

Crystalbrook Collection

Crystalbrook Collection Appoints Carl Taranto as General Manager of Kingsley

Australia – October 2020: Crystalbrook Collection, one of Australia’s leading sustainable hospitality companies, has appointed Carl Taranto as General Manager of Kingsley, a Crystalbrook Collection Hotel, set to open in Q2 2021 as Newcastle’s first five-star hotel.

Carl brings to the role a passion for the Crystalbrook brand, having started with the company in 2018 as Rooms Division Manager at Riley, a Crystalbrook Collection Resort, in Cairns.

Following this, Taranto was promoted to General Manager of Riley’s sibling property, Bailey, a Crystalbrook Collection Hotel and Residence, in 2019, leading the hotel’s successful opening and first year of operation.

Prior to joining Crystalbrook Collection, Taranto established himself as an accomplished hotelier with over 20 years’ experience in the industry. He held various leadership roles across luxury hotel groups including Marriott and Accor.

As General Manager of Kingsley, Taranto will lead a team of over 100 to set a new standard for luxury accommodation in Newcastle, Australia’s seventh largest city and the gateway to the Hunter Valley. His new role will commence 9 November 2020.

Speaking on his appointment, Carl says he is “looking forward to taking the next step in my career with Crystalbrook. Following the success of Riley and Bailey, I am proud to introduce Crystalbrook Collection to Newcastle with a hotel that celebrates both the history of the city and what is to come; a fun, exciting and energetic approach to hospitality with an element of surprise and delight.”

“Carl understands the Crystalbrook brand like few others do,” says Geoff York, Interim CEO and Group Director, Hotels at Crystalbrook Collection. “The way in which he led the successful opening of Bailey, it’s celebration of the arts and Responsible Luxury, instils us with confidence in Carl’s strong management skills as we expand the brand into Newcastle.”

– ENDS –

About Kingsley, a Crystalbrook Collection Hotel

Set to open in April 2021, Kingsley will bring a new level of luxury to Australia's seventh largest city and the gateway to the Hunter Valley.

Kingsley embraces Crystalbrook Collection's approach to sustainability and [Responsible Luxury](#) making use of environmentally friendly, upcycled, recycled and locally sourced materials. The hotel has a plastic free policy (no plastic water bottles or straws) and, through the use of technology, has removed 90% of the paper used by a typical five-star hotel.

The name Kingsley, is a tribute to Newcastle's heritage and the city's earlier name of Kingston, dating back to 1804. Ideally located opposite Civic Park, Kingsley is moments away from the City Hall, Civic Theatre, Newcastle Art Gallery and War Memorial.

While championing Newcastle's heritage, Kingsley is equally committed to contemporary luxuries with each room featuring an Apple iPad control centre, Staycast by Google for video streaming and access to hundreds of complimentary movies.

At a glance:

- 130 elegantly appointed hotel rooms
- A stunning rooftop bar and restaurant
- Lobby bar and café with an outdoor terrace
- Two private meeting venues

About Crystalbrook Collection

Crystalbrook Collection is one of Australia's leading sustainable and innovative independent hospitality companies. Each hotel in the portfolio carries an authentic expression of its location, a passion for responsible luxury, considered design and a twinkle of fun for a uniquely enriching experience.

Crystalbrook Collection is an Australian tourism and hospitality group. Its portfolio includes:

- Riley, a Crystalbrook Collection Resort, Cairns, Queensland
- Little Albion, a Crystalbrook Collection Boutique Hotel, Sydney, New South Wales
- Byron at Byron, a Crystalbrook Collection Resort, Byron Bay, New South Wales
- Bailey, a Crystalbrook Collection Hotel and Residence, Cairns, Queensland
- Flynn, a Crystalbrook Collection Hotel, Cairns, Queensland
- Kingsley, a Crystalbrook Collection Hotel, Newcastle, New South Wales – opening April 2021

The Group also owns and operates a collection of ten restaurants, three spas, Crystalbrook Superyacht Marina in Port Douglas along with Crystalbrook Station and its subsidiary pastoral businesses.

Mindfully Safe

Mindfully Safe was launched by Crystalbrook Collection in response to Covid-19. The programme focuses on reducing travel anxiety by providing mindfulness and meditation tools developed in partnership with mental-wellbeing group [The Indigo Project](#). Crystalbrook will also donate \$5 to mental support service [Beyond Blue](#) for every stay booked directly until the end of 2020. As part of *Mindfully Safe*, Crystalbrook Collection is Australia's first cash-free hospitality company.

Learn more here: crystalbrookcollection.com/mindfully-safe

Crystalbrook Collection and Ghassan Aboud Group

Crystalbrook Collection is part of Ghassan Aboud Group promoted by international entrepreneur and philanthropist Ghassan Aboud. The group is a multi-business conglomerate engaged in automobiles, real estate, hospitality, FMCG, food, retail, bespoke catering, media and logistics. In business for more than two decades, the group operates from its global headquarters in the United Arab Emirates with offices in Australia, Belgium, Jordan and Turkey.

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