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MEDIA RELEASE

TROPICAL JOURNEYS: SUPPORTING THE GREAT BARRIER REEF & THE MARATHON FESTIVAL

The Great Barrier Reef Marathon Festival in Port Douglas is pleased to announce the new naming rights sponsor for the next three years. As a proud local tour operator to the Daintree Rainforest and Great Barrier Reef, Tropical Journeys knows first hand the need for consistent research and development of projects to maintain our country's greatest natural asset.

The Tropical Journeys Great Barrier Reef Marathon Festival is held on the 1st November, in Port Douglas, Queensland. Drawing competitors from all over the world, this year's event looks to be better than ever with Olympic & Commonwealth Games champion Steve Moneghetti coming back as Event Ambassador.

"I really enjoy coming back to the Tropical Journeys Great Barrier Reef Marathon Festival because I am made to feel so welcome by the event. This run makes every participant feel special and personally valued. There is a unique human element to the Festival that has to be experienced to be believed", said Moneghetti.

Tropical Journeys is proud to be one of the region's leading tour operators providing first class experiences to both the Great Barrier Reef and the Daintree Rainforest. It is the only Port Douglas-based operator to provide services to these two important national World Heritage sites through Calypso Snorkel & Dive, Calypso Snorkelling, Aquarius Low Isles, Aquarius Sunset Sailing and Daintree Tours.

Teaming up with the Marathon Festival is an ideal platform for Tropical Journeys in which to promote the health of the reef while maintaining the health of our community and tourism industry.

"Our commitment to the Marathon Festival was an easy decision to make on so many levels. Our local family owned business like so many others in the region is dependent on the health and maintenance of the Great Barrier Reef. It's also something we are very passionate about, engaging in community driven events, maintaining a healthy lifestyle and bringing more people into the Port Douglas region", said Marketing Manager for Tropical Journeys, Eleanor Jones.

In 2014 the Marathon Festival saw a need to give back to the Great Barrier Reef, not only to preserve the environment for future generations but to also establish a sense of ownership between the reef and the rest of the country. In collaboration with James Cook University the "Run for the Reef" initiative was born and the JCU Great



Barrier Reef Research Fund was established as the Marathon Festival's charitable beneficiary.

Backing this commitment to the Run for the Reef initiative, the Tropical Journeys Great Barrier Reef Marathon Festival proudly donates \$20 from each registration in the 21km, 42k and 74km events – a commitment of which raised over \$15,000 being in 2014. The direct result was The Minke Whale Project was able to tag and track three more Minke Whales in the Coral Sea.

The projects for this year's event aren't quite so glamorous but are equally as important ... all the funds raised by the event, including individuals who raise money via the Everyday Hero platform will go to the following projects:

- 1) The Elimination of the Crown of Thorns Starfish
- 2) Assessing and managing the impact of micro plastics on marine animals

If you'd like to get involved in any of the events and help do your part for reef research then go to www.greatbarrierreefmarathon.com.au

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