Welcome

The 2019 World Whale Conference, 8-11 October 2019, hosted in Hervey Bay, Australia, will focus on the theme of ‘Journeys that Inspire Change.’ Topics will include:

- Understanding whale migrations and their significance for marine conservation
- Promoting sustainable whale and dolphin tourism for tourists and local communities
- Exploring our cultural and artistic connections with migrating whales
- Maximising the power of cetaceans to inspire positive human behaviour change to protect our oceans

Tuesday and Wednesday (except Thursday Community Day) will begin with a keynote speaker, followed by a morning presentation session. Presentations will be short, with time for questions to ensure the sessions are lively and engaging.

Late afternoon sessions will incorporate a workshop involving interactive learning.

The theme for each day will be linked to an award given on the final day of the conference.

Art contributions will be displayed physically or on the main conference screen during intervals throughout the conference program.
Conference agenda

During the World Whale Conference, the World Cetacean Alliance will be gathering input from conference delegates to compile a long term strategy to protect cetaceans and their habitats from 2020-2030. As the largest gathering of whale watching tourism experts, NGOs, scientists, artists, and individuals with a passion for all things cetacean, the World Whale Conference is the perfect place to plan for a brighter future!

At the heart of our work is tourism. The tourism industry represents 10% of the world’s economy, and whale watching tourism alone generates US$2.1 billion annually. The conference will discuss how tourism can generate vital opportunities and revenue, support our partners in local communities, and protect our oceans worldwide. To achieve this, we will need to replicate the work of those individuals, organisations and destinations that have innovated and inspired us to meet the challenges that whales and dolphins face.

During the World Whale Conference, you will meet some of the world’s leading innovators and be inspired! You will hear their journeys and work collaboratively to find new ways to ensure a future for our oceans and ourselves. The conference will breathe life into the manifesto, and give us the hope and direction we need to continue on journeys that inspire change!

Great Barrier Reef Legacy Managing Director John Rumney is offering delegates and community members the chance to experience a virtual reality encounter in Hervey Bay during the World Whale Conference.

People will have the chance to assimilate real life adventures on the Great Barrier Reef.

Sessions will be available on Tuesday 8 October and Wednesday 9 October in between speaker’s sessions, upstairs at the Beach House Hotel and Thursday 9 October upstairs at the Boat Club, from 3pm.

Waiver forms are required to be signed before undertaking the virtual experience. The encounter is not suitable for children under 13 years of age.
MONDAY 7 OCTOBER
Official Welcome

Morning
Optional Excursions - the opportunity to head out Whale Watching with the Hervey Bay fleet.

Late Afternoon
Welcome Reception
3:30pm  Conference registrations, collect information packs
4:00pm  Welcome Drinks
5:30pm  Speeches
5:45pm  Butchulla Welcome and Dancing
6:00pm  Surprise for delegates

TUESDAY 8 OCTOBER
WWC Day 1 - Journeys that inspire change
Opening chair: Clive Martin

Morning

8:30 - 9:00am  Registration - Tea / Coffee on arrival
9:00 - 9:30am  Launch conference - Official Butchulla ‘Welcome to Country’
9:30 - 10:00am  Keynote address - Glen Miller, Butchulla Elder, President of Butchulla Men’s
Business Aboriginal Association and Fraser Coast Tourism & Events Board Member
An Aboriginal perspective on managing the land in harmony with nature
10:00 - 10:45am  Keynote address - Drs Trish and Wally Franklin, The Oceania Project,
Southern Cross University
Thirty years with the Humpback whales of Hervey Bay: an inspirational journey
10:45 - 11:00am  Q&A with keynote speakers
11:00 - 11:30am  Morning tea / coffee break

Morning presentation session: Journeys that inspire change
Chair: Paul Forrestell

11:30 - 11:45am  Glenn Edney, Te Wairua O Te Moananui-Ocean Spirit Charitable Trust, New Zealand
Diving deeper into our relationship with whales and their Ocean home
11:45 - 12:00pm  Richard W Dolan, Boston Harbor Cruises, New England Aquarium, USA
Tails of Stellwagen - Art as Language for Communicating Science
12:00 - 12:15pm  Roberta Dixon-Valk, Take 3 for the Whales, Australia
Take 3 for the Whales
12:15 – 12:30pm  Michael Lück, Auckland University of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand
Whale watching and Akrasia – an uneasy relationship?
12:30 – 12:45pm  Ursula Tscherner, Marine biologist and educator, Switzerland
Connecting cetaceans with people living far from the sea
12:45 - 1:00pm  Q&A with morning speakers
1:00 - 2:00pm  Lunch
2:00 - 2:15pm    John Rumney, *Eye to Eye Marine Encounters*
Evolution of Research Tourism - Harnessing the Tourist Dollar to Fund
Research and Conservation

2:15 - 2:30pm    Emma Johnson
The Transformational Power of Swimming with Whales

2:30 - 3:30pm    *Workshop: How do we encourage people to act to protect cetaceans and our oceans?*
Led by Suzanne Rogers, *Human Behaviour Change For Animals, UK*
Facilitated by Glenn Eadney, *Ocean Spirit, New Zealand*

3:30 – 4:00pm    *Coffee break*

**Late Afternoon**

**Late afternoon presentation session: Exploring whale migrations**
*Chair: Dr Wally Franklin*

4:00 - 4:15pm    Marjoleine Roos, *Cetacean Ecology and Acoustics Laboratory, University of Queensland*
The breathing and diving behaviour and energetics in humpback whales

4:15 - 4:30pm    Laura Torre-Williams *Coastal-Marine Research Group, School of Natural and Computational Sciences, Massey University, Auckland, New Zealand*
East Australian humpback whales calving on the northern migration: evidence from the Gold Coast Bay, Queensland, Australia

4:30 - 4:45pm    Jan-Olaf Meynecke *Humpbacks & High-rises, Griffith Centre for Coastal Management, Griffith University, Queensland, Australia*
Investigating migration patterns of the humpback whale population D and E1 using citizen science

4:45 - 5:00pm    Emily A. Gregory, *University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia*
A cost-effective approach for photogrammetry of free-roaming whales

5:00 - 5:15pm    Ted Cheeseman, *Southern Cross University, Australia; Happywhale; ESTsoft; NOAA, USA*
Tired eyes no more: Automated image recognition of humpback whale fluke identification surpasses human manual matching

5:15 - 5:30pm    Q&A with late afternoon speakers

6:00 - 6:30pm    *Unveiling the Whale Sculpture, Foreshore opposite The Beach House Hotel*
**WEDNESDAY 9 OCTOBER**

**WWC Day 2 - Towards responsible tourism for whales and dolphins**

*Opening chair: Clive Martin*

---

**Morning**

9:00 - 9:15am  Welcome and Introductions

9:15 - 10:00am  **Keynote address - Professor Mark Orams, Sustainability Research Centre, USC Business School, University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia; School of Sport and Recreation, Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand**

The whale watching journey. What have we learned over 50 years of growth?

---

**Morning presentation session: Responsible in-water encounters with cetaceans**

*Chair: Sophie Lewis*

10:00 - 10:15am  **Raquel Trejo, National Marine Science Centre and Marine Ecology Research Centre, Southern Cross University; Griffith Centre for Coastal Management, Griffith University, Queensland; CSIRO Land and Water, c/- ATSIP Building, James Cook University, Queensland, Australia**

A review of commercial swim tours with Humpback whales in Australia

10:15 - 10:30am  **Stephanie Stack, Pacific Whale Foundation, Hervey Bay, Queensland, Australia**

What do we know about whales in Hervey Bay and how can we protect them?

10:30 - 10:45am  **Lorenzo Fiori, Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand**

Swim-with-humpback whales in Vava’u, Kingdom of Tonga: Behavioural responses of mothers and calves to swimmer approaches

10:45 – 11:15am  **Coffee break**

11:15 - 11:30am  **Suzanne Hillcoat, James Cook University, Australia**

A match made in heaven? Swim-with-cetaceans programs and citizen science provide exceptionally rich opportunities for research

11:30 - 11:45am  **Dr Alastair Birtles, James Cook University; CSIRO, Australia**

Risky business: Demographics of highly interactive dwarf minke whales during swim-with encounters

11:45 - 12:00pm  **Chantal D. Pagel, Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand; University of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia**

Exploring the influence of social media on swim-with-whale tourist behaviour: A case study of swim-with humpback whales tourism in Niue

---

**Afternoon presentation session: Responsible in-water encounters with cetaceans**

*Chair: Dr Trish Franklin*

12:00 - 12:15pm  **Ludovic Hoarau, CEDTM (Centre d’Etude et de Découverte des Tortues Marines), Réunion Island**

Towards a sustainable whale watching in Reunion island in the South West Indian Ocean: assessing and mitigating humpback whale tourism disturbance

12:15 - 12:30pm  **Sergio Cipolotti, Humpback Whale Institute, Brazil**

Whale watching tourism promoting the development of coastal communities and local professionals in Brazil
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 12:30 - 12:45pm | Suzie Teerlink, NOAA Fisheries, USA  
When visiting whales in Juneau, Alaska – Are there enough to go around? |
| 12:45 - 1:00pm  | Q&A with afternoon speakers                                                        |
| 1:00 - 2:00pm   | Lunch                                                                            |
| 2:00 - 2:30pm   | **Keynote address - Paul Forestell**, Ph.D. Pacific Whale Foundation, Hawaii, USA  
Doing Well by Doing Good: The Importance of Social Enterprise Models in Sustainable Whale Watching |
| 2:30 - 2:45pm   | Yasmine M. Elmahdy, School of Sport and Recreation, Auckland University of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand; USC Business School and Sustainability Research Centre, University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia; School of Hospitality and Tourism, Auckland University of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand  
New Zealand's Marine Mammals Protection Regulations (MMPR): Why are different user groups violating them? |
| 2:45 - 3:00pm   | Stéphanie Sorby, University of Réunion Island, IRD  
The legal frameworks of whale watching activities in the Indian Ocean: Evaluating the most effective tools to mitigate whale-watching abuse for the "whale route" project |
| 3:00 - 3:15pm   | TBA, World Animal Protection, UK  
The dolphin captivity problem and possible solutions |
| 3:15 - 3:45pm   | **Expert panel Q&A:** What does the future for whale and dolphin tourism look like? |
| 3:45 - 4:15pm   | **Coffee break**                                                                 |
| 4:15 - 5:30pm   | **Ideas exchange session!** What can a responsible whale watching operator do to save the oceans! Share ideas and hear from WCA partners.  
Facilitated by Sophie Lewis |
| 5:30 - 6:30pm   | World Cetacean Alliance Partner informal networking session  
Meet the partners |

**THURSDAY 10 OCTOBER**

**WWC Day 3 - The power of local communities to protect whales and dolphins**  
*The Boat Club*

**Morning**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 8:00 - 12:00pm  | **WHALE WATCH!**  
**Official Conference Event:** Responsible whale watching tour. Take a trip out to see the whales and learn more about responsible whale watching practices |
| 12:00 - 1:00pm   | Lunch                                                                            |

**Afternoon**

*Chair: Martin Simons*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1:00 - 3:00pm  | **The Hervey Bay Story, The Boat Club**  
Hear the Hervey Bay story from the local people across Hervey Bay. Local people tell their stories about science, events, tourism, and community involvement, that has grown up around the whales in Hervey Bay and made it the special place that it is today! |
| 3:00 - 3:30pm   | **Coffee break**                                                                 |
An afternoon with Whales and People
Chair: Clive Martin

3:00 - 5:00pm  Great Barrier Reef Legacy Managing Director John Rumney is offering delegates and community members the chance to experience a virtual reality encounter

3:30 - 3:45pm  Aeon Bashir, Menaka Nagarajan, Aeon for Ocean, Minnesota, USA
Educating kids about oceans in their habitat

3:45 – 4:00pm  Maria Laura, Marcías Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur, Baja California
Effects of the interaction with charismatic species on people's environmental awareness in Baja California Sur, Mexico

4:00 – 5:30pm  Whale People – a collection of personal stories about two communities separated by a watery divide! This is an open mic session

5:30pm  Announcement of shortlisted candidates. End of Silent Auction

FRIDAY 11 OCTOBER
WWC Day 4 - Whale Conservation and Heritage Awards
Whale Heritage Sites Summit
Opening chair: Clive Martin

Morning

9:00 - 10:45am  Whale Heritage Sites, Dylan Walker & Sophie Lewis
Meet the applicants and hear their stories - Tenerife and The Bluff, Durban.
Awarding and celebrating achievements across our network of Whale Heritage Sites, and announcing newly certified sites.

10:45 - 11:15am  Morning tea / Coffee break

11:15 - 1:00pm  Celebrating Cetaceans, Colette Baron and Roberta Dixon-Valk
Colette shares the success of the Whale Dreamers Festival; Lloyd Edwards talks about setting up a South - East African Whale Trail
Let your imagination run wild as we show you how to create small and big events that will inspire the next generation of ocean advocates and meet a key criterion for Whale Heritage Site certification! Hear from experts involved in festivals across southern Africa and Australia as they share their stories and top tips for a successful cetacean celebration!

1:00 - 2:00pm  Lunch

Afternoon

Chair: Paul Keating

2:00 - 4:00pm  Whale Conservation Awards
Vote for the winners! Awarding the very best cetacean conservation and welfare initiatives from across the WCA Partnership and beyond. Inspiring Change Award, Responsible Whale and Dolphin Tourism Award, Whales & Dolphins in the Heart of the Community Award, and Innovation for Cetaceans Conservation Award
4:00 - 4:30pm  Afternoon tea / coffee
4:30 – 5:00pm  A vision for a world with Whales and Dolphins, Sophie Lewis
5:00 - 5:30pm  Executive summary and close, Martin Simons and Clive Martin

Evening

6:30 - 7:00pm  Dinner at The Hervey Bay Boat Club (incl. auction & fun!)

SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER

Stranding Response & Rescue Workshop
Facilitated by: ORRCA (Organisation for the Rescue and Research of Cetaceans in Australia) led Stranding Response Theoretical and Practical Training.
Optional for all WWC delegates and the local Hervey Bay public. Limited to 35 places.

Morning - Theoretical

8:00am  Facilitators arrive and set up for 9:00am start
9:00am  Registered participants arrive
10:30am  Break for morning tea (approx)
12:00pm  Theory concludes

Afternoon - Practical

1:00pm  Practical training at the beach
1:30pm  Debrief and distribution of:
- ORRCA membership ID card
- Certificate of completion
- Digital manual on Forestry Certified wood USB
Thank you.