

Folksinger Sue-Anne performs on home turf at the 1770 Festival

Thousands flock to event

By **MELANIE PETRINEC**

PERFORMING on her home turf always gives singer-songwriter Sue-Anne a lift.

And it showed when she took the stage at the 1770 Festival at the weekend for two memorable performances as thousands of people flocked to the annual event throughout the day.

Born in Gladstone, Sue-Anne's father owns a farm at Lowmead, and the accomplished folk singer and guitarist makes the pilgrimage back to the area as often as she can.

"It's great watching the community grow, and watching all the young up and coming (artists)," she told The Observer after her first performance on Saturday.

"It (the 1770 Festival) is getting a bit bigger and better every time.

"I love it, it's awesome."

Sue-Anne's father had been teaching his young

daughter how to play basic guitar chords for about a year before he lost his hearing.

However, it did not deter him - he continued to teach Sue-Anne what he knew.

"He's a great inspiration to me," the performer, who is now based on the Sunshine Coast, said.

"He lost his hearing, but he still taught me to play.

"We played lots of Neil Young and Cat Stevens. He told me to follow my dreams."

Three years ago, Sue-Anne's father received a cochlear implant, and heard his daughter's songs for the first time.

It was a high point in the singer's eight year career as a professional performer.

It goes without saying, Sue-Anne has a lot to offer other Central Queensland musical artists in the way of advice.

"If you're passionate

about it, just keep going," she said.

"It's not an easy road, but if you really love it, that's what matters in the end."

Other performers at the festival included Gladstone band Whyte Zebra, folk artists Pacha Mamma, four piece band Arabesk and soul singer Lisa Hunt.

But it wasn't all about the music.

The re-enactment of Lieutenant James Cook's landing at the main stage, performed by Rosedale State School, was also a rousing success.

And Friday night's sold out comedy event brought some laughs to the Discovery Coast

Yesterday, a Battle of the Bands was on the agenda.

The 1770 Festival has been an annual event for fifteen years, commemorating the visit of the Bark Endeavour and the landing of Lt. James Cook's crew in May 1770.



Folk singer Sue-Anne wows the crowd at the 1770 Festival during her first performance of the day with her band.
Picture by MELANIE PETRINEC band250508-1

Rio the Super Dog is the star

SHE'S so super, Rio the Super Dog has special dispensation to roam the Gladstone Region's markets and festivals, and she was the star again at the weekend, wooing all the kids and plenty of adults at the 1770 Festival.

The canine caped crusader was demonstrating her super powers again on the pristine foreshore where James Cook first set foot in Queensland, 238 years ago.

Market and festival organisers in Gladstone, Calliope, Rockhampton and 1770/Agnes Water put in special requests to owners Barbara and Norm Whitehall to

have their Super-dog drawcard attend their events, as dog lovers and those who are normally not so, can't help themselves, stopping by for a pat and chat.

The Whitehalls got Super Dog, alias Rio, from a Sunshine Coast breeder six and half years ago and continue training the English Staffordshire every day, to perfect her superpowers of charming and befriending all who come into contact with her.

"She still gets training every day, every morning and every afternoon," said Barbara.

"Rio can sit here for a lot of the

day, quite content and placid, but Norm takes her for a walk and a play every morning and every afternoon."

"People come to markets and festivals from all over just to see Rio. To get their Super Dog fix."

Barbara studied aromatherapy and has transferred those skills into creating and manufacturing all the pet products they sell from the Super-dog stall.

"I only use organic oils and extracts to put in our shampoos and flea and tick products as well as special ointments for dogs with skin allergies," Barbara said.



Rio the Super-Dog demonstrates her super powers again on the pristine foreshore where James Cook first set foot in Queensland, 238 years ago.
Picture by ROB BLACK seve250508-1

Youth charged with assault after incident at Festival

A 16-year-old youth allegedly king-hit Agnes Water Police Officer in Charge Sergeant Jon Edwards at the 1770 Festival on Saturday night.

The youth was subsequently arrested and charged with Serious Assault Police, but was later released on strict bail conditions.

Sgt Edwards alleged he had intervened in a disturbance at the 1770 foreshore and was making an arrest when the youth, who wasn't thus far involved, king-hit him, causing abrasions and bruising to his face.

"I was disappointed with the number of liquor offence notices that were issued, it is clear that a number of youths in this community are not getting the appropriate amount of

parental discipline and are still not getting the message that drinking alcohol or minors possessing alcohol in public, will not be tolerated," Sgt Edwards said.

Agnes Water Police, supported by Gladstone District Police, including Dog Squad, Water Police, Traffic Branch and District Response Team were kept busy over the weekend as thousands flocked to the 1770 Festival.

The majority of the Festival-goers were well behaved.

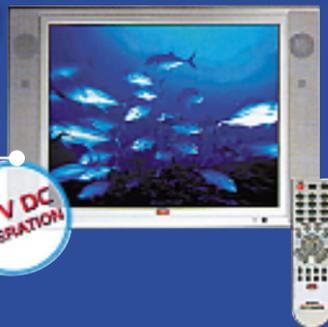
However Sgt Edwards said he was disappointed at the number of people who were not making informed choices and driving after consuming alcohol.

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