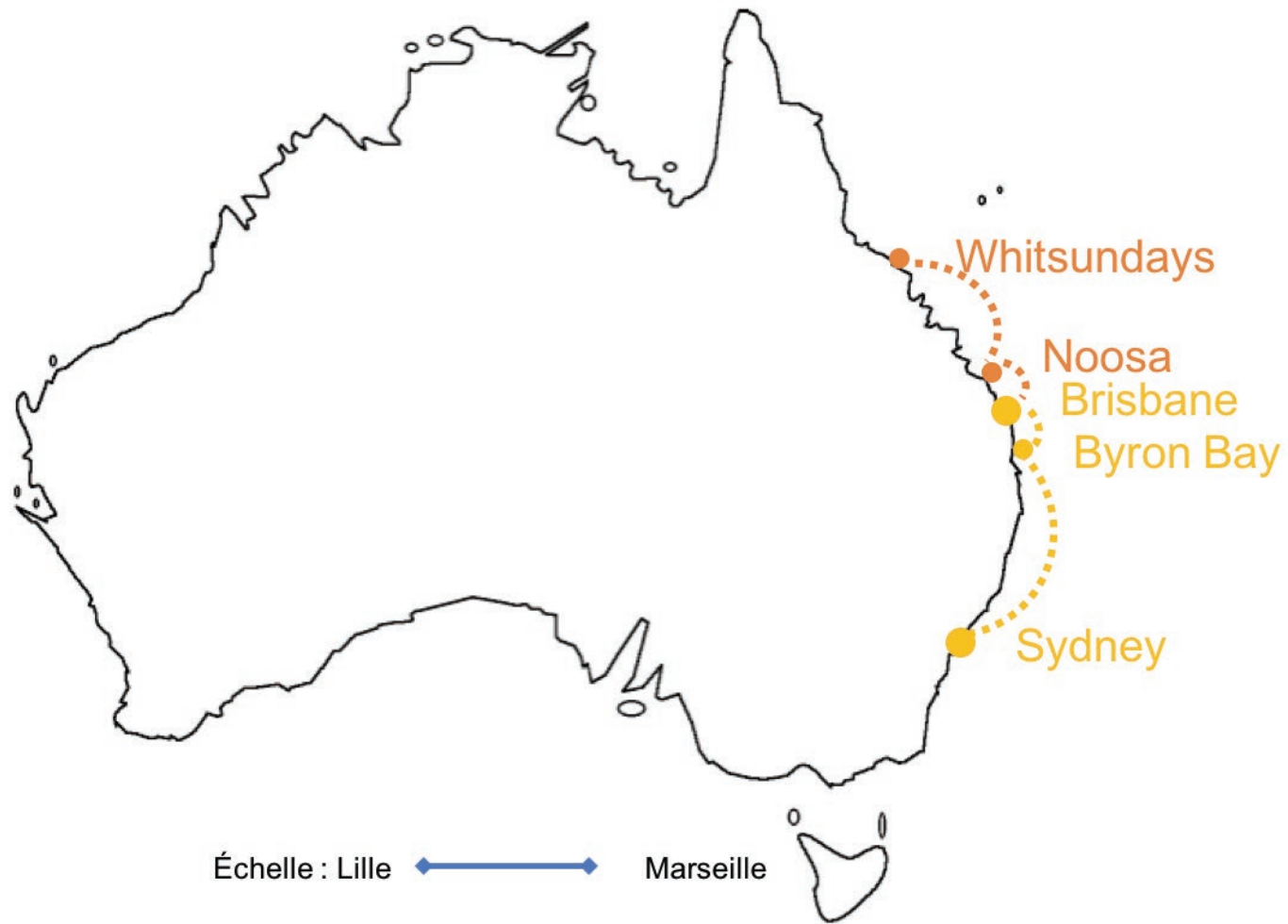




**AUSTRALIE**  
- SUMMER 2017 II -



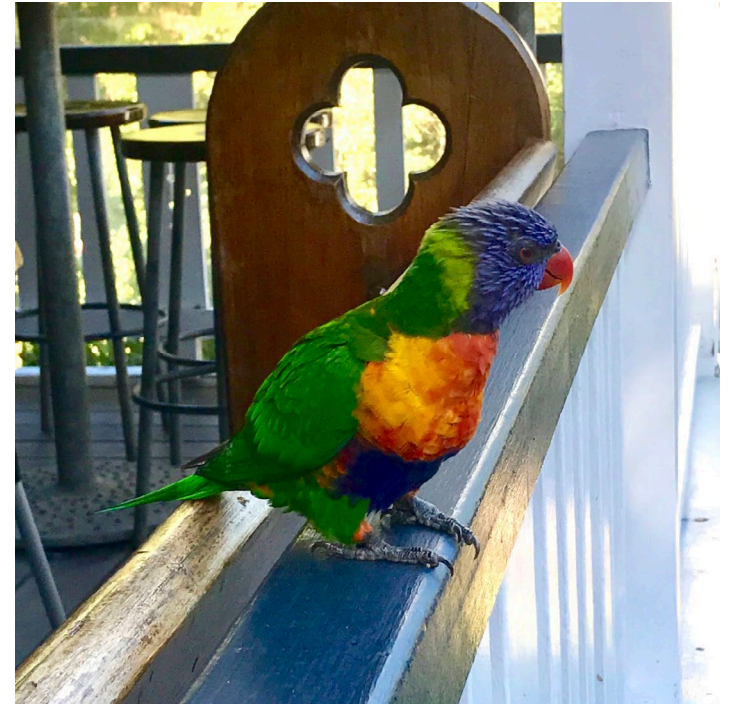


Good morning dear reader,

As often in the New World, the Australian architecture bares little interest as everything was built to be efficient and prompt, without harmony, and with what closely looks like a desire to vilify breathtaking panoramas. But how glorious are the untarnished landscapes! What a delight for our eyes that the new territories were way too vast for men to spoil them all!

From Brisbane, I traveled north to Noosa and found a perfect little heaven in this sea resort of the Sunshine Coast. Shaded by the eucalyptus, a coastal path winds its way between the beaches and the national park, leading tirelessly to striking perspectives on the blue ocean. Down below the dolphins play in the waves and only the blows of the whales trouble the peaceful horizon. Hiking the trails in Australia is a brand new experience for your ears: so many sounds that I had never heard so far! It is impossible to know which animal is to be associated with this or that cry. The fauna is surprising: wallabies gather in the sugar cane fields at dusk, stingrays follow you in the water, you can pick up jellyfishes with your hands (the dangerous species fortunately do not spend their winter where I am spending mine), the green ants taste like lemon when you lick their abdomen (believe it or not, I actually tried), snakes await you hidden between rocks, enormous reptiles pose for a piece of wood, parrots come steal your breakfast, wild turkeys shop around happily in the city centers and unidentified nuisances have a party under the windows at dawn everyday.

If I got such a good vibe with Noosa it's also because I got to surf there several times. I'm sure that you can easily picture me paddling in the rip on my board, the wind in my hair, the open sea in my eyes. Then, as everybody knows, surfing is a stochastic activity that has nothing to do with skills: sometimes I was Bodhi, sometimes the breakers broke me. So much fun!









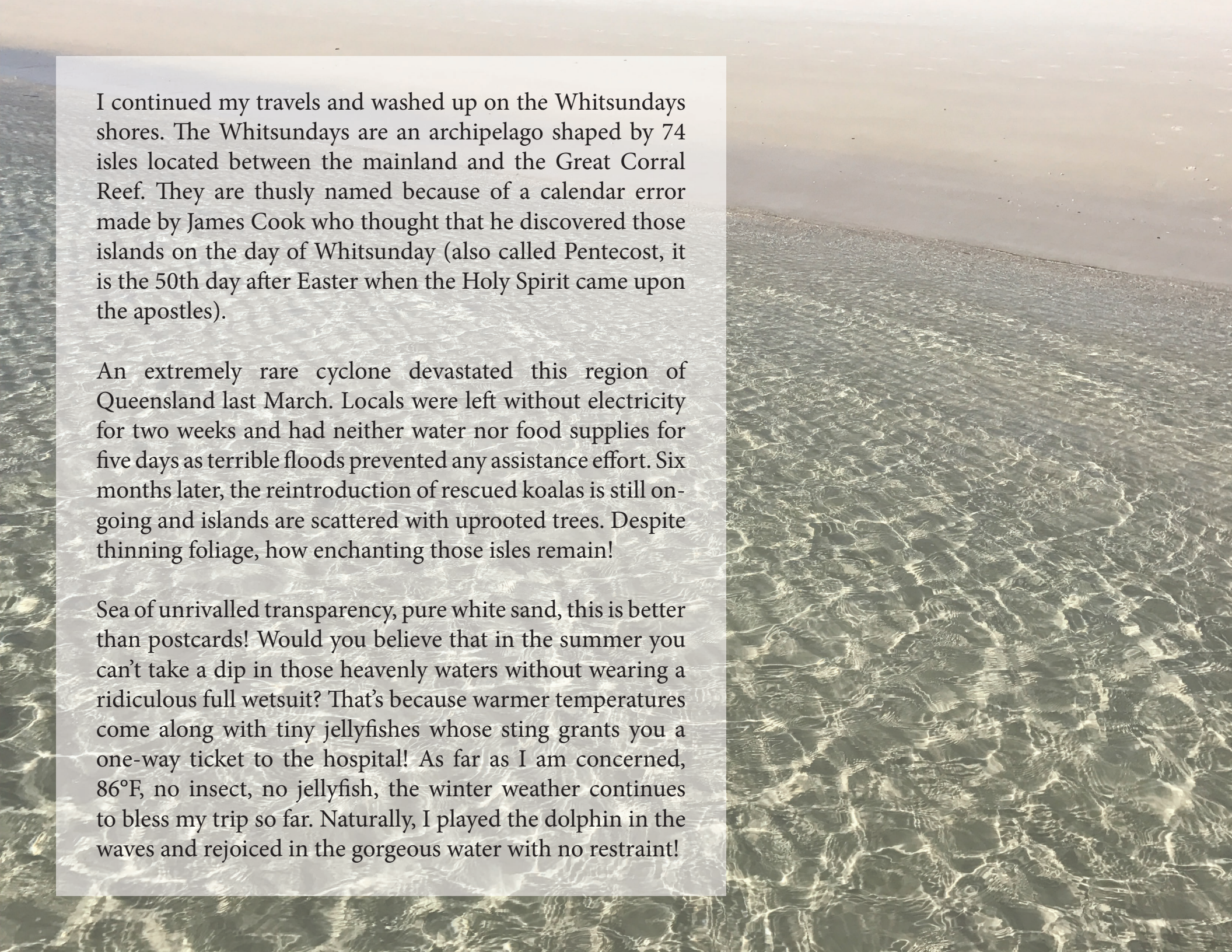






**W H I T S U N D A Y S**



An aerial photograph of a tropical beach. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, with white sand visible beneath the surface. The beach curves along the edge of the water, and the sky is a pale, hazy blue. The overall scene is serene and idyllic.

I continued my travels and washed up on the Whitsundays shores. The Whitsundays are an archipelago shaped by 74 isles located between the mainland and the Great Corral Reef. They are thusly named because of a calendar error made by James Cook who thought that he discovered those islands on the day of Whitsunday (also called Pentecost, it is the 50th day after Easter when the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles).

An extremely rare cyclone devastated this region of Queensland last March. Locals were left without electricity for two weeks and had neither water nor food supplies for five days as terrible floods prevented any assistance effort. Six months later, the reintroduction of rescued koalas is still ongoing and islands are scattered with uprooted trees. Despite thinning foliage, how enchanting those isles remain!

Sea of unrivalled transparency, pure white sand, this is better than postcards! Would you believe that in the summer you can't take a dip in those heavenly waters without wearing a ridiculous full wetsuit? That's because warmer temperatures come along with tiny jellyfishes whose sting grants you a one-way ticket to the hospital! As far as I am concerned, 86°F, no insect, no jellyfish, the winter weather continues to bless my trip so far. Naturally, I played the dolphin in the waves and rejoiced in the gorgeous water with no restraint!

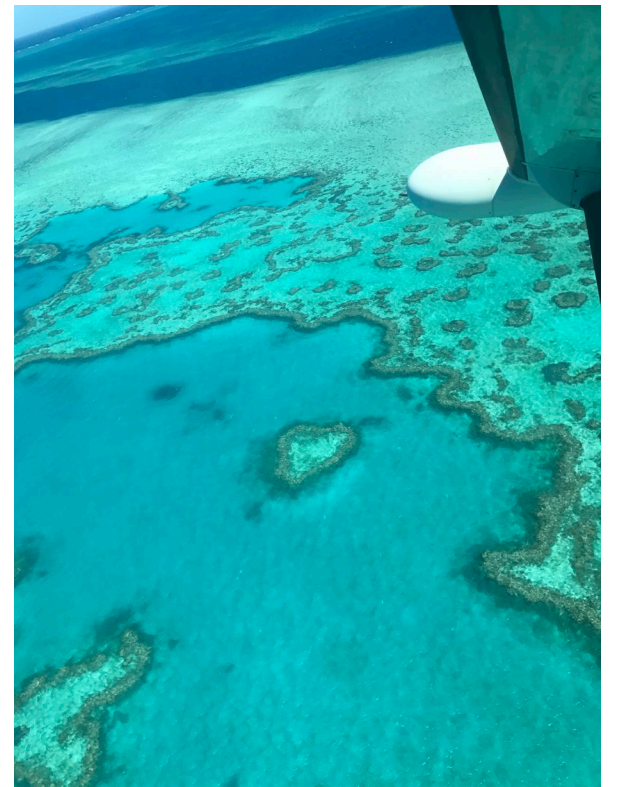
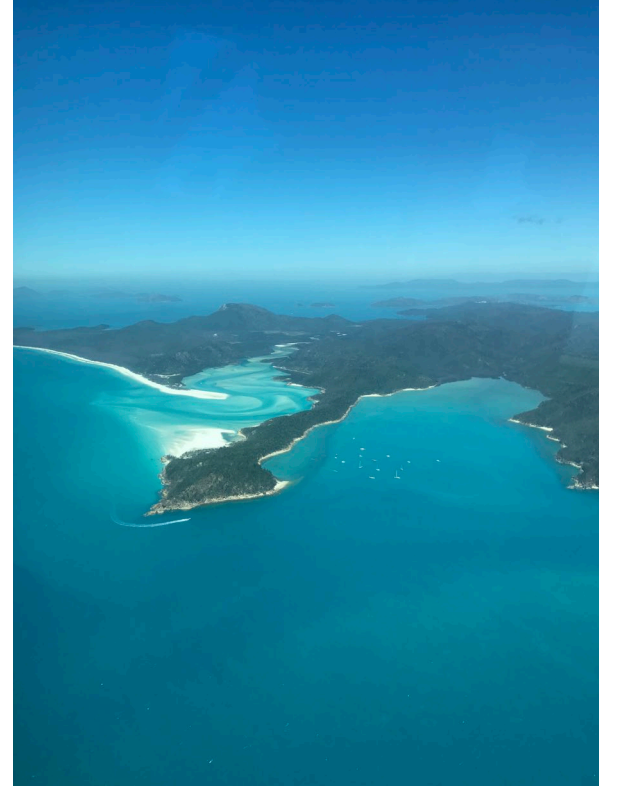




To complement my walks and baths, I boarded a small plane (Cessna 208B Grand Caravan) and flew over the archipelago and the great coral reef. From my flying crate, I had the most spectacular views on the Whitehaven beach and its sandbanks sculpting a long ribbon of turquoise water and white sand, as well as on an heart-shaped reef.

Only the wanderlust could make me leave this majestic bath (as well as the upcoming invasion by a horde of tourists in onesies when summer will begin).



















*I'll be back*

