



August Industry Newsletter 2009

Featured in this issue:

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- Tourism Industry News; TPDD on Facebook & Twitter, Vertical Adventures, Migaloo Visit, Go Troppo Arts Festival, Ferntrees Rainforest Lodge & Hostel, Award winning Port Douglas restaurants, Daintree Discovery Centre

EO's COMMENT

How good is this weather, 29c again, blue sky and the humpback whales are starting to head south. Port Douglas and the Daintree region has been having a bumper season, with our wonderful international visitors still performing well. Again Port Douglas has been voted number one destination in Australia twice in two weeks. Firstly by a major Sunday paper and then by leading tourism researches looking at the new NEO tourist." New Economic Orders are people who are looking for a rich experience, beyond just their basic needs. They want more than passive accommodation, they want to be challenged physically and mentally" Well that definitely is Port Douglas.

Now that "Pink", Carey Hart and her band have left town the spotlight has been on Migaloo the white Humpback whale who lazed off Port Douglas, maybe looking for that elusive mate. Who says size doesn't count when your white.

We have a new consultant working with us at TPDD, Chelsea Walk who is looking after our social media side, (check out our Facebook and Twitter) and will be working with the youth/adventure market. Please make yourself known to Chelsea and if you are into triathlons you will be popular.



sales@tpdd.com.au

Some great new images are available, for destination support so give us a yell. Our news letter would not be complete without a great taste of Port Douglas Daintree so from one of my favourite restaurants Zinc comes “Zinc Bliss” a cocktail that will transport you to our tropical paradise.



Cheers,
Yours in tourism,
Doug.



Today in Port Douglas; sunrise, leisurely sailing and Four Mile Beach 26/8/09

TOURISM INDUSTRY NEWS

Join Port Douglas and the Daintree on Facebook and Twitter

Go to  www.facebook.com/tourism.portdouglasdaintree and  www.twitter.com/PortDouglas_Aus to find out what is happening on the ground in the gorgeous Port Douglas and Daintree region – most likely it will be another great day in paradise! Plus, stay tuned for video blogs showcasing exactly what kind of experience travellers will get when they are here.

Vertical Adventures – Heli Kayaking

Great Barrier Reef Helicopter Group and Back Country Bliss Adventures are delighted to announce the release of a series of adventure experience products to be marketed under joint venture company ‘Vertical Adventures’.

Vertical Adventures will offer visitors to the region the opportunity to experience guided sea kayaking, mountain biking, river snorkelling and hiking tours, the adventure beginning with a spectacular helicopter flight from Port Douglas to the rendezvous point for the respective ground activity. Here is a taste of one of the tour options.

One day Heli Kayaking

Fly from Port Douglas over Four Mile Beach, along the Coral Sea coastline and circle the mighty Daintree River in search of wildlife before landing at Cape Kimberley. Kayak out to Snapper Island, visiting many secluded beaches perfect for snorkelling or just relaxing. Enjoy a tropical lunch before kayaking around the island, then paddling back to the mainland. www.verticaladventures.com.au

The Whales are here!

Recent weeks have heralded the arrival of Humpback whales in the region. The most famous of all being albino Hump Back Migaloo spotted swimming through waters off Port Douglas. The whales have brought delight to the many visitors

enjoying the beautiful weather on reef trips from Port Douglas and Cape Tribulation.



New Exhibit and Eco Walk - Daintree Discovery Centre

Visitors to the Daintree Discovery Centre are being treated to a new temporary display courtesy of the students from the local Alexandra Bay State School. The artwork coincides with the Discovery Centre celebrating 20 years since its official opening by former Senator Graham Richardson on June 26, 1989. The Centre has also recently opened a new Reptile and Amphibian Display.

Director, Pam Birkett said 'As you know, many rainforest animals are well camouflaged and often difficult to spot, so we have created a wonderful exhibit showcasing Boyd's Rainforest Dragons, Palmerston and Julatten Pythons and Saw-Shell Turtles'. This spectacular exhibit was constructed using recycled materials, and the turtles were obtained from a neighbouring wildlife attraction where they were surplus to requirements.

The Discovery Centre has also introduced guided tours conducted by qualified guides held daily at 10am or 3pm. www.daintree-rec.com.au/

Go Troppo Arts Festival

This October, Port Douglas plays host to the second annual Go Troppo Arts Festival. The festival is becoming an annual event, held at this time of great beauty, renewal and abundance, which heralds the Wet season. There is an exciting calendar of events, with never a dull moment for participants or spectators.

Running from **2 - 11 October** the arts festival aims to deliver an experience to locals and visitors that they could not find elsewhere. A new development is a series of "hands-on" workshops in unique locations, where you might learn to build a life-sized portrait in clay, take part in a life drawing/ myth-making session near a rainforest creek or explore the wonderful colours of the Savannah in oil paints. For more information contact Jill Booth jill@go-troppo-arts-festival.com or visit www.go-troppo-arts-festival.com

Quicksilver Group leads the way with Environmental Sustainability

The Quicksilver Group has achieved another benchmark in environmentally sustainable practices with the introduction of biodiesel fuel on its fleet of coaches. The Quicksilver Group is Tropical North Queensland's first tourism operator to use biodiesel in its fleet of coaches.

Tony Baker, Managing Director of the Quicksilver Group said, "This is one of a suite of initiatives we are looking at to reduce our carbon footprint, and challenge ourselves to become a more environmentally friendly organisation.

Quicksilver has been certified as a "Climate Action Innovator" meaning we are proactively undertaking adaptations and emissions reduction, and auditing and measuring our carbon footprint." www.quicksilver-cruises.com/

Vote for the GBR in the new 7 Wonders of Nature

The third phase of the New7Wonders of Nature is now underway, and you can vote on your choice (Great Barrier Reef of course!!) of seven natural wonders from the selection of 28 Official Finalist Candidates. Login and vote now www.new7wonders.com/

Solar Whisper Wildlife Cruises Update

Spring is definitely in the air as we are seeing Green Tree Snakes in groups of 2 & 3 (1 large female and 1 or 2 smaller males attracted by the pheromones) and also we saw Elizabeth (resident female crocodile) trying to ensure her eggs are fertilized this year. Scarface (resident male crocodile) was lying on the bank enjoying the morning sun after being scared into the water twice by the same small tinny zooming close when Elizabeth popped up in front of him and started growling seductively. This got his attention and he lumbered into the water and she played hard to get which was a mistake as he had run out of energy. He dragged himself up on the bank and dutifully ignored Elizabeth for the rest of the day even though she kept getting closer and closer growling all the time until she was touching his nose, but no reaction. www.solarwhisper.com

Congratulations to Port Douglas' Award Winning Restaurants

The Port Douglas and Daintree region is know for being a food-lover's paradise, with over 65 dining options in Port Douglas alone visitors are spoilt for choice!! The region was well represented at the recent Restaurant and Catering Awards for the far north with the following winning Port Douglas establishments.

Restaurant	Award Category
Salsa Bar & Grill	Best Alfresco Dining
Zinc Restaurant and Wine Bar	Best Informal Dining
Café Fresq	Best Café
On the Inlet	Best Seafood Restaurant
Finz	Best New Restaurant
Clements Restaurant & Wine Bar	Best European Restaurant
The Beach Shack	Best Family Restaurant

Congratulations to all of the regions winning restaurants.

Cheers to that

Award winning dining establishment and fabulous place to stop for that much anticipated cocktail Zinc Restaurant and Wine Bar has provided this issues recipe for our readers' pleasure.....

Zinc Bliss

Recipe:

15 ml Belvedere Vodka,
15ml Midori Melon Liquor
15ml Watermelon Liquor

muddled with fresh lime, watermelon and lychee, shaken and served over ice.



Introducing Newsport Daily

The NEWSport Daily is a tourism associated online media outlet giving Pre Travel Visitors a real look at how Port Douglas operates from day to day. Its facilities include : A Daily NEWS Service; 7 Day Weather Forecast; Port Douglas Lifestyle Photo Gallery; Comprehensive Business Search, Industry Employment Section (both Positions Vacant and Work Wanted); Best Deals and Local Specials; Local Events Calender and Live Music Guides as well as information relative for making arrangements to this spectacular part of the world.

www.NEWSport.com.au

Ferntree Rainforest Lodge Refreshed and ready to celebrate

Ferntree Rainforest Lodge & Hostel, Cape Tribulation has reopened offering an air-conditioned, private ensuited option to the youth/backpackers to Cape Tribulation. The resort has had a face lift and refresh and reopens as two separate resorts – a 104 bed self catering hostel with it's own pool, BBQ, beer garden, entertainment tv/lounge room and volleyball court and a newly refurbished 28 room family and couples resort. www.ferntreehostel.com.au/

Mercure Port Douglas Treetops Refurbishments Update

Treetops Resort and Spa has undergone an extensive refurbishment and is celebrating its renaissance with new management under the Accor franchise network. They have installed a top flight General Manager in Michelle Peake who has decades of hotel management experience, including a background with Best Management Group in Brisbane. The Events Centre has been given a new lease

of life with a major clean up and rebrand and is now known as The Treetops Event Centre.

Built amidst its own natural rainforest with free flowing waterways and lily ponds, Mercure Port Douglas Treetops Resort is a retreat with all the modern amenities you can expect from a four and a half star international resort. www.portdouglastreetopsresortspa.com.au

Tatler magazine honours Daintree Eco Lodge & Spa

The Daintree Ecolodge and Spa has been recognised in the, 2009 101 Best Spas of the World by the prestigious UK Tatler magazine. Daintree Eco Lodge & Spa was one of just two Australian spas to receive the honour.

Kelda Maloney, who created the wellness spa at the Lodge said, "It is an honour to be included in the "crème de la crème" of the world's best spas. The Kuku Yalanji rainforest Aboriginal elders call this special place "Wawu Karrba" which means "healing of the spirit". This is their name for the ancient waterfall at the top of the property and it also describes the healing and wellbeing treatments offered in the Daintree Wellness Spa. www.daintree-ecolodge.com.au

Harrison's New Home

In late 2007, Spencer Patrick and Reina Torcasio started Harrisons Restaurant at 41 Macrossan Street. Their food embodies the best French tradition, shaped under the direction of Britain's Marco Pierre White. Di and Mike Lisle-Williams, a Melbourne couple with a passion for Port and dining, discovered Harrisons early in 2008. After many opportunities to observe the little restaurant at 41 Macrossan Street, Di and Mike explored with Spencer and Reina how to take Harrisons to the next level of development. The answer was to move Harrisons to the site of the former Catalina Restaurant at 22 Wharf Street, and to bring style and fun to its beautiful colonial setting.

Latest Funniest Comment from a Visitor.

"We went on an excursion to the reef and no one told us to bring our swimsuits, can you fix this?"

"The sand in brochures of your area show it as white. When we got there it was yellow. This should not be allowed, can this be rectified?"

" My holiday was ruined because people were topless bathing on 4 Mile Beach and my husband spent all his time looking at them, can this be stopped?"

NEW MEMBER

Tourism Port Douglas and Daintree would like to welcome the following new businesses and thank them for their support.

- **Port Douglas Valley Retreat**

Newly opened Port Douglas Valley Retreat is a private holiday house nestled beneath the prominent landmark, Black Mountain, at the head of the picturesque Mowbray Valley. Port Douglas Valley Retreat is a beautifully designed 'Queenslander' style house featuring wide verandahs, high ceilings and extensive use of local timbers. www.portdouglasvalleyretreat.com.au/

- **Busy Bees Baby Sitting**

Busy Bees Babysitting Services provide you with a babysitter or nanny any area of the Northern Beaches of Cairns & Port Douglas to allow you some special, uninterrupted time to reconnect with your partner. They can also provide child care while you attend a wedding, conference or function.
www.busybeesbabysitting.com.au/

- **Sass Studios**

Sass Studios takes a fresh, modern approach to wedding photography - they specialise in capturing natural, candid images and creating stylish portraits for beautiful wedding day memories. Sass Studios is a small team of young creative individuals dedicated to providing couples with the best in wedding photography.
www.sassstudios.com/

- **Port Douglas Mobile Disco**

Port Douglas Mobile Disco & Karaoke is a professional DJ and Karaoke service which has been operating with over 20 years experience from out of Port Douglas. They specialize in Weddings, Birthdays, Corporate Events, Karaoke and so much more. www.pdmobiledisco.bravehost.com

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