

For immediate release
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New Board Members Welcomed At Tourism Whitsundays Annual General Meeting

Tourism Whitsundays has welcomed new members to the 2019/2020 Board and thanked outgoing members for their services at the organisation's Annual General Meeting (AGM) held today at TAFE Cannonvale.

New members to the board include, Glenn Bourke, Chief Executive Officer of Hamilton Island Enterprises voted in as the representative for The Whitsundays Accommodation Sector. Shaun Cawood, General Manager of Cruise Whitsundays elected as a representative from the Marine Sector as well as tourism veteran Craig Turner in the elected position of any Tourism Sector.

Re-elected for a second term is Toni Ward owner of Whitsunday Jetski Tours, in the position of elected representative from the Youth Sector and Trevor Rees Managing Director of Whitsunday Escape in the elected position of Any Tourism Sector.

Jenn Honnery will be replacing Jonathan Freeman on the Tourism Whitsundays board this year as Invited representative for Bowen Tourism & Business.

These new and re-elected members will be joining already sitting members, Jan Claxton, Matt Boileau, Andrew Telford, Judy Porter, Karen Vloedmans, Brett Kapernick and Mayor Andrew Willcox.

During the first board meeting new positions were voted with Matt Boileau elected as new Chair, re-elected as Treasurer is Trevor Reese and Secretary will continue to be Andrew Telford.

Matt Boileau, Tourism Whitsundays Chair believes Tourism Whitsundays as an organisation is in a very strong position.

"The Whitsundays is one of the most magnificent destinations in the world. It is a privilege to lead the Tourism Whitsundays board at such a dynamic time for the region. I look forward to working with the industry and the Tourism Whitsundays team to continue to build the profile of the destination," he said.

Tash Wheeler, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tourism Whitsundays believes this is a very solid board.

"The new board has some of the key leaders from the Whitsundays tourism industry, the collective tourism knowledge held by this board is priceless.

Tash added "The team and I are looking forward to drawing on their expertise."

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THE HEART OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

During the AGM outgoing board members were thanked for their tireless service to the TW Board, with very special acknowledgement made to outgoing Chairman Al Grundy, who will be staying on the board as an invited member in the position of Deputy Chairman. Tourism Whitsundays CEO Tash Wheeler believes Al's extraordinary drive and determination has been an energising force within the board.

"Al's commitment and passion has been an invaluable asset to not only the Tourism Whitsundays Board but to the team as well, he has been an excellent Chair and mentor.

"I personally have learnt so much from him and am extremely proud of what we have achieved together," she said.

Tash added, "It's great that Al will be staying on as an invited member in the position of Deputy Chair. Al has been at the helm during some challenging times, it's great that we'll retain those learnings."

Outgoing board members Brooke Miles owner of Brooke Miles Photography and Jayson Heron ex-Sales and Marketing Director of Daydream Island Resort were acknowledged for their contribution to the board over the past 12 months.

Tourism Whitsundays Chief Executive Officer Tash Wheeler provided board and members with an update on the company's activities throughout the year and reiterated the organisations commitment marketing the region as the globally recognised Great Barrier Reef destination.

Glenn Bourke - Hamilton Island

Glenn Bourke is the CEO of Hamilton Island and has overseen developments on the Island including Hamilton Island Yacht Club and Hamilton Island Golf Club. Additionally, Glenn led the recovery effort of Hamilton Island in the wake of Cyclone Debbie, ensuring that the Island was able to open within 10 days and that all 1,200 staff remained employed.

As a passionate resident of the Whitsundays for 11 years, Glenn is committed to the advancement of the region on a national and international level

Shaun Cawood - Cruise Whitsundays

Shaun Cawood has over 20 years senior hospitality and tourism leadership experience across a diverse range of operations including large luxury resorts and hotels, boutique resorts and large cruise ship companies. Shaun's global career experience includes roles in Fiji, New Zealand, U.S, Caribbean, Europe, Mediterranean and South Africa. Currently the General Manager of Cruise Whitsundays, Shaun is responsible for daily management of the diverse marine tourism business.

Craig Turner

Craig has over the past 25 years developed a large industry network which allows for strong advocacy within the broader tourism industry, and at regional, state and federal government levels. Craig will commit his experience and knowledge for the benefit of all members.

- ENDS -

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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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