



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Media release – Office of Community
Education & Training Centre Incorporated**
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF TUGGERAH LAKES MARDI GRAS COMMITTEE

6TH November 2014 2014

The 61st Annual Tuggerah Lakes Mardi Gras Parade and Festival kicks off at 4.00pm 6th Dec 2014 from Campbell St The Entrance

The newly formed Mardi Gras Committee is riding the crest of a wave of enthusiasm and excitement with an overwhelming response and support coming from local businesses and the community in and out of The Tuggerah Lakes District.

Lites! Camera! Action! The Coast Lakes Festival Association is setting the scene for Sporting Groups, Car Clubs, Schools, Corporate and Small/Medium Businesses, Local Radio, Television and Newspapers, Entertainers, Local Charity Organisations, Ethnic and Community Organisations and Associations to showcase their skills and talents by participating in the revival of The Tuggerah Lakes Mardi Gras in 2014.

Cr Lloyd Taylor-Mardi Gras Committee, Vice President said "that the overwhelming interest and support coming out of the local area indicates clearly the demand and passion to keep this 60 year old iconic event not just alive but vibrant, exciting and growing."

"With the response from parade entries so far, this year's Mardi Gras parade, to be held December 6th 2014 and departing from Campbell Ave, The Entrance, is expected to draw hundreds of visitors and once again The Entrance, will spark and exude the festival spirit that has been renowned to go with The Mardi Gras in the past," says Cr Lloyd Taylor

During the early stages of planning last year the committee had to overcome quite a few hurdles as it hunted down Mardi Gras history and archives with the assistance of Wyong Shire Council and The Entrance Town Centre Management. One of the greatest archives found was an 8 part historical series on The Entrance and the very beginnings of Mardi Gras 60 years ago. The video can be viewed from the Mardi Gras website. Hopefully we can revive the whole series for a stage presence in next year's Mardi Gras.

The Committee then found itself well on the way to planning a great, successful Mardi Gras event.

"Community Social Enterprise, works", say The Committees Secretary Mathew Young. "This is clearly indicated by volunteer efforts being contributed to the parade and sponsorships."

The parade this year comes alive with floats, cars, vehicles and walkers from community organisations and businesses like The Fun Engine Fire Brigade, SLSC's, Tuggerah Lakes Little Athletics, Tuggerah Tuffs, Central Coast African Community, Central Coast Country and Music Association, Australian Phillipino Association, Gosford Chinese Performing Arts, Easy Street Rod and Custom Club, Central Coast Hot Rodders, Greater Toukley Vision, The Big Yellow Bus, Switcharoo (circus people), Warnervale Australian Air League, Surf Rescue, Gotham, Beach Comber, JB Dancing, Maritime Services and West Gosford Harley Davidson.

The main street is expected to be filled with clowns, people on stilts, hooler hoopers, hot rods, Harley Davidsons, Batman and Robbin, ethnic groups dressed in traditional costumes and dancing, decorated vehicles with plenty of bright coloured costumes and Mardi Gras Masks.

One of the many Festival Highlights is Australian Boxing Champion Bob Mirovic "Big Bob Mirovic, The Big Bear. D.O.B. 25th February 1966, World Rank 155/1111" who will be providing demonstrations to show how boxing improves fitness, mindset, motivation and overall health.

Bob will be sharing insights from struggles and victories of his own life and the hope that brought him through overwhelming challenges.

The requests for volunteer parade entry have been coming in hard and fast with more flowing in every day, as is the generosity of sponsorships from businesses like Mingara Club, Diggers @ The Entrance, Lakeside Plaza, Wyong Shire Council, The Entrance Town Centre Management, Wyong Regional Chronicle, McDonalds, Central Coast Radio, ATB Trophies, Boardwalk Café, Entrance Lions Club, Westpac Helicopter, Coco Banana, La Costa Café Restaurant, The Basement, The Entrance SLSC, PremiAir Hire True Blue Printing and many more.

Although Mardi Gras preparations are in full swing the greatest indicator to keep Mardi Gras alive has been the pledge for the true blue 1989 Bat Mobile and Batman for 2015. This Bat mobile will drive up to The Entrance from Camden NSW and is the original bat mobile built and approved and registered by Warner Bros. Batman who accompanies the Bat Mobile is dressed in the original metal batman suit from the original batman movie which was presented to the builder of the bat mobile for his tremendous efforts to meet the exact bat mobile Warner Bros specifications.

Along with this pledge is the offer to bring Ronald McDonald to the parade next year with McDonald's providing a fully dressed float.

Once the parade has found its way to Memorial Park the Festivities will commence with Mayor Doug Eaton's welcome followed on with ongoing entertainment, bands, dancers, various children activities-circus people, Batman and Robbin, rides including the largest ferris wheel in the Southern Hemisphere and of course The Entrance's own historical carousel. All this fun is accompanied by the Mayors free Community BBQ and other food favourites. Miss Mardi Gras will be crowned and Best Parade Entry and Mardi Gras Mask winners will be announced.

The event concludes with the visit from Santa, the traditional lighting of The Memorial Park Christmas Tree and the favourite renowned fireworks display.

The Tuggerah Lakes Mardi Gras 2014 is sure to be an event that exudes fun and entertainment for everyone - families, young people, couples and the older generation. It is an event with massive community contribution and community spirit.

The Mardi Gras committee is still in preparations and welcomes participation with parade entries and sponsorships until 28th Nov 2014. ITS NOT TOO LATE TO GET INVOLVED.

The Tuggerah Lakes Mardi Gras 2014, commencing at 4.00pm from Campbell Ave on 6th Dec 2014 and finishing with festivities in Memorial Park at 9.15pm.

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