

# MEDIA RELEASE



THE HEART OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

*For immediate release*  
October 17, 2019

## **Win a meet and greet with John Williamson Airlie Beach Festival of Music three-day-pass draw**

Are you a 'True Blue' John Williamson fan?

If you've ever dreamed of meeting the man behind this iconic Australian song, the Airlie Beach Festival of Music could be your chance.

Anyone who buys a three-day festival pass over the next two weeks, from October 17-31, will go into a draw to win a meet and greet with one of the nation's most renowned musicians.

Although a recipient of more awards than he cares to mention, it's the reaction from his audiences Williamson considers the most important recognition, and the reason he is most looking forward to the Airlie Beach Festival of Music from November 8-10.

"I really enjoy meeting my fans, hearing their stories and where they're from," he said.

"I've been fortunate that my music seems to have crossed multi-generations.

"To hear about how people were introduced to my music by their parents or grandparents – or whether they're the grandparents themselves – makes me feel proud to be able to share my music and love of this country with all ages."

Although a repeat visitor to the Whitsunday region he describes as a "pristine part of Australia" and "a part of the world everyone should visit at least once", this will be Williamson's first performance in Airlie Beach.

"I've been wanting to perform at the Airlie Beach Festival of Music for several years now and finally the timing has matched up so that I can be there," he said.

"I've heard from many friends in the industry what a special and intimate event it is, and to have the opportunity to perform, surrounded by 74 islands on the Great Barrier Reef, will be a bucket list moment for me.

"I've been involved with Wildlife Warriors and conservation throughout Australia for quite some time now and to be able to share my music on such a stage will be truly memorable."

Festival founder, Gavin Butlin, said Williamson would be performing his biggest hits, crowd favourites and maybe a few new songs that hadn't been road-tested before.

"To be able to meet him after watching this on stage will be priceless, so I encourage anyone who loves John Williamson's music to buy a three-day pass and be a part of this draw," he said.

Tourism Whitsundays CEO, Tash Wheeler, said the meet and greet opportunities facilitated by the festival were experiences money couldn't buy, enhanced by the event's natural setting in a community at the heart of the Great Barrier Reef.

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“Meeting a musician like John Williamson is exciting in itself, but to do so in the iconic surroundings of the Airlie Beach Festival of Music is unforgettable,” she said.

Other artists joining John Williamson on the 2019 festival line-up include John Butler, Smokie, the Australian Rock Collective, Yothu Yindi, the Superjesus, Mahalia Barnes, Bon But Not Forgotten, Bob ‘Bongo’ Starkie’s Skyhooks with special guest Racey, and the Airlie Beach ‘All Stars’, consisting of Nicky Bomba, Bustamento, Frankie J Holden and Wilbur Wilde.

Tickets to the festival are on sale via OzTix, BigTix, Whitsunday Tickets, The MECC, Tourism Whitsundays, and direct from <http://www.airliebeachfestivalofmusic.com.au/>.

The meet and greet draw applies only to purchases of three day passes.

Terms and conditions apply and are available to view on the festival’s website.

The winner will also have a professional photograph taken and receive Airlie Beach Festival of Music merchandise signed by John Williamson.

For more information, follow the festival on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Image below is available in high resolution on request.



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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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