

Celebrate local flavours at Marrickville Festival

Celebrate local flavours at Marrickville Festival on Sunday 24 October from 11am – 5pm on Marrickville and Illawarra Roads.

As part of The Sydney Morning Herald Crave Sydney International Food Festival, presented by Citibank, the Festival will host over 25 food stalls offering a feast of international cuisines from Brazil, Mexico, Spain, Portugal, Turkey, Africa and many other corners of the world. With a new layout for this year's event, Marrickville Roads' shops and restaurants will also be on show to the anticipated crowds, with specials and displays to celebrate the day.

This year, the Festival will present a Made in Marrickville tastings pavilion to showcase the range of fantastic foods produced by Marrickville businesses and available locally. A selection of foods including breads, dips, cheeses, small goods, pastas,

cakes, pastries and chocolate can be sampled on the day.

Mayor of Marrickville Councillor Fiona Byrne said this year's Marrickville Festival will stimulate the senses.

"This year's event offers a little taste of everything. It's a wonderful way to celebrate the local creative talent and cultural diversity of our community," Councillor Byrne said.

Savour the melodies from Deep Sea Arcade, who mix the sounds of 60s surf and psychedelic rock with an 80s new wave to create a new, catchy sound. Live entertainment will also include other local musicians such as hip-hop duo KillaQueenz.

Indulge further in the music, by grooving on the international dance floor. Local multicultural groups, businesses and organisations will share dance steps from around the globe for everyone to enjoy.

Devour the stories from local writers and comedians at the SLAM! Perilous Text Uprising by Urchin Books stage. The vibrant showcase includes popular comedian Anh Do and acclaimed author Fiona McGregor and many others who will excite the imagination.

Sample the locally made arts and crafts on display and available for purchase. ESP Gallery will also be hosting an artist market to showcase the creative works of local artisans. Also, peruse the bustling marketplace for local treasures and souvenirs to take home.

There will also be a range of free rides, workshops and activities in the Kid's Play Park to entertain the kids.

Marrickville Council would like to thank Major Partners Inner West Courier and Lebara Mobile, and supporter Petersham RSL, for supporting the Marrickville Festival.



STRENGTHENING VICTIMS' CONSULTATION IN CHARGE NEGOTIATIONS

NSW Attorney General, John Hatzistergos announced the Keneally Government will introduce new certification requirements that will strengthen the existing process of consultation with victims of crime in cases involving charge negotiations. The reforms would help ensure victims are properly consulted and get a fair say when offenders plead guilty.

"Following charge negotiations, prosecutors will need to provide the court with a signed certificate to verify that the victim was consulted on the agreed statement of facts submitted to the court during sentencing," he said.

The reform will also require the prosecutor to certify that in his opinion the statement is a fair and accurate account of the level of the offender's criminality.

This will help ensure that sentences are not watered down because the statement of facts on which the court is basing its judgment does not represent the full seriousness of the crimes committed by the offender.

The certificate will need to be signed by the prosecutor in charge of the case after consultation with the victim.

"This would build a mechanism into the charge negotiations process to guarantee that victims of crime get a fair say," Mr Hatzistergos said.

The Government will also implement the Sentencing Council recommendations that, in cases where it has not been possible for the prosecutor to consult with the victims or their family, the certificate must note the reason why no consultation has taken place.

This will ensure that in situations where it is unreasonable to consult with victims, for instance if they have asked not to be contacted, the prosecutor will not be in breach of the law but at the same time must be accountable to the court for the reasons why.

The Government will amend the Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999 to introduce these new requirements. The move comes after widespread consultation with victims of crime, the Director of Public Prosecutions and the heads of the judiciary on a NSW Sentencing Council Report released late last year. The report, Reductions in Penalties at Sentence, led by former Supreme Court Justice Hon. James Wood AO QC, was commissioned by the NSW Government to ensure victims were properly consulted on any charge negotiations.

The Director of Public Prosecution Guidelines require that victims be consulted on charge negotiations. The current reforms will further strengthen these requirements and build in safeguards for victims of crime.

Idyllic isle of serene sunsets

WATCHING the sun on the horizon from the Greek island of Santorini was a special moment for Warwick Capper.

The one-time AFL star and flamboyant media identity vitised the island a few years ago after he had been in England doing a comedy show with Mark "Jacko" Jackson.

"It was like being in heaven watching the sun come down on the water", Capper says.

"It was a nice experience. It's good to see different things.

"Everybody is getting around on donkeys there - it's like the 17th or 18th century".

Capper was also taken by the famous architecture on the island.

"They're all white brick houses" he says.

But he wasn't quite as keen on the beaches. "There's no sand on the beaches", he says. "It looks like sand but it's more coral.

"When I was running on it, it was a bit rocky. It's still nice though".

He also enjoyed eating Greek food such as kebabs and tabouli - not to mention the alcohol.

"I had heaps of ouzo because it's really strong over there", he says. "And because my name's Warwick Capper. I had caprioskas (lime and vodka cocktails). I had a bit of a headache the next day".

While he was there he also spent a few days on the



nearby "party island" of Ios.

"Ios is a bit ragier", he says.

"They have a few nightclubs and a few bars on the beach.

"It was a kind of good because there were a lot of Australians there who still knew me".

Capper has been lucky enough to travel extensively throughout Australia and the world doing various comedy shows, and hopes to travel more with his new role as the face of travel website quickbeds.com

Having slept in so many different beds, Capper believes he will slip right into

the role.

He says the best bed he ever slept in was when he had his own room at the Sheraton Mirage on the Gold Coast when it was owned by Australian businessman - and later infamous fugitive - Christopher Skase.

"I think the beds cost about 10 grand", he says. "It was big and soft and comfortable.

"I have stayed at some nice Marriots and Versace is quite nice on the Gold Coast".

The worst place he stayed at was while he was travelling around Australia performing comedy shows.

"I had a shocker just out of Adelaide at a backpackers," he says.

"It was a \$10 bed but we got it for free because we were doing a show there. It was 45C in summer with no airconditioning. I had a sore back for two weeks.

"When you're on the road and you put up with it because you're getting paid and you're doing a job".

Colombia, Miami and the Bahamas are top of his wish - list for future travel.

"I don't think you can beat Australia but it's nice seeing different places", he says.

Article from the Sunday Telegraph