

MEDIA RELEASE

City of Wagga Wagga



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Wagga Wagga Jazz and Blues Festival features a cabaret twist

Looking for a jazz and blues fix but New Orleans is out of reach? The 15th Wagga Wagga Jazz and Blues Festival will bring the colour and excitement of Bourbon Street to the Riverina on 11-13 September – and you're invited to the party!

The 2009 line-up features 60 acts, including The Syncopators (Melbourne), Geoff Bull's Olympia Jazz Band (Sydney) and Finn (Sydney). On the blues bill The Buddy Knox Blues Band will be back by popular demand, along with the Chris Mawer Band.

President of the Wagga Wagga Jazz Festival Committee Mike McCall said the three-day program will showcase traditional to contemporary acts. For the first time, music enthusiasts can look forward to a cabaret flavour with The Wizard & Oz.

"We're always looking for ways to broaden the festival's musical interest and build on what has developed into one of the premier jazz and blues events in Australia," Mr McCall said. "The festival is all about participation – for performers and visitors alike."

Known as the festival with the friendly atmosphere, Mr McCall encouraged festival-goers to get into the spirit by wearing clothes to reflect this year's colour theme – pink, green and black – to create a celebratory mood across the six venues, and the region.

"The event marks the start of spring making it the perfect time of year for city dwellers to escape the rigours of the fast lane and experience Wagga Wagga's country hospitality at its brilliant best," he said. "If you've never been to the Riverina, here's your opportunity."

Mr McCall said the festival website www.waggajazz.org.au is your one-stop shop for purchasing weekend or session passes

"We've streamlined the process so out-of-towners can travel to the festival safe in the knowledge that they've secured their tickets," he said. "Of course there is still the option of buying tickets in person at the Festival Office at the Visitor Information Centre."

The festival runs from 11-13 September. Find out more by phoning the Visitor Information Centre on 1300-100-122 or visit: www.visitwagga.com.au.

Interviews/photographs

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