Whitehaven Open Water Swim 2026

Departures – All from Shute Harbour.

Returns – All back to Shute Harbour

Welcome to the 3rd annual Whitehaven open water swim proudly hosted by Masters Swimming Qld and the North Mackay Sinkers Masters Swimming Club. We are pleased to invite our new and returning swimmers to this world class beach.

Held each King's Birthday weekend, this bucket-list open-water event blends turquoise Whitsunday beauty with a relaxed, community-driven atmosphere. Whether you're chasing a challenge or soaking up the magic of Whitehaven's crystal sands, it's a swim that stays with you long after you leave the beach.

Some reminders

- This is a fun day in a beautiful environment provided by our fantastic volunteers.
- Absolutely no trampling or entering the vegetation line above the beach. This a condition our permit to operate.
- Kindly keep any rubbish generated with you.
- A light lunch is catered for with dietary tolerances accounted for.
- The water is beautiful but the sun needs to be catered for by individuals, so
    - Be sun smart with comfortable long sleeves, generous hats and sunscreen.
    - Any shade structures are to be kept light as we have a shore transfer to contend with.
    - Bring sufficient water for the day.

Registration – Sunday October 4th.

Registration opens: 0600

Registration closes: 0700 (boarding 0730)

At the Shute Harbour Marine Terminal.

(296 Whitsunday Dr, Shute Harbour Queensland 4802**)**

Registration notes

- You will be issued
    - Your timing chip.
    - Any merchandise ordered.
    - Final instructions, if any, for the day.

- Mackay Women's Service (MWS) Raffle.
    - MWS are again our valued community partner in 2026
    - A fantastic Multi prize pool awaits thanks to generous sponsors and members.
        - 1 ticket, one prize.
            - Allocated 1st 2nd and 3rd prizes.

- Followed by a continuous allocated prize draw until prize pool exhausted.
- Drawn on the beach.
- Be generous it's a great local service!
- In 2025 we managed a $3,000 donation to the MWS.

Vessel arrangements

Competitor and guest Ferry (Shute Harbour)

Boarding: 0730

Departure: 0800 (The passage time to Whitehaven is about 1 hour 45 minutes)

Arrival Whitehaven Beach: Approx 0930 - 1000. Transfers ashore.

Reboarding: 1400/1430 (Vessel Masters discretion)

Departure 1430/1500

Arrival Shute Harbour approximately 1600 - 1630

Depending on prevailing conditions we will be provided with either the 30m wave piercing catamaran "2001" or the 34m fast passenger ferry "Louis"

The Swim events.

Pending arrival and transfers start times may move forward.

The swims are based around the low tide for minimal tidal influence.

Race 1 (500m) at 1100 (1 hour)

Race 2 (1km) at 1105 (55min)

Race 3 (2km) at 1110 (50 min)

All races finish by 1200

Lunch from 12/1230

Presentations 1300

Reboarding 1400/1430 pending vessel master request.

The Fabulous after Party - Theme is Kings and Queens.

Northerlies from 5pm till late.

The outside hut is booked, meals and beverages ordered from the bar by individuals.

Come dressed to impress and celebrate a fantastic day out.