

# MEDIA RELEASE



*For immediate release*  
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## The Whitsundays bids farewell to the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race

After hosting the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race fleet for a little over a week, The Whitsundays has hoisted their sails and provided the Clipper Race fleet a Whitsundays goodbye to be remembered with an epic Parade of Sails to bid farewell to our visiting guests.

The fanfare on the dock at Coral Sea Marina as the yachts slipped lines was emotional, with farewells for family and friends but also an atmosphere of excitement as crews embarked on the next chapter of their 40,000 nautical mile race around the world.

Tourism Whitsundays Chief Executive Officer Tash Wheeler believes the carnival was a huge success and fantastic event on The Whitsundays calendar to draw visitation.

“Firstly, I’d like to congratulate the Whitsunday Regional Council on a hugely successful 2020 Whitsundays Clipper Race Carnival.

“The events staged throughout the week have been world-class. The White on Whitehaven by Fish D’vine is a truly iconic event not to be missed.

“The 2018 Whitsundays Clipper Race Carnival successfully generated visitor expenditure of \$1,954,448 directly into the Whitsundays economy, and we expect to see a similar if not greater number following this year’s event!”

Whitsunday Regional Council Mayor Andrew Willcox said it was great to see the yachting world’s spotlight shine on the region for the week.

“The Whitsundays is the Heart of the Great Barrier Reef and the Heart of Sailing,” he said.

“Hosting the amazing Clipper Carnival with events around the region has enhanced our reputation as a southern hemisphere mecca for boaties.”

The weeklong Whitsundays Clipper Race Carnival (January 11-18) was organised as a celebration of the crews’ visit and also to showcase the wonderful Whitsundays to the world. Starting with the incredible White on Whitehaven by Fish D’vine a long table lunch on the pristine silica sands of Whitehaven, followed by the free community welcome event on Airlie Beach foreshore which provided an opportunity for the local community to show the visiting crews the warm Whitsundays hospitality the region is known for.

During the week saw the Little Ripper Clipper Cup, and Australiana Long Lunch at Whitsunday Sailing Club as well as the Clipper Yacht Open days which allowed Clipper family and friends as well as locals to imagine a day in the life of these race crews. The Whitsundays Clipper Race Carnival finished up with the Parade of Sails and the outstanding Rodeo by the Reef held at the Bowen foreshore.

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Many local businesses have been feeling the positive effects of the visiting Clipper fleet and their family and friends.

The Whitsundays Clipper Race Carnival could not be possible without the support of sponsors. Thank you to: Tourism and Events Queensland, Coral Sea Resort, Tourism Whitsundays, Mirage Whitsundays, Fish D'vine, Evolution Mining, Reef Gateway Hotel, Paradise Outdoor Advertising, Grandview Hotel, kb Design, Whitsunday Times, Grand Broadcasters, Riptide Creative, Angel Signs, Graphic House, Coral's City 2 Country, Brandenburg Bucking Bulls, Pilcher Pre-Mix Concrete, Pilcher Industries, IGA Bowen, RTM Engineering, The Top Shop for Men, Delacey Electrical, Whitsunday Crocodile Safari, Airlie Beach Music, Red Cat Adventures, Night Owl, ANZ Bowen, Woolworths Bowen, Sorrento Restaurant & Bar, The Garden Bar Bistro, Whitsunday Sailing Club and Proserpine Golf Club

The Clipper Round the World Yacht Race is the only race of its kind and matches experienced skippers with novice sailors, who can take part in just one leg or every leg of the race, which starts and ends in Liverpool in the UK and takes in Uruguay, South Africa, Australia, China, the USA, and Ireland.

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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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