



ISLANDS
OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

Media Release

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Sailing through the Best Job in the World

Tourism Queensland's Best Job in the World Island Caretaker Ben Southall has been enjoying a different view of the water this week as he sails around the Islands of the Great Barrier Reef.

Tourism Queensland CEO Anthony Hayes said Ben departed yesterday for his three-day learn-to-sail adventure onboard former Sydney to Hobart winner, Another Fiasco, that would see him travel across the Coral Sea and throughout the Whitsundays.

"Ben's a keen adventurer and learning to sail has been high on his list of priorities since arriving in Queensland," Mr Hayes said.

"Queensland's idyllic Whitsundays is one of the best places in the world to learn how to sail, with some of the best boats and tourism operators to get visitors hooked on the experience.

"Ben has been really looking forward to learning to sail and we are keen to ensure he has enough time to really savour the experience and the unbeatable Queensland lifestyle.

"Island-hopping between Hamilton and Hayman Islands has been the perfect way to show Ben the luxurious and relaxing side of Queensland.

"While on Hayman Island Ben also assisted the resort team on Hayman Beach, lending a hand and demonstrating to guests how to use the water-sport activities including catamarans, paddle skis and windsurfers.

"During a transfer to Hayman Island Ben also caught a glimpse of his first whale!"

Ben said learning to sail was an example of the type of challenging tasks that Tourism Queensland had set him to report back on for the week ahead.

"I have had such a fantastic week kicking back on Hamilton and Hayman Islands and getting more familiar with my surroundings," Ben said.





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"I've even had a chance to meet some of the locals at one of the biggest social functions of the year the 'Kindy Ball' which was aptly-themed 'the Best Ball in the World'.

"The night was a great chance for all the island locals to get together over great food a few drinks and a dance."

Ben said one of the highlights of his week had been checking out the amazing types of coral while snorkelling around Langford Island.

"Snorkelling was such a sensory overload the variety of coral was unforgettable," he said.

"I'm also looking forward to returning home next week to host media around the islands before taking off on my next adventure to another region within the Islands of the Great Barrier Reef."

Mr Hayes said Ben's luxurious week on Hamilton and Hayman Island was made possible thanks to the support of the local tourism operators and Tourism Whitsundays who had assisted his visit around the Islands, including even taking him for a trip to the local dentist.

"More than 96,000 people have so far logged on to receive blog updates from www.islandreefjob.com and Ben has almost 3000 followers on Twitter," he said.

"Ben's adventures throughout the Islands of the Great Barrier Reef have enabled him to discover both the popular and lesser-known experiences available to visitors.

"Ben's blogs have been a fantastic way for his growing global followers to receive a first-hand impression of the type of experiences available to visitors and is written in a way that other travellers can relate to."

For more information about Ben's Whitsunday adventures, log on to Ben's Blog at www.islandreefjob.com

