

DRIVER

Scott Taylor's road to success

DESPATCHES

In love with the city of lights

SPACE

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GOLD COAST MAGAZINE

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AUTUMN 2020

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In everything that Mercedes-Benz Gold Coast does, we strive to honour the legacy of innovation and precision set by Karl Benz, the founder of Mercedes-Benz antecedent Benz & Cie, who, in 1886, patented the Motorwagen, the world's first automobile.

WELCOME

Autumn 2020



Welcome to the Autumn issue of MBGC, a new year and new decade.

We've started 2020 with the exciting news that Mercedes-Benz's all electric EQC 400 has taken out the prestigious and highly anticipated Wheels Car of the Year. It was pitted against a number of other German marques and electric vehicles but won over its rivals for "its normalcy in the face of futuristic technology - this is an EV without compromise".

It's exciting news as we haven't seen a Mercedes-Benz win Australia's most prized automotive award for 12 years, but more so for being at the forefront of technology and the future of motoring. If you'd like to experience why the EQC 400 won Wheels Car of the Year, we encourage you to call in to our dealership for a test drive.

In this season's magazine we sit down and talk with passionate car entrepreneur Scott Taylor who built a business in the leasing industry and now spends his time racing and curating one of the Gold Coast's most amazing car collections. Scott knows a thing or two about the industry as a former mechanic, businessman and now enthusiast and his story is an inspirational one.

For our feature on food we take a look at Robina's Eddy + Wolff, offering authentic Asian small bites and share plates in an intimate space. We love their Drunken XO Clams and Crying Tiger Beef, and paired with a Korean Soju make for a mouth-watering feast.

If you've ever been interested in how to grow a business, then in Enterprise you'll hear first-hand from Adam Fitzhenry on his successful organic fertiliser and health supplement business. Adam took over the business from his father and has now expanded to take advantage of the burgeoning plant and nutrition industry.

Our very own Jodie Mariner and her sister Rae have taken on our travel feature, Despatches, and gives us many good reasons to visit the city of love, Paris, in the quieter month of December when it's cooler and there's

less crowds. Of course they visited the local Mercedes-Benz dealership while there and told them how much better we do it in Australia.

For Concept we talk with the creative family team behind Husk, the runaway distillery success in Tumbulgum. You've probably heard about their Ink Gin, made famous by Margot Robbie spotted sipping a tippie at Bam Bam Bakehouse a couple of years back, but they also have an incredible Agricole Rum that's also been making waves in the industry.

Ada + Lou, our Label subjects, have found a niche in the plus size market with a range of bohemian designs. Creators Chantelle Ellem and Rebel Wylie have focussed on providing ethically and well-made garments for a market that is too-often overlooked but crying out for something different.

Following the creative theme, in Space we take a look at the mother and daughter duo from Verandah House and their interior design sensibility that draws inspiration from the Gold Coast waterfront lifestyle.

And we've taken a drive down to Murwillumbah to experience the best of its cafés, shops and things to see and do, including the Tweed Regional Gallery and Margaret Olley Art Centre, a fantastic feature of the town and one of the reasons it's known worldwide.

We round out this edition with our regular contributor, restaurateur extraordinaire Daniel Ridgeway, with an Eggplant Miso recipe.

If there's anything you'd like to see in future editions, please feel free to contact our editorial team, and of course if there's a Mercedes-Benz that catches your eye in our catalogue then make sure to get in touch.

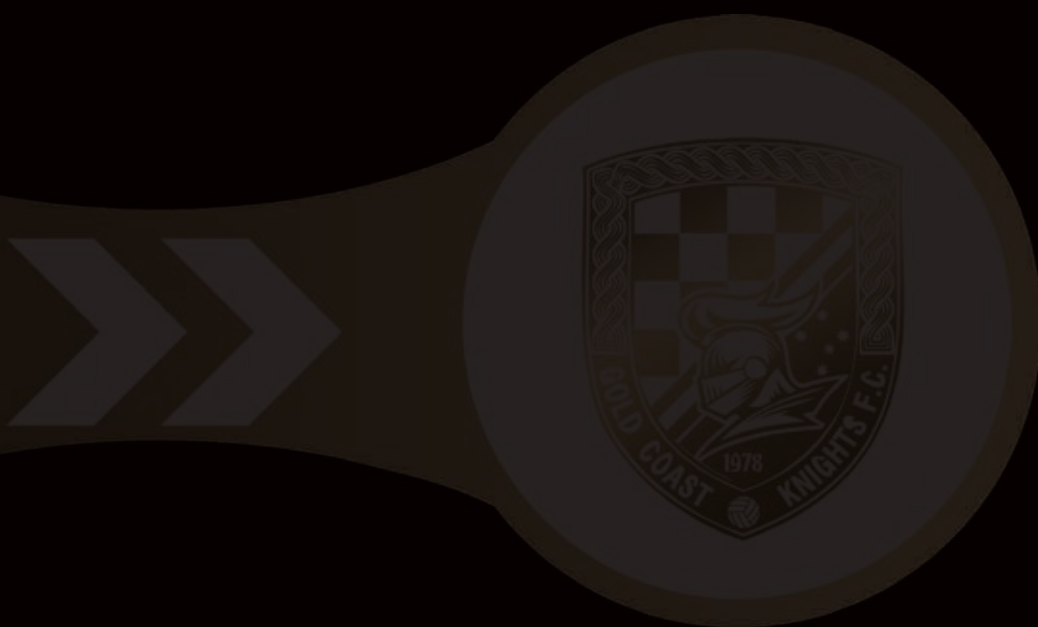
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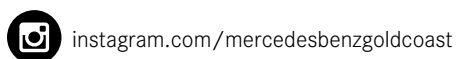


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NEED FOR SPEED

WORDS Sam Stolz PHOTOS Lincoln Williams

Scott Taylor presides over what is arguably the world's greatest mancave. Whether it be championship racing cars, vintage Australian muscle cars, boats or motorcycles, his state-of-the-art facility has it and the mind boggles in every direction at the sheer amount of very fast things.

When Scott Taylor traded his business shirt and tie for a racing suit in 2013, it wasn't any indication that his drive or ambition was put on ice.

Coming full circle since his days as an auto-mechanic at the tender age of 14, his technical 'retirement' is merely an extension of everything he loves; fast cars, racing and keeping fit.

In recent years, the former corporate highflyer has taken his boardroom smarts to the track and is showing no signs of slowing down.

After founding and running one of Australia's most successful car leasing companies, FleetPlus, for 13 years and establishing an enterprise worth hundreds-of-millions of dollars, Scott's decision to exit the corporate game meant he could pursue his true passions.

Scott and wife Rebecca are the creative masterminds behind Scott Taylor Motorsport (STM), a bespoke facility customised to accommodate the combination of motorsports and personal lifestyle interests.

Launched in 2016 after four years in the making, it's the stuff of boyhood dreams.

A combination of both classic and modern cars line the walls, as if some giant colourful Matchbox car display was brought to life before your very eyes.

The 2,500 sqm space also houses a top-of-the-line workshop, garage for racing vehicles, vintage motorcycles, purpose-built transport semi-trailers and trucks, cinema, driving simulator facilities, fully equipped gymnasium, hot yoga studio and magnesium therapy pool.

Suspended over the workshop is Scott's very own sky bar, a worthy locale to celebrate any racing victory.

It's not all pretty objects at STM HQ. Scott's workshop is cutting edge, and its extensive facilities cater for the maintenance and development of race cars to the highest standard. The workshop floor features three heavy duty hoists and a range of cutting-edge diagnostic and monitoring technology.

Scott competes in several classes and events across Australia and New Zealand, with a strong focus on performance and professionalism. He has teamed up with some of the sport's greatest drivers, including Craig Lowndes, Jamie Whincup, Shane van

Gisbergen, Dave Reynolds, Craig Baird, and Tony D'alberto, each respective champions of some of the world's most watched races.

Scott has a lot of toys, but he's incredibly humble about it. The man oozes the sort of old-world persona that is a relic of years gone by. He possesses the down to earth 'cool' of Steve McQueen or Paul Newman, who also shared a deep and lasting passion for fast cars.

To have what he has before him today, it was no walk in the park. Scott has earned every last cent and says while others spent their money, he was busy working.

"We were going to work when other people were going on holidays and buying fancy new things, our mentality was to always focus on the end result," he says.

"Even when I was ascending the ladder in various corporations, I always drove a 'bomby' old car or rode a pushbike because I liked staying fit and healthy.

"I didn't need all the material things at that stage of my life because I truly felt I hadn't earned them yet."



It's this mentality and drive for success that saw Scott go from high school dropout at 14 to corporate CEO.

"School was problematic for me in that I always had too much energy. Whether it was playing football, being around cars and bikes or staying active, the typical mould of the classroom never suited me," he says.

After making his way as a mechanic for some years, Scott's natural talent for numbers saw him placed within various management roles in the car leasing industry.

"I worked my way up the corporate ladder and after being sold off to several other companies over the years, I began to realise I was being treated like part of the furniture," he says.

"It gave me the drive to start my own business, and all it took was to identify where other companies were falling flat.

"I wrote a comprehensive business plan and took it to some high net worth individuals in the Australian financial space and they fortunately lent me the money because they believed in my idea and knew I was passionate enough to have my vision realised.

"I always worked incredibly hard and never stopped thinking about the next gig and what I could do better."

Scott's goal was to get out early so he could pursue the hobbies close to his heart, and after wearing a suit and tie for close to 30 years and selling the business that made his fortune, his home away from home came calling.

"Rebecca, the kids and I have always loved the laid-back lifestyle on the Gold Coast, and we decided to pack up in Sydney and move full-time to our holiday home on Sovereign Island," he says.

"The Gold Coast is so great in that you can live a really healthy and active lifestyle, which has always been of top priority to me.

"We also love being on the water, which makes up a huge part of our recreation time.

"Moving here also gave me the opportunity to work on my dream project, and while some say retirement is for playing golf or relaxing, I felt that my 'second' career was only just beginning with Scott Taylor Motorsport.

"My idea of relaxation isn't sitting in front of a television. I'd rather be doing something physical like going for a run or a swim,

making a car go faster or building something worthwhile.

"It was never in the cards going from being on the move 24 hours a day to sitting idly watching the world pass me by."

While Scott Taylor Motorsport is a lively representation of masculinity, where men are men and their hobbies are plain dangerous, it's Rebecca who brought a refined touch to the overall design - the result, a slick and stylish enterprise.

No details were spared. The pool has a glass bottom, the doors are carbon wrapped, STM colours and branding adorn the walls and the theatre room has a ceiling reminiscent of a starlit sky, thanks to the inclusion of some stunning fibre optic work.

Rebecca's hideaway is her yoga studio, which has a beautiful mural that stands in stark contrast to the industrial wonderland outside.

Scott and Rebecca are also the proud 'parents' of two Groodies, Maddox and Indigo, and may be part of the reason why Scott purchased a brand-new \$200,000 customised Mercedes-Benz GLS for Rebecca's Christmas present last year.



“If I hadn’t been in a Mercedes-Benz, I’m afraid I may have fared much worse.”



Affectionately named ‘Sandpit’, the sleek GLS seems more a gift for the dogs than Rebecca, but with its impressive customisation and superior handling, the car is fit for a queen.

The car also needed to have all the right trimmings for the pups, large boot space, air-con in the back and large windows so that Maddox and Indigo could enjoy the breeze on their faces.

It’s worth noting Scott’s affiliation with Mercedes-Benz may have just saved his life.

He endured a devastating crash on the track in 2018, rendering an uninsured \$800,000 Mercedes-Benz race car to a piece of scrap metal, nothing left but a safety capsule.

“I crashed headfirst into a wall at over 200kms an hour, breaking my spine,” he says.

“If I hadn’t been in a Mercedes-Benz, I’m afraid I may have fared much worse.

“They are the safest vehicle on and off the track and it’s their top-of-the-line safety features that really make them one of the best car manufacturers worldwide.

“It’s a huge part of the reason STM included Mercedes-Benz racing vehicles in the AGT Series in 2017.”



While Scott is certainly a busy man, his efforts to give back don’t go unnoticed.

Scott Taylor Motorsports prides itself on its active commitment to supporting the local community.

“Our personal commitment, support and promotion of selected charitable organisations in combination with a proactive contribution to various community-based activities, businesses and events is a source of motivation and inspiration for the whole team,” he says.

“Being philanthropic when you have made a considerable amount of money is something we always encourage.

“After all, you can’t take it all with you and you can’t give it all to the kids.

“Rather than write cheques out we wanted to get involved in initiatives that are for the betterment of people’s wellbeing, health and lifestyle.”

Scott and Rebecca have raised funds for several charities and organisations, including the Kokoda Challenge, various sporting events and in 2019, created a scholarship opportunity for architecture students at Griffith University.



At 57, Scott has achieved extraordinary things in his life, and attributes it all to hard work, dedication and keeping things simple.

“Every decision I make is based on the right thing to do and a responsible line of thinking,” he says.

“My ethos for success always circles back to staying healthy, taking care of my wife and children and making the most out of opportunities. It’s not some magic formula.



“I never wanted money to change me, because I’ve seen several people transform as soon as they become successful, and sadly, it’s not always for the better.

“I don’t need to be sitting at the fanciest restaurant in town, I still drive a ute every day. Why? Because it’s more practical.

“Sure, my facility is spunky and I own some amazing things but at the end of the day, I’m still Scott Taylor who left school at 14 and became a mechanic.

“I come from humble beginnings and I’ve never left those humble beginnings, even though my bank account looks a little different these days.”



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INTERIOR MOODS

WORDS Melinda Burton PHOTOS Verandah House

Gold Coast-based Verandah House has been instrumental in making people fall head over heels in love with the spaces they live in.





Whether it's finding the perfect piece that's not readily available or customising furniture to suit the space, Verandah House tread their own path and stay true to their aesthetic.

Celebrating a decade in the decorating business, what originated as an outdoor rattan furniture brand has evolved into one of Queensland's most sought-after interior design firms.

You'd think working with a family member on something as carefully curated as interior design would cause conflict. But for Judy Periera and Jess Bandiera, it's their differences that make it work.

Jess says she was always destined to follow in her mother's footsteps, spending her upbringing being nurtured creatively and watching Judy's entrepreneurial spirit bloom.

"Mum and I have an amazing relationship, we're yin and yang, which is what makes our business ultimately successful as we complement each other's strengths," she says.

"Whilst furniture may look beautiful on its own, it's our job to ensure that it's also functional and works well in the space.

"Similar to Mercedes-Benz, it's a collective effort to ensure beauty, form and function work in unison to deliver an end result that truly speaks for itself."

Since relocating to the Gold Coast from their Brisbane City studio, Jess says the move made the ideal work-life balance possible.

"These days life is very different, we start our mornings with walks on the beach and ocean swims before we head into the studio," she says.

"It's an ideal way to prepare for our day and get our creative juices flowing.

"We've never felt healthier, happier or more inspired and it's great to see that the Gold Coast is now breaming with like-minded creatives who are making waves in the current design space."

When not on frequent trips abroad to source exotic and unique pieces or sitting in on

collaborative meetings with suppliers, Jess draws design inspiration from her simple way of life on the Gold Coast.

"There is so much we love about living here – the lifestyle is definitely at the top of the list," she says.

"Being out on the water is my greatest joy, we love sneaking out for cheeky lunches and our morning meetings are usually held in our favourite cafes like Paddock and Bam Bam Bakehouse.

"Often Judy and I will go for coastal drives for a day of creative planning and inspiration.

"Every year we reinvest into our company, we travel interstate and overseas to source new products and inspire our design work."

It's unmistakable Verandah House expertly infuse their own unique aesthetic with a design ethos that captures and reflects the people who live in the home.



“It’s a collective effort to ensure beauty, form and function work in unison”

“Quite often, we find our clients are very much aligned with our values and this is when our work truly shines, as we know we can deliver a bespoke, exceptional end result that they will love for years to come,” she says.

For artwork and accent pieces, the pair advocate high quality works that don’t follow trends but tick all the boxes for practicality.

They even have their own exclusive artwork collection with plans to expand into textiles and homewares.

“We strive to create a point of difference in the market and connect and engage with our audience while delivering them maximum value,” she says.

“Verandah House has become well known for staying true to a certain aesthetic.

“It also means we have a strong and recognisable brand presence, which is of the utmost importance to us.”

Of their many beautiful projects, Jess cites the Gold Coast Riverfront as one of her favourites.

“We were given free rein to design and decorate at the premium level the home deserved, and we were able to customise the majority of the furniture which really created a point of difference,” she says.

The pair transformed the once tired and dated home into a majestic American styled classic residence with the use of bespoke furnishings, joinery, lighting and interior design elements.





"We are now at a humbling point in our journey where we can select the projects we feel truly passionate about," she says.

Aside from taking on design projects, the company have developed an exciting extension of their brand called VH Design Co.



The online platform is designed to educate and empower women within the industry who want to become a designer or level-up their business.

"We are so passionate about what we do and are at a point in our career where we want to give back our knowledge and provide the support to other designers and decorators in the industry," she says.

"Judy and I aren't about stopping people from achieving their dreams because they may become competition.

"We wholeheartedly believe in fostering the growth of creative types around us because ultimately we want to see women achieve terrific success in fields they are passionate about."



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GOOD THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES

WORDS Sam Stolz PHOTOS Andy Macpherson



For a true slice of the east, Robina locals are lapping up Eddy + Wolff's authentic approach to Asian cuisine. Hot off the heels of Runaway Bay favourite Can Tho Kitchen, Thao and Vien Nguyen's second course comes even closer to the pair's heart.



Thao Nguyen's propensity for hovering around the kitchen started from a young age.

After migrating to Australia from Vietnam in 1981, she spent her youth peeking over benchtops at her mum's restaurant in Canberra. It was here Thao first experienced the range of unique smells and exotic tastes that formed her love affair with the food of her homeland.

With a lifetime of hospitality experience and after moving to the Gold Coast in 2002, Thao and partner Vien took the helm of the family restaurant in Runaway Bay and decided to revamp the venue, partly inspired by their visits to Melbourne.

"When we first visited Melbourne in 2014, we were blown away by how behind the Gold Coast felt in terms of its food offering," she says.

"I wanted to infuse my love of the cosy, intimate spaces you'd see in Melbourne restaurants and bars.

Between running Can Tho, which exploded with popularity on the northern Gold Coast, Thao and Vien travelled extensively throughout Asia, getting a firsthand look at a wide array of dishes from various countries, each with their own unique culinary offering.

"We had always wanted to open a second venue and Eddy + Wolff was born from our extensive travels to Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand and Vietnam," she says.

"It was our goal to move away from the fusion food that had been dominating the Australian dining scene for decades and offer something that was more authentic, with each dish being representative of its country of origin."

Eddy + Wolff is ultimately a love letter to Thao and Vien's humble beginnings. Both refugees, the name of the couple's second venue is derived from the very streets they grew up on in Canberra.

Thao says when people dine at Eddy + Wolff, it's as if they were guests in her own home.

"We want people to feel as if they've had a truly original and special experience," she says.

"When you dine in many parts of Asia, there's often a bench, a chef and an open-plan kitchen – that's it.

"It's intimate and that's what we were ultimately drawn to, dictating the overall fit out of Eddy + Wolff, which was created by Brisbane-based design firm Design Poets.

"We want customers to feel as if they are eating at our own personal dining table.

"That way, we can educate our visitors and share the whole experience with them night after night."

Eddy + Wolff is an accumulation of the tastes and unique flavours that both Thao and Vien grew up enjoying.

The menu is based around small to medium-sized bites and sharing is encouraged. From the incredibly popular baby pho with charred bone marrow and mouth-watering spanner crab and lobster croquettes with Asian herbs

“We want customers to feel as if they are eating at our own personal dining table.”

accompanied with a home-made mam nem dipping sauce, the offering is diverse and wholly honours the region of each dish.

Eddy + Wolff also serves up a tantalising array of rare Japanese whiskeys, lychee cider and new and old-world wines.

Thao says the snack size servings are a true representation of Asian street food.

“We love that you can get a whole variety of tastes and flavours by sampling multiple dishes,” she says.

“Our menu is designed for the adventurous – we always encourage our patrons to try something new.

“Chances are they won’t be disappointed.

“We want our customers to walk away from Eddy + Wolff feeling they have had an authentic experience.

“If our visitors can have a conversation about the amazing food on their drive home, we know we’ve done the right thing.”



Eddy + Wolff is open Wednesday through Sunday and is located at East Quay Shopping Centre, 44 Commerce Drive, Robina. Boardwalk

For bookings

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@eddyandwolff

www.eddyandwolff.com.au

PRENDRE LE TEMPS À PARIS

WORDS Rae Mariner PHOTOS Jodie Mariner

What's not to love about Paris? However, a trip in the quieter month of December not only provides a respite from the harsh Australian summer but also offers an easier passage around the city.



There were many great things about travelling to Europe in December with my sister and mother, but two made it an even more enjoyable trip. One, it's much cooler (in fact down right cold) and second it's far less crowded.

While Paris is one of the most visited cities in the world, it's certainly no ghost town this time of the year. A holiday around New Year allows you to move around much more freely and not endure as many lines to see the boundless historic sites and experience a true slice of Parisian culture.

After a long but comfortable flight with Emirates from Brisbane, our love affair with France started out at a local's level, with a fresh breakfast in a typical apartment in the 17th arrondissement.

Positioning yourself on the outskirts of Paris offers a true glimpse into the simple yet romantic life of everyday Parisians.

It gives you the opportunity to steer clear of the tourist traps and saunter the streets, which are filled with fromageries, boulangeries and the artisan shopfronts that are synonymous with Paris street life.

But of course, a visit to Paris's most spectacular landmarks are a definite for anyone wanting to soak up the magic that emanates from the city of lights.

A visit to the Arc de Triomphe de l'Étoile, one of the most famous monuments at the western end of the Champs-Élysées, honours



those who fought and died for France in the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. It is truly one of the ‘must sees’ of Paris and at 50 metres high, 45 metres long and 22 metres wide, it’s an imposing structure and towering tribute to the country’s past.

Nearby is the Palais Royal, where a seat on a woven stool afforded us the time to watch people go about their daily business while sipping a typical French aperitif, Kir, consisting of white wine with a splash of Crème de Cassis.

Knocking back a few of these was a fantastic way to prepare for the walk to the Musée du Louvre, the world’s largest art museum.

Hosting a collection of over 35,000 world-renowned works spread over a 60,000 sqm, the Louvre holds prides of place on any traveller’s bucket list.

Not far away is the Alice in Wonderland evoking Jardin du Palais Royal, with its boxed hedges, sculptures, tree-lined walkways and flowerbeds – a terrific backdrop to snap plenty of pics for those at home following our journey on Instagram.

December also hosts a range of Christmas Markets in the city and is a fantastic way to start an evening out where you can drink vin chaud (mulled wine), snack on marrons chaud (street roasted chestnuts) and drool over the Tartiflette (just like Mum’s potato bake, only better – sorry Mum).

Paris's endless parks and gardens also provide the catalyst for plenty of walking, and there's none better than the Jardins Tuileries, located between the Louvre and the Place de la Concorde.

Created by Catherine de' Medici as the garden of the Tuileries Palace in 1564, it was eventually opened to the public in 1667 and became a public park after the French Revolution.

Our second day in the city was bookended by a visit to Bastille in the morning, the infamous fortress best known during the French revolution, and a sparkling light show in the evening from the perfect Tour de Eiffel viewing platform, the Palais de Chaillot.

In between, a long walk from the Charles de Gaul Etoile metro to see the pretty lights of the Champs Elysees and a promener through the fashionable Le Marais district provided plenty of points of interest to see.

If you've wondered about the state of the beloved Notre Dame after the fire, it is without a doubt a tragic site to behold.

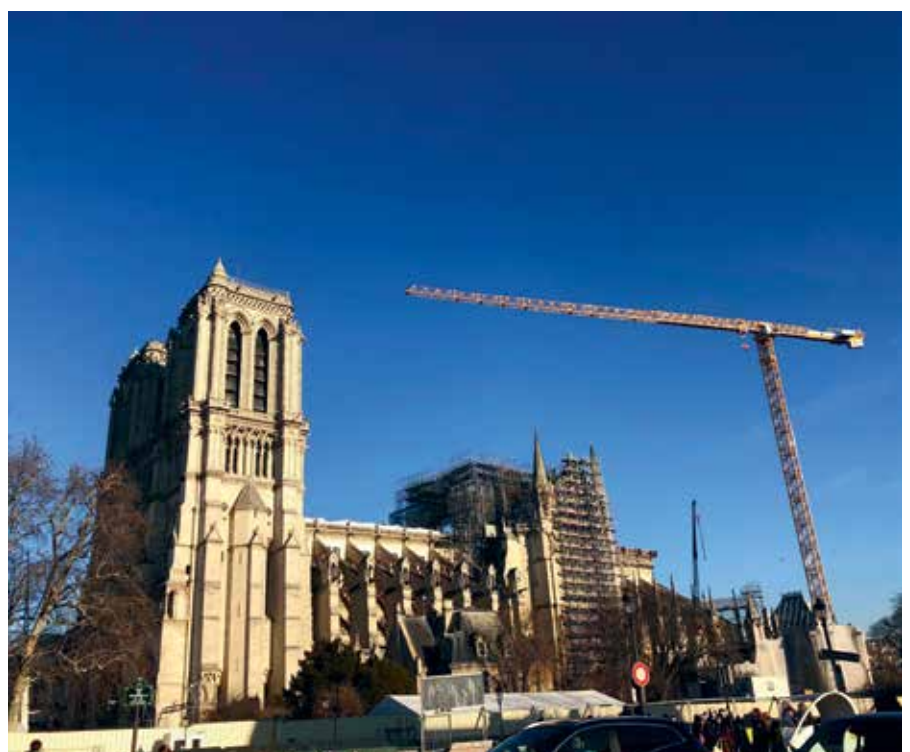
However, plenty of restoration work is underway to rebuild it to its former glory.

The view from the spectacular little Square Rene-Viviani was a highlight of our third day in Paris as was the more Insta moments from the Pont Neuf, the city's oldest bridge and best-known from numerous scenes from well-known movies (think The Bourne Identity and Woody Allen's Midnight in Paris).

The chill and beautiful sunset against the clear wintry sky was enough to coax us into a warm brasserie, close to St-Michel, and inevitably meant more Kir, an excellent fuel for a dance-off with a local busker outside.

Given the many sights, smells and places to visit, it's important you don't feel the need to pack your days with every single tourist haunt. Paris is a contemplative city, so take the time to relax, prends une café, and enjoy it as it passes you by.

New Year's Eve in Paris is decidedly different to the Gold Coast, except for in the Quartier Pigalle, best described as the classy love child of Surfers Paradise and King Cross. It's well worth a visit and is home to the





Moulin Rouge and plenty of other spicy adult entertainment venues.

Dinner rather than the ubiquitous party is another New Year's Eve difference, and what better place to enjoy our last meal of the decade than at Au Cadet de Gascogne. With gorgeous views over Place du Tertre, the hilltop village of Montmartre was once a haven for artists such as Toulouse-Lautrec, Maurice Utrillo, Van Gogh and Picasso.

If you're looking for a daytrip outside of the city as we did, then don't pass up the chance to visit Disneyland Paris (they don't call it Euro Disney anymore).

Despite the tourist cliché, it's loads of fun and its layout is similar to Disneyland Park in California and Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World in Florida. Almost 10 million people

visited the park last year so it's well patronised by both locals and visitors alike.

Apart from Paris's history and incredible avenues of Haussmannian buildings, food is the real highlight of the city from the simple croque monsieur (ham and cheese toastie), soupe d'oignon (onion soup with a big crouton), and beaucoup de fromage (plenty of cheese)!

If you're looking for an exceptional culinary experience (in more ways than one) then make sure you try the Ducasse sur Seine, a floating restaurant housed on the largest electric boat in the world, imagined by naval architect Gérard Ronzatti and resembling a luxurious oblong steel and glass flying saucer set on water.

The venture was created by well-known chef Alain Ducasse who has acquired 21 Michelin

stars in 30 restaurants spread over three continents and includes a perfectly manicured six course meal with views as it floats along the Seine.

Whatever time of the year you decide to see the famous city, the best tip of all is to try and learn a little of the language. The Parisians have an undeserved reputation for being somewhat arrogant but we didn't find that at all.

Whenever we tried our best to communicate in French we received greater respect and far better service, as bad as our attempts were. Most Parisians speak English but they really appreciate when you try, even if you can say at least a few words.

After all, it's best to take the time in Paris and let it leave you spellbound by its unrivalled beauty and storied history.

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MBGC STYLE

AUTUMN COLLECTION



LADIES' WINDCHEATER

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2018 Mercedes-AMG E 63 S Saloon

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Km 2,037. Five-door and five-seat Saloon in Diamond White over black nappa interior. Stock number L13444.

Features Include

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- Panoramic Glass Sunroof
- 4matic +

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Pre-owned vehicles



\$50,000 - \$100,000

2017 Mercedes-Benz V 250d Advantgarde

\$78,880.00 Drive Away



Km 1,533. Five-door and eight-seat configuration v250d Advantgarde Wagon in Obsidion Black over black leather interior. Stock number L13337.

Features Include

- COMAND Online Voice Activation Controls
 - Full Electric Memory Seating with Heating and Cooling
 - LED Intelligent Lighting System
 - Blind Spot Assist
 - DISTRONIC Adaptive Cruise Control
 - 8 Seat Configuration
- Many more features to list.

Mercedes-Benz Certified
Pre-owned vehicles



2018 Mercedes-Benz E 200 Saloon

\$74,900.00 Drive Away



Km 9,425. Four-door and five-seat Saloon in Iridium Silver over black nappa leather interior. Stock number L13168.

Features Include

- Panoramic Glass Sunroof
- Electric Memory Seating with Heating Function
- Heads Up Display
- Burmester Surround System
- Parking Assist
- Sports Edition
- Distronic Plus Cruise Control

Many more features to list.

\$50,000 - \$100,000

Mercedes-Benz Certified
Pre-owned vehicles



2018 Mercedes-Benz A 45 Hatchback

\$68,990.00 Drive Away

\$50,000 - \$100,000



Km 36,533. Five-door and five-seat Hatchback in Designo Mountain Grey magno over black/red cut leather interior. Stock number L13424.

Features Include

- LED headlamps
- Keyless Go
- Panoramic Glass Sunroof
- 19" AMG Cross-Spoke Alloy Wheels in Titanium Grey
- COMAND Online
- Launch Control
- Harman Kardon Logic 7

Many more features to list.

Mercedes-Benz **Certified**
Pre-owned vehicles



2019 Mercedes-Benz GLC 200 Wagon

\$64,900.00 Drive Away



Km 6,755. Five-door and five-seat Wagon in Hyacinth Red with black artico interior. Stock number L 13437.

Features Include

- LED intelligent light system
 - Adaptive Highbeam
 - Panoramic Glass Sunroof
 - Electric Memory Seating
 - Push Stop/Start
 - 360 Degree Reversing Camera
- Many more features to list.

\$50,000 - \$100,000

Mercedes-Benz Certified
Pre-owned vehicles



2015 Mercedes-Benz E 400 Coupe

\$59,990.00 Drive Away

\$50,000 - \$100,000



Km 16,151. Two-door and four-seat Coupe in Polar White over black leather interior. Stock number L 13200.

Features Include

- AMG Exterior & Interior Styling
 - Panoramic Sunroof
 - Active Parking Assist
 - Seat Comfort Package
 - DISTRONIC Plus Cruise Control
 - Blind Spot Assist
- Many more features to list.



2018 Mercedes-Benz C 200 Estate

\$49,990.00 Drive Away



Km 11,685. Five-door and five-seat Estate in Polar White over black artico interior. Stock number L13167.

Features Include

- Full Electric Memory Seating with Heating Function
- Heads Up Display
- Panoramic Glass Sunroof
- Satellite Navigation
- 18 Inch 5-Twin Spoke Alloy Wheels
- Blind Spot Assist
- Attention Assist

Many more features to list.

\$15,000 - \$50,000

Mercedes-Benz **Certified**
Pre-owned vehicles



2019 Mercedes-Benz A 200 Sedan

\$54,900.00 Drive Away

\$50,000 - \$100,000



Km 2,101. Five-door and five-seat Sedan, finished in Jupiter Red over black artico interior, Stock number L13455.

Features Include

- Adaptive Highbeam Assist PLUS
- MULTIBEAM LED headlamps
- Panoramic Glass Sunroof
- Parking package
- Burmester surround sound system
- Head-Up Display
- 360 Degree Reversing Camera

Many more features to list.

Mercedes-Benz Certified
Pre-owned vehicles



2018 Mercedes-Benz A 200 Sedan

\$55,900.00 Drive Away

\$50,000 - \$100,000



Km 2,063. Five-door and five-seat Sedan finished in Mountain grey over black leather interior. Stock number L13409.

Features Include

- Adaptive Highbeam Assist PLUS
 - Panoramic Glass Sunroof
 - LED Headlamps
 - Parking package
 - AMG Exterior
 - Interior Package
- Many more features to list.

Mercedes-Benz **Certified**
Pre-owned vehicles



2019 Mercedes-Benz GLA 180 Final Edition

\$49,900.00 Drive Away



Km 2,078. Five-door and five-seat Wagon finished in Denim Blue over black artico interior. Stock number L13401.

Features Include

- 19 Inch 5 Twin-Spoke Alloy wheels
 - Panoramic glass sunroof
 - Off-Road comfort suspension
 - Keyless Go
 - Ambient lighting
 - Electrically operated park brake
- Many more features to list.

\$15,000 - \$50,000

Mercedes-Benz Certified
Pre-owned vehicles



2016 Mercedes-Benz V 250d Advantgarde

\$46,990.00 Drive Away



Km 149,037. Five-door and eight-seat Configuration Wagon finished in Obsidian Black over black artico interior. Stock number L12857.

Features Include

- DISTRONIC plus cruise control
 - Burmester surround sound system
 - LED Headlamps
 - AVANTGARDE Interior Design Package
 - Reverse Camera
 - 360 Degree
- Many more features to list

\$15,000 - \$50,000

Mercedes-Benz **Certified**
Pre-owned vehicles



2014 Mercedes-Benz A 45 Hatchback

\$43,900.00 Drive Away



Km 47,699. Four-door and five-seat Hatchback finished in Mountain Grey over red cut leather interior, Stock number L13160.

Features Include

- Seat Comfort Package
 - Harmon Kardon Sound
 - Glass Sunroof
 - LED Headlamps
 - Reverse Camera
 - COMAND Navigation
- Many more features to list.

\$15,000 - \$50,000



2017 Mercedes-Benz CLA 200 Coupe

\$42,900.00 Drive Away



Km 57,458. Four-door and five Seat Coupe in Cirrus White over black artico/dinamica microfibre interior. Stock number L13480.

Features Include

- AMG Sport Package
- LED Headlamps
- Reversing Camera
- Seat Comfort Package with Heating Function
- Panoramic Glass Sunroof

Many more features to list.

\$15,000 - \$50,000

Mercedes-Benz **Certified**
Pre-owned vehicles



2014 Mercedes-Benz E 200 Sedan

\$36,590.00 Drive Away



Km 52,350. Four-door and five-seat Sedan in Obsidien Black over black artico interior, Stock number L13215.

Features Include

- Glass Electric Sunroof
 - AMG Sports Package
 - Daytime Running Lights
 - Automatic headlights
 - Analogue clock in centre dash
 - Seat Comfort Package
- Many more features to list.

\$15,000 - \$50,000



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 Resident Chef

EGGPLANT MISO

While the humble eggplant can be divisive, this easily prepared Japanese inspired dish is bound to please.

Eggplant Miso can be served as an accompaniment dish or even the main event at your next dinner party. The dish is suitable for vegetarians and for a vegan option, parmesan can be omitted without sacrificing flavour.

Preparation time: 45 minutes | Serves: 6

INGREDIENTS

3 Medium sized eggplants

300ml Vegetable oil

Den Miso

100ml Sake

100ml Mirin

250g Castor sugar

350g White miso paste

Garnish

¼ Bunch chives, finely chopped

30g Grated parmesan

10g White sesame seeds

METHOD

Den Miso

1. Place the sake and mirin into a pot and place it on the stove on high heat. Bring to a boil then add the sugar. Stir until the sugar has dissolved.
2. Fill half a large pot with water and bring to a boil.
3. Place the white miso paste in a stainless bowl and set on top of the boiling water (essentially making a double boiler).
4. Stir ¼ of the sugar syrup into the miso paste every 15 minutes. Occasionally stir the paste in between adding the syrup making sure the paste does not cook onto the bowl.
5. Once all of the syrup has combined with the paste, continue to cook for a total of 1.5 hours, stirring occasionally.
6. Place into a container in the fridge.

Eggplant

1. Place the oil into a large frying pan on a medium heat.
2. Slice the eggplant in half from top to bottom and place 2 halves at a time flesh side down into the pan to shallow fry.
3. Shallow fry for about 2 minutes until lightly browned, then turn over and cook for one more minute.
4. Place onto a baking tray flesh side up. Repeat the process two more times with the remaining eggplants.
5. Spread a generous layer of the Den Miso over the top of the eggplant, place in the oven under a medium grill for about 3 to 5 minutes until the miso caramelises.
6. Take out of the oven and sprinkle the parmesan, chives and sesame seeds on top.
7. Serve immediately

Chef Tip:

The Den Miso can be made in larger amounts and made in advance if desired. This will last in the refrigerator for a two to three weeks.



FULL CURVES AHEAD

WORDS Sam Stolz PHOTOS Coco and Stone Photography

Beauty is at the very heart of fashion label Ada + Lou's core business model. Placing a strong emphasis on Australian made product and perfectly fitting garments, this dynamic duo has created a highly popular label that has successfully filled the gap in the plus size market.

You wonder where Chantelle Ellem and business partner Rebel Wylie find the time to put such extraordinary effort and love into their fashion label Ada + Lou, which brings stunning, bohemian designs to the plus size market.

The pair are not clothing designers by trade, in fact, they are both talented writers who between their day jobs and the busy challenges of motherhood have managed to infuse their 'passion for fashion' into something truly special and unique.

Launched in September 2019, the label is already a smash hit with consumers. With some of their ranges selling out within a matter of hours, Ada + Lou's designs have been seen on the likes of Instagram influencers and Australian media superstar Chrissy Swan.

Ada + Lou is all about embracing the strong and feminine. And Chantelle and Rebel believe that if you possess a little more to love, you can still look radiant in garments that fit like a dream.

The brand was born from the pair's desire to love the clothes they wear, and they pull no punches when it comes to having their say about the current state of curvy clothing.

"Because we both wear plus size, we have a deep understanding of what fits great and what doesn't, and we saw that the market was definitely underwhelming when it came to finding suitable designs for women of our shape," Chantelle says.

"Rebel and I have been friends for a long time and we both expressed our desire to create something that we would want to wear, each and every day.

"Ultimately, plus size bodies are harder to dress than standard sized bodies so it was really important to us to have a producer and manufacturer that understood the consumer's body type."

The result is a product that has Ada + Lou's customers caught up in a buying frenzy, because like Chantelle and Rebel, they too want to feel fantastic in the clothes they live in.

It was a few years before Ada + Lou went from concept to creation, in part because of Chantelle and Rebel's stringent guidelines when it came to ethical production.

The pair scoured the globe for a manufacturer that would have a firm understanding of the brand ethos, and after a few reconnaissance trips to Indonesia, they realised the answer was closer to home than they thought.

Rebel says having an ethical production model was a non-negotiable from the get-go.

"We weren't interested in keeping our costs low if it was a faceless factory worker somewhere who was truly paying the price. Nor were we willing to let mother earth foot the bill," she says.

"We travelled abroad and found there was a certain mystery about who exactly would be doing the work.

"Ultimately, we were made a lot of promises, but those promises were not backed up with evidence. We wanted to meet the workers, talk to them, ask them questions.



“Producing here in Australia has been our answer that problem for now. We met everyone, from the cutting table to the quality control. We know names, faces and stories.

“Our products are made using the couture method of one person, one garment. This means the same person who cut the fabric is the same person who works on the product all the way through until the tags are attached.

“It’s this love and care we hope our customers can feel when they wear our brand.”

Chantelle believes that by employing a manufacturer in Australia, production could be tightly monitored and controlled, ultimately allowing for a superior fit.

“More often than not you’ll buy something from a plus size brand online, made in some far-flung corner of the world and when the item arrives it will have a boxy fit or lacks the correct dimensions,” she says.

“To remedy that, we’ve made sure that our designs really take the whole body into consideration for a flawless fit.

“It’s so heartbreaking as a plus size person to buy something that doesn’t fit great, because you’re already so isolated in the clothing industry.

“We want to challenge that notion so women can own clothing that makes them feel really good, inside and out.


“What we’ve created is a versatile solution to the plus size problem and we can sleep easy at night knowing everything is done 100 per cent ethically.

“Not to mention each gorgeous bohemian design we create always has the curvy goddess at the forefront of our minds.

“When you’re so passionate about something, regardless of hectic work schedules, you’ll make it work.”

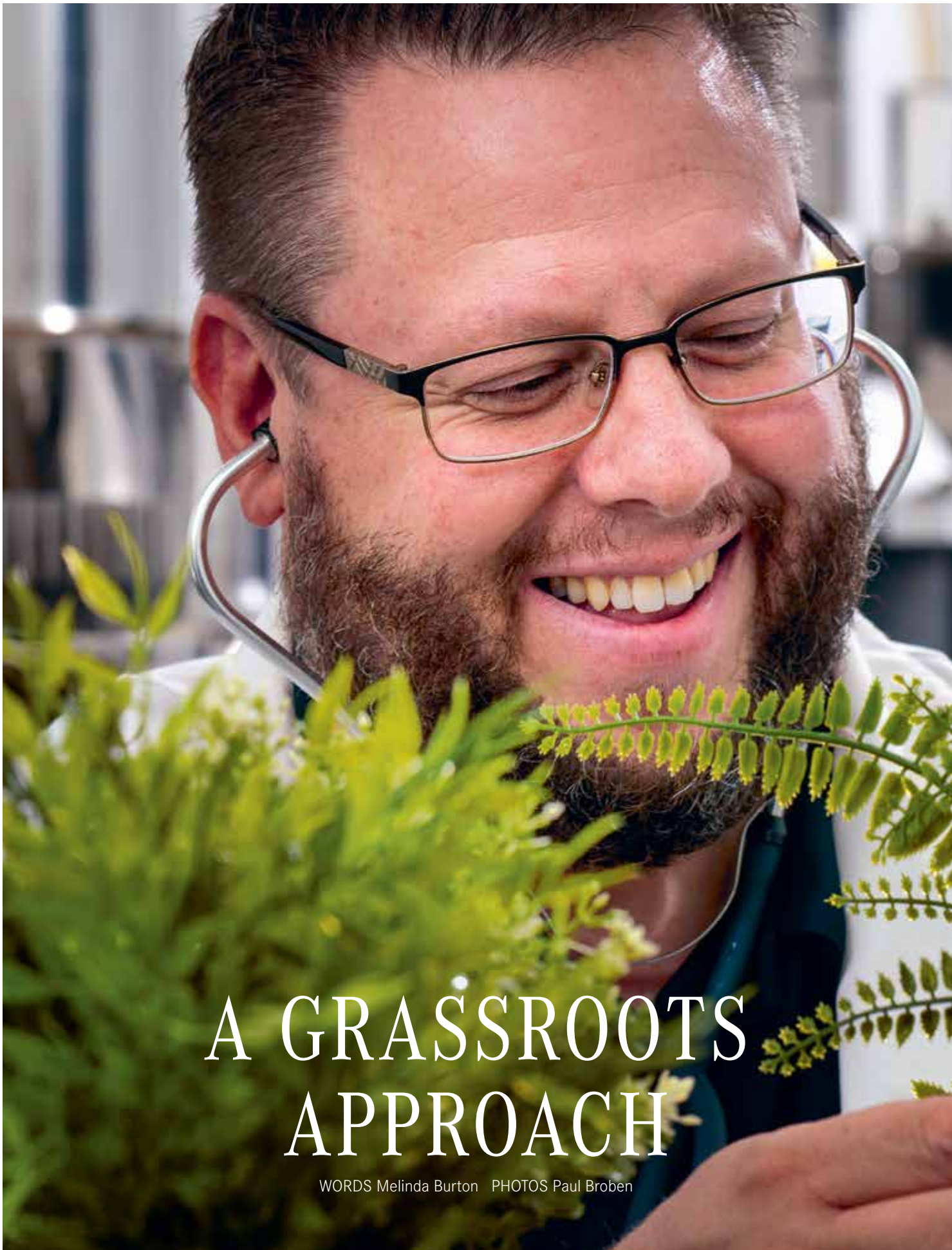
Ada + Lou has a big year ahead for 2020, with a whole array of beautiful designs poised to hit the market. The duo plan to release something new every month and hope to take their already dedicated fanbase to even greater heights.

It’s safe to say these fashionistas know how to honour the women with a little extra and that an incredible amount of love goes into every garment they create.

  @adaandlou

www.adaandlou.com.au





A GRASSROOTS APPROACH

WORDS Melinda Burton PHOTOS Paul Broben



Family owned business Plant Doctor has unearthed the catalyst for growth after successfully tapping into the thriving organic fertiliser and natural supplement markets

There are visions of an Australian summer; backyard cricket, outdoor barbeques and running under the spray of sprinklers, and they're all intrinsically played out on a patch of lush green grass.

If there's one thing Aussies marvel at, it's an emerald green lawn. Few understand this better than Adam Fitzhenry, whose business has grown with the phenomenon of Australian lawn pride.

The company's growth matches the effect their products have on plants, thanks to organics and a grassroots approach – all deeply rooted beneath a tried and tested philosophy.

Backed by one of Australia's largest online lawn communities, the Australian Lawn Fanatics Facebook group (#AUSLF), Plant Doctor is quickly becoming the golden garden alternative to the "big green shed".

"What customers really enjoy about our products is that they are specifically designed to suit Australian conditions and our typically poor soils," Adam says.

Adam's late father, Daniel Fitzhenry, created the blueprint for Plant Doctor and dedicated his life to developing a unique range of products.

A chemical overspray in 1985 gave Daniel, a well-known horticulturalist and bonsai curator, the motivation to formulate a range of products that provided plants with a natural and effective means to flourish and grow.

"My goal for Plant Doctor is to grow the business into a profitable and sustainable entity to provide for my family and continue the legacy of my father," he says.

"At the end of the day, the heart and soul of the business is representative of keeping my old man's dream alive."

Plant Doctor casts a wide net by selling products across the plant, animal and human health markets, three sectors that according to Adam, are deeply interconnected and rapidly growing.

"The demand for organic alternatives has experienced incredible growth in the past few years and our products are ideal for this market," he says.

“We get that consumers are starting to lean towards more environmentally friendly options and tailor our range accordingly.

“All our products are based on organic inputs and with a select few, we add a minimal amount of chemicals.

“This offers people who habitually purchase chemical fertilisers an alternative competitive product that produces better results.”

Plant Doctor is on the money, with Transparency Market Research predicting the global organic fertiliser industry will grow by 7.6 per cent per annum to reach a value of US\$6.4 billion by 2025.

While the lawn and garden market cuts the largest slice of Plant Doctor’s pie, the natural health supplement market isn’t far behind.

In the space of a year, the company has moved over 100 tonnes of Fossil Shell Flour, a fine silica-rich powder of which Plant Doctor is the exclusive Australian importer.

Sourced from an American high-quality freshwater deposit, Fossil Shell Flour has been incredibly popular among commercial resellers and health conscious consumers.

“Our health supplement range is full of familiar and foreign superfoods that cater to both people and animals, which are two markets that have shown tremendous potential,” he says.

“Consumers are increasingly concerned that the mass-produced foods they eat have a negative effect on health and are seeking alternatives.”

The global natural health supplements industry, for example, is expected to increase by eight per cent each year to be worth US\$ 68 billion by 2024, according to Persistence Market Research.

“We’re keeping abreast with these market trends with an offering of popular and emerging supplements and we’re manufacturing and making these available and easy-to-use,” he says.

In fact, Plant Doctor’s health division has gained so much traction that the company has invested in new machinery and established a



“It’s safe to say the seed has been planted and I truly look forward to continuing his legacy”

second manufacturing base in Alstonville, New South Wales.

“We’ve experienced significant growth, so we decided to separate the fertiliser manufacturing component from the food production and retail finished-goods side of the business,” he says.

“We’ve really ramped up our manufacturing and packaging capabilities and we’re now able to manufacture capsules, which has been particularly popular, especially with the Fossil Shell Flour.”

Looking to the future, Plant Doctor will soon be able to offer small businesses manufacturing and packaging services as well as white labelled goods from their existing product range.

“For many years my father developed fertilisers and identified organic, natural products that make vital nutrients available in our soils and are beneficial for the diets of animals and humans,” he says.

“It’s safe to say the seed has been planted and I truly look forward to continuing his legacy.”



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PURPLE HAZE

WORDS Sam Stolz PHOTOS Husk Distillers

With a unique approach, some in-depth experimentation and the cosmic addition of an exotic purple flower, Ink Gin has slipped onto the booze scene and is here to stay.





It's hard to scroll through Instagram these days without witnessing the beautiful sight of Ink Gin.

Psychedelic hues of purple, pink and blue dominate the newsfeeds of countless influencers, bar-hoppers and those of the trendy ilk who have their finger on the pulse when it comes to a good drop.

We used to associate gin with the depressed writers of the twentieth century. F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway and Raymond Chandler reportedly couldn't go without the stuff.

But the humble gin has come a long way, and no-one is exemplifying its renaissance as strongly as Husk Distillers' mastermind Paul Messenger, who has flipped the conventions of gin distilling on its head.

Established in 2012, Husk Distillers is located in sleepy northern New South Wales hamlet Tumbulgum and has been making waves on the spirit scene ever since.

The current Australian gin scene is a far cry from the London Dry you'd find tucked in a deep, dark corner of your grandmother's credenza. This is partly in thanks to Husk located in Tumbulgum, northern New South Wales, who have led the charge with Ink Gin's floral forward bouquet and rich amalgamation of botanicals.

By the way Ink Gin looks in the bottle, one would envisage Paul Messenger propped over a work bench like some mad scientist on a search to find the right pH balance and perfect mix of ingredients.

In fact, he's just a down to earth bloke with the knowledge, experience and good sense to have found a gap in the market for such a unique product.

With a six to seven-month time lapse in the year when production slows for Husk's award-winning Agricole Rum, Paul wanted to create a spirit for the summer period that stood out from the distillery's already growing output.

The concept for Ink Gin formed in 2012, years ahead of the craft gin boom in Australia.

With some creative ideas and a zest to try something new, Paul looked for inspiration abroad, where left of centre gins were starting to take pride of place on bartender's shelves.

"We wanted to create our version of the modern Australian gin, and this meant it ultimately had to have unique characteristics," Paul says.

"The team and I felt the current gin market both in Australia and abroad was crowded with the same old stuff and decided we wanted to shake up the idea of what a gin should offer.

"It was our goal to not only create a product that would stand out, but actually taste good and have longevity for consumers."

Made from a striking array of 13 organic botanicals, including traditional Australian natives, Ink Gin primarily harnesses the use of juniper berries, which are often the main botanical component of true gins.

However, Paul says the defining character of Ink Gin stems from the use of second-tier botanicals.

"We are fortunate to have access to some of the best locally sourced ingredients from agriculturally rich parts of the region, including lemon myrtle, coriander seed, Tasmanian pepperberry and sundried sweet orange peel," he says.

"It is these unique additions that give Ink Gin its fresh piney, spicy and citrus-led aroma and flavour.

"The third group of minor botanicals include elderflower, cinnamon, cardamom, angelica root, orris root, liquorice root and lemon peel.

"Just like a chef would add a pinch of salt to his dish, these minor ingredients are critical to the end result, adding perfume, body and balance."



But it's safe to say that the hero ingredient that gives Ink Gin its showstopping colour is the butterfly pea flower.

This alluring purple flower is a native from equatorial Asia, but is now grown in Africa, the United States and Australia.

It is the final ingredient in Ink Gin's distilling process and may have helped a little bit with the spirit's wow factor and popularity.

The specially prepared petals of the butterfly pea flower are steeped in the still for 24 hours, creating the stunning purple-blue haze that the gin has become known for.

Paul says the way Ink Gin changes colours when a mixer is added comes down to simple science.

"Butterfly pea flowers are highly sensitive to pH. When the floral-infused Ink Gin is mixed with something of low pH – tonic water, lime or lemon for example, the colour changes drastically from what's in the bottle to blush pink," he says.

"It's not magic, just an easy trick any high-school chemistry student would know."

For such a simple reveal, Ink Gin certainly has its followers.



“ We wanted to create our version of the modern Australian gin and this meant it ultimately had to have unique characteristics. ”

MISTY MOUNTAIN VALLEY

WORDS Sam Stolz PHOTOS Various

Nestled in the sprawling basin of the Tweed volcanic caldera and within the shadow of Mount Warning sits Murwillumbah, once a quaint and breezy hippie hideaway – now home to a vibrant cultural, retail and dining scene.

Murwillumbah serves as the gateway to the picturesque Northern New South Wales region and is often the first stop on a tourist drive from the Gold Coast, offering a great spot not too far from home to truly escape the urban grind.

The town is divided by the bustling main street, which is home to several artisan retailers, antique shops, delicious local eateries and boasts an impressive array of both original art deco and heritage listed buildings.

There's no shortage of things to do in Murwillumbah, whether it be traipsing through the wonderful local art galleries, having a bite to eat at one of the town's many restaurants or picking up some goods from one of the various craft and fresh food markets.

To experience this northern NSW township's unrivalled beauty, we hopped in a Mercedes-Benz and took the scenic route to further explore this border gem. At just over 45 minutes from our dealership in Robina, we figured a day trip was most definitely in order.

PLACES TO EAT AND DRINK

Husk Distillers

Although technically located in neighbouring Tumbulgum, Husk Distillers is a must-visit for any Murwillumbah day-tripper.

Home to some of the region's most popular tipples, including Husk's Agricole Rum, made using the local sugar cane and the most 'Instagrammed' drink of 2019 - Ink Gin, visitors who love a good drop won't be disappointed.

Husk offers distillery tours, where you can see firsthand how these gorgeous drinks are crafted. There is also a cellar door for tastings, cocktail bar and a full service restaurant - embracing the 'paddock to plate' ethos that has put the Northern NSW dining scene front and centre in recent years.

There's an abundance of seating between the bar and the restaurant, including a stunning grassed area complete with lawn games, picnic rugs, umbrellas and perfect sunset views across the farmland.

Ben's Patisserie

Smack-bang on Murwillumbah's main drag is Ben's Patisserie, a hole-in-the-wall haven for freshly baked treats and goods.

The mouthwatering and handmade flaky pastries are crafted lovingly by French Pâtissier extraordinaire Ben Leonardi, who runs the business with his wife Stephanie.

Whether it be freshly baked pastries, macarons, eclairs, baguettes, biscuits or pillowy croissants you're after, Ben's is a must for a truly Parisian experience.

Keith's

It's no secret that Keith's makes a good coffee. In fact, this funky Murwillumbah establishment is one of the top local haunts for bean enthusiasts.

The venue also opens for the night owls and serves up a dazzling array of retro cocktails and gourmet eats.

Keith's may also be one of the only places you can drink a world-class flat white while getting your haircut. The shop doubles as a trendy barber - so be sure to keep the lid on your brew!

The Balcony

The Balcony is Murwillumbah's answer to modern Australian dining at a great price. The menu is a tasty and diverse offering, abundant with locally sourced ingredients.

It's a lovely spot to pull up a chair on the deck and enjoy a quality meal with stunning views to match.

PLACES TO SHOP

Little Wing Antiques

Little Wing Antiques is a treasure trove of beautiful one-off furniture items and objects. If you're looking for the next addition to your home, the large showroom contains a wide range of handpicked pieces from Australia and Europe.

Little Wing has no shortage on styles, spanning the 1700's to Mid-Century and showcases a solid collection of fine antiques, rustic farmhouse furniture and vintage industrial and architectural pieces.

Keith's shop of really, really good things

If you've already made a pit-stop at Keith's, dynamic duo Matthew Taylor and Katie Brown's second offering in Murwillumbah is a place to pick up some of the couple's famed goods used at the namesake eatery.

Keith's shop of really, really good things does just that – offering gourmet deli items, freshbreads and goodies for the fridge including homemade pickles, sauerkraut, kimchi and preserves, plus beautiful items for the home including locally made ceramics, coffee table books, coffeewares and cute knick-knacks.

Kuipers & Co

If you've ever drooled over the sumptuous stylings in the hit television series *Mad Men*, then Kuipers & Co is your one-stop-shop for all things mid-century. Offering an incredible array of lovingly restored and original vintage furniture, you won't go home empty handed.



THINGS TO DO

Tweed Regional Gallery and Margaret Olley Art Centre

For passionate art enthusiasts willing to get lost for a few hours, the Tweed Regional Gallery and Margaret Olley Art Centre is home to one of Australia's best collections of fine art.

The \$4 million Margaret Olley Art Centre, which opened in 2014, is a sight to behold – including some of the famed Australian painter's best work with thousands of objects from her personal studio.

Makers & Finders Market

Murwillumbah's Makers & Finders is held on the third Saturday of every month and includes an array of goods from local collectors, makers, growers, artists and designers.

The market is located in Knox Park and shares the indoor converted industrial space of the M/Arts Precinct across the street. Makers & Finders is a terrific local community event and is certain to include something for the whole family.





The Murwillumbah Show

Held annually in November, the Murwillumbah Show is a family-friendly agricultural festival that has ran each year since 1951.

Located just outside town at the Murwillumbah Showgrounds, the popular community festival hosts a rodeo event, horse-riding activities and shows, farm animals, food trucks and is topped off with a phenomenal fireworks display.

PROPERTY

Home to just over 7,000 people, Murwillumbah, meaning ‘place of many possums’, is propped up along the majestic Tweed River and is surrounded by the stark beauty of its sugar cane fields, which are processed at the nearby Condong Sugar Mill.

Murwillumbah sits on the south eastern foothills of the McPherson Range and its low elevation gives way to uninterrupted postcard-perfect views to Mount Warning and beyond.

Neighbouring Tumbulgum, once a bustling river port, was initially the main settlement for loggers in the 1840’s. In 1902, Murwillumbah was claimed as the main business centre for local residents and is home to some of Australia’s last remnants of original Art Deco architecture.



MURWILLUMBAH DEMOGRAPHICS

- Population: 7,032
- Private dwellings: 3,043
- Median age: 45 years
- Median household income: \$957
- Families: 1,796
- Median house price: \$500,000
- Median unit price: \$395,000

DAD, ME AND THE X-CLASS 250D

WORDS AND PHOTOS Dylan Aspin

10 year old car enthusiast Dylan Aspin was given the birthday present of his dreams by his Dad, scoring the golden opportunity to spend a weekend in the passenger seat of the Mercedes-Benz X-Class.



DAD PROMISED ME A SPECIAL SURPRISE FOR MY BIRTHDAY. BEING A CAR FANATIC, I WAS SECRETLY HOPING THAT IT MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH MERCEDES-BENZ, MY FAVOURITE CAR COMPANY.

Dad does some work for Mercedes-Benz Gold Coast and it turns out he had organised an exclusive visit to the showroom to check out some of the cars I love the most, talk about a dream come true!

My car fascination began as far back as I can remember, from playing with toy cars to spending hours on YouTube studying car reviews (which drives my parents crazy).

I also patiently wait for my Granny's stash of the weekend papers, where I can snatch the Drive Magazine from the pages of The Sydney Morning Herald.

Dad says I've got expensive taste, but really it's Mercedes-Benz's fault for making their cars look so cool.

I say I've got good taste and one day I hope to own my very own Mercedes-Benz, perhaps more than one!

Upon walking into the showroom for the first time, I was completely blown away by the range of amazing cars on display. It was

truly car heaven, rows upon rows of cars just waiting to be driven.

The friendly salesman John put me in the drivers seat of a Mercedes-AMG GT 4-Door Coupé, the GT 63 S.

He then started it up and let ME rev it, right in the middle of the showroom!

The engine roared and I could see people staring. They seemed concerned, afraid and worried I might just drive right out of the showroom.

After checking out a G-Class, S-Class, an E-Class, the A, the C and the new B, plus a bunch of others, Dad said we better get going and that was when John came back with some keys.

I said, "what's going on?"

Dad said there was a part two to my birthday adventure. They were letting us test drive an X-Class for the entire weekend. Mind officially blown.

I couldn't believe it. Sure, I would have preferred a sports car, who wouldn't? But

we were testing the top of the range, X250d Power with 18-inch alloy wheels, LED headlights, keyless entry and ignition, a 7-inch infotainment screen, navigation and the thing that I loved most, the surround-view parking camera. I get very excited about all the tech stuff.

What Dad said he loved most was the ride. He said it purred like a tiger cub and soared like an eagle. He gets all mushy and poetic at times.

I say it roared like a lion and soared like a jet plane. It definitely had more power than Dad let on.

I've never heard a tiger cub purr, but I do get what he means. It did sound great and it hugged the curves as we drove and really glided over the road with ease.

I thought the X-Class felt rugged yet smooth, safe and comfortable all at the same time.

I truly had a blast and I can't wait for my next birthday, in which I hope to test out some more cars.

Thanks to my Dad for helping me write my first car review and thanks to Mercedes-Benz Gold Coast for the awesome birthday treat!





MERCEDES-BENZ YOUNG-GUN WINS ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Steve Jones was recently awarded the 2019 Rookie of the Year at the latest Mercedes-Benz Retailer of the Year Awards in Melbourne.

The talented Sales Consultant, who was recently promoted to Assistant Sales Manager at Mercedes-Benz Gold Coast, took out the top gong for most amount of sales in his category.

Steve has won an all-expenses paid working holiday to Silicon Valley, San Francisco as a result of his tireless efforts.

Robin Mainali, Dealer Principal Mercedes-Benz Gold Coast, says he is thrilled over Steve's win.

"We congratulate Steve on winning this fantastic accolade and are proud of his ongoing commitment to delivering outstanding service and customer relations at Mercedes-Benz Gold Coast," he says.

"It goes to show that Mercedes-Benz Gold Coast has one of the strongest teams in the country and it's amazing to see our hardworking sales staff recognised.

"Well done Steve, keep up the good work and we can't wait to see what 2020 has in store for you."

KICKING GOALS WITH MAGIC GROUP



Mercedes-Benz Gold Coast has shown thier support for the local community after announcing a sponsorship collaboration with elite football club Magic United, forming part of The Magic Group.

The one-year partnership deal will see Mercedes-Benz Gold Coast providing a dual branded Mercedes-Benz GLC wagon to the club.

Mercedes-Benz Gold Coast Dealer Principal Robin Mainali says the partnership highlights the ongoing commitment to supporting local groups, organisations and businesses across the region.

"At Mercedes-Benz Gold Coast, we truly believe our success is defined by the community we belong to," he says.

"We see this partnership as a very effective brand alignment, especially because many of our clients have children who are part of the Magic Group.

"We couldn't be more excited to support the growth of the Gold Coast's next generation of sporting superstars."

Magic Group CEO Adem Poric says the sponsorship collaboration is an ideal opportunity to develop community awareness and engagement.

"It's wonderful to know we've got an excellent sponsor on board for the year ahead and in particular, the Mercedes-Benz Gold Coast brand, which embodies our club's professional and family-friendly ethos and aspiration for greatness," he says.

"I'm willing to bet that many of the families who drive a Mercedes-Benz will be out and about doing the soccer run soon enough and will recognise both names.

"We're thrilled to partner with Mercedes-Benz Gold Coast and this support will help us achieve our goals for 2020."



A glimpse into Mercedes-Benz marketing of yesteryear, an era of long copy, masterful commercial artistry and press advertising with panache. Curated by the team at *MBGC*.

Schönheit, literally meaning beauty in German, was the modern day equivalent of a headline for this 1926 Mercedes-Benz advertisement created by artist Edward Cucuel (a.k.a. Edward Offelsmeyer).

It was a deliberate style promoted by the car manufacturer who wanted to show that women could self-confidently conquer the automobile and illustrated this by using them as early motifs for automotive publicity.

According to Karl Benz's biography he recalled with great pleasure that among the first buyers was a woman teacher.

"She came from faraway Hungary to see the Mannheim miracle with her own eyes," he said.

"She was very enthusiastic, but unfortunately her financial strength was not proportionate to her enthusiasm.

"But an enthusiastic woman is never short of options, she managed to convince a colleague to share her enthusiasm, and he too sacrificed his savings for the car."

Cucuel's style suited the look Mercedes-Benz were looking for.

The American-born artist was the son of a German newspaper publisher and was a prodigious illustrator, working at The Examiner newspaper in San Francisco when he was just 17 before he moved to Paris where he entered the Academie Julian and the Academie Colarossi, later studying under Gerome at L'Ecole des Beaux Arts.

After traveling through Europe to study the old masters, he settled in Germany in 1899 and worked as an illustrator in Leipzig and Berlin for several papers and books as well as other publications all over Europe, including the Illustrated London News.

His painting style, heavily influenced by the early German Expressionists, was further enhanced by his association with artist Leo Putz, where he spent five summers living by the Chiemsee Lake in Bavaria where they painted nudes 'en plein air', which set the tone for his later work.

Cucuel created a number of illustrations for Mercedes-Benz that were used in posters and advertising materials including the Frau in Rot (Woman in Red), depicting a woman racing driver and revered as one of the most striking advertising motifs of the 1920s.



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