

*For immediate release
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Lantern Parade on Festival Program

Do you want to be involved in this year's lantern parade at the Great Barrier Reef Festival in August?

For only the second time in the history of the festival, the lantern parade will be included in the program.

There will be workshops in July for people interested in learning how to make the lanterns.

The Coral Sea Marina Resort Lantern Parade will depart from the Garden Bar and bring a sea of light along the Bicentennial Boardwalk and down onto the foreshore.

The participants will then join the festivities of night markets, carnival rides and food stalls, ahead of the Fireworks by the Foreshore.

Chairperson of the Great Barrier Reef Festival, Margie Murphy, said the committee would be implementing a Covid-safe plan for this year's festival after the event was cancelled last year due to Covid restrictions.

She said she was pleased the lantern parade could be included within that plan and that the workshops would provide creative fun for adults and kids.

The workshops will be held at Lure at Coal Sea Marina on July 9 and July 31.

Both workshops will be held from 10am – 2pm.

"This is a great chance to have fun and learn from local artists," Mrs Murphy said.

Tourism Whitsundays Chief Executive Officer, Tash Wheeler, said she was very pleased that the festival would be going ahead this year by implementing a Covid-safe plan.

"The Great Barrier Reef Festival, celebrating 21 years in 2021, is a favourite with locals and visitors and the lantern parade is sure to be one of the many popular events on the program.

"This annual festival helps cement The Whitsundays as the Heart of Events." she said.

The festival will be held August 5-8.

More information is available on the Great Barrier Reef Festival website.

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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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