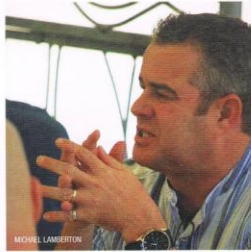




“I’m in a relationship at the moment with someone who hasn’t been married before, so if we average it out, technically we have only had one marriage each.”



“Sometimes I think it would be nice to have someone to cuddle up with on the bean bag. And then I think ... nah!”



KARMA WATERS, MOOLOOLABA

Each issue, profile magazine and partner Genesys Wealth and BOQ Maroochydore, plus host to local Sunshine Coast business men and women. This issue, our lunching lads were guests of Karma waters in Mooloolaba, located on the Esplanade under the Mantra Resort. Given the stunning weather, it was the perfect location for lunch as the ocean was almost as blue as the sky. And as I always feel like I'm on holidays when I dine on the Esplanade in Mooloolaba, I was grateful for the mini break from an otherwise chaotic day.

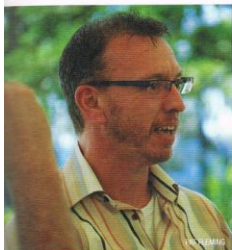
Thanks to director Tex and his staff, the service was exceptional - our guests had beers in hand in no time at all. First we were treated to the Karma waters tasting plate, featuring oyster natural, pan-fried chilli prawns and calamari zucchini fritters with sumac honey yoghurt (my favourite) and Portuguese meatballs served with eggplant jam. We downed the platters in a matter of minutes, an indication of the quality of the tasty morsels - flavoursome and delicious.

For mains we had a choice of Portuguese Bifanas (pork marinated in garlic, salt, chilli, paprika and white wine) served with eggplant jam in a crusty bread roll with a side of chipotle grilled barramundi and salad of baby bean mesclun, crispy potato and bure blanc sauce and Moreton Bay bugs with chilli lime glaze served on a bed of lemon and orange segment with crisp mesclun and Spanish onion. Did someone say Moreton Bay bugs? The bug salad was the clear favourite.

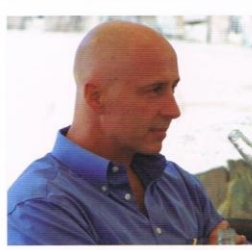
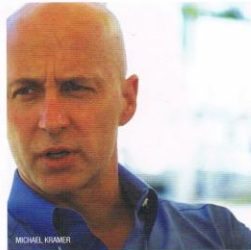
Karma waters has been offering its diners a modern Australian menu with a Portuguese twist since it opened in mid 2006. Since then, the restaurant has become a favourite with locals and tourists alike due to its extensive and somewhat unique menu and unsurpassed location.

Open from 7:30am for breakfast, lunch and dinner, seven days a week, Karma waters offer a special Portuguese menu on Thursday night with all meals served with a glass of traditional sangria, and live entertainment on Monday Tuesday and Sunday nights.

Karma waters Restaurant Shop 5, Mantra Resort The Esplanade, Mooloolaba 5452 6722



“I’m not adverse to the idea of marriage but if she mentioned it too early I’d be gone, as quick as that!”



marriage for better or worse?

THE REBUTTAL

WORDS ALLI GRANT PHOTOGRAPHY GENIE HOWARD | SPONSORED BY GENESYS WEALTH AND BOQ MAROOCHYDRE

IN THE AUGUST ISSUE OF PROFILE MAGAZINE, WE TACKLED THE TOPIC OF MARRIAGE. IS THIS AGE-OLD INSTITUTION BECOMING OUTDATED OR IS IT THE CONCEPT OF HAPPILY EVER AFTER (COMPLETE WITH THE CONTRACT OF COURSE) STILL A POPULAR OPTION FOR COUPLES? OUR LUNCHING LADIES WERE BRUTALLY HONEST ABOUT THE TOPIC ... FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE. THIS ISSUE, ALLI GRANT TAKES SIX LADS TO LUNCH AT KARMA WATERS FOR THEIR THOUGHTS ON HOLY MATRIMONY AND QUICKLY LEARNS THAT FOOD, BLOKES, SUNSHINE AND BEER CAN ONLY LEAD TO ONE THING - HIGHLY AMUSING LUNCH DATE.

What is it about men and relationship talk? The mere mention of the M word (marriage) or even the C word (commitment) and most men will run a mile - barefoot and through broken glass, as a matter of fact. And if you can physically hold your man down long enough to have a conversation about the topic, it's likely he will appear completely terrified the entire time, and will resemble a deer looking into the headlights of an oncoming semi-trailer in the middle of a deserted road. Eek!

After lunching with five lovely ladies for our August instalment of Ladies at Lunch, I knew this luncheon with the lads was going to be quite the challenge. While our female guests were more than happy to openly discuss the perils of dating, the joys of shacking up, reasons for divorce and their candid thoughts on marriage, I had a feeling in my waters that our lads wouldn't be quite as forthcoming with their inner-most fears and heartbreaking experiences. Luckily I was up for a challenge.

We met for a lazy lunch at Karma waters along the Esplanade in Mooloolaba, the perfect location for

a bloke chat about marriage. Thankfully, it's one of those heavenly sunny winter's days - the perfect weather for dining alfresco opposite the deep blue sea. It's days like this I really love my job. Anyway, our lunching lads arrive, complete the necessary formal introductions and sit down to drink beer and talk marriage. Isn't this the dream scenario for any red-blooded man? Good food, a few beers and relationship talk with a strange woman? Hat

They all tentatively take their seats - fear on faces and beers in hands ... a couple even begin to squirm, clearly frightened of the conversation that is about to unfold. I think the majority of our guests would have rather endured a full body wax given by Germaine Greer than have lunch with me ... and I hadn't even asked the first question yet.

When interviewing our ladies, we discovered that it's almost impossible to discuss marriage and relationships without the use of labels - married, single, divorced, defacto, spinster, bachelor etc. So, in the interest of consistency, it seemed, only fair to bestow the same labels on our lads.

Laurie Clark, our co-host from BC Maroochydore, is married to the lovely Debb. He is twice married and once divorced with children from both marriages. Laurie's guest at our lunch were Chris Baker, Andrew Tree & Michael Lambertson.

Chris is a lawyer with his own firm, Chris Bak Lawyers. He is married with two children a claims that he and his wife started late in life in their 30s. Andrew screams bachelor (so Andrew - just an observation - nothing personal). For starters, he's young - just 25. He works a business development executive with alcohol company CUB ... certainly not a job for a mill manned married man. Like Chris, Michael Lambertson (Michael L) settled down in his 30s. He is happily married with three children and is the owner of Bikeriders at the Sunshi Homemakers Centre.

Profile's guests, Pat Fleming and Michael Kramer (Michael K), are polar opposites in their relationship stakes. Pat, general manager sales with Prime Radio (Hot 91.1FM and Zinc Fi) is twice married, once divorced and is currently

single. Michael is a publisher with My Party Review. He is a virtual virgin when it comes to engagement, marriage and divorce - he won't claim any of these labels. Although he is currently in a relationship, Michael really is your essential bachelor. More on that later ...

Pat: help our guests relax a little, I leave them to it among themselves. After a few minutes of chatter about worm farming and the best place to get breakfast on the Coast (and a random reference about being nude), I decide it's time ...

Pat: Gents, we've already tackled your relationship status - let's delve a little deeper. Let's start with you ... married twice but only once?

Pat: Oh but I'm working on that (the second one, that is) - just waiting on the paperwork in a relationship at the moment with someone who hasn't been married before, so if we average it out, technically we have only had one marriage.

Pat: I've never been married. I've never asked the question so I've never been denied at it. I have been close to asking though. Pat: I'm happily single. I've had a few short-term relationships but they only lasted a month or so. I'm only 25 and have just bought my first one. I'm not ready for marriage yet.

Pat: I've been together for 21 years. I've been married for 15 years. I didn't get married until I was 32. I guess marriage at that age is my saving grace as if I'd gotten married any earlier it definitely would have ended tragically.

Pat: We also met and married a little later. I think of us as we had been married or engaged or so we came with clean slates I guess.

Pat: I guess it's because of a series of events. Being a work-a-holic doesn't help - I used to work 16 hours a day, seven days a week when I was starting the Weekender. I couldn't even afford to take a girl to dinner then. Now I live a very cosmopolitan lifestyle so I need to find the right person. I'm happy to settle down, I'm just conscious of making the wrong decisions.

Pat: Two words for you Michael - 'pre nup'! (Profile: Discussion breaks out about the concept of a prenup and whether it is in fact two words or one. We decide it's one, just for the record. The gents also decide that if you feel you need one, you're not marrying the right person for the right reasons.)

Pat: But why get married? Why not just have a life partner? It's really just a reason for a good party!

Pat: Those of you who are happily married, please shed some light on why you feel it's important to take that next step.

Pat: It makes it simpler. You have made the commitment so why not sign to it. I think being married makes you a better person. You're not alone anymore. I wanted to have kids and leave a legacy. Having said all that, sometimes it is hard work.

Pat: It's definitely about the commitment - coming home and knowing you're committed to that person.

Pat: It's a matter of finding the right person who you need to be friends before you become lovers. It's nice having to account for someone else but it does change your relationship. But we still look back on our wedding and think wow, what a good party it was!

Pat: I detect a little cynicism when it comes to marriage? Pat: I guess I'm now cynical about the piece of paper, yes. I really believed in marriage but now I'm a little bitter. I guess it's more about marrying the wrong person. Would I do it again? Probably not, but I haven't completely shut out the idea.

Pat: I definitely wouldn't go again if this one ended. I certainly didn't have plans to marry again as I was burnt badly in my first marriage. Then Deb started chasing me. (Profile: Sure she did Laurie ...)

Pat: Let's talk about the dating scene. Do women make it clear early on that they're interested in the whole catastrophe - the big ring, the big dress, the big wedding and the big debt? Pat: If a woman mentioned marriage early on it would turn me off.

Pat: If she mentioned marriage I'd be gone in a heartbeat. Too many women have a plan and I have worked out that life just doesn't follow a plan. I'm not adverse to the idea of marriage but if she mentioned it too early I'd be gone, as quick as that!

Pat: What about kids, Michael? Michael: I could have some out there already. (Raucous laughter ... again!) I would like to have kids, if that's the way life evolves. I'd actually like to adopt, to give some kids from Cambodia a better life. I have been doing some work with an orphanage in Cambodia. If I could adopt I would. Pat: And here we were thinking you were shallow, Michael!

Pat: Do you think women are obsessed with marriage and the big wedding? Andrew: Hell yes. So many women my age start planning at 19 - they have it all sorted.

Pat: That's definitely the younger women

Pat: Michael, I think you are definitely the spiritual monk among us. Who would have thought?

Pat: Andrew, what's it like to be young and single? Remind us please! Girls must be impressed by your job?

Pat: Sadly there are a lot of psycho girls out there. They all want to come to the functions with you but they drink too much - I can't take them anywhere. All my mates are getting married and I think why? They are so young! I think they feel like it's the right thing to do but it's so hard to get my mates out for a few drinks and some fun now.

Pat: So is marriage in your future? Andrew: Don't get me wrong, I'm open to marriage when I find that right mate. You have to stay away from the young ones though. I call it the 19 to 23-year-old zone. It's dangerous.

Pat: Why do we think so many marriages end in divorce?

Pat: I don't think people want to work hard enough. Michael: A think a lot of people haven't found out who they are when they get married. A lot of the time they end up back on the market, but with baggage. I have heard there are three soul mates out there for every person.

Pat: I think that many older couples get divorced because they married so young and they change - they become the wrong people for each other. I don't begrudge people in their 50s or older when it comes to divorce. A lot of the time it's amicable too.

Pat: When you think about it, marriage is a medieval tradition from the 11th century when the average life span was 35 years. That has to tell you something about why marriages today don't work.

Pat: And the operative word in that sentence was 'evil'. (Profile: Interesting to note that the majority of our lunching ladies blamed money woes for divorce.)

Pat: Guys, do we all think that the grass may just be a little greener on the other side? Andrew: Sometimes I think it would be nice to have someone to cuddle up with on the bean bag. And then I think ... nah! (Profile: Did someone say bean bag? Andrew, perhaps you need a woman in your life to impart a little interior decorating advice.)

Pat: I don't miss that life, but then again, I had it all before I got married.

Pat: I certainly don't miss the Mooloolaba Surf Club on a Friday night!

Pat: And your final word on marriage gents? Michael: I'm open to it. I'm not too cynical ... but ...

Pat: It works for me. My wife has helped me to get where I am, definitely.

Pat: If the right lady came along ... Laurie: Definitely in favour!

Pat: My life changed for the better when I got married.

Pat: Still cynical ...

I thank our lunching lads for their candour and honesty, and for not fleeing to the nearest pub, despite the overwhelming urge. Special mention goes to Pat and Michael Kramer for not letting their obvious cynicism get in the way of a good healthy debate. Oh, and in news just to hand, apparently Pat has officially been divorced since last November - he just didn't know it. That's marriage for you ... for better or for worse. ||