

MEDIA RELEASE

27 December 2019

Gladstone's New Year's Eve celebration two decades in the making

The Gladstone Region is set to end the decade with a bang at Gladstone Regional Council's long-awaited New Year's Eve Party.

The NYE Party will take place at Memorial Park, located in the heart of Gladstone next to the PCYC, and marks the city's first free community New Year's Eve celebration this millennium.

Beginning from 5pm and wrapping up at midnight, the NYE Party will entertain people of all ages with food, drinks, music, a silent disco and fireworks displays at 8pm and midnight.

Brisbane-based *Hamilton Band*, led by the charismatic Lai Utovou, will headline the event which also features local musician Chris Bax and Yeppoon self-produced artist Will Hearn.

Lai was the winner of Channel 7's hit entertainment show for 2018 *All Together Now* and has shared the stage in support roles of world-renown artists including Adele.

Closer to home, Lai has worked with *Australian Idol* winners Guy Sebastian and Stan Walker, plus Australian jazz king James Morrison.

Chris Bax has been regular on the Central Queensland music scene for several years, playing at many major events in Gladstone as well as live music venues across the region.

Will Hearn is a self-produced artist from Yeppoon that connects through soulful storytelling with his music described as sonically raw, ambient and intimate.

NYE Party attendees can pack a picnic (no BYO alcohol) or purchase food from a variety of vendors while they relax and enjoy the night's entertainment.

There will be plenty of fun activities for kids (and the young at heart) and glowsticks will be handed out on arrival to make Memorial Park radiate with colour.

Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett said he was looking forward to an event which would help bring the community together.

"The NYE Party is designed to bring the whole community together to enjoy what I'm sure will be a fantastic evening," Councillor Burnett said.

"It's been a long time since we last saw a Council-run New Year's Eve event and Council's Community Events Team has worked tirelessly to make sure the night will be a great success.

MEDIA INFORMATION: For further information contact Council's Communications and Marketing Section on 4977 6803 or media@gladstone.qld.gov.au

MEDIA RELEASE

"I'm expecting Memorial Park to be buzzing with excitement on New Year's Eve as the Gladstone Region welcomes in another decade.

"Gladstone Regional Council has heard both sides of the community's feedback and has decided to still go ahead with both the 8pm and midnight fireworks displays.

"Donation tins for the ongoing Gladstone Region Drought Appeal will also be passed around on the night."

The last free Council-run New Year's Eve event took place in 1999.

Visit www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/nye-party for more information on Council's NYE Party.

<ENDS>