

Episode 254 Saturday 25 October 2008

Minke Whales **Bridget Adams & Taryn Onofaro**

Mike Ball Dive Expeditions is a Cairns-based company that specializes in luxury, live-aboard diving.



The 3-day, 3-night cruise takes in the renowned ribbon reefs northwest of Cooktown. Highlights include swimming with diver-sized fish at the Cod Hole and experiencing the thrill of diving at night at Challenger Bay.

All cruises from mid-June to mid-July come with the added bonus of the chance to swim with Dwarf Minke Whales. Mike Ball Dive Expeditions is one of only a handful of operators licensed to allow guests a close-up encounter with the whales. Dwarf Minkes are regarded as one of the most inquisitive whales and regularly swim within metres of divers.

The Minke Whale expedition starts at \$1,430 per person twin share. This includes accommodation, meals and all dives.

Contact Mike Ball Dive Expeditions
www.mikeball.com
Ph: 07 4053 0500

Ravensbourne **Chris Parsons**



Ravensbourne is a small community located an hour north west of Toowoomba. It is home to remnants of rainforest and

wet eucalypt forests, due to its higher than average rainfall. There are numerous walking tracks to enjoy in the National Park and from the Gus Beutel Lookout you can take in the views across the Great Diving Range.

The Ravensbourne Forest Chalets are positioned high amongst the trees in a small pocket of rainforest. Each of the four chalets is self-contained and includes a spa bath, four-poster bed and BBQ, and breakfast and picnic hampers can be provided on request. Guests can pick up a bike and a map from reception to explore some of the area's multi-use trails.

Sketches Mountain Resort also offers accommodation that affords spectacular views to the valley below. The cafe/restaurant is open Wednesday through to Sunday for lunch and dinner on Saturday.

Contact Ravensbourne Forest Chalets
www.ravensbourneforestchalets.com.au
Ph: 07 4697 8185

Contact Sketches Mountain Resort
www.mountainresort.com.au
Ph: 07 4697 8777

Awesome Hervey Bay Dean Miller & Buddha Handy

Humble Hervey Bay was once known to be a sleepy retiree haven but not anymore. All ages are enjoying this beautiful beachside holiday spot and when you're not relaxing at the beach there are plenty of tour options out of the marina.



In whale season, 'That's Awesome' is the fastest ticket to see the gentle giants... and out of season, it's your ride in the fast lane. That's because she's a 12.5 metre inflatable with 1,200 horsepower behind her.

'That's Awesome' is available for private charters, dive trips, scenic tours and of course whale watch patrol.

Another great option, which also departs the marina, is Blue Dolphin Sunset Sail. It's a wonderful experience that includes bubbly, nibbles and a leisurely sail spotting dolphins while enjoying a glorious Hervey Bay sunset.

Contact Blue Dolphin Sunset Sail
www.bluedolphintours.com.au
Ph: 07 4124 9600

Contact That's Awesome
www.awesomeadventure.com.au
Ph: 07 4128 9387

QLD Event – Good Food & Wine Show

Take a cooking lesson from Queensland Weekender's very own chef Alastair McLeod at next month's Good Food and Wine Show. He'll take to the celebrity stage at the Brisbane event alongside UK chef Ainsley Harriott and Ben O'Donoghue... sharing the secrets to creating the perfect dish. Sample their menu at the onsite restaurant or simply spend the day tasting your way through 200 fine food and wine exhibitors. Entry is \$20 and comes with a guarantee you won't walk away hungry! Special offer: RACQ Members quote RACQ when booking to receive a discount!



Contact Good Food & Wine Show
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre
7 – 9 November 2008
www.goodfoodshow.com.au

QLD Event Roma Cup

Forget the Melbourne Cup, there's no need to leave Queensland for the ultimate racing experience. Just head to Roma, around 4½ hours northwest of Toowoomba, on 15 November for the much anticipated Roma Cup.

There are races throughout the day but the big one kicks off at 4pm. For the ladies, there's the 'Fashions on the Field' competition, plus the Nutrimetics Pamper Palace for makeup touch-ups. And of course there are the bookies, the bar, a few VIP parties (which you can actually buy your way into), and even shuttle buses to get you to and from your motel safely.

Tickets are just \$25, and you can grab yours at the door or pre-order online. There are special events to wind you up on the Friday, and then down on the Sunday, so clear your calendar and support one of Queensland's favourite races, The Roma Cup.

Contact Roma Cup
15 November 2008
Bassett Park Race Track, Roma
Adult \$25
www.romaturfclub.org.au
Ph: 07 4622 8863