

ival — “just magic”



Canberrans enjoy the magical festival finale—Opera by the Lake. Photo by Silas.

“The performers were simply magnificent and the compere Ross Solly was also superb.”

Mr Mico estimates some 12,000 people attended the festival theatre events, both large and small, which was an outstanding achievement.

He said the opening weekend that featured the Fyshwick Fresh Food Markets Food and Dance Spectacular and the Greek Glendi saw some 65,000 people participate, undeterred by the inclement weather.

“On the final Saturday, the Hellenic Club Carnivale attracted a massive crowd.

“People make Carnivale work and it was sensational to see thousands of people dressed up to the nines, dancing on the pavements to the sounds of some incredible bands.

“Carnivale certainly brought out the Latin spirit in Canberra and the festival demonstrated in no uncertain terms that it has come of age.”

The National Multicultural Festival is an ACT Government event, managed by the Office of Multicultural and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs in the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services.

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Competition judge, Shirley Pipitone, leader of the Canberra Branch of the Garden Design Study Group, was amazed at the quality of the gardens entered, despite the unpredictable weather.

As the winner of the 2006 Gardening Competition, Carol had some sage advice to all the green thumbs in Canberra.

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Carol was presented with her award by the Minister for Housing, John Hargreaves.



Assisting young people with brain injury

Finding appropriate, affordable and long term housing for young people who have an acquired brain injury (ABI) is an ongoing challenge for governments right across Australia.

In many jurisdictions, the high cost and often complex care needs associated with ABI means that some younger people have had no alternative other than residential aged care.

“The ACT has an extremely small number of people under 50 living in residential aged care,” said executive director of Disability ACT, Lois Ford.

“However, there is a need to do more to assist these people, both in terms of accommodation and other supports, including recreational activities.

“Over the last 18 months Disability ACT has been working to establish a new accommodation and support model for a small group of Canberrans with ABI.

“Through Housing ACT, a property fully modified to house people with ABI was made available for the service.

“The first of the four male residents has already moved into his new accommodation, while the other residents will relocate by March.”

For more information about the ABI initiative, contact Sarah King on 13 34 27.

TJ proving ‘anything’s possible’

Popular Canberra singer, songwriter and recording artist, TJ James is partnering with Disability ACT to encourage the involvement of people with disabilities in music and the creative arts.

TJ was born with Cerebral Palsy. He works closely with organisations that assist people with Cerebral Palsy, both in Australia and overseas.

“Disability ACT is delighted to be working with TJ,” said executive director, Lois Ford.

“TJ has recently completed a series of workshops at Lake Tuggeranong College, introducing young people with disabilities — and their friends — to the ‘business of music’.

“In this way, TJ is able to open up a range of career and recreational opportunities for these young people, as well as growing their self esteem.

“The workshops examined how the music industry works. They provided opportunities for participants to share experiences and explore the career options available within the industry for young people with disabilities.

“Disability ACT received terrific feedback from the participating students, who found the sessions both informative and inspiring.”

TJ said it's important that young people with disabilities know that they can get involved — and even make a living in the music industry — despite the challenges they face.

Ms Ford said TJ is currently working with Disability ACT on a major project to engage people with disabilities, more widely, in the music scene and creative arts.

Canberrans who would like to learn more about TJ, his music and work with people with disabilities can visit his website on www.tjames.com.au

Photo by seventyeight.com.au

