

**DATE CLAIMERS**  
A List Events  
International

To list your event call  
4031 6200 or email [cairns@alistevents.com.au](mailto:cairns@alistevents.com.au)

- JULY**
- 28-29 FOGS Indigenous Careers and Employment Expo
  - 29 Young Chamber Next Gen Expo, The Hilton Cairns Hotel, [www.cairnschamber.com.au](http://www.cairnschamber.com.au)
  - 29 Cairns Regional Council ordinary meeting, Cairns Council Chambers
  - 31 Mayor's Kingford's lunch
  - 31 UDIA annual golf day
  - 31-8 Aug International Convention, Cairns Convention Centre

- AUGUST**
- 1 Cairns Regional Council Senior's Week
  - 4 Management Excellence Awards, Pullman Reef Hotel Casino, [www.managementawards.com.au](http://www.managementawards.com.au)
  - 6 FAIM and AFAM dinner
  - 9 The Cairns Cup, Cairns Jockey Club
  - 9-13 14th Australasian Plant Breeding Conference and 11th Congress of the Society for the Advancement of Breeding Research in Asia and Oceania, Cairns Convention Centre
  - 11 Cairns Tourism Association Inc monthly awards evening, GBR Helicopters, Ph 0402 140 940
  - 12 UDIA lunch with Noel Pearson, [www.udiaqld.com.au](http://www.udiaqld.com.au)
  - 14 Cairns Chamber of Commerce golf day, Ph 4031 6200
  - 15 The CEC Group Great Pyramid Race and Country Fair, Alley Park, Gordonvale
  - 18 Vietnam Veterans Day, RSL Cenotaph Esplanade, Ph 4051 2280
  - 21-23 Cairns Indigenous Art Fair
  - 22 Festival Cairns Grand Parade 22 Tropic Wave Festival and Free Concert
  - 23-27 Asian Federation for Medicinal Chemistry International Medicinal Chemistry Symposium, Cairns Convention Centre, [www.aimecs09.org](http://www.aimecs09.org)
  - 26 Cairns Regional Council ordinary meeting, Cairns Council Chambers
  - 28 UDIA Dinner with General Peter Gosgrove AC MC, The Hotel Cairns, [www.udiaqld.com.au](http://www.udiaqld.com.au)
  - 28 Australian 2009 Veteran Golf Championships dinner
  - 29 Master Builders Housing and Constructors Awards
  - 29 Food, Wine and all that Jazz
  - 29-30 Sportsfest, Cairns Esplanade

# Adventure a flight away

THE region's reputation as Australia's adventure capital has taken another leap forward with the launch of a helicopter-based adventure tourism business at Port Douglas.

Vertical Adventures is a joint venture launched by the Great Barrier Reef Helicopter Group and Back Country Bliss Adventures and based around the thrill of a helicopter flight coupled with hiking, mountain biking, snorkelling and kayaking.

GBR Helicopters' Port Douglas manager Nigel Thomas said Vertical Adventures combined the expertise of two of the region's leading tour operators in their respective fields - aviation and adventure touring - to bring

a special group of adventure products to the market.

Vertical Adventures will offer visitors the opportunity to experience guided sea kayaking, mountain biking, river snorkelling and hiking tours.

The adventure begins with a helicopter flight from Port Douglas to the rendezvous point for the respective ground activity where experienced tour leaders will meet the helicopter, greet guests and then conduct the personalised program of choice on the land or in the water.

Also on offer is a combination of products including a Daintree Adventure Day that incorporates a 4WD



**Choice:** Kayaking after being dropped off from a helicopter ride is just one of the options on the Vertical Adventures program.

Daintree tour, jungle surfing at Cape Tribulation and a croc spotting cruise on the Daintree River.

The opportunity to snorkel two World Heritage sites in a single day is also an option.

They can snorkel in the crystal clear waters of the Mossman River and then fly out to Quicksilver's Outer Reef pontoon and snorkel Agincourt Reef for the remainder of the day.

"Our program leaders' knowledge and experience, and the incredible natural beauty of the region, allows us to bring people up close and personal with the flora and fauna of the area," Back Country Bliss Adventures director Barnaby Marris said.

## Plasterer joins in push to boost tourism

WHAT'S tourism got to do with plastering?

Directly, perhaps very little, but indirectly Andrew Burton believes every business in Cairns benefits from a viable and vibrant tourism industry.

That's why Mr Burton, who runs his own business - AJ Burton Plastering - has signed up as a member of Tourism Tropical North Queensland.

"I take interest in the developments of the industry because of its importance to the economy and I think that especially during the current global financial crisis it's important for local businesses to support each other across all sectors to keep our wonderful city vibrant and prosperous," Mr Burton said.

"My wife works at the CaPTA booking centre so some of our household income comes directly from the tourism industry, but my business receives flow-on effects when the tourism industry is performing well."

Tourism Tropical North Queensland chief



Picture: SEAN DAVEY

**Backing industry:** Plasterer Andrew Burton has signed up as a supporter with Tourism Tropical North Queensland.

executive officer Rob Giason welcomed Mr Burton as a supporter of tourism, a membership category introduced this financial year to attract non-traditional tourism

supporters. "At less than \$1 a day it is an affordable entry point for businesses wanting to contribute to the tourism industry," he said.

"Tourism is the biggest single industry of the region employing 20 per

cent of our local workforce directly and 10 per cent indirectly, so the flow-on effect is huge.

"The industry contributes \$2 billion to the economy each year."

**ACTION NEXT WEEK Auction**  
11am - AEST  
Thursday 6 August 2009  
River Room Crown Casino  
Southbank Melbourne



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## Spa given UK tick of approval

THE much awarded Daintree Eco Lodge and Spa has been given another international tick for excellence. It is one of only two Australian spas listed in the 2009 101 Best Spas of the World by major travel magazine *UK Tatler*.

The Daintree retreat/resort and Tasmania's Cradle Mountain Lodge are both in World Heritage listed national parks.

Daintree Eco Lodge has been listed in the "soul stirrers" category alongside the listed No.1 spa, Ananda, in

the Himalayas. Kelda Maloney, who created the wellness spa at the Daintree lodge, said it was an honour to be named in the "creme de la creme" world list of spas.

"The Kuku Yalanji rainforest Aboriginal elders call this special place 'wawu karrba' which means healing of the spirit," Ms Maloney said.

"This is their name for the ancient waterfall at the top of the property and it also describes the healing and well-being treatments we offer."

## Green Island bushwalk in top 10

GREEN Island has been named as one of the top 10 bushwalks in the state.

The 50-minute walk came in at No.9 on the Department of Environment and Resource Management's top 10 bushwalks.

With a circumference of just 1.6km, Green Island is home to more than 120 species of plants, including a mixture of coastal and rainforest plants.

Of the 300 coral cays in the Great Barrier Reef, Green Island is the only one with a rainforest and this, along with the diversity of plant life, makes it a unique rainforest walk.

Great Adventures has developed

a self-guided eco walk on the island which is ringed by short, scrubby coastal vegetation that can survive the drier conditions along the beach while in the centre of the island the vegetation changes to a dense, shady vine-thicket rainforest.

Quicksilver Group managing director Tony Baker said the island had already been awarded Cleanest Beach in Far North Queensland and it was pleasing it was now recognised as one of the top bushwalks in Queensland.

He said respect for traditional owners was highlighted with indigenous uses of flora being a point of interest.