



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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LANTERNS TO LIGHT THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

Foreshore fireworks aren't the only event setting the upcoming Great Barrier Reef Festival off to an illuminating start.

New to the festival program for 2019 is the Coral Sea Marina | Resort Lantern Parade.

Starting this activity are two lantern-making workshops hosted by the festival and marina teams.

Adults will have an opportunity to get creative first, with a lantern-making session at Lure next Wednesday, July 24, from 6-8pm.

Led by local artists, Anita Pender and Liz Knight, the session is free to attend and includes a glass of bubbles on arrival as well as the option to order cheese platters from the downstairs Garden Bar.

Meanwhile children can get crafty at a lantern-making stall within the Cannonvale State School Fete on Sunday, July 28.

Materials including LED lights will be provided free of charge at both events, with only a gold coin donation required to participate.

Participants get to show off their creations on the evening of Friday, August 2, with first, second and third prizes awarded to the best lanterns made.

Judging will take place at the Garden Bar from 4.30pm, with the winner announced prior to parade kick-off at 6pm.

Anyone who hasn't been able to make a lantern can buy one from a pop-up stall on site and join the parade of lights.

The lantern procession will make its way through the marina resort precinct, down the Bicentennial Boardwalk and into Airlie Beach.

Here it will join the festivities of night markets, carnival rides and food stalls, ahead of the Whitsunday Coast Airport Fireworks by the Foreshore.

Festival chairwoman, Margie Murphy, said the lantern parade was a fitting addition to one of the biggest nights of the year on the Whitsunday calendar.

“Through this festival we try to connect the reef to the shore and community in as many ways as possible, so expanding the Friday night activities to incorporate the marina resort precinct and boardwalk is a perfect fit,” she said.

Coral Sea Marina |Resort Marketing and Business Development Manager, Joscelyn O’Keefe, said there were endless possibilities for lanterns to be reef-themed.

“Feel free to get creative and think outside the box about how you can shine a light on the evening and the Great Barrier Reef,” she said.

“This is a great opportunity to get the message out there that the reef is beautiful, and people are putting a lot of hard work into keeping it that way.”

Tourism Whitsundays CEO, Tash Wheeler, said the lantern parade was another event that would showcase the coastal beauty of Airlie Beach and its position on the doorstep of the Great Barrier Reef.

“Our Whitsunday winters are a beautiful time of year to walk the boardwalk at night and catch the sunset from the marina resort precinct,” she said.

The 2019 Great Barrier Reef Festival from August 1-4 is proudly supported by Cruise Whitsundays.

For more information visit www.greatbarrierreeffestival.com.au and follow the festival on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

Image below are available in high resolution on request.

Joscelyn O’Keefe and Roxanne Bowden (left and right) from the Coral Sea Marina |Resort and Heather Batrick from the Great Barrier Reef Festival (centre) preparing for the festival’s new lantern parade event



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About Tourism Whitsundays: *Tourism Whitsundays (TW) is the organisation responsible for destination marketing and visitor attraction for the Whitsunday region. It is the lead agency recognised by Tourism and Events Queensland and the Whitsunday Regional Council to lead the promotion of the region as a tourism destination. Tourism Whitsundays markets all aspects of the region including the Great Barrier Reef, Whitsunday Islands and Coast, accommodation, boating and sailing, fishing, touring, recreational activities, adventure, dining, shopping, weddings and honeymoons, conferencing and business events.*

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES, CONTACT:

Liza Muller

Publicity and Content Manager

Tourism Whitsundays

Ph: +61 7 4948 5917 or +61 417 765736

Email: liza.muller@tourismwhitsundays.com.au

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