

Cottonweek Festival becomes creative by design

By Caroline Milford

The Australian Cottonweek Festival is on again from March 3 to 7 with live music, art, sport and fashion all part of the five day line-up. This year also includes a Rural Expo that will provide a stronger industry focus for the festival.

HYPOTHETICALLY SPEAKING...

Following on the success of last year's Four and More Rural Forum, this year's event is set to take a slightly different angle and is sure to provide an interesting mix of controversy, opinions and suggestions.

Hypothetically speaking... "The Living Murray" will provide a scenario-based look at the introduction of the Water Allocation Management Plan and it's effects on local landowners.

The forum will explore the impacts and issues associated with water allocations based on a hypothetical situation involving a young farming family who are heavily invested in developed infrastructure, pre-water reforms.



The bush barbecue features a variety of events.

The forum will pick up the scenario and the issues from this point and will incorpo-

rate speakers (and opinions) from all walks of life including the landowner, politicians, industry association representatives, banking, the public sector and local government.

The forum will be preceded by the Queensland Cotton/Dalby Agricultural College Field Day being held on March 3 as the opening event of Cotton Week and is set to start at 3.00 pm.

The Field Day, starting at 10 am, will



The kids will find plenty of entertainment.

provide something for everyone, incorporating displays, demonstrations, the presentation of trial results undertaken by Queensland Cotton at the College and also a tour of the College campus and facilities.

COTTON CHARISMA

The charisma of the cotton fibre is woven through the festival with cotton picker pulls, cotton farm tours and a national cotton fashions award.

The popular Dunavant golf day is on Thursday, March 4, while the children can enjoy a concert by the delightfully entertaining Flower Pot Gang.

On Saturday enjoy the big bush barbecue and on Sunday, the Newmarket Race Day offers an exciting six-race program.

The black tie gala fashion dinner is a highlight of the festival featuring great food, wine and jazz together with innovative cotton creations by Australia's up-and-coming fashion students.

The style, versatility and durability of cotton will be highlighted at the national Young Designer in Cotton Fashions Award during this year's dinner.

Aspiring young fashion students from all over Australia are working on creative calico designs they hope will win them a trip to Italy and the chance of a lifetime.

The world-class Trussardi fashion house in Milan is offering a one-month internship to the winner and the opportunity to work beside some of the world's most creative designers.

Calico is the selected fabric for all



The charisma of the cotton fibre is woven through the festival.



This year's winning designer will receive a special prize.

designs. The idea behind using 80 per cent pure calico for the garments is to promote the cotton theme and demonstrate the creative possibilities of cotton.

Volunteer and mother of three, Wendy



There will be plenty of entertainment for everyone at Cottonweek.

Sutton said the award was a great opportunity to get involved in an exciting community project.

"What's great about Cottonweek is that it demonstrates how connected rural areas are with other parts of Australia as well as overseas. We are linked by people, business and common interests," she said.

Information and bookings for both the 'Living Murray' Hypothetical and the Field Day can be made by contacting Bronwyn Bartsch (Queensland Cotton) on (07) 4662 5220 or Susanne Schick (Dalby Agricultural College) on (07) 4672 3220.

For more information freecall 1800 680 303 or visit www.cottonweek.com.au