

MEDIA RELEASE



THE HEART OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

For immediate release
November 9, 2019

The Whitsundays Celebrates At The Queensland Tourism Awards

Last night, at the 2019 Queensland Tourism Awards The Whitsundays was delighted to take home an impressive three gold, four silver, five bronze awards and a highly commended.

The awards ceremony, held on Friday 8 November, 2019, at Novotel Twin Waters on the Sunshine Coast was a glittering event with representation from over 13 Whitsunday operators including Cruise Whitsundays, BIG4 Adventure Whitsundays, Bowen Tourism and Business, Cumberland Charter Yachts, Fish D'vine, Local Tickets, Northlives Beach Bar and Grill, Ocean Rafting, Prosail Whitsundays, Red Cat Adventures, Whitsunday Coast Airport, Whitsunday Jetski Tours, Whitsunday Segway Tours and Whitsundays Mayor Andrew Willcox.

Tourism Whitsunday Chief Executive Officer Tash Wheeler said it is great to see the ongoing participation by Whitsundays operators each year.

“The Whitsundays is a world class tourism destination in the Heart of the Great Barrier Reef. It is a diverse destination; over the last 12 months the industry has continued to focus on delivering exceptional experiences.

“We are so proud to have so many of our tourism products represented in the Queensland Tourism Awards each year. A big thank you to Queensland Tourism Industry Council for putting on another wonderful celebration of tourism,” she said.

Taking out a double trifecta, The Whitsundays scooped up bronze, silver and gold in Major Tour and Transport Operators as well as Adventure Tourism. Proving once again The Whitsundays is the Heart of Adventure.

Red Cat Adventures for a second year in a row, took gold in Adventure Tourism and Major Tour and Transport Operators with Cumberland Charter Yachts winning Gold for Unique Accommodation.

Whitsunday Regional Council Mayor Andrew Willcox was proud to be part of the Whitsundays representation.

“Congratulations to all our operators who entered this year’s awards, that in itself is a great achievement. Tonight’s recognition showcases the quality of the operators in our region.

“Our local industry continues to set the benchmark in providing amazing land and water experiences in the Heart of the Great Barrier Reef,” he said.

Sharon McNally, Managing Director of Cumberland Charter Yachts believes it’s fitting The Whitsundays took home gold in the Unique Accommodation category.

“Bareboating is such a unique experience and The Whitsundays is the most incredible place to experience it. We’re honoured to have won gold in this category.

Tourism Whitsundays

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Operating for 35 years, the Queensland Tourism Awards, hosted by Queensland Industry Council (QTIC) recognise the outstanding achievements of the state's tourism industry, including individuals, businesses (industry operators) and events across 30 different categories.

The Awards are a submission and inspection-based program and provide the opportunity to publicly acknowledge and showcase Queensland's finest tourism operators.

WHITSUNDAYS WINNERS:

Gold Awards

Red Cat Adventures: Major Tour and Transport Operators

Red Cat Adventures: Adventure Tourism

Cumberland Charter Yachts: Unique Accommodation

Silver Awards

Local Tickets Pty Ltd: Specialised Tourism Services

Ocean Rafting: Major Tour and Transport Operators

Whitsunday Jetski Tours: Adventure Tourism

BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort: Caravan and Holiday Parks

Bronze Awards

Whitsunday Coast Airport: Specialised Tourism Services

Cruise Whitsundays: Major Tour and Transport Operators

Ocean Rafting: Adventure Tourism

Cruise Whitsundays Reefsleeper: Unique Accommodation

Airlie Beach Volunteer Cruise Ship Ambassador Program: Outstanding Contribution by a Volunteer or Volunteer Group

Highly Commended

Northerlies Beach Bar and Grill: Tourism Restaurants and Catering Services

- ENDS -

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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