



OCEANIC
WHITSUNDAY
Boat & Leisure Show 2009



Presented by the Rotary Club of Airlie Beach Inc.

Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Boat Show Beneficiaries are announced

With a funding pool of only \$30,000 and over 20 applications requesting more than \$170,000 to fund almost a quarter of a million dollars in planned projects made for a very difficult decision for the Rotary Club of Airlie Beach in determining the beneficiaries from this year's boat show to be held in June.

Each year, the money raised at the Oceanic Whitsunday Boat and Leisure Show is invested back into the community and with the support of the event sponsor, Oceanic Insurance Brokers, the club decided to announce those beneficiaries before this year's event.

Applications were received from Airlie Beach, Proserpine, Dingo Beach, Bowen and Banana Pocket (Lethebrook) and were assessed against predetermined criteria including community benefit, support, planning and financial ability.

As stated in the guidelines, preference was also given to applicants that supported the marine industry and recreational boating community, among other things.

As a result, the successful projects for 2009 are:

OUCH Ecokids Reef Guardian programme	\$ 16,700
Outrigger Whitsunday OC2 training canoe	\$ 5,300
Navy cadets multipurpose trailer	\$ 4,200
Volunteer Marine Rescue new volunteer licensing	\$ 3,800

More than half a dozen applicants with projects of significant community value were immediately referred to funding from the 2009/10 Whitsunday Region Telephone and Business Guide, another project of the Rotary Club of Airlie Beach, as financial assistance is expected to be available more quickly.

All other projects were offered assistance through the Rotary Club of Airlie Beach's Community Raffle. The club provides prizes of almost \$20,000 and issues 10,000 \$5

tickets which non-profit organisations sell to raise a total of \$50,000 to fund their projects.

The president of the Rotary Club of Airlie Beach said, "We have been really impressed with the range of projects being initiated in the community."

"We are very proud to have been able to support all twenty applicants in some way and are especially excited about working with the Ecokids projects later this year as this project combines two very important assets for our future – our children and the health of the Great Barrier Reef."

Mr O'Donnell said he hoped the community would welcome the opportunity to not only attend an exciting family event but also to support these worthy initiatives and visit their displays at the 2009 Oceanic Whitsunday Boat and Leisure Show in June.

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