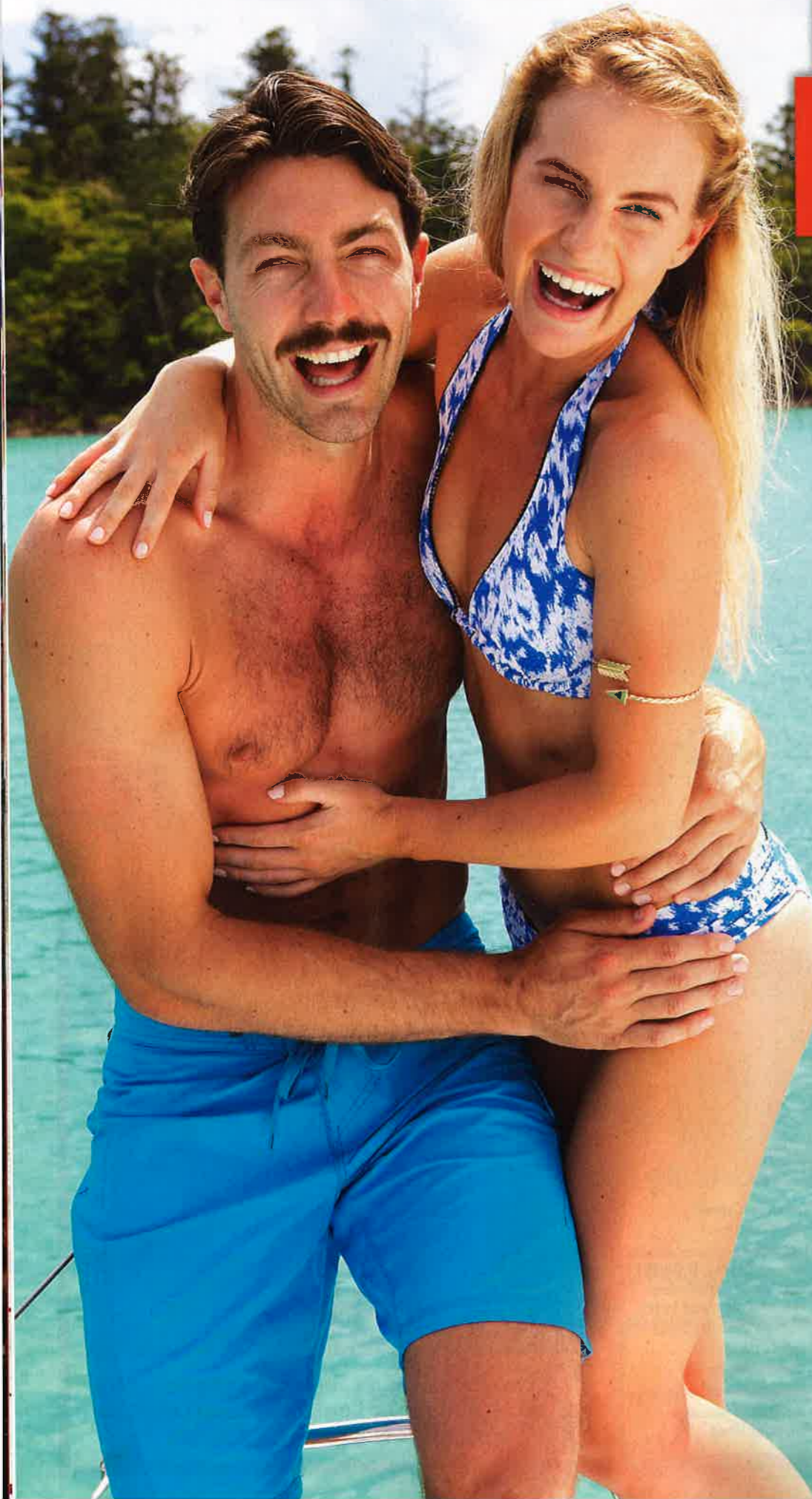


Kisses in paradise ART & MATILDA'S ISLAND ESCAPE



Kicking back after a big year, The Bachelor couple share their dreams

It's a glorious day in Australia's Whitsunday Islands. The incredible blue of the water is matched only by the sky, the mercury has topped 30°C, and *Woman's Day* has joined Art Green and Matilda Rice on a gleaming white yacht in this tropical paradise.

Sailing past a little church nestled into the coastline of one of the gorgeous islands, Matilda's just had a spur-of-the-moment, slightly outrageous idea.

"Hey, look, a chapel! Might as well, don't you think? We've got the white dresses, the make-up artist, the photographer ... the only bottleneck is in your area, Art!"

"The ring!" he replies, chuckling. For now, the stunning couple, who found fame and love on the first season of *The Bachelor New Zealand*, are just having a laugh. But 2016 has proved to be a defining year for the tanned, toned and totally smitten pair, who have just taken the big step of moving into their own place.

"That's definitely been a massive highlight," tells Art, 28. "It's so nice to have our own space, just the two of us."

It's almost two years since the down-to-earth duo met on the reality series and while they'll always be grateful for



Art and Matilda couldn't resist a glorious getaway – and best of all, they now have their own love nest to go home to! Below: Taking the plunge.

The Bachelor, it really does feel like Art and 26-year-old Matilda are embarking on a new chapter in their lives, with new jobs, new challenges and new priorities.

Make or break! Matilda, a sales rep, is leaving the corporate world, resigning from her role at TVNZ to form her own, as-yet-unnamed social-media consulting firm.

"We were throwing around 'Advice from Rice' – that's a joke!" she says, erupting into giggles as Art shakes his head. "I took a look at what I was doing one day and asked myself if that's what I wanted for the rest of my life. So it was time to take a risk while I've got no kids or a mortgage."

"And you're very good at it," Art smiles.

On top of forming her own business, Matilda has just launched a blog, and is continuing her roles as ambassadors for Jockey and

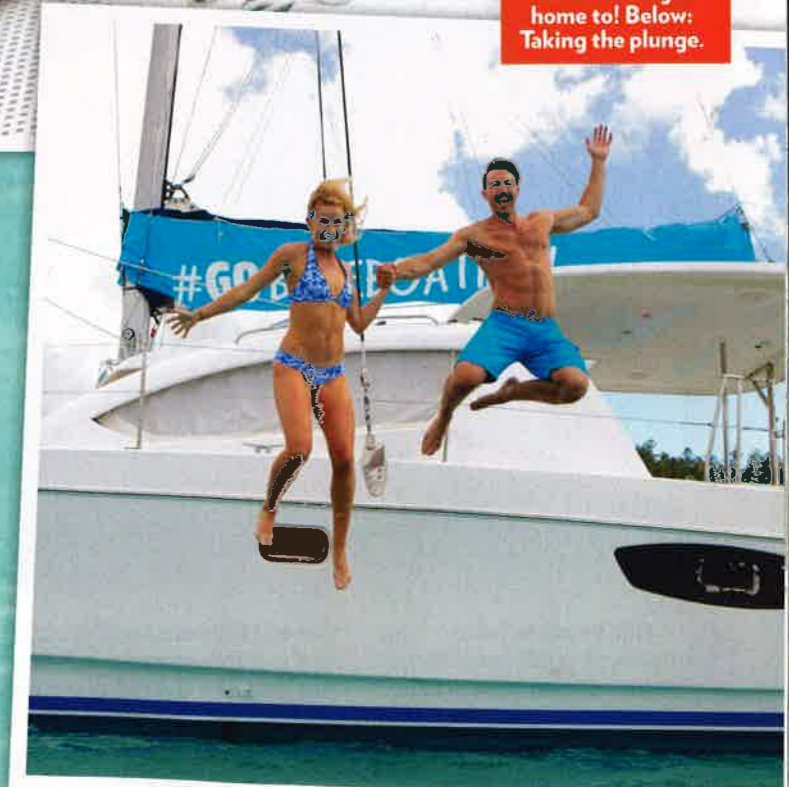
Maybelline. Being asked to parade around in her undies was a bit daunting at first, she admits. "I'm no model – I don't have massive boobs or anything!"

But Matilda looks amazing in her bikini as she and Art carefully climb over the yacht's railings so our photographer can grab a shot of them jumping off the side, with the slightly apprehensive blonde beauty proudly telling us she's managed to conquer her fear of water this year during a trip to Fiji.

"I never would have done this a few months ago!" she exclaims before leaping off the edge, her hand tightly clutching Art's as they splash into the turquoise water.

"It sounds like common sense, but I realised that I can actually do anything if I put my mind to it – I have heaps more confidence and motivation."

While the pair still pinch



themselves when they talk about how blissful their lives are, they've vowed to make changes, promising each other they'll travel more and take more time for themselves in 2017.

"We're hopefully going to plan a big trip at some stage, maybe South America," tells Matilda. "But we also really want to make sure we have more time for just us."