



Mark My Word

It's been a challenging year for many locals, particularly for Whitsunday tourism and hospitality business owners. However, for those in the trade and services sectors, it's been extremely busy as cyclone repair works continued and new developments took shape.

The real estate market performed well on all fronts, with residential sales and rentals seeing growth, commercial leasing steady, and commercial sales strong on the back of a solid trades market.

Pleasingly, next year, we'll see both Daydream and Hayman Island come back online, bringing about increased tourist numbers and, hopefully, a justification for airlines to put on more flights from the major cities.

Each year, we join all Ray White agencies and our local Rotary Club in gathering presents from members of the community, for those doing it tough at this time of the year, as part of Ray White's 'little Ray of giving' initiative. It's always wonderful to see all the presents under the office Christmas tree, kindly donated by staff and locals.

Our office is also currently working with several other local volunteers to coordinate a fundraising event (Cody's Carnival) for young Cody Gibbs, who was recently diagnosed with a rare brain cancer. Cody's mum, Donna, works in our Rentals team; however, she and her husband, Dwayne, have had to move to Brisbane temporarily, while Cody undergoes treatment. Through a generous display of community spirit, we have collected a mountain of donations and gifts for Cody and his family, and many items to auction on the day. Please head along to Cody's Carnival, to be held at Jubilee Tavern on 16 December, from 10.30am until 5pm.

Lastly, from all at Ray White Whitsunday, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank you for your support this year.

Till next time,
Mark Beale
Principal, Ray White Whitsunday

Meet Annie Heritage

Seventeen months ago, myself and my partner, Brett, packed our bags and left our Victorian home for a new life in the warmer Whitsundays.

Prior to the big move, we lived in a small country town called Forrest, not far from the Great Ocean Road.

I started as Holiday Letting Agent with Ray White Whitsunday in July 2018, working with Principal Mark Beale to establish the new luxury holiday home rentals division. This was a big change from my previous role with the Country Fire Authority. For 15 years, I managed up to 32 volunteer fire brigades and worked in the Incident Control Centres for major fires within Victoria. Having worked at some of the biggest and most devastating fires in Victorian history, I fully appreciate how vulnerable we are to bush fires.

I thoroughly enjoy my role, particularly meeting guests and helping them have a holiday they'll never forget. I firmly believe that all guests should be treated as VIPs.

Outside of work, I enjoy live music, watching a game of cricket or AFL (go the Cats!!), and exploring our beautiful region. I really do feel blessed to live in such a beautiful part of Australia!



LUXURY HOLIDAY HOMES a hit this Christmas

Our Holiday Rentals department, Whitsunday Vacations, listed 14 The Cove, Airlie Beach (pictured above), in late November and, within 48 hours of it being online, had received a 5-night booking for the Christmas/New Year period.

In fact, our holiday home portfolio continues to grow, with two new properties signed up in the last month.

A number of our holiday homes will welcome guests over the coming weeks, with several families and couples opting to make the Whitsundays their home away from home this festive season.

To find out more about our luxury holiday rentals, visit whitsundayvacations.com.au or call 4948 8500.



Community Program welcomed by locals

We recently launched a Community Support Program with the aim of providing both financial and in-kind support to non-profit groups and organisations throughout the Whitsundays region.

The new Program will facilitate the funding of various community initiatives in the areas of health and welfare, art, music and cultural activities, environmental initiatives, education, and community events, with grants of up to \$2,000 available.

Multiple applications were received in the first week of the Program's launch, proving it was a welcomed initiative among locals.

Guidelines and an application form for the Community Support Program can be found on our website - www.raywhitewhatsunday.com.au (under Community Support Program). Alternatively, further details can be obtained by contacting our office on 4948 8500.



Great prizes up for grabs via Christmas Lights Comp

The Whitsunday Christmas Lights Competition is on again, with plenty of prizes on offer.

Conducted by Ray White Whitsunday Sales Associate, Steve Marks, the Competition is open to all residents of the Whitsundays, with the 'Best House' display set to receive a \$300 Plants Whitsunday Voucher, the 'Best Street' display 'bragging rights for being the best street for 2018' (last year was Waite Creek Court, Cannonvale), and three lucky voters to win a \$100 dinner voucher for Fish D'vine, La Marina and La Tabella respectively.

Entries are to be judged by the community, with votes to be made via the Whitsunday Christmas Lights website - whitsundaychristmaslights.com.au. Residents wishing to enter their home in the competition can also register via the website. Entries close on 22 December and voting closes on 6 January.



Little Ray of giving gathers gifts for disadvantaged

This Christmas, Ray White will continue its popular tradition of giving with the return of its gift drive, 'A little Ray of giving'.

The inspiring Christmas initiative, launched on 1 December, will see Ray White Whitsunday partner with Rotary Club of Airlie Beach for the fifth year to help disadvantaged people who may need a little extra light in their festive season.

The gift drive is a way to help put a smile on the face of anyone who may need some extra cheer at this time of year. To be part of the drive, all you need to do is wrap up your present and drop it under the tree in the Ray White Whitsunday office reception before 18 December. Please be sure to advise if it's for a male or female, and nominate an age group.

Ray White has run this initiative across Australia and New Zealand each December since 2012. Last year, more than 300 offices across Australia and New Zealand helped raise 30,000 gifts for disadvantaged families. Ray White Whitsunday receives over 100 donated gifts via the drive each year.

For further information, please contact our office on 4948 8500.

Your feedback and contribution...

If you'd like further information on our operational and community activities, or would like to provide us feedback on this Community Update, please contact us on 4948 8500 or visit our website.



To find out more about selling, buying or renting with us, visit raywhitewhatsunday.com.au

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