

# NOOSA LIFE

FOOD | ENTERTAINMENT | MUSIC | THEATRE | EVENTS | SEVEN-DAY TV GUIDE



## Festival was 'best ever'

WHEN the Noosa Long Weekend Festival changed its name to Noosa alive!, it promised 10 magical days and nights of music, theatre, food and fun and, by every measure, the event truly delivered.

The stage was set when 10,000 people flocked to The Lion's Park on Noosa River for an afternoon of free family fun, followed by a spectacular fireworks display, courtesy of Hot91.1 hosted by radio supremo Sam Coward and team.

Then, for the next eight days and nights, Noosa was served up a daily treat of truly special entertainment.

The festival wrapped up with a fabulous four-day party on Noosa Main Beach, at the Rococo Beach Club Marquee, perfect atmosphere, entertainment, food and sublime weather – all overlooking the magic of

### Noosa comes alive during 10 days of fun festival with a new name

Laguna Bay.

It was certainly an ambitious program, with more than 250 artists and 130 events, full of wonderful moments.

Who could forget our local children's choir, on stage with the stars of Opera Australia, in a magical performance of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*.

Or our effervescent festival ambassador, the hugely talented Naomi Price, who brought her new show *Lady Beatle*.

Rarely have the Beatles songs been given such a stunning workout.

Audiences were treated to more than a couple of impromptu appearances by this extraordinary young star whose energy, talent and enthusiasm for Noosa

and the festival captured our hearts.

A number of the events were being presented to Queensland audiences for the first time. In fact, there were six premieres in all, including Luke Kennedy's stirring opening night show at The J, appropriately titled *His Voice*.

Then there was *Hold The Pickle*, a moving tribute from comedian Rachel Berger, set in her family's Melbourne deli.

Matthew Mitcham proved he was just as comfortable on the cabaret stage as he was on the Olympic diving board, in a double bill that was another Noosa alive! first.

And for many, a musical highlight was the iconic Lior, singing a selection of his

own beautifully crafted songs, backed by a superb chamber orchestra.

The Queensland Ballet performed a stunning program and featured a new work by one of Australia's leading choreographers, Amy Hollingsworth.

A special treat was a backing track sung by Queensland heroine, Katie Noonan.

The food events as always were a sellout, with the Ogilvie Group once again serving up superb food and great entertainment at its iconic Noosa restaurants Rickys, Woodfire Grill and Locale, where the late-night supper club Locale after dark was a huge hit.

Committed to community, Noosa alive! was proud this year to present 18 free

events for families.

Plus, with a number of shows fully sold out and the largest box office sales ever, Noosa alive! proved itself to be an important asset to the Noosa business community.

Hotels and restaurants were full as tourists mixed with locals to enjoy the Noosa alive! experience.

Noosa alive! president Johanne Wright has confirmed that next year's festival will take place from July 20-29 and festival director Ian Mackellar and the team are already hard at work to ensure the finest artists from Australia and abroad are here to entertain.

"One thing that the festival proved yet again is that there is no better place in Australia to party and enjoy great food and

#### DETAILS

**WHAT:** Noosa alive!  
**WHEN:** July 20-29, 2018  
**WHERE:** Various venues around Noosa, Noosaville, the Hinterland and on the beach

**FUN TIMES:** Salsa by the Sea during Noosa alive! was a blaze of colour and fun.

PHOTO: PAUL SMITH

entertainment," Ian said.

Individuals, businesses, organisations, artists and performers wishing to be involved should email [info@noosalongweekend.com](mailto:info@noosalongweekend.com) or phone 5474 2544.