

**DRIVER**

The revolutionary second act of surf icon Nev Hyman's brilliant career

**TOUR**

MBGC checks in to Halcyon House, Cabarita Beach's much-buzzed new hideaway

**CONCEPT**

Gold Coast visual artist John Cox celebrates the 20th anniversary of his Oscar win

# MB

THE MERCEDES-BENZ  
GOLD COAST MAGAZINE

# GC



SUMMER 2015

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# WELCOME



**W**elcome to the Summer 2016 edition of MBGC – the Mercedes-Benz Gold Coast Magazine.

You may have noticed a new addition to the cover – laurels marking MBGC's win in the Best Magazine category of the Gold Coast Media Awards.

We're so proud of this publication and how it's been taken to heart by our community, so to have our work formally recognised for its high standard of journalism and design is extremely gratifying.

I have for years wanted to publish a magazine that carries the Mercedes-Benz brand and speaks directly to owners and their interests.

Last year we were a Gold Coast Media Awards finalist for Best Magazine and were also nominated this year nominated for Best Magazine Feature for our cover story on Robyn Archer.

No doubt MBGC will continue to gather recognition and readers as the magazine's reputation grows.

And speaking of winners, in this edition we speak exclusively with the Gold Coast's only Academy Award-winner, John Cox, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of his Visual Effects Oscar win for *Babe*.

On our summer cover is surf industry legend Nev Hyman, who reveals in DRIVER his incredible journey into recycling and housing innovation, where he's poised to potentially change the lives of millions.

For TOUR, we visit the stunning Halcyon House at Cabarita Beach, arguably the most 'buzzed' hospitality property in the country, for a relaxing weekend getaway.

We also continue our CATALOGUE insert with details of the finest range of Mercedes-Benz Approved Pre-Owned vehicles.

And of course we have the best in business advice through HIGHNETT, gorgeous fashion in LABEL and social pics from our events in OPERATIONS.

Meanwhile at the dealership there's excitement around the launch of the new GLE and GLE Coupé – two incredibly successful new models for the 21st century.

Please enjoy our fifth edition of MBGC and share it with your friends, and if you'd like to view the current range of Mercedes-Benz autos please call into our showroom in Robina or boutique at Sanctuary Cove.

Robin Mainali

Dealer Principal

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# NEV(ille) AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA

How Gold Coast surf legend Nev Hyman's passion for conservation sparked an affordable housing revolution

WRITER Sam Cleveland   PHOTOGRAPHY Lincoln Williams







It's morning at Burleigh Heads and some respectable sets are rolling in around the point; surf industry icon Nev Hyman is looking skeptical, his foot unwilling to come off the brake.

He's about to roll the new GLA 250 SUV onto the sand to shoot the MBGC cover photo, a composition inspired by the poster art for seminal documentary *The Endless Summer*, a surf culture touchstone that turns 50 this year.

The car's push-button AWD mode is engaged, but Hyman – an offroader with, understandably, loads of beach-driving experience – is not convinced.

"I owned one of the first Suzuki 4WDs delivered in Australia and drove it all around southwest WA [Western Australia] chasing waves," he says.

His second car was a Jeep CJ5, which he bashed across the Nullarbor in 1977 en route to the Gold Coast, his adoptive home ever since.

"But this soft sand at Burleigh," he winces, "this beautiful little car is going to bury itself out there."

We take the plunge and drive off the carpark concrete. The GLA 250 confidently grips the sand and Hyman, now grinning, carves a joyrider's line towards the shore.

"That's amazing, I never would have picked that," he says, twisting the wheel left and right with satisfaction.

Hyman – whose companies Nev Future Shapes and Firewire Surfboards literally changed the way surfboards are made worldwide – is back in the news at the head of a bold new enterprise called Nev House.

The company recycles plastic waste to create durable, affordable flatpack housing, ideal for developing nations or disaster relief (they're erected or dismantled in five days).

ABOVE: Crystal cylinder: Hyman getting barreled at Burleigh Heads in 2013: "Shaping is instinctive ... it's about how the board feels under your feet and how it performs when you drive through a turn" (photo credit: Sean Scott)

LEFT: Dune hoon '77: Hyman launching his Jeep CJ5 on a Broadbeach Waters lot behind the (then-vacant) Pacific Fair site: "They were just starting to pump the canals so there was a lot of white sand around – I couldn't resist"





**BELOW:** Cross-sections of Nev House recycled construction materials. Note the flecks of coloured electronic cable sheathing in the compound.



To Australian sensibilities, the Nev House looks like a groovy beach cabin, but to the poor of the developing world, the innovative structures represent dignity, hygiene and protection from the elements.

They're modular too – meaning everything from homes to community halls can be assembled from the same components.

And the ball is well and truly rolling, with the first Nev Houses built in Vanuatu and advanced negotiations underway with other key territories.

“Diverting waste from landfill, off the streets and out of rivers and turning it into houses for the poor is a very compelling story that’s captured imaginations,” says Hyman.

Nev House is a remarkable second act in a career that spans surfing’s growth from cultish pastime to a multi-billion dollar global concern.

Hyman, one of history’s most influential surfboard shapers, doggedly championed computer-aided design and manufacture of surfboards until an entire industry fell in line behind him.

Now he’s turned that singular vision towards recycling and housing innovation.

“I’m old enough now not to care what I say, so ‘yes’, I am a visionary,” he laughs, “I wouldn’t have said that years ago.

“I always have my radar on, but I’m useless with detail, I have a much bigger feel of things, I see an industry and how it can improve.”

**H**yman’s venture into sustainable housing solutions began when he invested in a French company that had cracked a process to simultaneously recycle the seven ‘codes’ of plastic – hard drink bottles are one, plastic bags another – into a wood-replacement material.

“It felt very right,” he says. “I was sick of seeing the oceans destroyed by plastics.”

Despite the game-changing tech, marketing the resulting ‘unsexy’ products – bollards, pallets and outdoor decking – proved tough.

Hyman was later surfing in Bali when an associate showed him plans for an affordable housing project under consideration by the Indonesian government.

Staring at the blueprints, the mind that revolutionised global surfboard production started ticking. In place of boring bollards,





I was sick  
of seeing  
the oceans  
destroyed  
by plastics

Hyman saw roofing and wall elements rolling off his recycling line to house the underprivileged.

“I straight away said ‘I can build that,’” he says. “Now, at the time I didn’t know that I could, but that moment is reflective of my personality – I tend to see the vision before the reality and never give up making it happen.”

He scanned the sustainable housing sector to ID potential competitors and allies, only to find himself alone in a niche.

“This whole idea – affordable homes out of recycled waste – I thought everybody must be doing it and maybe I can get on a bandwagon somewhere, but there was nothing.”

Energised, Hyman in 2012 recruited architect and HASSELL principal Ken McBryde, an expert in modular and indigenous housing (a surfer too!), to design the Nev House.

The resulting structures are imbued with sensitivity to specific cultural needs and certified to withstand a Category 5 cyclone. They stimulate community and save lives.

The recycling process was also refined at both ends – allowing more waste categories into the supply chain and improving the final product.

“We can now recycle agricultural, commercial and e-waste into the houses – which before had all been doomed to landfill,” says Hyman.

“I want to build the next Nev House 90% from plastic waste – which will reduce the price dramatically – and we’re evolving our design towards that goal for 2016.”

**N**ev House was in negotiations with several Asian and Pacific governments when, in March 2015, Cyclone Pam struck Vanuatu, decimating housing and infrastructure.

Within days, the Nev House team was on the ground and speaking with government about making Nev House structures part of recovery plans.

“We shifted focus to Vanuatu straight away,” says Hyman, “the need was there.”

The Prime Minister challenged the company to prove their claims. In response, they airfreighted components in from around the world and had a Nev House classroom built in Port Vila just five days later.

Nev House are now contracted to this year deliver almost 1,500 classrooms and community halls throughout the country,

with each to serve double duty as a cyclone safehouse, and rebuild villages on the hardest-hit islands of Tanna and Mataso.

“We’re delivering 15 structures right now – they’re shipped in like an IKEA pack – and they’ll all be built in about two or three weeks, connected to their own solar power, sanitation and desalinated water,” says Hyman.

“And they take about the same time to dismantle; they’re seismically rated, but there’s no concrete slab so they leave no footprint.”

Funded by the World Bank and Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the nationwide rollout will later include Nev House eco-resorts owned by local villages to stimulate tourism and employment.

An order for a further 40,000 Nev Houses on Vanuatu – to serve as homes, schools and clinics – has also been mandated by the government.

With the Vanuatu breakthrough stirring interest, Nev House is closing in on deals to rejuvenate the slums of Tacloban in the Philippines, a city wiped out by 2013’s Typhoon Haiyan, and build in Papua New Guinea, Mexico and Fiji.



Hyman and locals on the island of Mataso in Vanuatu, where rudimentary shelters have been built after Cyclone Pam wiped out the village.



“We’ve always known that from the point when we deliver the first homes, global interest in Nev House would grow exponentially,” says Hyman.

Late last year, 11x world champion surfer Kelly Slater acquired a controlling interest in Hyman’s Gold Coast-founded Firewire Surfboards, allowing Hyman to focus his considerable energy on Nev House.

His innovations at Firewire, the fastest-growing surf brand in history, include producing the most environmentally friendly surfboard on the planet and developing a custom manufacturing process that eliminates toxic chemicals and materials.

“To have history’s best surfer – hands down – recognise what we were doing at Firewire and want to own our company, well, that is my proudest achievement in surfing,” declares Hyman.

Hyman classifies Nev House as a ‘philanthrocapitalist’ venture, a profitable enterprise with social action and charitable giving bound within the company’s charter.

They walk the walk by sending 25% of profits straight to the Nev House Foundation charity.

“Usually companies that make a profit put that money into shareholders or owners’ pockets, and maybe those owners then give something to charity,” he explains.

“The idea with Nev House as a company is instead to just give it [money] away as we make it.”

A key plank of the benevolent Nev House strategy is the delivery of factories to client

territories to produce even more Nev House structures for that country, and later for export.

“Anywhere we build a factory, the first priority is solving the affordable housing problem locally, then they can export,” says Hyman.

The company is close to a deal with Mexico’s Puebla City (amid a region struggling to meet housing needs), as well as Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu.

The ingenious plan commodifies local ‘post-consumer waste’ (Hyman’s preferred term for household rubbish), as plastics and other recyclables go in one factory door and Nev House components come out the other.

“We provide jobs, promote export and absorb waste – the government collect the waste to feed the factory and house their own people,” says Hyman.

We arrive at the northern Gold Coast property where two display Nev Houses have been built and jump out of the GLA 250.

Hyman gets an idea, snaps a pic of the car on his phone and sends it to his wife Debbie, a nurse studying writing and anthropology.

“She loves more compact cars,” he says cryptically.

A text comes back – Debbie, who’s been looking for a new car, loves the look and size of the SUV.

Hyman resolves on the spot to buy one for her and books a time to visit Mercedes-Benz Gold Coast.

“Now when I get to drive Debbie’s car I’m going to be pumped,” he laughs.

“I always tend to opt for a good rough-and-ready 4WD [he pulled up this morning in a well-worn Mitsubishi Triton] but I do love all the extras in something like this.

“And it’s so quick off the mark!”

The Nev House adventure has taken Hyman from the corridors of Pacific power to sprawling rubbish dumps worked by whole families of scavengers.

“I was on a dump in Jakarta and the conditions were so putrid I was too scared to lick my lips because I was worried what was on them,” he says.

“Families live their whole lives like this, but they’re recycling and happy – they’re laughing and joking and welcoming me.”

A day later and he’s shaking hands with heads of state, global philanthropy figures, socially conscious A-listers and innovation thought-leaders.

“But I didn’t start out to get here,” he laughs.

“I just invested in a plastic recycling company and bit-by-bit it’s evolved into this ‘feel good’ story that’s presented a social, economic and environmental solution to a problem affecting everyone on the planet.”

For more information visit  
[www.nevhouse.com](http://www.nevhouse.com)

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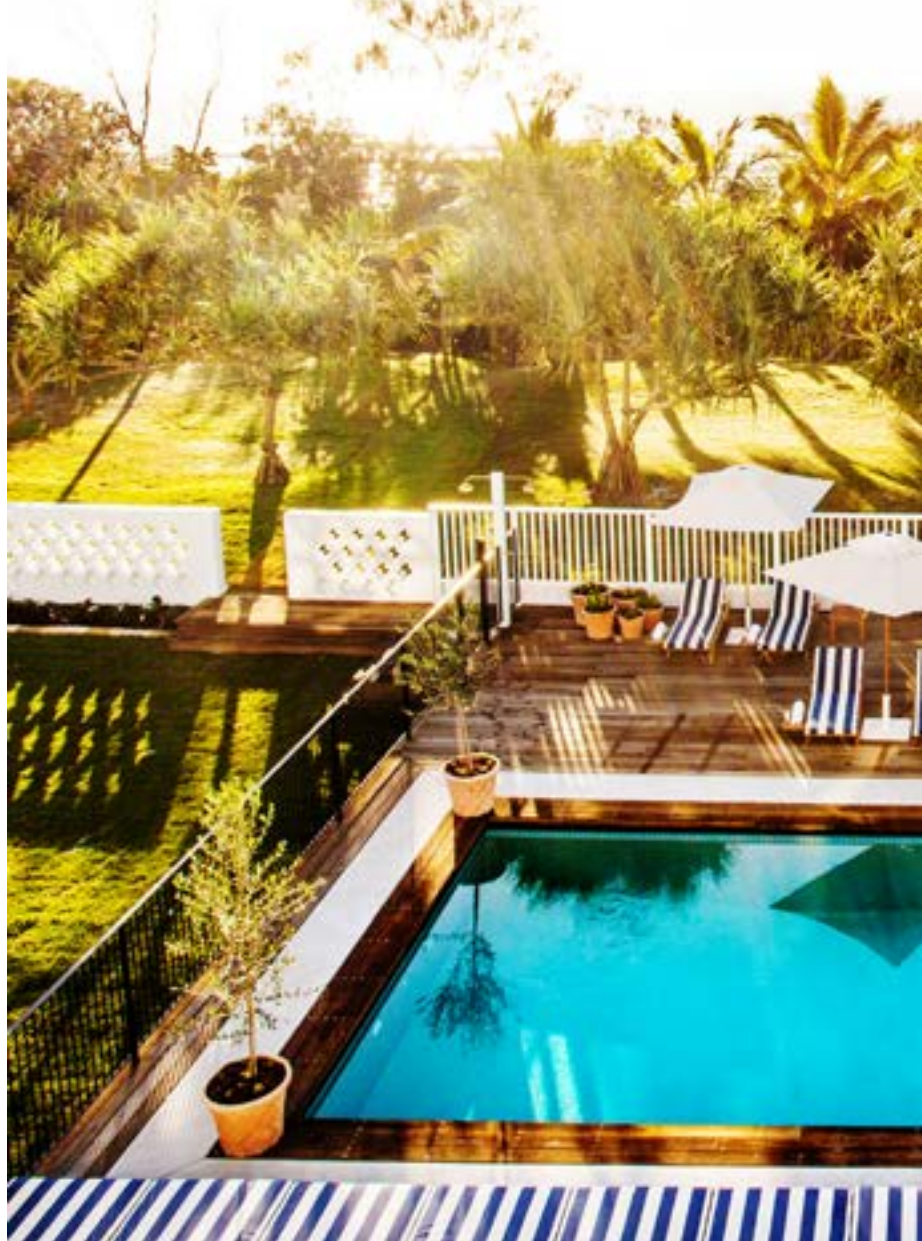




# *House away* FROM HOME

Cabarita's intriguing Halycon House, just a 20-minute roadtrip south, has raised the region's hospitality bar in fine style

WRITER Sam Cleveland





ME



**E**xactly when does a ‘best kept secret’ become the ‘next big thing’?

It’s a pressing question, as boutique Cabarita Beach hotel Halcyon House feels awfully near tipping point. Through blurred eyes, the unabashedly nostalgic property evokes the atmosphere of a charming old beach hotel; in focus, it’s a 21st-century coastal design showcase with all the trimmings.

Australia’s style press jumped on early (even *Vogue Living* gushed), while early adopter drive market and fly-in devotees bang the drum to anyone who’ll listen.

Word on Halcyon House is spreading fast; it seems only a matter of time before a Grammy winner or A-lister makes an appearance and then the world will know.

And to think, all this excitement just 20 minutes south of Gold Coast Airport.

**O**n approach, Halcyon House sits intriguing and appealing across the carpark, all in white and detailed to pique a certain mid-century innocence.

Gentle Spanish archways, the name in a cursive font straight from a ‘50s motel and a deliberate thrust of breezeblock by the front entrance set the scene.

The property’s understated exterior gives way to an indoor / outdoor ground floor focused on the gorgeous pool setting and Paper Daisy (see page 20), the restaurant that’s drawing just as much national attention as the hotel itself.





To the east, there's only a patch of grass and a quaint sandy track between you and Cabarita Beach.

A coastal palette of fresh whites runs throughout the property, offset by shades of blue and clusters of vintage art and eclectica (think Pinterest in hotel form).

Upstairs, no two guest rooms are alike, with handmade tiles in white and blue, brass fixtures and walls upholstered in imported fabric the unifying fixtures.

Opened in May 2015, Halycon House is the brainchild of Elisha Bickle and her sister Siobhan, of the hospitality clan behind Brisbane's Cloudland and the Press Club.

Built on the bones of The Hideaway, the old motel that's stood on the site since the '60s, Halycon House was transformed inside and out by Sydney architect Virginia Kerridge and Brisbane interior designer Anna Spiro.

Their brief was to maintain some of The Hideaway's character, while creating a new identity reflective of the beachfront site and Cabarita's unique charms.

"I think the hotel is unique in that it captures this beachside character," says Virginia, "but also offers a unique experience for the area in its standard of food and pampering."

The forthcoming on-site tennis court and day spa will complete the picture early next year.

Elisha and Siobhan's attention to detail covered not only the redesign and fitout, but the assembly of a hospitality dream team to run the place.

General manager Mauro De Riso was recruited from globally buzzed Capri hotel J.K. Place, Paper Daisy manager Bradd Broom is ex Fish House and award-winning





We truly believe in the location,  
it's stunningly beautiful and  
a place to get away from it all  
and really unwind



chef Ben Devlin comes from Esquire in Brisbane and Copenhagen's Noma.

Some of De Riso's team came with him from Italy (supplemented by front-of-house hires from South America and Canada); most customer-facing staff speak with an accent, which plays a charming note of 'elsewhereness' for guests.

De Riso (so hands-on he even lends his voice to the hotel's recorded phone message) says boutique properties such as Halcyon House and J.K. Place have filled a luxury niche by offering personalised service impossible to match in a large hotel.

"That's nothing against big hotels," he insists, "but when you've got hundreds of rooms you just can't spend the time you need with guests.

"Here we can customise for each guest – tailor excursions and services to their needs and really make them feel spoiled, which is the perfect approach for the luxury market."

The formula's working: Halcyon House has been recognised with Best New Property and Best Chef prizes at the national HM Awards,

and was shortlisted in two categories at the global Smith Hotel Awards.

**A**ccessing Halcyon House from the Gold Coast is an easy Pacific Motorway cruise through the Tugun Bypass, then an eastern swing to Chinderah and the Tweed Coast Road south into Cabarita Beach.

For dedicated tourers it's barely enough road to note, but with Halcyon House as a weekend base, you're free to explore the very best of NSW's north coast.

"We fell in love with the place and have been holidaying and surfing there for over 20 years," says Elisha. "The region is a little slice of paradise."

Guests can cruise through the Cudgen Nature Reserves, plan a Byron Bay daytrip or fuel up for a Mount Warning hike at a Murwillumbah café (both about 30 minutes south).

From the hotel, there's an easy coastal walk south to rocky Norrie's Headland, a perfect pre-dinner appetiser.

Or grab one of the Dutch cycles leaning by the front door (in Halcyon-appropriate aqua blue, naturally) and pedal the charming boardwalk that runs north within earshot of the ocean.

Dappled sunlight beats the boardwalk's natural canopy, allowing you a shady trip past Cotton Beach all the way to Salt Village's clusters of upscale restaurants, where a lunch, brunch or afternoon drink await.

And the kilometre of pristine oceanfront from Salt down to Cabarita Beach is – apart from guard towers at both ends – rarely populated, given you total privacy.

It's a region so idyllic it's almost impossible for visiting couples not to have at least one "why don't we move here?" conversation.

"Because it's so nice to visit" is the right answer.

"Cabarita is relatively unknown and is a very small beach town, an undiscovered gem," says Elisha. "We truly believe in the location, it's stunningly beautiful and a place to get away from it all and really unwind – a true getaway, which is hard to find these days."





## HALCYON HOUSE'S PAPER DAISY

Halcyon House's Paper Daisy is named for the distinctive wildflower growing on nearby Norrie's Headland.

The menu is progressive and appropriately coastal, emphasising regional produce and a light touch.

The 90-seat restaurant occupies an airy poolside volume appointed with décor and wall

art (loads of seaside paintings in kitschy frames) from within the Halcyon House design palette.

Signature dishes include paperbark-grilled cod with white onion and seaweed, and pippies served featherlight with lemon myrtle, butter and warrigal greens.

Head chef Ben Devlin comes to Paper Daisy from Esquire in Brisbane (where he was named *Brisbane Good Food Guide* 2014 Young

Chef of the Year) and a stint with noted chef-owner René Redzepi at Noma in Copenhagen.

His menu has had food writers from *The Australian* and *Gourmet Traveller* falling over themselves with praise and the property itself made *The Australian's* Hot 50 Restaurants Awards.

For accommodation, restaurant or spa reservations call 02 6676 1444 or visit [www.halcyonhouse.com.au](http://www.halcyonhouse.com.au)



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# A TALE OF TWO

PHOTOGRAPHY John Downes

In this edition of MBGC's SPACE Mercedes-Benz Gold Coast brand ambassador Shelley Craft talks design with Melinda Boundy, founder of noted interior design studio Lily G.

With Craft, co-host of Channel 9s *The Block*, Melinda steps through two of her stunning commissions: a new Cooparoo home balancing Hamptons elegance with a kid-friendly design and a renovated Queenslander in West End.

"For the West End Queenslander we found a real mix of the Hamptons look, British Colonial and touches of industrial," says Melinda.

"It's proof that you can mix many elements and still have a relaxing and cozy home."

To see more of Melinda's work visit [www.lily-g.com.au](http://www.lily-g.com.au)



## COOPAROO

I don't often use yellow but felt that it would be a beautiful complement to the black of the floors and walls. Bringing it into the painting, which I commissioned, helped to anchor it as the accent colour.

Silk curtains were festooned to the floor to add a feel of lux opulence, the light was imported from the US and the chairs and sofa are part of The Lily G furniture range.





I love mixing patterns and textures and started in the rumpus room with a Chevron custom-made Lily G wingback chair to set the tone. I custom-made a large black sofa and then added beautiful contrasting patterned cushions. The black and white make a lovely contrast against the green foliage outside.

The blends of chevron, stripes, keyhole patterns and strong geometric elements are nicely contrasted with the softer circle of the mirror. A square or rectangular mirror would have made the space feel too tight and angular.

The brief was to deliver a touch of Hollywood Regency and glamour to the master bedroom.

The textured white leather bedhead works in tandem with the black walls and white sheers. I infused the space with lots of vintage gold accessories and accents to temper down the austerity of the black and white.

Finally, we added contrasting zebra stripes at the foot of the bed to blend it through to the adjacent rumpus room and bring a touch of whimsy and the unexpected.





## WEST END

The challenge was to create a cozy space by the fire within an open plan.

A stripe rug helped to create a “zone” and I custom-upholstered a one-and-a-half-seater wingback and matching ottoman to complement.

I loved the pressed metal ceilings and had them painted silver in respect of the home’s age and history. I then infused a lot of vintage silvers and textures to complement the ceilings and sconces.

The deer head was bequeathed by the client’s uncle. Her brief was to incorporate it into the space without it looking too masculine.

The dining space flows from a Hamptons-style kitchen out onto the verandah. All the lattice adds a lovely lace effect, which adds a delicate balance to the room. We added the industrial lights to contrast the white of the crossback chairs.







These carver chairs are natural cane chairs with seat cushions in fabric matching the large wingback by the fireplace on the other side of the home.

I love using cane and rattan furniture as they suit our tropical climate with a touch of the British Colonial aesthetic.

White walls are always my go-to for a clean backdrop and the rustic French cabinet works so well against the clean lines of the white VJs (vertical joins).

The birdcages are repeated in the staircase, where they're hung in series as a decorative feature.



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\$67,900.00 Drive Away

\$50,000 - \$100,000



Km 14,435. Four door and four seat Sedan in Iridium Silver with black Artico seats. Features include 7G-Tronic 7 speed Automatic Transmission, COMAND Navigation, reversing camera, glass electric sunroof, parking sensors, 18-Inch alloy wheels, Mercedes-Benz Air Bag Safety, cruise control and many more features to list.

\$50,000 - \$100,000



2008 Mercedes-Benz S 320

\$67,900.00 Drive Away



Km 66,051. Four door and four seat Sedan in Obsidian Black Metallic with black leather interior. Features Include 7G-TRONIC 7 speed Automatic Transmission, Bi Xenon Headlights, electric glass sunroof, rear camera with front and rear Parktronic, COMAND Navigation, heated and ventilated electric front seats with Memory Function, rear Roller Blind. This vehicle will come with a two year Mercedes-Benz approved warranty and many more features to list.





2012 Mercedes-Benz ML 250

\$64,900.00 Drive Away

\$50,000 - \$100,000



Km 53,465. Four door and four seat ML 250 in Obsidian Black with beige Artico leather and brown dashboard interior. Factory options include Convenience Package, which includes sunroof, power lift tailgate and keyless access. Standard features include 7 speed G-TRONIC automatic navigation, front and rear parking sensors, Bluetooth, cruise control, automatic headlights, automatic wipers and many more features to list.



2012 Mercedes-Benz E 200

\$59,900.00 Drive Away



Km 34,119. Four door and four seat Sedan in Obsidian Black with black Artico seats. Features include 7G-Tronic 7 speed Automatic Transmission, COMAND Navigation, glass electric sunroof, parking sensors, 17-Inch alloy wheels, Mercedes-Benz Air Bag Safety, cruise control, two year Mercedes-Benz approve warranty and many more features to list.

\$50,000 - \$100,000





2013 Mercedes-Benz C 180

\$48,900.00 Drive Away

\$50,000 - \$100,000



Km 42,779. Two door and four seat Coupe in Polar White with black Artico leather interior. This local vehicle was sold by MBGC and serviced by MBGC. Options include panoramic sunroof, Vision Package with includes Bi-Xenon Headlights. Other features include front and rear parking sensors, Bluetooth with audio streaming, cruise control, automatic headlights and automatic wipers. This vehicles comes with a Mercedes-Benz approved two year warranty and many more features to list.



2011 Mercedes-Benz C 200

\$38,900.00 Drive Away



Km 48,067. Four door and four seat Sedan in Iridium Silver with Alpaca Grey Artico seats. Features include, 7 speed Automatic Transmission, 17-inch 5 Twin Spoke alloy wheels, front and rear Parktronic, Mercedes-Benz Air Bag Safety, cruise control. This vehicle will come with a two year Mercedes-Benz approved warranty and many more features to list.

\$25,000 - \$50,000





2014 Mercedes-Benz B 180

\$36,900.00 Drive Away



Km 9,985. Four door and four seat Hatchback in Night Black with black seats throughout. Features include 7 Speed DCT Automatic Transmission, BECKER Navigation, 17-inch alloy wheels, front and rear Parktronic, cruise control, hands free telephone, air-conditioning with climate control. This vehicle will come with an additional 1 year Mercedes-Benz approved warranty, on top of the balance of the new car warranty, and many more features to list.

\$25,000 - \$50,000



2012 Mercedes-Benz B 200

\$34,900.00 Drive Away



Km 28,461. Mercedes Benz B200CDI in CIRBUS with Black Seats throughout. Features Include; 7 Speed DCT Automatic Transmission, COMAND Navigation, PANORAMIC SUNROOF, Harman Kardon. Other Features include: 17 Inch Alloy Wheels, Front and Rear Parktronic, Cruise Control, Hands Free Telephone, Air-conditioning with Climate Control.

\$25,000 - \$50,000





2012 Mercedes-Benz B 180

\$29,900.00 Drive Away



Km 32,046. Four door and four seat Hatchback in Polar Silver with black seats throughout. Features include 7 Speed DCT Automatic Transmission, COMAND Navigation, Harman Kardon sound system, 17-inch alloy wheels, front and rear Parktronic, cruise control, hands free telephone, air-conditioning with climate control. This vehicle is accompanied with two year approved Mercedes-Benz warranty and many more features to list.

\$25,000 - \$50,000



2007 Mercedes-Benz C 200

\$27,900.00 Drive Away



Km 82,398. Four door and two seat Sedan in Palladium Silver with black Artico leather interior. Features include 5 speed Automatic Transmission, front and rear parking sensors, Bluetooth, cruise control, automatic headlights and automatic wipers. This vehicle will come with a two year Mercedes-Benz approved warranty and many more features to list.

\$25,000 - \$50,000





2005 Mercedes-Benz CLK 240

\$23,900.00 Drive Away



Km 70,589. Two door and four seat Coupe in Iridium Silver with black leather seats. Features include 5 speed Automatic Transmission, electric sunroof, Mercedes-Benz Air Bag Safety, cruise control, front and rear parking sensors and many more features to list.

\$25,000 - \$50,000



2011 Mercedes-Benz B 180

\$22,900.00 Drive Away



Km 43,394. Four door and two seat Hatchback in Polar Silver with black interior. Factory options include front electric seats, front and rear parking sensors, park assist Automatic Transmission, Bluetooth, cruise control, automatic headlights and automatic wipers. This vehicle will come with a two year Mercedes-Benz approved warranty and many more features to list.

\$25,000 - \$50,000





2001 Mercedes-Benz C 320

\$13,900.00 Drive Away



Km 101,097. Four door and four seat Sedan in Travertine Beige with Alpaca grey leather. Features include a 3.2L V6 engine coupled with a 5 speed Automatic transmission, sunroof, 16-inch alloy wheels, cruise control, 8 speaker stereo system and many more features to list.

\$25,000 - \$50,000

# There's a club in Queensland for lovers of the Three Pointed Star



## The Mercedes-Benz Club of Queensland welcomes new members

- Monthly club meetings
- Monthly club runs to places of interest and regular social events
- Extended club runs throughout Queensland and interstate
- Technical and Enthusiasts days
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- Member discounts on parts, servicing and accessories from participating dealerships
- Every model, from the very latest to the oldest classics is represented in the club

Come and share your passion with other enthusiasts in our friendly club

Call **1300 661 677**, visit **[www.qld.mercedes-benz-clubs.com](http://www.qld.mercedes-benz-clubs.com)** or email the club for a membership application form: **[membership@mbclubqld.com](mailto:membership@mbclubqld.com)**

Mercedes-Benz Gold Coast is a proud supporter of the Mercedes-Benz Club of Queensland

The M-B Club of Queensland Inc. is officially affiliated with the Mercedes-Benz Classic Car Clubs International, a division of Mercedes-Benz Classic, Daimler AG, Stuttgart, Germany





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Fortunately, we're here to help.



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# BRAND AMBASSADOR



WRITER AND PHOTOGRAPHER Murray Waite

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*The fascinating pre-war history  
of one of the Gold Coast's finest  
vintage Mercedes-Benz*

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What became of the 290 Pullman during the war is unknown, but it resurfaced at a 1999 classic car sale in London.



Whether it's a simple tale of a beloved family car passed between generations or a history of unique customisation, there's a story behind every Mercedes-Benz.

But noted collector Tery Hurst's gorgeous 1935 290 Pullman has arguably the most outlandish backstory of any vintage Benz on the Gold Coast.

The limousine was reportedly first owned by the German embassy in London and was on the road during the turbulent years leading up to the outbreak of World War 2.

That piece of history places Joachim von Ribbentrop, Germany's pre-war ambassador to England, in the backseat of Hurst's 290 as he was driven to and from meetings to negotiate the (failed) Anglo-German alliance Hitler outlined in *Mein Kampf*.

Von Ribbentrop (a historical nincompoop eventually hanged for war crimes) remained as ambassador until 1938; a year later, war broke out.

Diplomatic relations were severed and, according to contemporaneous news reports in *The Times*, the German embassy – and presumably its fleet of cars! – was abandoned.

What became of the 290 Pullman during the war is unknown, but it resurfaced at a 1999 classic car sale in London.

It was bought by a Hong Kong businessman with interests in Australia, who shipped it to Brisbane a year later for restoration by Wolf Grodd and the specialists at Sleeping Beauties.

Grodd's restoration was (as usual) impeccable and the car passed to a Brisbane property developer, who only owned it for short time, complaining that the front seat couldn't be adjusted.

Hurst, a Mercedes-Benz Club of Queensland stalwart since the 1970s, acquired the car in a swap and began researching its history, sadly without much success.

Mercedes Classic confirmed it was built at the Mannheim factory in 1935 but, even though the factory escaped total wartime devastation, records from the period had been destroyed.

It's one of the few right-hand drive Pullman 290s ever made (some say as few as four existed), raising the possibility that it came off the factory floor destined for London roads and embassy service.

# This changes everything.

The Mercedes-Benz C-Class Estate.



Designed to deliver. The Mercedes-Benz C-Class Estate takes care of the busiest lifestyles with ease. The perfect combination of luxury and sports performance is enhanced by a spacious 490L load capacity, an EASY-PACK automatic tailgate and impressive efficiency. Be spontaneous. Follow your heart. Take the wheel at Mercedes-Benz Gold Coast today.

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# THE NUMBERS YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GROW



If you're a sports fan you'll know how important it is to keep track of the score, because without those crucial numbers you'll never know which player or team is winning.

MWM Advisory director Melanie Wear says it's the same in business - you need to understand what your numbers mean to know what's working and what's not.

"There are three sets of numbers you need to grasp to know if you're achieving your goals or not - turnover, profit and cash," says Mrs Wear.

"Turnover is important as it drives sales, but you don't want to be chasing this number at the expense of profit or cash.

"The size of your turnover isn't the most important number unless you're a new business and need to establish a level of repeat sales, as the last thing you want to do is focus on increasing sales without first focusing on profit and cash."

Mrs Wear says the next thing to understand is that profit and cash are two very distinct sets of numbers, and that by differentiating them you will be in a much stronger position to improve both.

"Profit is the reason you're in business, it's your return for the effort, money and assets you put into your business," she says.

"If you're not earning enough profit, you may as well shut up shop and put your efforts into doing something else.

"Cashflow is the lifeblood of your business, as when your cash runs out your business dies, so it's probably the most important set of numbers to be aware of."

Mrs Wear says as a business owner you must fully comprehend how cash works and be in full control of it.

"You could grow a successful multi-million dollar company by just having a good understanding of cash with a grasp on profit," she says.

"Everything in your business is about generating cash and producing turnover at the right price, maximising your profit by controlling your costs and then turning that profit into cash as quickly and effectively as possible.

"An important part of this cycle is ensuring your accountant can support you with keeping on top of these numbers."

"Business owners who know their numbers have a tremendous advantage over those who don't, and surrounding yourself with qualified professionals is one of the most important ingredients for long-term success.

"The main thing to remember is to make sure you have the right control over your profit and cash - turnover is more often than not the realm of vanity, and as such the most common reason most businesses fail."

"Being aware of the ongoing ability your accountancy service is providing is not something which should be considered too hard or uncomfortable to deal with, it should be an ongoing part of running a successful business."





# It's alive!

How A Gold Coast Oscar-winner redirected his gift for movie magic to beat Hollywood at its own game

WRITER Sam Cleveland · PHOTOGRAPHY John Cox

PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY Lincoln Williams

LEFT: John Cox's spellbinding *See Life at Swell 2015*, a light show embedded within the body of a whale. "I used to watch the *Swell* audience come and go around sunset and I knew then my next entry had to be lit – a 24-hour sculpture," he says.

It's almost a neat 20 years since John Cox brought home the Gold Coast's first – and only – Academy Award.

In March 1996, Cox and his international collaborators won the Best Visual Effects Oscar for the timeless farmyard fancy *Babe*, an upset win in a year when glossy blockbusters such as *Apollo 13*, *Batman Forever* and *Waterworld* hogged the spotlight.

"We didn't think we stood a chance," laughs Cox, speaking exclusively to MBGC on the 20th anniversary of his Oscar win.

"All of those other films had big visual effects you were supposed to take notice of, and our film had effects you were never meant to see."

But it was *Babe*'s cast of miraculous talking animals (many of them created in Cox's Creature Workshop on the Gold Coast) that snared the film industry's most sought-after prize.

"I don't remember anything between Will Smith announcing our names and being at the podium looking over this sea of faces," says Cox of his heady Oscar night at the Los Angeles Music Centre.

Cox's win, however, came at a crucial nexus in the development movie special effects.

*Jurassic Park* had three years earlier exploded the potential of computer-generated effects. Cox's specialty – practical 'animatronic' puppets sculpted by artisanal hands – began to occupy an ever-shrinking parcel of the visual effects landscape.

“I could see it [the rise of digital effects] coming, we all did,” says Cox, “and each time progress was made – *The Abyss*, *Terminator 2* – I could see it was another thing we wouldn’t have to compromise to achieve on screen.”

*Babe* would pass into history as the last Visual Effects Oscar-winner to feature predominantly practical effects, leaving Cox has to adapt his considerable skillset to a brave new world.

Cox grew up in Caringbah, his fervent imagination stimulated by comic books (Marvel’s *Daredevil* was a favourite), Saturday morning cartoons and pioneering visual effects classics such as *King Kong* and Ray Harryhausen’s *Jason and the Argonauts*.

At the time, hard data on special effects and monster makeup were still closely guarded industry secrets. Cox scoured fan magazines for intel and began while still at school to make his own creature models and – soon after – backyard films on Super 8.

Only one of them, *Mesozoic Massacre*, has survived. The two-minute stop-motion opus, a pristine time capsule of Cox’s nascent talent, brims with wit and technical ingenuity, as plasticine dinosaurs leap from hiding to make surprise meals of miniature cavemen.

“Through comic books and movies I was really overloaded with that fantasy element, and all that input really unfettered my imagination,” he says.

After high school, Cox worked for a Sydney effects company and was part of the team of four that built Australia’s first motion control camera, the revolutionary visual effects tool that gave *Star Wars* its dynamic space battles.

“At the time there was no-one in Australia to teach us how to do it, but we had two behind-the-scenes magazine photos of the *Star Wars* camera so we studied them and worked out how to build our own,” says Cox.

He made props and animal models for several Australian film and television projects before getting a phone call from Kennedy Miller, the production company headed by *Mad Max* director George Miller – about ‘some farmyard movie’.

With the 1996 *Babe* Oscar secure behind glass at his Ashmore workshop, Cox began ‘riding the rollercoaster’ of the film industry; his Creature Workshop provided effects for the biggest and best projects shooting in Queensland, including



*Peter Pan*, *Scooby-Doo*, *Pitch Black* and Steven Spielberg’s dinosaur TV series *Terra Nova*.

He also created characters and creatures – some static, some animated – for TV commercials and even theme parks, work that evolved into his own exhibition *How to Make a Monster*, which has toured the US, Canada, New Zealand and Australia since its 2004 launch.

The hit interactive exhibit is one of the Gold Coast’s most successful cultural exports and takes participants through each step of creature creation for film – storyboarding, concept design, sculpting and painting.

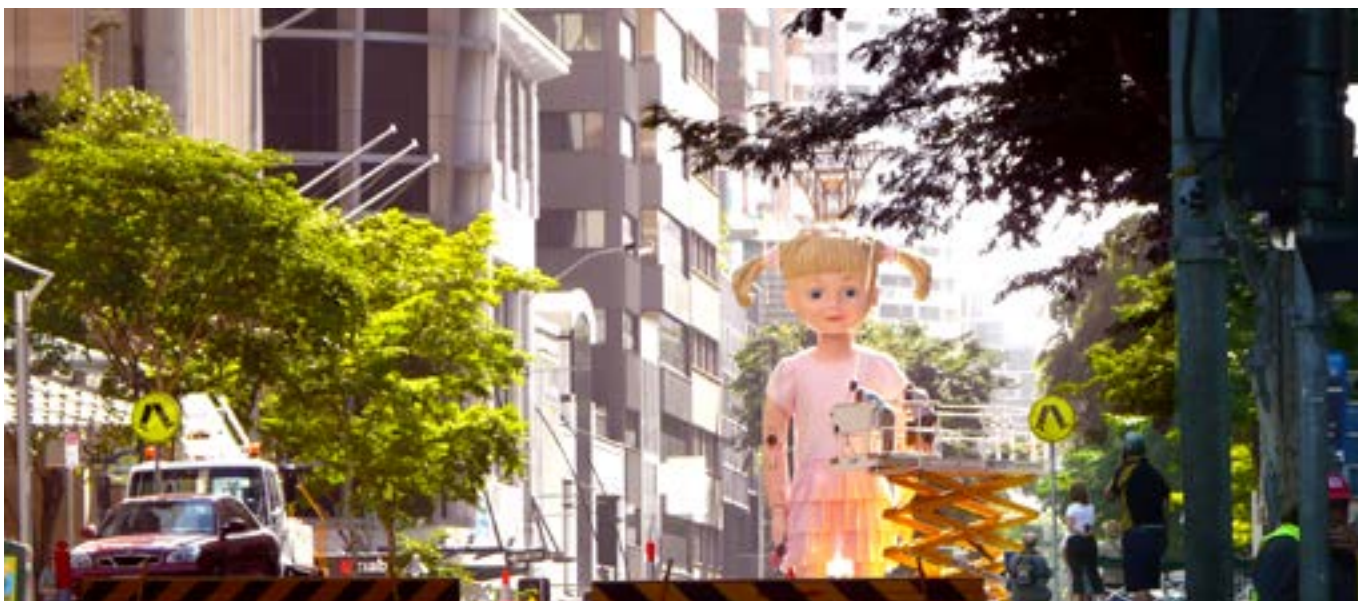
“Kids get to come in and puppeteer creatures and light them, even touch alien guts,” laughs Cox.

In April next year, *How to Make a Monster* makes its belated local premiere at the Arts Centre Gold Coast to coincide with the 2016 Gold Coast Film Festival, with Cox adding never-before-seen content for its hometown debut.

“Because it’s closer to home we won’t need to worry about damage 15-year-old boys might do to the exhibits,” he says, “and it’s obviously easier to transport some of this stuff from Ashmore to Evandale than it is to ship it around the world.”

**BOTTOM:** Cox’s koala sculptures for the Gold Coast’s bi-annual *Animals With Attitude*, the fast-growing public art program that raises funds for the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital Foundation.





**TOP:** Cox created Ellie, a 10m animatronic marionette that starred in an iconic national TV campaign for sweetmaker Allen's. "They didn't have a lot of money, but how often does someone come to you and say they want to build a 30-foot girl and walk her down the main street of Brisbane," he laughs.

**BOTTOM:** Blue Perspective, Cox's two-tone surfer girl, debuted at Swell and went on to become 'covergirl' of the City of Gold Coast's 2023 Cultural Strategy book.

**B**ut while *How to Make a Monster* was drawing crowds around the world, Australia's film industry found itself cruelled by a weakening US dollar (that kept big-budget Hollywood productions away) and the GFC's impact on film finance.

"At that point we knew we had to do something else," says Cox, who diversified his workshop offering to include high-end 3D design, machining and fabrication for other industries.

The workshop's five-axis router, a serious piece of industrial kit that sculpts large 3D objects from digital files, has been used to create everything from public art pieces for Vivid Sydney to new bumper bar designs for car manufacturers.

Ironically, Cox has now become recognised for his mastery of computer-aided 3D fabrication, even mentoring emerging artists and designers on new applications of the technology.

"We're a one-stop-shop for people working on large projects who need an artist's eye over the fabrication process," he says.

"Art's supposed to be about the idea and the aesthetic, but if you go to an engineer to build your piece the first thing they're going to ask is 'can it stand up in the wind?'"

**A**long with his wife and business partner Julie, Cox is a driving force behind *Animals With Attitude*, the sculpture trail that place giant koalas – each handpainted by a local artist – throughout the city.

He has also debuted his own large-scale sculptures locally, including *Maddie & Mike*, the young girl who gazes northeast from a hilltop at the Broadwater Parklands, and four crowdpleasing works at Currumbin's Swell Sculpture Festival.

"There would be loads of people taking photos any time you'd go down there, which is great for me because I set out to create works that are liked and accepted," says Cox. "Public art shouldn't be something people can easily walk past and ignore."

Shades of Cox's movie showmanship appear in his public artwork; tellingly, every piece has a face and distinctive character.

"I get ideas for sculptures all the time, my brain doesn't stop working, but I'm always worried I'll forget an idea," he says.

"But with the tech I have in the workshop, I can now digitally sculpt ideas quite rapidly and file them away and let the concept gestate.

"And because Swell is there I have an outlet, it gives me a chance to be my own client, and the rest of the time we just make whatever people want us to make."

For more information about John Cox's Creature Workshop visit [johncox.net](http://johncox.net)





# *Opium ten*

PHOTOGRAPHER Cara O'Dowd | MODEL Casey

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TALULAH CELEBRATES  
ITS FIRST DECADE WITH A  
SEDUCTIVE NEW COLLECTION

**T**alulah's new Head of Design has made her mark on the overachieving Gold Coast label's new High Summer collection OPIUM.

Toni Ameglio (an import from Italy's Miu Miu) found a balance between European elegance and seasonal trends such as midi-length dresses and fluted shapes.

"Because of Toni's experience designing in Italy for so long, you can definitely see European influences coming through in her work on OPIUM," says Kelli Wharton, Talulah founder and Creative Director.

Wharton began designing in high school (where she negotiated class credit for her fashion pursuits!) then took a variety of rag trade positions to support her parallel work developing Talulah.

In 2005, she launched with a showcased at the Delfin Australia Fashion Design Awards and won the Mercedes-Benz Lifestyle Collection Award.

The label has marked its first decade with distribution into Myer stores nationwide, among an astounding 834 global retailers carrying the brand, including local stockists A Little Birdie Told Me in Burleigh Heads, Villa Capri in Surfers Paradise and Chirn Park's Miss Darcy.

"It's satisfying 10 years in that my first collection embodied the signature Talulah aesthetic — structured silk party dresses and floral prints, cut with a sense of confidence — that's still in our work today," says Wharton.

To see more of Talulah visit [www.talulah.com.au](http://www.talulah.com.au)

#### THIS PAGE:

Vivian L/S Crop, Vivian Skirt

—

#### OPPOSITE

TOP: Florence Flare Dress

BOTTOM: Elodie Peplum Dress









TOP: Fern Top, Fern Skirt

—

BOTTOM: Opium Wrap Dress





**HERITAGE WALL CLOCK**

Metal case. Silver-coloured dial with historical motor racing motif, designed by Wolf Gast. Real glass. Diameter approx 30cm. – *B67995178*



**ST-TROPEZ KEY RING**

Silver-coloured/black. Stainless steel. Swarovski Crystal Rocks. Flat split ring with three mini split rings for quick removal/replacement of individual keys. – *B66952740*



**BEIJING KEY RING - PINK**

Stainless steel and leather. Pull/twist mechanism. – *B67995188*

# MBGC STYLE

## SUMMER COLLECTION

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**CLASSIC PICNIC HAMPER**

Brown. Stained willow, faux leather handle and straps, lined in 100% cotton. Contents: picnic accessories for 2, comprising white porcelain mugs and plates, wine glasses, stainless steel cutlery, 1 bottle opener, salt and pepper set, 2 cloth serviettes and 1 tablecloth. – *B66955295*



**FIRELITE SPINNER 69 SUITCASE**

Highly impact-resistant material. Practical organisation features inside with elasticated packing straps in lower compartment and divider in upper compartment. By Samsonite for Mercedes-Benz. – *B66952178*



**MEN'S POLO SHIRT**

Turquoise/white. Contrasts on collar and cuffs. With Moisture Manager to wick moisture away from the skin. BOSS logo embroidered on back in turquoise. By BOSS Green for Mercedes-Benz – *B66956163*



# THE ARTS CENTRE GOLD COAST

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The complex houses the Arts Theatre, Gold Coast City Gallery, Cinemas and the Arts Café as well as several stunning function rooms, a chapel and two small performance spaces.

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# MERCEDES-BENZ GLE LAUNCH AND 2015 MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH

PHOTOGRAPHY Murray Waite

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The evidence is well and truly mounting that summer is here – the biggest horse race of the year has been run and the latest Mercedes-Benz coupé has been launched in grand style. Fortunately for our valued clients and their friends, we held two exclusive events to celebrate: a *Jurassic World*-themed launch of the all-new GLE Coupé and new GLE, and a fabulous Melbourne Cup lunch at iconic Gold Coast restaurant Seaduction.





# MERCEDES-BENZ GLE AND GLE COUPÉ LAUNCH

The roar of the all new GLE Coupé and new GLE were unmistakable both on-screen in the latest *Jurassic Park* film and in real life at their Gold Coast launch.

The vehicles appeared extensively in the big-screen dino thriller *Jurassic World*, which provided the perfect backdrop for their launch at the Arts Centre Gold Coast, including 'game park'-themed attendants, a sneak peek at the cars and a screening of the hit blockbuster for local Mercedes-Benz devotees, complete with choctops and popcorn!





# MERCEDES-BENZ GOLD COAST MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH

Mercedes-Benz Gold Coast held its annual Melbourne Cup lunch at Seaduction, the signature restaurant at Soul in Surfers Paradise.

'Fashions on the Field' were judged by Mercedes-Benz Gold Coast ambassador Shelley Craft, while renowned Gold Coast designer Lisa Brown (who featured in a previous edition of MBGC) upped the style stakes with an exclusive showing of her latest collection.

With plenty of bubbles, a seafood buffet and dessert wall (that's right, a wall!) on offer, everyone went home a winner.



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.

**One-upmanship**



It used to fill men with pride to gallop across open country on one HP to the terror of evildoers and to the delight of pretty damsels in need of protection. - The horseman's era has passed but not man's delight in power, speed and rhythm. Our age offers new, greater opportunities. 1963 has one of particular appeal - a new sportscar of international rank, the 230 SL with the Three Pointed Star. This new Mercedes-Benz makes all the dreams it inspires come true. A few facts: 168 HP fuel injection

engine with exceedingly lively response, disc brakes on front wheels, safety based on a sturdy chassis, comfort of a luxury sedan. The 230 SL is supplied as a roadster with soft top, a coupé with slender roof giving excellent visibility or a combination of the two, with both soft and hard tops. Power, quality and style, three distinctions combined in one car: the Mercedes-Benz 230 SL. For full information please mail the adjacent coupon. We shall be glad to be at your service.

**MERCEDES-BENZ**



To: Export Division, Daimler-Benz AG, Stuttgart Unterturkheim. Please send your illustrated literature describing all Mercedes-Benz models to:

Rank and Name	ST 1	ST 2
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Phone Number		

(In block letters, please!)

Looks can be deceiving. Behind its minimalist presentation and charmingly retro clip-and-mail coupon bottom right, this 1964 press ad for the 230 SL is dripping in cocksure machismo.

The copywriter was in on the joke, emphasising ‘man’s delight in speed, power and rhythm’ and playfully hyping the 230 SL’s 186 horsepower.

The artfully composed central image foregrounds a cavalier on horseback, looking on with envy as a 20th-century counterpart mounts his steed of choice.

The zippy 230 SL debuted at the 1963 Geneva Motor Show, just five months after James Bond hit cinemas in *Dr. No*, positioning the suave secret agent archetype as the decade’s undisputed alpha.

Meanwhile *Playboy* magazine had gone mainstream – the first Playboy Club opened in 1960 – and the sexual revolution demanded suitors now display courtliness *and* virility (dual qualities of the cavalier).

One-upmanship indeed.





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We work without limitation and take the time to explore these fundamental elements to produce a piece that is not only breathtaking, but encapsulates the entire essence of your aesthetic values.

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