

Monday 19 April

## Tree of Knowledge Festival to Begin

With only one week to go until the Tree of Knowledge Festival gets underway the town is gearing up to welcome an influx of visitors and host an action packed weekend.

The Festival is beginning to get a bit of a reputation as being a “Back to Barcy” event with many former residents and family travelling back to spend the weekend in the town.

According to Festival organisers this is one of the main reasons why the weekend continues to enjoy so much success as it provides an opportunity for people to get together and also offers a host of activities and entertainment.

The Festival gets underway on Friday night with a Miniatures Art Exhibition and Sports Dinner.

The Miniatures Art Exhibition opens at 6pm in the Ken Wilson Pavilion at the Showgrounds and will be accompanied by a wine and cheese evening. The exhibition will also be on view and sale throughout the weekend.

The Sports Dinner is always a highlight of the weekend, setting the atmosphere for all that follows.

This year’s dinner will not disappoint with Rugby Union legend Chris “Buddha” Handy compering the night which will showcase guest celebrities: Olympic Hockeyroo, Nikki Hudson; jockey and Footy Show personality, Allan Robinson and Bronco’s star, Justin Hodges.

On Saturday the action starts early in the morning in Barcaldine’s main street.

The main street markets get underway at 8am with a variety of stalls and bargains for everyone.

The exciting new shearing display, “The Run” will commence at 10am and showcase all the workings of a shearing shed for two hours until 12 noon.

Spectators are invited to join the shearers in a traditional morning tea smoko at 9.30 before “The Run” gets underway

As soon as this finishes it’s off to the racetrack where the Tree of Knowledge Racing Cup gets underway with a five race programme.

Word is out that jockey, Allan Robinson will be on hand and more than likely ride at this event.

Late Saturday afternoon the entertainment returns to Barcaldine’s mainstreet with the Street Party and Food Expo getting underway around the Tree of Knowledge at 6pm.

This year the Street Party will feature non stop entertainment with live bands Ballistic and Scarlet Fever.

Popular children’s group, Dougie the Dungbeetle and Friends will kick off the night and is sure to draw a crowd of young fans.

The Rev Fest Street Cruise and Show and Shine will also add to the atmosphere of the Street Party when the drag cars assemble at the showgrounds and then make their way to the main street.

All the action of drag racing can be caught at the aerodrome first thing Sunday morning.

Gates open to the Revfest at 7am, and trackside will be the place to be to catch all the sights and sounds of the 1/8 mile drag races.

A little later in the morning the combined churches of Barcaldine will hold an Ecumenical church service which will be followed by a concert in the park featuring local performers.

There's a host of rugby league on offer at the showgrounds Sunday afternoon with junior games kicking off from noon onwards.

A highlight of the this year's event will be the Ross "Nut" Hazel Memorial Golden Oldies game which will see the "old boys" from Sarina take on Barcaldine.

This game has generated a host of interest from Nut's former team mates from both Sarina and Barcaldine and the game will see a number of familiar faces put on their boots and take to the paddock.

Following the Golden Oldies game, the football stars of the future will own the field in an under16 representative game between Central Highlands and Central West.

Finally last year premiers, Barcaldine will take on Winton in the senior game set to kick off at 7pm. This game will be followed by a band until late.

On May Day itself the markets will be back trading in the main street from 8am while the rest of the town prepares for the legendary May Day Parade.

At 10am the parade will wend its way from Barcaldine's main street to the showgrounds, where the traditional foot races will be held and Dougie the Dungbeetle will once again entertain the crowd.

For some the best is yet to come for Monday afternoon will see the goats line up for Australia' richest goat races.

Goat racing is a law unto itself, it's always exciting and always unpredictable. A new feature of this event is the race book draw whereby on purchasing a race book , spectators at the event go into the draw for over 20 prizes worth well over \$3,000

If you're not already heading to Barcaldine for the May Day long weekend, then it is time you set out!

For the best outback experience you'll ever have, be in Barcaldine for the Tree of Knowledge Festival, May Day long weekend.

For more information visit [www.treeofknowledge.com.au](http://www.treeofknowledge.com.au) or ring 46 515636