

Sponsors take flight with early birds

The Byron Bay Writers Festival 2007 is soaring with the first official event of the year under its wing. Wednesday night saw the Festival sponsors greeted by Chairperson Chris Hanley, who warmly congratulated both Southern Cross University and Macquarie for their support as Marquee Sponsors. "For anyone else with a fondness for canvas, we still have a couple of tents available " he offered. Many local businesses and organisations annually pledge their support and contribute to the Festival's sustainability. Dates for this year's event are 26th to 29th July.

Festival Director Jeni Caffin lifted the veil on the program for 2007, and announced that the focus would be on "Who is shaping our vision of the twenty first century?" Under the searchlight will be the media, its ethics and its responsibilities and many significant and forthright journalists are lining up to participate. David Marr, Paul McGeough, Paul Sheehan, Jennifer Byrne, David Leser, Michael Gawenda, Chris Masters and Antony Loewenstein are among those who have agreed to attend.

Lovers of Australian literature will be well served by sessions featuring Richard Flanagan, Gail Jones, Carrie Tiffany, Gabrielle Lord and Rob Drewe, while big personalities such as Barry Jones and Jenny Kee will be crowd pleasers.

Comedy, film, sport and the environment: all the popular aspects of the Festival will return with some surprises.

Early Bird 3 day passes are on sale now at Jetset Byron Bay 6685 6262 or online at www.byronbaywritersfestival.com.au at the discounted price of \$145 or \$125 for NRWC members and students

Attached picture: Festival Director Jeni Caffin and Simon Stockfeld of Becton