

# 10th birthday for Dalby Cottonweek

By Caroline Milford

The Australian Cottonweek Festival will celebrate its big 10th birthday from March 2-6 in Dalby.

The festival offers a mix of entertainments catering for a wide range of interests — all threaded with a cotton theme.

The festival begins on Wednesday with an education day where secondary students learn about cotton production.

Thursday offers a great day of social golf in two shotgun tee offs. For the kids, Rockin' Ranger Matt and the Wild Things performance presents original live music and close encounters with native animals. Later that day there's the chance to celebrate down town as the street party gets underway with Chrisse Feros and the Drummers of Toumba Toumba, clowns, displays and children's entertainment.

On Friday, a cotton conference features a range of speakers examining the future directions of cotton and associated industries. The black tie dinner on Friday night features a spectacular cotton fashions expo by leading designers with award-winning food and live music making it a memorable start to the weekend events.

On the Saturday visitors can stay on for the fabulous Australian Cottonweek Newmarket Race Day with fashion parades, live music and country racing at its best delivering \$55,000 in prizes.

Enjoy lunch under the marquee at Bunya Park from 12.30pm and join in the fun of the popular Calcutta and fashions on the field. And when the racing is done, the evening continues with a fashion parade and music by Desert Rain.

Sunday offers a great day out for all ages at the Family Fun Day. Enjoy non-stop music with the Toyota Golden Guitar Award best new talent Dianna Corcoran,



A feature will be the spectacular cotton fashion expo.

the Windy City Jazz band, Desert Rain and the Drummers of Toumba Toumba as well as the ever-popular children's group Popcorn.

Children will enjoy the jugglers and circus show, face painting, rides, pig racing, clowns and other entertainments.

See teams pull a 16,247kg cotton picker across the line in the fastest time or children battle it out for the fastest time in the mower pull. Watch the excitement of billy-cart racing as youngsters race their home-made carts to the finishing line and browse through the selection of utes on show as part of the annual ute competition.

There's markets and a selection of foods on offer including prime Darling Downs beef.

Other events running separate from the main program include a fun day of bowls and the Zonta International Women's Day

Breakfast with Shirley Friend 'The Naked Poet' as guest speaker.

## YOUNG DESIGNER FASHION AWARD

When it comes to making apparel few fabrics can match the pure and natural qualities of cotton.

Even as humble calico, its style and versatility are evident, and right now, fashion students around Australia are busy transforming sheets of calico into spectacular catwalk garments that will be paraded at the Australian Cottonweek dinner on March 4.

The Young Designer in Cotton Fashions Award is a highlight of the main dinner event attracting national participation as students vie for the prize of a one-month scholarship with Italian fashion house Enrico Coveri in Florence.

Well-known fashion manager Lindsay Bennett will stage the cotton parade for the evening which includes student fashions and designer wear.

Designers Paul Hunt and Pauline Benjes will present their fashions and also join Sydney Morning Herald fashion writer Cidonie Richards on the judging panel.

The evening offers a great night of entertainment with award winning food by Cha Cha Char Wine Bar and Grill. Also, there's a fantastic musical line-up featuring Working Overtime and Chrisse Feros and the Drummers of Toumba Toumba.

Last year's event attracted a capacity crowd of 900 as the Queensland Cotton gin was revamped with cotton, colour and flair to become the perfect venue for a cotton dinner.

For bookings and information contact 1800 680 303 or visit [www.cottonweek.com.au](http://www.cottonweek.com.au)



The black tie dinner will be on the Friday night.



Sunday will be a family fun day.