

# Sheraton Mirage



## The vision comes to life

SPECIAL FEATURE, PAGES 17-24



# Sheraton Mirage

## Elite project benefits from Vaughan's years of construction experience

MULTIPLE stages of Sheraton Mirage -Port Douglas' revitalisation were undertaken by renowned national construction company Vaughan Constructions, which brought more than 60 years of adaptable experience to the detail-oriented project.

The Far North Queensland project included refurbishing the main lobby, restaurants, bars, cafes, lounges, conference centres and VIP luxury suites.

The team behind Vaughan were challenged by the late inclusion of the Country Club regeneration which offers an 18-hole, Peter Thompson designed, golf course and Pro Shop, 24/7 gym, tennis and bar facilities.

Vaughan Constructions director and general manager Andrew Noble said "brand and quality are very important for international five-star resorts, so every effort has been made to ensure the highest quality design, material and finishes have been incorporated. The design has focused on giving



guests a luxurious yet relaxed experience."

The owner of Sheraton Mirage Port Douglas, Fullshare Group, headed by Managing Director Mr Yi Yu, undertook this major investment completed by

Vaughan Constructions to ensure guests continue to receive the highest quality luxury hotel experience.

Vaughan has been quietly working away on some of the most significant buildings on

Australia's landscape. The national construction company is often linked to national and multinational companies major capital investments - and now The Sheraton Mirage Port Douglas will be added to this

ever-growing list

Vaughan Constructions was selected to work on the Sheraton Mirage based on proven experience in delivering detailed-oriented projects around Australia, as well as a strong

track record of on-time project delivery.

"A successful project is founded on full integration of quality systems, technical expertise, strong management and a positive attitude to deliver a high quality project. We're sensitive to the requirements and enjoyment of the operators and their guests and the communication between all parties was great," said Vaughan's National Construction Manager Joe Picone.

Vaughan Constructions delivered the Sheraton Mirage Port Douglas with all of these attributes, and with their history and experience, the resort remained operational throughout all the work.

"With Australia's tourism spending expected to reach \$167bn by 2025, this landmark hotel will be an iconic part of the Australian landscape for years to come, welcoming domestic and international guests to experience the best Australia has to offer" Mr Noble said.

TRUSTED NATIONAL DESIGN  
& CONSTRUCT SPECIALISTS FOR  
**60+ YEARS**

Renowned as one of Australia's most respected **industrial, commercial, residential** and **retail** Design and Construct specialists. Vaughan's approach is to focus on building customers for life. In fact, two of every three projects we develop are from returning customers.



Scan here or visit our site to access our free estimation tools.

**VAUGHANS.COM.AU**





# Sheraton Mirage

## How Carver created tropical magic

LOOKING beyond the immediate design brief to the full lifecycle of a five star resort like the Sheraton Mirage Port Douglas has opened up further opportunities for both Scott Carver and for the communities of the Far North that rely on the hospitality and tourism sector.

Scott Carver was contracted as the landscape architects for new owner Fullshare Group's refurbishment of the 30-year old Sheraton Mirage Resort.

Scott Carver Director Andrew Turnbull, Project Director for design and delivery, describes the task as "not just cosmetic surgery, this was more like a triple bypass operation."

The resort had had very little investment over the previous three decades, Turnbull says, and as a result the quality of the buildings and the landscape both required a substantial uplift.

The original design had focused on creating a tropical paradise, with 80 per cent of the landscaped area planted out with trees and understorey and very little in the way of open grassed areas.

A lack of succession plantings and management had meant the planted areas had become quite overgrown.

**“The task was not just cosmetic surgery, this was more like a triple bypass operation**

The Scott Carver strategy was to convert 70 per cent of the planted area to turf while retaining the trees.

This created a blank canvas for landscape enhancements. Much of the design decision-making was driven by considering ongoing maintenance and new technologies in water management. Scott Carver put in place a recycled water strategy to replace the potable mains water that had been used for grounds irrigation, saving the resort many thousands of dollars annually in water costs.

Other hard landscape elements delivered in the refreshed outdoor spaces include upgrades to the waterways and lagoon pools, the addition of swim-up balconies to lagoon-edge suites, and the installation of more than 25 cabanas adjacent to the lagoons. "This has given it a more

contemporary resort feel," Turnbull says.

He says research has shown that guests at the resort spend 70 per cent of their time outside.

The existing grounds also included a number of back of house landscapes that were not being put to best use, so the Scott Carver team integrated them into the overall design so they became functional areas.

The resort caters to both leisure and business tourism, a key aspect of the landscape refurbishment is to provide additional outdoor spaces for large group use including conferences and weddings incorporating audio technology and special effects lighting.

"This creates an indoor-outdoor opportunity," Turnbull says.

A key consideration in the design and future management of the landscape was the integration of management across the beachfront, golf course, Mirage Country Club and the Resort. The combined Landscape Management Plan improves energy, water and resource efficiency.

Turnbull says Fullshare now wants to transfer the model to its other assets, which Scott Carver

has also been contracted to work on. These include Mirage Whisper Bay and the Laguna Whitsunday development.

One of the project's major positives has been the benefits for the local Port Douglas community.

Turnbull says the question of how to build the community's capacity and local economy was key to all thinking on the project.

For the duration of the project, Turnbull himself spent one week on, one week off based at Port Douglas.

This helped him build strong links with local trades and suppliers, who were used wherever possible. It was a pleasure collaborating with the locals, because everyone had a vested interest in the outcome.

The fine grain detail of the project benefitted too.

For example, Turnbull says he was able to sit down with the local metalwork experts and develop better solutions for specific items.

The focus on the local economy resulted in creating jobs, and the uplift of the resort has ensured that the employment and income the resort generates for the local community is assured.



creating leisure experiences

Proud to deliver Landscape Architecture at the Sheraton Mirage Port Douglas Resort



# Sheraton Mirage

## Papillon shines at the Sheraton

THE man behind local landscapers Papillon Landscapes, Peter Murphy, needed all of his diverse skills to handle the massive project that came his way.

In fact it was those skills that won him the contract in the first place, Murphy says.

"I'm a carpenter by trade, and I have a builder's licence, as well as a diploma in horticulture.

So it all banded in together.

It was a really intense job.

"Luckily we had the right people, and we were able to use all locals."

Using local contractors and labour was a key criterion for the project chiefs, then it was a matter of how to handle such a massive project.

"It was pretty much too big for any one of us to take on by ourselves so we worked together with Hatfield Electrical, Homescape Tiles and Installation, RAM Metalworks, and partnered with Raw and More," Murphy says.

The contract was awarded to Papillon Landscapes and together with Rob Archbold, Papillon managed all of the local contractors and delivered the landscape.



Managing the job was much easier with all of the local guys on side.

Papillon "built all the

additional decks, pavings, cabanas, footpaths and obviously all the garden beds, irrigation and drainage as well."

Papillon was able to source what it needed locally, "which was fantastic", but the job was so big that Papillon nearly

exhausted local supplies of the plants they needed.

"It was difficult getting the quantity we needed in such a

short time," Murphy says.

"It was a short procurement time."

Partnering with Raw and More made it easy to get and control materials, he says. The outdoor pavers had to be shipped in.

The fantastic new cabanas were designed by Papillon, Scott Carver and RAM and built off-site.

Murphy says it was such a big job all up, his small business had grown into a much bigger one, at times running 40 people.

It had been "intense" as a job, Mr Murphy says.

But the project managers were fantastic, not least the managers from Fullshare and Scott Carver - "the way they helped us with situations and issues was fantastic.

"With renovations it's never simple: you never know what's under the ground or a slab or behind a concrete wall.

"As you can imagine, we found everything you could possibly find."

"It was a really challenging and enjoyable job and on behalf of Rob and myself, we wish to thank everyone involved, especially our amazing staff."



# PAPILLON LANDSCAPES

is incredibly honoured to have been involved in the Sheraton Mirage Renovation project. We would like to congratulate the Sheraton owners and management, and thank them for having us aboard their team.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO;**  
Fullmarr Hotels NQ Pty Ltd and their  
associated management team | Sheraton Mirage  
Port Douglas Resort management and staff | Scott Carver

We'd also like to thank the local contractors who we worked with so closely to keep the work here in our community;

Raw n More who we partnered with to ensure that works were kept local  
Hatfield Electrical | RAM Metalworks | Homescape | Island Point Constructions  
Port Douglas Sailmakers | RECS | Port Irrigation | Douglas Shire Council

PH - 4098 3081 | EMAIL - [info@papillonlandscapes.com.au](mailto:info@papillonlandscapes.com.au)



QBCC 1199540

CRGE01Z01MA - V1



## Sheraton Mirage

# Perfect new coat for grande dame

THE work and vision going into the revitalised Sheraton Mirage Port Douglas couldn't be complete without a fresh lick of paint to top it all off - and Higgins Coatings was just the company to rise to the challenge.

The team at Higgins were behind the huge task of repainting all the 288 internal guestrooms, the external remediation and repainting of the resort including render repairs, water proofing, retexturing and repainting as well as the remediation and repainting of the lagoons which add up to 10,000m<sup>2</sup>.

"All projects were completed in conjunction with each other and required expertise in ensuring key milestones were met for the client and areas of the resort opened on time," said Higgins regional manager Darren Ridge.

"At the peak of the project Higgins had employed about 30 trades people, most of whom were local.

"They included painters, apprentices, renderers, cleaners,

**Higgins had the expertise, resources and willingness to do whatever it takes to ensure the project was a success**

abseilers and protective coating trades people."

Mr Ridge said that with their ability to draw on the company from all over Queensland and throughout Australia and New Zealand, Higgins was the ideal candidate for working on the Sheraton Mirage, and has a long list of completed projects in the Far North.

"Higgins provided a cost effective solution with completing the required work; centred around specialised access equipment and methodology in completing the external works.

"Higgins also had the necessary expertise, resources

and willingness to do whatever it takes to ensure the project was a success."

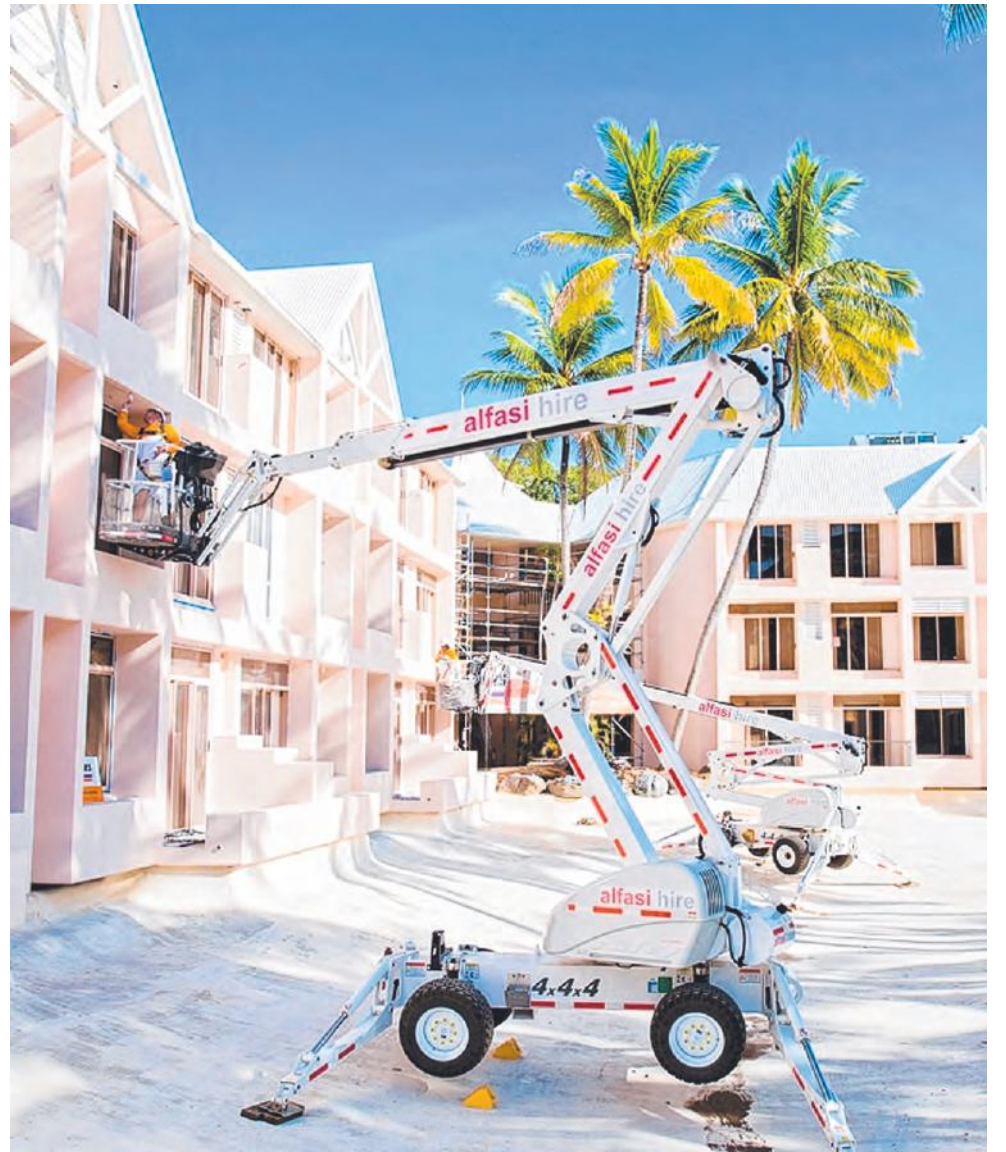
Higgins Coatings is Australia and New Zealand's premier commercial painting contractor with over 65 years of experience in providing a complete painting maintenance solution to a broad range of industries.

"We offer affordable painting solutions, tailored to your requirements, no matter what the size or nature of the project.

"Our team has the expertise and resources to handle every aspect of the job, from design through to follow-up, leaving you to focus on the real issues that matter to your facility.

"With a commitment to WHS, quality and the environment, Higgins Coatings has an industry-leading ISO Tri-Certification Accreditation.

"We stand behind our company motto 'Whatever it takes', ensuring that every finished product is one of supreme quality."



## PAINTING IS WHO WE ARE

With over 65 years' experience Higgins Coatings is Queensland's premier commercial painting contractor, specialising in a cost-effective painting service and tailored maintenance solutions.

- Commercial Repainting
- Preventative Maintenance Solutions
- Multi-Site Painting
- Specialised Coatings
- Colour & Specification Consultancy
- Anti-Graffiti
- Building Services

**Higgins**  
Better painting management

P 1300 HIGGINS [www.higgins.com.au](http://www.higgins.com.au)



# Sheraton Mirage

## Fullshare looks to the next stages

FULLSHARE Group, owners of the Sheraton Mirage Port Douglas, are delighted to see the most iconic resort property in Australian tourism returning to its former glory.

The official opening tomorrow (August 26) is the culmination of two years renovation work and the first major step in a grand plan that the company has outlined which will see other parts of the massive integrated resort either rebuilt or developed anew.

"We are happy and very satisfied with the level of success of the whole project, through working with all the local contractors," said Fullshare Group General Manager Mr Yi Yu.

"This included the all-Australian design team, and all the construction team was Australian companies including the landscaping, and all the engineering.

From the start, Fullshare announced its intention to

bring the property back to its former glory.

"What we have done now is to make that commitment come to fruition," Mr Yu said. It doesn't end there.

Fullshare's plans for further stages in the development of the huge integrated resort over the next five or six years involve tens of millions of dollars and will involve more jobs locals.

The next step flagged by the company is the building of a new convention centre where the Glade is currently on the property.

"It's still in the very early stages but we hope to make a start next year," said Mr Yu.

As well as that, the company is looking towards the construction of a six-star boutique villa complex on the southern beachfront of the property on Four Mile Beach.

Renovation of the main hotel involved an army of local designers and tradespeople.

The two wings of the hotel,

involving a total of 290-odd existing rooms, were alternately shut down and renovated.

The central complex, the golf course and the country club were also renovated.

The aim was always to preserve the essential design style of the original resort, while updating with a clean, contemporary look.

The Sheraton Mirage was able to keep operating throughout, which was fortunate timing in what has turned out to be a bumper holiday season.

The operators, SPG, report that they enjoyed "the highest July occupancy in 26 years, with August tracking in the same direction".

Mr Yu said Fullshare wanted to thank and congratulate all those involved in the project so far, also including Douglas Shire Council and state government who had facilitated in the approvals process.



Sheraton Mirage General Manager Steve Molnar with Fullshare Group Managing Director Yi Yu



**Sheraton®**  
MIRAGE  
PORT DOUGLAS  
RESORT

**Feast Restaurant open daily from 7am**  
[www.sheratonportdouglas.com](http://www.sheratonportdouglas.com) | 07 4099 5888



# Sheraton Mirage

## Staffing Solution, the team behind the team at the Sheraton Mirage

STAFFING Solution are the team behind the team at Sheraton Mirage, as the professional staffing agency selected to provide staff to work at the newly revitalised resort.

Chefs of all levels, kitchen hands, food and beverage attendants, bar staff, housekeepers and housemen keep the Sheraton Mirage looking shipshape with the assistance of the team at Staffing Solution in supplying skilled temp staff.

"We pride ourselves on delivering quality staff with honesty, loyalty, integrity and good old fashioned service to industry," said Staffing Solution Director Franca Forde, now in her 28th year of business.

Staffing Solution are a well-known and trusted company, and have been supplying temp staff to 4 and 5-star establishments in Cairns and Port Douglas for many years.

"Staffing Solution have forged a reputation within the hospitality industry as well as



among the local community of Port Douglas as being the premium supplier for professional hospitality staff."

"Staff are selected to join the

Staffing Solution temporary team and are a most important asset. Temporary work is offered to our staff with different opportunities and experiences

working in many different locations.

"We can offer hourly shifts, daily shifts, weekly shifts or long term placements in locations

such as exotic islands, sporting events, remote areas, mines, hotels and restaurants. We also offer a permanent placement service with our professional

Consultant at a very low cost."

"The team at Staffing Solution would like to congratulate Sheraton Mirage Port Douglas on its relaunch".



**4031 5000**  
**35 Grafton St, Cairns 4870**  
**[www.staffingsolution.com.au](http://www.staffingsolution.com.au)**



# Sheraton Mirage

