



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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Clipper Round The World Yacht Race set to return to Whitsundays in 2020

The countdown is on for the return of the Whitsundays Clipper Race Carnival, after the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race is set to sail from the UK on Sunday 1st September on a thrilling 4-month voyage.

The Clipper Round the World Yacht Race is a unique event, in which more than 700 amateur crew members are teamed with experienced skippers to sail 12 yachts in a 40,000 nautical mile race around the globe.

Following the huge success of their visit in 2018, the Whitsundays has again been named as an official host port for the final stop of the race's Australian leg, from January 9 to 18, 2020.

The stopover will be complemented by the Whitsundays Clipper Race Carnival, a region-wide festival of entertainment and activities for sailors, spectators and the local community.

The Whitsundays Clipper Race Carnival will be a Whitsunday regional event and is set to see the return of the crowd favourites from 2018. The festivities include an entertainment filled welcome event, the Rodeo by the Reef and the iconic Long Lunch on Whitehaven Beach.

Tourism Industry Development Minister Kate Jones said the Whitsundays Clipper Race Carnival continued to grow from strength to strength in recent years.

"We're committed to supporting events that put Queensland on the map," she said.

"This race carnival shines a global spotlight on Queensland and provides the kind of exposure that money can't buy for the local tourism industry.

"We know the Whitsundays is one of the most picturesque tourism hot spots in the world – this carnival is helping us share that with more people."

Tourism Whitsundays CEO Tash Wheeler thinks the Whitsundays is a world-class destination for sailing and again hosting the Clipper Round The World Yacht Race in 2020 will once again highlight that to the world.

"Seeing the return of the Clipper Round The World Yacht Race further cements that the Whitsundays is a world-class sailing destination.

“Hosting the Whitsundays Clipper Race Carnival is an also ideal opportunity to highlight and promote the region’s many attractions and encourage visitors from all over the world to visit.”

The Whitsundays Clipper Race Carnival was secured for a second time through a strong partnership between Tourism and Events Queensland, Tourism Whitsundays, Whitsunday Regional Council and Coral Sea Marina | Resort.

Mayor Andrew Willcox said hosting the Clipper Carnival event was important in continuing to raise the profile of the Whitsunday Region on a global stage.

“Our reputation as a sailing mecca is enhanced by being chosen as a host port for this legendary round the world yacht race.

“The land-based activities during the carnival also allows us to further shine the spotlight on our regional towns like Bowen, Proserpine and Collinsville.”

The Clipper Round the World Yacht Race was founded in 1995 by legendary UK yachtsman Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, who was the first person to sail solo, non-stop around the world in 1968-69.

For more information visit www.whitsundayclipperrace.com.au

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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.*

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