

MEDIA RELEASE

22 APRIL 2008



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PROGRAM OUT, TICKETS ON SALE 28 APRIL TO 'EVEN BETTER' NOOSA LONGWEEKEND FESTIVAL

The 2008 Noosa Longweekend festival program was launched today (22 April) with organisers, sponsors, artists and supporters in attendance at the Noosa Regional Gallery who heard that tickets will be available from 28 April for the festival running from 4-13 July.

Karen Mitchell, President of The Noosa Longweekend committee; the festival patron, David Williamson; organising committee members; official 'Friends of The Noosa Longweekend'; sponsors; participating artists, restaurateurs and others enjoyed a rundown of festival highlights by new Festival Manager, Gail Hewton and a performance by the dynamic ensemble of artists, dancers and actors, *The Brides of Frank*.



"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," says 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."

Noosa's own David Williamson, patron of The Noosa Longweekend and Australia's most popular and performed playwright talked about the first six Noosa Longweekend festivals, their importance and how communities benefit from cultural events like The Noosa Longweekend.

Gail Hewton, the new General Manager of The Noosa Longweekend festival, welcomed the talented troupe *The Brides of Frank* who will be just one of many acts that form an expanded community program at the 2008 festival.

"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 from sand sculpting and art and circus workshops to lively roving street performances," said Gail.

"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, where public spaces will be the stage for people to 'find the performance and keep the experience', there will be acts like *The Brides of Frank* scattered across Noosa, with performers popping up anywhere at anytime," she said.

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



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With a background in and passion for dance, I was really keen to have some dance featured in the festival and I'm very excited to introduce a number of dance events for the first time this year too", said Gail.

Gail provided a rundown of the highlights in 2008, including:

- 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* and other 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*, *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 create@squirrel.com.au

Sunshine Coast media can contact local media manager Angela Takats on 0422 933 198 angela@macneilmarketing.com.au

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