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 Glen Macdonald has been named as Fitzroy Island Resort's new Chief Executive Officer. PICTURE: BRENDAN RADKE

BUSINESS

Fitzroy Island Resort set for makeover, appoints new CEO

Alicia Nally, The Cairns Post

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FITZROY Island Resort is ready to undergo a multimillion-dollar facelift and changes to its offerings over the next year.

Managing director Doug Gamble said the Cairns tourism operation would spend \$2.5 million refurbishing the resort's accommodation, had added a catamaran to its fleet and purchased a half share in the Cairns Dive Centre operations on the island.



“We have bought a 50 per cent share of the Cairns Dive Centre operations on the island and will work with co-owner, local tourism identity Peter Boundy, to offer fresh Reef experiences.

“Islands and sailing go hand-in-hand and we will soon provide day trips around the island and sunset cruises on the 16m catamaran *Eye Spy*.

“Cairns is undergoing a solid period of growth with major investment in tourism infrastructure, so the timing is right for our company to invest in the future and ensure Fitzroy Island Resort continues to excite.”

Mr Gamble said general manager Tim Moloney would continue to manage the resort.

Former general manager Glen Macdonald, who managed Fitzroy Island Resort for six years, has been appointed to the new role of chief executive with the responsibility of overseeing the expansion.

Popular among tourists, Fitzroy Island is a 45-minute boat ride from Cairns and is home to Nudey Beach, Australian’s best beach in 2018.

The island is also home to the volunteer-run Cairns Turtle Rehabilitation Centre.



Fitzroy Island's new owner Darwin-based entrepreneur and property developer Doug Gamble



ESCAPE. BRAD FARMER'S BEST BEACHES. Nudey Beach, Fitzroy Island. PhlipVids Photography

NEW BOSS

THE first major refurbishment of Fitzroy Island Resort is set to bolster confidence in the Far North tourism market.

Newly-appointed chief executive Glen Macdonald, previously the business' general manager for six years, has returned after a self-imposed sabbatical.

“Given my understanding of the resort and having worked there from its infancy, I’m the one who had built it up, I think it’s quite exciting, something that bolsters our existence from a local perspective,” he said.

“And from a local business perspective it is also very encouraging to see the owners are investing in the business.

“We have a very strong local market and this is just going to enhance it, it is something new and fresh.

“The resort was built in 2008, and has had some improvements to the actual infrastructure of the property and minor changes to the rooms previously, but this is a complete refurb.”

Mr Macdonald said guests would not be impacted.

“The importance is to show we’re building the business to the next stage and growing the demand of the business,” he said.

“Essentially, we will have a block in between, so guests won’t hear anything.

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