

## Episode 250

Saturday 27 September 2008

### Queensland Events Special

#### Apple & Grape Festival Chris Parsons & Alastair McLeod

The Granite Belt is regarded by many as the food and wine capital of southern Queensland.



Stanthorpe celebrates this fact with the biennial Apple and Grape Festival. Highlights include the grand parade and the grape crushing competition. There is plenty of local food on offer as well as wine from many of the areas finest wineries.

#### **Contact Apple and Grape Festival**

Stanthorpe

5 – 7 March 2010

[www.appleandgrape.org](http://www.appleandgrape.org)

#### Australian Italian Festival Bridget Adams

Ingham is a little country town that sits 111 kilometres north of Cairns on the Great Green Way. Every May,



the red, white and green flags unfurl in the main street of Ingham for the Australian Italian Festival. Over three days, this Mediterranean carnival pays tribute to the town's resident Italian population, because roughly *two out of every three* people who live here are Italian!

As well as Italian food and entertainment, there are traditional Italian variety events such as spaghetti eating and the greasy pole climb. The grand parade brings together young and old in true community spirit.

#### **Contact Australian Italian Festival**

Ingham

15 – 17 May 2009

[www.australianitalianfestival.com.au](http://www.australianitalianfestival.com.au)

#### **Gold Coast Marathon – Chris Parsons**

The Gold Coast Airport Marathon is the biggest running event in Australia with around 21,000 competitors. It is an event for all shapes, sizes and fitness levels with the wheelchair half marathon, 2.5km Kids' Dash, 4km Kids Dash, 10km Walk, Half Marathon and the big one, the 42km marathon. No matter which race you do, you know you're doing it on one of the most beautiful courses on the planet.



The Gold Coast Airport Marathon is the perfect introduction for anyone wanting to dip their toe into the running event pool as it's incredibly well run (pardon the pun) and so well supported that you definitely do not feel that you're running on your own. If the 2008 Marathon was anything to go by, then there is no doubt that next years' will be bigger and better than ever!

#### **Contact Gold Coast Marathon**

5 July 2009, [www.goldcoastmarathon.com.au](http://www.goldcoastmarathon.com.au)

## Noosa Long Weekend

### Dean Miller

The Noosa Long Weekend is an annual ten-day festival packed with theatre, literature, music, dance, film and great food and it is recognized as one of Australia's foremost regional cultural events.



The cultural celebration has programs for children and their parents, and each year a big selection of names turn out. Clive James, Peter Carey, Thomas Keneally and Jack Thompson, to name just a few, have called in to participate.

The festival was started in 2002 by Australian playwright David Williamson and his friends and it has continued to grow. The Noosa Long Weekend this year boasted 72 events and 200 hundred performances.

**Contact Noosa Long Weekend**  
19 – 28 June 2009  
[www.noosalongweekend.com](http://www.noosalongweekend.com)

## The Cunnamulla Fella Festival

The Cunnamulla Fella Festival celebrates the cultural heritage of Cunnamulla and the Paroo Shire in a way only Queenslanders can!

The program is chokka-block full of activities and entertainment, all in an exciting carnival atmosphere. There'll be country music, markets, bush skills workshops and of course the infamous Cunnamulla Fella Challenge, a bush 'Iron Man' competition which is a test of strength, bush cunning and survival skills. Of course, no outback event would be complete without a bull-ride.

**Contact Cunnamulla Fella Festival**  
14 – 15 November  
John Kerr Park, Louise Street, Cunnamulla  
[www.paroo.info](http://www.paroo.info)  
(07) 4655 8471

## Coolum Kite Festival

Get ready to see Coolum Beach turn into a Kaleidoscope of colour this October. The Coolum Kite Festival gets bigger and better every year and is sure to delight the young and old alike.



Other than kites in every size, shape and colour you can imagine, there will be kite surfers, sand sculptures, art displays, live performances and food and craft stalls. Make sure you stick around for the spectacular finale when illuminated skydivers descend onto Coolum Beach in a blaze of glory.

There is free parking onsite and free shuttle buses to get you there, and entry to the festival is free!

**Contact Coolum Kite Festival**  
11 – 12 October  
Stummers Creek Road  
Coolum Beach, Sunshine Coast  
[www.coolumkitefestival.com](http://www.coolumkitefestival.com)  
(07) 5446 2500

## Go Troppo Arts Festival

What artist wouldn't be inspired by Port Douglas, where the rainforest meets the sea?

To celebrate this special part of the state, the region's creative types are putting on the Go Troppo Arts Festival.

There'll be exhibitions, art and craft markets, creative workshops and musical performances. The gala cocktail party that opens the festival is sure to be a highlight, so head to the website to find out how you can get involved.

Indulge your creative side this October at the Port Douglas Go Troppo Arts Festival.

**Contact Go Troppo Arts Festival**  
17 – 16 October, Port Douglas  
[www.go-troppo-arts-festival.com](http://www.go-troppo-arts-festival.com)