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about town



If 32-year-old Hamish Neale, executive chef at the Shangri-La Hotel wasn't in the kitchen preparing culinary masterpieces, his love for animals would be his passion. He reveals all about adventurous moments and his perfect date. Photography by Gemma Carr.

Full name: Hamish Wayne Neale

Nickname as child: Haamoooshka

Attached/single/plans or future: Single at the moment. I came back to Australia to settle for a while and stop travelling so much.

Describe your perfect partner: Great sense of humour, career minded, up for a family at some point. Enjoys travel and would be willing to live overseas in Asia for a few years. She also has to enjoy food and wine.

Craziest thing you've ever done: Went to India from Melbourne to live and work within one weeks notice.

The one thing you would change if you were a polle: I think some kids in schools are out of control now and I would like to see teachers have more control without fear of retaliation from students or parents.

Your brush with fame: I was sitting in the back of a car in Mumbai having a chat to a lady that my friend had to pick up on the way out to a club. During our conversation I discovered she was the recently crowned Miss India. I wish I wasn't such a chatterbox, she probably thought I was a bit strange oh, and I asked her what she did for a job!

Your funniest moment: During an earthquake in New Zealand at midnight, I ran outside (it was minus five degrees) from my hostel room and locked myself out, just wearing underwear. It was cold and the earth was shaking ... it's funny now.

Your most adventurous moment: When living in Sydney, I competed in the Men's Health ocean racing series. We had to paddle in near storm conditions around Manly Heads into Sydney Harbour, I fell off a million times and almost never made it back but I am here now.

Most bizarre thing about you that no one knows about: I used to be a gymnast years ago.

Your hottest gadget/toy: Recently I bought a limited edition 007 Omega seamaster watch. It's my favourite toy at the moment, I have a thing for watches.

Favourite clothing item/accessory: Pair of red Puma Ferrari shoes and a cool Salvatore Ferragamo tie that I bought overseas.

Dog or cat: I had two border collies, but had to give them away (sadly) when I moved to India, they are at good homes so that is OK.

Favourite book/magazine: I am reading *The Secret* at the moment, and always read *Gourmet Traveller* to stay up with the times with food trends and restaurants.

Ultimate career: Vet – I love animals.