



**MEDIA RELEASE**

*For immediate release*

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## QTIC Young Professional Mentoring program participants announced

Tourism Whitsundays and Mackay Tourism is delighted to announce Mackay and Whitsundays participants in this year's Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) Young Professionals Mentoring Program.

Tourism Whitsundays CEO Tash Wheeler said, "The selection process to become a participant in the QTIC Young Professional Mentoring Program is quite rigorous – it is such an amazing opportunity for our young tourism professionals to take gain insight from some of the top minds in our industry, we're thrilled to have two Tourism Whitsundays employees selected this year".

The QTIC Young Professionals Mentoring Program now in its ninth year, provides a competitive edge for employees in the tourism industry who are 35 years or younger to gain insightful professional development, knowledge and skills through the sharing of information and experience. Participants of the Young Professionals Mentoring Program are specifically matched with a senior industry professional.

Participating in the program this year is Haylee Eaves - Membership Officer and Cherie Morel - Marketing Assistant from Tourism Whitsundays and Amanda Pelagalli owner of Mackay Aqua Park. Mentoring from the Whitsunday and Mackay region is Julie Telford from Red Cat Adventures and General Manager of Mackay Tourism Tas Webber.

Mackay Tourism General Manager Tas Webber says "It's a great honour to partake in the QTIC Young Professionals Mentoring Program, and as a mentor, to pass on my experience in the tourism industry," he said. "Tourism, perhaps more than any other industry, is full of exuberant, young professionals who all deliver quality services that collectively make Queensland's tourism industry one of the world's most successful and vibrant."

Running from February through to July, young professionals will be offered the opportunity to participate in scheduled monthly meetings structured to include relevant and individually tailored discussion topics and tasks.

The QTIC Young Professionals Mentoring Program draws upon a wide selection of senior industry professionals across all industry sectors and parts of Queensland. Each mentee is matched individually with a mentor based on a range of factors such as location, industry sector and skill set.

QTIC Chief Executive Daniel Gschwind said Queensland’s dynamic tourism industry had accumulated a wealth of experienced and highly professional experts. “To prepare for a prosperous future it is important for us to share this knowledge with the next generation of up-and-coming tourism industry leaders,” he said.

“Many previous mentees have gone to pursue inspiring careers. It’s not just the mentees, but also the mentors who often comment on the energising impact this interactive program delivers.”

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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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