Territory Day – It’s Our Day

17 February 2015

Territory Day celebrations in 2015 will be enhanced with a new program of events but the Government has decided not to make the day a public holiday at the present time.

“Territorians were very clear in the research we conducted that they are very proud of who they are and feel that Territory Day should be celebrated in a big way,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“I had floated the idea of making Territory Day a public holiday by swapping it with an existing one but Territorians were divided on this question.”

When asked, the community responded with a 50:50 view, slightly in favour of a public holiday.

“It is clear at this point in time that there isn’t a strong enough desire from the community to create a public holiday to celebrate Territory Day. As such, the government has listened and decided not to introduce one at this time,” Mr Giles said.

Over the coming years, however, the Government is serious about building up our Territory Day celebrations.

“Building on the ‘It’s Our Day’ campaign that we started last year, Territory Day 2015 will be a time where we enhance our family-friendly public firework displays. We also want to create a sense of both local celebration and Territory-wide unity through some new events to be held in regional areas,” Mr Giles said.

This project will be led by the newly recruited FestivalsNT Director who has been tasked with developing signature events for Territory Day.

“After an extensive recruitment process Ali Donnellan has been selected for this post. She comes to the Territory from Jakarta where she has recently worked as the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s Oz Fest Festival Producer, and Arts and Cultural Program Manager,” Mr Giles said.

“Ms Donnellan has worked in the events industry for more than 15 years and has produced over 60 high profile national and international arts, cultural, sporting and business events.

“It’s also fantastic that she has such close links with Asia given that FestivalsNT has been created to give our annual calendar of sporting, business, cultural and artistic events a more Asian flavour.”
Some of the events already planned as part of the 2015 FestivalsNT calendar include the Nitro Circus live show in Darwin to be held on 24 April at TIO Stadium, the Darwin Entertainment Centre’s Garrmalang Festival and the first Territory Jazz ‘n Blues Festival both to be held in May.

For more information on FestivalsNT and the calendar of events visit the Tourism NT website at http://www.travelnt.com/en/events.aspx

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