



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Port Douglas Hot & Steamy Festival Celebrates Diversity and Inclusion in the Tropics

February 17, 2020 The Port Douglas Hot & Steamy Festival over the weekend well and truly lived up to its name and shone brightly as an excellent example of diversity and inclusion of the LGBTQI+ community in Far North Queensland.

The inaugural event's headline act was showgirl and cabaret phenomenon Millie Minogue, a clear crowd-pleasing favourite who belted out Kylie tunes alongside her gold-hotpanted dancers. No stranger to Port Douglas, Millie was thrilled – albeit a little warm - to be involved with the event and in a place that she has a personal attachment to, having lived here in the early 1990s.

"I feel so honoured to be here for the first of undoubtedly many Hot & Steamy Festivals in coming years, " Millie said. "It's wonderful to see so many people having flown here specifically for this, and to see so many local businesses jumping in to support the event. What a way to start [Sydney] Mardi Gras season!"

The inaugural Port Douglas Hot & Steamy Festival drew around 1000 people across seven events in iconic spots around Port Douglas, giving the area a much needed boost to tourism during the traditionally quiet time of year.

Festival Director Nathan Clarke said the patronage of the event was unprecedented, and that even their own expectations had been superceded. "With over half of the guests from out of the region, it has provided a healthy cash injection into the town during the quietest time of the year," he said. "The community really embraced this event wholeheartedly, and we couldn't be prouder. If Dark Mofo in Tasmania can turn their terrible winters into something extraordinary, then Port Douglas says 'challenge accepted' during our steamy summers."

Festival goers who were in Port Douglas for the first time specifically for the event have reported back that they were blown away by the extraordinary beauty of the region and the welcoming, friendly nature of the local community.

Kris Kornovich who travelled to the event from Melbourne said "This has been such a well-organised event, and we will absolutely be coming back next year, but definitely for longer – an amazing weekend of events, followed by a little down time, and then straight onto Mardi Gras!"

Douglas Shire Mayor Julia Leu said "I thoroughly congratulate festival directors, Nathan Clarke and Jason Penrose, regarding the success of the event. It exceeded everyone's expectations, was heaps of fun and has been a much needed boost to our local economy.

"I'm very proud that Council supported this and look forward to it becoming a significant annual event in the future".

The Hot & Steamy Festival featured an exceptional line up of local and national DJs, drag performances and cabaret shows, a long lunch, several evening events in key Port Douglas locations, wrapping up with a pool party at a luxury hotel. It is set to position itself as the premier LGBTQI+ festival in the region, also acting as an excellent precursor to the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras.

Planning for Hot & Steamy 2021 has already commenced and is looking to be even bigger, bolder and sweatier than ever.

For up to date information, head to www.pdhotsteamy.com.au or to Facebook @pdhotsteamy

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