



## Press Notes



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## About Q Station

*"This is the best thing since the bridge climb... The whole experience is something that Sydney should be very proud of... It's Australia's equivalent to Ellis Island."*

**2UE's Steve Price in conversation with Mark Chipperfield, Editor, Sydney Magazine**

Located at Sydney's North Head, Q Station (formerly the Quarantine Station) is a large historic site within the Sydney Harbour National Park, five minutes from Manly. Along with the Sydney Opera House, it is listed on the National Estate, recognised for its significance to Australian heritage.

From the 1830s to 1984 migrant ships arriving in Sydney with suspected contagious disease stopped inside North Head and off-loaded their passengers and crew into quarantine to protect local residents from becoming sick. In some instances, Sydney residents suspected of contagious disease were removed from their homes and quarantined with the immigrants. Also home to a significant collection of historical Australian artifacts, Q Station houses a 170 year old collection with more than 16,000 items.

The Australian spirit was shaped by experiences of hardship and friendship forged at the former Quarantine Station and North Head has long been a meeting place for the Garrigal people. Today this site pays homage to our history as well as providing a sanctuary for reflection, rejuvenation and transformation.

Q Station offers **accommodation and conference facilities** with spectacular views of Sydney Harbour; the **Boilerhouse Restaurant** situated close to the beach, serving an exquisite menu of modern European Cuisine; **interactive tours** that will challenge your thoughts on our cultural history and the paranormal; and **educational tours** created to challenge students to learn from history so that they can make informed decisions in the present and for the future. Visitors can arrive by car with onsite parking and mini bus shuttles through the property.

**For further information call: (02) 9466 1500 or visit [www.qstation.com.au](http://www.qstation.com.au)**



Harbour Views from Veranda



Comfortable modern fit-out whilst retaining Heritage Values



Scenic views



The Boilerhouse Restaurant

## Overview

The former Quarantine Station re-opened its doors as Q Station on ANZAC Day, April 2008. Set on 30 spectacular hectares, located at Sydney's North Head near Manly, Q Station offers the unique blend of serenity and relaxation, situated only 30mins from the heart of Sydney's CBD. Thanks to Mawland Quarantine Station Pty Ltd and Managing Director, Max Player and his team who have invested more than nine years and \$17million into this refurbishment, Australians can reclaim and enjoy this revered national icon. Along with the Sydney Opera House, it is listed on the National Estate, recognised for its significance to Australian heritage.

The decision made by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) to lease the former Quarantine Station to a cultural tourism operator, not only removed a major cost to the government to undertake catch up conservation work and ongoing maintenance of the site, it also pays a commercial rent that can be used by the Department of Environment and Climate Change to enhance conservation in other parts of the Sydney Harbour National Park. This decision was made when NPWS judged that they could not raise enough funds to return the Quarantine Station to a fit condition that ensured its cultural significance was maintained. Under the new arrangement, twenty cents in every dollar collected from customers is reinvested back into conservation of Q Station or Sydney Harbour National Park.

Visitors to Q Station will be engaged by the historical relevance of its former purpose as 'a quarantine station for contagious disease'. From the 1830s to 1984 migrant ships arriving in Sydney with suspected contagious disease stopped inside North Head and off-loaded their passengers and crew into quarantine to protect local residents from becoming sick. In some instances, Sydney residents suspected of contagious disease were removed from their homes and quarantined with the immigrants. Also home to a significant collection of historical Australian artifacts, Q Station houses a 170 year old collection with more than 16,000 items.

"The Luggage Store Visitor Centre features around 500 heritage items that have been restored by heritage conservators, a retail outlet and an introduction to the site for booked tours and casual visitors." **said Max Player, Managing Director, Mawland Group.**

Memorabilia surrounds you and echoes the experiences of that time. Inscriptions in the sandstone wall near The Luggage Store Visitor's Centre illustrate the multicultural mix of immigrants into Australia. The inscriptions tell tales of the segmentation between first and third class accommodation; the difference was like 'being on holiday' versus 'arriving in the wild'. Or if you're looking for a tactile experience and want to explore your interest in the paranormal there are several **tours and activities** to satisfy your appetite.

Visitors to Q Station will be instantly relaxed and on their path to rejuvenation, just by being there. The sweeping Harbour views, spectacular sunsets and lull of the sea can't help but calm even the most anxious nerves. **Q Station is the perfect getaway.** Whether you're on your own, with your partner or in a group, various activities such as early morning jogs, kayaking and tranquil bushwalks will keep you entertained. Alternately those looking for quiet time to soul search can wander the grounds and take company in the local wildlife and marine environment.

## Eco-friendly and heritage-friendly refurbishment of Q Station

The decision made by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) to lease the former Quarantine Station to a cultural tourism operator, not only removed a major cost to the government to undertake catch up conservation work and ongoing maintenance of the site, it also pays a commercial rent that can be used by the Department of Environment and Climate Change to enhance conservation in other parts of the Sydney Harbour National Park. This decision was made when NPWS judged that they could not raise enough funds to return the Quarantine Station to a fit condition that ensured its cultural significance was maintained.

Environmental care is of utmost importance to all parties, to ensure minimal impact across the site, specifically on local wildlife and the marine environment. Particular care is given to maintaining the natural habitats of the local population of the Manly Little Penguin colony, Long-nosed Bandicoots and Sea Grass, as well as awareness of North Head's importance to the local Aboriginal community, the Garrigal people. Twenty cents in every dollar collected from customers is reinvested back into conservation of Q Station or Sydney Harbour National Park.

Transforming Q Station from its former purpose as 'a quarantine station for contagious disease', into its current state has seen more than \$17 million in development costs injected into the project.

The project is more a refurbishment than a construction or development. Approximately \$4 million has been spent on pure conservation catch up works to arrest years of neglect.

Approximately \$3.3 million has been spent on refurbishment, spread across accommodation, food and beverage. The \$8 million in development costs represent a significant \$4 million in environmental assessment and lease costs incurred before lease activation, and a further \$4 million in product development and project management.

The two single biggest product investments went into the adaptation of the former Boilerhouse into a restaurant and the adaptation of the former luggage store into a visitor centre.

The Head Lease is in operation for an initial term of 21 years and has two options to extend the term by a further 15 years and 9 years. The options are within the Lessee's control, provided it has not caused environmental damage and a second environmental approval is obtained prior to the conclusion of the first 21 year term.

Q Station employs over 130 North Shore residents, predominantly across the accommodation, food and beverage and tours businesses.

## Moveable Heritage

Q Station is home to more than 16,000 historic items spanning 170 years old. Visitor Services Manager and Curator, Anna Williams and her team are currently restoring and archiving each item on site. Select moveable heritage displays are positioned around Q Station and in our purpose built climate controlled store. Further information is available upon request.

## Accommodation

Q Station offers a range of accommodation options in 71 rooms and 6 cottages. Choose from rooms with panoramic views of Sydney's incredible Harbour, the beautiful Sydney Harbour National Park or the Q Station.

There are Harbour View Rooms and Garden View Rooms (ensuite and non-ensuite) and each room has been furnished to the highest standard, with comfortable and modern conveniences, and a stunning veranda on which to watch the sunset.

### Harbour View or Garden Room Ensuite

These rooms each feature a Queen sized bed and an ensuite bathroom and boast either a magnificent view of Sydney Harbour or of Sydney Harbour National Park & the Q Station.

#### Harbour View

Number of Rooms: 10  
View: Sydney Harbour  
Bathroom: Ensuite  
Sleeps: 2 or 4

#### Garden View

Number of Rooms: 38  
View: Garden  
Bathroom: Ensuite  
Sleeps: 2 or 4

Additional features: Some rooms offer extra lounge room or area with sofa bed or desk

### Harbour View or Garden Room Non-Ensuite

These rooms each feature a Queen sized bed and come with a personal bathroom only a short walk away.

#### Harbour View

Number of Rooms: 9  
View: Sydney Harbour  
Bathroom: Personal (short walk from room)  
Sleeps: 2 -4

#### Garden View

Number of Rooms: 14  
View: Garden  
Bathroom: Personal (short walk from room)  
Sleeps: 2 -4

Additional features: Some rooms offer extra lounge room or area with sofa bed or desk

**Room rates range from \$180 to \$380 depending on season and availability.**

#### Features per room:

- Bathrobe
- Slippers
- Queen sized bed
- Iron and ironing board
- Furnished veranda
- Flat screen TV
- Video on demand
- High speed internet connection
- Heating and ceiling fans
- Communal lounge for tea and coffee



Garden View Room

## Historic Cottages – (opened June 2009)



In June 2009, Q Station opened to the public six unique and historic cottages across the site, each offering accommodation for up to 6 people. These are ideal for weekends away with friends or family, 'work' team bonding getaways or romantic escapes.

Set apart from all other Q Station accommodation, the cottages were originally used as staff accommodation for nurses and groundskeepers of the former quarantine station. The cottages were built just after Federation in 1909 and retain some of the original heritage features.

Each cottage has been restored and furnished to the highest standard, with stylish and modern conveniences including three bedrooms with double beds, living room with flat-screen TV, kitchenette and garden.

### RATES

#### Harbour View Cottages

These three bedroom historic cottages boast magnificent views of Sydney Harbour offering the most secluded accommodation offered at Q Station.

**Prices:** Start at \$740.  
**Details:** 3 bedroom; 1 bathroom; sleeps 6.

#### Garden View Cottages

These three bedroom historic cottages boast wonderful views of the Sydney Harbour National Park as well as the original buildings of the former Quarantine Station.

**Prices:** Start at \$560.  
**Details:** 3 bedroom; 1 bathroom; sleeps 6.

*Features common to all rooms:*

- Two comfortable queen sized beds and one king bed (can be split to twin beds)
- Furnished veranda area
- Living room with sofas and flat screen television
- Video on demand
- High-speed internet access
- Telephone
- Clothes hanger/wardrobe
- Kitchenette (microwave/electric stove top/fridge)
- Dining table and chairs
- Tea and coffee making facilities
- Garden
- Outdoor BBQ (available on request at extra charge)

## Dining – Boilerhouse Restaurant

Situated on the Harbour's edge with spectacular views and al fresco dining, the Boilerhouse Harbourside Restaurant menu offers a selection of dishes inspired by modern European cuisine. Guests seeking a drink are welcome to peruse the former engine room which has been meticulously restored and features two enormous boilers, located adjacent to the main restaurant. The restaurant is available for hotel customers and the general public.

### *Times:*

Monday: Dinner – open to late

Tuesday: Dinner – open to late

Wednesday: Lunch and dinner – open to late

Thursday: Lunch and dinner – open to late

Friday: Lunch and dinner – open to late

Saturday: Lunch and dinner – open to late

Sunday: Lunch and dinner – closes 8pm



Inside the Boilerhouse restaurant



Outdoor dining area

## Design of Q Station



Spectacular Location



Scenic views



Refurbished Heritage Buildings

Launched by Mawland Quarantine Station Pty Ltd, with interior designed by Cate Young (CYD), Q Station connects visitors to Sydney's authentic maritime history, through the melding of the original Quarantine Station with a contemporary interior design.

Cate Young is one of Australia's leading hotels and hospitality interior design, *atelier*. Young's inspiration and approach to interior design is drawn from her ability to respond to a site, challenging, but also where appropriate embracing, traditional concepts of design. She calls this accessing the "aura of an institution or soul of a site."

"Q Station is all about the interaction between past and present," said Young. "My approach was to balance this interaction with the juxtaposition of the original exterior heritage architecture and a minimal, clean interior design. Unlike a museum or traditional restoration concept, the Q Station design brings the site's history to life, through the re-use of original features, connecting them to the future of each visitor who stays there."

Original workmen's cottages have been transformed into warm, luxurious retreats tucked away on the privacy of the highest, most remote points of the Q Station site. With views of Sydney Harbour and Spring Cove, the 71-rooms onsite reflect the simple, crisp elegance of maritime 1920s featuring brass fixtures and timber finishes within a crisp white palette.

"The accommodation design creates a blend of modernity, comfort and authenticity, with a 'ship-on-land' feeling. The elegance of steam ships from the 1900s is brought into the modern era, with traditional use of neutral modern décor, chrome and copper fittings but without heavy complexity. The room design allows each guest to experience the space and light of the original architecture."

The **Boilerhouse Restaurant and Bar** features a 150-seat dining room and bar. Young's design captures the bustle and energy of the original boiler room and pump station, with exposed pipes and genuine brickwork. Linking the large interior space to its former use, the original boiler and pump house fixtures have been carefully restored and featured within the space.

Young has captured all these elements through the use of exposed pipes, heavy rivets and bolts, as well as the resurfacing of the exposed brick walls. The restaurant is an actively social space for diners just as the original boiler room would be. Young has combined the action and masculinity of the interior restaurant space, against the outdoor eating space. The building sits against the calm beauty of water views, and the outdoor area combines a sense of old-world maritime elegance contrasting with the industrial nature of the site.

Cate Young has used a unique blend of modernity, comfort and historical authenticity to restore a sense of maritime and heritage to this unique Sydney accommodation experience.

## **Q Station Tours and Experiences**

Visitors to Q Station can enjoy learning more about Q Station with a range of tours and experiences all designed for involvement and enjoyment of Q Station's unique elements.

To really understand what passengers quarantined went through, and the spirit they left behind, Q Station has created a range of hosted interactive tours. These experiences offer customers varying levels of opportunity to participate in activities that bring out the underlying stories and emotions often lost with a traditional walk and talk tour.

### **Luggage Store Visitor Centre**

Upon arrival at the wharf, guests will be taken back in time at the newly erected Luggage Store Visitors Centre (formerly the luggage store). Displays showcasing the origins of Sydney's iconic former Quarantine Station and experiences, including reconstructions of First and Third Class ship cabins from the SS Niagara, displays and memorabilia. An information counter, tour desk and retail outlet featuring a collection of Q Station merchandise is also located at the Luggage Store Visitor Centre.

### **Q Station 40 Days Tour**

The original duration of a 'quarantined' period was 40 days. This tour explores those 40 days and is both interactive and mentally stimulating, walking to several different locations across Q Station's incredible site to relive the experiences. Participants discover what it would have been like to be here as an intern in 1918, one of the busiest periods in the Quarantine Station's history when it was confronted by the epidemic of Spanish Influenza.

*Tour Only:* \$35 adult and \$25 child or Family \$90  
*Times:* Sun 11am (Duration 2 hours)  
*Detail:* Bookings essential. Tour involves walking.

### **Quarantine Station Story Day Tour**

Experience the serene natural surrounds while you learn about the daily living experiences of Australia's early quarantined interns. Hear how passengers were segregated according to their passenger ticket; see the autoclaves used to sterilise luggage and personal effects; experience the inhalation chambers and hear how they were used; visit the hospital and doctors and nurses station; see equipment and conditions. Read the wonderful inscriptions left by early interns.

*Tour Only:* \$35 adult and \$25 child  
*Times:* Sat 3pm & Sun 3pm (Duration 2 hours)  
*Detail:* Bookings essential. Tour involves walking.

### **Wharf Wander**

This tour is for those who would like an express introduction to Q Station (45min). Join a guide and grab a brief overview of the history of the former Quarantine Station. Find out what's behind the closed doors in the Wharf Precinct and, if time permits, wander up to the Hospital.

*Tour Only:* \$15 Adult and \$10 Concession. \$40 Family  
*Times:* Wed/Thurs/Fri 1.30pm & 3.30pm  
Sat 11am, 12noon & 2pm & Sun 1pm & 2pm (Duration 45 mins)  
*Detail:* Bookings essential. Tour involves walking.

## **Spirit Tours**

Q Station has long been known for the ghostly spirits of former quarantined interns. Several buildings at the Quarantine Station such as the hospitals, the steerage / Asiatic accommodation and the first class showers report high paranormal activity.

Join our storyteller, take a lantern and walk into buildings to hear stories of other-worldly experiences and the strange things that have happened to former tour participants and visitors to the site.

There are three options:

### **Q Station Spirit Investigator Tour**

*Tour Only:* \$44 adult and \$36 child  
*Times:* Fri 8.30pm (*Duration 2.5 hours*)  
*Detail:* Bookings essential. Tour involves walking.

### **Q Station Adult Ghost Tour**

*Tour Only:* \$44 adult and \$36 child  
*Times:* Wed/Thurs/Sat/Sun 8pm (*Duration 2.5 hours*)  
*Detail:* Bookings essential. Tour involves walking.

### **Q Station Family Ghosty Tour**

*Tour Only:* \$34 adult and \$22 child & \$90 family (2 adults/2 children)  
*Times:* Fri/Sat 6.30pm (*Duration 2 hours*)  
*Detail:* Bookings essential. Tour involves walking.

## Achievements and initiatives in the industry

Q Station operates through nine Sustainability Policy Objectives which cover the natural environment, efficient resource consumption, maintenance of cultural heritage, visitor patterns, customer expectations, the local community, stakeholders as well as being a financially viable business.

A number of Sustainability Initiatives have been put in place, including smart water equipment, smart energy materials like dark roof paint and insulation, waste separation and water recycling targets, water harvesting and reuse for bandicoot habitat, funding bandicoot and fairy penguin population studies, volunteer programs in conservation, research and education as well as a free shuttle bus between Manly and Q Station for tours."

In-house curator Anna Williams and her team have restored over 4,000 historical Australian artefacts and the site now houses a collection of over 16,000 items that span over 170 years, some of which are on display and used throughout the site.

With new approaches to visitor management, community consultation and conservation, 20% of income is reinvested directly back into the long term conservation of the site.

Q Station offers beautifully refurbished accommodation and conference rooms, interactive tour experiences and Harbour-side dining.

There is no other Australian property that has created such a sophisticated heritage tourism hotel with commitment to sustainable tourism development.

## Awards

Q Station has acquired the following accolades:

- Winner of Mice Hotel Award (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) at the HM Magazine Hotel & Accommodation Excellence Awards 2009, for hotel and accommodation excellence.
- Highly commended in the Unique Accommodation category for the HM Magazine Hotel & Accommodation Excellence Awards 2009.
- Highly commended in the Accommodation under 4.5 star category, for the HM Magazine Hotel & Accommodation Excellence Awards 2009.
- Runner up, Best Heritage Tourism Category for Gourmet Traveller Awards 2009
- Simon McArthur Director Special Projects - runner up The Australian Travel Innovator Award 2008 - Travel and Leisure Magazine
- Runner up BRW Environmental Business Award 2008

## **The Mawland Group**

The Quarantine Station Lease is an agreement between the Minister for Environment and Mawland Quarantine Station Pty Ltd.

The Mawland Group (Mawland) is a multi-disciplined company that was established in 1988 and is 100 per cent Australian privately owned.

Mawland's modest size makes it possible to deliver a level and personal quality of service unmatched by larger firms. The company blends a culture of creativity, practicality and persistence. This blend has allowed Mawland to select and deliver tourism projects that many tourism companies would avoid because of complex approval processes and operating environments. These projects have positioned Mawland among a small collection of company's renown for successfully operating in environmentally sensitive environments.

Mawland specialise in three main areas of business:

1. Development and management of special interest tourism projects
2. Consultancy in hospitality and tourism projects
3. Hospitality and tourism education

## **Development and Management of Historic Tourism Projects**

Mawland's development of special interest tourism ventures is based on places with outstanding natural and cultural heritage, and each place is taken on with passion, creativity and care. Each venture is designed to generate authentic and powerful experiences that leave guests and visitors moved.

Mawland has successfully project managed, developed and adapted a range of cultural heritage and tourism sites including: The Lilianfels Guesthouse in the Blue Mountains, Munn Street Bond Store in Sydney's The Rocks Heritage Precinct, Historic Everglades Gardens in the Blue Mountains and The Blue Mountains Hotel School.

### **Lilianfels Guesthouse in the Blue Mountains**

The heritage listed Lilianfels House was built in 1889 and overlooks the Jamison Valley at Echo Point. Mawland identified the market potential of the Lilianfels site in 1987, developed the concept, undertook feasibility studies, managed the proposal through a complex approval process and coordinated the adaptations. The \$35 million development resulted in an 86 room, 5 star hotel, conference centre and adaptive reuse of the historic Lilianfels House into a signature restaurant. Mawland coordinated all Furniture Fixtures and Electrical (FF&E) procurement, conference facilities, unique kitchens and hotel operations, through to front desk operation.

Restoration of the old stables into first class accommodation involved:

1. conservation work, including repairs to existing balustrades, timber walls, verandah ceilings (including first class paint finishes) and floors;
2. adaptation work, including concrete slabs, new roofing, joinery and doors;
3. major infrastructure work, including a new sewer system, new electrical wiring and air conditioning to all buildings;
4. internal wall and roof work to achieve a 5 star sound rating within an old building; and
5. fit out designed and built to ensure it would attract and satisfy celebrities.

Mawland also supervised the design, construction and adaptive reuse of Lilianfels House into a restaurant. This work involved:

1. supervision of trades people, including joiners, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, kitchen sub-contractors, specialised air conditioning contractors and painters;
2. installation of new services throughout (water, power, sewer);
3. installation of air conditioning;
4. design and overseeing of kitchen fitout, restaurant fitout and offices in attic spaces;
5. installation of new toilets and bathroom facilities in the basement of the building;
6. construction of a first class cellar;
7. installation of new light fittings;
8. stenciling of walls to ensure authenticity;
9. selection and installation of tables and chairs; and
10. landscaping of the gardens involved constructing new gravel drive ways, entry gates, croquet lawn, turfing, and extensive re-planting of mature trees that were removed and stored on the site 12 months prior to completion.

## **Munn Street Bond Store in Sydney's Rocks Heritage Precinct**

Munn Street Bond Store consists of two buildings - Store A built in 1870 and Store B in 1908. The Munn Street Reserve has the highest category of cultural heritage classification in Australia. The project was undertaken in 1994 and involved a \$15 Million conversion and sensitive establishment of 4,200 square metres of first class office accommodation, within the strict guidelines of the Burra Charter. The project featured a full reconstruction of the existing framework, maximisation of natural light, preservation of high ceilings and original timber beams and columns. Mawland part owns the heritage building which is leased to Universal Music.

Mawland were Project Managers, responsible for the overseeing of design and construction works, including:

1. managing all architectural design, engineering-structural, civil, electrical and hydraulics works;
2. managing design and construction contracts for air conditioning and telephone services;
3. managing fitout design for specialised tenants requirements, including lobby, offices, meeting rooms and staff amenities;
4. managing procurement of specialised joinery and artworks; and
5. managing construction of a carpark and managing landscaping contractors.

## Historic Everglades Gardens

Everglades Gardens are located in Leura within the Blue Mountains. Everglades is Australia's first National Trust classified garden. The gardens comprise 5.2 hectares of garden and bushland and the historic Van de Velde House. At the invitation of the National Trust of New South Wales, Mawland took up the lease of Everglades from the Blue Mountains City Council, then invested and coordinated \$300,000 of renovation works to the Gardens and Van de Velde House, bringing both elements back to their original condition.

Mawland gifted all of the archive and cultural works to the National Trust for exhibition at Everglades. Mawland developed a concept to encourage the ongoing maintenance of the historic gardens by way of a sympathetic guesthouse on adjoining land, though this did not proceed due to local government's requirements). Nonetheless, Mawland was instrumental in:

1. managing a heritage landscaping specialist to prepare a Landscape Conservation Management Plan;
2. restoring the Paul Sorenson gardens over a two year period, including adaptation and restoration of an existing pool to become a new reflection pond, as a focal element of the gardens, and restoring numerous statues and curatorial items;
3. undertaking conservation works to the art deco Van de Velde House, including new electrical wiring, repairs to the roof, new plumbing to bathrooms and the complete repainting internally and externally of the building;
4. adapting the squash courts into an artist's studio, requiring restoration and painting of the roof, floors and external walls, with the assistance of a program accessing long term unemployed people.

## Other Tourism Ventures Managed by Mawland

From 1995 – 2008, Mawland operated the Hotel Kurrajong as part of the Australian International Hotel School that shares the same premises.

Hotel Kurrajong, Canberra's premier boutique hotel, is aptly listed as a Heritage Building. This elegantly restored national treasure is a prime example of architectural trends of the early Commonwealth period. The hotel was originally designed in the garden pavilion style which features elegant verandas and radiating courtyards. Recent renovation efforts carefully incorporated some of the Art Deco elements of its original era. It has been updated to feature the most modern facilities befitting of a premier boutique hotel.

Hotel Kurrajong stands in the same place as when it was built in 1924, strategically located adjacent to The Parliamentary Triangle, Australia's seat of Government. Hotel Kurrajong continues to hold its own as a historical, social and architectural icon in Canberra.

## Behind Q Station

### **BRENDAN MILLETT, General Manager**



Brendan Millett's name is synonymous with the operational and management style he has developed and championed for hotel and hospitality leaders such as the Hyatt Regency, Hilton, Coles Myer and the Navy and Military Club in Melbourne, during his 30 year international career.

He began at Q Station as Hotel Manager in July 2008, moving into his role as General Manager in February 2009.

Brendan began his career as an apprentice chef at Mietta's Restaurant in Melbourne, and over the next two decades worked tirelessly in the hotel industry learning the business from the inside out. He developed a strong interest in staff development, skill growth as well as operational policy development across roles such as Assistant Director Food & Beverage, Park Hyatt Canberra and Director Food and Beverages, Hyatt Regency Melbourne.

He implemented training programs for staff to build up skill levels, and was integral in creating work placement programs for those entering the hospitality industry and the long term unemployed.

In 2000, Brendan started working with Coles Myer as a senior consultant on policy and development plans for the innovative Coles Myer Concept store, 'Let's Eat', in Melbourne. The concept store was designed to push the supermarket concept as far as it could go, marrying hospitality and grocery in a unique environment and provided a challenging but rewarding role for Brendan for two years.

A new interest in the wider retail environment saw Brendan move to Sydney and open up his own cafe and grocery barn business in Sydney's inner west. Over the next five years, the business gave him the opportunity to test his own limits and to put his broad experience to work across staff, retail and hospitality, resulting in a successful and gratifying venture.

Brendan's return to hotel management at Q Station brings him, full circle back to his career roots. His passion for hospitality and his business and operational acumen play a crucial role in driving Q Station's operations and in consolidating the site's environmental, cultural and accommodation needs as an iconic tourist destination site.

## Behind Q Station

### **MICHAEL CAHILL, Executive Chef**

Michael Cahill, has been appointed Executive Chef at Manly's Q Station Retreat which includes Boilerhouse Restaurant.

Acclaimed for his work developing modern, inspired menus that embrace the freshest regional produce, Michael Cahill has won numerous awards, including three gold medals at the Australian Chefs Awards for excellence, productivity and creativity. He joins Q Station after three years at the Executive Chef at Sydney's Mercure Hotel, and over 10 years international experience, including Executive Chef and Chef de Cuisine positions at resorts in Hayman Island and the Blue Mountains.

Michael Cahill has an exceptional appreciation of modern cuisine, and his cooking philosophy is centred on pairing international flavours and cooking styles to bring out the finest, freshest qualities in regional produce.

Amongst his numerous accolades, Michael Cahill has cooked for such luminaries as Ivana Trump, the Sultan of Brunei, the Hon. John Howard, Michael Buble and the Australian Cricket Team.

Michael Cahill opened first restaurant in Cook, Ireland at just 21 years of age, and is already and veteran of kitchen and banquet management, with corporate catering experience for clients including Commonwealth Bank, Coca Cola Amatil, Caltex and National Australia Bank.

His passion extends to training the next generation of young Chefs, and his creativity is not limited just to the artistry of fine dining, but he is also a talented musician and saxophonist.

## **Further Information**

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