

# tourism operators



**LAP OF LUXURY:** For \$3000 a night, visitors can soak up the ambience at Qualia resort on Hamilton Island

Mr Butt, who lets more than 230 holiday homes and units between Noosaville and Sunshine Beach, said: "There might be the odd gap here and there but I'd say we're at 100 per cent right through."

Irish tourist Jack Turpin, 22, is staying at Mooloolaba Caravan Park with Eva Stoll, 23, from Germany, for \$28 a night.

"I've been in Australia for a year. The camp sites are the best way to go," he said.

But some visitors are spending up big. Total Luxury Resorts spokesman Leanne Butler said there were few vacancies in expensive holiday

homes along the coastline. Some of them, like isolated Woodwark Bay in the Whitsundays, cost up to \$14,440 a night, while for a "mere" \$3000 a night holidaymakers can stay at the Beach House in the Qualia luxury resort on Hamilton Island.

While Cairns might be struggling, northern tourism operators predict a record year for the Whitsundays.

Port Douglas and Daintree Tourism chief executive Doug Ryan said the September-October period was "probably the busiest the town has been for a long, long time".



**SHOESTRING BUDGET:** The Mooloolaba Caravan Park is perfect for Jack Turpin, 22, and Eva Stoll, 23 Picture: Megan Slade