Whitsunday Reef Recovery and Public Art Project

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The Whitsunday Reef Recovery and Public Art Project involves collaboration between government, industry and community for the installation of underwater marine art, coral reef restoration and educational activities. One of the major objectives of this project is to provide new tourism experiences which will further enhance visitor experience. With the art pieces having a marine wildlife theme, we believe they will provoke conversation and deeper consideration of the marine environment, leading to innovative coral restoration programs being trialled at selected Whitsunday sites.

The project commenced in May 2018 and is due for completion by December 2019. The project is led by Reef Ecologic Pty Ltd in partnership with Tourism Whitsundays, Whitsunday Regional Council and the advice from Whitsunday and Bowen Local Marine Advisory Committees and stakeholders. We are working closely with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

We have completed baseline marine biological research of corals at key tourism areas damaged by Cyclone Debbie. We have commenced a temporary social and biological research project on marine art at Langford Reef.

Our next actions are to commence reef restoration, create the marine underwater art sculptures and work with government and community to choose suitable locations that have a positive benefits for the reef and stakeholders.

This project is made possible due to funding from the Australian and Queensland Governments as part of the funding package set up to help the tourism industry bounce back from Tropical Cyclone Debbie.
THE PUBLIC ARTISTS

We conducted a global Expression of Interest for artists for the Whitsunday Reef Recovery and Public Art Project and received 73 submissions. The EOI’s (expressions of interest) were assessed by an independent panel and three individual artists and a team were selected.

**Brian Robinson**

Brian Robinson is of the Kala Lagaw Ya and Wuthathi language groups of the Torres Strait and Cape York Peninsula. Born on Waiben (Thursday Island) and now Cairns-based, Robinson is known for his printmaking and public sculptures in which he uses a variety of techniques to produce bold, innovative and distinctive works. An evolving repertoire of imagery is grounded in his childhood in the tropics, Indigenous heritage and dynamic imagination. The intense colour and lively three-dimensional sculptural forms, which has built his reputation are influenced by the fecundity of growth that characterizes Queensland.

**Adriaan Vanderlugt**

Adriaan has been creating sculptures since 1969, almost always with a wildlife theme and exploring the mediums of stone, bone, marble, wood and metal. He has travelled to many venues for both solo and group exhibitions. In 2001, he created on site Limestone sculptures in public, as one of three artists in the Whitsunday Sculpture Symposium at Airlie Beach and was the invited artist for the Coast to Coal Sculpture Symposium, working with local mediums and endangered species in Mackay, Nebo, Moranbah, and Clermont while mentoring local assistants at each location. He was awarded the Centenary Medal for distinguished service to the arts.

**Col Henry**

Col Henry, born 1947 in Gosford, NSW, lists his main qualification as a ‘Long and Diverse Life Experience’. The artist has many art and education related degrees, diplomas and certificates including welding, industrial foundry, panel beating, spray painting, trade and industrial management. He has a vast and diverse experience in industry and construction, Full Time TAFE Teacher for 23 years, retiring to full time Sculptor in 1995.

**Arts Based Collective**

Caitlin Reilly, Jessa Lloyd and Kate Ford are the ‘Arts Based Collective’. Caitlin is an Australian born multi-disciplinary artist living in Byron Bay, Australia. She has participated in many solo and group exhibitions in both China and Australia. Jessa is an artist and curator based in the Whitsundays who is passionate about the arts, environment and culture, and the role all three have in shaping community. Kate Ford is an artist who draws inspiration from the natural environment particularly as it pertains to fragility and sustainability.
**Anthozoa**

Arts Based Collective

Anthozoa is a 20,000 times sculpture of a single coral polyp

Concrete: 4m x 5m x 4m

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**Bwya**

Brian Robinson

This is a dreamtime story about the reef, creation and marine life.

Concrete and stainless steel: 1.8m x 3.2m

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**Migration of the Mantas**

Brian Robinson

Seven large Manta Rays will appear to be schooling

Concrete and stainless steel: 4m x 6m

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**Maori Wrasse**

Adriaan Vanderlugt

A Maori wrasse with distinctive facial tattoos will create habitat for attached marine life

Aluminum: 2.4m x 3.9m x 1m

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**Turtle Dream**

Col Henry

An interactive hawksbill turtle creating habitat and enjoyment.

Stainless steel: 6m x 5m x 3m

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**Manta Ray**

Adriaan Vanderlugt

A single Manta Ray with indigenous markings

Aluminum: 1m x 3.6m x 2.5m

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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