

## SCULPTURES BY GLADSTONE HARBOUR

Gladstone Festivals & Events and the Boyne Tannum HookUp are delighted to be working together to start up a new event for the Gladstone Region.

The Gladstone Regional Council are supporting Gladstone Festivals and Events and HookUp to jointly host **Sculptures by Gladstone Harbour**; which is a marine debris sculpting competition. The competition will begin at the start of the Gladstone Harbour Festival and finish at the HookUp, with the exhibition location being announced in March.

With two of the region's largest events joining forces on this project, the aim is to attract more visitors to the area and increase bed night stays for tourists between both of these major events.

Gladstone Regional Council Manager for Events and Entertainment Kim Roberts said "Sculptures by Gladstone Harbour is encouraging people to "HookUp at the Harbour Festival" by activating new spaces, further engaging people in environmental awareness, exciting them with artistic creativity and increasing tourists to our Region."

The **Sculptures by Gladstone Harbour** idea was first discovered while the Festival and HookUp committee members were participating at the workshop to develop the Gladstone Regional Council Regional Events Strategy. Festival Event Co-ordinator Nicola Scurr said "we wanted to celebrate the Gladstone Harbour at the Harbour Festival" and HookUp President Jennifer McGuire said "we know that HookUp has become Australia's biggest fishing competition because the fishing effort for yield ratio and diversity of species are the best in the nation; so we wanted to continue to deliver the juxtaposition of industry with our pristine marine environment through marine debris. We started a marine debris sculpting display and workshops with local Ethical Art artist Christine Holden, and it became so popular that after 2-years it has outgrown our event so we wanted to expand it."

Nicola said "A marine debris sculpting competition is a one of kind venture globally. It could build to be as big as the NSW and WA Sculpture by the Sea public exhibitions. So the future aspirations are for nationally recognised artists to enter Sculptures by Gladstone Harbour and draw crowds of school groups to increase their awareness of the negative impact of marine



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debris and the environmental sustainability of our waterways." Jennifer went onto say "We are starting small to become very capable and are inviting the Gladstone Region community on our journey as a key champion for our Region. The Strategic plan is to engage community groups, artistic, environmental and tourism stakeholders from all across the Gladstone Region and eventually disperse the marine debris sculptures across the region from 1770 to Mt Larcom to the Boyne Valley."

There will be two winners decided on; a judge's choice and a people's choice, who will both win holidays to Heron Island. We see this as the perfect prize for the competition, showcasing an amazing local attraction that also supports marine health and education around marine debris.

The Competition Rules and Entry Form are available on the Festival and HookUp websites, copies can be collected from the GAPDL visitor centre. To keep up to date with the start up competition please like the Facebook page 'Sculptures by Gladstone Harbour'. All enquiries to email: [info@sculpturesbygladstoneharbour.org.au](mailto:info@sculpturesbygladstoneharbour.org.au)

Photos of:

1. 5.5m marine debris barramundi by Ethical Art artist Christine Holden.
2. Overall event angler trophies for the Boyne Tannum HookUp by Ethical Art artist Christine Holden