

come and join us!



katoomba Saturday 23rd
Sunday 24th june 2007

www.wintermagic.com.au

It is almost time for the Blue Mountains biggest and most loved event – the Winter Magic Festival which will be held this year on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th June 2007. This is the weekend when the main street of one of Australia’s most famous towns, Katoomba, is handed over to jugglers, gymnasts, musicians, magicians, drummers, troubadours, buskers, snake-handlers, poets, choirs and the community.

This year the famous 3801 Stream Train will travel from Sydney and drop visitors right in the centre of the Festival at Katoomba Station. Stepping off the train, the first thing you’ll hear is the music. Follow the station ramp that leads into town and you’ll see the colour. Seconds later step into Katoomba Street and feel the passion of the mountains big event.

With 10 stages, 70 performances over 150 craft stalls all within the confines of the town centre it is great day for families. This year will also see the resurrection of the Katoomba Amusements Company, last seen in 1912, through a series of street performances that are not to be missed.

In fact, despite the wonderful venues and performances, the street itself is the centre of activity. A feature of the day is dressing up. Mountain residents spend months preparing costumes and we invite our families and friends from Sydney or further west to do the same. The local second-hand stores do a strong trade as people compete for the most outrageous or alluring costume.

The Festival’s location in the town centre also means that cafes and restaurants, of which Katoomba has many fine examples, are only a step or two away.

One of the day’s highlights will be the Grand Parade which in 2007 will be something special. Interest in this year’s parade is stronger than ever and it is really something that shouldn’t be missed. Starting at 11:30am it will dance up Katoomba Street for grand performance in the Carrington Hotel forecourt.

The day will close with a fire show and fireworks spectacular closing at the steps of the famous Carrington Hotel. We can but we won’t tell you too much about this. You’ll have to wait but you won’t be disappointed.



And all of this is just happening on Saturday 23rd June. On Sunday 24th, performance will move to the cafes, restaurants and hotels with a strong programme of music throughout the day spiced with magic. A hypothetical will also be held at nearby Wentworth Falls School of Arts with Father Frank Brennan, Dorothy McCrae McMahon, Richard Neville, Bob Debus, Kerry Nettle and many more.

While we are focussing here on the Festival weekend there are a number of key events in the preceding week. On Saturday 16th June, free juggling balls will be distributed as part of Katoomba’s World Juggling Day celebration. The ArtStreet shopfront art exhibition will also start the same day. Katoomba’s shops become part of a street long gallery. This exhibition runs all the way through to the 30th June.

On Thursday 21st June there will be a Poetry Slam (performance poetry) in the Carrington Hotel Ballroom which is bound to be a riotous night. More events are bubbling up so the only option is to watch the Festival website for information.

An event like could only be held in the NSW “first City of the Arts”. Come to the heart of that city, Katoomba, for an experience you are unlikely to forget.

For more information phone 0413 205 668 or email: info@wintermagic.com.au or visit the official Festival website at www.wintermagic.com.au.

An Outline of Winter Magic 2007



Grand Parade

Grander than ever before, this year's parade has a team of keen volunteers preparing a number of special attractions. These include some exciting music performances and many giant puppets being built especially for the event by the Workshop. Everyone must be in costume in the spirit of the Festival. Dozens of groups are participating this year for the first time.

3801 Steam Train

The historic steam engine will bring 632 passengers to Katoomba. The train excursion is run by Thornleigh Rotary and the train will be greeted at Katoomba Station by a local jazz band

Virtual Waterfalls

Virtual waterfalls will be projected onto the facades of ten buildings in Katoomba Street. This light show will be from 16 – 24 June.

Carrington Hotel

The Carrington is constructing a giant lamp this year as an Arabian Nights theme. They will have a Genie coming out of a jar on their roof.

Street Performers and Buskers

There will be more street performers than ever before. Winter Magic is renowned for the quality and abundance of its street performers. This year we have members of the internationally renowned Circus Solarus.

Evening Performance and Fireworks

Massed fire twirling and an amazing tightrope walking show will precede the traditional fireworks. This year the fireworks will be better than ever.

Art Street

Art Street is the most exciting art competition in the Mountains. The works are displayed in 100 shop windows in a unique partnership between the arts community and local small business. Pick up a catalogue of the complete entries and check them out. Exhibition from 16 to 30 June.

The Art Street launch and announcement of the winners by the judges is on Wednesday 20 June.

Snakes Alive!

Neville Burns is back to awe us with his spectacular array of snakes – poisonous and harmless. His snake handling performances are a real hit with older children. A performance with an educational and environmental message at Katoomba award winning YHA.

Circuses

Circo Blurto; Ruby Bloomers, Circus Solarus.

Dance

Katoomba Dance Theatre, Ghawazi, Zhagareet, Lawson School; Explosive Dance.

Music

We present music for every taste: Blue Mountains City Band; Lithgow Pipe Band, Snake Town Rattlers (blues/jazz); Halengray (blues); Mood Swing (jazz); Emfatale & the Scary Rabbits, Francesca Sidoti (successful local singer-songwriter); Jane Saunders (country); Steve Bevis (local singer-songwriter); Snez; Music of Joy (World music).

DollyPop

For youth from 4.00 pm ... program. We'll have to wait and see what is planned.

Children's and Family Events

Our House Your House; Grumblebum clowns, Johnny Balance, African shadow puppets, Scientricks.

Poetry

The ever-popular Parakeet Poets are back with new work and new poets in the hall at the Uniting Church. An added feature this year is the winners of the Blue Mountains section of the national Poetry Slam.

Scienctricks

Gary Humble formerly of the national science museum is back with his amazingly popular Scienctricks – delight and amaze – four sessions in the hall at St Hilda's down the lane between St Hilda's and the Commonwealth Bank.

Choirs

Big Sing Thing is an annual institution at Winter Magic this year conducted by Tom Bridges and featuring more than 150 voices. An A Capella Fest is in the Carrington Ballroom from 3.00 pm with such choirs accompanied by local choirs.

St Hilda's Anglican Church (4) also has the Joyful Noise Choir and the Crowd Around Choir.

Drumming

Sydney School of Samba – Club Matoto – Hands Heart and Feet.

Body, Mind and Soul

In the Seniors a chill out area and at the Katoomba Day and Evening College. Come and relax or be relaxed by practitioners of alternative therapies, have your future read in the cards or crystal ball.

Slow Food Blue Mountains

Katoomba has now achieved official Cittaslow "Slow City" status. All this and more in the dining room of the Katoomba Civic Centre – info from Anne Elliott 4782 7376.

Poetry Slam

Performance poetry in the Carrington Hotel Ballroom. This is a heat of a national competition involving State Libraries from around Australia with the final held at NSW State Library in Macquarie St Sydney,

Chestnut Roasting

There will be chestnut roasting at the Carrington Hotel.

Magicians

Young local magician John Jost will be performing with doves. He will also perform a special show with Johnny Balance plus Sydney magicians will be doing close up magic tricks at the Carrington all day.

Festival souvenirs

Souvenir festival t-shirts will be on sale at the main information tent on Katoomba Street on Katoomba Street directly in front of Carrington Hotel.

ABC 702 Live Broadcast

Simon Marnie will be presenting his popular Weekend program from Carrington Place from 6 am til midday on Saturday 23rd June. This will include a sausage sizzle as a Rural Fire Service fundraiser.

BLU FM 89.1 Live broadcast

BLU FM will bring locals regular updates from 8.00 am on the day. They will also broadcast live from outside the Artists Store on the western side of Katoomba Street about half way down the hill.

Amusements and Rides

The amusement and rides which include a jumping castle and Shetland pony rides is in the carpark.

Food Court

The food court this year is at Studleigh Place which is half way down the hill on the Eastern side. Food include.

Children's Activities

Mountains Outreach Community Services (MOCS) will have their activities for children from 10 am until mid-afternoon.

Seniors' Activities

Katoomba Seniors' Centre has programme to be advised

Poetry Slam

The Blue Mountains regional heat of this national event will be on Friday 22 June at the Carrington under the umbrella of winter Magic. The winners of tonight's heat will perform at Winter Magic.

World Juggling Day

The Saturday before Winter Magic is World Juggling Day and the Festival has organized a juggling jam on Carrington Place at 2.00 pm. All are welcome – come and juggle, come and learn – juggling balls available.

Katoomba Amusements Company

Winter Magic Festival is reviving this historic entertainment troupe for the beginning of the last century in collaboration with the World Famous Circus Solarus. Thanks to financial assistance from Festivals Australia Blue Mountains City Council.

Video

This year professional filmmaker, Brad Bridger, will be working with a group of local teens to make a video covering every aspect of the festival.

Early morning activities

The festival kicks off the day at 7.00 am when a group of dancers will “dance up the sun” for us on the Carrington Place stage.

Additional Activities

Martial arts demonstration;
Capoeira (8 musicians playing traditional African instruments and two performers), uni-cyclists from Circo Blurto
Blue Mountains City Town Crier;
Music of Joy (the 20-piece World music group)
Mountain Brass (Australia's only Tuba Quartet) and a great deal more.

Sunday 24 June

On the day after the Festival we have recovery day featuring an afternoon of performance in cafes, restaurants and hotels with a strong program of music spiced with magic.

Hypothetical - “Advance Australia Where?”

A hypothetical will also be held at nearby Wentworth Falls School of Arts with Father Frank Brennan, Dorothy McCrae McMahon, Richard Neville, Bob Debus, Kerry Nettle and many more.

Festival Venues

1. Carrington Place (outdoor) – general performance and music
2. Katoomba Railway Goods Yard (outdoor) – general music and performance
3. Carrington Ballroom (indoor) – mostly dance
4. Carrington Nightclub (indoor) – music
5. Carrington Library (indoor) – magicians
6. Katoomba Civic Centre (indoor) – mostly performance and children's
7. Seniors' Centre (indoor) – Body Mind and Soul
8. Nepean College Building (indoor) – Body, Mind and Soul
9. St Hilda's Church (indoor) – music
10. St Hilda's Church Hall (indoor) Sienctricks and children's
11. Uniting Church meeting room (indoor) – poetry and drumming workshop
12. YHA – Snakes and performance.

How is Winter Magic Put Together?

Despite the fact that this is the Blue Mountains highest profile and largest annual event the Festival is organised by local residents, not local business and not Council. While this presents some challenges, it is also central to the Festival's identity and is why the Festival is able to inspire local participation.

Where You Can Find Out More

A good place to go is the Winter Magic website at www.wintermagic.com.au/news/general/media.html

You could also contact:

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