

saltwater freshwater

A B O R I G I N A L C U L T U R A L F E S T I V A L



Australia Day 26 January 2017
www.saltwaterfreshwaterfestival.com.au

SALTWATER FRESHWATER FESTIVAL 2017

10:30AM - 4:30PM

AUSTRALIA DAY 26 JANUARY COFFS HARBOUR BOTANICAL GARDENS

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THE FESTIVAL

The Saltwater Freshwater Festival is the largest Aboriginal cultural event on the Mid North Coast and is the only free festival of its kind in New South Wales.

The inaugural Festival was a massive success in its first year in Coffs Harbour in 2010, where some 10 000 people attended and it won the Community Event of the Year Award at the Australia Day Awards in 2011. After four years of touring the region, the festival is now back in Coffs to position itself as one of the East Coast's premier Aboriginal cultural events.

The festival is the brainchild of the Saltwater Freshwater Arts Alliance, an alliance governed by ten Local Aboriginal Land Councils from Karuah to Coffs Harbour.

Each year the event showcases some of the best Aboriginal talent in the country and of the Mid North Coast region where the saltwater and freshwater meet.

The festival also features exhibitions and workshops relating to the range of arts and cultural activities undertaken by Saltwater Freshwater Arts Alliance during the year, providing an enriching experience for visitors and locals.

The festival is a drug and alcohol free event and a great place to spend Australia Day in a culturally rich and inclusive environment.

THE ARTISTS

EMMA DONOVAN

Emma Donovan is headlining this year's festival and is a passionate singer, songwriter and collaborative vocal artist whose musical expression is a fusion of roots, reggae and soul. Her melodic style is widely known for her distinctive husky voice. Her lyrical content speaks of significant stories and personal accounts that she sings with confidence and pride. Emma's connection to her people is a result of her contribution to community initiatives, which is an important commitment to her work.

TASMAN KEITH

Tasman Keith is a mission boy who was raised between the bustling inner city Sydney and the humble Bowraville Mission in the Nambucca valley. Tasman Proudly represents the legacy of Gumbaynggirr nation Hip Hop. Truly optimising everything that is dope about the newest generation of the culture, the youngest son of seminal Australian Hip Hop pioneer Wire MC, Tasman works hard to ensure he lives up to his pedigree.

DALE HUDDLESTON

Dale Robert Huddleston & the Riverbank Band established in Canberra 1994 as a country Covers Rock Band, have produced two albums of original music "Simple Things" 1999 and Dale Releasing Solo Album "Home is where the heart is" in 2005.

Dale Robert Huddleston & the Riverbank Band will be performing all original material from their two albums.

MATT DEVITT

Matty Devitt is an Australian singer/songwriter on his way- and definitely worth a listen! Combining modern musical influences with the spirit of his Aboriginal heritage, he has created his own version of Alternative, Acoustic rock.

Originally from Coffs Harbour, Matty started out writing songs and singing with local bands. After moving to Byron Bay in 2000, he started learning guitar to support his naturally strong and passionate voice and before long, he was performing solo gigs to intimate crowds and keeping their undivided attention.

DIZZY DOOLAN

Indigenous Hip Hop artist tearing it up with her unique style of music. Originally from Townsville QLD Dizzy Doolan is an indigenous Hip Hop artist tearing it up with her unique style of music.

Dizzy is multi talented with her music, dancing and acting skills.

Now signed up with record label TOTW Paper Chase, Dizzy hits the main stream music industry.

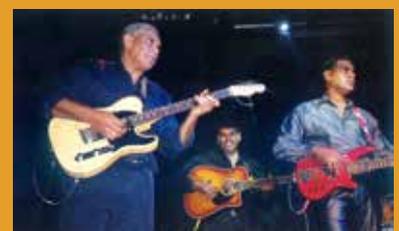
MICHAEL DONOVAN BAND

The Donovan's musical legacy is legendary. Michael Donovan grew up in Macksville, NSW surrounded by the country sounds of his parents, the late Mick and Aileen Donovan. He was playing guitar by the age of six and credits his mum and dad as being his greatest inspiration.

The Donovans have been playing together for longer than they can remember. Ask them when their first gig was, and you'll prompt some communal head-scratching. But they do remember what their first gig was like, as Michael can tell you.

"It was a Fire Brigade ball in Mt Druitt," he recalls, "and we forgot our microphone stands.

"We didn't know what we were going to do, as we all play instruments and couldn't hold our mics. So we got three wire coat hangers and hung 'em around our necks with a hook for the mic and played that way - no problems."



SALTWATER FRESHWATER ARTS ALLIANCE

The Saltwater Freshwater Arts Alliance Aboriginal Corporation (Arts Alliance for brevity) is a regional cultural organisation for Aboriginal arts and culture on the Mid North Coast of NSW, Australia. The Arts Alliance is governed by a Board of ten Local Aboriginal Land Councils within the Worimi, Birpai, Biripi, Dunghutti and Gumbaynggirr Aboriginal nations.

- Karuah
- Forster
- Purfleet Taree
- Bunyah (Wauchope)
- Birpai (Port Macquarie)
- Kempsey
- Thungutti (Bellbrook)
- Unkya (Macksville)
- Bowraville
- Coffs Harbour

The Arts Alliance works at a regional, state and national level to position Aboriginal art and culture as the foundation for the long-term social, economic and environmental development of the Mid North Coast Aboriginal communities.

The alliance's core program includes:

- The annual Saltwater Freshwater Festival
- Cultural programs
- National Aboriginal Design Agency

THE REGION

The Mid North Coast region of NSW stretches from Hawkes Nest at the northern edge of the Worimi Nation, up the coast to Coffs Harbour in the Gumbaynggirr Nation, with the Biripi, Birpai and Dunghutti Nations in between.

There are more than 13,000 Aboriginal people living in the Mid North Coast of NSW and it is one of the nation's most culturally rich areas. What makes our region unique is the meeting of the saltwater and the freshwater, from the Pacific Ocean to the Great Dividing Range.



GETTING THERE

Find us at the Coffs Harbour Botanic Gardens located on the corner of Hardacre and Coff Streets, about 1km east of the Coffs Harbour central business district.

PARK & RIDE

Take advantage of our Park & Ride facilities. Park with ease and ride the bus straight to the festival door. Stay tuned for more Park & Ride information.

CAR POOL MID NORTH COAST

Free online service for anyone who wants to save money, meet new people and reduce their carbon footprint while travelling to the festival (<http://www.carpoolmnc.org/>)

TRAVELLING BY AIR

Coffs Harbour Airport (www.coffscoast.com.au/airport) is located less than 10 minutes from the festival site. You can easily take a bus (route number 364) or a taxi from the airport.

TRAVELLING BY BUS

Sawtell Coaches (sawtellcoaches.com.au) phone 02 6653 3344

TRAVELLING BY TAXI

Coffs Harbour Taxis phone 13 10 08 or 02 6658 9999

MEDIA TIPS

For interview opportunities or to come to Saltwater Freshwater Festival as a media representative please contact Nikita.

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