

Reid Park races into a bright future

More than 160,000 screaming race fans can't be wrong. Townsville pulled off a V8 coup with the inaugural Dunlop Townsville 400 and planning is already underway to do it all again next year on a bigger and better scale.

The race week festival committee, chaired by Cr Tony Parsons, held a fantastic series of events, starting with a free youth concert on The Strand by Melbourne act Little Red.

Thousands lined the streets to see the V8 transporter parade snake through the city from the Bohle to Reid Park where the real action was kicking off.

On the Thursday evening thousands more made their way to Riverway for the driver signing event. Supporters queued for hours to meet their heroes and claim their slice of Townsville V8 history.

The merchandising was so well supported it was reported to have run out of some lines on the Friday, which was practice day.

Townsville City Council

rescheduled a Strand Night Market which was very well attended with many visitors commenting on the quality of the merchandise and the entertainment as well of the beauty of The Strand on a balmy winter's night.

Reid Park now returns to the ownership of the community under the stewardship of the council.

The park was always intended to become a community asset and community groups and businesses are now inquiring about hiring some of the corporate suites for meetings, etc.

Council has gifted some extra rehearsal space to the Australian Festival of Chamber Music which, by the time of publication, would have been put to good use in preparation for this year's renowned event.

Music festivals are planned for the park into the future with the possibility of some of the pit area also being used for training.

Residents and businesspeople interested in hiring any of the facilities should contact council's Customer Service Centre on 4727 9000.



The roar has only just died down but plans are in full swing to make Reid Park a valuable community asset.

Solution underway for CBD parking issues

In a major move by Townsville City Council to address the CBD parking situation, free parking and paid on-street parking are being increased and the city loop bus route has been extended.

CBD visitors and workers agree the city's current parking situation is not sustainable. After re-evaluating the issues, Townsville City Council has worked hard to develop a strategy that aims to actively reduce parking pressure on the CBD.

More free, all-day car parking lots are now available to the public with more in the pipeline and an extended city bus loop has been introduced to service these lots as well as other major stops in the area.

Short-term car parking in the CBD, which is currently free, will become \$1 per hour with pay and display machines regulating payment. All-day paid parking in the CBD is currently \$0.80 per hour. This will entice workers not willing to pay for parking or unable to find a paid full-day parking space to the free parking districts.

The Sunbus-operated RedBus service was launched last month and the 1920s-style vehicle is now

a standout regular on Townsville's CBD streets. The new service operates on a 25-minute circuit, connecting key points in the CBD such as Sunferries Breakwater Terminal, Jupiters Casino, The Strand, Palmer Street, Flinders Street, and offering regular connections to the Dean and Aplin St car parks.

This city loop will operate in addition to the existing city shuttle bus services, which will soon welcome expanded routes and will operate on 10-minute circuits.

With the Flinders Street redevelopment scheduled to start construction next year, the new parking plan will target shoppers, diners, tourists and people with short-term business in the CBD. At

the moment, these groups are locked out by a lack of parking availability.

All revenue from the new parking system will be reinvested into improving the parking situation. Council recognises that having a sustainable parking system in place is vital to the future of the CBD. The Flinders Street redevelopment is a major project and will only be able to reach its full potential if short-term visitors (shoppers, diners, self-drive tourists, business visitors, etc.) are able to use the CBD during business hours.

Once these changes have been implemented, Townsville will be offering more free parking close to the CBD than any other similar-sized city in Australia.

Extended Free Parking

- » **Dean Street** car park is to be expanded to 1000 free, all-day spaces once it reaches its current capacity of 650 spaces.
- » **Aplin Street** recently opened a car park of 100 free, all-day spaces.
- » **Queensland Rail** has worked with council and 150 free, all-day car parks will open soon near the old railway station.
- » **Eyre Street** will offer 200 free, all-day spaces in and around the old dental clinic site, which borders Leichardt Street.
- » **Fletcher Street** is under discussion between council and the developers of Central in Flinders Street West.

Aspiring musicians... apply here

Theodore Kuchar retired as Artistic Director of the Australian Festival of Chamber Music (AFCM) in 2006. In recognition of his outstanding contribution, Townsville City Council in partnership with the AFCM, created a unique scholarship as part of the council's Youth Opportunity Fund.

Last year's scholarship was won by cellist, Aleisha Strom, 15, of Pimlico State High School. As part of the scholarship Aleisha attended the International Music Festival in Sydney which finished on 14 July.

The program offers a Year 11 student \$4000, over two years, to be used to pay for instrumental

tuition and/or professional development.

Applicant eligibility

- Applicants must be:
- » An Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia
 - » A resident in the Townsville City Council local government area
 - » Learning an orchestral instrument
 - » Achieved a minimum Grade Four practical level from AMEB, ANZCA or Trinity College syllabi, and
 - » Entering year 11 in 2010.

Applications close 4 September. For further information please visit www.townsville.qld.gov.au.



2008 scholarship winner, Aleisha Strom. Left to right, Cr Jenny Lane, Aleisha Strom and AFCM Chair Jennifer Bott.