newtown festival

diary > saturday

Hatha yoga, Forest Lodge Public School, 9.15am, phone 9518 8505

Organisers get flak over over fence

SAFETY

ORGANISERS of the Newtown Festival have been forced to defend their decision to fence this year's event after receiving a public backlash.

In June *The Glebe* reported that this year's music festival, which attracts more than 70,000 people, may not go ahead due to increasing costs. Newtown police were concerned about a stabbing and other assaults at last year's event and wanted the festival fenced.

Newtown Neighbourhood Centre agreed to fence the event and has now received criticism about it.

Last week a blogger known as Sophie created an online petition titled If It Ain't Broke. She wrote a letter to the festival organisers which had been signed by 123 people claiming that fencing the event was "short-sighted and violates that very community spirit that has brought the festival its success".

Centre co-ordinator Lisa Burn said they had also received emails and com-

ments from people about a ban on alcohol being brought in to restrict the amount of glass, and the fact that people may be searched.

"While we understand that there are some in the community who feel strongly about the changes, it was not our decision," Ms Burn said. "Apparently the police had quite a few incidents last year that were alcoholrelated – stabbing and fights - and they were extremely concerned about the amount of alcohol being brought onto the festival site and they basically required us to fence the site. It was either this or not have the festival

at all. The Newtown Neighourhood Centre provides essential community services helping the aged, people with disabilities, mental illness and others who are either at risk of becoming or are already homeless.

With the profits from last year's festival the centre employed a community development worker who has allowed them to increase their services to the local community.



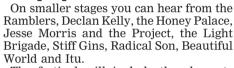
CODA are playing at this year's Newtown Festival.

New venue but it's the same popular theme MUSIC

CHANGES may be afoot at the Newtown Festival but the one thing that will remain the same is the focus on supporting independent Australian music.

This year's festival, which is sponsored by The Glebe, will be held in Camperdown Memorial Rest Park on Sunday, November 12.

In 2006 there will be three stages featuring artists including Botanics, Elana Stone, Waiting For Guinness, CODA, King Tide and OKA



The festival will include the elements which have made it popular in the past, including the Dog Show, the Writers Fetival, the Children's Stage, Kids' Zone, street theatre and hundreds of stalls.

The organisers will ask for a gold coin donation. This will raise funds for the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre.



Dallas Crane

How you can get yourself a free guitar GIVEAWAY

THE Newtown Festival is all about music and this year as sponsor of the event The Glebe is giving away a special prize. Rock band Dallas Crane has given The Glebe a \$2000 Fender guitar which they have signed, four tickets to their next Sydney gig and autographed albums for one lucky reader to win.

All you have to do is visit The Glebe's stall at the Newtown Festival on Sunday, November 12, and fill out a coupon.

This is a chance to win prizes given away by Australia's best-kept secret, rock genuises Dallas Crane, who are currently touring to promote their new album, Curiosity.



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