

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12 Years Strong: Airlie Beach Festival of Music Rocks On in Paradise

In a country where festivals are folding like deck chairs in a cyclone, the Airlie Beach Festival of Music continues to thrive, celebrating its 12th anniversary in the coming weeks. With a line-up that's bigger, bolder and louder than ever, this year's event promises to be the ultimate mash-up of rock royalty, local legends and rising stars.

With over 50 acts across the five-day program, the festival proudly welcomes an incredible line-up featuring classic British rock legends Sweet, the iconic rock powerhouse Rose Tattoo, '80s favourites Pseudo Echo and the much-anticipated return of Southern Sons. Whether you're wanting to relive the golden years of music or discover fresh sounds, this year's roster is a musical buffet serving up something for everyone, including the talented Sandy Thom, known for her hit single, 'I Wish I Was a Punk Rocker'.

The festival kicks off on Thursday 7th November, with an Opening Party at Magnums, a legendary local venue that sets the tone for the weekend. Leading the charge is electrifying roots artist, Jackson Dunn and family affair, ObiSun, with 19-Twenty headlining the night with their high-energy blues and roots sound.

From there the fun continues, with the Passport to Airlie national band competition finals on Friday 8th November, where nine up-and-coming acts from across Australia will compete under the big tent for a golden ticket to rock the main stage next year and cement their place in Aussie music history. It's the perfect way to start the main event – fresh new acts, including the 2023 competition winners, Avalanche followed by seasoned headliners Thirsty Merc and alternative rock icons, Jebediah.

It's not just entertainment, it's a journey and to further enhance the experience, gypsy rock duo, Salt and Steel will be delivering a festival first, rocking their solar-powered motorhome and delivering stripped back acoustic tunes and artist chats in between main sets. The legendary Fish D'Vine, a long-time staple of the Whitsunday food scene, will be bringing its iconic flavour to the festival with a vibrant eat street, serving up seafood delights and more for those who know good food is just as important as good vibes. And to make sure everyone's in on the action, accessibility features - crafted in partnership with Endeavour Foundation - ensure no one's left out of the rhythm.

The festival then takes off into high gear over the 9th and 10th November, bringing fan favourites to the stage including the dynamic Reece Mastin, the unstoppable Ash Grunwald and powerhouse Christine Anu, plus a slew of other acts that are sure to keep the party rocking to sun down.

"I'm so excited to finally experience Airlie Beach Festival of Music for the first time! I've heard incredible things about the energy and the crowd and performing with the ocean as my backdrop is going to be something special," said Christine, who's ready to bring her signature energy and soulful sound to the festival.

The celebration doesn't stop there and on Monday 11th November, the festival heads to Northerlies for the ultimate afterparty. It's where the festival's spirit lives on and the Matty Rogers Band, Bondi Cigars and a roster of local legends come together for one last jam.



THE HEART OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

“There’s a reason we’re still here after 12 years - we’ve created something unique and people come back year after year for the music, but also for the experience,” says founder Gavin Butlin, affectionately known as Butto.

“It’s where the everyday fades and you’re left with nothing but good vibes, great company and a view that’s hard to beat.”

The team have cracked the code to staying power - mixing a long weekend of music, magic and a bit of coastal mischief to create a festival that refuses to fade, no matter what the industry throws at it. So, if you’re looking to combine your love of live music with a tropical holiday, the Airlie Beach Festival of Music is the ultimate destination with one unforgettable soundtrack!

Whether you’re up for a one-day escape or a three-day music marathon, there’s a ticket for every taste on sale now: www.airliebeachfestivalofmusic.com.au

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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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