



Cairns Post Wednesday 27/08/2008

Page: 8
Section: Cairns Eye
Region: Cairns QLD, AU
Circulation: 27759
Type: Regional
Size: 1,738.43 sq.cms.



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Three weeks, 47 events, costumes, ducks, fireworks, food, art, sport, music, horse racing and busking. How do you sum up Festival Cairns in just a few words? The task is impossible so you simply must attend. And with more than 40 events, you won't have any problem finding at least one you enjoy.

Last year's Love Cairns theme has been expanded to Love Cairns, Love the Environment. Operations manager Narell Black says the theme's popularity in 2007 prompted organisers to embrace and expand on it this year.

"It really resonated with people last year and it just seems logical to go with that," Narell says. And she says people can incorporate that however they choose, be it in store displays, music, art, lantern designs or duck outfits. She says residents' fondness for the local environment and climate is strong, as is their interest in recycling and preserving the environment.

Cairns goes into party mode proper from August 27 and there are already signs around the city that the celebrations are about to begin. Birch Carroll and Coyle's Stockland cinema candy bar has been decorated with balloons, cardboard stars and heart icons representing a rainbow serpent. It is possibly the first business to show off an entry in the

Dress up Your Business campaign, with Narell saying there are already 16 entries. In 2007 there were just 12 competitors.

The traditional heavy emphasis on local performers has this year resulted in a busker's competition. With 30 local spots to fill and five international acts performing towards the end of the festival, Narell expects buskers to come out of the woodwork. She says it came about because of the emphasis on local performance in the city.

"We always try to listen to what people in the community are saying and they've been saying they want local music."

Traditional event Food, Wine and All That Jazz has been revitalised, with participants eager to use local produce and a new locale giving more space to spread out. In addition, Narell says there will be fire dancers performing, which she anticipates will be spectacular against the inlet backdrop. It will be located between Muddies and the Skate Park and she says people can book tables at Food, Wine and All That Jazz this year, so they can attend with a group.

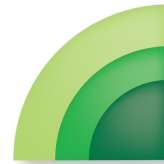
Expect to taste the best that the Far North has to offer at the Harbour Lights Wine & Dine Friday Luncheon on September 19.

Narell says the event expands on Cairns-ites' fondness for long Friday lunches.



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One restaurant will serve entrees, another mains and the other dessert, making it the perfect collaboration for the traditionally competitive foodie industry. Narell says the emphasis has mainly been on making existing events bigger and better and asking individuals what help they need to improve.

She says this philosophy even translates to the hugely popular and successful Calanna Rotary Duck Race, which has raised more than \$100,000 for charities during the past four years.

This year's duck race has been expanded to feature an afternoon program of duck-related events, starting with a "blessing of the ducks" and traditional Aboriginal dance. In conjunction with this year's duck race, organisers also will host the Harcourts Crikey-Catch-a-Croc Spectacular, with all children welcome to enter. Children will have the opportunity to fish one of these crocs out of the lagoon to win a stunt bike.

The duck-themed events continue with a first in 2008, the Myer Fashion Parade. Models will strut their stuff at duck headquarters on the Esplanade Lagoon wearing the latest swimwear fashion from Myer. This will be followed by the more tongue-in-cheek Myer Fashions on the Duck Field held at 2pm. This will be open to all who wish to dress

up in their finest duck costume to win a \$500 shopping spree from Myer.

Finally, there will be a celebrity duck race which is being kept under wraps. This event is based on four celebrity ducks being auctioned which are then required to swim to the half-way line. To sum it up, events will be just ducky on September 20.

And 2007's Festival Cairns Dress Up Your Business winners Devine Gelato owners John and Lorraine Devine will go one step further this year. They will mix a tropical ice cream only available during the event, with the base ingredient mango, combined with other local produce which they have kept under wraps.

The major highlight on the calendar will be Cairns Amateurs, the city's premier horseracing and trackside fashions event. This year, Amateurs will be even more special as it will be celebrating its 50th anniversary.

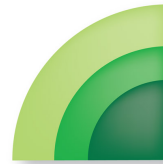
Other major highlights include the Festival of Lights street parade, Carnival on Collins and the Queensland Cup Basketball competition.

As well, Cairns Regional Council, Cairns Libraries and Shake and Stir Theatre Company will present a new and amusing look at the works of William Shakespeare with workshops and a performance at the Cairns City Library.



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FESTIVAL CAIRNS MAJOR EVENTS

timeOUT CONCERT
The Cairns Showgrounds
August 30, 4pm-10pm

CARNIVAL ON COLLINS
Flecker Gardens & Tanks Arts
Centre, September 6, 9am-3pm.

**HARBOUR LIGHTS
WINE & DINE LUNCH**
September 19, noon.

**ERGON ENERGY
BUSKING FESTIVAL**
September 4, 5, 11, 12, 19, City Place
and Cairns Esplanade, times vary.

FESTIVAL OF SPORT
August 31, 8am-8.30pm.
Fogarty Park, Cairns Esplanade.

**RACQ INSURANCE
PARADE OF LIGHTS**
September 20 from 6pm.

**BDO KENDALLS SWING
BY THE LAGOON**
September 14, 3pm-5.30pm.
Cairns Esplanade.

TROPICAL WAVE FESTIVAL
September 20, 10.30am-10.30pm.
Fogarty Park, Cairns Esplanade.

FOOD, WINE & ALL THAT JAZZ
North end, Cairns Esplanade,
September 6, 4pm-10pm.

**CAIRNS AMATEURS 50TH
RACING CARNIVAL**
Cannon Park Racecourse, all
day, September 12 and 13.

ROTARY DUCK EVENTS
Esplanade Lagoon,
September 20, from 1pm.

**QUEENSLAND CUP
NBL TOURNAMENT**
August 28, 29 and 31, Cairns Basketball
Stadium, 289 Aumuller St, 6pm & 8pm.

REGGAETOWN FESTIVAL
September 6, noon-11pm, Tjapukai
Cultural Park, Smithfield.

**BIRCH CARROLL & COYLE
PICTURES IN THE PARK**
September 11-13, 6pm, Fogarty
Park, Cairns Esplanade.

THE AUDREYS
September 19, Tank 5,
Tanks Arts Centre, 6.30pm.

**CAIRNS PORTS
EXPLOSION OF LIGHTS**
September 20, 8pm,
Cairns Esplanade.

Festival fever ... Kisschasey will perform at the timeOUT concert, a performer from last year's Parade of Lights, the Audreys will put on a show at the Tanks Arts Centre and a busker warms up for the Busking Festival.

For more information
visit: www.cairns.com.au/festivalcairns

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