

MEDIA RELEASE

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CLOSING HASTINGS STREET FOR HOT JAZZ AND A GOOD CAUSE

The first full day of the best-ever Noosa Jazz Festival kicks off on Friday, 31 August at 10am with the closure of one of Australia's most popular tourist destinations, Hastings Street, Noosa. But it's all for a good cause and not for long.

After an opening jam session on Thursday night, the first full day of the Noosa Jazz Festival kicks off with a New Orleans style parade down Hastings Street, behind the King and Queen of the Festival - all in the name of supporting the charity, RSPCA Queensland.

"There will be loads of colour and entertainment and last year's road closure saw the crowds three-deep all the way down this iconic tourist street to catch the procession of bands and street entertainers," said event director, Garth Prowd.

The parade ends in Noosa Woods where a range of schools' jazz big bands will be entertaining the crowd all day as part of the Youth in Jazz program which involves over 450 students over two days of free concerts.

"The Hastings Street Parade is a real crowd-pleaser, with festival musicians and performers taking part, and the street full of spectators enjoying the entertainment and the weather, so there's lots of colour, music and interesting people to see," he said.

The Noosa Jazz Festival has its broadest program yet with The Cat Empire; The Bamboos; Bob Barnard; James Morrison and Emma Pask at berardo's; Renee Geyer at the Sheraton; Barry Charles & David Bentley at Noosa North Shore Blues; award winning Janet Seidel; Mettaphor; boogie woogie babe Jan Preston; Adrian Cunningham; Jeff Duff; John Morrison & Jacqui Cooper; Yvette Johansson and Joe Ruberto Trio; Matt Baker; James Flynn; The Sweet Lowdowns; Caxton Street Jazz Band; Wildrice; Ingrid James & a Cathy Segal-Garcia; Paul Furniss; Carol Ralph; Colan Nolan; The Syncopators, and more.

"While it's lots of fun for everyone, The Noosa Jazz Festival is also an important event in the Noosa and Queensland calendar, and in the national jazz calendar. It brings to town over 20,000 people to enjoy more than 170 individual artists, performing at venues around the shire. The event supports the music industry and Noosa's local businesses and in turn, they support the Festival," said Garth.

"What's very special about our festival is that it promises great fun and great value for families, for jazz enthusiasts and even for those who just like to enjoy this great time of the year in Noosa. We offer free outdoor concerts, free entry to most participating restaurants, or door prices ranging from \$10 - \$20," he said.

In addition to the Hastings Street Parade and the Youth in Jazz program, other special things to watch out for this year include:

The Cat Empire exclusive concert
Breakfast with the Stars
Celebration of 100 years of Lifesaving
Mark Sholtez exclusive concert
Evolution of Jazz special event

The Tingirana Room for beachside jazz
Noosa River Jazz Cruises
A Tribute to Frank Johnston
The Noosa North Shore Blues
Father's Day Jazz in the Woods

For tickets, hit the jazz festival website at www.noosajazz.com.au or call 1300-797-723. For general enquiries also see the website or call 07 54490711. MEDIA: Lisa Pringle 0417 005 743 lisa@usmevents.com

