

****Embargoed till 10 AM on 9/12/2021****

Back in the saddle, the races are back

Mackay Beach Horse Races is trotting back into the region in 2022

Adrenaline pumping, crowds cheering and the sound of thundering hooves on wet sand. You can already feel the surge of energy that will be coming from Mackay Harbour Beach.

Mark your calendars and let's welcome back the Mackay Beach Horse Races.

This 'hallmark' event was established in 2012 by the late Mick Pope and combines two of North Queensland's favourite pastimes – a day at the races and a day at the beach.

The race day is attended by more than 5000 locals and attracts visitors from all around Australia and the world.

Offering a slice of paradise for race goers, the lead up to race day provides an excellent opportunity for visitors (and locals) to experience Mackay's renowned hospitality and rediscover the natural coastal beauty of the region.

Mackay Regional Council Mayor Greg Williamson said the return of the one-of-a-kind event was a boost to Mackay's tourism profile.

"Mick Pope knew this event was special – he saw its potential when he witnessed horses racing on a beach in Ireland in 2011 – and he knew that, if run well, it would be a drawcard for people all over Australia," Mayor Williamson said.

"Popey knew a good time when he saw one, and council is thrilled to see this event back on our calendar in 2022," he said.

"We can't wait to see the sand flying on our bluewater edge with crowds cheering on!"

Set against the spectacular backdrop of the Pacific Ocean and Whitsunday Islands, The Mackay Beach Horse Races will once again welcome back Clydesdales, Thoroughbreds and Mares, along with a series of brand-new innovations.

"The event has been on hiatus for four years and we have been patiently waiting for its return. The Mackay Beach Horse Races 2022 is designed to cater to everyone, and our region is ready to welcome you back!

An iconic event like this requires a lot of hard work and I am happy that Sound Australia (QLD) is on board with us for next year." said Mackay Isaac Tourism Chief Executive Officer, Mr Tas Webber.

Respected Australian promoters Sound Australia, whose recent success stories include the iconic Winton's Way Out West and the massively successful Savannah in the Round festival, have

come on board as the official “Clerks of the Course”, ensuring the premier sporting and social event returns to its former glory.

Sound Australia (QLD) Mackay Beach Horse Races 2022 CEO James Dein said the races will be coming back with a big bang – a great way to celebrate the borders reopening.

“Everywhere I go in Queensland, people already know about the Mackay Beach Horse Races - this event sure had some cut through in the day!

We’re proud to have been engaged by Mackay Isaac Tourism to bring this wonderful festival back to life and have some fresh and exciting ideas.

We’ll be taking inspiration from premium Beach Clubs across Europe, running a fully catered Quarterdeck, Fashions on the Sand, an evening rock stage as a pre-event party starter, plus a post-event concert and recovery day.

We’re looking forward to making these three days of party, party, party and welcoming folks from all over Australia!” said Mr Dein.

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For further information, please do not hesitate to contact,

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