



## The Moscow Circus will turn pink

The NSW Government, in conjunction with the Queensland Government, will host a charity performance of The Great Moscow Circus in support of the McGrath Foundation on 4 January 2011.

For one performance, the Moscow Circus will turn pink to highlight the Foundation's work in supporting women with breast cancer through McGrath Breast Care Nurses.

NSW Premier Kristina Keneally and Queensland Premier Anna Bligh are supporting the charity event following a bet arising out of the 2010 Harvey Norman State of Origin series.

NSW and Queensland have a decade long tradition of State of Origin bets.

This year, the Premiers agreed to fly the winner's flag for one week and jointly host a charity fundraiser for breast cancer.

Following the NSW Origin loss, the Queensland flag was flown on the Sydney Harbour Bridge earlier this year.

"Although the Origin result was not the one I would have chosen, I am pleased to be able to support the important work of the McGrath Foundation," Ms Keneally said.

"All proceeds from the charity event will be donated to the McGrath Foundation to fund McGrath Breast Care Nurses in communities right across Australia and increase breast awareness among young women.

"The Great Moscow Circus will be a fantastic night out for families to be entertained and astounded by the sensational acrobatic skills of internationally renowned Russian circus performers."

The charity performance will also feature acts including the Russian Clown, contortionists, thrilling acrobatic artistry and a grand finale featuring four daredevil motorbikes

from Brazil in the 'Globe of Death'.

Tickets are now available for purchase from the McGrath Foundation's website at <http://mcgrathfoundation.iwannaticket.com.au>, priced at \$35 per ticket or \$112 for a family of four (includes GST and booking fee).



# Christmas Season comes alive

## Free events in Sydney

Sydney families will be able to celebrate the Christmas season at a range of fun, free events over the next fortnight – starting today with the Premier's Christmas Gala Concerts – and capped with the annual Carols in the Domain on December 18 featuring the Wiggles for the 18th consecutive year.



out Santa – and children at Carols will be able to visit Santa's grotto and have their photo taken by his elves.

"Christmas is a time to help others, and the NSW Government is proud to support Carols raise funds for the life-changing work of the Salvation Army."

Minister for Ageing, Peter Primrose said the Premier's Christmas

And this year, a new event – The Lights of Christmas – will see St Mary's Cathedral and the historic Hyde Park Barracks illuminated in a magical lighting display.

Audiences will enjoy dazzling light shows and performances from some of Australia's best professional and community choirs in the forecourt of St Mary's Cathedral.

Starting this week, the Lights of Christmas will run nightly from Wednesday to Sunday starting at 7.30pm.

Today and tomorrow, 30,000 NSW seniors will celebrate an early Christmas at the ever-popular Premier's Christmas Gala Concert series.

The concerts are a highlight of the festive season for seniors who will be able to enjoy fantastic performances by some of this country's biggest names and talented young artists.

Headlining this year's concert at the Sydney Entertainment Centre is the multi-talented entertainer Rhonda Burchmore.

Premier Keneally said the NSW Government is pleased to present an exciting array of Christmas events to help families celebrate the season of peace and goodwill.

"I encourage families and friends from across Sydney to come along to the free events on offer and enjoy this special time of year," Ms

Keneally said.

"The coming series of events are a wonderful chance to share in the festive spirit of peace, joy and goodwill in our beautiful city."

Ms Keneally said the much-loved Carols in the Domain, featuring an appearance by the Wiggles will take place on Saturday 18 December. It will be their 18th consecutive appearance.

The Carols in the Domain is also expected to be seen by more than 1.5 million people on television.

"Carols in the Domain is one of the most cherished events in Sydney's summer calendar, attracting thousands of people to join in and sing their favourite Christmas carols," Ms Keneally said.

"It wouldn't be Christmas with-

Gala Concerts celebrate the invaluable contribution that seniors make in our community.

"It's important, especially at Christmas, to show our appreciation to seniors," Mr Primrose said.

"We hope the concerts go some way to showing them how much we value the contribution they make to this great State."

The Premier's Gala Concerts are funded by the NSW Government and organised by Ageing, Disability and Home Care NSW. They are free for anyone over 60 in NSW.

Events in the lead up to this week have included the Variety Santa Fun Run, Carols by the Tree and Polish Christmas at Darling Harbour.

### Sydney's Christmas Festivities still to come

8 December	Premier's Christmas Gala Concerts	Sydney Entertainment Centre
8 December	Lights of Christmas	Hyde Park Barracks & St Mary's Cathedral
9 December	Carols by the Tree	Darling Harbour
18 December	Carols in the Domain	The Domain

