Friday 25 May - Sunday 27 May

www.ningaloowharesharkfestival.org.au
Ningaloo Whale Shark Festival Sponsors

The 2018 Ningaloo Whale Shark Festival Committee would like to thank the following sponsors and supporters for their valuable contribution to this unique event.
This event provides entertainment, education and enjoyment to the whole community.
This is only possible due to the generosity and consideration of the sponsors listed below.

Ministerial Welcome Message

Welcome message from Hon Paul Papalia CSC MLA, Minister for Tourism and Hon Alannah Mactiernan MLC, Minister for Regional Development

Ningaloo Whale Shark Festival 25 - 27 May 2018

The McGowan Government is a proud sponsor of the Ningaloo Whale Shark Festival through its Regional Events Scheme.

The scheme was devised as a way for the Government to support smaller and emerging events in regional Western Australia to boost tourism, increase community vibrancy and participation, and develop regional areas.

The Regional Events Scheme plays an important role in positioning Western Australia as an exciting destination to visit and a great place to live by showcasing and promoting a region’s unique and diverse attractions.

In 2017-18, 62 diverse regional events across Western Australia have received funding through the Regional Events Scheme.

Tourism is a key pillar of the McGowan Government’s plan to diversify the economy, create jobs and develop business opportunities, especially in regional Western Australia. In 2016-17, visitors spent $10.1 billion in the State, including $4.5 billion in regional areas.

We hope everyone enjoys the event and takes the time to explore the Gascoyne region.
We are building stronger communities.

As Australia’s largest independent oil and gas company, our social performance relies on building and maintaining genuine long-term relationships, and implementing programs that create capacity and capability in local communities. Woodside have been a part of the Exmouth community for more than ten years and are proud to once again support the Ningaloo Whaleshark Festival.

#strongercommunities

Exmouth Playground, funded through Woodside’s community grant program

About the Ningaloo Whale Shark Festival

The Ningaloo Whale Shark Festival Committee have again partnered with Gascoyne in May to bring you the Ningaloo Whale Shark Festival 2018.

Each year, from March to early August, the World Heritage Listed Ningaloo Reef, plays host to the most predictable seasonal aggregations of whale sharks in the world.

These wonderful creatures are still a mystery and there is so much we don’t know but we’re always excited that they keep coming back to Ningaloo in greater numbers.

The Ningaloo Whale Shark Festival celebrates this annual visit of the large and increasing numbers of whale sharks (rhincodon typus).

It highlights the community’s relationship with these ‘gentle giants’ of the ocean and rejoices in the natural beauty of the reef.

Now recognised nationally and internationally as a ‘premier marine environment’, the Ningaloo Reef delights a growing number of visitors from all over the world.

The whale shark is the world’s largest living fish, growing up to 18m in length. These placid plankton feeders have a distinct pattern of white spots and stripes that is unique to each individual. With a possible life span of more than 100 years whale sharks cruise the oceans of the world but their travels once leaving Ningaloo are still not known.

To swim with these amazing creatures in their own natural environment is an unforgettable experience. There is the opportunity to learn more about this unique, spectacular creature at the Whale Shark Festival, an event for all ages.

The festival’s objective is to bring together government departments, business, industry and community members to strengthen their relationships while enhancing the education and celebration of the whale shark and its annual visit to Ningaloo.

The aim of the festival is to share and learn from each other’s experiences, present new advances in technology, ideas and research, and most importantly, to communicate these urgent issues through networking with one another.

Together with our partners we are proud to present a festival that continues to generate much interest statewide and nationally. Increasing awareness of the plight of the whale shark and educating people of all ages on the interaction with whale sharks is paramount. Swimming with these gentle creatures is a truly magnificent and unique experience.

Brief History

Exmouth held a small annual festival in September for years - catering mainly for the local community as well as any holidaymakers. ‘Aquafest’, a one-day event, held on the waterfront at the Exmouth Marina, celebrated Exmouth’s close relationship with the beautiful, pristine waters of the Ningaloo Reef and the Exmouth Gulf.

In 2002, when the marina site was no longer available, the Whale Shark Festival was born as a one-day event held in May each year on the town oval.

In 2006, due to popular demand, the event was extended to three days and now the Ningaloo Whale Shark Festival is the most successful annual event on the region’s calendar.

A local committee, of interested residents, including business and family people, has created the program.
Located in Exmouth, on the door step to the breathtaking UNESCO World Heritage Listed Ningaloo Coast, the Ningaloo Centre is the ideal first stop on to your extraordinary Ningaloo adventure.

The Ningaloo Centre boasts three engaging visitor galleries. Through images, interactive elements and curious artefacts, the interpretive display areas deliver an entertaining and educational exhibition experience – the perfect introduction to this wonderfully distinctive and storied region.

The ‘En Route to Exmouth’ gallery explores the history of the town of Exmouth while the ‘Reef to Range’ gallery introduces visitors to the wildly diverse flora and fauna that lives between the UNESCO World Heritage listed Ningaloo Reef and Cape Range National Park. In the ‘Terrestrial’ gallery you can discover the unique cave systems, stygofauna and geological systems of the terrain and the rare and endemic species native only to Cape Range National Park.

SATURDAY 26 May
Scitech | Sadie James | Photo Exhibition

10am - 3pm: Scitech Science Wonderland interactive exhibits
11.30am: I've Got A Problem Scitech Show
1pm: Element of Surprise Scitech Show
2pm: Whale Song by Sadie James storytime and craft

All weekend: Tantabiddi Travelling Gallery
Experience of Whole Sharks Photo Exhibition
& Visitor Galleries

For more information
08 9949 3000
ningaloocentre.com.au

Ningaloo Centre
Cnr Murat & Truscott Cr
7 days | 9am - 5pm
share your ANOTHER DAY in WA

Don't keep your best photos to yourself. Tag your photos #justanotherdayinWA to share your extraordinary Western Australian experiences and follow us on Instagram @westernaustralia.
Musicians

Ash Grunwald and Band
Sunday at the Exmouth Yacht Club

For 12 incredible years now Ash Grunwald has sustained a level of success in the Australian music scene that is the true testament to the well of his talent. He was nominated for six ARIA awards and three APRA awards, winning two of the latter. Global tours, remarkable collaborations with musicians both old and new, a fan base that is not defined by age, along with critical acclaim as the bastion of traditional blues whilst being at the forefront of innovation, shows Ash’s success.

The Tommyhawks
Saturday night at Talanjee, Sunday night at Exmouth Yacht Club

This fierce, femme-fatale foursome explode with quirky, blues-fueled songs. Barely three years old, they’ve been making waves on the Australian Festival circuit, having toured the country around nine times.

There’s a sweet spot between rollicking folk melodies and punk-infused blues and The Tommyhawks have found it. Addison is a rare mythical creature with the voice of a unicorn; combine that with dark sax harmonies, home-made electric mandolin, super-tight rhythm and a contagious on-stage presence you’ll be mesmerized from the word go.

Blue Shaddy
Saturday night at Talanjee Oval (all ages event)

Blue Shaddy need no introduction to Exmouth. They are much loved and always play to a full house.

The Australian Blues/ Roots/ Country band are a band with connections, given that founding members, Jim McClelland, (guitarist singer/ songwriter) Graham (Belly) McClelland (harmonica) and Sandy McClelland (bass guitarist) are family. Born and bred in the Western Australian town of Kellerberrin these three have not lost that rustic, relaxed country charm that has endeared them to so many. Known for their infectious amalgam of blues /roots, come country played with an energetic physical presence and power that leaves you with a broad smile and a new found energy. Dean Wuksta completes the band as one of Australia’s exceptional skin men.

Event Times

The Ningaloo Whale Shark Festival is plastic free this year. BYO water bottle and fill up at the water stations that will be stationed at the oval.

Tickets to all events are available for purchase on our website www.ningaloowhalesharkfestival.org.au

Friday 25 May 7pm to 10pm
Festival Opening Gala Night
Venue: Mantarays Ningaloo Beach Resort

This exclusive event is the perfect time to dress your best and celebrate the beginning of a jam-packed three day festival. $110 per ticket. 18+ event. Strictly Cocktail Attire! Includes five beverages and an array of delicious finger food. NB Plastic Free and Non Smoking Event.

Event Times

Sweet Orange Dj ‘SWAMI’ begins.
A Master at mixing the old with the new, Swami’s beats will awaken the dancer in YOU. 7.00 – 7.50pm

Opening speech AND Welcome to Country. 7.50pm

Eloise Green, The Hula Queen, a hula-gyrating comedienne whose performance is interspersed with all-round tomfoolery. 8.00 – 8.15pm

SWAMI’s beats 8.20 – 10.00pm

Event Closes 10.00pm

To ensure you get home safely, NWSF and Exmouth Bus Charters will be providing a courtesy bus from Mantarays Ningaloo to several intersections in town. 10.00pm – 11.15pm

Saturday 26 May

Co-ordinated by Exmouth Gymnastics Club  Sponsor: Ground Control and Garden

Fluoro Fun Run – Dress up in the brightest colours for an all ages 4km run/walk from the oval to Golf Course Beach.
Price: $10 per person. Cash prizes.
Registration forms also available from Idaho Boutique. Registration Opens 7.30am
Venue: Koobooroo Oval
Fluoro Fun Run begins. See map on page 20. 8.30am
Fun Run breakfast for participants and announcement of winners 9.30am
Venue: Talanjee Oval
Talanjee Oval opens 10.00am
Live broadcast by Spirit Radio 9.00 am – 12.00pm

MC MARGARET BERTLING will introduce the day’s proceedings. 10.00 am
All Food stalls, Market stalls, Corporate stalls, and displays open. Ningaloo Eco Workshops. Local custom cars and bikes on display all day.

Checkout the diverse entertainment on the main stage in the large Whale Shark Marquee.
Immerse yourself in the latest research happening along the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area. Scientists will be holding talks throughout the day within the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) marquee. Look out for the schedule of talks advertised on the day or inquire at the DBCA marquee for more details.

Collect your map for The Ningaloo Trail from the NWSF Info marquee and follow the trail to discover facts about whale sharks and the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area. Collect treasure along the way. Adults and children are welcome to participate.

Introduce yourself to our festival partners and friends from the Gascoyne in May troupe (GiM). Give their workshops a go - Simon Vanyai from Taiko On, Japanese drumming workshops, combined with the didgeridoo; Dazastah and Layla, Hip hop beat workshops; The Roving Pirate Man; Exciting Circus and Aerial Workshops. These are just some of the multi skilled performers visiting our festival this weekend.

**Taiko On, Roving Japanese drumming starting from the GiM site** 10.00 – 11.00am

**Active Inspiration Exmouth Ballet and Jazz (Main stage)** 10.15am

**Exmouth Gymnastics (Main stage)** 10.35am

**Bangarang Dance Performers (Main stage)** 10.55am

**Formidable Vegetable Sound System (Main stage)** 11.15 – 12pm

Free Facepainting by Jess from the ‘Sugar Coated ‘ stall 12.00 – 2.00pm

Festival Bar Opens in the Rec Centre thanks to Exmouth Ladies Darts Club 12.00 – 4.30pm

**Anna Gare, Celebrity Chef, Cooking Demo with Kailis Seafood (Whale Shark Marquee) – Sponsored by Quadrant** 12.15 – 12.45pm

Visit Anna at the Kailis and Exmouth Gym Club BBQ Prawn Stall 1.00 – 1.30pm

**Dazastah and Layla, Hip Hop Duo (Main stage)** 1.30 – 1.50pm

Family Shoveller Band (Main stage) 2.00 – 2.30pm

**Max-Ann Duffett** 3.15 – 3.45pm

Sweet Orange DJ 3.50 – 4.30pm

**OVAL AND MARQUEE CLOSES**

**Marquee, Bar and Food stalls re-open at 6.45pm**

**Venue: Ningaloo Centre - Murat Road**

Science Wonderland opens 10.00am

Photo Exhibition - The Experience of Whale Sharks All Day

I've Got A Problem Show 11.30 – 12.00pm

Element of Surprise Show 1.00 – 1.30pm

‘Story and Craft’ with Author ‘Sadie James’ 2.00 – 3.00pm

Science Wonderland closes 3.00pm

Visitors gallerys open all weekend

**This is a smoke free and plastic free event. There will be water stations based at the Oval so please BYO drinking container, look out for the compost bin to dispose of your food scraps. Thankyou.**

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**Sunday 27 May, Pre-Book Your Whale Shark Tour And Mention The Festival**

**Big Day Out on Ningaloo Reef - Book your Whale Shark Tour with a local operator featured on page 21**

**Venue: Exmouth Yacht Club**

All ages event. Tickets: $20 per adult, Children FREE. Must be accompanied by an adult.

Join the Piratemen and Dig for Cash on the Beach – Sponsored by our local IGA. 3.00 – 4.00pm

Gates, Bar and Food stalls open. This event takes place just a stone’s throw from the shores of Exmouth Gulf, the perfect way to wind down after a spectacular weekend……but don’t take your dancing shoes off just yet!

James Abberley 3.00 – 3.45pm

Dave Man and Bec Schofield 4.00 – 4.30pm

Free face painting 4.15 – 4.30pm

The Pirate Man performs with the Kids of Exmouth 4.40 – 5.00pm

Eloise Green 5.05 – 5.20pm

Ben Catley 5.30 – 6.30pm

Jade Mills Fire Show 6.40 – 6.55pm

**ASH GRUNWALD AND BAND**

**6.45pm – 7.45pm**

**Ben Catley, our guest solo performer from Freo.**

**The Tommyhawks, Perth’s best all female indie grunge band.**

**Blue Shaddy, Everybody loves the Shaddies!**

**This IS AN ALL AGES EVENT.$55 per ticket for adults, $20 for 13yrs up, Free for under 12 years and Family tickets available.**

**ALL UNDER 18 YEAR OLDS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.**

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**Venue: Talanjee Oval**

**Whale Shark Marquee Bar & Food Stalls Open.**

**Plastic Free and Non Smoking Event**

**Sweet Orange DJ opens the night and mixes it up.**

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Illustration by local artist Tiff Clitheroe.
Come on down for a whale of a time!

Proudly Supporting
Ningaloo Whale Shark Festival

Exmouth we have you covered!

Talented Performers

BEN CATLEY
Saturday @ Talanjee Oval
Sunday @ Exmouth Yacht Club

Originally from the rugged northern coast of England, Ben Catley has been making more than the most of WA for over six years, with both periods of his life reflected strongly in his music. Now a blend of rough-around-the-edges vibes from his younger years playing around the UK and upbeat roots feels harnessed from WA coast is what he sees is reflected in his music. Having toured Australia constantly with a number of Australian and UK festivals under his belt, Ben is a solo act that is more than comfortable holding the attention of a crowd that is up for a dance. Throughout his set, both the tempo and positive energy is kept high with a smile never fading from his face, showing a real connection to his music and the audience.

Eloise Green

Eloise Green had the luck of finding circus at the age of only six years of age with Adelaide’s youth circus, Cirkidz. Eloise, a freelance artist, has been performing professionally for 23 years. She has created and co-devised work that has travelled the world and performed in over 33 countries. Her whirlwind career has seen her perform at the London National Theatre, on islands, beaches, big tops, theatres, streets and train stations around the globe. Eloise has also worked with Circus Oz, La Soiree, Patch Theatre Company and as the Artistic Associate of the South Australian Circus Centre.

Anna Gare
Saturday @ Talanjee Oval

Anna Gare is recognised as one of the most popular chefs on Australian television with a number of incredibly popular and loved programs under her belt. In recent years, she has presented two of the highest rating TV programs on Channel Nine (Great Australian Bake Off) and Channel 10 (Junior Masterchef). Her role of Judge on Junior Masterchef garnered her a Logie nomination and a legion of new fans across Australia.

Prior to her work on Junior Masterchef, Anna had completed “Quickies in My Kitchen” an eight part series featuring Anna for the Lifestyle Food Channel. Anna’s journey on the TV screens of Australia really started with her acclaimed role on the top rating show “The Best in Australia”.

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Whale Shark Facts!

Did you know...

- Whale sharks seen at Ningaloo are between 3 and 12 metres in length.
- The majority are juvenile males – it’s a teenage boy hangout!
- They come to Ningaloo to feed on plankton and krill.
- They can dive to at least 1500m deep.
- They are thought to live for at least 80 years, maybe longer.

Threats

- Whale sharks face many threats both locally and in international waters. These include boat strike injuries, illegal fishing, entanglement and litter ingestion.

How can you help?

- Follow the interaction protocol when swimming with whale sharks, including staying 3m from the head and body of a whale shark and 4m from its tail.
- Dispose of your litter appropriately.
- Go Slow for those below! Be mindful of your speed when boating in the marine park, whale sharks can pop up at any time.
- Participate in a whale shark tour – a portion of the cost goes directly to whale shark management and conservation.
- Tell your friends and family how amazing whale sharks are!

More Talented Performers

FORMIDABLE VEGETABLE SOUND SYSTEM
Possibly the only band to promote the joys of gardening through dance music, Formidable Vegetable Sound System from Fremantle, Western Australia, are the world’s most successful experiment in ‘ecological electroswing’.

With epic live shows consisting of antique beets, ukulele quirk, strings and hyperactive horns, the band has only one goal: to pound simple solutions for sustainability deep into your consciousness in the funkiest way possible.

DRUMMERS
Taiko On - Simon Vanyai
www.taiko-on.com

Taiko On! The name is not only a team cry to beat the drum with all one’s energy and determination, the Japanese characters also mean “Sound of the Drum”. The members of this dynamic troupe have been drawn together from a wide variety of backgrounds to study and display their love of the Japanese drums, with stylised movements, powerful rhythms, and synchronised ensemble percussion. Simon Vanyai, originally studied Taiko in the mountains of Nagano-ken, over 15 years ago and has passed on his passion for Taiko to thousands of Australians and supported the formation of four taiko groups across Tasmania and WA.

GASCOYNE IN MAY PERFORMERS
Saturday, May 25 @ Talanjee Oval GiM Site.
Aerial performances and circus skill workshops. 12.10 - 12.45pm

Our festival partner Gascoyne-in-May (GiM), led by their enigmatic director Theaker Von Ziarno, continue to entertain us with top talented performers. Dedicated to inspiring audiences all over the state, this year’s GiM touring troupe features:

- The Family Shoveller Band
- The Nomadics
- Max-ann Duffett
- James Abberley
- Piraterman
- Aria Scarlett
- Jade Mills
- Raymond Edney
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And many more crew who are always involved in delivering sensational shows, Visit the GiM site at Talanjee Oval on Saturday for the program for workshop and performance times.

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LIFE’S A BEACH

CLASSIC ROCK AND TODAY’S HITS

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SPIRITRADIO.COM.AU

QantasLink
proudly supporting
the Ningaloo
Whale Shark Festival

Visit qantas.com/exmouth

PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE EXMOUTH COMMUNITY

quadrantenergy.com.au
Thank you to all operators for participating in the $350 Big Day Out on Sunday 27 May and for contributing VIP tours during the festival.

**NINGALOO WHALESHARK-N-DIVE**
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**OCEAN ECO ADVENTURES**
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**NINGALOO WHALE SHARK SWIM**
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www.ningaloowhalesharks.com
Acknowledgements

Thank you to all Committee members for their continued support of the Ningaloo Whale Shark Festival.

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Secretary  Candice McCarrol
Treasurer  Sylvia Bottomley
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Thank you to all our local volunteers and sponsors.
Ningaloo Outlook

A ground-breaking marine research partnership for the Ningaloo Coast

BHP is proud to partner with CSIRO to deliver strategic marine research into the World Heritage listed Ningaloo Marine Park.

Together we are increasing our understanding of Ningaloo’s deep and shallow reefs and its iconic turtles, whale sharks and reef sharks, to help improve knowledge and conservation outcomes for this important marine ecosystem.

To find out more about the project and how you can get involved, visit research.csiro.au/ningaloo/

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