



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

July 18, 2018

Skydivers have taken sightseeing to new heights in the Whitsundays, building the largest freefall formation over Whitehaven Beach. And the results are spectacular!

Dozens of Australia's most skilled skydivers are spending a week defrosting in the skies over Bowen, as part of their training to attempt a new national record next year. Aussie Bigways – Australian Large Formation Skydiving team - have been training in Bowen since July 15. They are preparing for a 150-person national record attempt in 2019.

They came from all over Australia to be here, so a day off for Whitsunday sightseeing was essential. They decided to aim high for the best vantage point, 14,000 feet above Hill Inlet, at Whitehaven Beach. Hill Inlet is a stunning cove at the northern end of the beach where the tide shifts the sand and water to create a swirling fusion of turquoise colours.

Tourism Whitsundays General Manager Tash Wheeler says she could not imagine a more picturesque place for a day off sightseeing.

“To be able to skydive and combine viewing Whitehaven Beach and Hill Inlet from the air would be an incredible, once in a lifetime experience.”

Airlie Beach Skydivers Chief Instructor Jonny Goss said she loves her picture perfect drop zone and is proud to show it off to the rest of the skydiving community.

“I'm having a ball and looking forward to holding more events like this in the future.”

Whitehaven Beach is regularly voted one of the top beaches in Australia and the world. It is famous for its 7km stretch of white silica sand that never gets too hot to walk on and crystal clear waters.

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Amazing broadcast quality pictures and interviews via the Dropbox link here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zotjli1l6421ros/AABokDXUiSvD-NFXpOLrZB4Za?dl=0>

The Drop Box includes:

- Whitehaven Beach skydive – Showcasing the sport and the world famous Hill Inlet.
- Large Formation skydiving training at Bowen
- Interviews:

Tracey Basman – ‘Aussie Bigways’ Team Co-ordinator (Blonde pigtailed) Tracey describes the team's practice events around Australia and our hopes to achieve a 150-person national record in 2019.

John Garnett – ‘Aussie Bigways’ New Recruit (Short, dark hair) John describes what he loves about large formation (‘bigway’) skydiving, as a new participant who’s been doing his biggest jumps ever this week. (He is also a Melburnian, loving this weather!)

Janine Hayes – ‘Aussie Bigways’ Record Holder (Short dark hair) – Janine was part of the existing national record, 119 people, and she is full steam ahead for the next record.

Nigel Brennan – Veteran Skydiver (Grey hair and beard) – Nigel is 65, but NOT the oldest bigway participant! He talks about the diversity and friendship of large formation skydiving.

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