

MEDIA RELEASE



For immediate release
2 March 2021

Great Barrier Reef festival calls for volunteers

Would you like to become involved in the community and learn new skills?

The Great Barrier Reef Festival is looking for new volunteers to help plan and organise this year's festival.

The festival was cancelled in 2020 due to Covid-19 but the committee has now started planning for this year and the dates are locked in for August 5-8.

President Margie Murphy said covid regulations meant there would be some changes and that the committee was also considering new events to ensure compliance with the covid-safe rules.

"It's time to look outside the square to ensure we have a great festival and that everyone is safe," she said.

She said volunteering was fun and a very rewarding experience.

"As part of this year's festival planning, we are introducing a volunteer mentoring program," she said.

"That will allow the new volunteers to learn a variety of new skills from the more experienced committee members."

"If you are new to town, this would be a great way to meet people and become involved in the community."

The four-day festival will celebrate its 21st anniversary this year.

Previous festival favourites including the Family Fun Day, Recyclable Regatta and Comedy Gala will be back this year but the committee is looking for new events to be added to the program and needs new volunteers to be involved.

Tourism Whitsundays Chief Executive Officer Tash Wheeler said the Great Barrier Reef Festival was a much-loved event, made possible by the help of dedicated volunteers.

"The introduction of the volunteer mentoring program is just another example of how Whitsunday events continue to evolve and grow, helping to cement The Whitsundays as the Heart of Events," Ms Wheeler said.

The festival has developed a new strategic plan and now needs more people to help work with the current committee members to implement the plan.

"More people will mean less work for each committee member and volunteers can be involved as much or as little as they like.

"Some people may want to be involved in the planning straight away and others may just want to help during the festival," Mrs Murphy said.

An informal gathering will be held at The Garden Bar, Coral Sea Marina on Thursday March 11 from 5.30pm for new volunteers to meet the team. If you are interested in getting involved just come down on the evening or call 0418 155 542 or email info@greatbarrierreeffestival.com.au for further information.

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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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