

# History of the BUNDY IN BLOOM FESTIVAL



## TEN YEARS OF BLOOMING

2004 marks the ten-year anniversary of the "Bundy in Bloom" festival. Bundaberg City Council launched "Bundy in Bloom" in 1995 with the street parade and garden competition. Over the decade, the festival has grown into an umbrella event supporting twenty different activities celebrating the colourful season of spring.

The street parade had been a tradition of Bundaberg well before "Bundy in Bloom". The long running Sugar Harvest Festival eventually evolved into the Rum Rebellion and after a brief merger with the Oktoberfest event, "Bundy in Bloom" was born.

The Spring Procession has established itself over the years as a true community event bringing together parade entrants from the business, activity and service clubs, education and government sectors along with church groups and individual participants. Many participants have commented on the pleasure they get as the crowd applauds as their float passes by. Regular entrants include the Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers with a restored motorised cart rescued from the Melbourne produce markets, Mr Ivan Baxter on his Penny Farthing bicycle and the Vintage Car Club all decked out in their floral garlands. The festival Queen and Princesses are crowned each year and there are prizes for the best floats.

The parade has had a variety of routes and destinations over its lifetime, including marches up Bourbong and Quay Streets and over the bridge to Lions Park on the north bank of the river. "Family Fun Day" festivities have also been held at the Showground, ANZAC park and around the pavilion in the CBD.

Recent years have seen an increase in attendance, particularly as more and more children get

involved through school, sporting and other activity groups. This has prompted a break from the traditional Fathers Day scheduling with a shift this year to the second Sunday in September.

"Bundy in Bloom" is more than a street parade. Since the festival's launch, Bundaberg City Council has also been running a garden competition that is hotly contested each year. Other events under the festival umbrella include a regular exhibition by the Bundaberg Art Society at the Bundaberg Arts Centre, the Mayor's Gala Ball and the Style Spectacular fashion parade and awards.

The festival continues to evolve each year. New to the festival last year was the "Blooming Good Music" event at Fairymead House hosted by CQU Bundaberg Foundation. Deirdre Fagan-Pagliano of CQU said "the event was fantastic and the response was more than we imagined. The feedback was really positive. It was also a great opportunity for some of our students to perform."

It's impossible to talk about the history of "Bundy in Bloom" without





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mentioning the late Barry Hough, parade marshal extraordinaire. Originally involved with the harvest festival, Barry's keen interest in constructing floats had seen him enter parades in Gladstone, Toowoomba and Brisbane's Moonbah festival to name a few. Lynne Forgan of Bundaberg Hinkler Lions Club said, "Barry Hough has been a great motivator and mentor to all involved and an inspiration to keep on going." Barry's son Terry Hough will be keeping the family tradition and marshalling the parade on behalf of the many Lion's club involved in the organising of the day's activities, including the "Family Fun Day" in Alexandra Park.

So go along and celebrate the next "Bundy in Bloom" festival and be part of our local history in the making.

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Terry Clem in the middle of the Council's Bundy in Bloom Display at the Garden and Boat Expo in 2000



Elizabeth Bradley was aged 8 when she entered the parade on the Champion Float in 2000