



Media Release

3rd May, 2009

Best Job in the World candidates arrive on Hamilton Island

Tourism Queensland's final 16 Best Job in the World candidates arrived on Hamilton Island today to begin the selection process, starting their experience with a swim test and an inspection of the official caretaker's residence.

Tourism Queensland CEO Anthony Hayes was one of the first to greet them and said they were excited and ready for anything.

"It's going to be an action-packed few days between now and the final announcement on Wednesday," he said.

"The candidates will have a ball but they all know they will be under the microscope because we need to ensure the successful candidate is someone who can capture and hold world attention.

"The first thing they did when they arrived was jump in the Dolphin Pool to show us they could swim.

"I'm pleased to report that they all passed with flying colours.

"Then they were off for a tour of the island and the Blue Pearl villa which will be the caretaker's residence."

The Blue Pearl villa is a private, luxurious three-bedroom home high on the hill with stunning views of the Whitsunday islands.

The final 16 candidates from 15 countries include students, journalists, TV presenters, photographers, a receptionist, radio DJ, teacher, charity event manager and an actress.

"This is an incredibly diverse group all with one thing in common - a passion for Queensland and a desire to do their utmost to prove themselves the best person for the Best Job in the World," Mr Hayes said.

"They have had a challenging few weeks since being named in the Top 50 in February and then the final 16 a month ago, and have absolutely wowed us with the lengths they have gone to promote their quest.





"Between them they have conducted hundreds of media interviews, developed thousands of online followers and organised stunts, ranging from scuba diving in a tank in a square in Amsterdam to riding the London Tube in full scuba gear and embarking on a whirl-wind global tour to promote their candidacy.

"The candidates have made sure that Queensland has been at the forefront of media in their respective countries, all while holding down full-time jobs and family commitments.

"These 16 have been the best ambassadors for Queensland we could ever ask for."

Mr Hayes said that with more than 34,000 applications, Caretaker of Islands of the Great Barrier Reef was arguably the most sought-after job in the world.

"The worldwide response to Tourism Queensland's Best Job in the World campaign has been nothing short of phenomenal and already we have achieved more than \$100 million worth of global publicity for Queensland," he said.

"The key now however is to convert the global interest raised by The Best Job in the World into visitors to Queensland - to bring more tourist dollars into Queensland's economy, protect existing tourism jobs and hopefully create new ones.

"Tourism Queensland and the wider tourism industry have been working on a range of global activities to make sure this happens."

The successful candidate will be announced on Hamilton Island at 3pm on Wednesday May 6 and will take up their six month \$AUD150,000 contract on July 1.

The Island Caretaker will be based on Hamilton Island and will spend their time exploring the Islands of the Great Barrier Reef and reporting back on their experiences.

The Final 16 are:

Anjaan RJ - India

Ben Henry - France

Ben Southall - UK

Cali Lewis - USA

Clare Wang - Taiwan (wild card applicant announced March 25)

Clarke Gayford - New Zealand

Erik Rolfsen - Canada

George Karellas - Ireland





ISLANDS
OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF



- Greg Reynen - Singapore
- Hailey Turner - Australia
- James Hill - Australia
- Juweon Kim - Korea
- Magali Heuberger - Netherlands
- Mieko Kobayashi - Japan
- Mirjam Novak - Germany
- Yi Yao - China

For further information, including biographies, photos and video footage visit the media centre at www.islandreefjob.com.

