

Episode 232 Saturday 3 May 2008

Julia Creek Dirt n Dust Festival

Julia Creek is located just less than 650 kilometres west of Townsville. The population of 600 swells to thousands when the town plays host to the annual Dirt and Dust Festival.

Getting to the festival is an experience in itself. Every year members from the Harley Owners Group of Townsville take part in the *Pit Stop to the Creek*. Encountering the group on the road is a formidable sight. They welcome fellow Harley-Davidson owners to join them on the annual pilgrimage.



The journey passes along the Flinders Highway, stopping in a number of small towns. Among them is Hughenden, home to the unique FJ Holden Café. Packed with Holden and Elvis memorabilia it is the creation of owner Francis James Holden and his wife, Jan. The diner is famous for the larger than life FJ Super Burger.

The Julia Creek Dirt and Dust Festival runs over a weekend in April and boasts an impressive line-up of events. The triathlon attracts athletes from across the country. In what must be one of the toughest events of its kind in the country, athletes swim 800 metres in a muddy creek before riding 25 kilometres along the highway. This is followed by a five-kilometre run through town, not an easy task when the temperatures average in the mid thirties.

Other events planned over the weekend include the Great Artesian Express horse race and bull ride organised by Professional Bull Riders Australia. However, the prize for the most unusual event at the festival goes to the bog snorkelling. A sport that originates in the United Kingdom, competitors must swim a muddy stretch of water without using their arms or raising their head above water. International bog snorkelling champion Julia Galvin is the festival's ambassador and will return to challenge next year's competitors.

The next Dirt and Dust Festival is planned for 3 – 5 April 2009.

Contact For more information visit: dirtndust.com

Contact FJ Holden Café
55 Brodie Street, Hughenden
(07) 4741 0254

Contact Townsville Harley Owners Group
hogtownsville.com

Magnetic Island

Magnetic Island is located just off the Townsville coast and is accessible by the regular Sun Ferries shuttle. Fifty per cent national park, the island boasts over 20 beautiful sandy bays. Exploring them one by one is not something that should be rushed. Choose to appreciate them on foot, or at sea.



Surland Sail Boat Charters offer cruises around Magnetic Island. The luxurious 47ft catamaran can cater for up to 24 people. Trips are tailored to suit the conditions and the company. Guests have the opportunity to swim, snorkel and explore secluded bays, some of which are not accessible by road.

Owner Stefan Pretzsch is a man of many talents. He is an internationally trained chef who has worked in kitchens in France, Germany and Sydney. Stefan decided to build a catamaran after falling in love with life on the sea. He now combines both his passions to create a very special experience for his guests.

Stefan also offers dinner cruises and specialises in overnight and weeklong sailing journeys.

Contact Surland Sail Boat Charters

Magnetic Island Cruise

Costs \$120 per person including gourmet lunch

Drinks BYO

surland.com.au

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