



COUNTDOWN TO TASTINGS ON HASTINGS 2016

16 June 2016

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The countdown has begun for Tastings on Hastings 2016, proudly presented by Port Macquarie-Hastings Council.

Now in its 14th year, Tastings on Hastings 2016 will be held between Friday 28 and Sunday 30 October and will once again offer three action-packed days of culinary celebration, with an expanded line-up of satellite events happening right across our community.

Event highlights include a Sustainable Table morning at the Community Gardens, a Harvest Lunch on the Town Green and the Tastings Ignites night-time festival on Saturday. This will be followed by the popular Main Event on Sunday featuring hundreds of local foods and beverages to sample, live bands and cooking demonstrations. More events will be announced over coming months.

Three top professional chefs will be in town to host celebrity chef dinners, cooking demonstrations, guided event tours and an industry development day.

“As well as celebrating our local food and beverage providers, the festival highlights the farmers and food industry of the Hastings to a much wider audience with the help of these highly regarded chefs,” said Port Macquarie-Hastings Mayor Peter Besseling.

Celebrity Chef Matt Wilkinson, will delight diners at The Stunned Mullet on Friday and Saturday nights, and will host a series of cooking demonstrations on Sunday. A hatted chef, restaurant owner and contributor to Delicious magazine, Matt is obsessed with growing, sourcing and presenting the best tasting produce he can find.

Matt will be joined by Nicolas Poelaert, an internationally renowned professional chef who uses ingredients that he has grown or foraged himself, or sourced from local producers.

Popular chef Matt Golinski will be this year’s Producer’s Ambassador. Matt has a passion for using fresh, seasonal and local ingredients, and is well-known for his food columns, blogs, speaking roles and appearances on TV show Ready Steady Cook. He will also be hosting a free Industry Development Day on Monday 25 July at Newman Senior Technical College for producers and food related industries.

“The Industry Development Day will bring local food producers together to create a stronger focus on locally sourced food, and we’re looking forward to Matt sharing with us his ideas on making farm to plate a reality,” Cr Besseling said.

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Cr Besseling thanked event sponsors and supporters of Tastings on Hastings 2016, Event Partners - The Observatory, Miedecke Motor Group and Eire Constructions; Local Champions - Long Point Vineyard, North Coast Institute of TAFE, BioPak, MBC and Settlers Inn; Celebrity Chef Sponsor - The Stunned Mullet; Volunteer Sponsor - Holiday Coast Credit Union; Tastings Ignites Sponsor - Arthouse Industries; Harvest Lunch Sponsor - Elements of Design; and Industry Development Sponsors - Midwaste and Marketplace Events.

“The Tastings on Hastings festival just gets better every year, and Council is looking forward to seeing our community out and about as together we experience the culinary delights our region has to offer,” concluded Cr Besseling.

For event updates, sign up for the newsletter at tastingsonhastings.com.au and follow Tastings on Hastings on Facebook and Instagram.

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