

Factsheet

Queensland prepares for an eventful 2008

The world's top golfers, footballers and triathletes battle it out in international competitions, history comes alive and delicious food and wine tempt in this selection of Queensland events planned for 2008.

December 2007

Woodford Folk Festival - Woodford, north of Brisbane, December 27 2007 - January 1 2008 - More than 2000 performers and 400 events including concerts, dances, workshops, street theatre, comedy sessions, an entire children's festival, art and craft workshops and special events including a spectacular fire event.
www.woodfordfolkfestival.com

The Mondial Australian Women's Hardcourts, Gold Coast, December 30 2007 - January 5 2008 - This tournament on the Sony Ericsson World Tennis Association Tour is an integral part of the Australian Open Series. www.australianwomenshardcourts.com.au.

January 2008

National Rodeos Final, Gold Coast, January 9-13. More than 30,000 visitors will attend this event which includes a full rodeo program, Cowboy Consumer Show, Ute Show and live music featuring premier country music artists including Troy Casser-Daley, Tania Kernaghan and Adam Brand. www.nfrgoldcoast.com.au

Ginger Flower Festival, Sunshine Coast, January 24-17. Internationally acclaimed chef Philip Johnson is one of a star-studded lineup of gourmards and celebrated gardeners at the 11th Ginger Flower Festival at The Ginger Factory at Yandina. All festival activities are free of charge and a full program of events is available at www.gingerfactory.com.au.

Australian Cockroach Races, Story Bridge Hotel, Brisbane, January 26
These internationally-famous races are held every year. After the battle of pests ends, music, food and festivities flow freely. www.cockroachraces.com.au

Goldfield Ashes, Charters Towers, 26-28 January. The largest three-day cricket festival in the southern hemisphere is staged every year on the Australia Day weekend. More than 190 teams will travel from around Queensland to strike it rich on the cricket pitch.
www.queenslandevents.com.au

February

2008 ANZ Ladies Masters, Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast, 7-10 February. One of the richest female golf events in the southern hemisphere and co-sanctioned by the Australian Ladies Professional Golf and the Ladies European Tour. The ANZ Ladies Masters consistently presents the best line-up of the 'Top 50' female golfers in the world and is one of the world's top rating televised women's golf events. The event has been won by some of the greatest names in international golf such as Annika Sorenstam (SWE), Laura Davies (ENG) and Karrie Webb (AUS). www.tagolf.com.au/anz

March

Noosa Festival of Surfing, Sunshine Coast, 3-9 March. This fun event attracts the cream of the world's longboarding fraternity, as well as some of the biggest names in contemporary pro surfing and the sport's most revered legends. www.usmevents.com.au

Apple and Grape Festival, South East Queensland Country, 7-9 March. In it's 42nd year, the popular biennial Harvest Festival celebrates and promotes the harvest and lifestyle of the Granite Belt. www.appleandgrape.org

60th Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race - March 21. Yachts racing in Queensland's most famous blue water event set sail in the waters off Shorncliffe on Good Friday.

www.qcyc.com.au **Festival of Sails, Redcliffe, March 21** - Celebrates the start of the Yacht Race with activities and entertainment running from 9am to 4pm. www.redcliffe.qld.gov.au

Mooloolaba Triathlon, Sunshine Coast, 28-30 March. The Mooloolaba Triathlon Festival is an action packed three-day multi-sport festival featuring world class athletes and entertainment. www.usmevents.com.au

2008 Conrad Jupiter's Magic Millions Carnival, Gold Coast, 24 March - 3 April. A spectacular 10 days of horse racing, parties, dinners and yearling sales kicking off with the Magic Millions Race Day. www.magicmillions.com.au

April

2008 Suncorp North Queensland Games, Townsville, 10-14 April. The largest regional multi-sport event in Australian and featuring competition in 40 different sports. www.nqsports.com.au

2008 Dirt & Dust Festival, Outback, 4-6 April. Each year the Outback town of Julia Creek casts aside the quiet life to host this festival which includes the famous Dirt and Dust triathlon, the Artesian Express - the richest horse race in North West Queensland - and the PBR Touring Pro Bull Riding Series. www.dirtndust.com

May

The Richmond Fossil Festival, Outback, 1-4 May. The feature event of this Outback event held every second year in the town of Hughenden is the World Champion Moonrock Throwing Competition. Other events include the Loader Pull, Mardi Gras and Friday Night Rodeo. www.richmond.qld.gov.au

Blackall Heartland Festival (including the Blackall Woolscour Centenary Celebrations, Outback, 24-25 May. Celebrating all things to do with Wool, Water and Wood. The historical wool washing plant was once the lifeblood of the town and is now believed to be the only complete operation of its kind in Australia with the original steam machinery still in place. www.blackall.qld.gov.au

Reef and Rainforest Carnivale, Tropical North Queensland, 23 May - 1 June. Port Douglas, Mossman, Daintree and Cape Tribulation townships come alive for Carnivale to celebrate life in the tropics, its culture, art & cuisine. www.carnivale.com.au

July

Australian Festival of Chamber Music, Townsville, July 4-12 – This will be the 18th time this international festival has been staged in Townsville. www.afcm.com.au

2008 Bundaberg Rum Rugby Series - Qantas Wallabies v France, Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane, July 5. The Bundaberg Rum Rugby Series is the premier rugby competition played in Australia each year between the Qantas Wallabies and some of the world's leading international teams. www.rugby.com.au

Noosa Longweekend, Sunshine Coast, 4-13 July – A popular annual festival of arts, culture, food and fashion. www.noosalongweekend.com

Gold Coast Airport Marathon, 6 July - More than 16,000 people from around the world are set to 'Embrace The Next Step' and participate in the 30th annual Gold Coast Airport Marathon. www.goldcoastmarathon.com.au

August

Mount Isa Rodeo, Outback, 8-10 August. The biggest event on the Australian Rodeo calendar with prize money in excess of \$200,000.00. Events include Bronc and Bull Riding, Steer Wrestling, Barrel Racing and the Buck Jump. www.isarodeo.com.au

Great Hughenden Camel Endurance Challenge, 22-23 August - This tiny outback town will host a 160km camel endurance race, a major part of the inaugural 'Arid Lands Festival', August 22-24, showcasing the Australian Outback. www.aridlandsaustralia.org

Riverfestival, Brisbane, 29 August - 7 September. *Riverfestival* is Brisbane's major annual community and environmental festival celebrating the city's waterways and culture by focusing on the city's signature natural landmark, the Brisbane River. www.riverfestival.com.au