

MEDIA RELEASE



6 August 2008

Multicap Star Festival

The Multicap Star Festival celebrations held throughout Queensland during the week 12-19 July 2008 proved to be a shining success all round with tremendous community support at each of our Aspley, Petrie, Rockhampton, Kuraby, and Eight Mile Plains facilities.

Thanks to the support of the Multicap Star Festival's Community Spirit Partner, Trilby Misso Lawyers, and Media Partner Quest Community Newspapers, celebrations saw: more than 250 people enjoy each of our Aspley and Petrie events; great patronage at our local market stall in Rockhampton; a packed house at the Kuraby disco; and a crowd of over 1,000 for the last day of celebrations at Eight Mile Plains.

Multicap CEO, Jo Jessop said she was astounded to see so many people turn out for the Multicap Star Festivals to support people with disabilities, capabilities, and possibilities, and have an enjoyable time for the entire family.

"It was great to see our local communities supporting Multicap and thanks must go to the many volunteers, supporters, and businesses that sponsored, donated items, and their valuable time in the lead up and on the day," Ms Jessop said.

"We think all our clients and employees are stars and the Multicap Star Festival celebrations were a great opportunity for them to shine along with their local community," she said.

The Multicap Star Festival celebrations kicked off in Aspley on Saturday, 12 July 2008 morning with a huge trash and treasure, face painting, show bags, a jump on the jumping castle, homemade cakes, pineapple donuts, a BBQ, and a spectacular performance by a Cook Islander music and dance group.

Visitors to Old Petrie Town were treated that afternoon to a range of market stalls, face painting, show bags, show rides, homemade cakes, dance performances, the Pine Rivers Music Brass Band, and a fabulous BBQ with Multicap's staff and clients.

On Sunday, 13 July 2008 our Rockhampton staff and client's celebrated with the community at the local markets selling items they had been producing over the past couple of months including juggle balls, tennis ball poises, hula hoops, and beautiful Mone Lupo Pottery.

Over 60 people with disabilities and their carers enjoyed a BBQ, grabbed a glow stick, and boogied on down at the disco with DJ vince on Friday, 18 July 2008.

The last day of celebrations on Saturday, 19 July 2008 saw over 1,000 people at our Eight Mile Plains celebrations with local visitors treated to a Tai Chi performance,

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face painting, show bags, show rides, pony rides, a baby animal farm, homemade cakes, a BBQ, and an exhibition by Access Arts and Monte Lupo artists with a disability.

Eight Mile Plains and Petrie were also lucky to have the support of local rock band, Flat Line, art exhibitions, and pottery workshops making the celebrations even more memorable. Multicap Business Services Manager, Fiona Haynes, said that the Festival celebrations were a great opportunity for people with a disability to make a visible and valued contribution.

"All of the work displayed in the art exhibition at Eight Mile Plains was created by artists with disabilities, and everybody who viewed the exhibition got to vote for their favourite artist, with the people's choice award going to Elizabeth Duffy," Ms Haynes said.

"A number of our clients and supported employees came and helped out or participated in all of the festivities and had a ball, including at the pottery workshops that Festivals Australia funded," she said.

The Make Your Own Pottery Workshops at Eight Mile Plains and Petrie were made possible by Festivals Australia, an Australian Government program which supports cultural activity at regional and community festivals. The Australian Government was proud to be associated with the Multicap Star Festival celebrations.

A colouring competition was also held at Eight Mile Plains with the winner, nine year old Rebecca Leung of Coopers Plains, receiving a \$100 bank account with Suncorp CALAMVALE. Congratulations Rebecca!

Ms Jessop said the "Multicap Star Festival celebrations are now an annual event and I look forward to joining with all our communities again next year."

Established in 1962, Multicap provides creative and sustainable support options for people with multiple disabilities, and challenging and complex behaviours, their families and carers in Queensland. Monte Lupo is a business service of Multicap that was established in 1991 to provide creative opportunities to enable artists to focus on their capabilities and possibilities rather than on their disabilities.

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Further information and photos: Katie Bottom, Multicap Events & Partnership Coordinator directly on 3340 9045, or email katieb@multicap.asn.au