



Media Release

22 March 2018

## **EXCLUSIVE GUEST LIST INDULGES IN A NIGHT OF LUXURY FOR GRAND OPENING OF THE DARLING**

In an exquisite display of the lush and the lavish, an impressive list of high profile guests tonight attended the official opening of The Star Gold Coast's new luxury suite hotel, The Darling.

Around 250 guests attended the invitation-only celebrations, including celebrities Pia Miller, Kris Smith, Ian Thorpe, Lincoln Lewis, Rodger Corser and Laura Csortan, social influencer Li Chi Pan and the who's who in business and government dignitaries.

After turning the first sod alongside The Star Entertainment Group Chairman, John O'Neill AO, at the luxury development's ground-breaking ceremony in August 2015, Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk returned to formally declare the state's newest landmark officially open.

Located at the front of the iconic Broadbeach Island property, The Darling is an opulent stand-alone hotel featuring 57 luxurious spacious suites boasting a distinct, boutique design and eclectic feel.

From premium resort facilities and high-class gaming amenities to its stunning infinity pool alongside rooftop restaurant and bar, Nineteen at The Star, The Darling offers a high-end experience, catering to the individual needs of leisure and business travellers.

The Star Entertainment Group Managing Director Queensland Geoff Hogg said the star-studded affair marked a significant milestone in the property's journey to further embedding itself as a world-class tourism destination ahead of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

"We began our transformation with the opening of multi award-winning restaurant Kiyomi in December 2014, and a fantastic team exuding phenomenal skill, passion and drive has seen our vision come to life perfectly," Mr Hogg said.

"We believed in the growth and future potential of the City and over the last three years have remained committed to delivering a world-class destination that will further propel the Gold Coast onto the world stage, while also staying true to the spirit of our unique surroundings.

"The essence of The Darling is to provide guests with an unprecedented level of sophistication the City has never seen before, and this evening we were on show to the world, providing a taste of the luxury and personalised service our guests can expect."

Arriving by limousine to the sound of internationally renowned harpist Jake Meadows, guests first experienced The Darling's stunning porte cochere adorned with luxury vehicles and the dramatic architecture of a cutting-edge three-dimensional glass dome.

Entering via the red carpet through large revolving doors leading to the lavish Lobby, guests were treated to a 2.5-metre-high Veuve Clicquot champagne tower while marvelling at acrobatic performers on luggage trolleys.

A fusion of the traditional and opulent with the new and eclectic, the Lobby includes a grand chandelier weighing 750kg, specially curated artwork reminiscent of The Darling's coastal paradise location and a stunning water feature of hundreds of glass beads resembling the beauty of a jellyfish.

Guests were treated to the sounds of a grand baby piano draped with stunning lush florals curated by local company Stem Design, marrying perfectly with the Lobby's opulent teal, purple and golden hues oozing class and grandeur.

The Star Entertainment Group CEO Matt Bekier revealed the icon's redevelopment journey from sod turning three years ago where the property first broke ground, while Chairman, John O'Neill AO, joined Queensland Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, in the unveiling of The Darling plaque.

Guests were then invited upstairs for an exclusive first look at Nineteen at The Star, a premium new rooftop destination that offers a superior dining and beverage experience with spectacular beach and city skyline views.

Guests were entertained by DJ Damien Hessie; one of the founding members of Australian music group Sneaky Sound System. An impressive copper 'Hello, Darling' danced on the surface of The Darling's gravity-defying infinity pool, which extends five metres beyond the side of the tower.

The evening's menu showcased The Star Gold Coast's five signature restaurants with exquisite dishes from Kiyomi, Cucina Vivo, Garden Kitchen & Bar, Imperial at The Star and for the first time, Nineteen at The Star.

Kiyomi Executive Head Chef Chase Kojima's impeccable skill was on display, showcasing his craft at a custom gold-scale sushi station in The Darling Lobby, while Sam Studd, son of internationally renowned artisan cheese specialist Will Studd, shared his passion for the delicacy at Nineteen at The Star.

The Darling will be open exclusively for Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games representatives and stakeholders during and in the lead up to the event before welcoming its first public guests from mid-April.

## **THE DARLING**

The lavish new hotel forms the centrepiece of The Star Gold Coast's landmark transformation and features 57 spacious suites ranging in size from 70sqm to a stunning 328sqm with impressive wrap-around balconies.

Each level features just seven suites, beginning with 22 base rooms, the Jewel Suites, and 21 larger Stellar Suites. While no comfort or detail has been spared in the creation of the hotel's 14 most luxurious suites, which include four Penthouse Suites, three Penthouse Spa Suites and seven Penthouse Deluxe Suites which feature their own private Billiard, Media or Exercise room.

Designed by internationally renowned architects Steelman Partners, the opulent suites were delivered by multi-disciplinary firm DBI Design and highly-respected Australian construction company, Probuild.

Opulent finishes and rich yet calming colours combined with the impressive size of the suites create the ultimate world of luxury for guests, delivering an unrivalled leisure and entertainment destination to the Gold Coast.

The Darling connects to the recently refurbished five-star hotel, The Star Grand, offering guests access to the iconic property's award-winning restaurants and bars, and is the second hotel in The Star Entertainment Group to adopt the boutique brand.

## **THE STAR GOLD COAST REDEVELOPMENT**

The Star Gold Coast's monumental transformation heralds a new era for the property and forms part of crucial investment in the region ahead of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Eleven new food and beverage offerings, 596 refurbished hotel rooms at The Star Grand and a premium poolside experience are among the already completed offering, while The Darling forms the centrepiece of the redevelopment.

Adding to the excitement is the planned addition of the first mixed-use residential apartment and hotel tower on Broadbeach Island. Pending successful pre-sales of The Star Residences, the 53-storey tower could be the first of up to five within a future master plan as part of a joint venture with renowned Hong Kong-based partners Chow Tai Fook and Far East Consortium.

The existing redevelopment at The Star Gold Coast and the build of The Darling has already delivered 600 new construction roles while The Star Residences project would create around 500 construction roles over the next three to four years.

Together, the refurbishment of the existing property and the development of both The Darling and the proposed hotel and residential tower would involve a combined investment of up to \$850 million.

**Media release**

2 November 2018

### **The Star proposes further \$2 billion-plus investment at the Gold Coast**

State Government approval of a mega masterplan for The Star Gold Coast could see The Star Entertainment Group and its partners inject more than \$2 billion in additional tourism investment across South East Queensland (SEQ).

Managing Director and CEO of The Star Entertainment Group, Matt Bekier, today welcomed the Premier's announcement of Government support for its future vision at the Gold Coast.

"The masterplan in its entirety would see The Star Gold Coast boast more tourism accommodation than any other resort in Australia." Mr Bekier said.

"The 3000 hotel rooms and apartments would also exceed what the world-renowned Marina Bay Sands in Singapore offers, and be on a scale to compare with the largest integrated resorts in Las Vegas."

Along with four additional towers including more hotels, the \$2 billion-plus expanded masterplan proposed by The Star and its Hong Kong-based partners, Chow Tai Fook and Far East Consortium, includes the following:

- Significant new restaurant and bar precincts
- Increased entertainment and retail options
- Lush new resort facilities

The Star has also committed to delivering these tourism investments with no extra poker machines.

The first phase of the overall masterplan's five new towers was approved in December 2016 and is currently under construction. The Dorsett hotel and apartments tower is planned for a 2022 completion.

The latest approval from the Palaszczuk Government allows for the full expanded masterplan, which consists of an additional \$2 billion-plus investment in a further four towers and associated resort facilities on Broadbeach Island.

Mr Bekier said the latest segment of the masterplan is over and above the already-committed multi-billion-dollar investments from the consortium partners into SEQ.

"Once the Queen's Wharf Brisbane transformation is complete, and if The Star Gold Coast masterplan is rolled out in full, we will have tourism assets across SEQ worth around \$9 billion," Mr Bekier said.

"This includes the original assets on the Gold Coast and Brisbane, and the considerable and ongoing investments we have made in both those destinations."

**Media Release**

24 August 2018

### **THE STAR GOLD COAST BREAKS GROUND FOR NEW \$400 MILLION HOTEL TOWER**

A 53-storey mixed use tower set to create 2300 jobs and house one of the Gold Coast's largest luxury hotels has broken ground in a sod-turning ceremony on Broadbeach Island today.

The \$400 million development at The Star Gold Coast will also herald the entry to Australia of the internationally-acclaimed Dorsett hotel brand.

The Dorsett will be among an elite group of hotels on the coast with more than 300 rooms and be the second biggest in the Broadbeach region behind only The Star Grand.

The tower will deliver The Star Gold Coast a third hotel – alongside The Star Grand and The Darling – boasting 316 rooms.

The Dorsett and The Darling, opened earlier this year, are the first luxury hotels to be developed on the Gold Coast since 2011.

The tower will also include apartment accommodation, with 423 one and two-bedroom options taking the overall supply at The Star Gold Coast complex to almost 1400 rooms.

Exciting new restaurant and bar concepts are also planned, together with a recreation deck with ocean views and a resort pool for hotel guests.

Economic benefits flowing from the project will include 2300 jobs, with 1800 in construction and a further 500 created once operational.

The Star Gold Coast's workforce will expand by 21 percent from 2400 to 2900 employees.

Destination Gold Coast Consortium – a joint venture between The Star Entertainment Group and its Hong Kong- based partners Chow Tai Fook Enterprises and Far East Consortium – will develop the tower.

It further extends a strong relationship forged in multi-billion-dollar investments for mega projects at Queen's Wharf Brisbane and Sydney.

The joint venture has also acquired the Sheraton Grand Mirage beachfront resort on the Gold Coast.

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk joined The Star Entertainment Group Chairman John O'Neill to celebrate breaking ground for the 4.5-star Dorsett hotel and apartment tower.

"We are delighted to further enhance the tourism appeal of the Gold Coast and south-east Queensland more generally with this latest joint venture development," said Mr O'Neill.

"Together with our partners we have, in progress or planning, projects that will see our investment across Brisbane and the Gold Coast exceed \$4.5 billion.

"This latest commitment showcases the confidence we have in the future of the coast and its potential to become an even more established primary location for intrastate, interstate and international visitors.

"The Star Gold Coast has been transformed over the past three years, and continues to evolve, with levels of investment that position us as a genuine global tourism destination.

"The introduction of a Dorsett hotel will bring with it increased awareness in the global market, especially in Asia, where Dorsett Hospitality International owns and operates the majority of its 54 hotels.

"When the Dorsett opens for business around early 2022, it will ensure we have two of the largest hotels on the Gold Coast – plus the most luxurious in The Darling suite hotel.

"Overall, we will have the finest resort amenities, additional food and beverage venues to complement the award- winning restaurants and bars already opened, and entertainment offerings that include leading Australian and international acts at The Star Gold Coast theatre."

The Star Entertainment Group Managing Director Queensland, Geoff Hogg, said the sod-turning for the tower continued an exciting year on the Gold Coast.

"We had the success of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games which had the best of our city on display to the world," said Mr Hogg.

"That level of exposure is invaluable for the Gold Coast and for Queensland more generally.

"At The Star Gold Coast, we were delighted to open The Darling in time for the Commonwealth Games and now to progress just a few months later to breaking ground for the Dorsett hotel and apartment tower highlights our commitment to tourism and the region."

Dorsett currently owns and operates hotels in Hong Kong, China, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan and the United Kingdom.

"Today's ground-breaking ceremony is truly a proud moment for us," said Datin Jasmine Abdullah Heng, Vice Chairman Dorsett Hospitality International.

"The Gold Coast is an attractive tourist destination with its beautiful beaches and surfing spots, exciting theme parks, vibrant nightlife, great dining and shopping experiences.

"We see its enormous potential, and we cannot wait to offer a whole new level of sophistication, service,

and style to future guests.

“We are one of Asia’s fastest growing hotel groups and our strategy is to target China’s fast growing affluent middle- class market, offering memorable experiences at great value and the highest levels of hospitality.”

Australia’s largest privately-owned construction company, Hutchinson Builders, was named last week as the preferred contractor for the tower development.

The 316 hotel rooms will feature across the tower’s lower levels, while an additional 423 residential apartments ranging from 54sqm to 109sqm will form the upper levels.

The tower has been designed by acclaimed architects Cottee Parker, in conjunction with multi-award-winning DBI Design.

**Media Release**

26 March 2018

## **THE STAR GOLD COAST CELEBRATES NON-STOP ENTERTAINMENT FOR GC2018**

Live entertainment, DJs, nightly themed events, fireworks, a pop-up food stall showcasing flavours of the Commonwealth, giant outdoor screens and more have been announced as part of a thrilling and packed nightly schedule of events at The Star for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, April 4 – 15.

The Star Gold Coast – the first official partner of the Commonwealth Games – is also a proud sponsor of Commonwealth Games Australia, with the property proving to be the best place outside of the stadiums to cheer on the 2018 Australian Team, and watch all the action broadcast live on the lawn, and in the newly unveiled Sports Bar.

The Star Entertainment Group Managing Director Queensland Geoff Hogg said athletes will also join in the celebrations at The Star following their events giving fans and sporting enthusiasts a first-hand account of what it takes to be a Commonwealth Games champion. “We are thrilled to not only be a partner of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, but the Australian Team as well, giving us the opportunity to really show our support to every athlete while they compete on home soil,” Mr Hogg said.

Commonwealth Games Australia CEO Craig Phillips said he was pleased to have The Star Gold Coast backing the Australian Team.

“Commonwealth Games Australia are proud to have The Star Gold Coast partner with the Australian Team for Gold Coast 2018,” he said.

“There is no doubt that The Star will be a hub of activity during Games time and be a very popular place for people to cheer on our Australian athletes,” Phillips said.

The entertainment program at The Star is set to appeal to locals and visitors alike, with themed events celebrating the multicultural diversity of the Games lighting up the lawn over the twelve nights taking guests on a journey through the *Best of British*, *Caribbean Celebration*, *Party Pasifika* and *The Great Aussie BBQ*, complementing all the action happening across the Coast during Games time.

The expansive lawn will also feature live performances from the Potbelleez (DJ set), Havana Brown, Bobby Alu, Midnight Juggernauts (DJ Set), and Triple J favourites KLP and Alex Dyson, plus many more promising to offer unique and exciting experiences every day.

Homegrown international superstar Dami Im will grace the stage at The Star Gold Coast Theatre with a special one-off show on Thursday April 5, while Gold FM Live puts on a ten-band line up on Saturday April 7, and Australian favourite Jimmy Barnes performs “Working Class Man: An Evening of Stories and Songs” on Saturday April 14 to round out the entertainment extravaganza.

Another key partner of The Star is Channel 7, whose custom-built lifeguard tower will form a centrepiece of the celebrations on the lawn, while radio stations Nova and Hot Tomato will also broadcast live daily from the property.

“The Games is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shine a spotlight on everything that makes the Gold Coast such a remarkable City, and we’re thrilled to be a part it,” Mr Hogg said.

“As presenting partner of Festival 2018 Broadbeach, and the huge entertainment line-up on-property, The Star Gold Coast is going to be the best place to be outside of the Games events and we encourage every Gold Coaster to come join in the celebrations.”

The Star Gold Coast will be one of Seven’s key broadcast locations, as the Official Australian Broadcaster of the Commonwealth Games crosses live to athlete interviews and entertainment on-property every day of the Games.

Seven’s Director of Olympic and Commonwealth Games, Kurt Burnette said: “The Commonwealth Games will be a truly extraordinary event, engaging and exciting Australians at levels not seen since the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games and Sydney 2000 Olympics.

“Building on from Rio, the Tennis and the highly successful Winter Olympics, Australians will be able to follow every moment at home on the big screens of 7, and on the move via our world class apps and digital and social content and communication platforms.

“Seven is not just the official Domestic and Host broadcaster but also a proud Event and Australian Team Sponsor. Our objective is to integrate the 7 brand into the entire Event and the community, working with likeminded partners like The Star to ensure this event is experienced and seen by Australians like never before.”

Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation (GOLDOC) CEO Mark Peters expressed his support of the iconic Gold Coast venue’s plans during the Games.

“With just 9 days to go until the Commonwealth Games, we are delighted to see how the City is coming together to host not just an incredible sporting event but a world-class entertainment experience,” said Mr Peters.

“The Star will immerse locals and visitors in the heart of the action and allow them to explore the various regions, sports and cultures of the Commonwealth creating a not-to-be-missed experience.”

At the front of the property, The Star’s new luxury suite hotel The Darling officially opened on Thursday March 22 before the Games, with more than 50 luxury suites from 70 to 328 square metres in size. The luxury hotel also plays home to Nineteen at The Star, a new signature restaurant and bar experience, as well as world-class gaming amenities and a rooftop infinity-edge pool.

Throughout the twelve days of the Games period, guests at each venue will be taken on a gastronomical tour of the Commonwealth region, with new menu items available exclusively for the period.

## **CELEBRATING THE GOLD COAST 2018 COMMONWEALTH GAMES AT THE STAR:**

- The Star Gold Coast will be open 24-hours a day, 7 days a week during Games time, with varying restaurant and bar times to be available on the website
- Located in the epicentre of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, The Star Gold Coast is walking distance from Festival 2018, the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre, G:link and bus stops both north and south bound, taking you to the Games quicker and easier, and is the perfect place to begin and end your journey
- The Star Gold Coast’s Celebration Lawn will feature nightly themed events promising to bring guests unique and exciting experiences every day of the Games
- The brand-new Sports Bar is now open offering a 10m long super screen and additional multiscreen viewing will broadcast all the Games action 24-hours a day, 7 days a week
- Dami Im will be performing in the Theatre Thursday April 5, 2018 (tickets from \$79.90) - doors open from 7pm
- Jimmy Barnes will be performing in the Theatre Saturday April 14, 2018 (tickets sold out) - doors open from 7pm

- Gold FM Live's ten-band line up including Ross Wilson, Eurogliders, The Chantoozies, The Radiators, Chocolate Starfish, Mark Gable of The Choirboys, Pseudo Echo, Real Life, Dale Ryder Boom Crash Opera and Steve Kilbey of The Church will be performing in the Theatre Saturday April 7, 2018 (tickets from \$89.90) – doors open from 7pm
- The Star Gold Coast is the proud presenting partner of Festival 2018's Brisbane and Broadbeach sites in Kurrawa Park and Surf Parade, supporting the arts and cultural program within the Broadbeach precinct
- The Star Gold Coast is also a Gold Sponsor of the 2018 Pride House Gold Coast located in Surfers Paradise, the first ever Pride House to be hosted in the southern hemisphere to celebrate inclusion and diversity through sport during the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games

## **JIMMY BARNES**

Jimmy Barnes' highly anticipated new memoir "*Working Class Man*" will be accompanied by a special national tour. "*Working Class Man: An Evening of Stories and Songs*" will be the sequel to the acclaimed and hugely successful live show Jimmy performed alongside his first bestselling memoir – "*Working Class Boy*". Like the previous production, this new tour will see Jimmy tell his life story, singing stripped back versions of the songs that have shaped his journey. However, unlike its predecessor, this live show – and book – will cover the Oz rock icon's entire adult life, revealing the successes and excesses of Australia's greatest rock'n'roll story.

## **DAMI IM**

While earning a reputation as one of the hardest working women in the Australian show business, Dami Im has quietly established herself as something of a national treasure. Accolades over the last couple of years have come thick and fast. Dami's special one-off show will take you through her impressive range of songs, giving fans the chance to see one of the most exciting Australian artists of this new millennium up close and personal.

## **GOLD FM LIVE**

GOLD FM LIVE will be three hours, full of hits and performances from ten of Australia's most well-loved 70s, 80s and 90s acts including Ross Wilson, Swanee, 1927, Wendy Matthews, Eurogliders, Real Life, Mi-Sex, Wa Wa Nee, The Chantoozies and Mark Gable. 92.5 Gold FM are thrilled to once again be presenting GOLD FM LIVE hosted by 92.5 Gold FM Breakfast's Bridge and Spida.

## **THE STAR GOLD COAST'S REDEVELOPMENT**

The Star Gold Coast's current transformation heralds a new era for the property and forms part of crucial investment in the region ahead of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Eleven new food and beverage offerings including a newly unveiled Sports Bar, 596 refurbished hotel rooms at The Star Grand and a premium poolside experience are among the already completed offering, while The Darling, the new luxury suite hotel and rooftop destination forms the centrepiece of the redevelopment.

Adding to the excitement of the current development is the planned addition of the first mixed use residential apartment and hotel tower on Broadbeach Island. Pending successful pre-sales of The Star Residences, the 53-storey tower could be the first of up to five within a future master plan for the property as part of a joint venture with renowned Hong Kong-based partners Chow Tai Fook and Far East Consortium.

Together, the refurbishments of the existing property, and the development of both The Darling and the proposed hotel and residential tower would involve an investment of up to \$850 million.

8 September 2017

## **THE STAR TO HOST THE STARS AT AUSTRALIAN TELEVISION'S NIGHT OF NIGHTS**

The Star Gold Coast is the new home of the Australian television industry's biggest night of celebration, the TV WEEK Logie awards.

The Logies will be hosted at The Star's newly redeveloped integrated resort from next July under a landmark deal to bring the glittering black-tie event to Queensland.

A beacon of the Gold Coast entertainment scene for more than 30 years, the iconic Broadbeach property has undergone a massive transformation as part of an ongoing capital investment program.

Awaiting Logies guests will be a newly renovated five-star hotel, refurbished event facilities, multi-award winning restaurants and bars, and the centrepiece of the redevelopment – a luxurious suite hotel with stunning rooftop restaurant, bar and infinity pool that will open within the next few months.

The Star Entertainment Group Managing Director Queensland Geoff Hogg said he was thrilled Queensland had secured the event and looked forward to hosting it.

"We are delighted to have the opportunity to showcase the quality of The Star Gold Coast, and the exceptional climate of the region," he said.

"Having just experienced another warm winter, the move to Queensland will provide those involved with the TV WEEK Logies the chance to escape the chill of the south.

"Next year's TV WEEK Logies will showcase the transformation of the Gold Coast in recent years. As a city, we aren't afraid to think outside the square and leverage our unique location and lifestyle."

Mr Hogg said in addition to the five-star accommodation already available, the luxury suite hotel tower – to be completed before the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games - is likely to be a popular choice for Logies guests.

"It has been designed to offer Queensland's most luxurious accommodation with spacious suites featuring only the finest finishes, and the very best in service," he said.

Mr Hogg said the tower's rooftop restaurant, bar and infinity pool would also make the perfect location for post Logies celebrations.

"With sweeping views of the Gold Coast skyline and an indoor-outdoor design, the new rooftop restaurant and bar is sure to leave a lasting impression," he said.

"Through the recent redevelopment, we have embraced our coastal lifestyle, opened up the existing property to celebrate our sub-tropical climate and created an array of premium experiences that are reflection of the Gold Coast coming of age.

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"The exclusive rooftop venue has been designed to make the most of Queensland's balmy weather - even in the winter months - so what better place to host a night of fun and celebration than in the heart of one of Australia's most iconic destinations."

The Logies will follow the hosting of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games – of which The Star is a major partner – in April.

"It's certainly an exciting time for Queensland and for the Gold Coast securing these major national and international events," Mr Hogg said.

"2018 is going to be a fantastic year for the Gold Coast – we are ready to welcome people from around the world and showcase the very best of our City."