

## Loud and proud, Crystalbrook Collection celebrates Mardi Gras in Cairns

**25 February 2021**

The Cairns community are invited to celebrate pride, passion and the beauty of diversity at Mardi Gras events on 6 March 2021 at [Riley, a Crystalbrook Collection Resort](#) and [Boardwalk Social](#), located at [Flynn, a Crystalbrook Collection Hotel](#).

Next Saturday 6 March gather your friends and dive into Cairns' most fabulous [Pool Party](#), a sun soaked affair at Riley in celebration of Mardi Gras 2021. Prepare to sip cocktails, lounge poolside, be entertained by outrageous hosts and dance to the feel-good beats from internationally renowned DJ Jamie Porteous.

As the sun begins to set, step it up a gear at Boardwalk Social's [Official Mardi Gras Parade Viewing Event](#), proudly (and loudly) brought to you by [Queensland Council for LGBTI Health](#), [2Spirits](#) and Healthy&Safe. As Far North Queensland's official parade viewing venue, Boardwalk Social will be live streaming the SBS broadcast of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras at Sydney Cricket Ground from 4:00pm. With a stellar line up of live entertainment, DJ's, tropical cocktails and gourmet food, this spectacular TROPICAL RISE themed party is sure to dazzle.

Joel Gordan, General Manager of Flynn and Area Manager for Crystalbrook Collection, Cairns said, "Like all events in 2021, the Sydney Mardi Gras is very different this year. The theme 'RISE' is perfectly fitting to the challenges and hardships 2020 presented, and it's fantastic that we can view the parade together as a nation. Our pool parties at Riley are always well attended and this one will be bigger and more fabulous than ever. If you're looking for a fun venue to celebrate in style, you really can't go past our 1000sq meter pool."

CEO of Queensland Council for LGBTI Health, Rebecca Reynolds agrees that as people and communities we can all 'RISE' to the challenges of adversity and inequality and is looking forward to the country-wide streaming of the sparkling cavalcade that showcases the beautiful diversity of our

LGBTI Sistergirl and Brotherboy people and communities.

“We’re so excited to be announced as one of the three organisations in Queensland to be awarded a Parade Viewing Party Grant. Boardwalk Social, located right on the Esplanade, promises to be the life of the party, on Saturday the 6th of March in Cairns.

This venue is known for its fun and energetic vibe, being ideally placed in the heart of tropical breezes, waterways and Cairns views. This personifies the ‘TROPICAL RISE’ theme, for this live streaming event,” she said.

### **Fabulous Pool Party**

- 6 March, 1:00-5:00pm at Riley, a Crystalbrook Collection Resort
- \$20 per person including a welcome drink on arrival, book online
- Entertainment: DJ Jamie Porteous, MC David Subritzky, Claudia Izout and Delvine DeFillme

### **Official Mardi Gras Parade Viewing Event**

- 6 March, 4:00pm-9:00pm at Boardwalk Social, located at Flynn, a Crystalbrook Collection Hotel
- Free Entry, RSVP required online
- Drink specials from 5:00pm-6:00pm and 8:00-9:00pm
- Entertainment: DJ ShanisShauny, The Far North Queens featuring Donna Perignonn, Delia Cards, Rihanna Mation and Ms Stacey James.

-Ends-

### *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 Q2 2021

The Group also owns and operates a collection of ten restaurants, three spas, Crystalbrook Station and its subsidiary pastoral businesses.

## **Responsible Luxury**

[Responsible Luxury](#) and sustainability is at the forefront of the way Crystalbrook thinks and operates. At a glance:

- Operating a single use plastic free environment. No plastic straws, water bottles or single use bathroom amenity bottles (in the past two years the Group has saved over three million plastic bottles from entering landfill)
- Farming their own beef
- Sourcing at least 80% of produce from within a three hour drive of each hotel - Use of technology, such as in-room iPads and mobile check-in to create paperless environments and experiences
- Use of recycled and upcycled materials. Examples include keycards made from recycled wood, coathangers made from recycled paper and toothbrushes made from sweetcorn

## **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. As part of Mindfully Safe, Crystalbrook Collection is Australia's first cash-free hospitality company.

Learn more here: [crystalbrookcollection.com/mindfully-safe](https://crystalbrookcollection.com/mindfully-safe)

## **Crystalbrook Collection and Ghassan About Group**

Crystalbrook Collection is owned by accomplished entrepreneur and philanthropist Ghassan About. Ghassan About Group is a multi-business conglomerate engaged in automobiles, real estate, 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, China, Jordan and Turkey.

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