

Chitchat, chapters and cheeky monkeys all part of The Noosa Longweekend Festival program



Some of the literary and media world's most respected names will be converging on the Sunshine Coast from **June 18-27** to partake in 30 literary events, forums and workshops as part of the annual, 10 day, 130 event, The Noosa Longweekend Festival.

Festival Director, **Ian Mackellar** said that the 2010 literary and forum program was one of the largest in the festival's nine year history and catered to a wide range of interests.

"The Noosa Longweekend Festival has long had a reputation for the diversity and high quality of its program and this year is no exception.

"The names of attending authors and journalists for our literary events and forums this year is like a literary and journalist's 'who's who' list", Ian said.

Media and literary celebrity, **Ita Buttrose** will discuss her career as a magazine and newspaper editor, author of nine (soon to be 10) books and share with audiences why she was twice voted 'Australia's most popular woman'. Celebrity chef, **Kylie Kwong** will discuss the inspiration behind her three cookbooks. Author and respected sports journalist, **Mike Colman** will regale audiences with tales of Australia's most exciting sporting moments. Comedian and author **Tim Ferguson** will reveal how he has made audiences laugh for the past 25 years and chat about his books *The Cheeky Monkey* and *A Laugh a Minute*. Everyone's favourite gardener, **Don Burke** will inspire green thumbs with hints on how to be a greengrocer in your own backyard and award winning crime reporters **Andrew Rule** and **John Silvester** will rough things up a bit by holding court with a few hitman stories from their 10 crime books including *Leadbelly* (and how they inspired the smash hit TV series *Underbelly*).

Other festival literary guests include political activist, feminist, Walkley Award winning journalist and former prime ministerial advisor **Anne Summers** speaking of loss, love, art and her book *The Lost Mother*. Politician and pharmacist **Terry White** will chat about pills, potions and politics. Former UK pop star and international bestselling "mystery with history" author **Michael White** will discuss his multi-faceted career. Writer, doctor, mother and triathlete, **Karen Hitchcock** will share with audiences the secrets of the short story form and her upcoming book. Academic, actress, army officer and author, **Karen Brooks** will tell the ABC TV's *Talking Heads* **Peter Thompson** about her fascinating life and journalist and author, **Iola Mathews** will share her search for happiness which she describes as "freefalling into the sixties". Sunshine Coast University lecturer and science fiction authority, **Gregory Nash** will explore the big question 'Is there anybody out there?' and one of the world's top three experts on animal behaviour, vet **Dr Paul McGreevy**, will look at life from a dog's perspective. For a look back to the past, highly respected journalists **Margaret Simons** and **Paul Kelly** will share the political secrets of the Howard, Keating and Fraser years.

Engaging and insightful forums exploring topics such as: ***China, Should we be worried?; America, in decline?; The changing media game and internet journalism;*** **Barrie Cassidy** and the *Insider's* take on politics, Griffith REVIEW's ***Food chain sustainability*** and ***30 years of State of Origin*** are guaranteed to spark debate and discussion.

Leading Australian journalists and authors such as **Peter Thompson**; journalist, writer, editor and academic **Dr Julianne Schultz**; broadcast journalist and ABC TV's chief political commentator **Annabel Crabb**; current affairs journalist and host of *Radio National* breakfast program **Fran Kelly**; and journalist, broadcaster and founding editor of Good Reading magazine **Caroline Baum** will be keeping things on track whilst moderating The Noosa Longweekend Festival forums and conducting in-depth interviews with authors.

Mark Scott, Eric Beecher, Margaret Simons, Dr Don Russell, Dr Michael Fullilove, Paul Kelly, Peter Hartcher, Andrew Bolt, Dennis Atkins, Brendan Gleeson, Pauline Nguyen, Warwick Smith, Professor Geremie Barme, Saul Eslake, Mike Colman, Peter Psaltis, Steve Renouf, Kerrod Walters, Mick Hancock, and Martin Lang will all be part of the forum action.

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Some more 2010 festival highlights include –

- the world-premiere-preview of **David Williamson's** latest play *Rhinestone Rex and Miss Monica* starring **Georgie Parker** and the world premiere of the new children's play, *Hurry Up and Wait* as presented by the **Queensland Theatre Company** in association with deBASE productions; a showcase of 'award winning'-one-act plays; **Acrobatica's** gravity-defying physical theatre; and, **Agatha Christie Radio Mysteries** performed on stage.
- two, exclusive, Australian performances entitled *International Stars of Ballet* as performed by seven members of the **San Francisco Ballet**.
- musical performances including Australia's own **Tom Burlinson** in *Frank a Life in Song*; cabaret and supper club performances with **Caroline O'Connor, Caroline Nin, Carita Farrer, Blossom Goodchild, Elizabeth Cousemaker, Tom Sharah** and Australian musical theatre legend **Toni Lamond**; the *Dame Joan Sutherland (opera) awards*; a return festival appearance by guitar maestros **Slava and Leonard Grigoryan** accompanied by **James and Joseph Tawadros** as *Band of Brothers*; the *So-la Voce Chamber Choir*; a Japanese piano recital; **Virginia Gay**, and local bands, *The Vitals* and *Dva*.
- a celebration of short films and a *Slow Food with Film* event with food prepared by leading local chefs; the now famous progressive food events hosted by top restaurants in Noosa and the Sunshine Coast hinterland including a *Seafood Saunter, Hinterland Gourmet Safari, Beachside Promenade* and the traditional festival favourite, the *Duck Waddle*.
- a celebrity breakfast with **Andrew Ettingshausen (ET)**.
- a full day children's festival.
- workshops featuring Bollywood dancing, African drumming and singing, Japanese puppet making, drama improvisation, Commedia dell Arte and a full day, comedy writing master course with **Tim Ferguson**

TICKET SALES AND FESTIVAL PROGRAMS

- Tickets for all festival events are on sale NOW. Visit www.noosalongweekend.com for details.
- The full festival program can be viewed on line at www.noosalongweekend.com. Printed versions are available by phoning the festival office on (07) 5474 9941.
- Tickets for Noosa events are on sale at The J Box office phone (07) 5455 4455 or online at www.thej.com.au
- Tickets for Caloundra events are on sale at The Events Centre, Caloundra phone (07) 5491 4240 or online www.etixdirect.com.au
- Ticket prices range from **FREE** admission to **\$185** (for a 'Blue Ribbon dinner and cabaret event')
- Interested parties are encouraged to register to receive festival news, updates and special offers on The Noosa Longweekend Festival website - www.noosalongweekend.com
- Special festival accommodation packages are available. Visit www.noosalongweekend.com for details.

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For information, interviews or images regarding Noosa Longweekend Festival artists please contact:

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The Noosa Longweekend Festival is proudly presented by

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