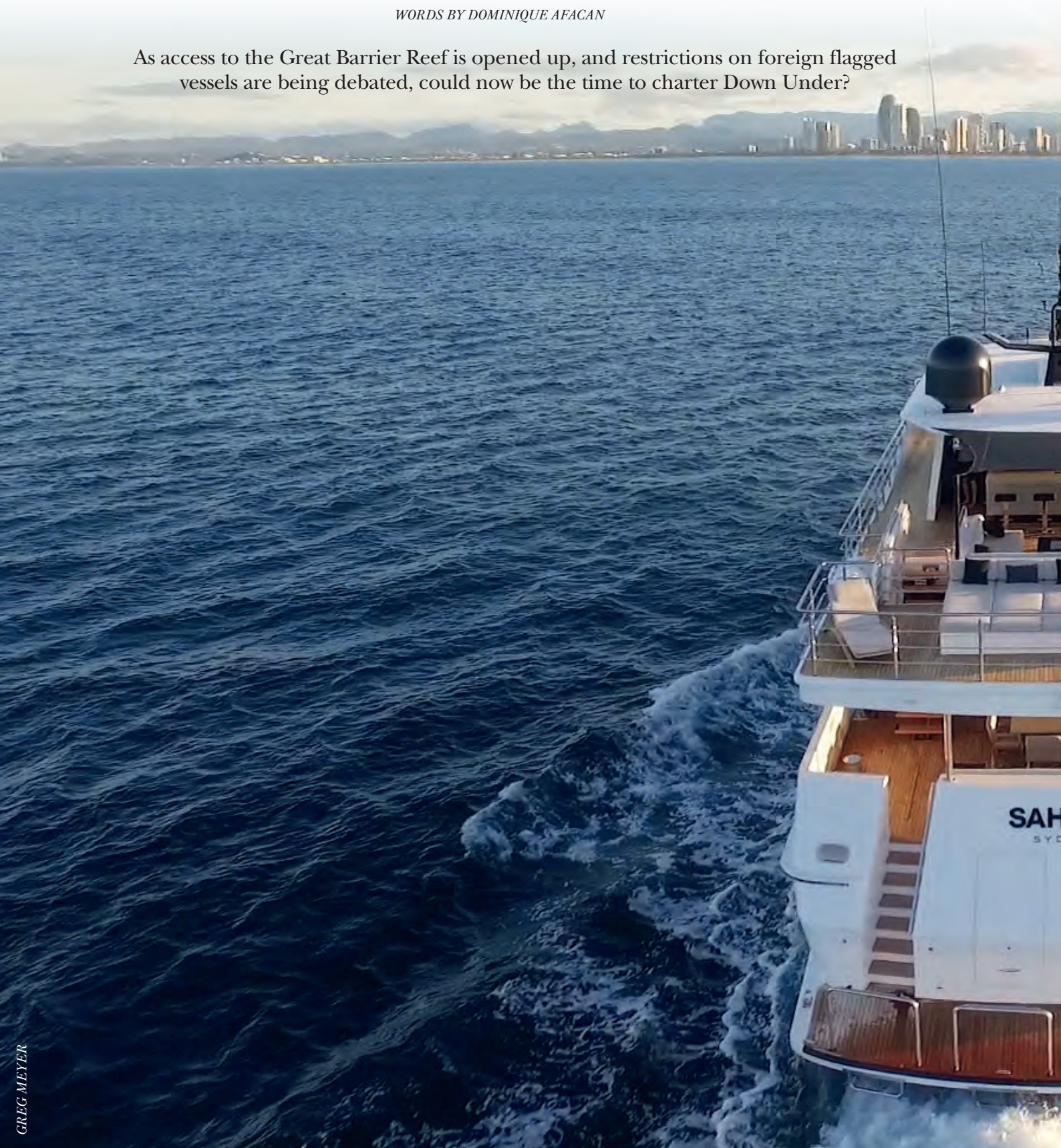


# CHARTER FOCUS: AUSTRALIA

WORDS BY DOMINIQUE AFACAN

As access to the Great Barrier Reef is opened up, and restrictions on foreign flagged vessels are being debated, could now be the time to charter Down Under?



GREG MEYER







Opening page: Greg Meyer's  
M/Y *Sahana*.

Australia, despite its incredibly varied selection of luxury charter experiences, is often dismissed as being 'too far away', especially in comparison to closer winter sun options in the Caribbean. But there are rich rewards for those who make the journey; take the bucket-list experiences of Sydney Harbour and the New Year's Eve fireworks for starters. Access to the Great Barrier Reef region is also being opened up, thanks to the efforts of the new team behind Abell Point Marina, working alongside Superyacht Australia. A new coastal freight act is currently being debated by parliament and there are hopes that new prime minister Malcolm Turnbull will force this through, aware that there can be only positives from allowing foreign-flagged superyachts into the country. *The Superyacht Owner* heads Down Under to find out more.



## CAMERON BRAY OF BRAY MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS THREE AUSTRALIAN YACHTS AVAILABLE FOR CHARTER IN 2016.

### CORROBOREE

Thirty-two metre M/Y *Corroboree* has been painstakingly reinvented by an incredibly astute owner over a 12-month refit. A complete engine and auxiliary repower and dual stabilisation of fins and gyro see the yacht as the first in Australia with such technology. The list continues with the addition of guest creature comforts, including the addition of a fifth cabin to accommodate 12 guests, global broadband internet coverage and a video library with more than 3,000 movies. *Corroboree* comes into her own when tasked with adventure. With a 3,000nm range, she is built to explore the reaches of the Great Barrier Reef and the untouched Kimberley region of the Northern Territory.  
USD \$80,000/week

### TANGO

Australia's largest charter yacht, 42.5m M/Y *Tango* boasts four spacious cabins with a main-deck master. A recent hull extension saw the astute addition of a helipad-come-dancefloor along with sunken beach-club lounge in the cleverly concealed transom garage. The helipad addition allows the yacht to spend the time carefully positioning over some of the world's most sought-after dive sites, and charter guests are permitted a seamless express transfer from the mainland. With the capability of hosting up to 80 guests on board for day charters, *Tango* has seen some incredible product launches by some of the world's most recognised brands, including Airbus and Rolls-Royce.  
AUD \$165,000/week

### QUANTUM

M/Y *Quantum* highlights the true Australian superyacht building pedigree. The 36m sleek sports yacht is capable of reaching speeds in excess of 26 knots with her powerful twin MTU 16V 2000 M93 2400hp engines, while her state-of-the art gyroscopic stabilisers ensure a smooth and stable voyage for those on board. The clever single-level layout allows for a seamless integration of the dining area, salon and aft deck for entertainment across one spacious zone.  
AUD \$115,000/week



AUSTRALIAN ENTREPRENEUR GREG MEYER OWNS 36M M/Y *SAHANA*. HE SPOKE TO *THE SUPERYACHT OWNER* FROM INDONESIA, WHERE HE IS CURRENTLY BUILDING A NEW LUXURY PROPERTY RESORT.

"*Sahana* was built by Australian yard Oceanfast and was originally owned by the founder and chairman of Austal shipping in Perth. Oceanfast are great boat builders but they have no idea about interior design. The chairman was having trouble selling it as the design was not very wife-friendly, but it was hardly used and of good pedigree so I bought her a couple of years back. I spent double my budget making the interiors work! We flew most of the stuff in from Italy from the likes of B&B Italia and Minotti – and I got my creative director, George Gorrow, who works with me on my resort projects, to help out remotely.

Originally the boat was just for me – I'd never chartered, but after we finished it a broker approached me to ask if an American film star could lease it for a week. I was ignorant to the charter market, but when he hit me with what sort of prices I could get, I thought, well maybe! In the end he didn't lease it but it gave rise to me thinking I might selectively charter. I have a couple chartering it over Christmas and New Year and a few corporate shows in Sydney coming up. I don't actually get to use it a lot.

*Sahana* is based in Sydney right now, but long-term I'm thinking of moving it to the Mediterranean or the Caribbean so that when I use it, it will be in places I haven't already seen. We did 7,000 nautical miles in my last boat so we really got around Australia. My favourite cruising grounds are Cairns and Lizard Island – the weather is great, the marina is great, it's scenic and there is great diving and fishing. Sydney Harbour is great too, obviously.

I'd say in Australia the quality of workmanship at the top end is excellent and value for money is good, but it's a thinner market so you have to find the right people. The biggest issue is design down here, I'm lucky that we could put our own concepts together. Residential designers don't understand the quirks of boats or superyachts so they are a waste of time.

The government are pretty tough on tax, thinking everyone bringing a boat in here is bringing it in permanently when they probably are not! The reason my boat is one of the the nicest in Australia is basically because anyone else who has one has it in the Mediterranean or the Caribbean. Their strategy is a bit silly as there are genuine international visitors who want to stay for six months and then leave. I believe there's a fair bit of movement so hopefully this will change."

*Sahana* charters for USD \$100,000/week. She is equipped with four cabins and accommodates eight guests and 70 day guests, with a crew of six.

**THERE ARE RICH  
REWARDS FOR  
THOSE WHO MAKE  
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THE BUCKET-LIST  
EXPERIENCES OF  
SYDNEY HARBOUR  
AND THE NEW YEAR'S  
EVE FIREWORKS FOR  
STARTERS.**







## CAPTAIN PAUL BUSK OF M/Y SAHANA OFFERS A SEVEN-DAY ITINERARY AROUND THE KIMBERLEYS.

The Kimberleys are one of Australia's most remote and untouched superyacht experiences, with amazing natural wildlife, indigenous rock art, soaring cliff faces, breathtaking waterfalls and phenomenal fishing.

### DAY 1

Arrive at Koolama Bay at the mouth of the King George River. Koolama Bay acts as an introduction to a week of wildlife sightings, impressive natural scenery and ancient aboriginal rock art. From Koolama Bay, we navigate into the mouth of the King George and up to our first night's anchorage. From here, guests are tendered to a small gorge before a short, challenging climb ends at one of the Kimberley's most beautiful freshwater swimming holes with cool deep water. We then bushwalk past the swimming hole to rock art galleries before returning on board for sunset drinks.

### DAY 2

We navigate upriver to our second anchorage. The day's activities begin with a fishing safari in the tender, including mud crabbing and bait gathering – species often caught include barramundi, mangrove jack and threadfin salmon. Alternatively, guests might opt for a river cruise to spot the unique flora and fauna of this part of the world, and while away the hours croc-spotting. We soon shift the yacht up to her night anchorage from where we have a grandstand view of the falls. If the falls are flowing, guests will be offered one of the most amazing experiences of a waterfall shower while sitting on the bow. The cliffs in the afternoon's setting sun are an amazing sight and a great place to enjoy sunset cocktails.

### DAY 3

A challenging climb to the top of the King George plateau greets guests with breathtaking views back over the towering gorges of the King George River, and of our anchorage. During the walk to the top of the plateau we generally encounter wildlife, including wallabies, dingoes and brolgas, then continuing past the falls for just over a kilometre, we're treated to freshwater billabongs with abundant birdlife and a great place to cool off before the return hike. As the sun sets in the afternoon, we cruise back down river in preparation for departure from the King George the following morning.

### DAY 4

We depart King George bound for Berkeley River – an easy voyage of just over four hours which sees guests navigating down the south-western side of Bonaparte Gulf. These waters are teeming with fish and a great place to stock up on fish like gold banded snapper or red emperor. We enter the Berkeley River and navigate upstream to the night's secure anchorage.

### DAY 5

On waking, guests can take the tender to Casuarina Falls and walk to the top for a stunning view of an otherworldly landscape. Upstream of the falls are not only freshwater pools with an abundance of wildlife, but also well preserved Bradshaw rock paintings. The age in which this rock art was created is still disputed by scholars, but what is certain is that the figures adorned with bags, tassels and headdresses never fail to leave an impression. Once back on board, we turn upstream for an afternoon cruise through the amazing Berkeley River Gorge, with 100m cliffs towering either side of the river before anchoring for the night off the entrance to Amphitheatre Falls.

### DAY 6

We visit Amphitheatre Falls, fishing the edges of the Berkeley River gorge for barramundi and mangrove jack with the high cliffs providing shade from the Kimberley sun. After a leisurely lunch, we take an afternoon tender cruise to visit Red Amphitheatre Falls and take guests to the headwaters of the Berkeley River.

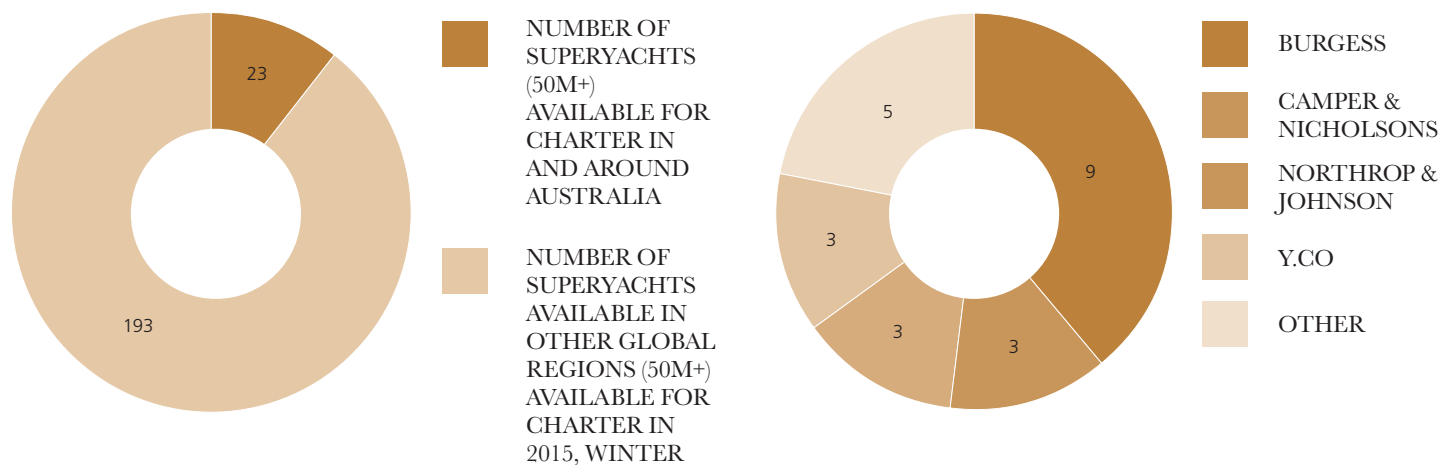
### DAY 7

Guests take to the skies with helicopter tours of the region, visiting isolated billabongs and waterfalls. The afternoon sees the yacht's crew whisking guests to the top of the Berkeley River for a BBQ and cocktails around freshwater swimming holes. On the return to the yacht, as the sun sets, we cruise to Casuarina Creek to anchor for the night, departing the following morning bound for Darwin. 



# IN NUMBERS

A snapshot of the Australian charter market, compiled by The Superyacht Intelligence Agency.



## AVERAGE WEEKLY CHARTER PRICE BY SIZE AND TYPE OF SUPERYACHT

LOA	LOW PRICE (€)/WEEK	HIGH PRICE (€)/WEEK	YEAR OF BUILD
70M+	€675,000	€719,000	2007
50-70M	€240,100	€256,100	2003



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**WE TURN UPSTREAM FOR AN AFTERNOON CRUISE  
THROUGH THE AMAZING BERKELEY RIVER GORGE, WITH  
100M CLIFFS TOWERING EITHER SIDE OF THE RIVER.**