

## MEDIA RELEASE

*UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL  
23:00 19 October 2024*

### Stars Shine Bright at The Whitsundays Tourism Awards on Daydream Island

The Whitsundays Tourism Awards dazzled attendees this evening at Daydream Island Resort, celebrating exceptional talent in our tourism industry. Over 360 guests attended the event, sponsored by Bishopp Advertising.

This year's awards featured a vibrant networking party atmosphere, with live entertainment, delicious food, and dancing late into the night, highlighting the industry's outstanding contributions.

The celebration applauded both individual and collective achievements, recognising new businesses alongside familiar names that continue to shine. It was a fitting tribute to the region's resilience and innovation.

Aimee Cameron, Interim CEO of Tourism Whitsundays, expressed her excitement about the event.

"We've really been looking forward to tonight and celebrating the successes of our incredible Whitsundays tourism industry. This year, we are particularly proud to welcome eleven entrants into the Hall of Fame, a testament to the hard work and dedication within our sector.

"None of this would be possible though without the support of our incredible and generous sponsors. I'd like to personally thank Bishopp Advertising and our platinum sponsors Airlie Beach Hotel, Daydream Island and Cruise Whitsundays."

Julie Telford, Chair of the Board at Tourism Whitsundays, echoed this sentiment.

"I want to congratulate everyone in the industry for their achievements tonight. The success of these awards showcases the hard work and dedication of the tourism sector in The Whitsundays. Tonight is a celebration of their passion for the tourism industry, and it's also a wonderful recognition of their staff. It's inspiring to see how many new operators and members have nominated this year.

"Equally, the incredible team at TW plays a crucial role in this success. Despite being small, they consistently go above and beyond for every member, making a significant impact on our community and the tourism sector as a whole. I am genuinely excited to witness their continued success and growth in the coming twelve months."

Whitsunday Regional Council Mayor Ry Collins said tourism is the heartbeat of the Whitsundays thanks to the resilience of our stakeholders and their ability to adapt, innovate, and deliver unforgettable experiences time and again.

"In Council's budget for 2024-25 we increased our funding to Tourism Whitsundays from \$720,000 to \$1 million to ensure we continue driving visitation, creating jobs, and building a resilient, thriving economy.

"I want to congratulate every individual, business, and team here tonight. The record visitation numbers we've seen, and the increase in visitor expenditure, are proof of your incredible efforts. The

Whitsundays continues to shine as a world-class destination, and it's because of your hard work and passion."

Tourism Whitsundays would like to congratulate all the entrants and recognise the following winners of this year's award categories.

### Tourism Awards

Tourist Attractions	Cruise Whitsundays
Festivals & Events	Great Barrier Reef Festival
Ecotourism	Whitsunday Segway Tours
Tourism Retail, Hire & Services	Whitsunday Coast Airport
Visitor Information Services	Bowen Tourism and Business
Major Tour & Transport Operators	Ocean Rafting
Tour & Transport Operators	Iconic Whitsunday Adventures
Adventure Tourism	Red Cat Adventures
Caravan & Holiday Parks	BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort
Unique Accommodation	Cruise Whitsundays
Self Contained Accommodation	Pinnacles
4-4.5 Star Deluxe Accommodation	Mirage Whitsundays
5 Star Luxury Accommodation	InterContinental Hayman Island Resort
New Tourism Business	Eastwoods Dining
Excellence in Food Tourism	Party Cakes Whitsunday
Excellence in Accessible Tourism	BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort
Outstanding Contribution by a Volunteer or Volunteer Group	Airlie Beach Cruise Ship Ambassadors
Bob Porter Award for Outstanding Service	Paul Darrouzet
Best of Queensland Experience	Sealink Whitsundays
Best of Queensland Accommodation	Peninsula Airlie Beach

### Business Awards

Award For Excellence In Customer Service By An Individual Or Business	Bowen Tourism and Business
Award For Most Outstanding Whitsundays Booking Service	Airlie Beach Tourism
Award For Most Outstanding Whitsundays Hospitality Venue	Eastwoods Dining
Award For Most Outstanding Whitsundays Retailer	Airlie Beach Clothing
Award For Most Outstanding Whitsundays Service Business	Shiift Pty Ltd
Bowen Business of the Year	Bird Fish Bar
Collinsville Business of the Year	Pit Pony Tavern
Proserpine Business of the Year	Little Vintage Café

Whitsundays Business of the Year	Coral Sea Marina Resort
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### Peoples Choice Awards

People's Choice Award Experience	Ocean Rafting
People's Choice Award Accommodation	BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort

### Hall of fame:

Cruise Whitsundays
Great Barrier Reef Festival
Whitsunday Coast Airport
Bowen Tourism and Business
Ocean Rafting
BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort
Pinnacles
Mirage Whitsundays
InterContinental Hayman Island Resort
Shiift Pty Ltd
BIG4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort

The Whitsundays Tourism Awards was supported by generous sponsors: Bishopp Advertising, Airlie Beach Hotel, Daydream Island, Cruise Whitsundays, Hamilton Island, Mackay and Whitsunday Life, Whitsunday Transit, Bendigo Bank, Hero, Tafe Queensland, KB Designs, Graphic House, RJean Photography, Whitsunday Audio Visual, Airlie Events, ARN Media with 4MK and Star Mackay and The Whitsundays, Fraser Ford, Queensland Rail, Paddy's Shenanigans, Shivoo Event Hire.

**- ENDS -**

To view a Word Document of this release and supporting images, [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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THE HEART OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

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