's goals and providing meticulously tailored solutions that restore, enhance, or refine both appearance and function. Outside his surgical practice, Dr Sheena enjoys living on the Gold Coast and spending time with his wife and three young children.

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Rosalyn Wilson, Director &
Principal Environmental Scientist
Founder | Est. 2018

Welcome



As we welcome spring, I'm delighted to share another exciting edition of The Gold Coast Magazine with you. This season always brings a renewed sense of energy to our beautiful city, and this issue reflects just that. It has been a busy and rewarding few months, filled with memorable events, inspiring people and special experiences.

One of the highlights this quarter was escaping to the breathtaking qualia on Hamilton Island. Surrounded by crystal-clear waters, spectacular views and world-class hospitality, it

was the perfect place to recharge after the seemingly endless rain on the Gold Coast. Waking up to sunshine and island serenity was exactly what I needed. On a personal note, our family has had plenty to celebrate. We marked my daughter Zoe's 21st birthday with a wonderful celebration surrounded by family and friends, creating memories we'll treasure forever. We were also incredibly proud to celebrate my son Bailey's promotion to Associate at OMB Solicitors. Watching both of our children achieve these milestones has made this year especially rewarding, and Simon and I couldn't be prouder.

Back home, we've packed this spring edition with everything you've come to love about The Gold Coast Magazine. Our cover girl, Kendall Gilding, is passionate, driven and full of personality, and her story is sure to inspire readers. You'll also discover the latest fashion trends, delicious recipes perfect for spring entertaining, and meet Gold Coast success story Danny Stepancic, the visionary behind Hampton Event Hire. His journey from local entrepreneur to industry leader is a wonderful reminder of the talent within our community.

Be sure to browse our ever-popular Snap Happy pages to see who has been photographed alongside celebrities, along with our vibrant social pages celebrating the events, fundraisers and occasions that make our city so special.

This quarter has also been incredibly meaningful as we celebrated five years of The Gold Coast Magazine. What began as a vision to showcase the people, businesses and lifestyle of our beautiful city has grown into a publication I'm immensely proud of. This milestone reflects the wonderful support of our readers, advertisers, contributors and the local community who continue to embrace every quarter. Thank you for your continued support of The Gold Coast Magazine. It is a privilege to share these stories with you and celebrate the people, businesses and events that make the Gold Coast such an extraordinary place to live.

I hope you enjoy this fabulous spring edition as much as we've enjoyed putting it together.

Happy reading!

Love Kate x

COVER Kendall wearing a Perri Cutten suit, hair and makeup by Kathy Hogan from MEKA Studios. Shot on location at Nundah, Brisbane. Photography by Laz Smith, General Practice

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Dr Natasha Edwards

Connecting People, Art and Place for Decades.

SWELL Sculpture Festival, based on the Southern Gold Coast, is a celebrated annual arts festival that reimagines the coastline as an open-air gallery.

For 24 years, SWELL Founder and Artistic Director Dr Natasha Edwards has championed the belief that public art can bring people together, enrich places and tell powerful stories.

When SWELL began with just 23 sculptures and 6,000 visitors, could you ever have imagined it would evolve into the major cultural event it is today?

My curatorial practice has always been grounded in the relationship between art, landscape and people. The ocean has also been a constant presence throughout my life. As an avid sailor, I understand its movement, changing light, energy and unpredictability. Looking back, my love of sculpture, public art, landscape and sailing came together in a very natural way.

Deep down, I believed SWELL had the potential to become a significant large-scale exhibition, but growth was never the driver. The original purpose was simple: Getting Art Out There. As Founder, I have been supported to continue guiding SWELL's artistic direction by a dynamic team, each bringing their own expertise, ideas and energy, together with a committed Board providing strong governance and strategic support. Our artists, partners, volunteers and communities have also played an essential role.

My connection to the sea gave me an instinctive belief that sculpture and the coastal landscape could create a powerful experience together. Rather than thinking of the absence of a large conventional gallery as a limitation, I began to understand that the landscape itself could become the gallery. That belief became SWELL.

How would you describe SWELL's role in contributing to the cultural identity of the Gold Coast?

SWELL has helped demonstrate that culture can belong within the everyday life of the Gold Coast. Our beaches and coastal spaces are central to the identity of this city. By bringing sculpture into those landscapes, SWELL has added another layer to how people experience and understand the Gold Coast.

You've often spoken about connecting People, Art and Place. What does that philosophy mean to you personally?

For me, People, Art and Place are inseparable. An artwork is never experienced in isolation. Its meaning is shaped by where it is situated, who encounters it and what conversations, memories or emotions it generates. Place is not neutral. The most successful site-responsive works do



not merely occupy a location; they create a meaningful exchange with it.

What has been one of your proudest moments?

It is difficult to identify only one moment. Some of my proudest experiences have been watching artists present their first major outdoor work, build confidence through the process and then progress to further exhibitions, commissions, acquisitions and public art opportunities. It is enormously rewarding to witness that growth.

Receiving an Honorary Doctorate from Griffith University recognised your enormous contribution to arts and culture. What did that honour mean to you?

It was deeply humbling and incredibly meaningful. SWELL began with an idea, an instinct and a belief. Over time, that belief has required persistence, constant learning and the support of many extraordinary people: the artists, Board members, team, volunteers, partners, supporters and communities who have helped build SWELL. I accepted it with enormous gratitude and a strong sense of responsibility.

Looking ahead, what is your vision for the next decade of SWELL?

My vision is not simply for SWELL to become bigger. It is for its impact to become deeper, more sustainable and more far-reaching.

The annual coastal exhibition will always remain at the heart of SWELL. I see enormous potential to strengthen year-round opportunities for artists. Support from businesses, government, philanthropic organisations and community partners allows us to maintain free public access while investing directly in artists, education, accessibility, professional development and the safe delivery of ambitious work in the public realm. Most importantly, I want SWELL to retain its generosity, accessibility, curatorial integrity and sense of discovery.

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Kendall Gilding

Award-winning journalist, passionate advocate and devoted mum, Kendall Gilding has forged a career built on authenticity, proving that whether in the newsroom or the boardroom, connection is her greatest strength.

Whether she's delivering the day's biggest headlines, energising thousands of Gold Coast SUNS fans, or hosting a room full of business leaders, Kendall Gilding has built a career around one simple belief: the power of connection.

From becoming Australia's youngest full-time television newsreader to championing important causes and stepping into leadership roles beyond the newsroom, Kendall's journey is one of curiosity, courage and authenticity. We spoke with the accomplished journalist, presenter and communicator to talk about storytelling, family, sport, and the moments that have shaped the woman behind the microphone.

At just 14, you knew journalism was your calling. You've spoken about being fascinated by television news from a young age, studying different presenters, comparing coverage, and immersing yourself in the craft. What was it about journalism that captured your imagination so completely?

I grew up in a household where breakfast television was always on in the morning and the 6pm news was on at night. I loved the way the journalists and presenters felt like friends in your loungeroom. Back then TV news was the most personal way you received information, and I wanted to be a part of that.

You became Australia's youngest full-time newsreader at just 24, a significant role. This must have been challenging to navigate at such a young age. Did you ever struggle with imposter syndrome, or did you simply embrace the opportunity?

Someone else gave me the title of the youngest newsreader, but honestly, it's never been fact checked. But I'm yet to meet someone who anchored a bulletin solo, 5 days a week, and was younger than 24. The beauty of being young is that ignorance is bliss. I was young and naive, which was a gift. I could enjoy the role without putting too much pressure on myself.



You've mastered the art of communicating in many different settings from the newsroom and boardroom to the stage and the football field. How do you adapt your message for each audience, and what have these experiences taught you about the power of communication?

Communication is my life's work, because I truly believe it equals connection and we're all slowly losing our ability to be fully present with each other.

Every time I'm given the chance to communicate, on stage, in a video, with a boardroom, I consider it a huge privilege. I'm meticulous in my preparation and that allows me to pivot and flow with the audience in the moment. My goal is to be polished, clear and offer some sort of surprise that delights the crowd.

You're a mad AFL fan and have even been match-day MC for the Gold Coast SUNS. How different is the energy of entertaining a packed stadium compared with presenting the news?

Feeling the energy of your audience in real-time is exhilarating. When you're in the studio you know people are watching at home, but essentially, you're in a dark room talking to a camera. As a journalist I loved doing live crosses in public places because it felt like a challenge. The mission: you should be able to present flawlessly even with a huge distraction happening around you. The crowd in a stadium who are cheering along with you, is the ultimate presenting experience!





As a Board Director with Hockey Queensland, you've stepped into governance. What inspired that move, and what have you learned about leadership from serving on a board?

I've always wanted to use my media and communication skills to assist organisations, and I'm extremely passionate about sport, so it was a natural fit when the opportunity came up with Hockey Queensland. The experience has taught me so much about good governance, leadership and people. I'm the youngest person on the Board but I'm also now the Vice President. I just want to add value and never stop learning.

Your personal experience with endometriosis has led you to become an Ambassador for Endometriosis Australia. What inspired you to turn your own journey into a platform for advocacy, and what change do you hope to help drive?

Endometriosis has crippled me for most of my life. Even now, after having two kids it's still a battle. There's no cure and it impacts one in seven women. My hope is that we'd see more funding allocated to research so that one day we may see genuine treatment options. I've had two surgeries, undergone IVF to conceive and still spend thousands of dollars each year managing the pain. Wouldn't it be nice if the next generation doesn't have to experience that?

Family is clearly your anchor. How has becoming a wife and mother changed your perspective on success? And how do you juggle your successful career with raising two young children?

I married my best friend Timothy when I was really young, 22 years old. It's easily the best decision I've ever made because we've been able to grow up together. He has made huge sacrifices to support my career journey. Now we have two kids, Olive 7 and Moses 4, and they bring so much perspective. I'm a better person because of them,



both in work and my personal life. The juggle is real, but Timothy is the ultimate teammate. We treat everything like a shared mission.

Your career continues to evolve. What excites you most about this next chapter?

I've built a really diverse business over the last two years and now I'm looking to scale. It's been exhilarating creating something and seeing hard work pay off, especially after working for other people for so long.

Quick-fire Questions:

Favourite Restaurant? Moustache at Mermaid Beach.

Favourite Movie? The Proposal. Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds can do no wrong.

Favourite Drink? Coffee: give me all the coffee!

Dream Destination? Greek Islands, although I've never been, but determined to go!

Favourite Meal? Mexican with a classic margarita.

Favourite Date Night Destination? Just a fancy restaurant where we can talk and sip wine.

Pineapple on Pizza: Yes, or no? (and why?) Nope. Fruit shouldn't be warm.

skool DAZE

School plays a key role in shaping who we become. We spoke with prominent people about the lessons and memories that defined their early years.



Debbie Miller

OCCUPATION: FASHION EVENTS SPECIALIST, FORMER MODEL AND MODEL AGENCY OWNER

Favourite subject and why?

English was always my favourite subject. I loved reading and writing stories. In fact, I was such an avid reader that I would hide under the covers at night with a torch, reading the dictionary simply because I loved discovering new words and expanding my vocabulary.



Favourite teacher and why?

Sister Mary Magdalene. She was kind, inspiring and encouraged us to believe in ourselves. She made learning enjoyable and had a wonderful way of bringing out the best in her students.

Best memory at school?

Without question, it was seeing my friends every day. School was about so much more than lessons, it was where lifelong friendships were formed, and those daily laughs and shared experiences created memories I'll always treasure.

Academic or sporting achievement?

Sport was a huge part of my school life. I was a passionate netball player and proudly represented both my school and district in competition. I also loved swimming and, for a period of time, held my school's breaststroke record, which was an achievement I was incredibly proud of.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

I always dreamed of becoming a hairdresser. I loved fashion, creativity and making people feel confident, so it seemed like the perfect career at the time.

Is your life now what you expected it to be? If so, how?

Not at all, and I'm so grateful for the unexpected journey. I never imagined I'd leave my hometown, let alone make Queensland my home. Even more surprising was spending four incredible years travelling the world throughout the 1960s and 1970s, promoting the Gold Coast to international audiences. That experience opened doors I could never have imagined. While travelling, I was discovered as a model, and what began as an unexpected opportunity quickly became a successful career in the fashion industry. As my modelling career evolved, I transitioned into model management, eventually co-owning my own modelling agency. Later, my business partner and I sold the agency to Vivien's Model Management, where I continued working as a talent scout and mentor, helping discover and develop the next generation of models. Looking back, my life has taken me on an extraordinary path, and every unexpected turn has led to another exciting chapter.



Rosalyn Wilson

OCCUPATION: DIRECTOR AND PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST

Where did you attend school for primary and secondary?

Connells Point Primary School NSW and Blakehurst High School NSW.

Favourite subject and why?

Honestly, I didn't really have one. I was more of a generalist and enjoyed a bit of everything without excelling in any one subject. I loved netball and dreamed of one day playing GD for Australia. So I will say Physical Education.

Favourite teacher and why?

Mr Meehan. He taught PE, Geography and Commerce, so he must have been a bit of a generalist too. He seemed happy to jump into whatever was needed. Practical and engaging, no matter the subject.

Best memory at school?

I remember spending hours reading Virginia Andrews novels, *Flowers in the Attic*. At the time gothic horror was so cool. I remember my English teacher Mr O'Tool telling me I wrote a little too dark and depressing. I don't think it was meant as a compliment, but I definitely took it as one.

Academic or sporting achievement?

Short listed for Sydney Morning Herald Young Writer of the Year 1991 and 1992 (thank you Virginia). No computers back then. I wrote with pen and paper and handed my stories in, never to be seen again. I have kept my achievement certificates though. They looked great for job applications.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

I dreamt of playing netball for Australia, although I was too short and not quite good enough, or becoming a writer – there's still time! I've always been practical and organised and adaptable. As it turns out, those qualities are perfect for running an environmental consulting business in the construction industry.

Is your life now what you expected it to be? If so, how?

Not at all. I never imagined I'd own a business or work in the construction industry. Looking back though, it makes perfect sense. It turns out being a generalist wasn't a weakness—it is exactly what's needed to run a business.

Whenever I have the opportunity to speak with young people, I ask them, "Have you ever thought about starting your own business?" Sometimes all it takes is someone planting the idea. I think a lot of people would have gone on to start something if that conversation had happened more often.

"Running my own business has been one of the most rewarding and challenging experiences of my life."

The Art of French Skincare: Where Pleasure Meets Performance



In the heart of Main Beach, tucked along elegant Tedder Avenue, The Beauty Embassy is redefining the beauty experience with a distinctly French approach: refined, results-driven and wonderfully restorative.

Owned by beauty expert Meghan Horn, The Beauty Embassy is home to two exclusive French skincare brands, Biologique Recherche and Codage Paris, bringing some of the world's most respected professional skincare to the Gold Coast. Here, beauty is about more than simply treating the skin; it is about creating a sense of inner balance and wellbeing while achieving visible, lasting results.

The philosophy is simple: timeless beauty, less is more. Treatments are highly personalised and results-focused, yet every experience is designed to be pleasurable, relaxing and completely indulgent, with minimal disruption and no downtime.

Guests can choose from a beautiful selection of bespoke classic French facials, or opt for a more targeted treatment from the high-performance clinical facial menu. Whether the concern is pigmentation, redness, acne, dehydration, loss of firmness or a desire for a more lifted, sculpted appearance, each treatment is tailored to the individual needs of the skin.

Adding another dimension to the experience, The Beauty Embassy's therapists are trained in French facial physiotherapy, think Pilates for your face. Through precise massage techniques and specialised movements, the facial muscles are stimulated, toned and awakened, helping to create a naturally refreshed and lifted appearance.

One of the salon's signature experiences is its famous remodelling facial, combining electro-muscle stimulation with expert hands-on techniques to sculpt, lift and redefine the face. Its reputation extends well beyond the Gold Coast, having been awarded Best Lifting Facial by New York Magazine.

Step inside The Beauty Embassy and the atmosphere immediately feels different. Beautifully considered, elegant and calm, the salon provides a sanctuary from the pace of everyday life, where sophisticated skincare meets genuine relaxation.

For Meghan Horn, it is about creating an experience where advanced French beauty rituals and a beautiful sense of wellbeing come together. The result is skin that looks healthier, fresher and more radiant, and a client who walks out feeling just as good as they look.

The Beauty Embassy is a destination for those who believe the best beauty results don't need to be complicated. Sometimes, less really is more.

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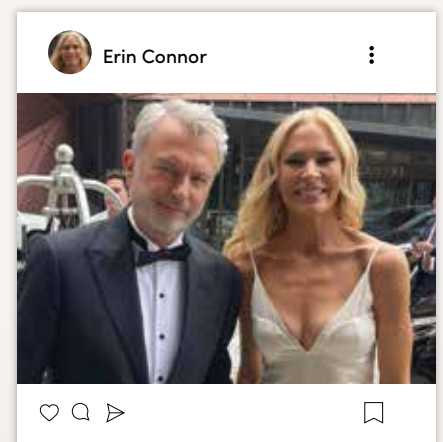
Charmaine Maree Caldwell with Jack Johnson

I was checking in Jack Johnson and his entourage at Brisbane Airport. He was touring it was just before Xmas. He was the nicest guy. And I'm a huge fan so it was awesome to meet him.



More Thai Staff with Chris Hemsworth

When you have very handsome Thor at More Thai, Surfers Paradise no one can keep cool anymore We love this super VIP guest!! He's very down to earth. Very excited to cook for you! We're your big fan.



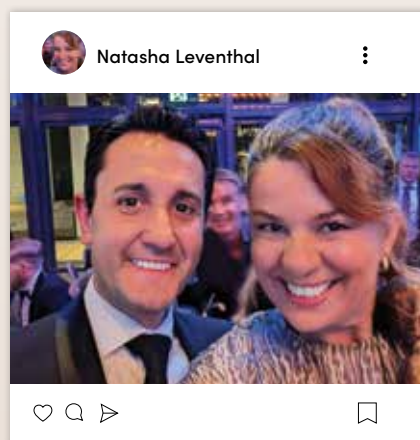
Erin Connor and Sam Neill

He was like a priceless treasure to the world, our film industry family, even plants and animals, to anyone who was lucky enough to meet him or work with him, I can only imagine how devastated his family are. Such a gentleman with a twinkle of wit and humour you don't find much anymore. Vale Mr Neill.



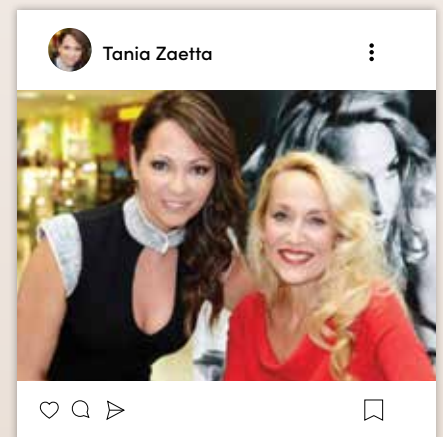
Helen Cole with Shelley Craft

Does it get any better than meeting the delightful Shelley Craft. This was taken at LAUNCH '26 a real estate conference. She was just lovely (very pretty) and easy to have a chat with and even better having a selfie.



Natasha Leventhal with David Crisafulli

This was taken at the Peter Dutton Testimonial Dinner for the LNP. David is such a nice man, easy to talk to and happy to have a selfie.



Tania Zaetta with Jerry Hall

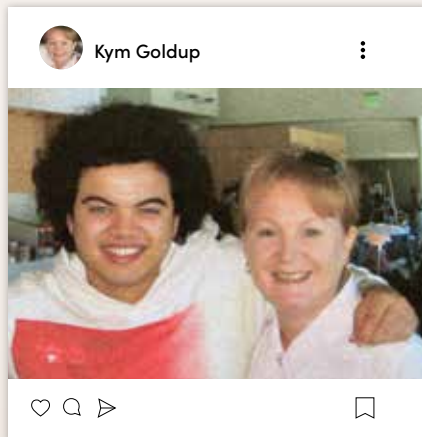
This was taken at Jerry's book launch in Melbourne. She is just so beautiful in the flesh and very easy to talk to.

CELEBRITY



Linda Lola with Travis Fimmel

Last month I spent an entire day on set of the Black Snow Season 3 in Cairns and without a doubt, this will go down as one of the best experiences of my life. Witnessing firsthand what truly goes into creating a show is something I'll never forget. One of the absolute highlights of the experience was meeting the cast members, especially the Legend, the man Travis Fimmel who is hilarious.



Kym Goldup with Guy Sebastian

The photo was taken in the airport lounge in LAX back in 2004. Guy had just won Idol and was there with his manager. We chatted for so long I missed my flight to Chicago where I was doing my very first American appearance for Husqvarna Viking at their international convention called Razzle Dazzle. Joan Rivers opened the convention that year.



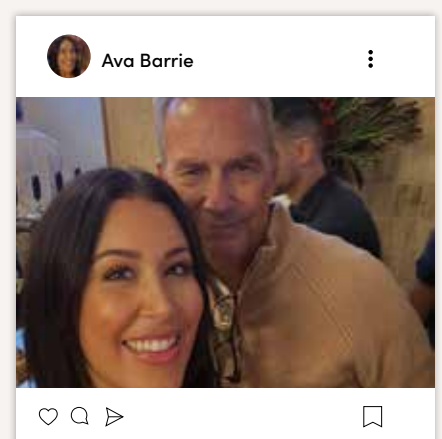
Anthony Hua with Sophie Monk

Exclusive behind-the-scenes movie event with Zombie Plane's cast Sophie Monk. Turning up in style with my Lamborghini crew to HOTA to meet this amazing lady. She is just so funny and absolutely gorgeous inside and out!



John-Paul Langbroek with Robert Irwin

You know him, you love him! Filming has wrapped in Brisbane for Dancing with the Stars: The Next Pro, hosted by Robert Irwin. 110 local cast and crew brought this show to life, which challenges up-and-coming talent to battle it out on the dance floor to earn a spot as a pro on the next season of Dancing with the Stars. Attracting a production of this calibre is a vote of confidence in how the Crisafulli Government is delivering a vibrant arts scene for Queensland.



Ava Barrie with Kevin Costner

I was at a friend wedding in Noosa when we bumped into Kevin at a local bar, he was happy to get a selfie with me. I had had a few champagnes so didn't end up singing my Whitney Houston song to him, LOL!



Kimberley White with Arnold Schwarzenegger

I met Arnold in Melbourne at a financial conference my friend was hosting and he flew Arnold over to be the guest speaker. I must admit I was quite surprised to see I was the same size as Arnold after growing up watching his movies I was expecting the Terminator to be a huge man who would tower over me. Arnold seemed like a lovely, humbled man and I loved hearing his life story from his childhood growing up overseas then moving to America and becoming Mr Universe to Movie Star and then becoming the Governor of California.

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Former Artistic Director
Queensland Ballet
Li Cunxin AO



Queensland Ballet

Best Dressed



OCCUPATION: OPERATIONS SUPPORT MANAGER

DRESS: GRETA CONSTATINE

SHOES: BILLINI

MILLINERY: LISA HUGHES AT CHALLIS ST MILLINERY

HAIR AND MAKEUP: MYSELF

BAG: OLGA BERG

JEWELLERY: PEARL AND DIAMONTE EARRINGS

Where did your outfit inspiration come from and who made your dress?

I found my lilac Greta Constantine dress tucked away on a 50 percent off rack in a Melbourne consignment store. I'd admired the designer for years, so it felt like fate. Milliner Lisa Hughes colour-matched the dress and created a stunning headpiece, while I kept my accessories minimal to let both shine.

Hair and makeup inspiration?

I'm loving Rare Beauty at the moment, founded by Selena Gomez. I like that the products are vegan and cruelty-free. As it was a daytime event, I wanted my makeup to look fresh and natural rather than overpowering. I also think millinery looks best when hair is neatly tied back and away from the face, allowing the headpiece to take centre stage.

Who are your two style icons?

I've always been drawn to the glamour and elegance of 1950s and 1960s fashion. Audrey Hepburn and Sophia Loren are style icons I admire for their individuality, confidence and timeless sense of style. While fashion has evolved, I still love incorporating elements of that era into my wardrobe and racewear looks, alongside contemporary pieces and trends.

Favourite designers?

Only two? Haha, I love so many! Number one for me would be Toni Maticevski. His designs are beautifully draped, elegant pieces that feel modern yet timeless. Secondly, I would choose Ralph Lauren for classic everyday pieces that can be effortlessly incorporated into a casual or workwear wardrobe.

Your own style?

Modern classic with a fashion-forward edge, structured silhouettes, luxurious fabrics and statement millinery with a contemporary twist.

Has your style changed?

Absolutely. I've always loved dressing for an occasion, but my style has become more refined over the years. Like many people who grew up in the 80s and 90s, I spent my teenage years in jeans and logo T-shirts. As I've gotten older, I've developed a greater appreciation for quality fabrics, tailoring and timeless pieces, while still enjoying fashion and having fun with colour and accessories.

Best styling tip?

Start with one standout piece, build the look around it, then photograph it to check the overall balance. And don't overlook consignment stores, some of my favourite pieces have come from them.

Kelly Carty

Best Dressed



DRESS AND SASH: CARLA ZAMPATTI

SHOES: WHITTNER WITH PEARL/DAIMOND SHOE CLIP

MAKEUP: HANNAH MILLS @HANNAH_MILLS_MAKEUP_ARTIST

HAIR: NIKI TAYLOR @NIKITAYLORHAIR

BAG: COACH WHITE WITH GOLD CHAIN STRAP/HANDLE

JEWELLERY: CHOPARD BRACELET GOLD WITH FLOATING DIAMONDS AND EARRINGS IMAGINE, PINK GEM STONE AND PEARL

GARY: A VINTAGE TUXEDO TAILOR-MADE IN HONG KONG

Where did your outfit inspiration come from and who made your dress?

Being my daughter's wedding, I wanted to find something that was an elegant choice for mother of the bride. My whole family were my inspiration, coming with me to help decide, making the dress feel even more special and personal. I often find myself gravitating to Carla Zampatti designs because I feel like she perfectly reflects the classic and timeless style that I love.

Hair and makeup innovation?

The high ruffle neckline of my dress called for my hair to be worn up, and my hairdresser, Niki, completely agreed, it was the perfect way to showcase the design. We kept my makeup soft, natural and elegant, enhancing my features without overpowering the overall look.

Who are your two style icons?

I enjoy the timeless styling of Jennifer Aniston and Kate Hudson but I prefer to dress in what best individually suits me. I also love seeing my two daughters, Brooke and Ashley, express themselves with their own individual style with confidence and creativity. Often reminding me to take risks and have fun with my own fashion choices.

Two of your favourite designers?

I would have to say Carla Zampatti and Zimmermann. I admire Carla Zampatti's timeless elegance, sophisticated tailoring and ability to create pieces that make women feel confident and empowered. Zimmermann's designs capture a beautiful balance of femininity, effortless style and modern elegance, with stunning details that always make a statement while remaining timeless.

Your own style?

My style is simple, classic and timeless, I've never been one to follow trends. I believe in investing in quality pieces that stand the test of time rather than chasing fast fashion. These days, my wardrobe has become less structured and more relaxed, with comfortable, effortless pieces that still feel polished.

Has your style changed over the years?

Yes, definitely. My style has evolved over the years from more structured, trend-driven pieces to a simpler, more classic wardrobe. These days I focus on quality over quantity, choosing timeless pieces that are comfortable, versatile and reflect who I am.

Best tip in dressing up?

My best style tip is to wear what makes you feel comfortable and confident. When you feel good in what you're wearing, it shows. Choose pieces that suit your personality and flatter your shape, rather than simply following trends.

*Natalie Bilborough
and Gary Davis*

FASHION



LEO LIN Lynn Jacquard Bustier Midi Dress Magnolia Print \$999, leolinofficial.com

Spring Sensation



Spring fashion is back with fresh colours and effortless style.



1. Models Silka Kurzak and Tara Goddard wearing Sonia Stradiotto Couture 2. M&S Autograph Linen Rich Pintuck Midaxi Skater Dress Soft Yellow \$289, marksandspencer.com/au 3. The British Craft House Gold Hand Embroidered Beaded Satin Bridal Headband \$240, thebritishcrafthouse.co.uk 4. LEO LIN Roselle Embroidered Bustier Mini Dress Snapdragon Print in Snow \$1099, leolinofficial.com 5. LEO LIN Kinsley Maxi Dress Snapdragon Print in Snow \$999, leolinofficial.com 6. Fashion Clinic Sylvia Toledano Sunshine Malachite Pendant Necklace \$950, fashionclinic.com 7. M&S Jaeger Textured Single Breasted Longline Jacket Yellow \$415, marksandspencer.com/au 8. Bohemian Traders Zari Embroidered Bag in Gold \$189.95, bohemiantraders.com 9. LEO LIN Sylvana One Shoulder Top Magnolia Print \$499, leolinofficial.com 10. LEO LIN Vivian Applique Crop Top Dusty Yellow \$499, leolinofficial.com 11. Fashion Clinic Dolce & Gabbana Pink Keira Floral Heeled Sandals \$2240, fashionclinic.com 12. Annabel James Vintage Crown Trifari Leaf and Pearl Brooch \$127, annabeljames.co.uk 13. M&S Lyocell Rich Button Detail Shorts Ecru \$69.99, marksandspencer.com/au

Blue, Fresh, Fabulous



Make a statement this spring, with soft blue hues to bold cobalt blues.



1. At Home in The Country The Royal Blue and Gold Bee Headband \$31, athomeinthecountry.co.uk 2. M&S Contrast Macrame Beaded Grab Bag \$115, marksandspencer.com/au 3. M&S Suede Adjustable Toggle Waist Gilet Chestnut \$479 and Per Una Pleat Front Denim Shorts Medium Indigo \$75.99 and Suede Lace Up Flat Gladiator Sandals \$73.99, marksandspencer.com/au 4. LEO LIN Nora Bustier Maxi Dress \$1299 and Claire Embellished Knit Cardigan, Ditsy Floral Print in Blue \$799, leolinofficial.com 5. M&S Saint Contrast Lace Cami Top Pale Blue \$80.99, marksandspencer.com/au 6. LEO LIN Beatrice Embellished Vegan Suede Midi Dress Azure \$1099, leolinofficial.com 7. M&S Saint Lace Asymmetrical Mini Slip Skirt Blue Mix \$92.99, marksandspencer.com/au 8. AC Silver 8.80



*Fresh,
confident and
effortlessly
chic.*

Carat Ceylon Sapphire and 2.68 Carat Diamond White Gold Ring, Art Deco \$28,900, acsilver.co.uk **9**. Bohemian Traders Blue Sails Long Sleeve Shirt in Blue \$229.95, bohemiantraders.com **10**. The Hippiesshake Odessa Blue Floral Embroidered Maxi Dress \$249, thehippiesshake.co.uk **11**. M&S Per Una Cross Stitch Utility Jacket Indigo \$139, Per Una High Waisted Jeans \$115, marksandspencer.com/au **12**. The Hippiesshake Little Jeanie Chevron Wide Leg Jeans \$210, thehippiesshake.co.uk **13**. LEO LIN Ashley Applique Vegan Suede Mini Dress Azure \$799, leolinofficial.com **14**. M&S Flyknit Striped Top Handle Grab Bag \$139, marksandspencer.com/au **15**. Femponiq London Asymmetrical Double Breasted Tailored Blazer Blue \$1255, femponiq.com **16**. M&S Pure Cotton Textured Bucket Hat Blue \$46.99, marksandspencer.com/au **17**. Natalia Willmott Blue Star Clip On Earrings \$79, nataliawillmott.co.uk

Mocha Meets Spring



*Mocha tones
bring warmth to
spring style.*



1. M&S Macrame Beaded Shoulder Bag \$115, marksandspencer.com/au 2. M&S Round Mask Sunglasses Red \$31, marksandspencer.com/au 3. Bohemian Traders Wide Leather Harness Belt in Burgundy \$259.95 bohemiantraders.com 4. M&S Macrame Sheer Maxi Beach Dress Dark Brown \$93, marksandspencer.com/au 5. M&S Textured V-Neck Ruffle Cami Dress Dark Brown \$305, marksandspencer.com/au 6. M&S Pure Cotton Crochet-Style Knitted Vest Brandy \$69, marksandspencer.com/au 7. M&S Sequin Fringe Detail Halter Neck Crop Top Gold \$87.99, marksandspencer.com/au 8. Bohemian Traders Mini Shirt Dress \$359.95, bohemiantraders.com 9. LEO LIN Tessa Embellished Vegan Suede Shorts Chestnut \$599, leolinofficial.com 10. M&S Suede Bow Flat Round Toe Ballet Flats Cherry Red \$135, marksandspencer.com/au



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Email: shop@soniastradiotto.com.au

Trading hours visit [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/soniastradiotto)/[insta](https://www.instagram.com/soniastradiotto)



www.soniastradiotto.com.au

The Green Appeal



1



2



3

Green brings fresh energy and effortless style this spring.



4



5



6



7



8



9

1. LEO LIN Elyse Short Sleeve Mini Dress Forest Print \$799, leolinoofficial.com 2. LEO LIN Brigitte Mini Dress Serene Print \$699, leolinoofficial.com 3. LEO LIN Anne Ruffled Maxi Dress Pistachio Rose Print \$1299, leolinoofficial.com 4. The Iconic AM Eyewear Sangha Sunglasses Milos \$320, theiconic.com.au 5. Bohemian Traders Cowl Neck Applique Slip Dress in Citrus \$329.95, bohemiantraders.com 6. Bohemian Traders Sunray Maxi Dress in Citrus \$379.95, bohemiantraders.com 7. Fashion Clinic Roland Mouret Yellow Waterfall Twist Jersey Maxi Dress \$1755, fashionclinic.com 8. LEO LIN Agathy Velvet Embellished Gown Forest \$2599, leolinoofficial.com 9. Fashion Clinic Valentino Garavani Vintage Gold Rockstud Leather Pumps \$1610, fashionclinic.com

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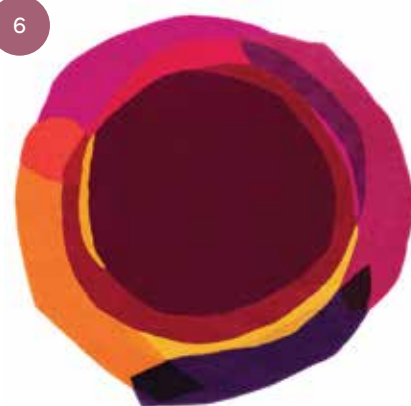


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Rosy Shades for Spring



*Get ready for
Spring with pinks,
burgandy's, golds
and reds.*



1. French Bedroom Pinot and Pomegranate Faux Fur Throw \$165, frenchbedroom.co.uk 2. Juliettes Interiors Ltd Chaise Style Velvet Designer Modular Sofa \$45,643, juliettesinteriors.co.uk 3. J.J. Textile Rose Wool Cushion \$88, jjtextile.co.uk 4. Brabbu Design Force Wales Single Sofa Burgundy \$7900 and Nui Stool with Gold Base \$3530, brabbu.com 5. Lounge Lovers Halo Swivel Accent Chair \$799, loungelovers.com.au 6. Sonya Winner Rug Studio Deep Sunset Rug \$4700, sonyawinner.com 7. Coldharbour Lights Pomogranate Amaryllis \$1731, coldharbourlights.com 8. Fashion Clinic Sika-Design Carlo Bar Trolley \$1265, fashionclinic.com 9. BOCO DO LOBO Stonehenge Rosso Levanto and Carrara Side Table in Deep Red and Gold \$13,569 10. Covet House Collins Retro Curvy Bar Chair in Deep Red Tones \$2999, covethouse.eu 11. BOCO DO LOBO N11 Burgundy Chair \$12,115, bocadolobo.com 12. Tinker & Tallulah The Fitz Burgundy Lampshade \$581, tinkerandtallulah.co.uk 13. OKA Ampelos Set of Four Wine Glasses \$125, oka.com 14. French Bedroom Clover Pouffe in Berry Velvet \$300, frenchbedroom.co.uk

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From soft powder to bold cobalt, blue brings fresh energy to activewear this season.



1. Boux Avenue Hydra Super Push Up Plunge Bikini Top \$75 and Bikini Bottom \$48 Cobalt Blue, bouxavenue.com 2. Warrior Addict Iris Wrap Bra Sky Blue By Naturally Evie \$92, warrioraddict.com 3. Warrior Addict Wellicious New ¾ Crop Top Shoreline Blue \$191, warrioraddict.com 4. Warrior Addict Wellicious Easy Pocket Leggings Shoreline Blue \$224, warrioraddict.com 5. M&S Oval Cat Eye Sunglasses Blue \$35, marksandspencer.com/au 6. Swatch What If...See Mint Thru \$160, swatch.com/en-au 7. M&S Tummy Control Contrast Square Neck Tankini Top Blue \$45.99, marksandspencer.com/au 8. Brixton Everyday Women's Short Medium Chambray \$79.95, au.brixton.com 9. The Stripe Company Striped Beach Bag XL Blue and White Stripe Soccer \$98, thestripescompany.com 10. Brixton Kissing Hearts Zip Hood, Whitecap \$119.95, au.brixton.com 11. M&S Goodmove Modal Rich Lightweight 2-in 1 Double Layer Vest Top Chocolate Mix \$55.99, marksandspencer.com/au 12. Lounge Living Straight Leg Jogger Chocolate \$105, Oversized Jumper Chocolate \$105 and Everyday Comfort Triangle Bra \$40, aus.lounge.com 13. Brixton Lounge Pant-Dark Brick \$79.95, au.brixton.com 14. M&S Goodmove Mesh Layered Running Shorts Dark Chocolate \$70.99, marksandspencer.com/au 15. ECCO Golf Biom C4 Leather Gore-Tex Golf Shoe Purple \$399.95, au.ecco.com 16. Bondi Active Forma Warm Up Wrap Candy \$130, Strappy Scoop Bra Fig \$80 and 12cm Bike Shorts Fig \$80 and Splice Full Length Leggings Fig \$110 and Strappy Scoop Bra Fig \$80, bondiactive.com 17. Bohemian Traders Oversized Pirate Tee in White \$179.95, bohemiantraders.com 18. Brixton Parsons Lightweight Hooded Windbreaker, Dark Brick/Whitecap \$149.95, au.brixton.com 19. ECCO Golf Lt1 Leather Waterproof Golf Shoe White \$369.95, au.ecco.com 20. BON MAXIE Cloudpack Backpack, Milk Tea \$299, bonmaxie.com.au

ACTIVE FASHION



The Beauty Essentials Edit



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RRP \$199 vanessamegan.com



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This waterproof brow gel infused with a vegan growth serum and nourishing castor oil to help promote fuller, healthier-looking brows over time. This long-wearing formula shapes, defines and sets brows in place while delivering a natural, polished finish. Available in clear and four tinted shades, it helps tame unruly hairs, add definition and create the appearance of fuller brows. Suitable for all brow types, this vegan and cruelty-free brow gel provides all-day hold without feeling stiff or flaky.

RRP \$38 7g garboandkelly.com



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RRP \$129.95 15ml vanessamegan.com



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RRP \$11.95 140g drbronner.com.au

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Brighten your day with Dr. Bronner's Citrus Liquid Soap, infused with a vibrant blend of organic orange, lemon, and lime essential oils for a refreshing, uplifting clean. Made with Regenerative Organic Certified® oils, this true soap produces a rich, smooth lather that rinses clean, leaving you feeling fresh and renewed. No detergents, dyes, or added foaming agents, just ethically-sourced ingredients. Vegan, made with organic oils, fair trade, and EWG Verified® for a radiant clean that's good for you and the planet!

RRP \$6.95 59ml drbronner.com.au



BEAUTY



THE ROC® HYDRATION+ REPLUMPING SERUM STICK

It is formulated to help address visible signs of skin ageing, including dryness, fine lines and loss of firmness. Powered by pro-collagen, blue peptides and seven forms of hyaluronic acid, this convenient, no-touch serum stick delivers up to 100 hours of hydration for smoother, plumper and more radiant-looking skin.

RRP \$59.99 20ml
chemistwarehouse.com.au



FOODIE BY VANESSA MEGAN GLAZED DONUT SLICK HAIR BALM

Sleek, glossy hair without the crunch or flakes. This food-grade balm stick smooths flyaways and tames baby hairs while nourishing strands with certified organic sunflower oil, shea butter, argan and coconut oils. No alcohol, no synthetics, no drama, just effortless hold and a delicious fresh-glazed-donut scent.

RRP \$24.95 65g vanessamegan.com



ROC® DERM CORREXION FIRMING SERUM STICK

Developed with Dermatologists and Plastic Surgeons, the Derm Correxion Firming Serum Stick can be used am and pm and delivers a non-invasive lift. The product tightens the face and neck in seconds for firmer skin. A breakthrough, touch-free firming solution designed to deliver an instant lift and long-term skin benefits. The Serum Stick is a welcome skincare addition for those looking to support skin health whilst ageing.

RRP \$49.99 30g
chemistwarehouse.com.au



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BEAUTY

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The **Breast Implant Check Clinic** at **The Layt Clinic** offers a dedicated consultation that includes a clinical assessment and ultrasound, to assist in reviewing and monitoring the condition of your breast implants.



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AND RECONSTRUCTIVE
SURGEON
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SPECIALIST PLASTIC
AND RECONSTRUCTIVE
SURGEON
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Asian Blepharoplasty, rhinoplasty and breast surgery are amongst the many surgical procedures Dr Cheng offers at The Layt Clinic.

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RHINOPLASTY | BREAST SURGERY | BURN AND TRAUMA
RECONSTRUCTION | HAND SURGERY | SKIN CANCER SURGERY

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DISCLAIMER: All surgical procedures carry risks. A second opinion from a qualified health practitioner is recommended. Results vary between individuals. Recovery depends on pre- and post-operative factors.

JEWELLERY



The Spring Jewellery Edit

From sculptural gold and modern pearls to colourful gemstones, these are the pieces designed to make a statement all season long.



Spring calls for jewellery that feels fresh, feminine and effortlessly beautiful.

This season, gemstones take centre stage, bringing delicate colour, luminous sparkle and a sense of individuality to every look. From soft pink morganite to dreamy amethyst and serene aquamarine, the new season is all about wearing colour with confidence.

For Nicole and Darren Daley of 5th Avenue Jewellers, Capri on Via Roma, jewellery is about far more than simply choosing something beautiful. It is about finding a piece with personality, something that reflects the woman wearing it and becomes part of her story.

Morganite is the romantic hero of the season. Its delicate blush-pink hue has an unmistakably feminine quality, yet its sophisticated sparkle makes it surprisingly versatile. Beautiful set in rose or yellow gold, morganite works effortlessly with everything from a simple white shirt and tailored trousers to an elegant evening gown. Wear it as a statement ring, delicate pendant or drop earrings for a subtle touch of spring colour.

For something richer, amethyst brings depth and drama. Ranging from the palest lilac through to intense violet, this captivating gemstone adds a luxurious burst of colour to both contemporary and classic designs. Amethyst looks particularly striking when paired with diamonds or set against warm gold, creating a beautiful contrast that feels glamorous without being overly formal.

Then there is aquamarine, the gemstone that captures the spirit of spring perfectly. With its tranquil blue tones reminiscent of clear skies and tropical waters, aquamarine brings an effortless sense of calm and sophistication. Whether worn as a luminous solitaire, a pair of elegant earrings or layered with other fine pieces, it is a gemstone that transitions beautifully from day to night.

Nicole and Darren have a wonderful eye for pieces that feel both timeless and current, with 5th Avenue Jewellers offering a considered collection for those looking to invest in something truly special. From exquisite coloured gemstones to beautifully crafted fine jewellery, their expertise makes choosing that perfect piece feel just as memorable as wearing it.

This season also sees a return to statement jewellery. Sculptural earrings, oversized cuffs and bold cocktail rings are making their mark, transforming even the simplest outfit. The key is confidence: let one exceptional piece become the focus and keep the rest of your look beautifully understated.

Pearls are also having a modern moment. Forget the traditional strand; contemporary pearls are appearing in unexpected shapes, mixed with diamonds, coloured gemstones and sculptural metals. Their natural lustre adds softness to tailoring and an elegant finishing touch to evening dressing.

Layering remains an effortless way to personalise your jewellery wardrobe. Fine chains of varying lengths, delicate pendants and stacked rings create a curated look that feels individual rather than overly styled. Mixing metals is equally chic, with yellow gold, white gold and rose gold working together to create a relaxed, contemporary aesthetic.

For spring, jewellery is less about following a single trend and more about finding pieces that express your personality. Choose colour, embrace craftsmanship and look for designs that can be worn and loved for years to come.

From romantic morganite and regal amethyst to tranquil aquamarine, this season's gemstones invite us to celebrate colour, individuality and the simple joy of wearing something beautiful.

Spring has arrived and it's sparkling.



Located at Shop 2G3, Capri on Via Roma, Isle of Capri, QLD 4217

Tel: (07) 55 386 611
nicole@5thavenuejewellery.com.au

5th Avenue Jewellers

Sip into Spring

A fresh season calls for refreshing sips, from vibrant cocktails and fruity spritzes to crisp, chilled favourites perfect for entertaining.



FOUR LOKO VODKA STRAWBERRY LEMON

This is a bold vibrant fusion of juicy strawberry sweetness and zesty lemon refreshment, at seven percent ABV. It captures the taste of spring with a refreshing, fruit-forward profile designed for easy enjoyment across social occasions.

RRP \$31.99 4 pack 330ml danmurphys.com.au



LARK NO.151 FIRE TRAIL

Fire Trail is the entry whisky into LARK's luxury range, coming from the Pontville Distillery. Aged in rare Port and Sherry casks, Fire Trail is an enticing Single Malt. Vibrant citrus melds into baked fruit and burnt caramel with applewood-smoked water balancing welcoming sweetness, fading into subtle wisps of cedarwood.

RRP \$168.99 700ml danmurphys.com.au

QUEENSLAND BEER CO. MID LARGER CAN

A smooth, easy-drinking Australian mid-strength lager, made by Queenslanders for Queenslanders who enjoy the simple things done well. Light, clean and incredibly refreshing, it delivers a gentle bitterness, a touch of malt warmth, and a crisp finish that goes down effortlessly. Whether you're knocking off after work, enjoying a weekend with mates, or cooling off on a warm day, it's a dependable, thirst-quenching beer you will always come back to.

RRP \$20.49 6 pack danmurphys.com.au



PERRIER-JOUËT BELLE ÉPOQUE FLUTE GIFT PACK

Perrier-Jouët Belle Époque is one of the world's truly great elegant Champagnes. Named after the 'golden age' in France during the late 19th century, Belle Époque is still today bottled in the striking hand-painted bottle that is instantly recognisable the world over. A 50 percent Chardonnay, 45 percent Pinot Noir and 5 percent Pinot Meunier, the strength of this prestige cuvée is in its finesse and elegance rather than power or fruit. Adding to this spectacular Champagne's aura of grace and class was the fact that it was personally chosen to be the Champagne poured at the Monaco wedding of HRH Prince Albert II of Monaco and Princess Charlene.

RRP \$359.99 750ml danmurphys.com.au



DRINKS



BAILEYS MINIS MIXED PACK INDULGENCE COLLECTION

Three treat sized serves of Baileys Original Irish Cream and the indulgent decadence of Baileys Chocolate. A delicious drinkable dessert in a bottle these petite treats indulge you with all the smooth creamy taste of Baileys in the time it takes to make it from the fridge to the sofa. Simply pop a straw in it.

RRP \$29.99 3 pack danmurphys.com.au



CAZCABEL TEQUILA BLANCO

This Tequila Blanco is a spirit fashioned from sun-baked blue weber agave from the heart of the Jalisco region. Fresh, crisp and with a rustic hit of earthy agave this tequila is truly one to be sipped and savoured.

RRP \$74.99 danmurphy.com.au



UKIYO JAPANESE YUZU GIN

With notes of sansho pepper and bright yuzu citrus, the Ukiyo Japanese Yuzu Gin is fresh and vibrant with a gently spiced finish. The yuzu flavour is tart and fragrant, resembling that of the lemon and grapefruit, with overtones of mandarin orange.

RRP \$88.99 700ml danmurphys.com.au



THE KRAKEN BLACK SPICED RUM

The Kraken Rum is an imported blend of Caribbean rums, blended with a range of spices including cinnamon, clove, and ginger. Named for the sea beast of myth and legend, The Kraken Rum is bold, rich, black and smooth.

RRP \$84 1L danmurphys.com.au



RASPBERRY GIN SOUR

Ingredients

- 45ml London Dry gin
- 20ml Chambord (raspberry liqueur)
- 20ml fresh lemon juice
- 10ml simple syrup
- 3–4 fresh raspberries
- 15ml egg white (or 20ml aquafaba for a vegan version)
- Ice
- Fresh raspberries to garnish

Method

Add the raspberries to a cocktail shaker and gently muddle. Pour in the gin, Chambord, lemon juice, simple syrup and egg white. Dry shake (without ice) for 15 seconds to create a silky foam. Add ice and shake again until well chilled. Double strain into a chilled Nick & Nora or coupe glass. Garnish with two fresh raspberries on a cocktail pick.



THE WINERY

A family-owned Sancerre estate committed to organic and biodynamic viticulture. Combining sustainable practices, traditional winemaking and minimal intervention, each wine beautifully expresses the purity, elegance and character of its renowned terroir.



Le Chêne Marchand Sancerre Blanc

A prestigious 100 percent Sauvignon Blanc from Bué's renowned chalky caillottes terroir. Hand-harvested from organically farmed vines and aged 18 months on fine lees for exceptional freshness, minerality and elegance.



Sancerre Rouge Pinot Noir

An elegant Pinot Noir from organically farmed vines on chalky clay soils. Hand-harvested, naturally fermented and aged 15 months in oak vats, revealing delicate fruit, structure and distinctive terroir.



Sancerre Blanc Sauvignon Blanc

A refined 100 percent Sauvignon Blanc from organically farmed 25-year-old vines. Hand-harvested, naturally fermented and aged nine months on fine lees, offering vibrant freshness, minerality and elegant balance.

THE
JUICIER
THE
BETTER



★
SANPELLEGRINO
LIFE IS JUICIER

Instagram icon @sanpellegrino_au



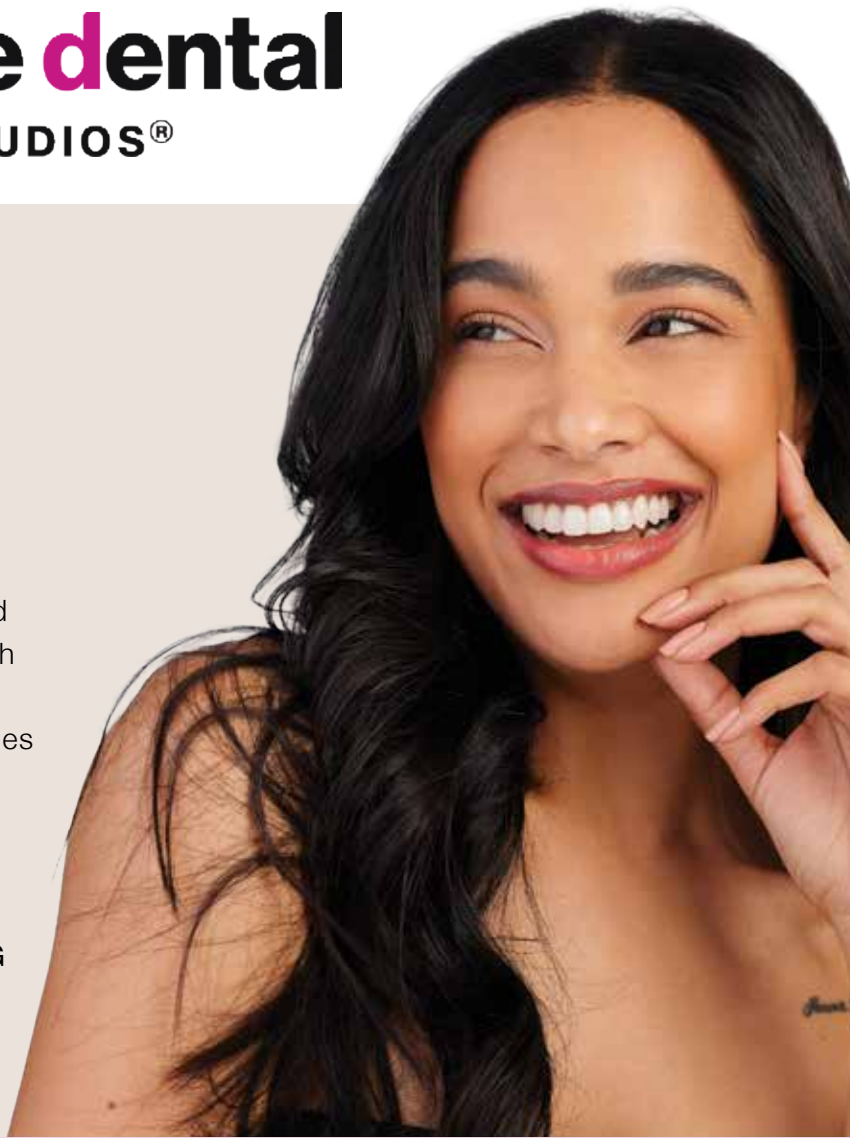
transforming smiles.

Vogue Dental is the leading cosmetic, reconstructive and general dentist on the Gold Coast, situated in the beautiful Mermaid Beach area. Our skilled and experienced dentists seamlessly blend advanced dentistry techniques and state-of-the-art technology to help you achieve your goals for your teeth and smile.

COSMETIC DENTISTRY | VENEERS

INVISALIGN | GUM LIFT | TEETH WHITENING

DENTAL IMPLANTS | GENERAL DENTISTRY



Exclusive Picasso Porcelain Veneers®

Designed and crafted in-house for unparalleled quality and precision. Hand-finished by master ceramists with an exceptional eye for detail and artistry. Ultra-thin, 100 percent porcelain veneers engineered to beautifully replicate the natural aesthetics and function of real teeth.

SIGNATURE TREATMENT SPECIAL OFFER

10 x Picasso
Porcelain Veneers®

\$12,990

Dr Tom Shao | Owner & Principal Dentist

With over 12 years of professional experience and credentials including a Bachelor of Oral Health (DentSci) and a Graduate Diploma in Dentistry, Dr. Shao has special interest in both reconstructive and cosmetic dentistry. He is widely trusted by celebrities, athletes, and actors alike, known for delivering exceptional care and remarkable results.

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Ph: 07 5554 8593 | Email: gc@voguedentalstudios.com.au

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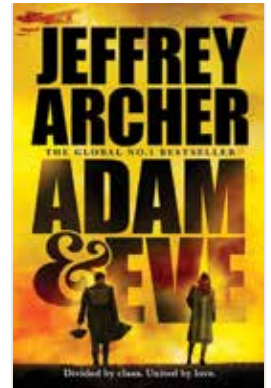
voguedentalstudios.com.au/gold-coast



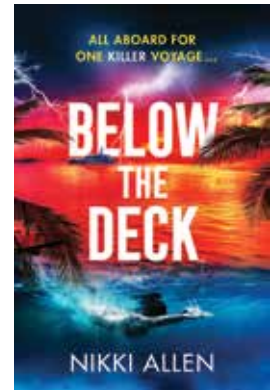
BOOKS

ADAM & EVE**By Jeffrey Archer**

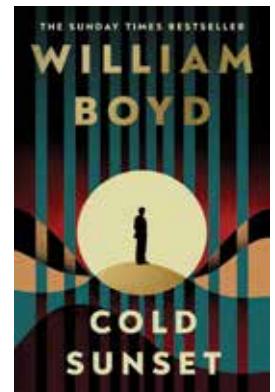
Set across the sweeping backdrop of the First and Second World Wars, this epic novel follows Eve, the daughter of an Earl, and Adam, a shepherd's son, who form an unbreakable bond after meeting at birth in 1918. As Europe is once again consumed by conflict, their choices and courage during the dark days leading to the Battle of Britain shape not only their own destinies but the fate of a nation. Spanning love, sacrifice and resilience, it is a powerful historical saga of two lives intertwined with the turning point of history.

HarperCollins RRP \$45*BELOW THE DECK****By Nikki Allen**

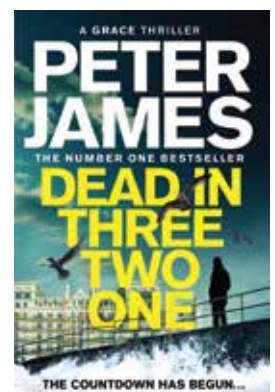
On a luxury superyacht cruising through French Polynesia, three rising stars, their CEO, and their partners are enjoying a dream voyage of indulgence and celebration. But beneath the polished surface, tensions begin to simmer between guests and crew in the tight confines of the vessel. As secrets unravel and relationships fracture, a shocking death reveals that someone onboard is hiding something far darker than anyone imagined, and there's nowhere to run on the open sea.

Pan Macmillan RRP \$24.99*COLD SUNSET****By William Boyd**

Set against the tense backdrop of Cold War Moscow, Cold Sunset follows reluctant spy Gabriel Dax as a routine mission quickly spirals into danger. Drawn into a world of secrets, betrayal and high-stakes escape plans, Gabriel must navigate shifting alliances while questioning who he can truly trust. Stylish, atmospheric and full of suspense, William Boyd's latest thriller delivers intrigue, espionage and a compelling hero caught between loyalty and survival.

Penguin Random House RRP \$34.99*DEAD IN THREE TWO ONE****By Peter James**

Dead in Three Two One sees Detective Superintendent Roy Grace return in a high-stakes thriller where a city celebration becomes the backdrop for a deadly act of revenge. As Brighton Pride fills the city with colour and crowds, a ruthless enemy moves into position with Roy and his family directly in the crosshairs. Fast-paced, tense and packed with suspense, this latest instalment from Peter James delivers a gripping race against time where the danger is both professional and deeply personal.

**Pan Macmillan RRP \$34.99*

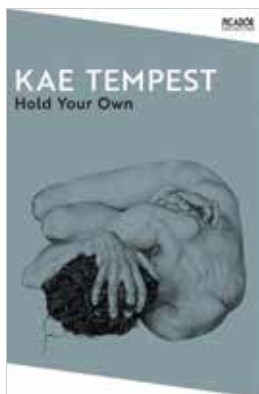


FAREWELL TO EDEN

By Sebastian Faulks

Set against the final days of the British Mandate in Palestine and the quiet landscapes of post-war England, *Farewell to Eden* follows Philip Deval, a soldier carrying the unseen weight of war. As he builds a new life as a schoolteacher and forms a connection with the mysterious Frances Darwood, memories and scars from his past refuse to stay buried. Sweeping, thoughtful and deeply moving, the novel explores love, faith, healing and whether hope can survive after profound loss.

*Penguin Random House RRP \$34.99



HOLD YOUR OWN

By Kae Tempest

Hold Your Own is an ambitious and powerful poetry collection that reimagines the myth of Tiresias to explore identity, transformation and what it means to be human. Through a striking four-part structure, Kae Tempest blends ancient mythology with contemporary life, creating work that feels both timeless and urgently modern. Bold, lyrical and thought-provoking, this collection showcases the distinctive voice that has made Tempest one of the most celebrated performance poets of their generation.

*Pan Macmillan RRP \$24.99

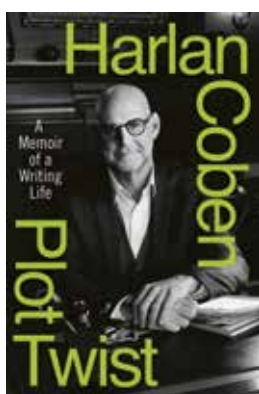


NO ONE'S LOOKING

By Brooke Davis

No One's Looking is a witty, heartfelt and sharply observed novel about two middle-aged sisters navigating marriage, motherhood, identity and the quiet frustrations that build over a lifetime. When Susan's carefully ordered life is shaken by her husband's unexpected request and Vicki becomes consumed by fears for her teenage daughter and the world around her, both women are pushed to confront who they've become. Set during a sweltering Australian summer, it's an uplifting and insightful story about sisterhood, hidden rage, reinvention and discovering that it's never too late to rewrite your life.

*Hachette RRP \$15.99



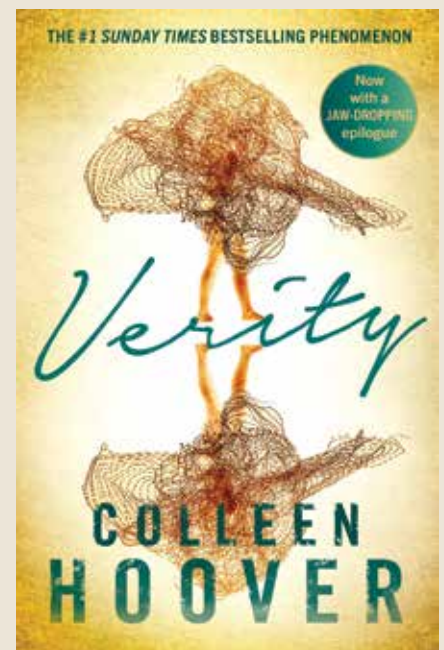
PLOT TWIST

By Harlan Coben

Part memoir and part writing guide, *Plot Twist* offers an honest and engaging look at bestselling author Harlan Coben's life and creative process. Drawing on memories from childhood through to his publishing journey, Coben shares practical insights on storytelling, overcoming self-doubt, and finding what works as a writer. Funny, thoughtful and inspiring, it's an essential read for aspiring writers and fans alike.

*Penguin Random House RRP \$36.99

OUR TOP PICK THIS SEASON...



VERITY

By Colleen Hoover

If you loved the emotional intensity of *It Ends With Us*, *Verity* takes a much darker turn. *Verity* is a gripping psychological thriller that follows writer Lowen Ashleigh as she's hired to finish a bestselling series for injured author Verity Crawford. But while sorting through Verity's private papers, Lowen uncovers a hidden manuscript filled with disturbing confessions that blur the line between truth and manipulation. As she becomes increasingly entangled with Verity's husband, Jeremy, the atmosphere grows more tense, and every discovery raises new questions about what really happened within the Crawford family. Packed with shocking twists, simmering suspense and an unsettling sense of dread, the novel keeps readers on edge from beginning to end. Twisted, addictive and impossible to put down, *Verity* will leave readers questioning everything right up to the final page, and long after they've closed the book.

*Hachette RRP \$24.99

MOVIES



PAW PATROL: THE DINO MOVIE

Release date: 10 September

After their ship gets caught in a mysterious storm, the PAW Patrol pups crash land on an uncharted tropical island filled with dinosaurs. They meet Rex, a pup who has been stranded on the island for years and has become an expert in all things dino-related. When the PAW Patrol's archrival, Mayor Humdinger, begins recklessly mining in hopes of exploiting the island for its natural resources, he inadvertently causes a huge, dormant volcano to erupt. The PAW Patrol pups are thrown into a series of high-stakes, dino-sized rescues bigger than anything they've done before, as they must stop Humdinger before everything on the island goes extinct.



PRACTICAL MAGIC 2

Release date: 10 September

Starring Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman, Practical Magic 2 returns to a world steeped in moonlit mischief and powerful ancestral magic, as the Owens sisters must confront the dark curse that threatens to unravel their family once and for all in a must-see cinematic event of fun, magic and mayhem.



FORGOTTEN ISLAND

Release date: 17 September

While celebrating their last night together, Jo and Raissa stumble upon a mysterious portal that transports them to the fantastical island of Nakali, packed with magical and mythological creatures they grew up hearing stories about from their Filipino families. Some of these figures will become friends, some foes. Joined by well-meaning-but-hapless weredog Raww (Dave Franco) and a small-but-mighty pack of pals, Jo and Raissa must face The Dreaded Manananggal (Tony winning icon Lea Salonga), the most feared creature on the island. When they discover that the memories of their entire friendship are the price for returning home, Jo and Raissa will race to find a way to leave the island before they forget each other forever.



SHAUN THE SHEEP: THE BEAST OF MOSSY BOTTOM

Release date: 17 September in Qld

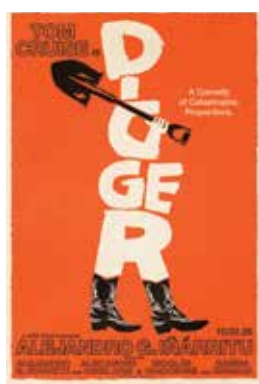
SHAUN THE SHEEP: THE BEAST OF MOSSY BOTTOM sees the residents of Mossy Bottom Farm looking forward to Halloween, until the clumsy Farmer trashes the Flock's beloved pumpkin patch! When Shaun turns MAD SCIENTIST to fix the problem, things rapidly spiral out of control... with Farmer missing and a wild beast roaming the woods of Mossingham, all the ingredients are in place for a monstrously fun family adventure.



HEART OF THE BEAST

Release date: 24 September

After a harrowing plane crash, Special Forces officer James Belmont (Brad Pitt) and his combat dog, Odin, find themselves stranded deep in the Alaskan wilderness. Together, they are forced into a brutal fight for survival against the elements. From acclaimed filmmaker David Ayer, Heart of the Beast is an intense adventure thriller that explores the unbreakable bond between a man and his best friend as they face their greatest battle yet.



DIGGER'S

Release date: 1 October

The world's most powerful man races against time to prove he is humanity's saviour after a ground-breaking discovery unleashes a catastrophic force beyond his control. As nations fall into chaos and the consequences of his creation threaten to destroy civilisation, he must confront the truth behind his own ambition. Hunted by enemies and haunted by the devastation he caused, he embarks on a desperate mission to undo the damage before it is too late. In a battle between redemption and destruction, he must decide whether he will be remembered as the man who saved the world or the one who ended it.



STREET FIGHTER

Release date: 15 October

Set in 1993, estranged Street Fighters Ryu (Andrew Koji) and Ken Masters (Noah Centineo) are thrown back into combat when the mysterious Chun-Li (Callina Liang) recruits them for the next World Warrior Tournament: a brutal clash of fists, fate, and fury. But behind this battle royale lies a deadly conspiracy that forces them to face off against each other and the demons of their past. And if they don't, it's GAME OVER!

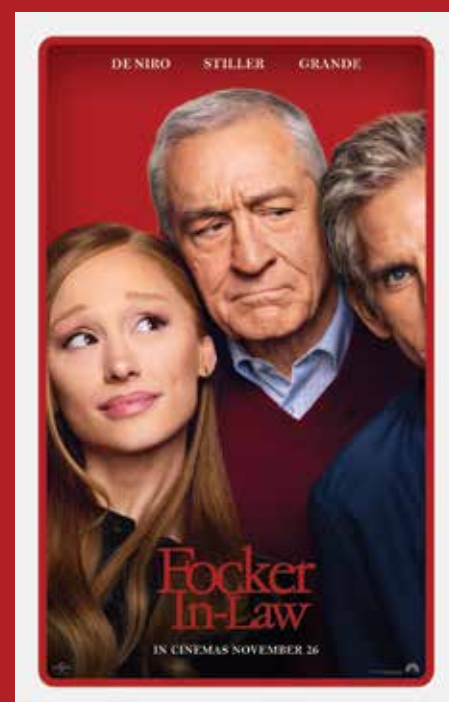


KLARA AND THE SUN

Release date: 22 October

Based on the bestselling novel from Nobel Prize-winner Kazuo Ishiguro and written and directed by Academy-Award® winner Taika Waititi (Jojo Rabbit), Klara and the Sun introduces audiences to Klara (Jenna Ortega), an Artificial Friend who wants nothing more than to find the perfect home. When Klara meets Josie (Mia Tharia), each immediately senses a kindred spirit in the other. Josie has a fraught relationship with her mother (Amy Adams) and they've suffered great loss, but Klara's innocent wonder and unwavering loyalty begin to heal the family and bring light to Josie's complicated world.

BRACE YOURSELF FOR MORE FAMILY CHAOS...



FOCKER-IN-LAW

Release date: 26 November

This November, comedy icon and Emmy winner Ben Stiller and two-time Oscar® winner Robert De Niro reunite, joined by Grammy winner and Oscar® nominee Ariana Grande, in Focker-In-Law, a new chapter in the blockbuster Meet the Parents franchise. Written and directed by John Hamburg, who co-wrote the three previous Meet the Parents films, Focker-In-Law is produced by Oscar® nominee Jane Rosenthal and Robert De Niro for Tribeca Productions; Ben Stiller and Oscar® winner John Leshner for Red Hour Films.

WIN!

Giveaways Galore

Total Value
\$507



WIN ONE OF FOUR EUCLOVE NATURAL HOME COMPLETE BUNDLES

As more Australians embrace lower-tox living, Euclove is challenging conventional cleaning with an Australian-made range of plant-based products powered by essential oils and botanicals. Inspired by Ayurvedic traditions, the formulations feature naturally antibacterial, antifungal and deodorising ingredients, including eucalyptus, tea tree, clove and neem oils. Four lucky readers will each receive Euclove's Natural Home Complete Bundle, featuring Kitchen, Bathroom and Floor Cleaners, Linen & Mattress Spray, Home Spray and Multi-Purpose Cleaner—a complete lower-tox collection designed to leave every room naturally fresh, beautifully clean and cared for.

euclove.com.au

WIN ONE OF THREE EVENT CINEMA GOLD CLASS DOUBLE PASS

Treat yourself to the luxury of Gold Class at Event Cinemas. Gold Class is the ultimate cinema experience complete with lounge access. Enjoy a drink before the film from their fully licensed bar. This prize also includes dinner service, reclining seats and more.

eventcinemas.com.au



Total Value
\$300



Total Value
\$200

WIN SWANKY SOCKS: AUSTRALIA'S FAVOURITE SOCK

Swanky Socks is a premium Australian sock brand known for using Australian Merino wool and bold, statement colours. Naturally breathable and luxuriously soft, they flex with your stride and keep your feet dry. Perfect for all year around, these premium comfort and stylish socks are a great fit for seasonal fashion, lifestyle, and even gifting.

swankysocks.com

TO ENTER: Email competition@thegoldcoastmagazine.com with the giveaway name in the subject line. Include your contact details. T's & C's apply. Competitions end 30th November 2026.

GIVEAWAYS



WIN ONE OF THREE CLOUDPAWS COMFORT STAIRS

If you've watched your furry friend struggle to jump onto the bed or couch, you know how useful dog stairs can be. Repeated jumping can strain joints over time, particularly in senior dogs and puppies. Stairs and ramps can reduce joint stress, help prevent injuries and support mobility. A small investment in dog stairs can mean years of comfort, health and happiness for your best mate.

cloudpaws.com

Total Value
\$570



Total Value
\$210

WIN A TEDDY BEAR HIGH TEA WITH A BUILD A BEAR FOR TWO

Extended by popular demand, JW Marriott Gold Coast Resort & Spa's collaboration with Build-A-Bear continues into spring, bringing nostalgia, creativity and play to the afternoon ritual. The Teddy Bear High Tea Buffet pairs an indulgent high tea buffet with a Build-A-Bear keepsake teddy, creating a memorable experience for families to enjoy together. Following its winter popularity, the experience continues on select spring dates, with monthly Heart Ceremonies hosted by the Build-A-Bear team adding a special moment of storytelling and sentiment. A playful celebration for little ones and grown-ups alike, it's an afternoon for making memories together.

marriott.com



Total Value
\$250

WIN A QUEEN OF THE NIGHT FACIAL AT SPAQ QT HOTEL

This is not just a facial. This is a coronation. You'll be welcomed like royalty with a tension-taming back massage before they unleash Mukti Organics' Age Defiance dream team. Think potent peptides, native botanicals, and vitamin-charged elixirs worthy of a queen (or at least someone who deserves a mighty good pamper). A sculpting gua sha facial massage lifts and tightens, while neck, scalp, shoulders, hands and arms get the royal treatment too. We finish with the namesake Queen of the Night Crème, rich in collagen and ceramides to lock in hydration and your crown-worthy glow. 90 minutes to radiate and revitalise.

qthotels.com/spaq



WIN ONE OF TWO CLOUDPAWS SOLACE CLOUD BEDS TO GIVE YOUR DOG A BETTER SLEEP THAN EVER

Give your pet ultimate comfort with the CloudPaws Solace Cloud. Soft, calming dog bed designed for better sleep, anxiety relief and cosy support. These orthopaedic dog beds create comfort and ultimately, happier pets.

cloudpaws.com

Total Value
\$230

WIN A CLOUDPAWS CO-PILOT AND ENJOY EVERY ADVENTURE TOGETHER

Australia's trusted pet brand, CloudPaws transforms the car ride from a stressful balancing act into a secure, elevated experience. This dog car seat also doubles as a carrier designed for comfortable everyday adventures. Keep your dog secure and cosy with double-lock safety and deep cushioned comfort.

cloudpaws.com

Total Value
\$120





JW MARRIOTT GOLD COAST RESORT & SPA

A New Season of Discovery on the Coast.

Spring brings a renewed energy to the Gold Coast.

Warmer days, longer afternoons and the return of balmy evenings invite more time outdoors, creating a natural moment to reconnect, explore and escape at JW Marriott Gold Coast Resort & Spa.

Positioned between the Pacific Ocean and the hinterland, the resort embraces the season through its subtropical surrounds and connection to nature. Mornings begin beside the iconic saltwater lagoon, home to more than 300 tropical fish, before days unfold between the JW Garden, nearby beaches and long afternoons by the pool.

This spring also marks an exciting new chapter for the resort, with a dedicated Education Centre coming soon. Designed to deepen guests' connection with the natural environment, the new space will bring the resort's stories of sustainability, local ecosystems and marine life to life through engaging and educational experiences for guests of all ages.

For a limited time, Private Dining Under the Stars continues beside the saltwater lagoon, offering one final opportunity to experience the intimate all-weather igloo domes before the seasonal experience concludes at the end of September. A six-course degustation by Director of Culinary Paul Smart and the team behind Citrique is paired with an atmospheric lagoon-side setting for an unforgettable evening under the stars.

Wellness remains central to the experience at Spa by JW, where signature treatments and restorative rituals offer space to slow down and reset as the season changes.

Across the resort, dining takes on a fresh spring rhythm. At Citrique, premium local produce and fresh seafood take centre stage, while Misono Teppanyaki brings theatre and precision to the table. At Chapter & Verse Bar and Lounge, sunlit afternoons transition into balmy evenings over coastal-inspired fare and cocktails.

From new discoveries and immersive experiences to dining, wellness and time spent by the water, spring at JW Marriott Gold Coast Resort & Spa is an invitation to embrace the season and experience the coast anew.

DINING AT JW MARRIOTT GOLD COAST RESORT & SPA

Where flavour brings people together.



Spring at Citrique – Coastal flavours come into season

Spring brings a fresh expression of coastal dining to Citrique, proudly awarded an Australian Good Food Guide Chef Hat for four consecutive years. Modern Australian cuisine is shaped by premium local produce, fresh seafood and quality meats, with subtle Asian influences inspired by Director of Culinary Paul Smart's international experience. The signature Seafood and Grill Buffet celebrates the best of the coast, from freshly shucked oysters, Mooloolaba prawns, spanner crab and Moreton Bay bugs to artisanal meats, wood-fired pizza and handcrafted desserts. As the days grow warmer, Sundays invite guests to settle in for a leisurely long lunch, complete with live entertainment and flowing mimosas, an effortless way to welcome spring on the Gold Coast.

Open Tuesday to Sunday from 5pm



All-Day Dining at Chapter & Verse Bar and Lounge From sunlit lunches to cocktails at golden hour

Chapter & Verse Bar and Lounge moves effortlessly with the pace of spring on the Gold Coast. By day, light seasonal fare and refreshing drinks are best enjoyed beneath blue skies and warm Queensland sunshine. The signature High Tea by JW remains an afternoon ritual, inspired by botanicals from the JW Garden and handcrafted by the resort's pastry team. As the sun sets, the space transitions into a relaxed lounge, with cocktails inspired by the coast and hinterland, curated bites and live music on select evenings, an inviting setting for long afternoons to flow into balmy spring evenings.

Open daily from 11am
www.chapterandversebar.com



Misono Japanese Restaurant Theatre, precision and modern Japanese dining

Misono Japanese Restaurant brings together performance and craft across three dining experiences. At its centre, teppanyaki transforms dining into theatre through fire, rhythm and precision. Beyond the grill, a sushi bar showcases fresh local seafood, while the whisky bar presents rare Japanese spirits and cocktails. Japanese technique meets Australian produce in a dining experience designed for celebration, connection and shared moments.

Open Wednesday to Sunday from 5pm
www.misonorestaurant.com | (07) 5582 9770



Teddy Bear High Tea Buffet with Build-A-Bear The much-loved experience continues into spring

Extended by popular demand, JW Marriott Gold Coast Resort & Spa's collaboration with Build-A-Bear continues into spring, bringing nostalgia, creativity and a sense of play to the afternoon ritual. The Teddy Bear High Tea Buffet pairs an indulgent high tea buffet with a Build-A-Bear keepsake teddy, creating a memorable experience for families to enjoy together. Following the popularity of its winter season, the experience will continue on select dates throughout spring, with monthly Heart Ceremonies hosted by the Build-A-Bear team adding a special moment of storytelling and sentiment. A playful celebration for little ones and grown-ups alike, it's an afternoon designed for making memories together.

PRIVATE DINING UNDER THE STARS

Last chance to dine beneath the stars.

Not here for much longer, Private Dining Under the Stars enters its final weeks at JW Marriott Gold Coast Resort & Spa, with the seasonal experience concluding in September.

Set beside the resort's iconic saltwater lagoon, individually styled all-weather igloo domes create an intimate setting framed by still water, tropical palms and soft evening light.

Designed for meaningful moments, from anniversaries and proposals to intimate celebrations, each evening unfolds with a six-course degustation curated by Director of Culinary Paul Smart and the team behind Citrique.

Beginning with Moët & Chandon and caviar before moving through premium Australian produce, ocean-fresh seafood and refined wine pairings, the experience brings together setting, season and culinary craft. With only weeks remaining, this is the final opportunity to experience one of the resort's most intimate dining experiences before it disappears for the season.



JW MARRIOTT

THE RITUAL OF REST

*Making space for wellbeing
beyond the treatment room.*

At Spa by JW, wellbeing is more than an occasional indulgence; it is a ritual worth returning to.

The Rest & Recovery Membership invites guests to slow down with access to the traditional sauna, steam shower and relaxation lounge. From a one-time Discovery Visit for \$50 to weekly and monthly memberships, each offers a considered way to make restoration part of the everyday.

Thoughtful touches, from Love Tea refreshments to wellness benefits, complete an experience designed around one simple idea: making more time to pause, recharge and reconnect.

Memberships are available by contacting Spa by JW on (07) 5592 9796.

FOR HIM

Coastal Blues for Spring



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1. M&S Aviator Polarised Sunglasses \$37.50, marksandspencer.com/au 2. Blundstone Chelsea Boots Glazed Ginger \$324.95, blundstone.com.au 3. Bondi Active Forma 1/4 Zip Sweat Washed Teal \$110, bondiactive.com 4. Bondi Active Forma Windbreaker Hoodie Teal Multi \$130 Forma Gym Shorts Rocco \$85 bondiactive.com 5. Brixton Danville Quarter Zip Fleece, Navy/Whitecap \$119.95 au.brixton.com 6. Fjällräven Nils Trousers Dark Grey \$304.95, fjallraven.com.au 7. Brixton Danville Trademark Lightweight Garage Zip Jacket British Khaki \$129.95 au.brixton.com 8. M&S Suede Belt Brown \$65, marksandspencer.com/au 9. Fjällräven Ovik Rib Sweater M \$389.95 fjallraven.com.au 10. Bondi Active Forma Logo Cap Blue \$50, bondiactive.com 11. The Nautical Company Saint James Miniquiers Brenton Shirt White/Navy Blue \$140 and Bermuda Shorts, Red \$102, thenauticalcompany.com 12. Bondi Active Forma Varsity Tank Blue \$60, bondiactive.com 13. V&A Wallace & Gromit and Friends Adult T-shirt \$65.50, vam.ac.uk/shop 14. Moncler Blue Striped Swim Shorts \$820, moncler.com/en-au 15. Fashion Clinic Dolce & Gabbana Ivory and Blue DG Athletic Sneakers \$630 fashionclinic.com 16. Bondi Active Forma Swim Shorts Blue Marble \$75, bondiactive.com 17. M&S Navy and Red Square Watch \$125, marksandspencer.com/au 18. M&S Lugged Rectangle Sunglasses \$19, marksandspencer.com/au 19. Fjällräven High Coast Foldsack 24 Fossil \$304.95, fjallraven.com.au

FOR HIM

9



10



11



*Blue tones
and classic
neutrals are the
season's winning
combination.*

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A FORK IN THE ROCKY ROAD



Bake Your Sweet Time by Tat Effby

RECIPES

Rich, chocolatey, crunchy and packed with irresistible treats, this rocky road strikes the perfect balance between indulgence and nostalgia. Whether you're making it for a celebration, sharing it with friends or simply treating yourself, this may just be the best rocky road you'll ever taste.

Makes 12 large or 24 small

Equipment: Flat baking sheet and 12 forks

Ingredients

- 150g milk or dark (bittersweet) chocolate
- 20g coconut oil
- 12 giant marshmallows or 24 large marshmallows
- 25g biscuits of your choice – digestives (graham crackers), ginger nuts, speculoos, shortbread, etc.
- 25g nuts of your choice
- 25g dried fruit of your choice
- 25g mini marshmallows

Method

Line the flat baking sheet with baking paper.

To a medium microwave-safe bowl, add the chocolate and coconut oil.

Microwave in short bursts to melt the two, then mix them together. If you don't have a microwave, put the bowl over a pan of hot water.

Spear one giant or two large marshmallows with each fork.

Crush the biscuits and roughly chop the nuts and fruit of your choice, then add each to their own small bowl.

Dip a marshmallow in the melted chocolate so it's fully coated and lay it with its fork on the lined baking sheet. Sprinkle over the biscuit crumbs, then the chopped nuts and fruit. Leave the coated and loaded marshmallow on the baking sheet and drizzle over more chocolate, add more biscuit crumbs, nuts and fruit or stick on a few mini marshmallows.

Repeat with the remaining marshmallows. Chill them on the baking sheet for 15 minutes to set the chocolate.

Eat straight away or store at room temperature.



Bake Your Sweet Time

Images and text from Bake Your Sweet Time by Tat Effby, photography by Mowie Kay. Murdoch Books RRP \$45.

LAYERED PASSIONFRUIT AND MANGO MERINGUE



Bourke Street Bakery by Paul Allam and David McGuinness

RECIPES

This dessert combines the classic pavlova with Italian tiramisu, replacing traditional ladyfinger biscuits with layers of crisp meringue, mascarpone, fresh mango and passionfruit. It can be served buffet-style or made in a spring-form tin and sliced into elegant individual portions.

Serves 10

Ingredients

Meringue

- 4 egg whites
- 250g caster (superfine) sugar
- 1/3 teaspoon natural vanilla extract
- 1/3 teaspoon white vinegar

Mascarpone Filling

- 2 egg whites
- 25g caster (superfine) sugar, for egg whites
- 2 egg yolks
- 35g caster (superfine) sugar, for egg yolks
- 500g mascarpone cheese
- 2–3 ripe mangoes,
- 125ml passionfruit pulp

Method

Preheat the oven to 140°C and line three 30x20cm baking trays with baking paper.

To make the meringue, whisk the egg whites until firm peaks form. Gradually add the sugar, whisking until thick and glossy. Fold through the vanilla and vinegar. Divide the mixture evenly between the trays and spread into even layers. Bake for 20–25 minutes until lightly golden. Cool completely before removing from the trays.

For the mascarpone filling, whisk the egg whites to soft peaks, gradually adding the sugar until glossy. Refrigerate. In a clean bowl, whisk the egg yolks with the sugar until combined, then beat in the mascarpone until smooth. Gently fold the chilled meringue mixture into the mascarpone in two batches.

Spread with half the mascarpone filling, then top with half the sliced mango and passionfruit pulp. Repeat with a second meringue layer, remaining filling, mango and passionfruit. Finish with the final meringue sheet.

Refrigerate for 4–6 hours, or until set, before slicing and serving.



Bourke Street Bakery

Images and text from Bourke Street Bakery by Paul Allam and David McGuinness, photography by Alan Benson. Murdoch Books RRP \$49.99.

HAZELNUT TIRAMISU



Easy Italian Dinners from My Little Kitchen by Melanie Lionello

I'm a tiramisu enthusiast. This classic dessert originated in Treviso, where my family is from. My nonna made it for every occasion and insisted it was "good for you" because it had eggs and cheese, classic Nonna logic. This version is for the adults: a twist on the classic featuring one of my favourite flavours, hazelnut.

Serves 6

Ingredients

- 4 eggs, separated
- 120g caster (superfine) sugar
- 380g mascarpone
- 600ml coffee, cooled to the touch
- 15g unsweetened cocoa powder, plus extra for dusting
- 60ml hazelnut liqueur, e.g. Frangelico or hazelnut syrup
- 24–26 savoiardi (sponge/lady finger) biscuits (depending on your serving dish)
- 20g dark chocolate (minimum of 70 percent cocoa)
- 60g finely chopped roasted hazelnuts

Method

In a large mixing bowl, whisk the egg whites to stiff peaks using an electric hand mixer. This will take 2–3 minutes. Set aside.

In another clean mixing bowl, beat the egg yolks with the caster sugar using an electric mixer until pale and thick, this should take about 3–4 minutes. Add the mascarpone and continue to beat for no longer than 15–20 seconds. The longer you beat this mixture, the firmer it will get, so beat it only until it's just combined.

Gently fold the whites into the mascarpone mixture in two batches using a large spoon or spatula, being careful not to knock out too much air. Set aside.

In a shallow dish, combine the cooled coffee with the cocoa and hazelnut liqueur. Dip the savoiardi biscuits briefly into the coffee mixture one at a time, just enough to soak the surface without the biscuits becoming soggy. Arrange a layer of soaked biscuits in the base of your serving dish. You will need to work quickly to avoid losing your biscuits into the coffee mixture. Before moving to the next step, gently touch each biscuit; if you feel resistance, spoon a little coffee mixture over the top. You do not want dry biscuits.

Spread half of the mascarpone mixture over and smooth the top.

Repeat with another layer of soaked biscuits and the remaining mascarpone mixture, smoothing the surface again.

Cover and refrigerate for at least 4 hours.

When ready to serve, dust the top generously with cocoa powder. Grate or finely shave the dark chocolate over the top and scatter with the chopped hazelnuts. Serve chilled.

Refrigerate in an airtight container for up to 3 days.



Easy Italian Dinners from My Little Kitchen

Images and text from Easy Italian Dinners From My Little Kitchen by Melanie Lionello, photography by Mark Roper. Murdoch Books RRP \$39.99.

PASTA WITH LOBSTER AND CHAMPAGNE SAUCE



Seasons Where the River Bends by Jane & Jimmy Barnes

RECIPES

This dish sounds rich, luxurious and special, and there's no denying it is. I started cooking it a few years ago when there was a glut of lobster as a result of trading tensions between Australia and China. I loved that we could support our local industry in a time of need, and get a lobster for \$20. And the ingredients for the sauce all come from our garden, except for the champagne, of course!

Serves 2

Ingredients

- 200–300g spaghetti (or pasta of your choice)
- 100g butter, plus 25g extra
- 1 cooked lobster, halved, meat torn into small chunks
- 4 heirloom tomatoes, such as ox heart, chopped
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 2 eschalots, finely sliced
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped parsley
- 2 sprigs thyme
- ½ cup champagne
- Finely chopped chilli, to taste

Method

Cook the spaghetti in a large saucepan of salted boiling water according to the packet directions, or until al dente. Melt the 100g butter in a large, deep frying pan over medium low heat. Add the lobster and toss in the butter briefly to heat through. Transfer to a plate and set aside. Add the tomato, garlic and eschalot to the pan and cook for a few minutes, until soft. Add the parsley and thyme. Stir in the champagne and season to taste. Add the extra butter to the sauce, along with a ladle of pasta water and stir over medium-low heat until combined, the starch in the pasta water will give the sauce a smooth, creamy texture. Add the lobster meat and heat through. Transfer the pasta to the sauce, add the chilli and toss to combine. Serve immediately, with a garden salad on the side.

Cook's Notes

Be careful not to overcook the lobster meat, as that can make it dry. Remember to taste and adjust the seasoning as you go, and give the sauce time to bubble and reduce.



Seasons Where the River Bends by Jane & Jimmy Barnes

Photography by Alan Benson, published by HarperCollins, RRP \$59.99.

DINING



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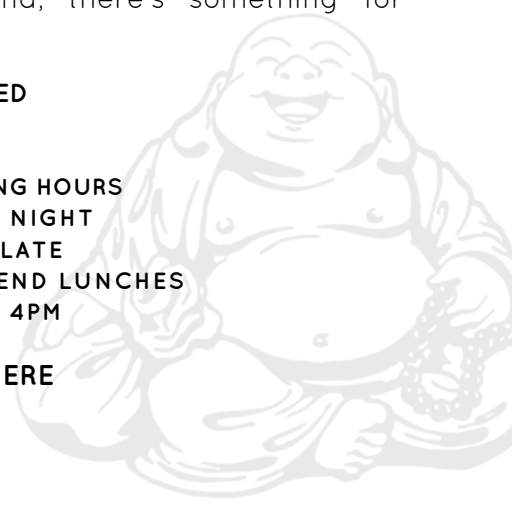
With a diverse menu designed to suit every taste and dietary preference, enjoy vibrant Asian-inspired flavours, from housemade dumplings, bao and skewers to aromatic curries and our signature crispy chilli beef. Designed with sharing in mind, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

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BOOK YOUR TABLE HERE



MOO MOO WINE BAR & GRILL

A New Menu, Same Exceptional Standard and Even More Reasons to Visit.

There are restaurants that become part of the fabric of the Gold Coast, and Moo Moo Wine Bar & Grill is certainly one of them.

A Broadbeach favourite for years, Moo Moo has built a reputation for exceptional steaks, premium produce, an impressive wine list and the kind of warm, knowledgeable service that keeps diners coming back. With the launch of its new menu, we couldn't wait to return and see what was on offer.

Walking through the doors, the restaurant immediately strikes the perfect balance between sophistication and comfort. Rich timber finishes, ambient lighting and the buzz of happy diners create an atmosphere that feels polished without ever being intimidating. Whether you're celebrating a special occasion, enjoying a romantic dinner or catching up with family and friends, Moo Moo has a way of making an evening feel special.

Dining with my husband Simon and our children, Bailey and Zoe, we were eager to sample a selection of the restaurant's signature dishes alongside some of the new menu offerings.

We began with a selection of seafood, and the quality of the produce was evident from the first bite. Six Kilpatrick oysters arrived beautifully prepared, with smoky bacon and a rich Worcestershire glaze complementing rather than overpowering the freshness of the oysters. Every mouthful was perfectly balanced.

The split prawns were equally impressive ØC large, sweet and wonderfully fresh. Simply prepared to allow the natural flavour of the seafood to shine, they were a reminder that when the produce is this good, it doesn't need to be overworked. The scallops completed a sensational trio of entrØ'es. Delicately caramelised, buttery and tender, they were cooked with precision, delivering a beautiful golden crust while remaining silky inside.

For my main course, I chose the pumpkin gnocchi. Soft, pillowy and packed with flavour, it was an elegant and beautifully presented dish that proved to be every bit as comforting as it was delicious. I couldn't resist finishing every bite.

Simon sought the advice of Moo Moo's Alan Bickerton before ordering his steak, and Alan confidently recommended the Wagyu rump cap, cooked medium. It proved to be the standout dish of the evening.

Beautifully marbled and cooked to perfection, the Wagyu rump cap delivered incredible flavour and tenderness in

every bite. The rich beef flavour and delicate texture of the premium Wagyu made it one of the finest steaks we've enjoyed in quite some time. Alan's recommendation couldn't have been more accurate.

Zoe and Bailey both selected the striploin, also cooked medium, and both steaks arrived exactly as ordered. With beautifully caramelised crusts and perfectly pink centres, they demonstrated the consistency and expertise that has made Moo Moo synonymous with premium steak dining.

Accompanying the mains were classic sides that complemented every dish. The Caesar salad was crisp and fresh with just the right amount of creamy dressing, while the golden fries were impossible to resist, crispy on the outside and fluffy within. Seasonal greens rounded out the meal beautifully, adding freshness and colour to an already generous feast.

The beverage selection was equally impressive. Simon enjoyed a refreshing Balter beer, while I paired my meal with a beautifully elegant Kooyong Estate Pinot Noir, whose bright fruit and subtle spice worked wonderfully with both the Wagyu and my pumpkin gnocchi. Zoe opted for a crisp Nautilus Sauvignon Blanc, while Bailey enjoyed a Coke Zero, ensuring everyone had the perfect accompaniment to their meal.

Of course, beyond the outstanding food, what continues to distinguish Moo Moo is its exceptional service. Every member of the team was attentive, knowledgeable and genuinely passionate about creating an enjoyable dining experience. Recommendations were offered with confidence, glasses were never left empty and every detail was delivered with professionalism and warmth.

In a city blessed with an ever-growing dining scene, maintaining a reputation for excellence is no easy task, yet Moo Moo Wine Bar & Grill continues to set the benchmark. Its new menu celebrates premium Australian produce, expertly prepared dishes and genuine hospitality, making every visit feel like a special occasion.

Whether you're a devoted steak lover, a seafood enthusiast or simply searching for one of the Gold Coast's finest dining experiences, Moo Moo delivers on every level. We left already planning our next visit ØC and next time, we'll definitely be asking Alan for another recommendation.

Rating: ★★★★★

The Gold Coast Magazine Tip:

If you're torn between the steaks, trust Alan Bickerton's recommendation and order the medium-cooked Wagyu rump cap. It was, without question, the star of the evening.



Elevate your Hair Routine

Achieve silky, shiny hair with these beauty essentials this spring.



REF STOCKHOLM AHA SCALP DETOX TREATMENT

The ultimate total solution for a revitalised and healthy scalp, REF Stockholm's new AHA Scalp Detox Treatment is an exfoliating scalp treatment with AHA-acids to calm itchiness, remove oil build-up, treat dandruff, and stimulate hair growth! It works to rebalance the scalp and support the foundation of healthier, stronger hair. Gentle chemical exfoliation blends with calming and fortifying actives, making it well-suited for both in-salon use and at-home care, with long-term benefits. An innovative applicator with an integrated scalp brush stimulates circulation and enhances the absorption of active ingredients. The result is a clean, hydrated, and well-balanced scalp - creating the ideal environment for hair to grow strong and healthy from the root.

RRP \$88.50 200ml
smithscollectivebrands.com.au



KERASILK'S ANTI-DANDRUFF SCALP SERUM

This serum, including Ectoin and Piroctone Olamine, removes and prevents all types of dandruff, rebalances oily scalp and strengthens the scalp's natural protective layer for long-lasting purifying results.

RRP \$55 100ml myhaircare.com.au

SHEAMOISTURE CURL STRETCH MULTI-TASKING VOLUME CREAM

The ultimate styling essential for elongated, voluminous curls. This rich yet lightweight cream delivers intense moisture and flexible hold, helping maintain stretched styles while enhancing natural definition. Apply to wet, detangled hair in sections. Rake through from root to tip, then twist or apply slight tension while drying for beautifully stretched wash-and-go styles.

RRP \$29.99 priceline.com.au



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RRP \$26.50 oscaroscar.com.au



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An adjustable sleep bonnet designed to be worn as part of an evening routine. Accommodates a wide range of hair lengths and textures. Comes with a gift box.

RRP \$57 bunluv.com.au



HAIR



SHEAMOISTURE CURL STRETCH SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER

A nourishing wash duo that gently cleanses without stripping moisture, while working to strengthen and detangle shrinkage-prone hair. Together, they prep curls for elongation by improving hydration and reducing breakage, leaving hair visibly healthier, softer and more manageable.

RRP \$23.50 each priceline.com.au



AVEDA TOUSLE TEXTURE DRY TEXTURE SPRAY

This dry texture spray delivers effortless, lived-in texture and is weightlessly volumising, so hair looks just the way you like it: intentionally undone. Instantly creates soft, lived-in texture that lasts all day. Builds weightless volume and airy texture and provides thermal heat protection.

RRP \$49 aveda.com.au



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A spiral-core scrunchie designed to distribute tension differently to a traditional elastic.

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Essential Scrunchie Sets (3 x Silk SmartCore Spiral Scrunchies)

RRP \$52 bunluv.com.au



DEAR CLEO PEARL HAIR ACCESSORIES

Dear Cleo is an Australian premium hair accessories brand born from the Gold Coast's coastal landscape. The Coastal Collection features eight faux pearl hair ties each named after a piece of Australia's natural environment. Designed for the modern woman who wants her everyday accessories to feel intentional. Available in eight shades from soft neutrals to rich statement shades black, brown, cream, pink, grey, green, sage and beige.

RRP \$15 dear-cleo.com



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HAIR



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This luxurious haircare solution is specially formulated to provide effective relief from dandruff while nourishing and strengthening your hair. If you are tired of dealing with the embarrassment and discomfort of dandruff, Kerasilk Anti-Dandruff Shampoo is the solution you need.

RRP \$47 250ml myhaircare.com.au



SHEAMOISTURE CURL STRETCH REFRESHER SPRAY

This hydrating mist revives curls, boosts moisture and controls frizz, helping protect against humidity while maintaining definition and length. How to use: Lightly mist onto dry or damp hair. Sculpt curls with fingers as needed.

RRP \$29.99 priceline.com.au



Celebrity Hair Stylist, Gregory Russell prepped Kirsten Dunst's hair with Goldwell. Russell was inspired by Kirsten's custom Celine gown to create a timeless sculptural knot that felt elegant, polished, and modern.

Photo Credit: Shutterstock

THE ART OF BEAUTIFUL HAIR

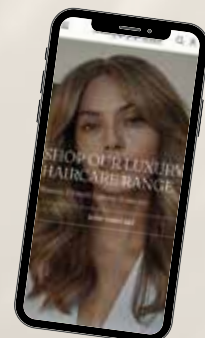
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MITCH WYNTER

Cirque Du Soleil: Kooza Main Character, The Trickster, Played by Local Artist.



As a 15-year-old ballet student, you watched KOOZA and dreamed of becoming The Trickster, what was it about the character that captured your imagination?

His charismatic likable presence and how he commanded the stage in KOOZA. He had a charming personality and was so confident in who he was. And as a young 15-year-old, this is what inspired me to want to become this character.

Performing in Brisbane must have felt like a full circle moment. What emotions did you feel when you stepped under the Big Top in front of family, friends, and your hometown audience?

I am so glad and happy to be here. I've been on this production for five years now, and I've been dreaming of this moment. My family has always supported me and to see them in the audience is special and emotional.

Cirque du Soleil performers are renowned for their extraordinary athleticism, artistry and discipline. What training and experiences over the years have prepared you for a role as physically demanding as The Trickster?

I left school to enroll in a full-time ballet program for two years and then moved to Sydney to pursue a full-time training to become a professional dancer. I put my body through a lot; training almost every day. However, I was driven and focused on training very hard to be ready to get to the next level by learning new acrobatics, learning how to act, perform and become a character.

Queensland has produced many outstanding performers, looking back, were there particular teachers or mentors here that helped shape the artist you've become?

Oh, I love this question! So, for me it would be my dance teacher, Kelsey Walton. I must have been 12 years old when I started training with her. She was a mutual friend of one of my dad's football colleagues and was running a studio. So, I happened to go to this space where she trained me for about three years. She is the root of my training and inspired me to move into more difficult schools, like the full-time ballet school and to become a professional. I see how she's still teaching now on the Gold Coast.

You've already achieved what many performers only dream of. Is there another role production or creative ambition still on your bucket list?

Yes, I am now starting to figure out what other things I want to do. In addition to my role in KOOZA, I was appointed Dance Coach on KOOZA where I get to work closely with the Artistic Director on different projects like helping the choreography evolve or teaching choreo to the new artists joining the show. This has opened me up to wanting to direct and maybe possibly choreographing shows or being a part of the creative process. Ultimately, I still want to perform as I have still many years of practice left in me.

Finally, when you're not dazzling the audiences around the world, what does coming home to Queensland mean to you?

It honestly means the world. It has shaped me into the person I am. I joined KOOZA at 22 years old and I am now I'm almost 28. I feel like I've grown up so much on this show. So, to bring that to my family, friends and the Australian audience, means a lot, and I'm so proud to be the only Australian artist on KOOZA.



JACINTA YELLAND

Forging an Extraordinary International Career as a Performer, Creator and Educator.

From classrooms on the Gold Coast to acclaimed stages in New York and Philadelphia, Jacinta Yelland has forged an extraordinary international career as a performer, creator and educator. The Australian physical theatre artist has captivated audiences with her award-winning solo work, KOAL: a powerful blend of clown, documentary theatre and storytelling inspired by the devastating 2019 Australian bushfires.

Reflecting on your career thus far, what first sparked your passion for theatre?

It might come as a shock to know that I was a very, very shy child! I wouldn't leave my mum's side, even to go to birthday parties. But in Grade 6, she enrolled me in a private drama class, and I had to learn one of Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes and perform it. Something came alive inside of me. I felt like I could be loud, playful and completely free. So, in Grade 10, when I had to decide whether I wanted to pursue being a real doctor or pretend to be a doctor on stage, I picked theatre immediately.

Growing up on the Gold Coast, did you ever imagine your career would take you around the world?

When I was just starting out, I wanted to be a famous film star, so I never expected to study abroad in England and fall in love with physical theatre. I never imagined I would live in Paris for a year and study clowning with the legendary Philippe Gaulier. I never thought I'd get a big-shot agent, move to Los Angeles, and meet an American musician who would become the love of my life. I would never have guessed that I'd move to Philadelphia, perform with some of the top artists and companies in America, create my own solo show, and eventually bring that show back to Australia. I'm the type of person who says yes to one opportunity, only to find that it opens five more doors to unexpected artistic adventures.

KOAL has received widespread critical acclaim, winning the Philadelphia Fringe Festival's Five-Star Award. Talk to us about how the show evolved?

It began in 2019 when I was sitting in my living room in Philadelphia, watching Australia burn. I was devastated that my home was turning to ash, by the immense loss of natural habitat, and by the staggering number of animals perishing in the fires. I decided to create a one-woman show as a call to action, urging people to protect the natural world: our shared home. Trey Lyford, the director and co-creator of KOAL, and I spent two years researching, talking to coal miners, fire fighters and scientists, collaborating directly with nature, and experimenting in the rehearsal room to bring it to the stage.

Your career has taken you across continents, yet your latest work is deeply rooted in Australia. When audiences leave KOAL, what do you hope stays with them long after the curtain falls?

I hope audiences leave KOAL feeling a connection to home and community. Climate change is such a huge and overwhelming topic, and I wanted to find a way into it that felt personal and tangible. Home is not just the house we live in; it's the landscapes we grow up around, the people and communities we belong to, the stories we are told, and the history connected to the land.

Your work often explores themes of home, identity and belonging. How have your Chinese and Torres Strait Islander heritages influenced not only the stories you tell, but also the artist and person you've become?

I've been very fortunate to have had a very diverse upbringing and to have been immersed in many different communities and cultures. At times, it was, and can still be, confusing or challenging to navigate your identity when you exist across many cultures and communities, some of which are still marginalised by society. This is why my own art focuses on bringing underrepresented stories and voices to the stage including the voices of the more-than-human world. I strongly believe that we are all connected, that we all share the same world, and that everyone deserves to belong.

After building an acclaimed career overseas, you brought KOAL home to Australian audiences. Did this feel like a homecoming, not just for the production, but for you as an artist?

Absolutely. It feels like a real full-circle moment for me. I began performing at the Gold Coast Arts Centre (now HOTA) when I was six, performing in the Gold Coast Eisteddfod, school musicals and Music Fest. To return to the Gold Coast with my own award-winning work and perform it at HOTA as a professional artist, for my teachers, budding actors, friends and family, is beyond special.



RISING STAR

KARMA DENZONGPA-BATHOLS

Karma is a Gold Coast local with a lifelong love for the arts.

Now working in live entertainment, Karma has worked across major events and tours with artists and public figure. She is passionate about creating more live entertainment opportunities on the Gold Coast.

Growing up in a family where the arts were a part of everyday life, and with your father working as a producer, how did those influences shape your creative journey and career aspirations?

My father's work naturally drew me towards the arts, although it took me a little while to realise that it could become my own career. I was surrounded by people who weren't pursuing their work because it was a financially secure option. They were doing it because they absolutely loved it. That had a huge influence on me, and I wanted to find something that made me feel the same way.

You have worked with notable artists and public figures, including Priscilla Presley, Russell Morris, and Hannah Ferguson. What has that experience been like?

It has been a privilege, but what has surprised me most is how down-to-earth these people are. Despite everything they have achieved, they have been incredibly generous with their time, curiosity and encouragement. I'm still very early in my career, yet they have shown a genuine interest in what I want to do and where I hope to go.

Is there a particularly memorable moment or story that stands out in your career thus far?

It is more a collection of experiences when I've quietly thought, "How am I in this room?" Recently, I met with director Peter Adams, who has helped people such as Julie Andrews and William Shatner bring their shows to life. Then there are moments backstage, talking with people such as Priscilla Presley or Marc Fennell.

You are passionate about the creative process behind bringing a show to life. What is your favourite part of this process?

I love the very beginning, when you sit down with an artist and ask, "What could this be?" As a creative person, there is nothing more exciting than starting with a blank page and building something that didn't exist before. I also love the moment at the other end. After months of planning, you sit



in the audience and watch people laugh, cry or become completely absorbed in what is happening onstage.

Looking ahead, what excites and inspires you most about the future of the Gold Coast entertainment scene?

My hope is that we can create an entertainment industry that feels distinctly Gold Coast, not merely a stop between other cities, but a place where ambitious work begins. I want young creatives to feel they can build exciting, sustainable careers here without believing they must leave home to succeed.

Is there an upcoming event or show you're particularly excited about?

I'm hugely excited about Fane bringing Bryan Cranston and Aaron Paul, best known together from Breaking Bad, to Australia. It is an ambitious project for Fane, and I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to work on it.

What does life look like for you outside of work?

Music is a big part of my life even when I'm not working; or disappearing into an incredible book. My family and friends are enormously important to me, so I try to make time to be with them whenever I can. And preferably, that time involves amazing food.

Juanita Garcia

From Passion to Plate: The Woman Behind Nosh & Nibble

For Juanita Garcia, food has always been about more than nourishment. It is about connection, celebration and creating moments that bring people together.

The inspiration for Nosh & Nibble was born from a lifetime spent in the food industry, from busy professional kitchens to bustling restaurants, combined with a genuine love of entertaining and sharing delicious food with others. As Juanita puts it, "Who doesn't love to nosh and nibble?"

Today, Nosh & Nibble has become one of the Gold Coast's most recognised catering businesses, renowned for its beautifully styled grazing tables, corporate catering, luxury aviation catering, private celebrations and bespoke food experiences. At the heart of every offering is Juanita's belief that great food has the power to transform any occasion.

"Food creates connection," she says. "Whether it's a corporate event, a family celebration or simply making someone's busy week a little easier, I love knowing that what I've created has helped people come together and enjoy the moment."

Based on the Gold Coast, Nosh & Nibble specialises in fresh, generous grazing experiences that combine premium ingredients with thoughtful presentation. Overflowing with artisan cheeses, fresh antipasto, vibrant seasonal produce, house-made dips and carefully selected accompaniments, every platter, box and grazing table is designed to delight both the eye and the palate.

The business caters for everything from meetings, team lunches, product launches and corporate functions to birthdays, engagements, weddings, settlement gifts and life's many "just because" moments. Whether serving a handful of guests or hundreds, Juanita approaches every event with the same commitment to quality and creativity.

Her passion for making great food accessible also inspired the creation of Pretty Little Bites, a popular range of ready-to-eat meals, salads, breakfast jars, smoothie sips, sweet treats and seasonal favourites. Designed for busy professionals, families and shift workers, the range offers healthy, convenient and delicious options without compromising on flavour or presentation.

Every Pretty Little Bite reflects the same philosophy that has guided Nosh & Nibble from the beginning: fresh ingredients, balanced nutrition and meticulous attention to detail.



Despite the business's growth, Juanita remains deeply involved in every aspect of the operation. Whether she's catering a corporate conference, supplying luxury private jets, creating branded edible gifts for businesses or preparing weekly meal deliveries, she brings the same enthusiasm and care that inspired her to launch the business.

That personal approach has helped build a loyal customer base across the Gold Coast and beyond. More than simply providing food, Juanita creates experiences; experiences that encourage people to slow down, connect and celebrate life's special moments.

As Nosh & Nibble continues to grow, one thing remains unchanged: a commitment to making every occasion effortless, memorable and delicious.

Because when gourmet meets easy and food becomes part of the memory, that's when the magic happens.

noshandnibble.com.au



THE VERDICT IS IN:

*OMB Law Board Returns for Season Six
(And Yes, There's Beer).*



There's a particular kind of Gold Coast success story that starts with someone saying "surely nobody wants to listen to lawyers talk" and ends with that exact thing topping the local charts.

The OMB Law Board podcast is that story, and season six, launching this month, suggests the lawyers were onto something the rest of us are only just catching up to.

For the uninitiated: OMB Law Board is the Gold Coast-based legal podcast where OMB Solicitors' own team take the driest, most jargon-choked corners of the law and turn them into something you'd actually choose to listen to on the drive to work. No billable-hour drone. No "please consult a professional" hedging every second sentence. Just short, sharp, genuinely useful explainers, the legal equivalent of a mate who happens to know exactly what a caveat is and can explain it before the lights change.

Season six keeps that formula but widens the lens. The property law team is back demystifying the fine print that trips up half the Gold Coast's home buyers. The family law crew tackle the questions people are too proud, or too anxious, to ask out loud. The wills and estates team continue their quiet public service of making sure nobody's family falls apart over a badly worded will. And the litigation team bring their usual knack for explaining conflict without starting one.

Then there's the episode people are already talking about: a genuine change of pace with Ross Jurisch, founder of Stone & Wood Brewing Co, joining the OMB team for a conversation that has nothing to do with contracts and everything to do

with building a beloved local brand from the ground up on the Gold Coast. It's an unlikely pairing on paper, craft beer and conveyancing, but that's rather the point. Building something that lasts, whether it's a brewery or a law firm, runs on the same unglamorous ingredients: judgment, patience, and knowing your customer better than they know themselves. Expect fewer legal terms and more genuinely good stories, best enjoyed with a Stone & Wood in hand.

What's most interesting about OMB Law Board isn't just the content, it's the reception. This is a firm that's turned a compliance-adjacent obligation (client education) into something people actively share, comment on, and wait for. The engagement numbers speak for themselves, and in an industry not exactly renowned for its social media savvy, OMB has quietly built one of the more talked-about legal content plays in the state. It's the kind of innovation that doesn't announce itself with a press release; it just keeps showing up in your feed, episode after episode, until you realise you now know more about testamentary trusts than you ever expected to.

Season six lands at a moment when "boring but important" content is having something of a renaissance, people are tired of hot takes and hungry for information they can trust. OMB Law Board has bet, correctly, that the answer to legal content fatigue isn't less law. It's better storytelling. Season six is proof they've still got plenty of it.

New episodes of OMB Law Board drop.

Listen on these channels:

▶ [Youtube.com/@OMBSolicitors-t3o](https://www.youtube.com/@OMBSolicitors-t3o)

🎧 open.spotify.com/show/2MxiqDqob4ArjSCDP6D4S7

📷 [ombsolicitors](https://www.instagram.com/ombsolicitors)

📘 [OMB Solicitors](#)

Danny Stepancic

Hampton Event Hire.



If there is one thing Danny Stepancic understands, it's taking a leap of faith. A professional skydiver for nine years, Danny swapped the skies for the events industry when he and his partner Melanie purchased Hampton Event Hire five years ago.

They didn't build the business from nothing, they saw its potential and backed themselves to grow it, transforming it from a boutique wedding hire company into one of Queensland's leading names in the luxury private and corporate events industry.

Tell us about your Gold Coast story: school days, earliest memories, changes you've seen and what you love most about living and working here.

I'm a Gold Coast boy through and through; born in Southport in the early 90s and raised here, so this place is

woven into who I am. Growing up in Mudgeeraba, some of my earliest memories are of racing home from school, meeting up with mates and riding our pushbikes down to the creeks to chase reptiles and see how far we could go. Friends and sport were everything back then. What I've always loved about the Coast is that you get the best of both worlds: the beach on one side and the hinterland less than an hour away. It's changed enormously over the years but it's held onto the relaxed lifestyle that makes it so special.

How has the Gold Coast influenced both your life and your business?

Everything we've built here comes down to relationships: the friends and connections we've made along the way. The Gold Coast is a place where that really matters, and growing up here, seeing how much people love this place and want it to thrive, has shaped the way Melanie and I do business. For us it's never just work; it's something we genuinely love, because it lets us look after people and build lasting relationships. That community spirit sits at the heart of everything we do. We firmly believe you shouldn't have to pay a fortune to receive great service.

Before purchasing Hampton, you spent nine years as a professional skydiver. That's quite a career change! How did that first journey begin?

Many years ago when I was living in Bali, one of the most memorable chapters of my life, I became good friends with a fellow from Perth. I wasn't playing any sport, so I asked him what he did for fun, and he told me he was a skydiver. When I discovered you could learn through a week-long course, that was all I needed to hear. I flew to Australia and began my training as a sport skydiver. I enjoyed it so much, so I made it my full-time career. It was a significant leap.

Was there a defining moment when you knew it was time to swap the skies for the events industry?

In truth, the swap came gradually, but there was a defining moment. When COVID hit, the skydiving industry ground to a halt almost overnight, and like a lot of people I had to think hard about what came next. Melanie and I had already been searching for a business of our own, and that's when the opportunity with Hampton Event Hire came along. What drew us to events was the same thing that had always mattered most to me: service to people.

Hampton Event Hire has become synonymous with luxury events. What inspired you to expand the business?

When we purchased Hampton Event Hire, it was a small, family-run wedding hire business, very well-known across the Gold Coast and Tweed, but still quite boutique. What inspired us was its potential: we could see what it might become with the skills Melanie and I could bring to it. So we put our heads down and worked non-stop for years, steadily lifting the Hampton Event Hire name. We've reinvested an enormous amount of our turnover back into the business, expanding our furniture ranges by at least three shipping containers a year, sometimes four, for the past five years. We refined our systems and processes, and we put our boots on the ground: meeting people, shaking hands and taking the time to understand exactly what the corporate and luxury private event spaces needed. Before we knew it, Hampton Event Hire had become one of Queensland's best-known names in luxury events, spanning corporate functions, luxury



private events and weddings across the state. We've since had the privilege of working with some of the biggest names in sport and business, and some of the most amazing and spectacular events we've been part of include the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and the NRL Magic Round.

Your business creates beautiful environments for life's biggest celebrations and corporate events. What do you love most about being part of those moments?

For us, it all comes back to the customer, and, above all, to the memories we help create. But if I'm honest, what I love most about being part of those occasions is the teamwork it takes to get there. Our people are everything to us; they're the ones who bring the Hampton Event Hire name and service to life.

What's next for Hampton Event Hire? Are there any exciting plans or new directions on the horizon?

We're continuing to grow our corporate events and luxury private events, as well as our weddings. We're always searching for new ways to raise the bar on luxury and service, constantly innovating and designing new products to bring into our inventory. Without giving too much away, there may just be a small expansion on the cards, but I can't reveal everything; there always needs to be a surprise in the pipeline. You never know, we might just be Australia-wide one day soon.





VIRGO

AUG 23 – SEP 22

Need to make some meaningful changes in your life so you can move onto bigger and better things. Finding balance and letting go of situations and relationships weighing you down will create space for opportunities. Trust your instincts and don't be afraid to put yourself first. A fresh sense of confidence is emerging, encouraging you to embrace change and step outside your comfort zone. The months ahead could bring exciting new beginnings, particularly in your career, relationships and personal growth.



**NELLIE
MCKINLEY**

Astrological Counsellor
Ph: 0414 630 777
nellie@mckinleygroup.com.au

HOROSCOPES

LIBRA

SEP 23 – OCT 22

Good time to collaborate with other people, sharing your thoughts and networking. New projects are on the horizon which will be very significant. Set some goals as your ambition is at an all time high.

SCORPIO

OCT 23 – NOV 21

New career developments will add another dimension to what you are already doing. This can set you up very favourably. You will put much energy into learning and developing something new for which you will receive much support.

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 22 – DEC 21

You will feel more inspired so the focus will be to engage in something meaningful and interesting. Saggis need mental stimulation as the eternal optimist whatever you begin to get off the ground in leaps and bounds.

CAPRICORN

DEC 22 – JAN 19

This period is very lucrative for Caps, with your financial sector receiving a boost. A financial reset will be very financially rewarding with some even considering joint investments which can pay off very handsomely.

AQUARIUS

JAN 20 – FEB 18

Focus on your physical and emotional energy. Look at who is draining you and find the balance you need to create some down time and rest. A creative collaboration could be compelling and spark some excitement. The focus is to keep yourself mentally engaged you that stimulate you mentally.

PISCES

FEB 19 – MAR 20

The need to bring ideas and dreams into reality is the focus for many Pisceans. Creativity comes easily to Pisces but turning this talent into a career that is purposeful and meaningful would really excite you. Focus on your daily health regime so that you feel more energised to tackle the tasks ahead.

ARIES

MAR 21 – APR 19

Theme is to focus on creativity, your artistic pursuits which will allow you some comfort and distraction from personal issues that you may be facing. It's important to work through some family relationship issues.

TAURUS

APR 20 – MAY 20

You will feel more motivated to take some action on things that need to be addressed. Your priority is your home life which needs some reorganisation. That could mean renovation, creating more personal space which will give the Taurean a feeling of wellbeing.

GEMINI

MAY 21 – JUNE 20

Your usual need for activity and fast pace will now be replaced with more introspection and a desire for peace. Geminis will feel the need to be around family and loved one and relish in the security that brings. Be more your authentic self.

CANCER

JUNE 21 – JULY 22

Your eye is on creating more security for yourself, so your attention will focus on business and practical issues. Use your intuitive skills to guide you and have faith in the universal that the outcome will be rewarding.

LEO

JULY 23 – AUG 22

Much activity on all fronts Leos, be it travel, communicating with friends, sharing your ideas. You are in a roaring mode, so you will attract all sorts of interesting people into your fold.

The next three months bring resets, emotional clarity and exciting pathways for all twelve signs. As spring unfolds, we're encouraged to reassess what we want, embrace new opportunities and make space for positive change in relationships, career and personal growth.

Dr Sapna Dilgir

Redefining Women's Healthcare with Science and Soul.

There's a reason Wahini Health feels different from the moment you walk in.

Dr Sapna Dilgir, obstetrician and gynaecologist, has built her Tugun practice around a philosophy as much as a specialty. One shaped, she says, by her nature as a Libran with a Leo Moon. It's an astrological pairing that reads like a quiet mission statement: harmony paired with warmth, self-expression paired with genuine care. For Sapna, medicine has never been purely clinical. She meets women exactly where they are, through every stage and season of life, attuned to how stress, emotion, nutrition and environment shape their wellbeing. We sat down with Sapna to talk stars, science, and caring for women.

When did your interest in astrology start and what sparked it? How do you feel astrology has assisted you?

It is a large part of the Indian culture and my family has a strong affiliation with it. My name itself was chosen by a Pundit who wrote the astrological trajectory of my life. I believe astrology provides guidance in times when I am lost. It helps confirm I am on the wrong path and if I have deviated. Astrology often gives reassurance in times of turbulence.

What first drew you to medicine and women's health and why do you blend conventional treatments with lifestyle, nutrition and mind/body practices to support the patient as a whole?

I wanted to be a doctor from when I was a young child as I had a cousin who I looked up to who was a plastic surgeon. I became interested in women's health as a medical student. There was an excitement in being part of the birthing process. As a specialist I love the variety in the day brings, be it counselling, surgical or an obstetric emergency. I love being able to care for women at different stages in their lives and looking after families.

I believe healing is multi-dimensional. It is important to provide care to the mind and body to get the best outcome in treatments. A multidisciplinary practice helps me provide a service that is able to cater to what a woman may need. Sometimes it can be something simple as touch therapy via massage.

As a busy gynaecologist and obstetrician, how do you use your Libran energy to balance your work and self care?

Apparently, Librans like nice things. I love to travel (with luxury). Travel to me not purely a holiday but time to breathe

and disconnect from my busy life. My travel always involves nature whether it be mountains or in the ocean and I have a strong connection with my family, friends and dog Marli. I love diving into some spiritual work, going to the bath house or getting a massage to restore my nervous system.

How do you support/encourage patients who are new to lifestyle and mind body changes?

When I see patients, I take the time to see what is going on in their lives. I discuss with them the importance of a healthy lifestyle and mindset in order to have good health. I educate them on how stress can contribute to illnesses or make them worse. I educate them on the importance of having a good environment at home and work, a community to support them and nourishing their bodies with good food, good habits and self-care.

What inspired you to create Wahini Health, and what was your vision?

I have always felt that environment plays a crucial role in how our mind and body behaves when we are unwell. A soothing and comforting environment helps activate our parasympathetic nervous system and dampen our flight and fight response. My vision was to create a space where women can feel heard and looked after. I wanted to create a community and support network as it is missing more and more in a western culture where we often don't have family or the "village" helping care for us.





McGrath Southport | Robina Welcomes Team Julian Rivas

McGrath Southport | Robina is excited to welcome Team Julian Rivas to our team, joining one of Australia's most recognised and respected real estate brands. With a shared passion for property, exceptional client service and achieving outstanding results, Team Julian Rivas bring a highly personalised and relationship-focused approach to every campaign.

Julian Rivas has built his career around the belief that selling property requires more than simply placing a listing on the market. It requires a clear strategy, exceptional presentation, targeted marketing and strong negotiation. His experience across the Gold Coast, particularly within the luxury apartment, residential and lifestyle markets, has allowed him to develop an extensive network of buyers, investors and property professionals.

Working alongside Julian, Bella brings energy, attention to detail and a genuine commitment to creating a seamless experience for every client. With a strong background in sales and client service, Bella plays an integral role throughout each campaign, ensuring buyers are followed up, inspections are managed, and clients remain informed from beginning to end.

The move to McGrath represents an exciting step forward for the team. With McGrath's established brand, strong market presence, sophisticated marketing capabilities and extensive network, Team Julian Rivas believe they can provide their clients with an even greater level of exposure and service.

Their new chapter with McGrath is not simply about changing agencies, it is about building on what they have already achieved and creating an even stronger future for their clients across the Gold Coast.

AGENT

Julian Rivas | 0421 621 969

OFFICE

McGrath Southport | Robina

EMAIL

julianrivas@mcgrath.com.au

McGrath



**11 Judith Avenue,
Southport**

3 Bed 2 Bath 3 Car

Beautifully reimaged with an uncompromising commitment to quality, this mid-century home has been transformed into a contemporary residence that perfectly embraces the Gold Coast lifestyle. No corners have been cut, with premium fixtures, fittings and finishes selected throughout.

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McGrath Southport | Robina

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McGrath



**20 Sturt Street,
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5 Bed 3 Bath 6 Car

Perfectly balancing luxury, functionality and effortless indoor-outdoor living, this beautifully renovated residence delivers an exceptional family lifestyle in one of Molendinar's most convenient pockets.

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McGrath



**2110 South Shields Drive,
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Beyond your front door lies one of the Gold Coast's most sought-after communities. With 24-hour gated security, world-class golf, resort facilities, elite schools, shopping, dining, People First Stadium, Emerald Lakes and transport all within easy reach, Royal Pines delivers an exceptional lifestyle that is as convenient as it is exclusive.

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Positioned within one of Reedy Creek's most prestigious streets, 22 Kingcrest Drive presents an exceptional opportunity to secure a residence that seamlessly blends luxury, versatility and effortless family living. With spaces that capture breathtaking skyline views, this home has been thoughtfully designed to deliver an enviable lifestyle, where sophisticated interiors, expansive entertaining spaces and resort-inspired amenities come together in perfect harmony.

**22 Kingcrest Drive,
Reedy Creek**

5 Bed 3 Bath 2 Car

McGrath





Your Private North-Facing Retreat in Emerald Lakes

Beautifully updated and perfectly positioned in the sought-after Emerald Lakes precinct, this stylish three-bedroom home offers low-maintenance living with a desirable north-facing aspect, just a short stroll to Emmanuel College, Emerald Lakes Village and the popular Thursday Twilight Market, with Broadbeach only 10 minutes away.

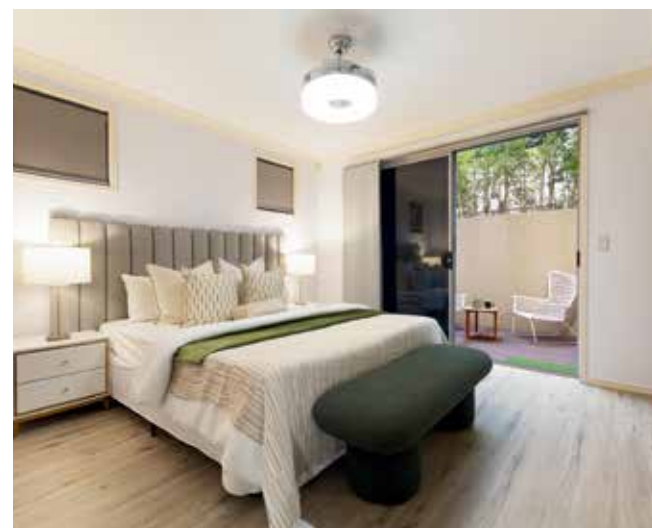
Designed for effortless indoor-outdoor living, the light-filled open-plan living and dining areas flow to a spacious north-facing balcony, complete with outdoor blinds, perfect for entertaining year-round enjoying natural lights and cooling breezes.

**3305 Central Place,
Carrara**

3 Bed 2 Bath 3 Car

McGrath





WEDDINGS



BELLA AND SAM

THE BRIDE

Name: Bella Frizza

Occupation: Radio, TV Presenter and Content Creator

Parents: Julianna Battistella and Robert Frizza

Gown: Aston Bridal

Jewellery and Accessories: Mimco

Hair Stylist: Monat

Makeup Artist: Island Hair and Beauty, Hamilton Island

Bridesmaids: Mandy Adams, Kylie Hewitt, Courtney Sousa and Natalie Frizza wearing Billy J dresses

Bouquet and Flowers: Floral Collections, Hamilton Island



THE GROOM

Name: Sam Gibson

Occupation: Sales Manager

Parents: Andrea Cameron and Guy Gibson

Suit/Tuxedo: Urbanna

Groomsmen: Hayden Smith, Josh Avison, Jake Gibson and Jason Robinson wearing Peter Jackson suits



THE WEDDING

Ceremony and Venue: Beach Pavillion Lawn, Hamilton Island

Wedding Planner: Hamilton Island Weddings

Content Creator: Timeless Images by Vanessa

Cake Designer: Sweet Ideas, Whitsundays

Entertainment: Casey Newman DJ



How did you meet?

At a Sea FM party and then a second time at our work Christmas party after parties at Retros in Surfers! He walked up to me and bought me a drink and the rest is history!

How did he propose?

In front of my family at a lookout in Maleny overlooking the Glasshouse Mountains with our baby boy in tow!

Where did you get married and what was the most memorable moment of the day?

Hamilton Island! Just everything was perfect. Right before I walked down the aisle there was a rainbow and some rain but we waited until it finished for me to walk down and then it was just beautiful our whole ceremony! I loved the song I walked down the aisle to, Love me like you do, Ellie Goulding.

Any unique or surprising details about your wedding?

I had a message recorded for my groom of my four year old saying how much he loved him and how beautiful I looked play before I walked down the aisle, it played and got him so emotional!

First dance song?

Tale As Old As Time by Celine Dion.

Where did you go for your honeymoon?

Hawaii last November.

Would you do anything differently?

Just don't sweat the small stuff. Everything comes together on the day even if there are dramas along the way and there will be! Do all the things you want to do no matter what it costs. Once the day is done, it's done. And that's it forever (hopefully), so get the florals for \$10K, get the \$5K dress! Do the things you want and don't worry about what others say. It's all about you!



The most memorable moment?

Just feeling amazing in my dress I felt like a Disney Princess! Then add in the Beauty and the Beast first dance and my hot hubby! It was like something out of a fairy-tale.

What was the standout moment of the day?

The florals, the set up, it was all so magical! And to have our 4 year old be such a part of the day. He kept running up to me during the ceremony and asking for water or two go to the bathroom while I was doing my vows, it was so cute and moments I just won't forget. He really wanted to be a part of it all, he was a flower boy with his three cousins too!



WEDDINGS



THE BRIDE

Name: Olivia Edward

Occupation: Hairdresser

Parents: Julie Sharp and Adrian Cooper

Jewellery: Diamond Boulevard

Hair Stylist: Marcus Edward Concept Salons

Makeup Artist: Heather from Natalie Lucas Makeup

Bridesmaids: Bella Edward and Helena Graham wearing Shona Joy

Flowers: Flowers on Q



THE GROOM

Name: Jordan Edward

Occupation: Hairdresser

Parents: Alicia and Marcus Edwards

Suit: Bruno's

Groomsmen: Daman Kaurah, Hashan Leanage and Jasdip Kaurah wearing Bruno's suits



THE WEDDING

Ceremony and Reception: Babalou

Wedding Planner: Molly Babalou

Photographer and Videographer: Kevin from Wattleseed Collective

Cake Designer: Tiramisu, Chef Amber

Entertainment: Curated Playlist





How did you meet?

We met through mutual friends, and from the very beginning there was an undeniable connection that quickly grew into something special.

How did he propose?

Our proposal is a memory we'll cherish forever. I surprised Olivia with a romantic weekend away at the Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort, where we enjoyed a beautiful evening together before heading to Omeros Bros for dinner. After an incredible meal, we returned to our hotel room, and as Olivia opened the door, she was greeted by a magical surprise, rose petals scattered throughout the room, champagne on ice, and a glowing "Marry Me" sign. As she took it all in, she turned around to find me down on one knee. With my heart racing, I asked, "Olivia, will you marry me?" Through happy tears and the biggest smile, she said, "Yes." It was the perfect beginning to the next chapter of our lives, and a moment we'll treasure forever.

First dance song?

We shared our first dance as husband and wife to Can't Help Falling in Love by Elvis Presley. It's a timeless classic that perfectly captured the emotion of the moment. Surrounded by our family and friends, it was a beautiful way to celebrate the beginning of our married life together and is a memory we'll always hold close to our hearts.

Where did you go for your honeymoon?

We escaped to the breathtaking landscapes of Queenstown, New Zealand, for our honeymoon. From the stunning mountain scenery and crystal-clear lakes to the incredible food and unforgettable experiences, it was the perfect destination to relax, celebrate, and enjoy our first adventure together as husband and wife.

Would you do anything differently?

Not a thing. Everything came together exactly as we had hoped, and the day was even more perfect than we could



have imagined. We truly embraced every moment, and looking back, we wouldn't change a single detail.

The most memorable moment?

Without a doubt, the most memorable moment was seeing each other for the first time at the ceremony. The emotions of that moment are impossible to put into words. It felt as though the world stood still, and all that mattered was the two of us. It was incredibly special and a memory we'll cherish forever.

What was the standout moment of the day?

One of the highlights of our wedding was seeing all of our family and friends together, laughing, celebrating, and genuinely enjoying themselves. The room was filled with so much love, happiness, and positive energy. Watching everyone create memories alongside us made the day even more meaningful, and knowing our favourite people had such an amazing time was incredibly special. It truly was a celebration of love in every sense.





MADISON AND TIMOTHY

THE BRIDE

Name: Madison Kelly

Occupation: Teacher

Parents: Andrew and Janine Kelly

Gown: Sunset by Romanova Atelier,
The Art of Bridal

Jewellery and Accessories: Cullen
Jewellery (Engagement ring) and
Michael Hill (Wedding band)

Hair Stylist: Justin Lancas Bridal

Makeup Artist: Emily Facer Makeup Artist

Bridesmaids: Lauren Emmett, Rose Foster
and Gabby Cook wearing Billy J Boutique

Bouquet and Flowers: Wallflower Brisbane



THE GROOM

Name: Timothy White

Occupation: Teacher

Parents: Phillip and Maxine White

Suit: Peter Jackson

Barber: Megan at Flint Barbers Studio

Groomsmen: Alex White, Douglas Harris
and Timothy Whalan wearing Peter
Jackson suits



THE WEDDING

Venue: Austinvilla Estate

Celebrant: Married by Jake

Photographer: The October Edit

Videographer: White Wedding Film Co.

Content Creator: Georgia Rose Content

Cake Designer: Gareth Keenan
Catering

Entertainment: Lauren Bradnam
(Violinist) and Vanguard E&E DJ



WEDDINGS



How did you meet?

We met while working as teachers at the same high school. Although we worked in different departments, we regularly socialised with the same group of friends. For me (Madison), I knew he was the one from our first meeting, however this wasn't the case for Tim, who valued our strong connection and friendship and was worried that dating might jeopardise this.

How did he propose?

Tim kept the ring as a wrapped present and gave it to me to open on Christmas Eve, when it was just us, under our Christmas Tree in 2024.

Where did you get married and what was the most memorable moment of the day?

We got married at the beautiful Austinvilla Estate. It was so peaceful and the venue had everything we needed (accommodation, ceremony, reception and photography locations). The most memorable moment of the day was Tim and I locking eyes as I walked down the aisle. All of the nervous energy from the lead up to the moment faded away, and we got to truly be present and absorb the fact that all of our loved ones were in the one spot!

First dance song?

We did our first dance to 'Crazier' the ysabelle version. We attempted to choreograph our own dance to the song, but safe to say it probably needed a few more practices!

Where did you go for your honeymoon?

We went on a cruise to the Great Barrier Reef, which was a lovely way for us to wind down after the craziness of the wedding planning and big day.

Any unique or surprising details about your wedding?

We decided to cut our wedding cake at the very beginning of the canapé hour, and I would absolutely recommend doing this. We got some beautiful photographs of us cutting the cake

outside in the daylight, and it also meant the cake was served alongside the canapés. By the end of the night, the last pieces of cake were placed on a platter for guests to enjoy. It was a great way to ensure our cake was eaten, and our guests loved having something sweet during canapé hour!

Would you do anything differently?

Not at all! Only thing would be to try and stress less! The day was beyond perfect and all of our family and friends continue to rave about how wonderful the day was.

What was the standout moment of the day?

There were so many standout moments, but the atmosphere that beautiful Lauren, our violinist on the day created, was truly magical and brought all of my garden party dreams to life!

Anything else you would like to share?

We got incredible feedback from our friends and family about how delicious the food by Gareth Keenan Catering was. From our wedding canapés during cocktail hour to our feasting-style reception dinner, and even our wedding cake, everything was absolutely delicious. Many of our guests said it was the best food they had ever had at a wedding!



WEDDINGS



OLIVIA AND THOMAS

THE BRIDE

Name: Olivia Russell (Page)

Occupation: Photographer

Parents: Michelle and Alan Page

Ceremony Gown: Studio Minc

Reception Dress: Etre Marie Bridal

Jewellery: Theodore & Co

Hair Stylist: Candice Style Creations

Makeup Artist: Olivia Mayberry

Bridesmaids: Bonnie Page, Tahlia Nash Mitchell Page. Dresses from Billy J Boutique and suit from Connor

Flowers: Joanne Grenenger



THE GROOM

Name: Thomas Russell

Occupation: Video Editor

Parents: Colin and Joanna Russell

Suit: M J Bale

Groomsmen: Marvyn Charles, Jared Johnson, Billy Russell and Jose Russell in suits from Connor



THE WEDDING

Venue: Gold Coast Farm House

Photographer and Videographer: Jason Lucas Photography and Sunny Day Films

Entertainment: Gabrielle Lambe and DJ Fletcher

Bar: Wunderbar Australia

Catering: Fire n Dough

Additional Supplier: The Gelato Social



How did you meet?

We met in London. We were both working at the Lyric Theatre.

How did he propose?

Tom proposed during a weekend away on our six year anniversary. We stayed in a tiny home in the middle of nowhere with our dog Vincent. It was private and perfect.

Where did you get married and what was the most memorable moment of the day?

We were married at the Gold Coast Farm House which is situated in the beautiful Numinbah Valley. Our ceremony was by the lake, surrounded by our closest family and friends on a beautiful sunny day. Vincent, our dog, was our ring bearer and decided that after he made his way down the aisle he wanted to go for a swim in the lake! Luckily we managed to get the rings off him beforehand. It was hilarious and is something our guests still talk about.

Any unique or surprising details about your wedding?

We surprised both of our mums during our ceremony. They didn't know they were going to be our witnesses.



First dance song?

You Send Me by Aretha Franklin

Where did you go for your honeymoon?

We went to Queenstown, New Zealand for our honeymoon. We began our trip in Milford Sound. We stayed there for two nights, and the view from our room was incredible, it felt otherworldly! When we got back to Queenstown, we filled our days with experiences we'll never forget, jet boating on the Shotover River, cruising aboard the TSS Earnslaw and unwinding in the Onsen Hot Pools. In between, we spent our time wandering through town, going on hikes, eating amazing food, and exploring nearby places like Glenorchy, Arrowtown and Lake Tekapo. It was the perfect balance of adventure and sightseeing, and such a special way to spend our first two weeks as husband and wife.

Would you do anything differently?

No! The day was perfect. It was worth every cent and every headache!

What was the standout moment of the day?

Other than Vincent's swim, getting to marry my best friend and sharing that with our nearest and dearest.

WEDDINGS



THE BRIDE

Name: Shakira Nagy

Occupation: Youth Detention Worker

Parents: Roberth and Dianne Nagy

Gown: The Bridal Company

Jewellery: She Said Yes

Hair and Makeup: Jessica McLeod

Flowers: Stevensons Florist



THE GROOM

Name: Aaron Franklin

Occupation: Youth Detention Worker

Parent: Shane Franklin

Jewellery: Elk & Cu



THE WEDDING

Venue: Farm House, Peaks Crossing

Celebrant: Liz Pforr from Yes I Will Marry You

Wedding Planner: Bride & Groom

Photographer/Videographer: Every Moment Collective by Lisa Thorn

Content Creator and Event

Coordinator: Signature Event Hire

Cake Designer: Estelle – Private French Pastry Chef

Catering: Juan – Private Spanish Chef

Entertainment: Country Singer Jesse James Musician



How did you meet?

We met through online dating.

How did he propose?

Aaron proposed while we were skydiving for our anniversary. We both jumped out of a plane, with Aaron jumping first. When Shakira landed, there was a big pink banner that read, "Will You Marry Me?", with Aaron waiting for her at the end of it. All of our loved ones were nearby on the beach, watching our special moment.

Where did you get married, and what was the most memorable moment of the day?

We got married at our farmhouse in Peak Crossing. One of the most memorable moments was watching Aaron take Shakira's last name, and seeing the reaction on Shakira's Dad's face, as he had no idea Aaron would be taking the Hungarian family name.

Any unique or surprising details about your wedding?

Shakira had her Nan's ashes incorporated into a steel rosebud in her bouquet, so her Nan could walk alongside her. We also had an outstanding tiramisu tower created by a long-time family friend, who is a French pastry chef, and her husband, a Spanish chef, who also catered our wedding. This was especially meaningful to the Bride and Groom because the first dish Shakira ever cooked for Aaron was a Spanish paella, which she had been taught to make by Juan. Shakira and Aaron also travelled to Spain for their honeymoon.

We had more than 30 family and friends stay with us for over four days of celebrating love, both leading up to the wedding and afterwards. Before the ceremony started, we shared a private moment together without being able to see each other, but we could hear each other's voices. This helped calm our nerves and allowed us to connect before the special day. We also shared a sneaky half-shot of tequila to celebrate the moment. All of our guests left with their own mini Patron tequila bottle as a wedding favour.



What was your first dance song?

Die With A Smile by Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars

Where did you go for your honeymoon?

We travelled through Spain and Italy. In Spain, we visited Barcelona and the Costa Brava, followed by the Amalfi Coast, Florence, Venice, Lake Como and Milan in Italy.

Would you do anything differently?

No. It was our perfect day.

What was the most memorable moment?

For Shakira, it was walking down the aisle with her Dad and seeing Aaron standing at the end, with tears in his eyes, waiting for her. Another unforgettable moment was the shock on everyone's faces when Aaron announced that he was taking Shakira's last name.

We also loved riding around the big farm paddock on an ATV, surrounded by cows and horses, dressed in all white, with Aaron hanging onto the back as we chased the sunset.

We danced long into the evening and made a promise to each other that, on our wedding day, we wouldn't leave each other's side. We wanted to make sure that when we talked about or looked back on our wedding day in years to come, we would have shared all of the special moments together rather than experiencing them apart.

What was the standout moment of the day?

For Aaron, it was seeing Shakira for the first time as she walked down the aisle towards him.

For Shakira, it was being able to call Aaron her husband and the honour of having him take her family's name.



A NEW GOLDEN AGE ON THE WATER

Award-winning design, exceptional space and effortless performance make the new Princess F58 an enticing way to experience the changing face of the Gold Coast.

There are yachts that take you somewhere, and yachts that change the way you experience the destination. The Princess F58 belongs firmly in the latter category.

At 18.2 metres, the latest addition to Princess Yachts' celebrated F Class delivers the space, presence and refinement of a larger motor yacht while remaining beautifully proportioned for owner-operated cruising.

The city's waterfront is entering a new era. Marina, hospitality and residential developments are reshaping The Spit, Main

Beach and the Broadwater, while the qualities that have attracted boat owners for generations remain unchanged: sheltered waterways, a subtropical climate, offshore cruising and a lifestyle intrinsically connected to the water.

The F58 has been designed for precisely that lifestyle.

Its elegant exterior lines are unmistakably Princess, balancing contemporary detailing with the timeless proportions associated with the company's Plymouth heritage. A 4.9-metre beam creates impressive interior volume, but the real achievement lies in how intelligently that space has been used.

The yacht flows between the bathing platform, cockpit, saloon, foredeck and flybridge, creating distinct places to entertain, relax or enjoy time with family and friends.

Underway, the flybridge's elevated helm provides a commanding perspective for navigating the Broadwater or approaching the Gold Coast Seaway. At anchor, it becomes

BOATING

an open-air living room—ideal for a long lunch, afternoon drinks or watching the Queensland coastline drift by.

Forward, a foredeck terrace creates another private retreat, while at the stern, the cockpit connects with the bathing platform. Optional seating and a barbecue can transform this area into a beach club beside the water: perfect for swimming, launching water toys or relaxing at anchor.

Inside, the aft galley serves both the cockpit and interior dining area. Open the sliding doors and the distinction between inside and out begins to disappear. Panoramic glazing fills the saloon with natural light, while a dedicated dining area allows dinner aboard to feel like an occasion rather than a compromise.

Below deck, accommodation for six is arranged across three appointed cabins. The forward VIP and convertible starboard twin provide flexibility for guests, while the full-beam owner's state-room is the centrepiece. Spanning the yacht's 4.9-metre beam, it incorporates an ensuite and walk-in wardrobe, delivering privacy and comfort more commonly associated with a significantly larger yacht.

Performance is equally compelling. Twin MAN V8 diesel engines are available in 1,000hp or 1,200hp configurations, delivering a quoted maximum speed range of approximately 29 to 35 knots. A 3,300-litre fuel capacity gives owners the freedom to look beyond short harbour runs.

"The F58 delivers the space and refinement of a larger yacht while remaining exceptionally well suited to owner-operated cruising," says Greg Haines, Managing Director of Princess Yachts Australia.

"For the Gold Coast, it is a remarkable combination—sophisticated enough for entertaining, genuinely comfortable for extended stays aboard and still exciting to drive when you head off-shore."

One weekend might mean lunch on the Broadwater and an afternoon at anchor. Another could begin with an early departure through the Seaway for a coastal passage. The F58 does not dictate how it should be enjoyed; it simply provides the platform.

With a Princess F58 now on the Gold Coast and available for immediate delivery, owners can experience that versatility without waiting.

As the city enters a new golden age on the water, the Princess F58 offers more than a front-row seat. It provides one of the finest ways to be part of it.

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princessyachts.com.au



QUIETLY INFLUENTIAL

How Rosalyn Wilson is helping shape a more sustainable future for the Gold Coast.

As the Gold Coast skyline continues to evolve, cranes have become a symbol of confidence, growth and opportunity.

New highrises and infrastructure projects are transforming the region at an extraordinary pace.

What many people don't see is the work happening beneath the surface. Long before construction begins, environmental professionals work behind the scenes, protecting waterways, groundwater and surrounding ecosystems while helping development proceed responsibly and with confidence. Rosalyn Wilson, Director and Principal Environmental Scientist of Wilson Environmental Compliance, has built her career in that space.

With more than two decades of experience in environmental science, she has become one of the Gold Coast's leading voices in groundwater management and construction environmental compliance. Her practical, evidence-based and collaborative approach has earned the trust of developers and builders and across the industry.

Over the past decade, Wilson Environmental Compliance has worked alongside many of Gold Coast's most respected organisations including Hutchinson Builders, Multiplex, Graya, 5Point Projects, Drew Group, SIERA and Alder Constructions.

Together, they demonstrate that environmental responsibility and successful development go hand in hand.

"The best environmental outcomes often go unnoticed," she says. "When compliance is managed well, projects run smoothly, waterways stay protected and risks are addressed before they become costly problems."

That philosophy has become the foundation of Wilson Environmental Compliance. The consultancy works alongside builders and developers, providing specialist advice on groundwater management, environmental management plans, environmental monitoring and regulatory compliance. By becoming involved early in the planning process, the team helps clients reduce environmental risk, avoid costly delays and make informed decisions backed by technical evidence.

As Gold Coast development accelerates, Rosalyn has seen the industry evolve. Builders and developers are engaging environmental specialists earlier, adopting better technology and investing in stronger monitoring.



"Many Gold Coast builders and developers are setting an outstanding example," she says. "They understand environmental compliance is not just about meeting approval conditions – it's about protecting waterways, maintaining community confidence and delivering developments future generations can be proud of."

Innovation has also become a defining feature of Wilson Environmental Compliance. The consultancy received the 2024 UDIA Queensland Award for Innovation for its pioneering approach to groundwater management – demonstrating how better data can reduce project costs while improving environmental outcomes. Today, the business continues to push boundaries through advanced 3D ground modelling and the integration of AI into its consulting practice.

Despite leading an award-winning consultancy, Rosalyn remains remarkably modest about her own success.

Her influence is measured less by public recognition than by the projects delivered responsibly, the waterways protected and the confidence clients place in her advice.

It is a leadership style built not on seeking attention, but on quietly earning trust.

In many ways, that reflects the very nature of environmental compliance itself.

When it is done well, it often goes unnoticed.

Yet its impact is lasting.

As Gold Coast continues to grow, professionals like Rosalyn Wilson are helping ensure that progress and environmental responsibility move forward together.

It is an influence that doesn't seek the spotlight.

It simply gets on with the job, quietly making a difference.

REVIEW



With Georgia and Jonathan Drew from Drew Group, celebrating Lagoon opening 2026



Groundwater monitoring



On site with the Hutchies team of Palm Beach



Women of Influence Annual Great Debate. Photo by Annie Noon Fotoforce Photography



Rosalyn with the Lagoon team and Wilsons Lead Environmental Engineer Arthur Rodrigues de Aguiar (end right)



Living and loving the Gold Coast



Belvedere development in Main Beach



GWINGANNA

A Weekend to Reset, Restore and Reconnect.

Perched high in the Gold Coast hinterland, Gwinganna Retreat & Spa is the kind of place where you feel the pace of life begin to change the moment you arrive.

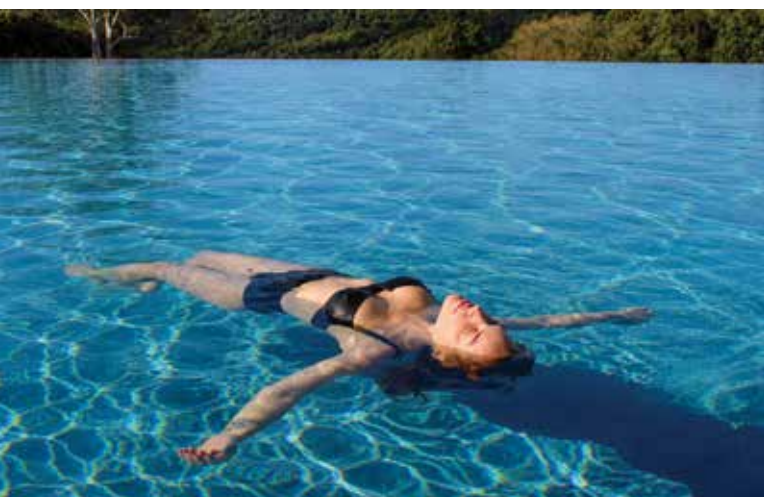
Set across 200 hectares of pristine natural landscape, surrounded by ancient trees, native wildlife and sweeping open spaces, it is a world away from the everyday, and exactly where we needed to be for a wellness weekend.

From the moment Simon and I arrived, there was an unmistakable sense of calm. Gwinganna isn't simply about escaping for a couple of nights; it is about pressing pause, reconnecting with yourself and allowing your body and mind the space to properly unwind.

Our weekend was beautifully structured around nourishing food, movement, relaxation and some seriously indulgent spa treatments. We stayed in one of Gwinganna's Wellness Suites, which made the experience even more special.

Our suite had its own private infrared sauna and recovery chair, giving us the luxury of continuing the relaxation without leaving our room. There was something wonderfully indulgent about having this private space to retreat to, surrounded by nature and away from the distractions of everyday life. The spacious bathroom and generous room made it easy to completely unwind, while the sauna and recovery chair added another level of restorative comfort. It was the perfect place to slow down, switch off and truly settle into the Gwinganna experience.

One of the most memorable moments of our stay was rising early for Qi Gong at sunrise. I'll admit, it was chilly! Wrapped up against the cool morning air, we made our way outside as the first light began to appear over the hinterland. As we moved through the gentle Qi Gong practice, the stillness of the morning was almost magical. The combination of slow, mindful movements, deep breathing and the beauty of the landscape created a wonderful sense of calm. Watching the sun rise while surrounded by nature was the perfect reminder of why we had come. It was certainly worth getting out of our warm bed for, and became one of those simple experiences I know we'll remember long after leaving.



After Qi Gong, there was still no rushing back to bed! Before breakfast, we had the choice of joining either a more vigorous walk or a gentler option through the beautiful grounds. We opted for the gentle walk, taking our time to enjoy the crisp morning air, native surroundings and peaceful landscape. It was such a lovely way to ease into the day, getting the body moving without feeling like exercise was a chore. By the time breakfast arrived, we felt wonderfully energised, grounded and ready for the day ahead.

The cuisine deserves a special mention. Every meal was exceptional, beautifully presented, incredibly fresh and thoughtfully prepared, with an emphasis on wholesome, nourishing ingredients. It was the kind of food that left us feeling satisfied and energised rather than sluggish, proving that healthy eating can be every bit as delicious and enjoyable as anything else.

Of course, the spa experience was a highlight for me. I was treated to a BABOR Ageless Vitality Facial, which left my skin feeling refreshed, hydrated and wonderfully revitalised. The treatment also included the incredibly relaxing Scalp and Hair Therapy and it was so calming that I actually fell asleep! There is no better sign that you have completely switched off.

I also enjoyed a Lymphatic Drainage Massage, which was wonderfully restorative and left me feeling lighter and refreshed. I also loved spending time in the Crystal Steam Room, with its spectacular amethyst crystal at the centre. Surrounded by the warmth and beautiful natural energy of the space, it was the perfect place to simply sit, breathe and completely switch off. Simon was certainly not left out of the pampering. He enjoyed a 50-minute massage before

experiencing an 80-minute Hawaiian Bodyworks Massage and came away looking considerably more relaxed than when we arrived!

There was something lovely about being able to enjoy the experience together, while still having our own individual treatments and time to unwind.

What makes Gwinganna so special is that wellness here feels holistic rather than prescriptive. It is not about chasing perfection or following a rigid routine. Instead, it is about slowing down, eating well, moving your body, breathing deeply and giving yourself permission to rest.

As the weekend unfolded, we found ourselves sleeping more deeply, talking more, laughing more and checking our phones considerably less. There is something wonderfully restorative about being surrounded by nature with nowhere you need to be.

If I had one complaint, it would be that the weekend simply wasn't long enough. Just as we had completely settled into the rhythm of Gwinganna, it was time to leave. We could easily have stayed another few days. In fact, I think that is the true sign of a great retreat, when you are already wishing you could extend your stay.

Our Gwinganna wellness weekend was exactly what we both needed, a beautiful combination of exceptional food, extraordinary spa treatments, nature, movement and genuine relaxation. We left feeling refreshed, recharged and completely restored.

Sometimes the best thing you can do for yourself is simply stop. And Gwinganna is a pretty spectacular place to do it.



ST. HILDA'S PRE FORMAL CELEBRATIONS

Celebrations started early for this stunning group of year twelve students from St Hilda's at the private home of the Bellchambers family in Broadbeach Waters. The girls, their partners, and parents gathered for a sunset celebration prior to the main event that was held at Sea World later that same evening. Gowns were sleek and sophisticated, many featuring backless cuts suited to the mild Gold Coast winter with the return of vibrant jewel colours. The young men opted for traditional bow tie and pocket flowers in their formal suits in readiness for an evening of dining and dancing with the St Hilda's 2026 cohort.

Photography by Annie Noon, Fotoforce



Billie Reynolds



Addi Khandoker



Sara McCarthy



Georgia Thomasson and Will Holt



Chloe Kennedy



Imogen, Tanya, Greg and Ashton
Bellchambers



Josie Maxwell



Chloe Maudsley

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WOMEN OF INFLUENCE ANNUAL GREAT DEBATE AT THE RACV ROYAL PINES RESORT

A full house of 480 guests gathered at RACV Royal Pines Resort for the Women of Influence annual Great Debate, where this year's topic, "Confidence is more important than competence in the workplace," had the audience thoroughly entertained. The Opposition Team Professor Caitlin Byrne AM, Kylie Neal and Cathy U'Ren claimed the win, while an incredible \$11,700 was raised through the raffle for charities nominated by the debaters. Judge Stacy Miller added the perfect finishing touch with a witty and memorable adjudication.

Photography by Annie Noon, Fotoforce



Vanessa Dallas



Dr Hayley O'Neill and Sharon Rostron



Cherie Haycock and Stacey Dickie



Rachael Maclean and Tracey Tarr



Keeley Press, Kate Hart and
Kelsey Huebner



Cathy Stewart, Melanie McFarlane and
Kerrie Simpson



Kylie Neal, Nicola Buchanan and
Nicole Bhatta



Shannon Cumberlidge, Laura Wedmaier,
Haylie Marchant and Jordana Jacklin



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Melissa Donnelly and Sheree Lamont



Natalie Haile and Kendall Ranger



Nicole Carter and Angelique Ray



Sara Simonetti and Elida Alvarado



Sarah Williams and Mary Grant



Kylie Gartell and Anita Beckers

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A NIGHT TO REMEMBER FOR LOVERS OF GREAT STORIES

The No Guilt Book Club and Naomi Middlebrook welcomed bestselling author Trent Dalton for an unforgettable evening of conversation at Tom Atkins Hall in Tugun, with a packed crowd captivated by his incredible storytelling journey. Guests were treated to behind-the-scenes stories from Trent's much-loved books and fascinating insights into the creative process behind bringing his characters and stories to life. Special guest, renowned international photographer Russell Shakespeare, who has collaborated with Trent for decades, added another fascinating dimension to the evening. A beautiful celebration of books, writing and the power of storytelling, an evening cherished by readers, writers and everyone who believes in the magic of a great story.

Photography by Carey Cam, Gold Coast Media



Dee Steinfert and Andrea Lewis



Trent Dalton and Kate Bennett



Nicole Hutchison, Natalie Arnall, Marie Keyworth and Emma Laing

Christmas Day Lunch

*You bring the family...
we'll do the rest*

Celebrate Christmas Day in Candy Cane Lane with a lavish buffet lunch showcasing fresh seafood, succulent glazed ham, roast turkey and all the festive favourites plus gourmet side dishes, irresistible desserts and a 3-hour beverage package.



**SANTA
VISIT**



**LIVE
MUSIC**



**JUMPING
CASTLE**



**FACE
PAINT**



**GIFTS
UNDER 12s**



**GINGERBREAD
DECORATING**



Friday
25 December 2026



12pm - 3pm



Royal Benowa
Ballroom

PRICING

Adult (18+)	Teen (13 - 17yrs)	Child (5 - 12yrs)	Infant (2 - 4yrs)	Baby (0 - 2yrs)
\$345	\$195	\$99	\$49	FREE

Please note seating is shared tables of 10. Terms, conditions & booking fees apply.

Call 075597 8700, email royalpines_sales@racv.com.au or visit EventBrite.



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Sonya Driver and Holly Winter



Sue Glades and Jenny Lawson



Beau and Naomi Middlebrook



Eileen Furlonger, Leeanne Perks and
Leeanne Tully



Marie Calbert and Carmel Vincent



Rhonda White and Maryanne Souter



Amici Long Lunch

Enjoy an afternoon of exceptional Mediterranean inspired food, fine wine and live music at Amici's Long Lunch, featuring acclaimed wines from Dal Zotto.



Saturday 21 November 2026



12pm - 3pm



Amici, RACV Royal Pines Resort



Adult \$149

Child (5-12yrs) \$70

*Includes Mediterranean inspired feasting menu, served family style and 3hr beverage package.

*T&Cs apply.

DALZ
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amici

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ZOE'S 21ST BIRTHDAY

More than 100 family and friends gathered to celebrate Zoe Bennett's milestone 21st birthday at the ultra-cool Mobile Barber Shop in Bundall. Guests enjoyed an unforgettable evening with more than eight signature cocktails expertly crafted by barman extraordinaire Michael Strain, while DJ The Dead Is Done kept the dance floor buzzing all night long. With three margarita machines flowing, Kendor Vodka proving a crowd favourite, and refreshing gin and tonics and Glow drinks keeping everyone in high spirits, the celebration was one to remember. Zoe looked absolutely stunning in a beautiful lemon gown from Worn By Her, making for a stylish and unforgettable night filled with laughter, dancing and memories to last a lifetime.

Photography by Annie Noon, Fotoforce



Angela Gilmour and Claire Gilmour



Bailey Bennett, Ben Testa and Judd Ransby



Jade Burchellhodge and Lily Jukes



Harry Sullivan and Zoe Bennett



Briarna Bourke and Mason Young



Brent Wilkie and Jo-Anne Wilkie



Bella Gurciullo, Imogen Gustafson and Tori Vincent



Dylan Laughlin, Conna Watson and Duncan McInnes



Simon Bennett, Eugene Krok and Luke Bradnam



Gus Wilkie and Kira Jachel



Kelvin, Belinda and Charlotte Fair

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Lola Sullivan, Lisa Trott, Melissa Krok, Kate Bennett and Elizabeth Austin



Nicoletta and Joey D'Adderio



Kim Collins and Brett Collins



Chelsea McDonald and Madi Tarrant



Tayla Pou and Suzanna Costello



Tori Vincent and Zak Marshall

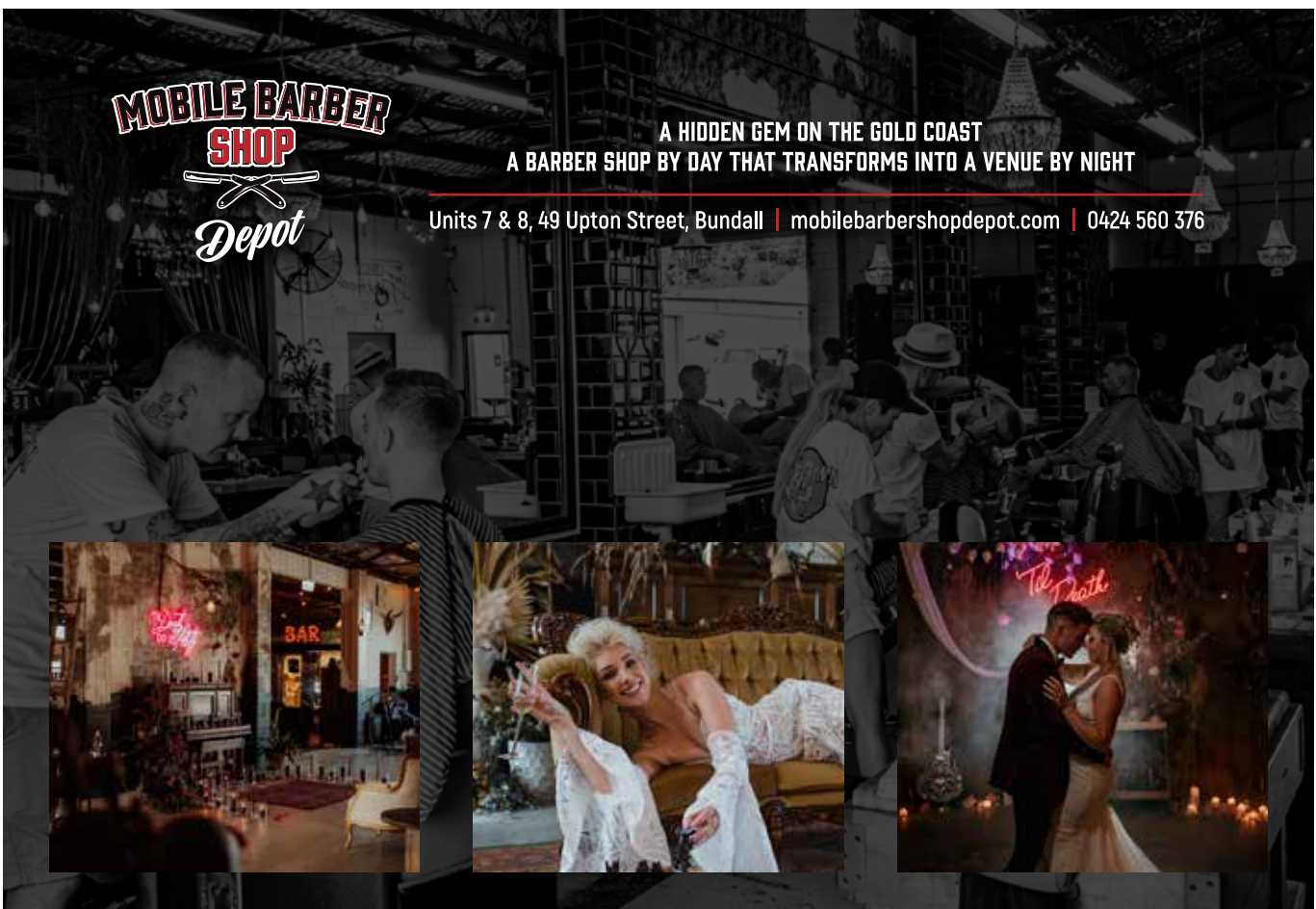


Vincent Wilkie and Billy Hayes



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THE JW MARRIOTT GOLD COAST RESORT & SPA WHITE LUNCH

The JW Marriott Gold Coast Resort & Spa was transformed into a spectacular sea of white as more than 300 impeccably dressed guests gathered for the annual White Party. Hosted by Triple M Brisbane's Margaux Parker, the glamorous afternoon featured a stunning Homebodii fashion parade, a beautifully curated three-course lunch paired with fine wines, and a signature arrival cocktail courtesy of Kendor Distillery. One lucky guest also took home a breathtaking \$7,500 pair of earrings from Nicole Daley at 5th Avenue Jewellers. A fabulous celebration of fashion, food and community, proudly supported by Heart Surgery Gold Coast, The Gold Coast Magazine, OMB Solicitors, Gold Coast BMW and 5th Avenue Jewellers. \$17,000 was raised for The Gold Coast Community Fund.

Photography by Annie Noon, Fotoforce



**Lauren Hyland and Emma McCormack,
The Hymack Girls**



Dawn Menke and Sandy Kochelak



Tanya Carson and Anikka Braida



Diana Andrejev and Wendy Ristic



Maureen Bond



Lani Furlong and Yvon Zantos



Margaux Parker



**Prue Howard, Kirsty Hislop and
Calypso Hislop**



**Gayle Foster-Brow, Michele Smith, Petra
Lengsfeld and Liz Pforr**



**Diane Baker, Barb Schaal and
Pam Sturgess**



**Julia Danby, Roslyn Gordon, Sasha Moore,
Kim Sidney, Vanessa Holders, Anoushka
Stevens, Susan Poric and Chelsea Frazer**



**Sandra Faulkner, Julie Caelli, Maddy
Caelli, Ash Homann, Sammie Swanepoel
and Lesley Jennings-White**



**Sharon Koelmyer, Leigh Hatch, Mary
Hobson, Donna Lee, Karen Austin, Sharon
Eagleton and Christine Waters**

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Belinda Turner and Tracey Wilson



Liz Scherlowski and Rosa Sirianni



Marlene Cleveland and Vickie Swinfield



Moana Hannaford and Nicole Daley



Julie Breadmore and Cindy Butler



Michelle Fields and Cathy Radford



Deb Asmussen, Robbie Asmussen and Moana Robinson



Rowena Howard, Ann Marie Dadic and Karen Secombe



Sara Madrers, Julie Sanders and Zoe Richards



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DR JASON FREE

MBBS BVSC (HONS) FRACS

Laparoscopic, General, Weight-loss and Hepatobiliary Surgeon.



Where did you spend your childhood and how did your younger years lead you to where you are today?

I grew up in Perth, where life revolved around the outdoors. I was fortunate to have a childhood that encouraged an active lifestyle and a real appreciation for community. Looking back, those experiences probably shaped many of the values that still guide me today.

After finishing school, I moved to Queensland to continue my studies, and that's when I joined Southport Surf Life Saving Club. What started as a sporting interest has become one of the biggest influences in my life. I've been involved with the club throughout my adult life, and now my own children have grown up there as well. Volunteering alongside them has been incredibly rewarding and reminds me how much can be achieved when people give back to their community.

Interestingly, medicine wasn't my first career. I initially studied veterinary science and worked as a veterinarian for two years before deciding to return to university to study medicine.

What first inspired you to specialise in bariatric and weight-loss surgery?

When I began surgical training, my goal was to become a liver and pancreatic cancer surgeon. During my training, however, I spent time working in a busy public bariatric surgery unit, and it completely changed the direction of my career.

What struck me wasn't simply the amount of weight patients lost; it was the remarkable transformation in their overall health and quality of life.

At the same time, research was increasingly demonstrating that bariatric surgery significantly reduces the risk of many obesity-related illnesses, including numerous cancers. I

realised that by helping people address obesity early, I could potentially prevent far more disease than I ever could by treating cancer after it developed.

That was a defining moment for me.

What role do research, education and mentoring play in your professional life?

There is always something new to learn. No matter how experienced you become, medicine continues to evolve, and I believe it's our responsibility to keep improving for the benefit of our patients.

I regularly visit leading bariatric centres throughout the world to observe new techniques, exchange ideas and learn from surgeons who have dedicated their careers to advancing our field.

As President of the Australian and New Zealand Metabolic and Obesity Surgical Society (ANZMOSS), I'm also passionate about creating opportunities for Australian surgeons to learn from international experts. Teaching and mentoring are equally important to me.

What are some of the biggest misconceptions people have about obesity and weight-loss surgery?

Perhaps the biggest misconception is that obesity is simply a matter of willpower or that surgery should only be considered as an absolute last resort.

Many people also worry that bariatric surgery is dangerous. In reality, modern bariatric surgery has become one of the safest major operations performed today.

Your work is deeply emotional and demanding. How do you care for yourself while caring for others?

Spending time with my family is what keeps everything in perspective. Much of our weekends revolve around Southport Surf Life Saving Club.

I also have a slightly unusual hobby: beekeeping. Looking after bees requires patience and attention, but it's also incredibly relaxing.

When you look ahead five years, what excites you the most?

I'm incredibly optimistic about the future of obesity treatment. Perhaps the biggest change we're seeing is that society is beginning to recognise obesity for what it is: a complex medical condition rather than a personal failing. As that understanding grows, I hope more people will feel comfortable seeking help earlier, without fear of judgement or stigma.

One area I'm particularly passionate about is improving access to bariatric surgery within the public health system.



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