

## Not to late to complete census

If you forgot to complete your census form last night, Cannonvale Area Supervisor John Powell says it's not too late.

"E census is open for some time. If you have difficulty getting through, keep trying," he said.

Mr Powell said collectors had until the end of August to pick up forms from residents who elected to do the census on paper, "but they'll be back before that".

"It's important everyone does it - vital for this area in fact," Mr Powell said.

For more information call the Census Inquiry Service on 1300 338 776, or visit [www.abs.gov.au/census](http://www.abs.gov.au/census), or for eCensus information, [www.census.gov.au](http://www.census.gov.au).

# 'Do the Whitsundays' back on track

Three months ago 50 independent tourism operators from the Whitsunday region joined forces to launch a competition inviting participants to "Do the Whitsundays", but after just three weeks of operation problems in cyberspace forced the competition to close.

Co-organiser James Davison explained there were issues with the competition's facebook page through which entries were made.

"We just couldn't be guaranteed of the voting system's integrity. On the surface it looked like it was going very well but ultimately we couldn't be sure everyone was getting a fair chance," Mr Davison said.

Within twelve hours of making the announcement to close, James was contacted by CEO and founder of Australia's leading online wine and food travel guide VisitVineyards.com. Robyn Lewis had seen the competition on facebook and twitter and was keenly following its progress.

"I actually entered. I thought, "This looks great". And then the wheels fell off," she said.

As a former Queensland resident and fundraiser for the Premier's disaster relief appeal, Robyn said she felt a need to help.

"Tourism is down significantly in the region and

as a former North Queenslander I thought this (competition) shouldn't be allowed to die, especially when we've got the means to help out," Ms Lewis said.

"VisitVineyards has 36,000 subscribers nationally and we run promotions of this nature every month. They'd got all the prizes together and it's a really good promotion. We're prepared to put a lot of effort into making it work," she said.

One of the 28 original contributors to stick with the competition is Captain Pete of Aviation Adventures.

"It's the only thing I've seen in the last couple of years that's promoting the Whitsundays with that many local businesses involved," he said.

Competition co-founder Phil Batty said it was a "different" end result, but "a good one".

"The fact that it hasn't been wasted is terrific and the facebook site is still promoting the Whitsundays, which is what it was all about in the first

**BACK ON TRACK:** Competition contributor Captain Pete and co-founder James Davison are thrilled that "Do the Whitsundays" is back on track.



place," Mr Batty said.

'Do the Whitsundays' will officially relaunch on September 1. It will run for three months, with the final draw on December 1.

To enter, people will now go to [www.VisitVineyards.com/win](http://www.VisitVineyards.com/win) for the chance to win one of two main prizes, both of almost equivalent value.

**HELPING HAND:** Robyn Lewis from VisitVineyards.com said she felt compelled to help.



## Ratepayers to meet with council

Members of the Whitsunday Ratepayers Association's (WRA) executive and finance and planning committees have been invited to a working meeting with Whitsunday Regional Council at a date to be determined over the next week.

WRA secretary Anthony Moscato said the association had received a letter from council extending the invitation and were very pleased to accept.

"We like the idea of communicating with council, even if the budget has been finalised. The impact of this meeting could make some changes, particularly on the second half of the budget. It's possible council could consider our observations relevant and take some considerations for our findings in the second half of the year," Mr Moscato said.