



MEDIA INFORMATION

Tuesday 26 August 2008

FESTIVAL CAIRNS 2008 GETS OFF TO A FLYING START WITH MUSIC, SPORT, THE WRITTEN WORD AND LOADS OF FAMILY FUN

While the Beijing Olympics are now history, Cairns is poised for another event...but this time, much closer to home. After a year of planning, now there is just one day to go until kick-off for the city's seventh annual community celebration, Festival Cairns. For the next three weeks, the tropical city will kick up its heels with an action-packed program of events spanning music, arts, sport and good old-fashioned entertainment – giving credence to the well-worn cliché, something for everyone.

Embracing this year's theme, Love Cairns, Love the Environment, Festival Cairns is all about drawing attention to the reasons of what makes life in the tropics so great.

"From the clear air that we breathe to the abundant greenery and laid-back lifestyle, there really is much to love about living in Cairns," commented Festival Cairns operations manager, Narell Black.

With the first official event being the National Basketball League's four day QLD Cup tournament beginning on Thursday with games from 6pm at the Fish Tank, there is loads more in store leading into the opening weekend that includes Shakespeare in the Library, and the very special, Ben Winkelman Trio at The Tanks Arts Centre on Friday night.

Saturday kicks off with family fun all round starting at 10am with Family Fun at the Pier as well as Cairns Regional Gallery's Festival Cairns Family Fun Day. This is also day one of the two-day Tropical Writer's Festival at Shangri-la as well as the annual Subway Hoops Clinic at the Fishtank for aspiring basketballers, Jeff Lang at The Tanks Art Centre.

For music lovers, this weekend is a feast with the first of two Cairns Choral Society's Gala Spectacular at Cairns Civic Theatre and week one highlight, the second annual TimeOUT Concert at Cairns Showgrounds. This event is destined to rock the foundations of Cairns with an amazing line up that gets going from 3pm to 10pm. For one night only, the city will bask in four of the hottest headline acts – Scribe, Kisschasy, Blue King Brown and Faker.

"One thing is certain, in our opening weekend and throughout Festival Cairns, the city's youth are well and truly catered for," commented Narell.

While the city wakes up from a hangover, sport enthusiasts will have their runners on for this year's one day, Festival of Sport at the Esplanade from 8.30am. The energy will continue with another Family Fun Day at the Pier, the final Cairns Choral Society's Gala Spectacular Performance and the adrenalin-charged decider between basketball teams, Gold Coast Blaze, Townsville Crocs and Skytrans Cairns Taipans at the Fishtank.

Weekend One Run Down is as follows:

Friday 29 August:

- NBL QLD Cup continues at the Fish Tank – games from 6pm and 8pm.
- Festival Fridays kick off at Ba8 from 5pm – live music.
- **Launch of KickArts BIG exhibition from 6pm at KickArts – Good Social Opp**
- Ben Winkelman Trio from 6.30pm for 7.30pm show at Tanks Arts Centre (Tank 5)
- Statespeare from 7.30pm at Cairns City Libraries

Saturday 30 August:

- Family Fun at the Pier from 10am to 1pm featuring La Goons
- Cairns Regional Gallery Festival Cairns Family Fun Day from 10am to 3pm
- The Tropical Writers' Festival from 10.30am at Shangri-La (Literary dinner from 7pm featuring Nick Earls)
- TimeOUT Concert at The Cairns Showgrounds from 4pm to 10pm
- Subway Hoops Clinic at Fishtank from 4pm to 6pm
- Jeff Lang from 6.30pm for 7.30pm show at Tanks Arts Centre (Tank 5)
- Cairns Choral Society's 2008 Gala Spectacular from 7.30pm at Cairns Civic Theatre

Sunday 31 August:

- Festival of Sport from 8am to 8.30pm at Fogarty Park and Esplanade
- The Tropical Writers' Festival continues at 9.30am
- Family Fun at the Pier from 10am to 1pm featuring La Goons
- Cairns Choral Society's 2008 Gala Spectacular from 3.00pm at Cairns Civic Theatre
- NBL QLD Cup culminates in basketball final at fish tank from 6pm

Festival Cairns 2008 will run from Wednesday 27 August to Saturday 20 September, 2008.

For further information about Festival Cairns 2008, click on www.festivalcairns.com.au or contact management company, Events Cairns on tel: 07 4051 0222 / email: info@eventscairns.com To contact Operations Manager, Narell Black, mob: 0433 078830

Ends

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