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Dear Industry Colleagues,

Whale season has officially begun and visitors may catch the graceful feats of these magnificent migrating creatures in the warmer waters of Hervey Bay, Sunshine Coast, Moreton Bay and Gold Coast. To welcome this special season, we bring you whale-watching highlights as well as information on the Hervey Bay Whale Festival.

We are also pleased to inform you that Ben Southall, who beat 34,000 others to clinch the Best Job in the World, has started his six-month dream job on 1 July! We invite you to read his blog at www.islandreefjob.com for a refreshing perspective of the Islands of the Great Barrier Reef experience and for information on his itinerary for the months to come.



Warm regards
Tourism Queensland team

What's New



Queensland's First Surfing Museum Opens

The new Surf World Gold Coast museum at Currumbin celebrates the history and contribution of surfing and the Australian beach culture, showcasing the evolution of design and technology from the 1930s to today. Visitors may view photographs of early surf scenes and current work by world-renowned surf photographers. Entry is at A\$9 for adults, A\$5 for children and A\$20 for families.

Radisson Resort Takes it to the Top

Radisson Resort Gold Coast has raised the bar by winning the major national Meeting and Events Industry Award (MEA) for venues catering for 150 to 500 delegates, at the recent national conference. The Meetings and Events Industry Awards recognises excellence in the meetings and events industry. Congratulations, Radisson! www.radisson.com/goldcoastau



Whale Season

With calm and safe waters, Queensland is privileged to be the playground for migratory humpback whales each year from June to October, before they return to the Antarctic. Humpbacks are the most acrobatic of all whales and are renowned for their 'singing'. They are the fifth largest of all whales, growing up to 15 metres and weighing up to 40 tonnes.



Visitors may enjoy the best of the whale season with a dawn, morning, afternoon or full-day whale-watching cruise offered by various operators. Tours are usually hosted by an experienced crew with informative commentary to accompany the viewing of the humpback whales' acrobatic displays including tail and pectoral slapping, and breaching. Visitors are also regularly treated to sightings of other marine life, such as dolphins and turtles.

For a list of whale-watching cruises, please visit www.queensland.com.sg

Events



Hervey Bay Whale Festival 1, 2, 8 & 16 August 2009

Join the convivial spirit of the Whale Festival, celebrated over three weekends in August! Enjoy food, wine and jazz on the Marina; view the traditional Blessing of the Fleet to launch the festival; join the street parade with illuminated floats along the Esplanade; or simply have a whale of a time at the Whale Day Carnival with market stalls, kids' craft, music and fireworks! For more information, visit www.herveybaywhalefestival.com.au



Queensland Music Festival 17 July to 2 August 2009

Celebrate the world of music in all its forms at this state-wide festival! Over 17 days from Friday, 17 July to Sunday, 2 August, the best of local, national and international talent will perform every conceivable style of music, from alternative to classical, and country to jazz, in various venues all around Brisbane.

For the full line up, visit www.qmf.org.au



Azran with Ben Southall
AirAsia X CEO Azran Osman-Rani with 'Best Job' Ben Southall, who ran the half marathon

Gold Coast Airport Marathon



Jenap with Catwoman
Singapore's 'Catwoman' Jenap Said meets Catwoman at Warner Bros Movie World

The Gold Coast marathon on 5 July saw a record-smashing number of participants this year, including 60 Singaporeans. Among them was Jenap Said, Singapore's 'Catwoman' who was dressed as a princess this year. Air Asia X also sent a corporate team of 20 led by their CEO, Azran Osman-Rani.

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