

# MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

20 March 2023

## Awards a Plenty in The Whitsundays

National and international recognition has rocketed The Whitsundays into the news this month, with a number of awards won by local accommodation and experience operators.

The Australian Tourism Awards, held on Friday 17 March in Sydney, saw long-term businesses of The Whitsundays – including Ocean Rafting, Magnums Accommodation Airlie Beach and BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday – all nominated after their Gold wins at the Queensland Tourism Awards in November last year.

And the winners are: BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort with gold in the Caravan and Holiday Parks category, Ocean Rafting with silver in the Adventure Tourism category and Magnums Accommodation Airlie Beach with bronze in the 3-3.5 Star Accommodation category.

Internationally, Club Wyndham Airlie Beach was awarded Best Interior Design for its \$3 million presidential apartments refurbishment project at the GNEX Vacation Industry Awards earlier this month. The three-level apartments have undergone a significant refurbishment with extended roof lines and extended facilities including outdoor bathrooms.

At the northern end of The Whitsundays, Queens Beach Tourist Village in Bowen was awarded Best Grey Nomad Large Caravan Park at February's Great Nomad Awards. The win accentuates the love Bowen has for the Grey Nomads and the large part they play in Bowen's tourism year.

Tourism Whitsundays CEO, Rick Hamilton is thrilled with the win, stating it's no surprise to see exceptional Whitsundays experiences acknowledged after a year of record expenditure and visitation.

"Everything about The Whitsundays is outstanding; our icons, our people and our experiences from Airlie Beach and the islands, Bowen in the north to Collinsville and Proserpine in the west. These awards are a testament to just how outstanding our region really is.

"Congratulations to all the winners, what an incredible achievement for your businesses but also for us all in The Whitsundays," Mr Hamilton said.

Tourism Whitsundays Chair, Julie Telford said the tourism industry in The Whitsundays offers exceptional experiences to a wide range of travellers, and these awards really highlight this.

"Visitors to The Whitsundays can be young backpackers on their first East Coast Roadtrip, seasonal Grey Nomads on their tenth visit, or families seeking to bond together for a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. The Whitsundays is an incredible destination that caters to all demographics. Our region should be very proud of how passionate and hardworking our high-quality operators are."

"Everyone working in customer-facing jobs has exceptional service that shines through to our visitors to our Whitsundays."

"A huge congratulations to the winners, and thank you to everyone who is sharing their passion for The Whitsundays with our visitors," said Ms Telford

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THE HEART OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

To view a Word Document of this release and supporting images, [click here](#).

To view The Whitsundays destination video, [click here](#).

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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