

# Wadzy's Woodford

By Wayne Wadsworth

## Tribute to Jacko

This was my fourth or fifth time at the Woodford Folk Festival. Woodford for me has become a bit of a pilgrimage, where I charge my batteries for the coming year.

This year was no exception. Being poorer than usual I volunteered as a bar cashier and got a plum job in the Guinness bar, serving the good folk that frequented often and long (which also meant I got a free ticket and a hearty pint of Guinness at the end of my shifts).

The Guinness bar was where Jacko spent many an hour sharing his musical talents with fellow travellers. Jacko passed on last year but his passion and talent lives on at the Guinness bar. There was also a special event for Jacko and a Bunya Pine planted on site in his honour.

## Global Warming

There were a few bloody hot days at the Festival and many folk including myself were having a tough time of it! It was so hot we were selling more soft drinks and water than Guinness – now that's bloody hot!

## Woodford Evolution

Woodford had a very humble beginning in the rolling green hills of Maleny in 1987. Back in those days it was a very humble affair with a bunch of well meaning folkies organising the event.

These days it is a multi-million dollar affair with a very wide range of people involved in managing the festival. The organisation ranges in skills from old-time hippies to event managers responsible for the overall



**Points of view.** Woodford Folk Festival is also a musical and entertainment extravaganza. Pictured: On the streets (above); the Guinness bar (below left); kids' activities (below); final night fire event (bottom).

Pictures: Ben Snoeks and Dave Christmas.

smooth running of many hundreds of acts and shows.

Fortunately Woodford has managed to hold on to its core values of sharing and caring for people and the environment. However some volunteers were disappointed with the unequal distribution of food vouchers for the pre-festival volunteer workers and I suspect the organisation will need to re-evaluate their treatment of



pre-festival workers. Let's hope next year's festival will deal fairly with this hiccup.

## Woodford Environment

There has been a lot of landscaping work done in 2005 and the place looks great. New dams and ponds

have been very well designed and blend into the Woodford scene very nicely. It was a real pleasure watching the Aboriginal acts in front of one of the new ponds. Trees planted over the years are now growing fast and lots of new shady spots are springing up, particularly in the camping areas.

We managed to find an area with full shade all day long, a blessing when the sun

is beating down on you. I, and a lot of other people, felt Woodford needed to plant a lot of food bearing trees instead of just natives.

This would help develop Woodford as not only a festival site but also as an ecology site where food is produced for human consumption.

The water supply ran out on the last day of the festival which is hardly a surprise given the heat and the number of people (140,000+) visiting the festival. Sewage is also a huge problem and a major cost of the event.

I would guess that the next

big expense for the festival will be a sewage treatment plant, which will be a great asset for the place as the water can be treated on site and used to irrigate trees.

In true Nimbin fashion we stuck up posters for the Nimbin Mardigrass. Unfortunately they did not stay up long and I suspect they were taken down by Woodford officials.

We did however get a prize photo shot of two police officers holding this year's Mardi Grass Poster. I am sure Jacko would have a good chuckle on that one. (See p.2)

## Multiculturalism

Woodford is a testament to humans' ability to work and share our environment. It always amazes me that so many people of different race, religion and political beliefs can spend a week together free of violence or stress.

Woodford is a melting pot of scintillating ideas and passions. So thanks to the Woody folk for another great festival and for a much needed battery recharge.

**Viva Woodford!**



# Steamy days and nights of Jazz in Lismore

The 60<sup>th</sup> Australian Jazz Convention, held in Lismore from Boxing Day to New Year's Day, was billed as "New Orleans in Lismore," but despite such ominous portents, it turned out to be a great week of formal and informal band performances and pub 'blows' - a carnival of great jazz listening.

For six days and nights, jazz aficionados (some say tragics) met, exchanged ideas and views, made a few friends and renewed acquaintances – and enjoyed a few cool drinks together.

There were 230 musos, 500 delegates and about 300 day visitors, and local businesses seemed to do well, with motel accommodation being sought as far away as Casino.

Daily programs began with a 7am Jazz Breakfast in Carrington Street, then ran from 10am to 12 midnight in

was City Bowling Club, which is Lismore Jazz Club's home. There were fans and a breeze only, but it was friendly and raging," he said.

On Thursday 29th, a traditional New Orleans street parade strutted down Molesworth Street – big bold brass, ringing banjos, swinging saxes, drums and cymbals and colourful umbrellas. To the strains of "We Shall March Through the Streets of the City," "When the Saints go Marching IN," and "Just a Closer Walk With Thee" the event loudly proclaimed, "G'day everyone – the Jazz Convention's in town!"

The public concert on Thursday night at the Workers Club was close to standing room only, and featured a selection of jazz styles, performers and line-ups to represent a sort of 'history of jazz' concert.

It definitely was standing



**Jazz tragics on parade.** The bloke in the chequered dacks is Michael Bird, promotions officer for Lismore Jazz Club.

eight different CBD locations.

There were performances by a different act each hour at the Workers Club (three rooms), City Hall (two rooms), Lismore City Bowling Club, the Richmond Tavern, Winsome and Tattersalls Hotels. There were also blackboard venues for jamming at the Canberra and Gollan Hotels and at participating cafes – the Left Bank, Luv a Coffee and Fire in the Belly - as well as live acoustic jazz outdoors in Magellan Mall and Spinks Park.

Michael Bird, promotions officer for Lismore Jazz Club, said, "The hot weather kept punters in the air-conditioned venues, although most venues were OK. The Workers Club worked well as a lot of people could catch a session or two, and eat at the bistro.

"The best venue for mine

room only on Friday morning at the Gospel Church Service, held in the Uniting Church, corner Keen & Woodlark Streets.

The New Years Eve party was attended by about 450 people and was a roaring success. It finished with a mass band (similar to Street Parade) marching off the stage, around the City Hall and outside to the lawn area and back again.

The crowd went wild.

The organising committee is reported to be tired but satisfied.

*The Australian Jazz Convention was first held in Melbourne in 1946 and has been held every year since, in every state in Australia. It is the longest running jazz event of its type in the world. Next year's Jazz Convention will be held in Adelaide.*



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