

Masters Swimming Queensland
and the
North Mackay Sinkers
Masters Swimming Club

2025 Whitehaven Open Water Swim

Sunday 5th October 2025
(Kings Birthday long weekend)

Whitehaven Beach
Whitsunday Island



EVENT GUIDE



Transport vessel “2001” a 30m tri hull fast ferry.



Meet Date: Sunday October 5 th 2025	Location: Whitehaven Beach, (Whitsunday Is.)	Event Director: Rachel Mundy
Entries open: June 2025	MSQ Sanction Number: Q11/25	Email: prs.nthmkysinkers@gmail.com
Entries close: Sunday 28th September 2025	Event fee includes: Return full day trip, Shute Harbour - Whitehaven beach – Shute Harbour. Reef & Island taxes, transfers ashore, the event and a light lunch package.	Warm up Time: 8:30am
Release 1: MSQ/MSA only Event Cost \$175, plus any applicable fees or charges. (Early bird Masters only)	Non-Swimmers – limited availability (30) @ \$145pp as above (Plus fees and charges, 30 Max)	Start Time: 9:00am (subject to arrival & weather)
Release 2: General entry event cost \$195 plus any applicable fees and charges. 500m, 1km or 2km event.		Accommodation Sponsor Mantra Club Croc 15% discount via email only at clubcroc.res@mantra.com.au

Program of Events

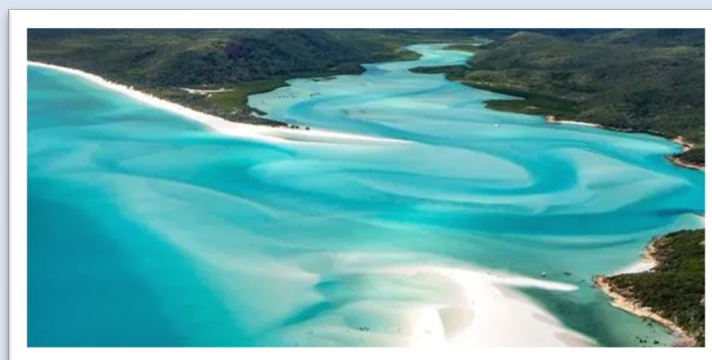
Event	Start	Distance	Stroke
1.	0900 (Max 30 min)	500m Novice	Freestyle
2.	0910 (Max 50 min)	1 km Step up	Freestyle
3.	0920 (Max 60 min)	2 km Seasoned	Freestyle

Event limits

- One event only (choose either 500m, 1km or 2km option)
- Event time limits apply – choose a suitable distance.

2025 Tidal predictions

	Saturday Oct 4	Sunday Oct 5 th Event day!	Monday October 6 th (Public Holiday)
LW	0234 0.58	0305 0.45	0337 0.35
HW	0829 2.89	0908 3.09	0948 3.29
LW	1411 0.55	(2.62 m difference)	1533 0.46
HW	2044 3.67	1450 0.47 2120 3.68	2158 3.59



Event Details

Welcome

Masters Swimming Queensland and the North Mackay Sinkers welcome you to Airlie beach and the beautiful Whitsunday Islands. This event location is on the iconic Whitehaven beach recognised as one of the top beaches in the world. We hope you enjoy the event itself as well as what is available in the area.

Eligibility

This meet is open to Masters Swimming Queensland (MSQ) registered swimmers, and swimmers registered with other Masters Swimming Australia (MSA) affiliated clubs. Swimmers must compete for their primary MSA club.

International swimmers who are current members of their National Masters Swimming Federation may also compete (proof of membership must be provided).

Non-Member swimmers are permitted to enter this meet after an initial offering to Masters members.

MSA/MSQ membership is available to all via the [MSA website](#).

Age

Age as at the 31 December 2025.

Minimum age on event day is 18 years.

Entries – Masters Swimming Australia members.

Entries are to be submitted online via Race Results

Entries will be open in June 2025 for MSA members only.

The closing date for Release 1 entries is 2 weeks after opening.

Limited (30) non swimmer guest places available - \$145

Non-members and further non swimming guests pending availability from mid-June.

Entries – Non members

Entries are to be submitted online via Race Results.

Entries pending availability will be open in mid to late June 2025.

Entry closure – Sunday 28th September 2025

1. Late entries may be considered, but will incur an additional fee of \$30. Late entries are subject to the swimmer capacity not being exceeded in the event.

Conduct of events

Based on numbers it is anticipated that the 500m will commence first and likely conclude before the 1km and 2km events. The 1 and 2km event will start at split times, by 10 minutes.

Qualifying times

While no qualifying time is required, a strict cut off applies.
500m: 30 minutes max.

1 km: 50 minutes and

2 km: 1 hour from race start.

Swimmers must prepare for the event accordingly and select the most suitable distance for the individual's ability.

Swimmers will be required to complete a 'terms and conditions of participation liability waiver' including an ability to swim the chosen distance.

Relays

Relay format will not be contested at this event.

Multi Class events

Multi Class swimmers are always welcome, however there will be no separate Multi Class criteria conducted at this event.

Entry fees

A swimmer may enter a single event only.

(ie 500m, 1km or 2km).

The event will have two release dates:

Release 1 in June: To Masters registered swimmers first at a cost of \$175 (plus applicable fees and charges)

Release 2 in Late June: To any other Masters and non-masters' swimmers (guests) at a cost of \$195 (plus applicable fees and charges)

Unless sold out prior.

All entrants must pay the nomination fee online as directed by Race Results. Please enter and swim within your physical limits.

Entry List

The Entry List will be available on the MSQ event page in the week prior to the OWS.

Event Details

Event changes, withdrawals and refund policy

A swimmer may change their entries or withdraw from the meet in the Race Results portal up until the closing date.

A refund will only be considered prior to the closing date.

- 100% refund: withdrawal prior to 8 September.
- 50% refund: withdrawal 8 September until closing.
- No refund: On or after 28 September.

To make changes to events entered, the swimmer can simply add a new event if they have not filled the allowed quota of events, or withdraw from unwanted events by requesting a refund, and once approved add a new event(s).

You will lodge your request in Race Results against your entries.

If you are withdrawing from the meet entirely, you will need to click the 'Request Refund' link for the event entered then provide a reason. This requires approval before changes are confirmed. If approved, a refund will be granted, minus the administration fee(s).

Rules

All MSQ/MSA meet guidelines, by-laws and rules, and World Aquatics swim rules apply.

MSA OWS rules link [here](#)

By nominating to participate in this event, all swimmers thereby authorise the Meet Director/MSQ/North Mackay Sinkers Masters Swim Club staff to take whatever action is deemed necessary in the event of an emergency, and persons involved accept responsibility for all costs arising from such action.

Tickets and programs

Tickets are limited to swimmers, event organisers, officials and volunteers. There is a limited (30) capacity for spectators that may be adjusted upwards. Past this, spectators may of course arrange their own transport to and from the island.

Warm-up start time

Subject to weather and arrival at Whitehaven beach.

Warm-up will commence at approximately 08:30AM. The course will close at 08:50AM, but swimmers may continue to warm up outside and clear of the course to allow event 1 easy access. After a swimmer finishes their event, they may warm down outside the course to allow finishing swimmers access to the finish line.

Self-Marshalling

All swimmers will be required to self-marshall. People who are not swimming or officiating should not be near the starting/finish line of the event.

- Swimmers are responsible for knowing their event they are competing in, and for being aware of what event is currently in the water. The Meet Announcer will be calling the respective event/wave to the line in readiness for the beach start.
- An entrant who fails to report to the Registration/Marshalling area prior to their event being called to the start may be deemed withdrawn.
- The Marshal will be a helper who can verify a swimmers' event, answer questions, and direct swimmers to the event start.

Results

Results and statistics will be posted on the MSQ website meet event page in the days following the meet.

Competition results for men and women will be separated and Individual events: 18-24 and then in 5-year groups, i.e. 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, etc.

Records

No records are applicable for this event.

Meet awards

Awards will be presented at the conclusion of this meet.

Each event will have overall male and female podium awards.

Age groups results will be recognised and advised but not awarded.

Full meet results, statistics and rankings will be made available in the days following the meet.

Photo/video release

All attendees agree that they may be photographed or videoed, and that the material may be used by MSQ or its affiliated clubs at their discretion, or by others to promote activities of a club or branch, or for personal use including social media.

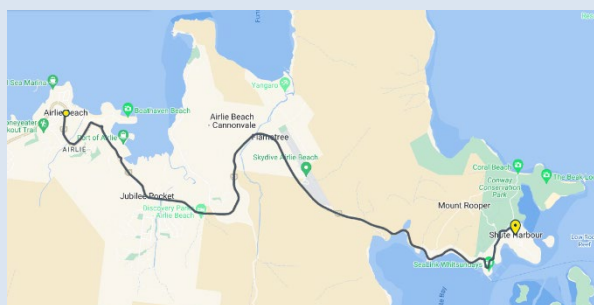
Event Details

Other important information

- Paddles are not permitted to be worn during the event, including warm-up and swim-down.
- Swimmers must comply with island signage and directions.
- Swimmers must wear only one pair of World Aquatics approved swimwear. In accordance with MSA Inclusive Swimwear Policy swimsuits may be modified or alternative swimsuits may be worn to accommodate a swimmer's individual needs, provided any modification or proposed alternative swimsuit is approved by the Referee prior to the swimmer's first event at the competition.
- See MSA Swimwear Rules for more information.
- The water temperature is expected to be in the range between 24° – 26.9°C
- Wet suits as such are at swimmer discretion for comfort but will relegate placings to after non wetsuit swimmers in the results.
- Swimmers may wear stinger suits and wildlife deterrent devices with no penalty.
- Starts and finish will be out of water (from/onto the beach).
- The starts will be from the beach in three waves.
- MSQ notes that the information provided is correct at the time of publishing. However, some aspects are subject to change, including changes required in the event of too many entries being received for the allowed duration of the meet.

How to get to the Shute harbour

Buses run to the departure point regularly



Severe Weather Policy

MSQ recognises the dangers of extreme weather in Queensland and the need to ensure that all staff and participants take the correct precautions in the event of extreme weather.

Extreme weather includes unexpected, unusual, severe, or unseasonal weather that may pose a safety risk to users including rain, drought, wind, flood, storms, dust, hail, and

extreme temperature.

If the meet is affected by extreme weather, a mandatory safety suspension of events will be imposed. This may require a shortened or relocated event format which will be determined by the Event Director and MSQ staff. No refund of entry fees will occur under such circumstances.

A secondary swim location is also available in the advent of more northerly weather.

First aid

Both the main vessel and the 12m vessel Discovery are well equipped for an emergency. Ashore a first aid station will deliver treatment to any minor issues.

Any accident or injury should immediately be brought to their attention and to the attention of the Event Director.

Venue: Whitehaven Beach

Participants need to be sun smart with suitable hats, long sleeves and sunscreen application. You can expect to be ashore for up to 4 hours and will need to self-cater for snacks and hydration.

There is limited shade available at the venue, no structures exist for this. Some natural vegetation above high tide exists but be mindful not to trample vegetation. You may bring your own shade structure.

Shade tents will be provided **only for** a first aid station, officials, volunteers and fruit/water station for after the event.

This will not cater for participants.

No glass is to be brought on site.

The beach will remain open to the public during the swim events. Please respect other patrons as they utilise the beach and limited facilities.

Food such as tea, coffee, cold drinks, and snacks will be available aboard the "2001".

What you need to bring

Water, snacks, broad hat, long sleeves, sunglasses, sunscreen and a sense of fun and adventure.

Vessel Details

The main transport vessel is a fast 30m ferry and will deliver participants to Whitehaven Beach.

A secondary vessel will transfer guest to shore via a ramp and back to the main vessel at the day's conclusion. Ability to cater for limited mobility and balance is limited and should be considered prior to entering. Please engage with the Event Director to discuss arrangements.

Event Details

Event and vessel registration: 6:00am

Departure: Shute Harbour 7:00am, boarding from 6:45am

Return: Shute Harbour approximately 3pm.

Whitehaven arrival: approx. 8:30am (transfer ashore)

Whitehaven Departure: Approx 1:30pm (1pm to vessel)

Whitehaven Beach: approximately 4 hours.

Notes: Parking exists for vehicles at Shute harbour as well as being serviced by a bus. **Plan to arrive 6:00am.**



After Swim Event

[Northerlies Beach Bar and Grill](#) - Airlie Beach from 5pm.

Join the Sinkers at this venue to unwind and relive the great day of swimming at Whitehaven. A large space has been booked, and a theme will be advised (It's a long weekend and the venue is expected to be busy.)

Contacts

Event Director prs.nthmkysinkers@gmail.com

MSQ Business Manager... admin@mastersswimmingqld.org.au

Director of Recording... recorder@mastersswimmingqld.org.au

MSQ website <https://mastersswimmingqld.org.au>

Meet Entry [Race Results](#)

Important dates [edit according to rules below]

Entries open June 2025

Closing date 28 September 2025

Entry list available 29 September 2025

Program available on or about 1 October 2025

Whitehaven OWS 5 October 2025



**masters
swimming**
QUEENSLAND

North Mackay



sinkers
masters swimming club



Event Details

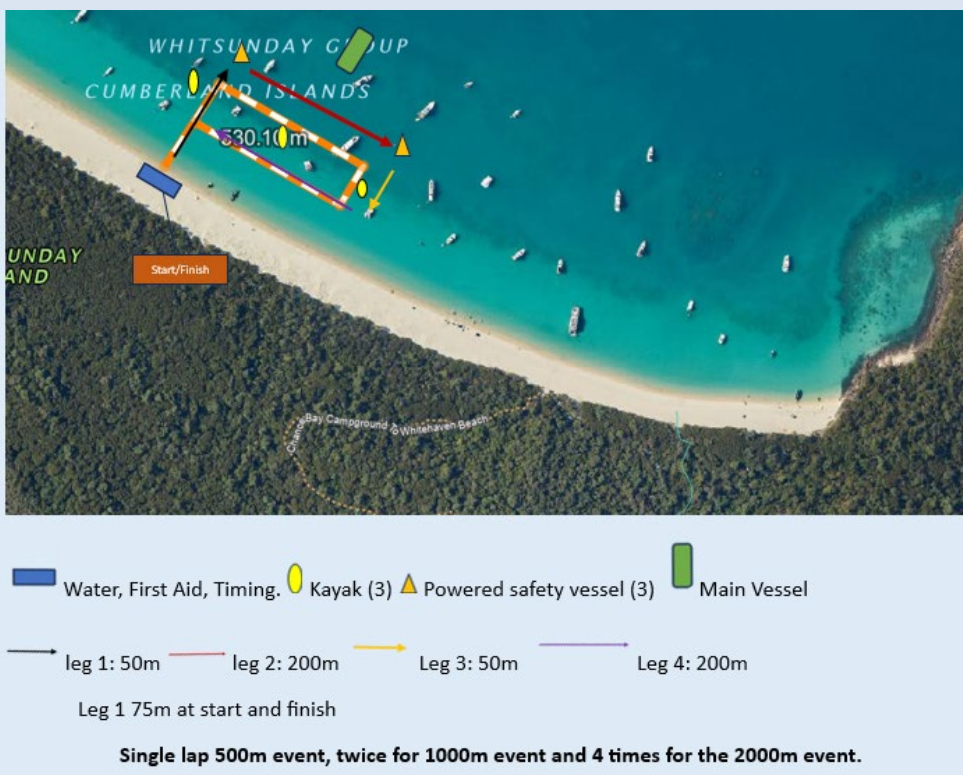
About the Course

This is a 500 m loop course.

- 500m event – Once around
- 1000m event – Twice around
- 2000m event – Four times around.

The loop course

- minimises impact on other waterway users.
- Allows for excellent supervision of swimmers.



Accommodation Sponsor

Great News! Club Croc have confirmed their continued support of our Whitehaven OWS. They are offering a 15% discount on accommodation.

But, You must book direct and quote

2025WHITSWIM at clubcroc.res@mantra.com.au