

New date for food and wine festival

Event moved to spring to take advantage of weather

THE popular Ballina Food and Wine Festival will this year be held in spring.

The Rotary Club of Ballina-on-Richmond, which organises the festival which will celebrate its 10th birthday, announced the annual event will kick off on Friday, October 18, with a gala dinner, and the main festival day will be held at the Ballina Jockey Club on Sunday, October 20.

Festival chairman Col Lee said the reason the club had changed the festival date from June-July to October was to avoid bad weather.

“Let’s be honest, the last number of years the weather has not been kind to us in June-July leading up to the festival, which has made it difficult for all the pre-set-up that is required at the jockey club,” he said.

“October is a warmer time of year, and who could say no to going to a food and wine festival at this beautiful time of year?”

“It also means we can take advantage of daylight saving and run our festival for an hour longer on Sunday from 11am-6pm – that’s more time for everyone to enjoy the festival.”

Also, Mr Lee said the middle period of the year was a busy time for Rotary clubs as that was when the annual changeover dinners

were held at local, district and international levels.

He said the Rotarians liked to support other clubs, so moving the date of the food and wine festival to October would make it easier for Rotarians from across the region to attend.

Mr Lee also said he was excited the festival was this year celebrating its 10th anniversary.

“October is a warmer time of year.”

— Col Lee

Other festivals have come and gone in Ballina Shire during this time, but the Ballina Food and Wine Festival is the longest-running festival of its type in the shire.

“For nine years, our festival has been celebrating the amazing produce and wonderful culinary experience available here right in Ballina, your gourmet destination,” he said.

“Experience the passion our Rotary club has for Ballina and dine with us at our Friday night gala dinner and Sunday festival and celebrate our 10th birthday with us.”

Ballina firm Collins Hume up for two gongs

BALLINA firm Collins Hume is represented among the finalists of two categories in the Australian Small Business Champions awards.

Now in its 20th year, Precedent Productions last week announced those vying for a gong.

Collins Hume partner Peter Fowler is in the Small Business Entrepreneur category and Collins Hume is an Accounting Services finalist.

Mr Fowler said there were “so many amazing accounting firms all around Australia who take part each year”.

“Many finalists are driven by improving the lives of others and making a contribution to our communities, whether via

an invention, innovation, experience or other means, and Collins Hume is no exception,” he said.

“Through our efforts in the Northern Rivers, we aim to exemplify the region’s entrepreneurial spirit, pro-business mentality and wider global outlook.”

“We have a special team who we cannot thank enough for everything they do and who always have our clients’ best interests at heart.”

The 2019 Australian Small Business Champion Awards are presented by Precedent Productions and sponsored by Nova Employment and Castaway.

The winners will be announced at the gala dinner in Sydney on April 6.



NEW DATE: Organisers of the Ballina Food and Wine Festival have announced the popular event will this year be held on October 20, a change from previous years. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

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