

## Tis the Season

Hello everyone! Can you believe that we are only 18 days from Christmas?

It has been a busy few weeks at the resort with us once again welcoming [Ironman](#) competitors from across the globe to compete in the gruelling Ironman Triathlon.

The race starts with competitors completing a 3km swim around the Busselton Jetty, before a 180km cycle through the beautiful Tuart Forest and culminating in a 42km run around the Busselton Foreshore. It's an amazing weekend for the region with Busselton buzzing with pre-race nerves!

Christmas is always such a special time at the resort with families enjoying the festive period together around the BBQ, pool areas or enjoying a game of tennis together. There is also SO much to see in the region and some great places to shop last minute if you have forgotten a special something for a loved one.

One of my favourite places to visit is [Vasse Virgin](#) located in the heart of the Margaret River region. As a producer of Olive Oil skin care products, infusers and Olive Oil gourmet food products, it is perfect for that stocking filler for Mum!

For the adrenaline seekers out there, have you thought about buying your partner a [Skydive](#) over Geographe Bay? Taking off from the Busselton Airport, you can choose the height that you jump from and you even land on the beach at Busselton Foreshore!

Or for those looking to take in ALL that the Margaret River region has to offer, how about a Sea Safari with [Jet Adventures](#) for the family? Explore the amazing coastline between Cape Naturaliste & Dunsborough and see a different perspective of some of the South West's most iconic destinations.

To all of the readers of my blog, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! If you are coming to stay with us over the festive period, I look forward to welcoming you to the resort and please do not hesitate to stop me and say hello.

My next blog will be my first of 2017, where we will look ahead to some of the upcoming events in the region including Leeuwin concerts and the South West Beer Festival.

Stay Safe!  
Jordan

## Getting Ready....

Hello once again, to old readers, new readers, or you the website visitor who actually was looking to book accommodation and clicked on my blog by accident!

We finally have had some sunshine in Busselton and with it our outdoor pools are now open and ready for our guests to cool off and enjoy. This period before the summer is always a hive of activity at the resort as we make final preparations and renovations ready for all of our guests who visit us through the festive period and the school holidays.

For anyone who may have visited in the past in past week, you will have noticed that we have our new sign on Bussell Highway at the entrance to the resort and it has been great to receive some really positive feedback from guests on check out about the new sign. Stay tuned in my next Blog for some exciting developments regarding wifi at the resort!

I mentioned in my previous Blog in October about the whale watching tours that operate from Busselton & I have been told by local operators that this is one of the best migrations they have seen with whale numbers higher than previously recorded. I was lucky enough over the weekend to visit Point Piquet which is a short drive from Dunsborough and the picturesque Meelup Beach. Sat on the rocks overlooking the beach, I saw 6 Mother & Calf

Humpback whales fin slapping and breaching. It really made me appreciate what a fantastic part of Australia the Margaret River region is.

Another of the highlights of the calendar for the region is [Gourmet Escape](#), which is a must for anyone who enjoys food and wine. With the Gourmet Village and a number of satellite events, local produce is at the forefront of the weekend. In the past the event has attracted top chefs such as Heston Blumenthal and Marco Pierre White. This year Gourmet Escape welcome's Nigella Lawson and we cannot wait to show her all that the region has to offer. Tickets are still available for a number of the events and of course, there is nowhere better to relax after a day of amazing food than here at Abbey Beach Resort.

Thank you once again for reading and in my next blog, we talk all things [Ironman](#) and what to fill your Christmas hampers with from the Margaret River region.

Kind Regards  
Jordan

## **SPRING in the South West**

Hello everyone. My name is Jordan Palk and I am the Rooms Division Manager at Abbey Beach Resort. Join me as I post my thoughts and what has been happening around the resort and the region!

So today marks the end of the school holidays and the end of winter here at the resort. With the prolonged winter weather that the South West has encountered over the past weeks, our heated indoor pool has been well used by families visiting the resort.

The weather thankfully hasn't stopped the beautiful wildflowers, with many local tour operators reporting that this has been the best year for wildflowers that they can remember. I got chance at the weekend to see them first hand whilst undertaking part of the Cape to Cape track that runs from Cape Leeuwin to Cape Naturaliste and they are really a sight to see if you are visiting the region in the next couple of weeks.

With a busy long weekend at the end of September thanks to the Queen's Birthday and the school holidays, we enter the countdown to the summer at the resort with staff busily preparing the resort for those summer months. This includes our Maintenance Department and many of you may have noticed if you have stayed recently our gardens looking beautifully manicured.

Many of our guests have also braved the rough seas over recent weeks to take in the magnificent Humpback whales on their annual migration through Geopraphe Bay. If you are staying with us in the coming weeks, I would recommend speaking with our reception staff members and booking a tour through one of the local tour operators that leave from Busselton on a daily basis. You may even be lucky enough to spot a Blue whale which is also known to migrate at the same time.

If you prefer more land based activities and have a pen chance for 2 wheels, I would recommend the exciting [Cape to Cape Mountain Bike](#) race in late October. With the course stretching 220km over 3 days, the course is designed not only for the elite but the casual rider too!

For those thinking of what to do, I would also recommend our amazing [Christmas & New Year's](#) Buffet menu which is currently available on the homepage. Why worry about all the stress of Christmas Day lunch for the family when you can spend it with us and make it a Christmas to remember!

Have a great few weeks everyone and look out for my next blog as I preview [Gourmet Escape](#), [Ironman WA](#) and some Christmas gift tips from the South West!

Kind Regards  
Jordan

## Winter Down South

Well the school holidays are well and truly upon us! I have just come back from the Indoor Pool and it is full of families with the kids enjoying the heated pool and the parents enjoying the spa! I have to say I do not blame them. Busselton has had a cold snap this past week, with cold mornings but glorious sunshine filled days.

I think the weather is perfect for exploring the Margaret River Region and with the abundance of whales currently being reported from the [whale watching charters](#) it is definitely something to consider if you are staying with us in the coming weeks.

I always get asked by guests to the resort if I can give a 'secret spot' to visit or somewhere away from the other visitors to the region. In my last blog I mentioned the Blackwood River drive from Nannup to Balingup and my top tip for anyone coming to Margaret River or Busselton would be to take the short drive to [Quinninup Falls](#).

Quinninup Falls is an ocean facing waterfall, with the walk to the Falls almost as beautiful as the Falls itself! It takes approximately 45 minutes to reach the Falls so remember to take plenty of water!

After a hard day of exploring there are also some great spots to stop for lunch or dinner in the region with of my favourites being [Eagle Bay Brewing Co](#), with stunning views over Eagle Bay and Meelup & Castle Rock.

I also want to give a special mention to all of our guests who competed in the [South West Mudfest](#) last weekend. It looked like such a fun event and we were lucky that the weather was able to produce lots of mud for you all!

We still have availability should you wish to come & stay with us here in Busselton over the coming weeks with some great Packages on currently like our [Winter Warmer Package](#) or should you have a special Anniversary coming up, why not take advantage of our Anniversary Package? For all deals and packages click [here](#) for what may suit you all.

Stay safe, stay warm and I will speak to you in a couple of weeks.

Jordan Palk  
Rooms Division Manager

## Did you miss me?

After what can only be described as writers block, it is great to be back writing my blog once again. For any regular visitors to the resort you may have noted that I have actually been multi-tasking over the previous months overseeing our Front Office during our busy summer period.

I love winter here in the South West! With such activities as the whale watching tours with the [whales](#) back in abundance currently fin slapping and breaching off Augusta or events such as [CinefestOz](#) about to thrust Busselton into the bright lights there is so much going on for any visitors to the [Margaret River](#) region.

With the variable weather conditions, it is always great to see the region looking so green and luscious and a complete change to how it looks in the summer months. With an abundance of native [flowers](#) and plants there are some great tourist drives for our guests. My recommendation would be the Nannup to Balingup drive, with a stop in [Balingup](#) for a cup of tea and some cake! With our reception open 24 hours, please do not hesitate to ask one of our friendly reception staff who will always be happy to offer a little bit of local insight!

Here at the resort, we are readily preparing ourselves for the [South West Wedding Fair](#) here in August (for all you brides to be out there!) whilst also completing renovation projects so that we can continue to match guest expectations of the resort. The same can be said for the region also, with the current multi-million dollar redevelopment of the Busselton Foreshore meaning that our guests will have amazing new attractions to explore right on our doorstep including the [Busselton Jetty](#)!

We currently have our winter sale on at the resort, with some great nightly rates. To take advantage of our sale rates check out the [booking section](#) of the website now. We also have some great [deals and packages](#) which can be also found from the homepage of the website.

Have a great week and I hope that I can welcome you to the resort in the coming weeks!

Best Wishes Jordan Palk

## Abbey Beach Resort was named on of the Top 6 Most Romantic Wedding Destinations

Getting hitched at the beach is a popular dream, but wedding venues similar to the Abbey Beach Resort, Busselton, are few and far between. Expedia certainly realises this – it's just listed the hotel as one of its top venues for saying '[I do](#)' in the world. The site picked us out for our "lush landscaped gardens" on the seafront, where the bride and groom exchange their vows, and its proximity to Western Australia's stunning Margaret River, just a 30-minute drive from the hotel.

It also mentions the fact that the 4.5-star establishment can cater for a variety of post-ceremony reception sizes, from intimate to grand, at the Ballroom, Abbey 4, or John Abbey Bar venues. In addition, the hotel has a wedding coordinator on hand to ensure that the whole day goes off without a hitch, as well as an extensive list of trusted suppliers – from patissiers to florists – to facilitate a streamlined event that can tailor around the unique needs of each wedding.

The idyllic hotel has plenty of rooms and apartments at discounted rates for guests to bed down in plush surroundings once the day is done. The bride and groom should opt for a beachside villa facing the Indian Ocean to wake up as man and wife for the first time in the ultra-special luxury of these rooms.

Start planning your dream beach wedding today by visiting our [Wedding Page](#)

## 5 Reasons to visit Dunsborough, Western Australia

Deciding on a family holiday, a retreat for just the two of you, a relaxing break by the sea or a more active, sports filled, fun packed excursion for a group of friends? Well, you're in luck because Dunsborough in Western Australia ticks all the boxes.

If you're planning your next vacation, there are many reasons to visit [Dunsborough](#), which is good for more than just turquoise blue waters and beautiful beaches. Let's have a look at 5 other reasons:

### 1. Natural geographical wonders

The region is host to a number of caves due to a band of limestone passing through the area, and there are a couple open to the public that are not to be missed. Of these, the Jewel Cave, with its 5 metre high straw-like rock formations, is probably the most impressive.

This is closely followed by the Mammoth Cave and Lake Cave, the latter of which is home to a subterranean lake, that are also a must for any itinerary. Guided tours are available if you wish to explore these fascinating natural phenomena, and they are certainly well worth the visit.

## 2. Hiking and cycling trails

If you prefer to take your time and experience the countryside up close and personal, then a hike across one of the well-defined and signposted walking tracks is the perfect way to spend your holiday.

You can decide to walk or cycle the Cape to Cape Walk Track in stages, or cycle from Dunsborough to Busselton – either way the walks are suitable for all, with easy access and clear routes that are both stroller and wheelchair friendly.

## 3. Whale watching

Between the months of June and December is the best time to catch a glimpse of these magnificent creatures, and you can do this via an organised boat tour or by keeping a close watch from the shoreline. Humpback whales also return to Geographe Bay near Dunsborough during September and the beginning of December to nurse their babies.

## 4. Food and drink tours

From visits to microbreweries to a trip to the cellar door of an established vineyard, there are a number of beer and wine tours around Dunsborough to keep everyone happy. Choose from half or full day organised trips with lunch included, or you can even plan your own schedule of visits as you celebrate all that is great about Australian wine and beer.

There is also a range of local food suppliers who are happy for you to drop in and taste their wares – everything from an authentic French bakery to the local Lions Market in Dunsborough.

## 5. Shop until you drop

From small boutique stores with a range of clothing to suit all ages to artisan outlets with handmade pottery that you can take home as a keepsake, Dunsborough has something for all the family.

There are plenty of shops where the kids can spend their pocket money, while the older members can browse local galleries, jewellery stores and antique emporiums. The Centrepoint Shopping Centre is home to a number of retail outlets, and you are sure to find that special memento of your holiday in Dunsborough, a destination that will make you want to come back the following year.

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## Margaret River named must-visit food region in Australia by the *Australian Traveller*

Located just three hours' drive south of Perth, the Margaret River region in WA is one of Australia's more compact, yet strikingly diverse holiday destinations. For those who would visit, a tantalising world of natural wonders, premium wineries, microbreweries, world-class restaurants, spectacular beaches and more await.

With its laid back, friendly vibe, the Margaret River region is the perfect escape, whether for families looking to spend some quality time together, couples wanting a quick weekend getaway, or even foodies seeking a gastronomic adventure.

In fact, Margaret River was recently named winner of the "Must-Visit Food Region" under the "Best Experiences" category of the [People's Choice 2015 awards](#). Organised by the *Australian Traveller*, it was picked for its "food movement" that is "awakening the gourmand in all of us", thanks in large part to its incredible array of fresh produce that is being showcased on menus all across the region.

Margaret River's weekend Farmers' Markets are also well known for their handcrafted cheese, fresh olives and olive oils, gourmet breads, and the region's signature products: fresh caught marron and black truffle. And with the annual [Margaret River Gourmet Escape](#) (which takes place every November) becoming a real highlight of a foodie's calendar, it's no wonder the region is becoming the go-to destination in WA, and indeed Australia, when it comes to good food and wine.

Speaking of which, did you know that Margaret River is one of the world's top wine producing regions, commanding over 20 percent of the Australian premium wine market? That, along with the passion of the local winemakers, the temperate climate and the region's stunning natural beauty, is credited with inspiring not just the robust wine industry, but the development of all the other gourmet creators as well.

In between delicious meals, don't forget to check out all the other attractions on offer in Margaret River, or even in nearby Busselton and Dunsborough. Whale watching (seasonal), bushwalking, swimming, surfing and climbing are all popular activities, while art connoisseurs can also visit the eclectic displays and galleries of local artisans.

Want to make Margaret River your next holiday destination? Visitors are spoilt for choice on the [Margaret River accommodation](#) front, with options ranging from luxury serviced apartments to hotel rooms and resort facilities at Abbey Beach Resort. Whatever your needs or budget, you're sure to find something that suits, so get online and start planning your holiday [now!](#)

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## Latest news from inside the resort!

Hello and welcome if you have stumbled across this tab on our website and discovered my blog. My name is Jordan Palk and I am the Rooms Division Manager at Abbey Beach Resort in the beautiful Margaret River region in Western Australia.

I live here in Busselton with my wife and our 2 cats and I love living in this beautiful part of the world with our turquoise waters and beautiful untouched beaches. Added to that is that we also have over 200 wineries within a 45 minute drive and you can see why it is such a popular destination for visitors from around Australia and internationally.

With such events in the region as the Ironman, Gourmet Escape, Margaret River Surf Pro and not to mention the Leeuwin Concert Weekend, you can see why they call Busselton and the surrounds the Events Capital of WA!

Well here at the resort we took advantage this week of the glorious spring weather that we have been having with staff posing for our annual Christmas photo! Regular followers of our social media pages, will know from previous years I am involved in some way in the photo such as last year with me being unceremoniously dumped in the swimming pool by delighted staff members. This year is no different and I challenge you to see if you can spot me when the photo is published on our Facebook closer to Christmas.

If that was not enough to tempt you down to the South West, throughout the October School Holidays you can choose from any of Apartment or Studio and SAVE with our [Stay 5 Pay 4 deal!](#)

With the Wildflower season now coming to an end there is still plenty for our guests to enjoy in the region such as a whale watching tour. Every year from September through till Mid December migrating whales such as Humpbacks, Southern Rights and even Blue whales, use the tranquil waters of Geographe Bay as a resting ground for themselves and their calves. I highly recommend that if you are visiting the region to book one of these tours and if you are staying with us please do not hesitate to contact our reception and we will happily book the tour on your behalf.

We are also on 3 weeks away from once again welcoming some of the best international chef's to the region for Gourmet Escape. This food and wine festival has in the past attracted such culinary heavyweights as Heston Blumenthal, Adriano Zumbo and Rick Stein. This year is no exception with award winning Michelin star chef Marco Pierre White hosting a number of events at some of the most renowned wineries in the region. I am looking to attend the Gourmet Village again this year which is a great way to taste all that the region has to offer!

Less than 2 weeks after Gourmet Escape, we start welcoming our Ironman competitors from all around the world, who head to Busselton to take part in the SunSmart Ironman Western Australia event. With a field of over 2000 competitors, the event is much loved in Busselton with many of the city residents cheering on competitors from the early hours until the final few make it over the line close to midnight a mere 19 hours after starting!

Here at the resort we love welcoming the competitors, some who have stayed with us for many years and volunteering to assist the event. Last year it was great to be able to hand out water to a guest who had just done a 3.8km swim around the iconic Busselton Jetty and a 180km bike ride only having previously checked them in the night before!

Finally before I sign off for this blog, I would love to welcome you to stay at the resort this Christmas and enjoy Christmas by the beach! We still have availability for the Christmas period and invite you to enjoy with your family our scrumptious Christmas Buffet on Christmas Day. For the Christmas Buffet Menu and pricing please click here <http://www.abbeybeach.com.au/christmas-day-lunch-buffet> and we can't wait to share Christmas Day with you. Santa will also be making an appearance!

Have a great week and look out for my next blog as we look ahead to Southbound and Leeuwin Weekend! Not to mention a sneak peak of our Christmas photo!

Best Regards,

**Jordan Palk**

Rooms Division Manager