

Footy, fishing and famous sporting moments all part of The Noosa Longweekend Festival



Culture vultures are invited to swap their opera glasses for footy passes and fishing classes in a celebration of Australia's sporting might at the 10 day Noosa Longweekend Festival to be held from **June 18-27**.

The magic, matches and memorable moments of **30 years of State of Origin** will be revisited at a forum chaired by ABC political commentator and sports nut, Fran Kelly, and will star top sportswriter and author, **Mike Colman** and football heroes **Steve Renouf, Kerrod Walters, Mick Hancock and Martin Lang**. Fran will discuss with Mike and his muscly mates the highlights, lowlights, tackles, tries and tough calls of the game that has the Maroons and the Blues vying for victory each year. Guests will get the chance to share their own memorable moments with their sporting heroes at a sausage sizzle after the forum.

Footy and fishing personality **Andrew Ettinghausen (E.T)** will share fishing tips and stories about the fish that *didn't* get away along with Sunshine Coast celebrity **Andrew Phipps (Phippsy)** over a buffet breakfast at the Noosa Yacht and Rowing Club. ET and Phippsy will hook guests with tall tales of doing battle with monster barrimundi, black marlin and other fighting fish and reveal some of their not-so-secret favourite river and sea fishing destinations.

Mike Colman makes a return festival appearance to take audiences on a trip down memory lane to relive some of Australia's greatest sporting moments at a forum chaired by radio sports journalist, **Peter Psaltis**. Audiences will hear how Mike decided to become a sports writer at 13 and has been sports mad ever since. From Olympic Games to Commonwealth Games, State of Origin matches to Bledisloe Cups, cricket tests to world boxing titles, Mike's the kind of guy you'd like to have on your team in a sports trivia quiz! Mike will share with audiences his favourite sporting moments including Cathy Freeman's winning 400 metre race, Ian Thorpe's final leg in the 4 x 100metre relay at the Sydney Olympics and practically every State of Origin game.

Festival Director, **Ian Mackellar** said that Australia's sporting culture was part of the overall cultural fabric of the festival and offered the opportunity for new audiences to share in the fun.

"Australians are so passionate about their sport and our sports forums provide a fascinating insight into the lives of our sporting heroes and reinforce how sporting moments can really capture the spirit of the Nation.

Ian assured potential audiences that the forums would not just focus on the serious side of sport.

"With the line up of sporting heroes and sports journalists on offer there's bound to be quite a few laughs along the way," he said.

- **Andrew Ettinghausen. *Gone fishing – hook, line and sinker.***
Saturday June 26, 8am. Tickets: \$38 adults, \$22 children under 14 (includes buffet breakfast). Noosa Yacht and Rowing Club.
- **Mike Colman. *A sportswriter's odyssey – share some of Australia's greatest sporting moments.***
Saturday June 26, 12noon. Tickets: \$35. The J Theatre.
- **Fran Kelly, Mike Colman. *Queenslander – 30 years of Origin.***
Sunday June 27, 11am. Tickets: \$35. BBQ lunch available after forum on the deck (nominal additional cost). The J Theatre.

TICKET SALES AND FESTIVAL PROGRAMS

- The full festival program can be viewed on line at www.noosalongweekend.com.
- Tickets are on sale NOW. Visit www.noosalongweekend.com for details.
- Tickets for Noosa events are available at The J Box office phone (07) 5455 4455 or online at www.thej.com.au
- Tickets for Caloundra events are available at the Events Centre, Caloundra phone (07) 5491 4240 or online www.theeventscentre.com.au
- Interested parties are encouraged to register to receive festival news, updates and special offers on the Noosa Longweekend Festival website - www.noosalongweekend.com

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For more information, images or interviews with The Noosa Longweekend Festival artists or staff contact:

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The Noosa Longweekend Festival is proudly presented by MACQUARIE

NB: Whilst all events listed as part of media communication are accurate at the time of release, the Noosa Longweekend Festival program is subject to change without notice due to circumstances outside of the event organizer's control.