

MEDIA RELEASE

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Strand 10th birthday celebrations among new events program

Townsville's premier tourist attraction, The Strand, will celebrate its 10th birthday with a massive community Sky Show in September, as part of an exciting new events program unveiled today.

Highlight of the Ten Year Strand Redevelopment Celebrations will be the Townsville Air Show on 26 September.

The Australian Defence Force event, supported by council, will be the biggest air show staged in Australia this year, featuring the US Air Force aerobatic team, the Thunderbirds.

Corporate Governance Committee chair Cr Natalie Marr said it was fitting that The Strand's redevelopment be celebrated with a spectacular display of aerobatics and fireworks.

"Since its redevelopment in 1999, The Strand has hosted so many significant celebrations and ceremonies, from sky shows, homecoming parades and military commemorations to markets, children's birthday parties and family weddings," she said.

"It's popular with visitors and locals alike, and its design as a promenade and its upkeep by council has put Townsville on the holiday map.

"The air show in September is expected to attract about 60,000 people from throughout Australia and will be followed with expanded Strand Night Markets in the first weekend of October."

Cr Marr said council was streamlining its events program in line with community participation and budget constraints.

"In addition, we'll maintain our support of regular features such as seniors' events, Welcoming Babies, Australia Day, Eco Fiesta, the Smart Lifestyle and Sustainability Expo, Carols by Candlelight, and the New Year's Eve celebrations," Cr Marr said.

"The recent Dunlop Townsville 400 and its associated Race Week Calendar demonstrated just how good this city is at staging events and how much we enjoy them. We'll continue our \$500,000 sponsorship of the V8s and we'll ensure that other events throughout the year, which all add to our great lifestyle, are given opportunities to thrive."

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