

Media Release

Well known Central Queensland and multi-award-winning artist Brad Butcher will headline at the 2021 Mount Morgan Wattle Day Festival. The event will be held at the historic Mount Morgan Railway Station on Sunday, 12 September 2021.

The Wattle Day Festival is organised by Mount Morgan Promotion and Development Inc [MMPAD] and is a free community event. The event is named after the Mount Morgan Wattle, which is endemic to the area.

MMPAD President, Mr Steinberger said though the Mount Morgan Wattle had just finished flowering, MMPAD tried to conduct the event as close as possible to the flowering and to National Wattle Day.

“This year with other events around the same time, made it quite difficult to choose the date,” he said.

Mr John Steinberger said this year’s Wattle Day Festival will be bigger and better than in the past.

“We haven’t had Wattle Day or any other festivals in Mount Morgan for the last couple of years due to COVID.

“It was important to make sure that an event was held to show Mount Morgan is bouncing back from COVID,” he said.

“His talent was noted over five years ago when he supported Wendy Matthews in Mount Morgan. We took this opportunity to have Brad perform in own right and we consider it a coup to have such a talented performer,” Mr Steinberger said.

“Brad is a highly talented performer with significant awards under his belt.”

Brad will be supported by fellow Queensland artist, Sammy White, who won the 2020 Toyota Star Maker Award.

Mr Steinberger said MMPAD was also fortunate to have popular ABC Capricornia announcer, Paul Culliver emcee the event.

“Paul is a talented professional announcer and has been involved many events over the years. He has performed as a comedian at many festivals,” he said.

Mount Morgan’s Wattle Day Festival will be bigger and better this year with a wider variety of entertainment for all members of the family.

Starting at 9 am, the event will kick off with a range of local performers – the Mount Ukes, Jodie Nichols, John Batley and Family, Amanda “Moo” Sealey and the Sabaya Belly Dancers.

Other activities include free “Wattle Tote Bag” making with No. 7 Gallery, free amusement rides, market stalls, Meraki Circus performances and workshops, bush survival and fire making demonstrations from Rocky Instincts, an SES demonstration, Balloon Twisting, Devonshire Teas and more.

The winner of the Wattle Day Award will also be announced and will be asked to cut the Wattle Day Cake which is being created by Cr Drew Wickerson for the event.

Murray Hare and Golden Mount Nursery will again supply the free Wattle Tree seedlings.

“Each year, Murray and the nursery spent time cultivating the Mount Morgan Wattle seedlings and we truly appreciate the time and effort they spend.”

“MMPAD would like to thank Rockhampton Regional Council, Heritage Minerals, and Member for Mirani, Stephen Andrew for their contribution towards the event,” Mr Steinberger.

For further information contact President, John Steinberger 0409 815 033

FAQ SHEET

How long has Wattle Day been running?

Wattle Day was first held in 2012 and is an annual event.

Why is it called the Mount Morgan Wattle Day Festival?

Mount Morgan has its own wattle – *Acacia podalyriifolia*. National Wattle Day is held on 1 September and Mount Morgan Promotion and Development Inc [MMPAD] hold its event as close as possible to the National Day. Unfortunately, this year due to other regional events being held and MMPAD didn't want to clash with other events.

Mount Morgan Wattle is endemic to the Mount Morgan area.

National Wattle Day – A celebration of Australia and Australians

National Wattle Day - why do we celebrate?

- National Wattle Day includes everyone
- Wattle is our national floral emblem. It is a symbol that comes directly from our land
- Wattle is Australian and represents us all.
- Like our people, wattle has great diversity (with more than 1,071 *Acacia* species) and resilience;
- Wattle welcomes in the spring and is among the first plants to regenerate after fire, reminding us of the importance of renewal as it paints our national colours across our land
- Wattle is a unifying symbol for all Australians. There is no other symbol that says so much about us and our land, Australia.
- Wattle is a symbol of Australia and Australians.

Where is the event being held?

The event is held at the historic Mount Morgan Railway Station.

What time does it start?

The event starts at 9 am.

What time does it finish?

The event finishes at 2 pm.

What entertainment and activities are planned?

List of performers and activities for Wattle Day

- *Brad Butcher*
- *Support Act - Sammy White*

- *Amanda Sealey*
- *Jodie Nichols*
- *The Batley Family*
- *Sabaya Belly Dancers*
- *Meraki Circus – performers and FREE circus workshop*
- *Rocky Instincts – bush craft, survival and fire making demonstrations/workshop*
- *Curly Lou Balloon Twisting*
- *SES Demonstrations*
- *FREE Wattle Tote Bag making with No7 Gallery*
- *Devonshire Teas*
- *FREE Mount Morgan Wattle Tree Seedlings*
- *Wattle Day Award Winner announced*
- *Cutting the Mount Morgan Wattle Day Cake by the award winner.*

Is there parking? Is there a cost for parking?

There is a designated parking area onsite at the historic rail complex. Parking is free. You will be direct to the designated parking area.

Is it pet friendly?

This event is pet friendly as long as all dogs are on a leash.

Is there a bar operating?

This is an alcohol-free event! No alcohol is allowed on site.

Check in Queensland App

This is a Covid safe event. There will be a check-in areas at both the northern and southern entry points. A register will be provided if you don't have the Check In App. Hand sanitising stations will be located throughout the event area.

Are there public toilets?

Yes, there are toilets at the venue.

How much does it cost?

Entry into the event is free. However, if you wish to visit the Railway Museum, an entry fee is required. (Adults - \$5.50, Children - \$4.00 or Family - \$18).

A fee will apply to all purchases at stall sites including the BBQ lunch and Devonshire Teas.

Amusement rides are free.

Are there market stalls?

There are market stalls.

What type of stalls are there?

Stall include – Thai food, arts and crafts, cook books, plants, raffle, pancakes, barbecue and more.

How can we book a market stall?

To book a market stall you can obtain an application form by emailing mmpad@bigpond.com. For further information please contact 4938 2312 – Eve (Monday to Friday)

What is the Wattle Day Award

The Wattle Day award recognises residents or organisations within the Mount Morgan community who work to help others or to better life in the town.

Please find attached some Facebook posts and Images. If you could please use the appropriate hash tags if posting.

#MountMorganWattleDay

#WattleDay

#RailwayMuseum

#mountmorgan.org.au

#Festival

#MountMorganWattle

#BradButcher

#Sammywhite

#Paul Culliver

#marketstalls

#Merakicircus

#Curlylou

#RockyInstincts

Who are the Sponsors of the Event

- *Mount Morgan Promotion and Development*
- *Rockhampton Regional Council*
- *Heritage Minerals*
- *Member for Mirani*

Main Performers Bios

Brad Butcher

Brad Butcher is a Central Queensland born independent singer-songwriter and musician. A two time Golden Guitar Award winner for New Talent (2018) & Alt Country Album of the year (2020) and a 2018 Q Music Award Winner for Best Country Song. He has release 4 studio albums ~ Travelling Salesman (2019), From the Bottom of a Well (2017), Jamestown (2015) and the debut self titled release (2012).

Butcher has earned himself critical acclaim and recognition nationally as an independent artist and has crafted a career and unique style of songwriter that mixes the working class grit of Springsteen and the tender expression of Ray LaMontagne. Butcher credits Rodney Crowell and Lori McKenna as the biggest songwriting influences and it's beginning to show.

Touring Australia extensively for the past decade, and the United States multiple times, Butcher has showcased at Nashville's premier Americana Fest, Toronto's NXNE Festival, performed at our own iconic Country Music Awards of Australia multiple times and myriad of national festivals and venues.

He's been touted a songwriter's songwriter and earned a reputation as a sort after and hard working individual ready to lend a hand to the next crop of emerging songwriters. At the core of it all is an uncomplicated Australian fella with a passion to create, connect and inspire.

Sammy White

Winning the 2020 Toyota Star Maker could be compared to winning lotto then being told you didn't win the whole amount.

So, the 41st winner, Sammy White 'turned lemons into lemonade' when the world shut down due to COVID-19. Despite everything being cancelled for a period of time, Sammy remained positive and focused, continuing to write songs and connect with fans online - and with the ease of restrictions, supported a 33 show tour from Cairns to Canberra with Brad Cox.

Raised on the land but located on the Reef; armed with a cuppa and pen, born quiet and sweet, Sammy White is the perfect walking contradiction. Sammy found her feet on stage and lays it on the line with her honest, all-in approach to songwriting.

Sammy's Star Maker album Undone, released in November 2020, has seen the release of the singles Drowning My Sorrows, I Can't Outrun You, Lay It On Me and Home (Feels Like You).

As an "emotionally fuelled" writer, who draws inspiration from life experiences, Undone is a listening diary 24 months in the making, with a team spread across two countries. Undone is a straight up, hard truths album which perfectly captures those years, now frozen in time.

White has played Tamworth Country Music Festival, Gympie Music Muster, Lifting The Outback and opened shows for Aussie artists including Brad Cox, Adam Eckersley & Brooke McClymont, Catherine Britt, Gretta Ziller and Andrew Swift.

Paul Culliver

Paul has worked in radio for 15 years and with the ABC since 2015. Before coming to the Capricornia region, Paul worked in South Australia. He's presented on ABC Radio Melbourne, ABC Radio Adelaide and ABC Newcastle. He combines his cheer and wit with a

mix of hard-hitting interviews and stories from around the region every morning. In 2021, he was named Best Radio Broadcaster at the SA Media Awards. He's also an award-winning stand-up comedian (Best Comedy, Fringe World 2016) and has regularly performed at festivals around Australia