

MEDIA RELEASE



For Immediate Release
19 July 2021

Whitsundays Arts Festival Update

Nine weeks and counting! The Whitsundays Arts Festival (WAF) Committee is delighted to report continued financial and in-kind support for the 2021 Festival taking place from 17-19 September on the Airlie Beach foreshore. WAF successfully procured grants from Festivals Australia and the Regional Arts Fund, both Commonwealth programs. These grants go a long way in supporting our new performing arts component and our fabulous lantern installation and community workshops. President Jess Begun received a congratulatory phone call from Federal Member George Christensen. Whitsunday Regional Council has provided funds and in-kind support in addition to successful RADF grants. Australian company EcoCleanFM has become the festival's first platinum sponsor.

President Jess Begun says "Support from all levels of government, corporations and local businesses is crucial to the sustainability of exciting local festivals. These festivals contribute tremendously to the vibrancy, resilience and cultural life of a community."

Performing arts events at this year's festival include movement workshops with renowned Townsville dance company Dancenorth Australia on Sunday 18 September. Other performances include theatre performances by Astronomical – Full Throttle Theatre Company on Saturday evening, and puppet shows for the whole family. The lantern installation and community lantern making will take place two weeks prior to the festival at our fantastic workshop facility at Kipara Tropical Retreat under the guidance of guest artist Lily Podger of Woodford Folk Festival fame (and this year Dark Mona).

Tourism Whitsundays Chief Executive Officer, Tash Wheeler said the new funds and grants secured by the Whitsundays Arts Festival will help ensure that the 2021 event will be the best one yet.

"The Whitsundays Arts Festival plays a significant role in our region, there's no event like it and with the exciting news of added financial and in-kind support this is a huge win for the festival.

"Mark the 17 – 19 September at Airlie Beach foreshore in your calendars because this is one colourful event you won't want to miss," Ms Wheeler said.

Entries for the inaugural Whitsundays Arts Prize close 30 July. With a wonderful incentive of a \$5,000 acquisition prize for the new Whitsunday Regional Council art collection, Whitsundays Arts Festival is hoping that artists in the region will be sure to enter a two-dimensional work of art.

Check out all the art workshops at the Whitsundays Arts Festival on Saturday 18 September including children's book writing and illustration; weaving with recycled materials; abstract art; and digital animation on our website www.whitsundaysartsfestival.org. Spaces are limited.

For further information contact Jess Begun [via email](#) or phone on 0417 631 500.

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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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