

Mediaportal Report

18/06/2008

- ▶ **Whale of a ti me**
Cranbourne Leader, 18/06/08, General News, Page 40
By: None

Clip Ref: **00037767626**
333 words

17/06/2008

- ▶ **Enjoy whale ofatime**
Progress Leader, 17/06/08, General News, Page 46
By: None

Clip Ref: **00037740564**
447 words

- ▶ **TRAVEL Kate Swan Enjoy whale ofatime GET THERE TING WHERETO STAY FESTIVAL**
Whittlesea Leader, 17/06/08, General News, Page 44
By: None

Clip Ref: **00037741357**
507 words

16/06/2008

- ▶ **Grand Mercure**
Frankston Standard Leader, 16/06/08, General News, Page 3
By: None

Clip Ref: **00037686332**
26 words



Whale of a time

Kate Swan

HERVEY Bay is no longer the sleepy fishing town to spend the night at before sailing to Fraser Island.

Queensland's whale-watching hub is the place to be for delicious seafood, ocean cruises and lazy beach days.

The town's status as an up-and-coming major tourism destination has been cemented by its famous scallops being served in the finest restaurants and, if you're lucky, on the balcony of your penthouse by a local chef.

Hervey Bay also now boasts internationally branded luxury accommodation with the Grand Mercure Apartments Allegra.

Forty-nine AAA-rated five-star apartments are opposite the beach and five minutes from the shops.

Allegra features terraces, spa baths and designer kitchens, a heated lagoon-style pool, gym and sauna.

As stunning as the accommodation is, there's too much to do in the town to stay inside.

Unusually for a seaside town, Hervey Bay's peak period comes in winter and spring.



The Esplanade is lined with shops and cafes.

About 3000 southern humpback whales swim through the bay each July to November to breed and give birth to their young in the warm waters.

And with them come tens of

thousands of tourists eager to witness the natural performers, which swim next to tour boats and flip out of the water.

Hervey Bay may be known for its scallops, but local fish retailers assure me that its spanner crabs are the next big thing.

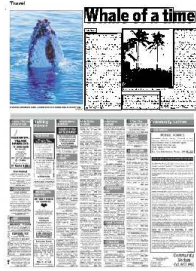
The annual Seafood Festival shows off the freshly caught fruits of the bay in creative dishes by local chefs.

I got a preview when chef Wayne Gregson visited Allegra and gave new meaning to "throw another prawn on the barbie".

While we sipped wine and enjoyed the view of Shelly Beach from the balcony,

Wayne served up one dish after another of freshly caught seafood. Fish and chips will never be the same again.

■ **Kate Swan travelled courtesy of Accor Hotels and Virgin Blue.**



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A visiting humpback takes a closer view of a tourist boat at Hervey Bay.

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Whales swim through Hervey Bay



Play

HERVEY Bay's annual Seafood Festival draws thousands eager to try the town's famed scallops and spanner crabs. It's on Sunday, August 17. Go to www.herveybayseafoodfestival.com.

Tasman Venture operates two whale-watching trips daily from July to October on a 20m luxury catamaran with viewing decks. Phone 1800 620 322 or go to www.tasmanventure.com.au.

Stay

GRAND Mercure Allegra Apartments Hervey Bay offers five-star apartments from \$185 a night; 468

The Esplanade, Hervey Bay. Phone (07) 4194 7200. Go to www.accorhotels.com.au.

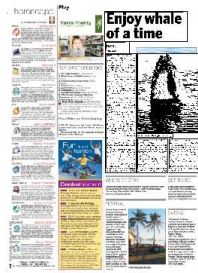
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VIRGIN Blue operates direct daily flights from Melbourne to Fraser Coast (Hervey Bay). Fares start from \$185 one way on the internet. Go to www.virginblue.com.au.

Correction

A TRAVEL feature in last week's *Leader* mentioned the Grand Mercer hotel in Mackay.

The correct title for the property is Grand Mercure Suites Mackay.



Enjoy whale of a time

TRAVEL

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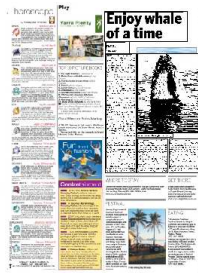
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WHERE TO STAY

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GET THERE

Virgin Blue operates direct daily flights from Melbourne to Fraser Coast (Hervey Bay). Fares start from \$185 one-way on the internet. Visit www.virginblue.com.au

FESTIVAL

Hervey Bay's annual Seafood Festival attracts thousands of people eager to sample the town's famous scallops and spanner crabs. This year, it's on Sunday, August 17. Visit www.herveybayseafoodfestival.com.

Tasman Venture operates two whale-watching trips daily from July to October on a 20m luxury catamaran with viewing decks. Costs: adults \$100, seniors and students \$90, children (4-14) \$60, under-4 free. Phone 1800 620 322 or visit www.tasmanventure.com.au



EATING

Caterer and Seafood Festival favourite Wayne Gregson can come to you at Allegra or you can visit him at Treats Restaurant, shop 16/81 Boat Harbour Drive, Pialba. Phone (07) 4124 3313.

Enjoy a lazy breakfast with a great view at Enzos on the Beach, 351A The Esplanade. Phone (07) 4124 6375.

A restaurant packed with locals is a sign you're on to something great. Santini Pizza e Cucina is next door to Allegra, shop 1/470, The Esplanade. Phone (07) 4125 5880.



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Grand Mercure

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