

MEDIA RELEASE

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STAY ENTERTAINED, SANE AND EVEN LEARN LOTS DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AND THE NOOSA LONGWEEKEND

From sand sculpting and art and circus workshops to lively roving street performances, the 2008 Noosa Longweekend festival offers up a huge range of free and family events to enjoy during the school holidays.

Now in its seventh year, The Noosa Longweekend festival runs during school holidays from 4 to 13 July, with tickets available from 28 April. It will offer up ten fantastic fun-filled days and nights with more than 220 performances and activities across theatre, literature, music, dance, forum, film, art and cuisine in the breathtaking setting that is Noosa.



“With our move to the school holiday timeslot, we’ve really ramped up our community program with a treasure hunt for entertainment for kids and families,” said Gail Hewton, General Manager of The Noosa Longweekend festival.

“You may want to hunt down some events but whether you are having a picnic in the park or walking down Hastings Street, you are in for some memorable impromptu entertainment as well this year,” she said.

“The *Finders Keepers* events will be scattered across Noosa, with performers popping up anywhere at anytime,” she said.

“There’ll be street theatre by the river, story telling on the beach - the aim is for everyone to find the performance and keep the experience,” she said.

Stories of shipwrecks, mermaids and pirates will be revealed by master storyteller Gail Robinson who will bring to life the works of Noosa’s own renowned sand sculptor Dennis Massoud at various beach locations.

Leading the performance side of these free outdoor events will be a talented troupe of artists.

Ants in the Deep End and *The Brides of Frank* are two very different and unique roving productions that will contain comedy, dance and physical theatre elements.

Major Minors is a program of arts based events and activities for children and their families to enjoy during the festival and has been sponsored by the Sunshine Coast Regional Council and Noosa Hospital.

“This is a really exciting addition and involves a swag of free workshops covering sand sculpting, Islamic art, and instrument making.

THE NOOSA LONGWEEKEND Suite 13, 10 Arcadia Walk, Noosa Junction P.O. Box 2200, Noosa Heads 4567
Phone: 61-7 5474 9941 Fax: 61-7 5474 9940 Email: info@noosalongweekend.com www.noosalongweekend.com



"We'll have the amazing performers from circus group Circa running four free workshops to teach kids how to walk on stilts, hoola hoop and juggle.

"Members of local Aboriginal tribe the Gubbi Gubbi will lead storytelling sessions and teach children some Indigenous dances.

"There'll even be a mobile musical playground where kids can learn how to play percussion instruments...or just bang and clang for hours!" Gail said.

Guided Heritage Walks are again part of the many free community events being offered during The Noosa Longweekend festival.

There will also be a number of in-depth workshops for youngsters ranging in price from \$10 to \$75. These workshops include a cyberdrama production class for teens, bellydancing, musical theatre, crime writing and much much more.

In addition to these great offerings for residents and school holiday visitors to Noosa, headline acts include political satirist Max Gillies, leading theatre actress Amanda Muggleton; journalists and social commentators Barrie Cassidy, Paul Kelly, Geraldine Doogue, Hugh Mackay and David Marr; authors Christopher Koch, Blanche d'Alpuget, Alice Pung, Robyn Davidson, Stephanie Dowrick, John Buchanan, Kaz Cooke and Venero Armanno; the physical theatre of Circa; actress Kate Fitzpatrick; food-guru Maggie Beer; a celebration of Indigenous art; and much more including Noosa's award winning restaurants.

NB: The Queensland Government, through Arts Queensland, has provided funding to The Noosa Longweekend for *Finders Keepers*.

To request a program visit www.noosalongweekend.com email info@noosalongweekend.com or phone 07 5474 9941. For bookings please call The J box office on 07 5455 4455, or visit at 60 Noosa Drive, Noosa Junction or check out www.noosalongweekend.com from 28 April.

For media inquiries, including photos and footage, further press releases and interviews with artists contact:

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