

Cairns North Zone Director

(1 position available | 1 nomination)

1. BENNETT, Tara **Tourism Port Douglas Daintree**

Tara has been with the Douglas Shire's local tourism organisation, Tourism Port Douglas Daintree, since 2006. She has extensive knowledge of tourism and regional development in Tropical North Queensland, and has obtained numerous qualifications in tourism and commerce, including a Master of Tourism (Ecotourism) at James Cook University.

She has led her team to multiple awards for innovative marketing campaigns and is committed to collaboration working closely with Business Events Port Douglas and establishing the Tropical Weddings Port Douglas collective.

Tara was instrumental in seeing the Great Barrier Reef Drive recognised by the Queensland State Government. Her passion for sustainable tourism was validated being on the team that lead the Douglas Shire to become the first destination to receive an ECO Destination Accreditation from Ecotourism Australia in 2019. Tara has been on the NQ ATEC Committee since 2018 and the Far North Queensland Community Forum since its inception in 2019.

Her broad experience in the tourism industry at a regional level and her ability to work with industry and government stakeholders is widely acknowledged. Tara is a passionate advocate for tourism and is committed to ensuring TTNQ is a strong and progressive organisation.

Cairns South Zone Director

(1 position available | 3 nominations)

1. HAMILTON, Janet **Cairns Convention Centre**

The Cairns Convention Centre (CCC) will open the refurbished existing Centre in 2021 and the expansion in 2022. The Centre will be one of the important economic drivers in the Cairns recovery from COVID19.

I believe we need to focus on a strong business and major event strategy and destination marketing that attracts conventions and major events to Cairns.

I have been a General Manager with ASM Global for over seven years, managing the Darwin and Cairns Centres. I have over 25 years' experience in managing major events, having worked for the Sydney Olympic Games, Volvo Ocean Race in Melbourne, Singapore and Galway. I was the Major Event Manager for the Sydney Foreshore Authority which hosted major events in Darling Harbour and the Rocks. As Place Management Director for Melbourne Docklands, I managed the Commonwealth Games events in the Docklands precinct.

Previously I have been a member of the Darwin Major Business Committee, Tourism Top End Board, NT Major Events Board and the Browns Mart Theatre Board.

I believe my experience in relation to business and major events along with my strong marketing experience will provide value to the TTNQ Board. I respectfully seek your nomination for my appointment.

2. HENNESSY, Brian **Sunlover Reef Cruises**

2020 marks my 40th year working in travel and tourism starting with Australian Airlines and Qantas in 1980. 15 years in the airlines was in sales and marketing roles around Australia and internationally. I was posted to the UK office of Qantas overseeing the leisure sales market ex UK/Eire. I was also Inbound Sales Manager for Qantas in Sydney HQ dealing with the inbound travel industry. Following this I started and was eventually appointed Managing Director for Trailfinders Australia for 15 years overseeing both inbound and outbound retail travel business for over 60,000 customers per year.

I have been in Cairns since 2009 and initially worked as Director of Sales and Marketing for TTNQ followed by Director of Sales at Tjapukai. I am currently working with Sunlover Reef Cruises spearheading their sales and marketing responsibilities. I have a broad knowledge of the industry and a deep understanding of the current challenges for our destination. Working at TTNQ for five years enabled me to understand what is possible when we work as a team. I wish to offer my experience to the TTNQ board to help propel the destination through this difficult time and beyond.

3. WOODWARD, Peter **CaPTA Group**

Born in Cairns, my family have operated tourism attractions in the region since 1976.

I attended the University of Queensland and completed a Bachelor of Commerce (Finance) and a Bachelor of Science (Computer Science) and commenced my professional career in the finance industry.

I returned to Cairns in 2004 and was Business Development Manager, and later General Manager of RnR White Water Rafting and Jungle Tours & Trekking.

I have a diverse experience across all facets of operating a tourism business which include operations, logistics, information technology, sales & marketing, human resources and finance, and understand the many different markets that are important to the region.

My experience has provided me with the opportunity to interact and establish business relationships and rapport with a significant number of tourism operators based in both the Australian and International markets.

I have greatly enjoyed the past four years as a General Director on the TTNQ board and am passionate about continuing to support the tourism industry and our region.

General Directors

(4 positions available | 9 nominations)

1. BRADBERRY, Craig Silky Oaks Lodge

My association with TNQ began in 1998 when I joined P&O Australian Resorts as General Manager, Operations, overseeing TNQ properties including Silky Oaks Lodge, Lizard, Dunk and Bedarra Islands. My role regularly brought me to TNQ for reasons like the \$15million refurbishment of Lizard Island and for challenging reasons such as dealing with September 11 and Ansett's collapse.

During these times I was exposed to the resilience, optimism and incredible business community of the region. It's this resilience plus strong leadership that will see TTNQ overcome the local industry's devastation caused by COVID-19.

- My role as Chief Operating Officer at Baillie Lodges with a responsibility of overseeing the Silky Oaks renovation demonstrates my continued connection and commitment to TNQ;
- Being a part of an Australian established and now internationally owned business enables me to bring a unique perspective and in-depth knowledge of the Australian travel market and international insights;
- I have extensive experience in all TTNQ Board functions including strategy review, risk management, compliance, policy development, monitoring financial and non-financial processes and performance
- I would at all times operate in accordance with the legal and fiduciary responsibilities of the TTNQ Board Charter;
- I'm a current Board Member Baillie Lodges.

2. GILLIES, Jeff Coral Expeditions

I would be honoured to represent on the TTNQ board for the years ahead and am motivated and passionate to assist build the future of our broad tourism family across our diverse region.

My prior role as the Destination Director for North Queensland with TEQ enabled me to get a deep understanding of the diverse regions, sectors and the culture of the industry and the amazing experiences and people. Having returned a little over 2 years ago in my role as Commercial Director with Coral Expeditions, I am now settled in and excited by the chance to contribute to the region's leadership.

I am an experienced and strategic executive with expertise across a broad tourism portfolio including hotel management, marine tourism, major events, cultural tourism, sports and leisure and destination management in the Asia Pacific region.

I will bring drive, creativity and vision, a progressive outlook and have a strong global network. My skills include business strategy, marketing, innovation, experience development, people leadership, general management and sales. Having now enjoyed 8 great years here in Cairns and with the family well settled and growing up, I would relish the opportunity to contribute in this role.

3. GIUMELLI, Nikki **Bad Fishy**

As a small business owner in the activities and tours sector in the magnificent tourism industry in Cairns (Bad Fishy Jet Boating and Cairns Boat Hire) it would be wonderful to contribute my skills, experience and enthusiasm for our destination on the Board of TTNQ.

I have worked across inbound tourism, MICE and domestic markets, operations, product development, digital applications, brand development, PR, finance and compliance in senior roles in my own business and for others in my 20+ years of working within the industry. I have extensive experience in driving business outcomes and in this challenging environment for the industry I am happy to offer my time and expertise to the industry I love in this role should I be appointed.

I currently sit as the Vice President of the Skal Club of Cairns and am halfway through studying a master's degree at JCU in Tourism Management where I continue to fine tune my business skills and ability to contribute to our industry and destination through actions, advocacy, input and knowledge. I will always advocate for the best interests of our destination and industry!

4. GORDON, Joel **Crystalbrook Collection**

It is with great pleasure that I submit my nomination for General Director for TTNQ Board. Since arriving into Cairns, I've had an undying passion for the region and the potential that this destination has to not only holiday, but to live, work and play.

With three substantial investments in the Cairns region and other subsidiaries in Tropical North Queensland, I feel I can be a strong spokesperson and advocate to drive key messages within the accommodation, tourism and restaurant sector in Cairns and the surrounding region. Since the inception of Crystalbrook Collection here in Tropical North Queensland, I've focused on working closely with TTNQ and their team, to deliver strong advocacy and ensuring we can deliver a strong destination story for each and every traveller stopping on the doorstep of this spectacular region.

5. IOVANELLA, Peppi **Down Under Cruise and Dive**

Each of our products, Down Under Cruise and Dive, Billy Tea Safaris and Savannah Luxury Cruise, have been carefully created and teamed with our high-quality staff, materials and the best technologies, you get good old classic service.

From humble beginnings, we continue to thrive and etch our place in Cairns tourism initially opening the world's largest learn to dive training facility in 1999. We raised the bar yet again in 2015, introducing a 35m state of the art luxury super yacht, 'Evolution', to the market. Then in 2017, we purchased 35-year old original Cairns touring company, Billy Tea Safaris, bringing our special brand of innovation and passion to the operation, with the modernisation of the fleet of unique purpose-built vehicles.

The last 32 years in Cairns Tourism has been one of my greatest experiences. We are here to tell a story in our core markets. And what a story it is! Full of unique experiences, wonderful people, amazing landscapes, delicious food and wine and unique wildlife. Every time I have had the opportunity to tell this story internationally and to travel agents around Australia, I realise just how lucky we are to share this story with the world.

6. JONES, Perry

Ocean Free & Ocean Freedom - Cairns Premier Reef & Island Tours

Perry arrived in Cairns in 1988 to pursue his dream of diving the GBR. He worked for Down Under Dive and Nimrod before jointly successfully operating a dive business on 3 small boats in the early 1990's.

In 1996, with his wife Taryn, he bought the Ocean Free and in 2008 the Ocean Freedom. Together they share a passion for operating personal, customer-oriented reef tours. Perry brings a wealth of knowledge of the local dive industry and more importantly what has driven tourism in Cairns since the late 1980's.

7. REYNOLDS, Wayne

The Reef Hotel Casino

It has been an honour to serve the region as a Board Director for the last 2 years during a time of great change and uncertainty. As we navigate through this time I would relish the opportunity to continue to serve and contribute to our region's growth and success through my role as a board director, member of the Finance and Risk Committee and as a member of the tourism community who has been a part of this great region for the last 9 years.

I have learned much in my time with the board and hope for the opportunity to continue to apply this knowledge, and with the addition of my industry experience, be a part of shaping our region for future success.

8. WALLISH, Alan

Passions of Paradise

As the Founder and Managing Director of the day reef tour company Passions of Paradise I have been actively involved in the Cairns tourism industry for more than 30 years. During this time, I have experienced many highs and lows in tourism.

The COVID-19 pandemic is by far our greatest challenge. Cairns and our region are undergoing fundamental generational change and that requires a committed board to support the work of the Cairns, Great Barrier Reef management. As a passionate reef operator with many years of international and domestic marketing experience I believe that I can bring the board valuable perspective.

Cairns and its region have some of the most stunning scenery, tourism assets, hotels and activities to be found anywhere in the world. We are a world class destination with the facilities of a major International airport. As we plan and move past COVID-19 we have all the ingredients to ensure Cairns can make a significant recovery.

I am a long time Director of the Association of Marine Park Tourism Operators, Reef and Rainforest Research Centre and Vice President of Dive Queensland.

9. WALSHAW, Sheena Trailblazers Queensland

Sheena has thirty years marketing experience on both sides of the globe. She started her career in publishing in London before founding her own PR & Marketing consultancy. After moving to Australia, she cut her tourism teeth with Voyages, managing two of their Cape Tribulation Resorts, Odyssey Tours & Safaris and reef operation Odyssey H2O.

In 2006 she joined Jungle Surfing Canopy Tours. Over 13 years she proudly steered the adventure tourism attraction to international success, spearheading the Daintree region's tourism presence with unrivalled distribution, trade relationships and innovative product development.

In early 2019 she left Jungle Surfing to start a tourism consultancy, Trailblazers Queensland. She works with Indigenous and non-Indigenous clients from Cape Tribulation to Cairns, specialising in experience development, strategic business planning and small business mentoring.

Sheena also continues to create her own new tourism products and launched the Daintree Food Trail in June 2020. She has been a Board Member of TTNQ for six years, and of TPDD for nine years, including two as Chair.

She is a member of the Alliance for Sustainable Tourism, was a founding Director of the Daintree Marketing Cooperative and recently completed three years on the QTIC Queensland Tourism Awards judging panel.