

Amaroo Downunder

June 2007

Preparing for...

'Amaroo 2007'



There has been a substantial amount of activity and hubbub happening at Amaroo lately as a massive 4,500 cubic meters of earth is excavated from the top/rear of the amphitheatre to make way for the construction of a bathroom block and foyer area where water and snacks will be made available during events.



The excavated soil is being relocated across the road, to provide a turning circle for buses bringing guests to and from the amphitheatre.



Additionally, renovations to the amphitheatre stage are now complete.

Event preparations are well underway and there's already been an overwhelming response to registration opening this year with approximately 50% of accommodation options already sold (except for motor-home sites which were fully booked within the first few hours). So get onto www.amaroo.org for all event information and to **MAKE YOUR BOOKING**.

Community Day @ IRCC

Elder of the local YUGGERAH tribe Uncle Des Sandy set the tone for the 2007 **'Sunday in the Country'** with his traditional Aboriginal welcome. "We're all going to learn something here today... we're here to enjoy ourselves, to enjoy each other's company and embrace each other," he said as more than 1400 people gathered for the annual Ivory's Rock Conference Centre event on June 17.

Ipswich Mayor Paul Pisasale added to the theme: "We're fundraising, we're sharing experiences and we're coming together as a community in this wonderful place we call Ipswich."

Under clear, sunny skies people visited the many craft and produce stalls or enjoyed a glass of wine from handpicked grapes at the Normanby Wines stand, or simply relaxed under the big dome in the Pavilion and grooved to the sounds of popular local recording artist Neil Duddy.



There were also bush walks to Ivory's Rock, horse and buggy tours of the property (courtesy of Colo Colonial Carriages and their two hardworking steeds Bobby and Jack). The kids could get their faces painted and hang out with farmyard animals at Old Macdonald's Travelling Farms.



Guests marvelled at the skills of Michelle Dennis's 10 horses and a donkey in her intriguing horsemanship show and got up close and personal with some fearsome looking snakes and a crocodile at Geckoes Wildlife Presentations.



There were plenty of reminders of the amazing

diversity of the district – from Ipswich Spinners and Weavers, the Ipswich Woodcrafts Club and the Society for Creative Anachronism reminding people of ancient crafts and traditions, to a martial arts demonstration and the great work with native animals by volunteers of the Australian Rescue and Rehabilitation of Wildlife Association, Ipswich Koala Society and Orphaned Native Animals Rear and Release.



Continued...

Continued...

'Sunday in the Country'



The ONARR stand offered a timely reminder on how hard the drought has bitten in the bush. "There's no food out there – they (the wildlife) are coming in starving," said Beverley Clarke of Barellan Point, as she nursed a tiny squirrel glider she has to feed every four hours. When you mention it's a big commitment, she says simply: "That's life. To pull them through then to see

them in the wild is just magnificent." She said her work was often rewarded by released animals returning for a visit, bringing their young with them.

David and Manuel were looking after the **'Words of Peace'** stand, and reported its first appearance at 'Sunday in the Country' was very successful. Many people who approached the stand had watched Maharaji on Channel 31, where Maharaji's addresses are screened locally at 1.30pm weekdays, while others were simply curious.



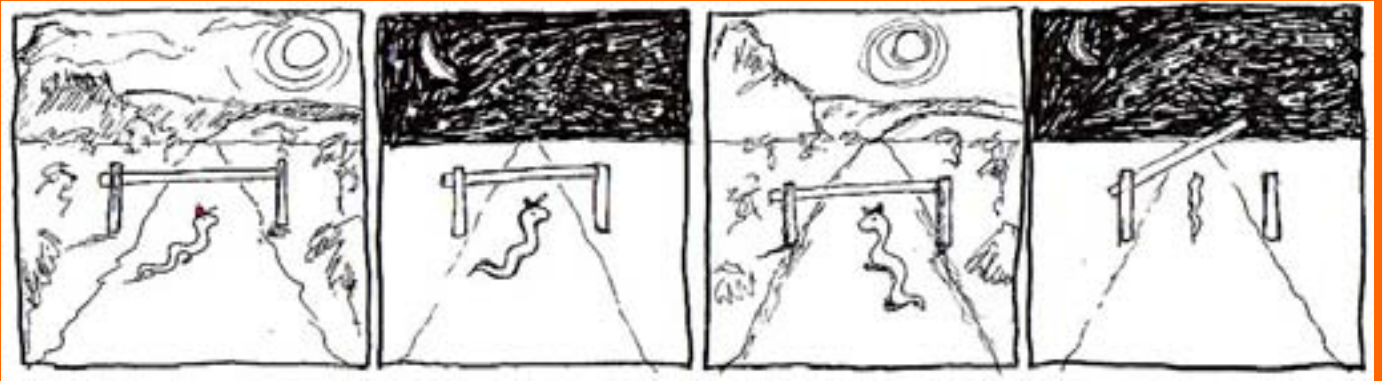
Much of the catering was courtesy of the Peak Crossing State School Parents and Citizens Association, Harrisville Lions and the Flinders Peak Rural Fire Brigade - with proceeds going towards their fundraising campaigns.

IRCC management, event organisers and promoters were delighted with the response to this year's event.



The day gives back to the community, helps other organisations in the area and provides folk with the opportunity to see the conference centres very impressive facilities. Interest is certainly growing... with 500 guests turning out for the first community day back in 2002.

'BOOM GATE BLUES' As Amaroo gets ready for September; Sven recalls his efforts from last year to remain cool, calm and composed...



Check this out!

Talk about an auspicious beckoning in, a mind-blowing analogy... as another remarkable, one-off, leading light visits our shores...

'Migaloo', meaning "white fella" in Aboriginal, is the rare white whale currently swimming with record numbers of humpback whales on their annual migration up Australia's east coast. Migaloo is believed to be the only pure-white humpback whale in the world.



The latest sighting comes as the annual northern migration of the east coast humpbacks hits full swing, with up to 100 whales each day swimming past Point Lookout on North Stradbroke Island (just off Brisbane's coast).

Sightings of the elusive 14m long, 35 ton Migaloo have been so rare that there was once scientific debate about whether he really existed... however, he's now become a phenomenon in the global whale-watching industry.

Migaloo was recently spotted off Heron Island, on Queensland's central coast, by staff on a resort boat. One of the lucky few on board described the close encounter as a one-in-a-million chance. "We saw a pod of dolphins – so the skipper slowed down and turned the motor off and Migaloo just popped up." The white whale surfaced just meters from the boat and then swam underneath the vessel as the crew looked on in amazement. "Unbelievable - it just felt like we were on drugs all day after that," said one of the crew.



The local whale population is recovering after years of over-exploitation and it's believed that this population of whales is the fastest growing in the world. There are now approximately 10,000 whales using the east coast migration route from Antarctica as far north as Torres Strait.

Adding 2 AD

AD, thanks for the newsletter. It's the best thing since sliced bread. Please keep up the good work. Michael (S.E.QLD, Australia)

Enjoyed this new approach. Please subscribe me. Hope to have the privilege to attend Amaroo 2007. Regards, Glen (UK)

LOVED the rain dance story!!
XX Eveline (Australia)

Can you please put me on your e-mail list? I just discovered (on your website) that you have really nice new colourful newsletters. I'm surprised that so much is happening at Amaroo downunder in your winter. It sounds really good and it feels good that there are many people taking so much care and have such good initiatives for what I consider "My Amaroo"... warmest regards, Elly (Netherlands)

Please, I wish to subscribe to AD. Thank you for this new wonderful option to be even more informed about this beautiful place that we all love. It is wonderful to know that every event is bringing to our hearts something wonderful. All the best from, Vlasta (Ljubljana)

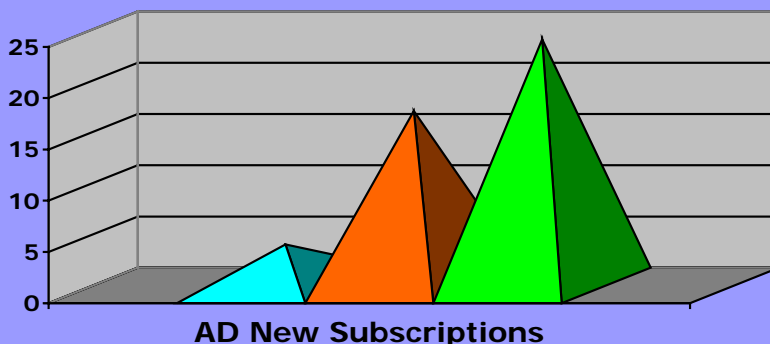
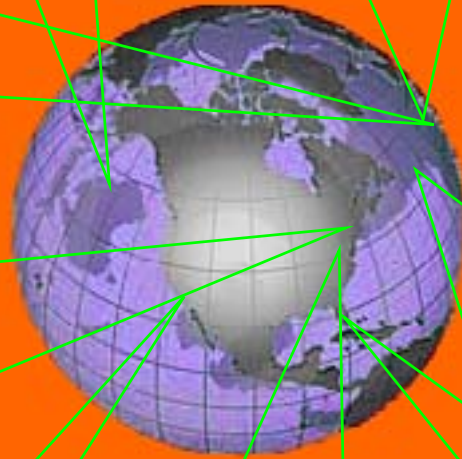
Howdy... us 'yanks' love AD and thanks for the joy. We want to join the \$5 a week club and we miss it there at Amaroo so much! See ya real soon. Love and Kisses, Paddy and Phil (New York, USA)

SUBSCRIBE me to AD! Oh thank you, thank you so much! Deedee (Florida, USA)

G'Day, I would like to receive AD. Thank you. See you all soon! Carol (California, USA)

Greetings, I've received a copy of the Amaroo newsletter, and want to make sure that I continue to be on the list for future issues. Thanks, Carolyn (Baltimore, USA)

I really like the new AD... it's wild like the Australian bush! Jill



April

May

June

AD would like to apologise to readers who have subscribed to the newsletter, but may not have received AD by email.

Amaroo has recently struck a few glitches with the email list, but these problems have now been corrected.

If you have subscribed to Ad, but did not receive this edition by email, please let us know at:

ad@amaroo.org



Amaroo \$5 A Week Club

Let's get this place rockin'!

If you haven't joined yet, now's your chance.

The form with all the info you need to join is on page 7 of this newsletter.

You have been mailed 'Amaroo-Downunder' (AD) because you have attended and/or registered to attend an international event at Amaroo.

If you do not wish to receive further editions of AD or need to advise us of a change of email address, please send "unsubscribe" or your new address by return email.

If you would like to **subscribe** to AD, please send your email address, your full name and mail address (and smart card number if possible) to:

ad@amaroo.org

Add 2 AD

Got any feedback, questions, articles, artwork or photography relating to Amaroo you would like to submit for potential inclusion in AD? Then please write to the editor at:

ad@amaroo.org

This version of AD is primarily for web-based viewing. A print friendlier version is available from the recently updated [Amaroo website](#) (a means for people from around the world to feel a part of Amaroo year-round in 'real time'). Check out the new slideshows and video clip on the 'What's Happening' page.

AMAROO \$5 A WEEK CLUB

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