

Noosa Longweekend Festival to share the love from June 18-27, 2010



The organisers of Noosa's favourite 10 day festival of theatre, music, literature, dance, film, art and food - the **Noosa Longweekend Festival** - will be sharing their love of the arts by expanding the Festival audience capacity by up to 900 seats for a selection of events in 2010. A number of Noosa based events, or about 10% of the total program, will be replicated at The Events Centre, Caloundra.

Noosa Longweekend Festival general manager, Ian Mackellar said that although Noosa would always remain the Festival's rightful birthplace, the Festival had been a victim of its own success with most events sold-out in hours or days in previous years. Coupled with audience feedback, the decision was made to expand the festival to permit additional audience seats in 2010 with the benefits extending to increased tourism opportunities for the Noosa region and the opportunity for more Sunshine Coast locals to attend festival events.

Although the Noosa Longweekend Festival program will not be officially released until April, Ian said that the 2010 program was shaping up to be the festival's most exciting ever.

"We have confirmed some incredible international performers, a big name Australian film star, several of Australia's best known authors and a host of fantastic, free, community events.

"Although Noosa will always be the festival's home, we wanted to provide more people with the chance to enjoy, appreciate and embrace the festival this year. The expansion will mean increased tourism visitation opportunities to the region and the opportunity for more locals to attend festival events – in some cases, twice!

"This wonderful celebration of local and international talent is, after all, organised by the community, for the community," Ian said.

The extra seats are sure to sell out fast though when the program is released on April 27. Ian remained tight-lipped about the full extent of the program and the festival's opening night act but was prepared to share a brief taste of things to come.

"The 2010 Noosa Longweekend Festival will include the world-premiere-preview of **David Williamson's** latest play **Rhinestone Rex and Miss Monica** starring **Georgie Parker**; two, exclusive, Australian performances entitled **International Stars of Ballet** as performed by members of the San Francisco Ballet; forums featuring **Ita Buttrose**, everyone's favourite gardener **Don Burke** and ABC TV's **The Insiders**; literary events with high profile journalists and authors such as **Paul Kelly**, **Mike Colman**, **Dr Anne Summers**, **Underbelly** authors **John Silvester** and **Andrew Rule** and animal behavioural specialist **Dr Paul McGreevy**; a special sports program and children's program including a full day children's festival; and the world premiere of a new children's play presented by the **Queensland Theatre Company**," Ian said.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

- The 2010 Noosa Longweekend Festival will be held from Friday, June 18 – Sunday, June 27.
- The 10 day program will include 130 free and ticketed events staged across various venues from Noosa to Caloundra.
- The official program launch will take place on Tuesday, April 27.
- Tickets will be on sale from 10am, Tuesday May 4. Visit www.noosalongweekend.com for ticketing locations and online purchases.
- Interested parties are encouraged to register to receive festival news, updates and special offers on the Noosa Longweekend Festival website - www.noosalongweekend.com
- Special Noosa Longweekend Festival ticket and accommodation packages will be available for the festival from April 27. Visit www.noosalongweekend.com for details.