

MEDIA RELEASE

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HEAT UP YOUR WINTER WITH THE 2008 NOOSA LONGWEEKEND

The 2008 Noosa Longweekend has ten fantastic fun-filled days and nights of theatre, literature, music, dance, forum, film, art and gourmet adventures in Noosa's environment from 4 to 13 July, with tickets available from 28 April.

"The Noosa Longweekend just keeps getting better. In 2008, it will run during school holidays with over 220 performances and activities, an added dance component and more free community events spread broadly throughout the Noosa district," said Karen Mitchell, President of The Noosa Longweekend festival.

"The Noosa Longweekend offers the quality of a capital city event but with an intimacy that non-regional festivals can't provide. And there's the stunning natural environment unique to Noosa, our famous restaurants and our winter warmth."

Highlights include:

- one of Australia's most versatile stage performers, *Amanda Muggleton*, starring in Roger Hall's comedy "The Book Club", directed by *Rodney Fisher*;
- Australia's foremost impersonator and satirist, *Max Gillies*;
- acclaimed fiction writer and winner of the Australia Council's writers' emeritus award, *Christopher Koch*;
- renowned authors including *Blanche d'Alpuget*, *Alice Pung*, *Stephanie Dowrick*, *John Buchanan*, *Kaz Cooke*, *Venero Armanno*;
- internationally acclaimed *Circa* in a dynamic performance straddling circus art and contemporary dance;
- *Kate Fitzpatrick*, best known as a stage and screen actress,
- *Maggie Beer*, TV chef, cook, food author and restaurateur;
- Music talent including *Opera Australia*, *Monsieur Camembert's* world music, *Tom Waits for No Man* cabaret; *The Idea of North* a cappella, and country music sensation *Sara Storer*;
- ballet's *Colin Peasley*, opera's *Victoria Watson* and choreographer *Shaaron Boughen*;
- discussions with journalists, thinkers and commentators *Peter Thompson*, *Barrie Cassidy*, *Paul Kelly*, *Bruce Wolpe*, *Dr Julianne Schultz*, *Hedley Thomas*, *Geraldine Doogue*, *David Marr*, *Hugh Mackay*, *Stephen Loosley*, and *Leigh Sales*;
- a celebration of dance on film with the *ReelDance Festival* coming to Noosa;
- bird and nature lovers *Sean Dooley* and *Ric Natrass*;
- Indigenous art exhibitions, art workshops and discussions;
- exciting and interactive community events including roving artists, dancers, actors, storytellers and sand sculpting in public places, and the ever-popular heritage walks around the Noosa district.

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 Cathy Reade, Festival Media Manager, 07 54483095 / 0413 575 934 creade@squirrel.com.au
Sunshine Coast media can contact local media managers Casey McNeil, 07 5446 6945 / 0402 993 688 casey@macneilmarketing.com.au or Angela Takats on 0422 933 198 angela@macneilmarketing.com.au

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