

3RD ANNUAL CAIRNS BLUES FESTIVAL “CURTAIN RAISER”

FEATURING MASON RACK BAND, JULES BOULT & MOONDOGS GYPSY BLUES BAND



SATURDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2011

As the months draw closer to the 3rd annual Cairns Blues Festival (due to be held on Saturday 7th May), the Festival Association is launching the 2011 event with a Curtain Raiser on Saturday 26th February 2011 at Cairns Showgrounds' Fig Tree Bar. The Curtain Raiser features musical highlights from the 2010 Cairns Blues Festival such as Mason Rack Band (Gold Coast) and locals Moondogs Gypsy Blues Band, as well as Jules Boulton (Melbourne). This is an exclusive chance for music lovers to see these three bands in concert before their official billing onstage at this year's festival.

Bringing the audience to their feet at the 2010 concert, The Mason Rack Band are one of those sensational music outfits that defy all genres, mixing not only blues but heavy rock, jazz and roots into their performances. Their live show is high energy, mesmerizing and unforgettable. Those people who saw the phenomenal set by the band at last year's festival will remember the vibrant percussion and impressive musicianship of the trio.

Melbourne-based blues soloist Jules Boulton has earned a solid reputation nationally. He dabbles across genres, jazz, country and folk, always cementing the basis of his music in the blues realm. Something about the turbulent times portrayed in the blues genre resonates with Jules, and therefore, resonates with the audiences who are fans of his music today. His songwriting, which is neither fact nor fiction, brings forth good strong stories that showcase a world that Jules Boulton has made his own.

Local band Moondogs Gypsy Blues Band needs no introduction, being one of the key blues bands to come out of North Queensland. Their inclusion at the Curtain Raiser, and later at the 2011 festival ensures a strong local element, that is world-class in its quality. The Cairns Blues Festival is run by a volunteer committee, and while still in its infancy, is set to become a major event. Community donations are encouraged to help make this year's festival a successful event.

The 2011 Cairns Blues Festival on Saturday 7th May at Fogarty Park, The Esplanade has confirmed the following line-up:- Eric Bibb, Phil Manning, Chase the Sun, Mason Rack Band, Jules Boulton, Johnnos Blues Band, Moondogs Gypsy Blues Band and The Derringers. Stay tuned to www.cairnsbluesfestival.com.au for more updates.

The Cairns Blues Festival 2011 Curtain Raiser will be held at Fig Tree Bar, Cairns Showgrounds on Saturday 26th February. Gates and bar open from 5pm. Tickets are \$15 per person and available on the door.

For more information, please visit www.cairnsbluesfestival.com.au