

ORDINARY MEETING	21
21 DECEMBER 2023	

CAIRNS FESTIVAL 2023 WRAP-UP

79/5/7-01 | #7255096

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes this report.

INTERESTED PARTIES:

Nil

Note: The identification of interested parties is provided on a best endeavours basis by Council Officers and may not be exhaustive.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The 2023 Cairns Festival once again showcased a diverse and successful array of events with the highest ever audience attendance of approx. 140,000, including 210 performances featuring 776 performers and artists, with an estimated 77% participation from local artists.

The Cairns Festival programming team maintains a strong focus on creating a curated program whilst building partnerships with major and emerging local talent, state performing arts organisations and touring companies. This year's festival also provided outstanding opportunities for local artists and performers.

The 2023 program featured music, physical theatre, comedy, roving performances, puppetry, high end projection and laser work, dance, film, cabaret, multimedia installations and visual arts, activating venues in the city and throughout the region. The programming team committed to the festival vision of delivering a vibrant, progressive and collaborative arts and cultural festival that reflects the region's unique stories and celebrates the distinctive colours and hues of our tropical lifestyle. Furthermore, to ensure Cairns Festival is accessible to audiences across the region there was a continued focus on programming free events. In 2023, 91% of the 210 performances were free to public.

BACKGROUND:

Annually the Cairns Festival seeks to provide a platform for local talent to shine, with close to 600 local artists, performers and creatives featured in this year's program. The 2023 festival also saw the continuation of partnerships with AGB Events for the City Library projection and Laservision for the Esplanade light installation. The collaboration with Laservision and the festival team continued to develop, with this year's focus on including more local content by featuring artworks from 12 First Nations artists displayed on the Esplanade boulevard and a stand-alone projection story for the lagoon laser show. It also saw the inclusion of the World Heritage-listed Wet Tropics rainforest, providing an installation connecting both the reef and rainforest.

Program Highlights

Reef Lights: Where the Rainforest Meets the Reef – Estimated attendance 25,100

After a resounding success in 2022, Reef Lights returned to the Cairns Esplanade for its second year. This year's installation focused on where the rainforest meets the reef, combining two World Heritage-listed icons, the Great Barrier Reef, and the Wet Tropics rainforest. Reef Lights celebrated the interconnection of these two magical worlds nightly as part of Cairns Festival. Under the creative direction and expertise of internationally renowned light artists Laservision, guests were immersed in an impressive light journey that harnesses the remnants of these ancient lands and washed the Cairns Esplanade with a kaleidoscope of colour. Reef Lights was an extraordinary journey for all guests, incorporating innovative technologies, vibrant colours, captivating lasers, digital artworks, and enchanting soundscapes, while making a dramatic statement about Cairns, its unique culture and its strong connection to two of Australia's most incredible natural wonders. The project presented the work of 12 First Nations artists from our region. The highlight being the Lagoon projection show featuring collaboration and local First Nation storytelling, artwork and music by Hendrik Fourmile, Susan Reys and Shaun Creek, telling the story of how the Cassowary, known as Gindaja, lost its ability to fly and became the land roaming bird we know today.

Introducing... – Estimated attendance 1,000

Introducing... was an emerging local artist showcase on the Main Stage at the Esplanade on the first Sunday of the festival. This event has garnered immense popularity and featured a range of up-and-coming artists who had participated in capacity-building and developmental workshops through Creative Life's *Flame* program. The workshops helped participants to refine their stagecraft skills and prepare their performances for the festival.

City Lights - Rowland Nancarrow's *Unveiling Nature* – Estimated attendance 14,000

This year's large-scale projection on the City Library stepped into a world where vibrant hues and delicate brushstrokes came to life in an exquisite fusion of art and technology. Spectators embarked on a mesmerising journey through the transformational power of animated projection artwork, where the botanical wonders of Cairns-based and internationally renowned artist, Roland Nancarrow's, tropical flower watercolours transcended the boundaries of the traditional canvas.

Flamingos by Dead Puppet Society – Estimated attendance 3,000 (across 3 days)

Flamingos was a roving puppet performance co-commissioned by Cairns Festival and visual theatre masterminds Dead Puppet Society. The flappy-footed flamboyant flock explored their peculiar new environments at the Esplanade, dining precinct, Court House Gallery, Tanks Arts Centre and Cairns Performing Arts Centre (CPAC), charming passers-by with equal parts absurdity, silliness and sincerity. With their bodies bobbing and feathers flapping to funky disco beats, these unexpected roving visitors were the undisputed life of the party.

Gulgi-barra by Miriki Performing Arts - Estimated attendance 5,200 (across 4 days)

Gulgi-barra (meaning Sand People) was a new and locally produced dance work that paid homage to the ancient Gulgi-barra clan of the Yidindji tribe of Far North Queensland. Uncle David Mundraby, a living descendant of the Gulgi-barra clan shared sand stories to a backdrop of exquisite choreography and a choral soundscape, which encapsulated how sand plays an important role in our customs. This work engaged an ensemble of 38 First Nations performers and employed 9 First Nations arts workers.

String Symphony by Spare Parts Puppet Theatre – Estimated attendance 17,500 (across 4 days)

Created by Australia's renowned puppetry company, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, with designer and puppet maker Leon Hendroff, *String Symphony* was a large-scale, interactive performance installation that used puppetry to explore connection, community and collaboration. *String Symphony* was the story of Leor's awakening and discovery of both himself and his connection to others. Hand-woven using more than one kilometre of rope, the giant marionette was suspended within a five-metre truss. Illuminated from the inside by 600 LED lights, Leor was brought to life by 600 community members (across the 4 days) when each took a string and worked together to move and manipulate the puppet. This work employed four local arts workers to support its activation and delivery.

Grand Parade and Fireworks – Estimated attendance 6,000 (Fireworks)

Due to inclement (and highly unpredictable) weather, the difficult decision was made to cancel this year's Grand Parade. Valuable preparation time was lost due to rain prior to the parade, making it near impossible for the 62 registered floats to prepare and take part safely. Throughout what was a very unpredictable day, the Main Stage featured some of the best artists from the region - headlined by Elektrik Lemonade, playing to a heaving mass on the Western Event Lawn. Reef Lights, String Symphony and the Aerobatic Aircraft Display all went ahead wowing spectators, along with Dead Puppet Society's roving flamingo puppets that flapped their way along the Esplanade and dining precinct. The community showed their festival spirit with an enthusiastic crowd showing up to experience the night sky explode at the spectacular fireworks display.

Bite Club by Briefs Factory – Attendance 550 (across 2 shows)

A crowd favourite with two sell-out shows, *Bite Club* featuring Brisbane's award-winning cult-cabaret mischief-makers, circus stars and heart-stopping hooligans Briefs Factory, who joined forces with much celebrated and sainted songbird Sahara Beck. In an event sautéed in a hedonistic haze, guests were treated to a shotgun wedding and table settings of music, circus, drag, burlesque, theatre and comedy. Described as one of Australia's most arresting performers, Sahara Beck's soaring vocals blasted female pride power into a ferociously fierce display of talent. The slick tomfoolery and heart-stopping hooliganism bathed in suave synth, heady hooks and swelling strings, all set to a glorious pop pulse.

Hot & Heavy by The Ironing Maidens – Attendance 200 (across 2 shows)

A locally developed work by creative geniuses, The Ironing Maidens. Audiences were immersed in a unique interactive experience that was part installation, part performance, and part banging dance party. A speculative fabulation, a non-binary, de-capitalised, de-colonised, de-extinction future imagining. *Hot & Heavy* by The Ironing Maidens was an aural, visual and sensory experience that invited everyone to lose their friends, go deep and shake free. *Hot & Heavy* electrified Cairns with its world premiere show - one of their most ambitious performance work to date.

The Jungle Giants – Attendance 1,400

With well over half a billion streams worldwide, a #1 ARIA-charting album and selling out tour dates from hemisphere to hemisphere, The Jungle Giants delivered an explosive performance fuelled by their signature buoyant melodies and infectious choruses that had the crowd bopping and singing along for what was a truly memorable night.

Suburban Satellite - *Light Moves* by Bonemap – Attendance 3,000

Light Moves continues to be a Festival crowd favourite. It's a world of performance, colour and projection art reflected in the calm waters of Lake Placid on a broad stretch of the Barron River. The lake is a Djabugay story water place. The narrative of this place was told through an animation of creation motifs, specific to the location represented through artwork by Yirrganydji/Djabugay artist Bernard Lee Singleton Jr. This and other animated artworks were projected across the water onto the rainforest gorge. Featuring a series of episodes moving between shimmering Indigenous art adapted for animation and projection, roving light performers, integrated new media art installations, live musicians and Indigenous dancers.

Festival HQ Stage at Court House Gallery – Estimated attendance 2,000 (across 9 nights)

Festival HQ Stage launched with a spectacular Welcome to Country and Healing Ceremony, putting First Nation dance, music and storytelling front and centre. The Court House Gallery was the official hub for live music each night of the festival, presenting the talents of more than 30 local bands and artists showcasing a diverse range of musical genres and acts. A pop-up bar operated throughout the festival and the Court House Gallery opened each day from 10am to 9pm.

Bolster & Lee: The Knock 'Em Downs – Estimated attendance 2,750 (across 8 days)

The Knock 'Em Downs was a comically interactive and visually engaging trip back in time to the side shows of old. Audiences stepped inside a colourful circus tent and experienced the crazy world of fun and games, where nostalgia took a curious twist and the carnies turned into clowns!

Roald Dahl's *The Twits* – Attendance 1,800 (across 2 shows)

Roald Dahl's gruesome twosome *The Twits*, delighted and disgusted, with sold out shows at CPAC.

Carnival on Collins – Attendance 27,000

Families from around the region again attended this annual Father's Day celebration which featured over 180 market stalls, a fantastic local line up of music, plus dance and roving entertainment from Cairns and the Cape.

COMMENT:

An economic impact assessment was conducted through the engagement of contractor, IER, for Cairns Festival 2023. The evaluation of the Cairns Festival was conducted to determine the economic and tourism impacts and benefits of the event to the Cairns and Queensland economies. The evaluation was conducted using the economic assessment models to estimate the overnight visitor expenditure as well as the direct and incremental spending attributable to the event. Staff and volunteers cold canvassed attendees at profile festival events capturing their contact details, a post event survey link was then sent to them, as well as ticket buyers who had opted in to receive third party material. In total, 487 surveys were completed with key results as follows:

- Cairns Festival generated direct and incremental expenditure of \$1,991,848 attributable to the Cairns economy and \$1,222,550 attributable to the Queensland economy.
- Cairns Festival was responsible for generating 10,855 visitor nights to Cairns. The majority of these nights were generated by interstate visitors (6,047).

- In total, \$1,869,958 was spent by overnight visitors who stayed more than 40km from their normal place of residence. The majority of this spending was undertaken by interstate visitors (\$961,115).
- When assessing 'community pride', Cairns Festival scores well on the majority of indicators. The highest level of agreement was recorded for the statements '*Cairns Festival helps to enhance community spirit, pride and enjoyment*', '*It helps make the Cairns region a more enjoyable place to live*' and '*It is well-liked and positively embraced by the people of Cairns*' (4.5/5).

Cairns Festival's success each year is dependent upon ongoing engagement from the Cairns community. From people participating in activities, to volunteering and attending as audiences, the unique energy and feel of our distinctly 'Cairns' festival comes from this. As such, the team would like to thank the community for another safe and successful Cairns Festival.

The Creative Life team would also like to extend thanks across Cairns Regional Council. Each year the programming and festivals team calls upon skillsets and expertise across Council to assist in delivering all aspects of the Cairns Festival – this event would not be possible without this ongoing collaboration.

The festival was also supported by a passionate contingent of local volunteers who share a love for the arts and giving back to their community, with 30 volunteers contributing 350 hours and 91 shifts to support the delivery of festival events.

OPTIONS:

Option 1: (Recommended)

That Council notes this report.

Option 2:

That Council requests further information be provided.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

2023 Cairns Festival Income and Expenditure

	Actuals	Budgeted	Variance
Operating Income			
Sponsorships		-	-
Grant Funding (QASP Sand Stories by Miriki Performing Arts)	49,900	49,900	-
TOTAL INCOME	49,900	49,900	-
Operating Expenses			
Employee Costs	109,378	93,944	15,434
Materials & Services	795,038	749,581	45,457
Internal Charges	28,827	32,000	(3,173)
Contributions and Donations	-	7,000	(7,000)
TOTAL EXPENSES	993,243	882,525	50,718

NET GAIN / (LOSS)	(883,343)	(832,625)	(50,718)
External In-Kind Contributions			
Xplosive Art	15,000		
Pacific Toyota	2,000		
Crystalbrook	13,000		
Technical Direction Company	33,898		
AGB Events	4,261		
Final Touch Productions	23,009		
Volter International Pty Ltd	2,020		
TOTAL IN-KIND	93,188		

Cairns Festival came in over budget, however this can be accommodated in the Creative Life programming budget.

2023 Carnival on Collins Income and Expenditure (excluding Markets)

	Actuals	Budgeted	Variance
Operating Income			
Sponsorships	0	0	0
TOTAL INCOME	0	0	0
Operating Expenses			
Employee Costs	11,906	25,000	13,094
Materials & Services	29,708	29,000	(708)
Internal Charges	7,912	8,000	88
Contributions and Donations	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	49,525	62,000	12,475
NET GAIN / (LOSS)	(49,525)	(62,000)	12,475

Market activity is mostly positive and is captured under the Markets activity. Costs of Carnival on Collins are the activities over and above the usual Tanks Markets activity.

2023 Cairns Festival Income and Expenditure – The Gallery Precinct

	Actuals	Budgeted	Variance
Operating Income			
Grant Funding	0	0	0
TOTAL INCOME	0	0	0
Operating Expenses			
Employee Costs	2,414	3,000	586
Materials & Services	88,159	77,000	(11,159)
Internal Charges	426	500	74
Contributions and Donations	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	91,000	80,500	(10,500)
NET GAIN / (LOSS)	(91,000)	(80,500)	(10,500)

The Gallery Precinct component of Cairns Festival went over budget however savings have been found in other Gallery Precinct programming and the overall Gallery Precinct operational budget won't be impacted.

2023 Cairns Festival Ticketed Events (Council Funded Activities)

	Tanks The Bite Club by The Briefs	Tanks Hot & Heavy by The Ironing Maidens	MMP The Jungle Giants	CPAC QSO presents Barton Meets Tchaikovsky	CPAC Roald Dahl- The Twits by Sake & Stir Theatre Co
Ticket & Venue Revenue	18,866	5,764	96,044	30,552	42,061
Bar Revenue	8,932	3,049	41,503	8,082	6,151
Merch Revenue	-	-	272	-	-
Total Revenue	27,798	8,813	137,819	38,633	48,212
Programming	34,318	30,602	142,234	24,988	39,535
Bar	3,592	2,058	15,878	5,960	5,085
Total Expenses	37,910	32,660	158,112	30,948	44,619
Profit / (Loss)	(10,112)	(23,847)	(20,293)	7,685	3,592

2023 Cairns Festival Ticketed Events (Venue Hires)

	Tanks Cub Sport 'Jesus at the Gay Bar'	CPAC Hope by Soweto Gospel Choir
Venue Hire Revenue	6,660	15,664
Bar Revenue	6,225	8,777
Merch Revenue	260	358
Total Revenue	13,145	24,798
Programming	8,189	4,149
Bar	2,487	3,555
Total Expenses	10,676	7,703
Profit / (Loss)	2,469	17,095

Ticketed events are budgeted in the specific venues at which they are held and are covered by the Venue Hire and Council Funded Activity Budgets at those venues.

Corporate and Operational Plans:

The festival meets the strategic goals of Council's Corporate Plan 2021-26:

FOCUS ONE: ROBUST ECONOMY

Supporting a diversified and resilient economy that backs business innovation, growth and jobs.

- Optimise visitation and tourism opportunities
- Promote Cairns as the place to relocate

FOCUS FOUR: COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

- Fostering a vibrant and healthy community where everyone feels they belong.
- Promote Cairns as the arts and cultural capital of Northern Australia
- Support diverse sport, cultural and community groups that contribute to wellbeing
- Provide spaces and programs for the wellbeing of the community

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Cairns Festival Photos

Attachment 2 – Economic Impact Assessment Report & Cairns Festival Verbatim Report



Stephen Foster
Executive Manager Creative Life



Destry Puia
Director Lifestyle & Community

Attachment 1 – Cairns Festival Photos



LAUNCH PARTY

Whiskey & Wine Bar, Crystalbrook Flynn



CAIRNS FESTIVAL 2023





STRING SYMPHONY

by Spare Parts Puppet Theatre





GULGI-BARRA

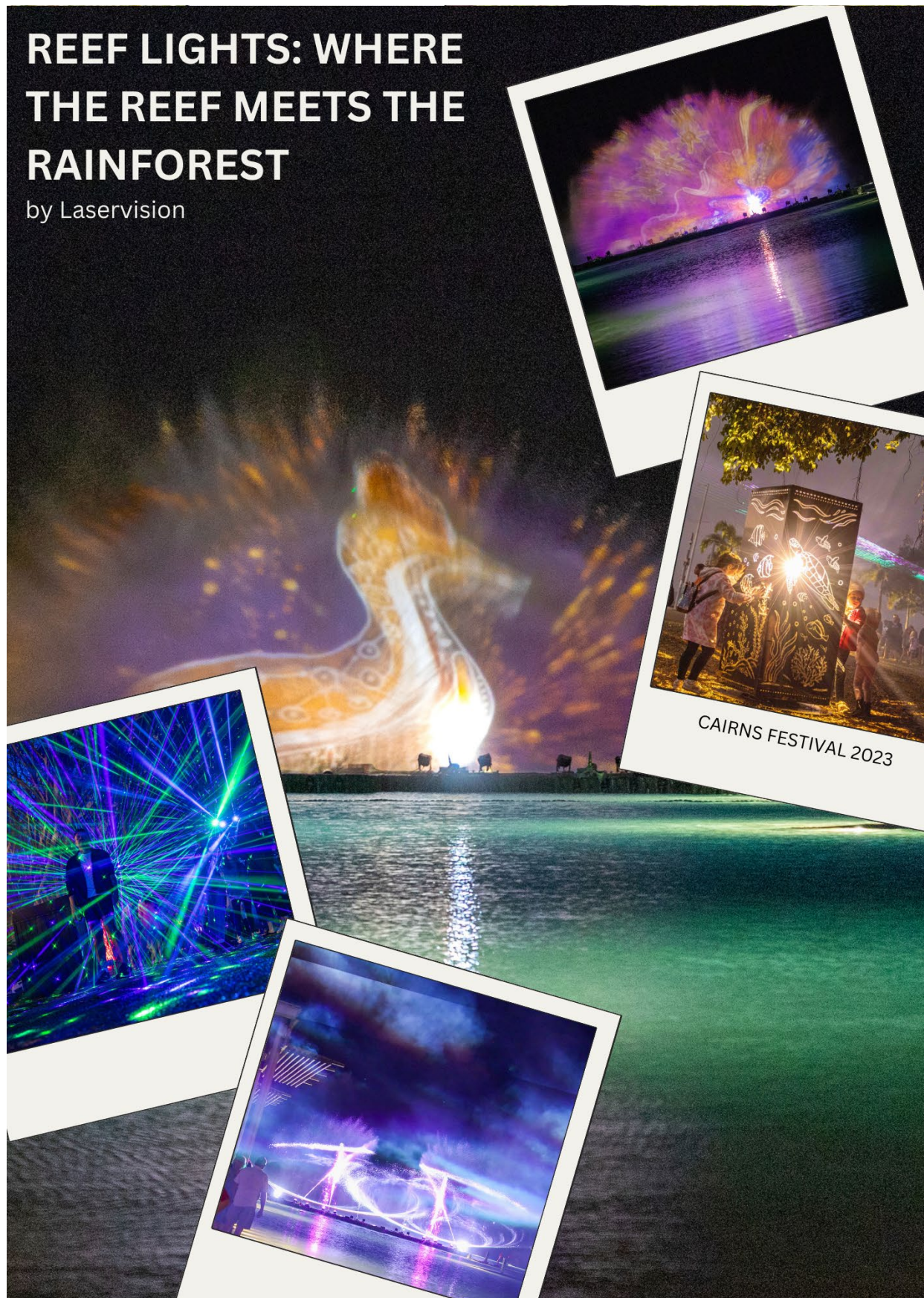
by Miriki Performing Arts



CAIRNS FESTIVAL 2023

REEF LIGHTS: WHERE THE REEF MEETS THE RAINFOREST

by Laservision





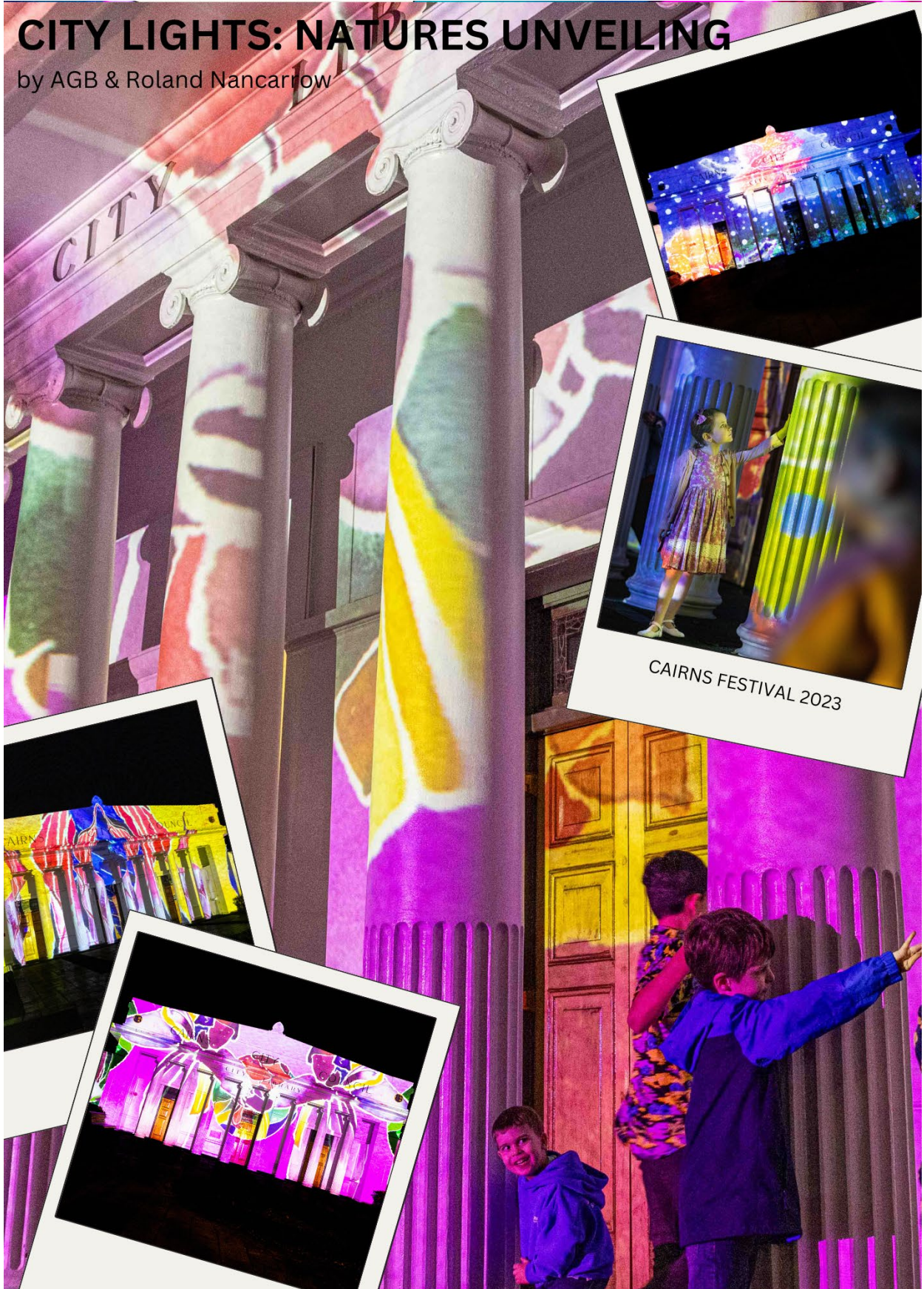
BOLSTER & LEE THE KNOCK 'EM DOWNS

by Cluster Arts

CAIRNS FESTIVAL 2023

CITY LIGHTS: NATURES UNVEILING

by AGB & Roland Nancarrow



CAIRNS FESTIVAL 2023

HOT & HEAVY

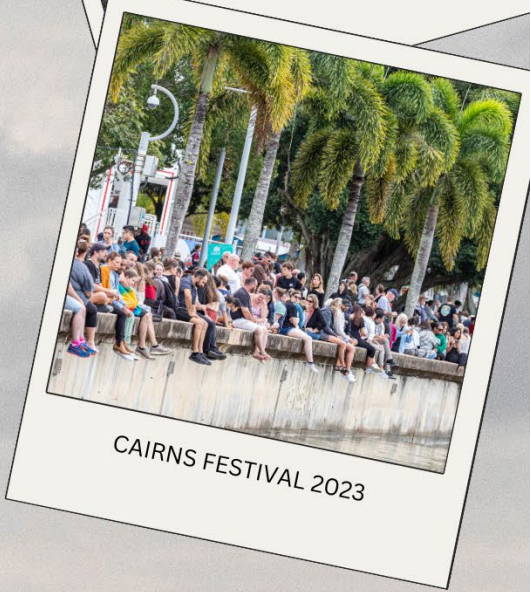
by The Ironing Maidens



CAIRNS FESTIVAL 2023

AEROBATIC AIRCRAFT DISPLAY

Cairns Airport & Emma Shaw





THE JUNGLE GIANTS

supported by Jelly Oshen & The Zephyrbees





CAIRNS FESTIVAL 2023



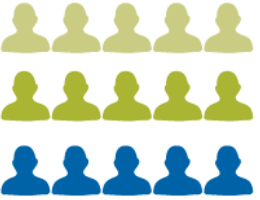
ATTACHMENT 2: Economic Assessment Report & Cairns Festival Verbatim Report

Cairns Festival

25 AUGUST - 3 SEPTEMBER 2023

ATTENDANCES

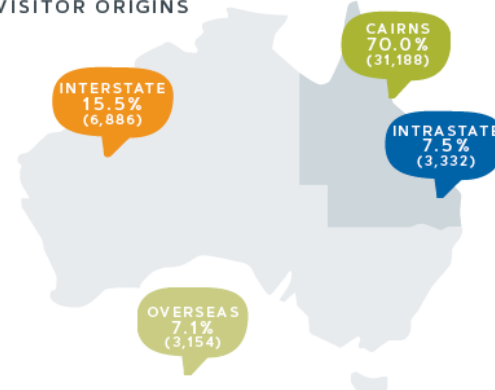


TOTAL ATTENDANCES
140,046

TOTAL NUMBER OF DAYS
10

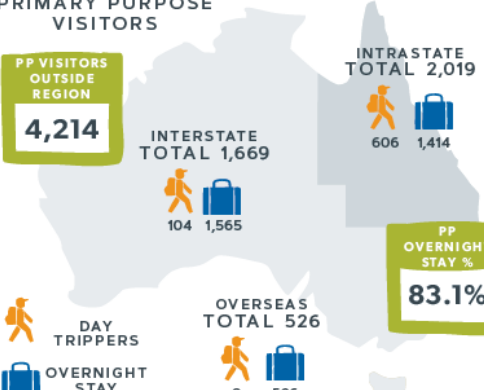
NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS
44,560

VISITOR ORIGINS



- CAIRNS: 70.0% (31,188)
- INTRASTATE: 7.5% (3,332)
- INTERSTATE: 15.5% (6,886)
- OVERSEAS: 7.1% (3,154)

PRIMARY PURPOSE VISITORS



- PP VISITORS OUTSIDE REGION: 4,214
- INTRASTATE TOTAL: 2,019 (606 Day Trippers, 1,414 Overnight Stay)
- INTERSTATE TOTAL: 1,669 (104 Day Trippers, 1,565 Overnight Stay)
- OVERSEAS TOTAL: 526 (0 Day Trippers, 526 Overnight Stay)
- PP OVERNIGHT STAY %: 83.1%

DIRECT VISITOR NIGHTS



QUEENSLAND TOTAL 10,855

CAIRNS TOTAL 10,855

Intrastate 3,231
Interstate 6,047
Overseas 1,577

OVERNIGHT VISITOR EXPENDITURE (OVE)

Origin	Visitors	Average Daily Spend	Average Nights Stay	Total OVE
INTRASTATE	1,414	\$204.08	2.3	\$659,406
INTERSTATE	1,565	\$158.95	3.9	\$961,115
OVERSEAS	526	\$158.16	3.0	\$249,436

VISITOR DAY TRIP EXPENDITURE

710 VISITORS | \$127.43 AVERAGE SPEND PER VISITOR

TOTAL DAY TRIPPER EXPENDITURE
\$121,890
Based on average days attended: 1.3

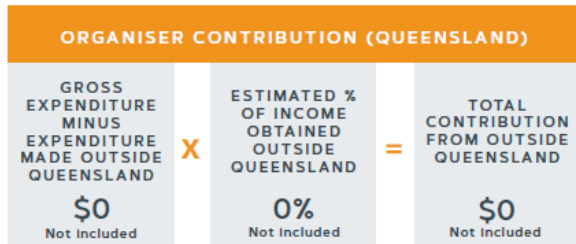
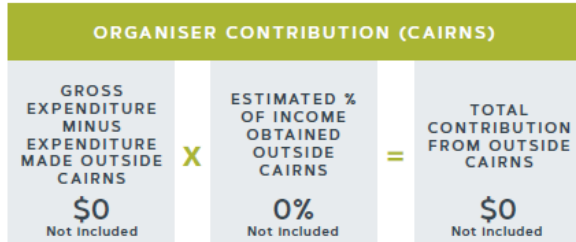
TOTAL OVE
\$1,869,958

AVERAGE DAILY SPEND
\$172.27

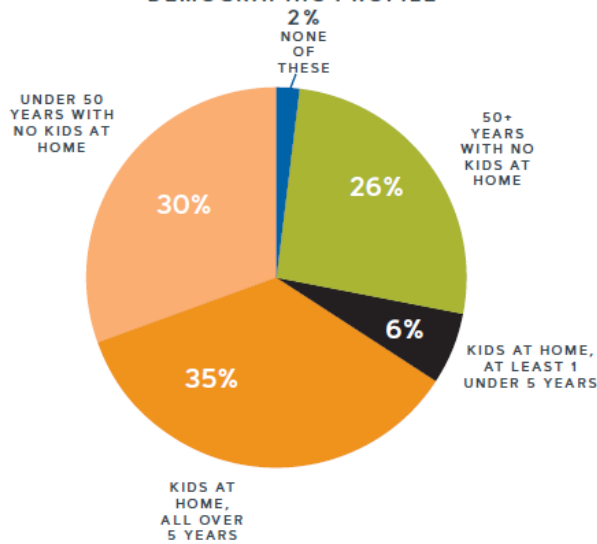
AVERAGE NIGHTS
3.1

TOTAL EXPENDITURE STIMULUS
\$4,673,342

ORGANISER DIRECT AND INCREMENTAL EXPENDITURE

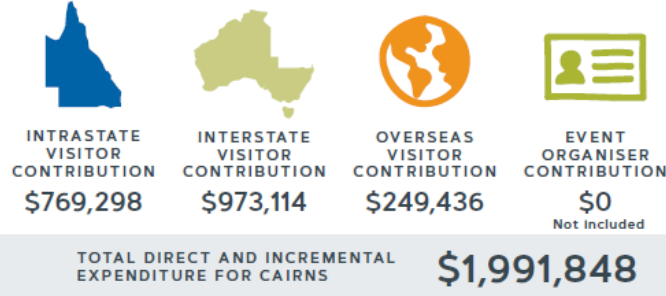


DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

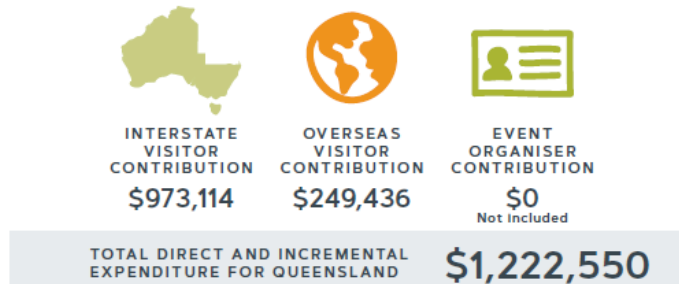


ECONOMIC AND TOURISM IMPACTS

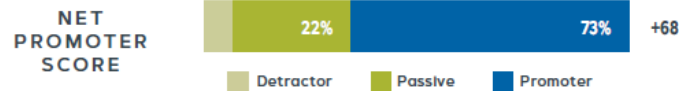
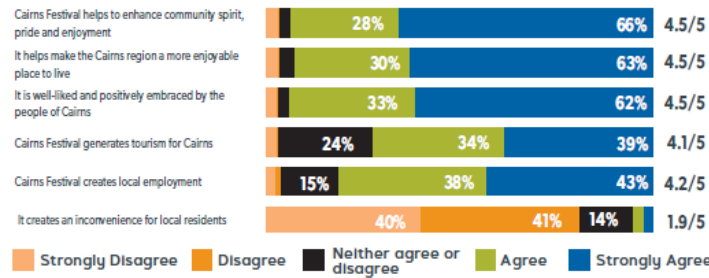
Total Direct and Incremental Expenditure for Cairns



Total Direct and Incremental Expenditure for Queensland



COMMUNITY PRIDE



AT A GLANCE

- + Cairns Festival attracted 44,560 individuals who attended the event.
- + Cairns Festival generated direct and incremental expenditure of \$1,991,848 attributable to the Cairns economy and \$1,222,550 attributable to the Queensland economy.
- + Cairns Festival was responsible for generating 10,855 visitor nights to Cairns. The majority of these nights were generated by Interstate visitors (6,047).
- + In total, \$1,869,958 was spent by overnight visitors who stayed more than 40km from their normal place of residence. The majority of this spending was undertaken by Interstate visitors (\$961,115).

+ When assessing 'community pride', Cairns Festival scores well on the majority of indicators. The highest level of agreement was recorded for the statements 'Cairns Festival helps to enhance community spirit, pride and enjoyment', 'It helps make the Cairns region a more enjoyable place to live' and 'It is well-liked and positively embraced by the people of Cairns' (4.5/5).



Cairns Festival Verbatim Report 2023



FOCUSED EVENT THINKING



Q16a. What would Cairns Festival need to do in order to get you to rate them a 9 or 10? (Detractors)
Advertise at the airport
be absolutely amazing
Cut all the speeches and intervals where the bloody conductor kept wandering off in the symphony performance and actually feature some music. Give accurate information as to where the lights were on the Esplanade. We paid \$100 for about 15 minutes music out of the first hour of Barton Meets Tchaikovsky, then couldn't find the light display so went home pretty unhappy.
Don't cancel the parade next time
Events starting on time, clearer directions to events and better viewing of events (couldn't see over crowd).
Have a celebrity perform
I enjoyed the general lighting along the Esplanade, the String Symphony, the "Flamingos" walking around and the light show at the lagoon. Not really a festival sort of person. Glad to have seen it in a general sort of way but at a personal level if I had not been a tourist (AusArmourFest was my reason for being in Cairns) and hence sightseeing but a Cairns resident I would not have gone out of my way to attend.
Less cultural events, this was over the top
Make ticketed events cheaper for families and to host large acts such as QSO for more than one performance - found it difficult to get tickets and too expensive. Free entertainment and activities seemed very similar to what normally happens around Cairns.
Massive revamp and some solid investment into what is generally just standard Council programming bundled up under the Festival banner. Carnival Collins needs to be reinvented. Some good stands but for the most part average good outrageously priced. More community events needed and a strong team with a Festival background needed. Would be good to see some strong branding and visuals instead of the cookie cutter Canva graphics in use at the moment.
More known artists on the free Stages
More events
More free outdoor events. More events in general
More involvement throughout Cairns, connecting all the streets not just the one area.
More night activities
More notice for cancellations
Not relevant. We only attended the main stage for about 2 hours on one day. Just happened to be in Cairns that day before flying home.
put some effort into the lights show at the library- this year it was very UNDER Whelming...
The parade is poor. It needs to lift its standard dramatically. Other events are good. Maybe spread events across town more. its not all about the city.
There wasn't much kids activity's. The years I have attended there was a jumping castle, face painting, bubble blowing and more for the kids to enjoy in the day time. This year was abit of a disappointment with the parade being cancelled and the kids missing out on activity's.
This year's event was not as good as last year as it had less on the esplanade. And they should never have cancelled the street parade that in its self was a bad decision. People are quite happy watching the past when it's wet. People spend money on their floats and hope they are not discouraged by that silly decision for next year. And just as an idea, those beautiful fig tree and foot
Was very disappointed with the festival this year

Q21. Would you like to provide any additional feedback?

1. Unclear exactly where some events were on the esplanade, e.g. Reef Lights- could've stated " lagoon" in the program.
2. Carnival on Collins needed to advertise entertainment, venues+ times in advance. Details of acts + times on main stage only available in situ on the day so some people would've missed planning to see them.
3. Only saw the amazing Dance On (or were they called Move On?) in Tank 5 as pink volunteer was encouraging people on the path between botanic gardens and Gondwana that it was starting in 10 minutes.
4. The fold-out program was a good size and well set out with a page per day.
5. Special thanks for Gulgi-Barra by Miriki Performing Arts, Rob Howe + The Guillotines, dance group Dance On(or Move On) , roving entertainment at Carnival on Collins and QSO concert with William Barton.
This year's Cairns Festival was best so far.
There were large crowds of people enjoying themselves. You did Cairns proud. Thank you.
A beautiful, simple festival. Most things within walking distance of each other allowing a great way to experience the city
A great community event which gets better every year.
A little disappointed with the lack of street performers at Carnival on Collins this year. We usually see roaming performers - musicians, stilt walkers, etc
A lovely atmosphere and excellent mix of events.
A pity about the parade being cancelled
Spruce up the library external display-this was terrible
Absolutely loved it, so much variety and perfect that most of it is free. It's a great combination for all ages and so worth the visit. Don't change a thing
Absolutely loved the lights on the Esplanade. Wish it would go longer.
Always a great weeks of free events for the family
Amazing event. Next year have a backup date for the parade, we really missed having it, but totally understand and support the cancellation.
Amazing experience at Cairns Festival, will visit again in Future. Cheers
Amazing festival ty
Amazing festival, highly impressed by all the events on. Absolutely loved the live performances, light show at the lagoon
Amazing festival, thoroughly enjoyed my time there
Amazing job this year, well done to all! Sad about the parade!
Amazing reef lights and carnival on Collins
Another great year, shame that the parade was cancelled instead of postponed.
At the jungle giants concert, there was a 'rule' that you weren't allowed to dance in the section cordoned off for dancing until 815pm. This was disappointing for the attendees and for the bands playing prior to the main event.
Awesome colourful advertising
Awesome contribution by the First Nation people they deserve an 11 out of 10
Awesome event, thank you so much!!
Great entertainment and awesome staff. Will be back!!
Barton and Queensland Symphony Orchestra at CPAC was wonderful.
Bite club was fantastic!
Bolters and Lee were the highlight for my kids and we visited many times.
Cairns festival events should be held all throughout the year, especially the esplanade main stage!!
Cairns festival is a great day or night out for anyone of all ages and cultures, a wonderful way to celebrate all the amazing communities in our region.
Cairns Festival is a great event for Cairns locals and tourists - keep up the great work CRC
Cairns festival is always a great experience that's why we come every year just to see it.
Carnival on Collins food stalls should be back down in bottom area
Courthouse hq stage was great
Covered in the previous questions.
Defiantly need more kids activities. Like bubble blowing, kids face painting jumping castles. Arts and crafts activities etc
Disappointed that parade was cancelled without any notice. We were on the esplanade watching the air display when a local told us it was cancelled. No notices or announcements to inform us of that
Disappointing that the parade wasn't rescheduled and I was hoping to see a few more interesting animals with the laser light show. Loved the lagoon show. All in all I think was a well done event
Dogs also loved it
Don't cancel the parade. Has never been cancelled before and should have at least been arranged for a different day during the festival period.

Enjoy this event every year.
Enjoyable experience
Enjoyed everything, but more day activities as on previous festivals please. One year we helped handweave decorations then displayed on the Esplanade. Felt the pelicans of last year were more interactive and could operate in daylight, compared to the flamingos.
Esplanade lights not as amazing as last year. We preferred more of a story movie style fish and reef theme with the matching music of last year, although this year was great. If lights could also be in botanical gardens, that would be fantastic
Event was awesome
Everyone was asking for food vans, particularly on the grand parade day.
Would be fantastic to somehow facilitate disabled/elderly access to the outdoor events.
The whole week was fantastic- great music, plenty of free events, volunteering was fun.
Everyone we interacted with were both informative, obliging and friendly.
excellent event - am new to cairns for the year and loved it!
Excellent event that gets better every year can't wait for next year.
Excellent family fun.
Excellent festival...worth the visit and very well planned
Extend festival over a month
Fabulous festival. I would love to see night move at lake placid offered over a few nights. This would enable those people who may need to work on the said night being offered the opportunity to attend on another night.
Thank you Cairns festival we loved the festival , can't wait for next years .WELL DONE!
Family friendly, great vibe, community spirit, we did see the Soweto gospel choir, fantastic we are so lucky to be able to see great performances here in FNQ.
Fantastic event
Fantastic performances by First Nation people
Fantastic, thank you Cairns.
Felt safe at esplanade....v enjoyable
Festal hq would have been better with more shaded areas or fans
Good experience
Good to hear the Tjapukai legend of the cassowary.
Great atmosphere and well-organised
Great diversity of events
Only issue was the naming of the themes for HW drastically stage inaccurate and disappointing especially Reggae/roots
Great event each year. Great to see the city a buzz.
Great event for cairns, very well organised. Great to have so many free activities for families.
Great event, best one yet. So much was happening at the Esplanade!
Great event, we moved to cairns from Sydney and been to Vivid which is always promoted heavily but did not meet my expectations. Reef lights were far better than any exhibition at vivid. Also vivid was more expensive. Great to have things within relatively short distance of each other and really enjoyed the welcome to country and honouring of indigenous Australians which I do not recall seeing at vivid at all
Great event. Love the lights music and aerobatics.
Great experience. Consider drones to replace fireworks and sink music with drone/fireworks. Good job guys, keep it up.
Great festival
Great festival thank you!
Great festival, hopefully can attend longer next year!
Great festival, shame the parade was cancelled.
Great festival, the lights were unlike anything we have ever had for free in WA
Great festival. Awesome musical band selection especially local and indigenous bands. Light show was also exceptional. Hope there will be more entertainment shows, variety. Hope there are more day activities like treasure hunts, bar hopping events, discounted offers and days for certain featured establishments. Overall, really enjoyable and worth coming to every year.
Great festival. Food vans would be nice
Great Festival....particularly enjoyed Light Show at Lake Placid and Lagoon.
Thanks to all who helped making a Community Event
Great fun and the bands were all good in my opinion. Well done.
Great job on the festival. Looking forward to going back next year.
Great light show

Great light show but VERY busy!
Great light works and loved the traditional dancing
great memories made , as a 6th generation here in Cairns ... just love it , maybe twice a year ? do it
Great night out at the lights display/show
Great reef lights, wish it had some more like last year.
Great stuff
Great to see CRC investing in fun activities and infrastructure for us all to enjoy
Great variety of events, I wished I'd seen more, the Twits was a great production!
Great work by a great team of people
Great work by the organisers of the festival. it was spectacular! and well attended despite rainy weather
Had a great time at all events I attended! Will come again next year.
Had a great time at festival on multiple nights
Have wet weather plans for All events- make sure you have action plan e.g. media coverage on main events that are cancelled. There's always backlash and you were damned either way with making the call cancelling this year's Parade. Review whether it can be postponed to the second weekend in future. Budget for these additional costs and have labour and resources in standby. Consider under cover areas that could be utilised for float set up. Encourage groups to self set up and move into place 1-3pm. Encourage a community Facebook group for participants. You would encourage greater community feedback that way. Programme was great
I absolutely loved the concert, very well done.
I actually thought it was pretty nice and relaxing. Fun to be there without being too crowded. Felt a lot of people happy to be there. A happy and relaxed atmosphere.
I attended the festival on the first Saturday so 3 days in total.
I could never understand why the name was changed from Fun in the Sun to Reef Festival, Festival Cairns and then to Cairns Festival. Each change lost something, not enhanced it. Also, it rains in Cairns, everybody understands that, why cancel it because someone thought it was going to rain? I don't care if they are unapologetic about it because it was cancelled to enhance public safety, people are big enough to decide if they will take an umbrella or not. Now that there is a chance the Grand Parade will be cancelled because the weather doesn't look good then you risk the future of following year's attendances.
I didn't see the Reef Lights. I thought they were on continuously from 6:30-10. We attended a concert at the Court House . It finished at 9pm ish and we then walked along the esplanade hoping see walk through the reef lights.
I find it difficult to find the times for performances between your website, pamphlets and Facebook.
Need to write at bottom of pamphlet pages that the times of the individual acts are on the back pages. Didn't find that initially.
Make the advertised times for individual musicians/groups are adhered to. I drove in for the Raconteurs expecting 45 minutes or even an encore to 50 minutes and they were stopped after only half an hour playing. Very disappointed about that.
Please try and run more events like this. It made Caters come alive with lights, joy and entertainment.
I have attended the Darwin Festival many times. I would love if Cairns could have similar attractions such as spigal tent and festival park. Given Darwin festival is just prior, could these attractions come over.?
I love cairns festival I attend every year, I think you do an amazing job.
I work in retail and always tell my customers to go and check out the festival.
I love the cairns festival. Thanks for this activity. I'm from Colombia and the music Saturday night make me homesick. Thanks for everything and doing this moment special for overseas residents...
I love to see cairns so special once a year and that for free. Often spend money for food and drinks around night market before and after visits ting the light show. Thanks for marking this available for everyone
I loved all of it, parking at carnival on Collins is a bit tricky of course but still very enjoyable. I missed the Jazz - I didn't realise it was on until too late, that's probably good so it's not too overcrowded lol - next time I will go but I loved the music carnival on Collins. Awesome. I missed the symphony it was sold out. I attended the symphony workshop the day before I loved that, so nice to play along with the kids. Thank you for organising this! I didn't get to do all of the HQ activities just got there too late but next time.
I noticed there were fewer satellite events in other locations this year. There is always a lot to contemplate going to... I just wish I didn't have to work and could go out every night to enjoy it ALL! (Oh and be able to afford to go to everything). The

activation of the esplanade area was fabulous and the library also. There was so much we missed seeing!!! Well done coordinating and running this massive event for our community.
I really enjoyed Tessa Devine
I really enjoyed the parts we got to see, how people from all backgrounds had big smiles on their faces walking around the reef lights and seeing so many people on wheelchairs enjoying the lights. The only thing I didn't like was the circus tent outside the Courthouse, only because I felt it should have had a warning on what type of entertainment it was, I worked out that they were supposed to be rude but when they threw lollies on the floor for him as a prize. I think a sign outside the tent explaining the type of entertainment will make it easier for people to go in or opt out. Overall thanks for bringing so much happiness around to people and mostly free events, I surely do have family interstate that are interested in coming next year during the festival after seeing photos on social media.
I really enjoyed the performance of Spanish salsa band.
I think it sad you did not reschedule the parade. I don't think you made the executive decision to cancel early enough & with sufficient advice to community. Weather predictions are very accurate these days & a forward look at Weatherzone or similar would have made that decision much earlier & to transfer parade to new clearer evening. Anyway, it is the tropics & we get used to much worse rain than occurred.
I think it's getting better every year. Looking forward to next year and hope the parade will happen as well.
I think that the main stage should be run more
I thought there could have been more live music bands on the Main stage over the festival
I want Queensland orchestra to come back to Cairns more often. It was absolutely amazing last night.
I wish the Parade wasn't cancelled but I understand that was for weather reasons. Wish they had a backup rain-friendly version maybe.
I would have liked to see the parade. I would have liked there to be a postponement plan in case the parade cannot happen.
I would have loved to gage seen more just life is busy
I would like to add how much I really enjoyed the festival and is a credit to the organisers however I and others did not appreciate the fact that the woman that was the compare at the Puppet performance welcomed all the First Nations people and nobody else. They were not the only people present and it is about time people start remember that!!
Involve more local small. Business
It was a fantastic time. So much to do. Only problem for me was not being able to get to all events and the cancellation of the Bamega dancers Sunday afternoon due to rain I'd like to mention how good it was to have Indigenous events incorporated The dancing event on the esplanade was fantastic
It was a great event
It was a great event!
It was a great event, looking forward to next year to come back!
It was a great festival, we love the lights. It's become a family tradition to walk the light trail (esp, library, and court house) on the night before Father's day.
It was a great night and will go again next year
It was a great way to see Cairns, it was my first time travelling and it really brightened up the town and make it very inviting to walk around the festival and see everything that was going on. I invited a friend the next day who enjoyed it too.
it was a lot of fun and we will definitely attend again next year, thank you to all who made this experience possible :)
It was a nice event. Maybe free workshop would be nice
It was a shame the parade was cancelled but everything else was great
It was a very enjoyable time to attend the festival. Great program variety with something for everyone. Thank you for this amazing event. Sad that the parade had to be cancelled.
It was amazing !!!
It was amazing!!
It was great
It was great!
It was great. Organisers did a fabulous job, and I understand why they cancelled the parade. Sensible decision.
It was great I loved the live music
It's not easy to find information about events. More advertising is needed.
It's. a lovely Festival, thoroughly enjoyed. Wish I had time to attend more events.
Keep it up
Keep up the awesome work!

Keep up the good work, it is lovely to see the festival growing and the city come alive during the event.
Keep up the great work!
Kids loved the lights walk and music/lights in the lagoon.
Lake placid event, Should have been ticketed (no cost just for numbers) as it reached capacity quickly and there was no way of knowing previously. Would have saved waiting in line. Also, would have been handy to have portable toilets as there were over 200 people in the line who could not access the public toilets as the entry wasn't accessible.
Reggae & roots night indie rock band. Was great but didn't fit the theme of the night
We all enjoyed our time at the festival
Lake Placid Light Show: a) Close off areas for seating that you can't see the lightshow from. b) 15 min. changeover is too short. Otherwise great.
Lake placid was so congested and so very difficult to see anything in regard to the performers. Perhaps consider elevating them or putting them in a different location altogether. I was not aware there was a performance other than the light show so may have considered sitting elsewhere. It was difficult to keep my young children entertained when they couldn't see a thing. Thus was my 1st time attending this event, though I hear it ran better than previous years in regards to holding attendees back etc
Laser light show was amazing
Last year I attended the esplanade lights and all it had to offer. Well done. Your effort and work made me really proud of our council and region. What we can do is amazing. It was awesome!!!! Thank you. This year I as unable to attend but to this day I still speak very highly of the festival to others. It is a must to see.
Lights were enjoyable but perhaps not as 'Cairns' feeling as other years - a bit too flashy/ showy. Library lights were lovely though.
Liked the free events
Look forward to next year's event
Looking forward to next year
Love Cairns love the festival. Want to relocate here.
Love it, more food stalls along the esplanade would be awesome. Loved the twits
Love the festival - try to attend every year
Love the festival unfortunately I had a family wedding that clashed with lots of events
Love the festival, many great free events
Love the vibe created when festival is on, especially around the live music and kids events
LOVED IT
Loved it all, would be great to see it continue!
Loved it everything was superb
Loved it. It was so beautiful. My family and i had a great time. My daughter enjoyed her self so much. Thank you
Loved it. Such vibrant light shows. Loved the live bands at the courthouse. They should do that Friday's monthly. It was really good.
Loved the events we attended, just wish we had more time for more. Can't wait for next year.
Loved the first nations performance!
Loved the Indigenous and cultural theme of this year's festival. Particularly enjoyed Light Moves and the Soweto Gospel Choir. Attended the Courthouse several times to see live music. Salsa night was a highlight. Please bring that back next year. Would have liked more free dance events, or maybe some dance classes? Carnival on Collins live music in the gardens was not as well attended as in the past. I guess this is because the focus has shifted to Festival HQ but I remember packed circus and music events in previous years. Not a complaint, just something we have always enjoyed. All up a great festival. Thanks team, I appreciate all the effort you put in.
Loved the light show at the lagoon and in the park. Sooo pretty.
Loved the reef lights and light moves. Best we've seen ever!
Lovely job guys
Make the grand parade go ahead rain hail or shine.
More bands throughout the weekend
More events at the beaches or other suburbs would be fantastic
More interactive activities!

More parking and free parking required
More parking plus parade was cancelled
More stuff like this on the regular, however with new content.
Mostly attended the evening events. The fireworks were very impressive. However, the light show was definitely the highlight of the event for us.
Multicultural events
Munro Martin Park was a great concert venue, loved it. Thanks for bringing the Jungle Giants here. Can you get Ball Park Music here?
My interstate and local friends loved it
My only complaint was that we had our cat with us at court house shows, and were asked to go and stand on the footpath, we attend Friday night shows every week, even when it rained weeks ago, our pet is well known in Cairns and I find it pathetic that we were asked to move, we have never had this occur at any time we have attended and we support the Cairns council in the attempt to bring more entertainment and culture to our beautiful city. Please consider allowing pets to these outdoor venues. There were people who needed to be moved on due to intoxication, quite a few people were upset that we were asked to move on.
My only critique I would offer is the moving of the bot and Lee tent off the front of the gallery lawn. The sound from it, interferes with the performer's on the stage
Need to look at holding next year's Festival earlier in the year, perhaps tag it after a big event like Ironman and harness the word of mouth and spending power of the international and national visitors that are already here
Needs to be over extended period of time to experience what is happening to spread out massive crowds more and lack of parking to enjoy the activities.
No, it was a great event, very lively and entertaining and we were just fortunate to book and be in Cairns at the time of the event.
No, everything was well done and I didn't see any issues around the event I attended or in fact the whole time the Cairns festival was on.
No. I absolutely loved it. I loved the integration of aboriginal culture into the Cairns festival
Nope just keep doing what your doing every year please
Nope keep it up please
Nope. Enjoyed my time!! Hoping to go in the draw for another festival. Lover of all music!!!!
Not really, at this time except to say, God willing be seeing you next year!!!!!!
Nothing in the program appealed to teenaged high-school kids.
Offer free parking in the city throughout the festival Return the theme to tropical FNQ Use the opportunity to showcase a few more local artists e.g.: battle of the bands Do a food truck and band festival at Cairns Showgrounds with free entry and no charge for the businesses involved! Bring back the esplanade markets for the festival
Our first year living in Cairns and attending the festival. We thought it was fabulous and brought so much vibrancy to the city. Loved it all
Our kids really enjoyed the light show
Overall it was very enjoyable. Definitely going again next year
Parade should have gone ahead. Left too late to cancel and inform people
Pleasant surprise and mad our stay in Cairns more enjoyable.
Please do exactly what you did this year again next year because it was amazing.
please don't cancel the parade next year!
Please keep going with this Annual "Spring" Festival in Cairns as it is a great highlight not only for local Cairns families/households but also for visitors and tourists to Cairns and this year's lights at the Library as well as at the lagoon and the Carnival on Collins were all great favourites. As a Cairns ratepayer, please keep up with this great carnival to give something positive back to us ratepayers. many thanks to the Council and all concerned. May it long continue with its variety of entertainment to suit all groups.
Pretty good experience
QSO was an amazing experience
QSO WAS FANTASTIC. A WONDERFUL PERFORMANCE
QSO were amazing, but didgeridoo should never be incorporated into classical music, sound was appalling.
QSO were fabulous - wish they would come to Cairns more
Really enjoyed the live music on the HQ stage

Red bull plane was awesome, didn't see that listed in your survey.
Cancelling the grand parade was a bit of a bad call.
Reef lights always a highlight.
Same again next year please!
Shame the grand parade was cancelled.
Loved the reef lights and laser shows and fireworks and red bull plane.
shame the parade wasn't rescheduled
Show Can have some shop that people buy
Since I arrived into Cairns on the last day of the festival, I only saw the lights at the council building and I heard a band playing on the street. But I found it pleasant and interesting. It's probably a good event if I had seen more of it.
Some great events organised that created a real, positive vibe for the city. A sincere thank you to EVERYONE involved in the event!
Spectacular as ever. Well done to everyone that was part of the Festival Team.
Staff were awesome. Displays were beautiful. Great for families.
Street Parade more notice please when cancelling. Thank you
Such a pity that the parade couldn't take place, we wish there would be alternative date
Such a shame the Grand parade was cancelled
Such a wonderful evening we enjoyed all of the events
Such a wonderful thing for Cairns!!! Love it and look forward to it every year. Live music, amazing lights and great happy atmosphere
Thank you! Wonderful event
Thank you for all. I like it very much
Thank you for organising the festival
Thank you! We attended a few afternoon events and it was fun and relaxing. The courthouse HQ and bands were good to listen too and a great spot to chill.
Just a few random thoughts for next year's...
Bubbles machine during the day will be fun for the children. Face painting on the esplanade too. When I was in Italy they had a person creating HUGE bubbles using a string (attached to two handles) and this was exciting and fun to see. Flash mob and dancing might be something unexpected. Just like Opera singers singing a song in the crowd... The laser light show was fun to see at the lagoon but what about a drone show? The reef light show and the String Symphony was also fun and anyone could join in. We are looking forward to next year's show!
Thanks Cairns festival , it is one of the most beautiful week of the year in Cairns for the magic in each performance.
Thanks for the awesome music events. I loved every night. However, the final night did not end with a bang. Please consider next year, more upbeat bands, that leave you feeling high.
thanks the Queensland Symphony Orchestra were great.
The Cairns festival was truly amazing, we will definitely fly up next year to attend the festivities as long as we are reminded. Well done to everyone involved, it was a pure magical time
The details of bands at courthouse kept changing - so I missed bands I wanted to see. You need to publish the times of the light show i.e. every 30 minutes from. 7pm to 10 - and say when the lagoon light show was over - people were moving away after the first part without realising there was another 2 parts. The octopus and cassowary was good - would have liked to have seen more
The events were great that I attended. Would like to see more amusement rides along with the Ferris wheel
The female security guards were great
One of the male security guards was an oppressive thug who should respect rather than be a bully thug
The festival creates a great buzz in the city. A food van at the Court House would keep people there longer
The festival was a lovely surprise part of our visit to Cairns. We were disappointed we didn't get to experience more of it (we arrived on the last night). The kind and interesting staff we interacted with really added to our experience. Thanks!
The festival was wonderful, I live on the Cassowary Coast and hadn't seen any advertising for it. I will keep an eye out for it next year and plan which events to go to.
the lagoon dreamtime story was amazing
The light show could have had more First Nations and local musicians as the backing music rather than Ed Sheeran
The light show was absolutely fantastic
The light show was amazing
The Light show was wonderful!
The light shows were a bit boring same as last year, I would prefer to see less focus on lighting
The lights shows and the trees were amazing.

The lights were amazing, as were the live music, all staff were always so friendly when I had a question, I had a great time at the festival, first solo trip and Cairns festival made it an enjoyable experience
The lights were beautiful, many people gathered around and enjoy the spectacle. The spinning lights produced some special sensation when walking. The lights with the water screen were beautiful too.
The music shows were very well put together.
The music was good and very diverse in regards to the countries origin (which I was not expecting).
The parade should not have been cancelled
The puppet show was great
THE QSO WERE FABULOUS - PLEASE BRING THEM BACK AGAIN NEXT YEAR.
The quality of acts, shows, entertainment etc were excellent.
The Reef Lights display was ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS!!! Also, live music at the Courthouse wonderful! Thanks events organisers. Great work!
PS. A pity you couldn't have still had the parade - even with threatening rain... If it's electricity on floats being dangerous in the rain that is the issue then just stipulate that it's 12v power and no 240v allowed???
The reef lights were amazing but could have been a longer light story - also would have been cool to have something like Brisbane with the whale! Definitely think more could be done with the lights.
Jungle giants were amazing but there weren't many people there! I think it could have been advertised better
The sound and light shows at the Esplanade were excellent.
The staff with the bionic hand was very nice
the time of the year is good for it! It's been good to get out with the kids and see the town.
The vibe and feel of the festival was amazing to see and it really was a credit to the CCC when you saw how many people participated and enjoyed it
The weather was unfortunate for the parade, but there was still a great atmosphere in the city. There was fun for all ages, and we had a great time.
There was a better selection of activities last year. Mainly paid events. Nothing out on the Southside for satellites. It would be great to see more community participation apart from parade. It seems to have become all about light shows which is cool but not very interactive with audiences.
Time for main act to start would have been good. Sitting through 2 substandard prior acts for 2 hours tiring.
Unfortunately light show was not as good as last year. Disappointed as I had invited interstate visitors especially for this event. Cancellation of the street parade is unforgivable. I have been involved with many street parades and they go ahead in rain if necessary. The electronic flamingos were the hit of the festival as well as the acrobatic pilot. Fireworks were outstanding but crowds much less due to cancellation of the street parade. Please come back next year with the reef themed light shows from 2022.
Very cool setup, performers and programme! We stumbled upon it accidentally and loved it!
We didn't see the parade although we were there at the time. Aboriginal dance also didn't happen on (i think) Saturday, we waited there for nothing. Maybe there were announcements that those would be cancelled but we didn't hear them.
Very difficult to find parking. Suggest a shuttle bus for the event so people can have an option to park in a location away from CBD? Maybe Showgrounds? Otherwise fantastic event! Thank you
Very disappointed that the parade was cancelled. I think there should be more planning so that this is avoided in the future. This was going to be our family outing and it was sad that the kids missed out.
Very disappointed that the parade was cancelled. It should have been rescheduled or went ahead.
Very disappointed that the street parade wasn't rescheduled, this is the best family night of the year.
More shows please for family theatre like The Twits. Didn't get much of a sense of carnival activities at Carnival on Collins, we entered via the edge hill side - no signage or program / flyers to know what was happening and where and no music.
Very much enjoy Cairns festival every year. Particularly the reef lights - something for everyone!
Very well done, great volunteers
Was a pleasant surprise to see the festival was on at the same time we came to holiday in Cairns.
Really enjoyed Elektrik Lemonade outdoor performance.
Was a shame parade was cancelled
Was an excellent day out
Was frustrating that The Twits was on during a school day
Was fun but without the grand parade it didn't really feel like the Cairns festival
Was on a planned holiday from NZ when husband found out the festival was on, a brilliant time was had, thank you
Was sad to see that instead of having the lights on for the kids they prioritised a poetry read with maybe 50 people there on Tuesday evening.
Was so sad the parade got cancelled and not rebooked. It is my favourite

We all enjoyed the show and we love the whole festival!!!
We also had family join us for the festival. They flew up from Melbourne and stayed with us. Two young adults with a child. We really liked the indigenous performances and the lagoon. It was wonderful as a family to wander and experience the many events on the program.
We came in to see the air acrobatics, which I thought was part of the festival (but wasn't on the list earlier in the survey). I thought it was a great idea that the air show, the parade, then the fireworks were all on one after the other and made it worth the trip in and made it a proper outing (especially with the light shows/bands etc on around the same area). We had brought in a picnic and chairs etc but it was raining so we went on the Ferris Wheel and then went home again. We would have attended more things if the weather has been better.
We enjoyed all there was to see, that included activities for our children and ourselves
we enjoyed this festival. Thank you.
We found out the festival by accident and happened to be going to Cairns. It was awesome we loved it and the whole vibe on the esplanade. The Gulgi Barra act was incredible, the best thing I've seen. We loved it so much that we would plan a trip to Cairns around festival time in future.
We had a great time and plan to come back
We had a great time, loved the free entertainment
We loved it. The Twits were fantastic, the lights were beautiful and exciting. The Lake Placid stories were beautiful and interesting.
We really enjoy spending time on the Esplanade, it is a massive asset to Cairns City.
We really enjoyed the light show. Really well done.
We thought it was great! Entertainment was fabulous. We went back multiple evenings as the kids loved the lights.
We went to Esplanade with family to watch air show, parade and fireworks. Air show was great again this year. Pity the weather stopped parade going ahead. We ended up leaving before fireworks due to the rain.
Why did parade get cancelled? Who do we blame for that decision? How do I not waste 3 months time and energy next year?
Will be good to have more things to do and look at especially of an evening and throughout the day i feel. Have the light show on every hour and not half hour because it's very repetitive too and loud music
William Bardon & Queensland Symphony Orchestra were absolutely fantastic Bringing such amazing world class concerts to regional QLD, is to be commended and we are very grateful. Thank you
Would liked to have stayed more nights at the festival, unfortunately had to return home for work.
Would always like to see more family-friendly events held every night on the esplanade Different Food stalls each night coffee vans etc Perhaps free Busking license during the 10 days and the pianos were fun the year they were out Movies in the park - near pier bar would be nice again Chalk drawings for the kids Night local Market stalls one of the nights More movable art around the esplanade Fun games to play - large 10 pin bowling's or chess
Would have appreciated more details on some of the performances and pre-events. Consider less is more -- i.e., fewer activities but focus on higher quality. Some of the ticket prices were very high for locals.
Would have liked to see some food vans around the Esplanade. Every food establishment close by were extremely busy and we ended up leaving before seeing the fireworks because we couldn't access food for dinner
Would love to see the parade and Lake Placid shows be on more than one night.
You guys did a fantastic job. We really enjoyed it!
You guys made the right call to cancel the parade. It was too wet & rainy on and off all day. Wish the festival could be longer as we didn't get time to see it all.