

# CAIRNS SOLAR ECLIPSE FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 10TH - 16TH 2012

CAIRNS ECLIPSE  
AUSTRALIA 2012

## ECLIPSE 2012 SURVIVAL GUIDE

### INTRODUCTION

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We are about to join together in the beautiful surrounds of Far North Queensland, to celebrate one of the earth's most amazing sights, a total solar Eclipse. We have compiled this survival guide to help you be prepared to deal with the potentially extreme environment and to encourage everyone to make smart decisions.

There is very important information below that we need you to read and help distribute among those you know attending the event.

Keep an eye out for others who might need your help and take care of yourself, the natural environment and your community! Eat well, rest when you need to, rehydrate regularly, protect from the sun.

Please treat the land and its traditional owners with respect. Smile. You are in the bush with a few thousand like-minded people sharing an amazing experience.

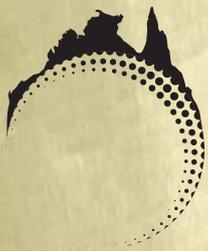
### THE LOCATION

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After five years of planning and organisation, we are confident that we have secured the best location possible for the festival. However, as with often the case with total eclipse viewing, it is a remote, wild and potentially dangerous location.

The festival site is located on the Palmer River approximately 3 hours from Cairns. The entrance to the event is opposite the Palmer River Roadhouse, one of the only landmarks on a long stretch of highway. The festival site is situated over two hours from the closest major town, Mareeba, which has most services (supermarket, chemist, banks, post office, mechanic etc).

U WILL BE HERE



# ECLIPSE 2012 SURVIVAL GUIDE

## BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME

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The main thing to remember is – it's going to be hot, very hot! And humid. Climate like this can impact on your body very quickly, especially if you aren't used to it.

- Bring containers for water, Camelbaks, drink bottles, spray bottles, parasols and anything else you need to keep you cool and hydrated.
- Bring plenty of sunscreen and funky hats and wear boots or covered shoes with socks.
- Bring enough water with you for the duration of the festival, there are water stations around the site so make sure you carry a bottle with you to re-fill if you leave camp for a mission.
- Bring shade for your campsite, dust masks and ponchos to prepare as much as possible for the humid and hot conditions, which may include tropical rain storms (but not likely!)
- Bring an esky, snacks that don't require being cold and foods that don't have excess packaging, as you must take all of your trash with you. Fruit is a great snack as it has good sugars and its own biodegradable wrapping.
- Bring everything you are going to need to be comfortable onsite during the festival, including a good place to sleep that's insect proof with ventilation.
- Prepare for insects and critters including mozzies and march flies.

Dress for the weather with loose clothing to cover up, especially during the middle of the day. Polyester and breathable materials keep you cool & dry quickly on hot days. Layers help you stay comfortable from the hot afternoon sun to the post-sunset chill, with lots of costume changes

## PLANNING YOUR TRIP

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Please note there is **NO PATRON ENTRY BEFORE MIDDAY ON SATURDAY 10TH NOVEMBER.** Only people with an Early Access Pass will be allowed entry to the site before this time. This is a requirement of the event permit, the insurance and the traffic management plan. So please do not arrive at the Front Gate before midday on Saturday 10th, you will be turned away and you will be disappointed!

Careful planning of your road trip is essential. It takes at least 3 hours to drive from Cairns, more if there is traffic. In addition to the strict entry time, there is nowhere nearby that is suitable to camp or pull over. In fact there are very few places along the highway to pull over or even stop your vehicle after you pass Mount Carbine, the last town of any size before you get to the Palmer River (85kms away).



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## THE TRIP TO THE FESTIVAL SITE



**DANGEROUS ROAD** The last 100kms before you get to the site is a particularly dangerous road. Much of it is not fenced so there are often cows and kangaroos on the road. In addition, much of the highway is an elevated road built for the wet season flooding. This means that there is a drop-off right next to the road and not even room to pull over. Please take extra care along this road. No doubt this will be the last leg in a long journey, so please slow down and make sure you get there safe and sound!

## THE SITE



The festival site is in the middle of Maitland Downs, a 70,000 hectare cattle station. The majority of the property, including most of the campground areas, is covered with medium size native trees and plants. However the trees do not provide extensive shade and we recommend you come prepared to construct your own shade / shelter. Parts of the campground have fairly hard or rocky ground, so please make sure you bring a mattress to sleep on!

### PHONE RECEPTION

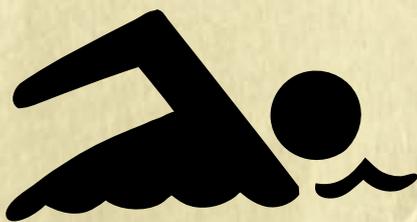
There is no phone reception available anywhere on site. Bring walkie talkies as an alternative form of communication with your friends.

### ATM

There are no ATM's on the site, so make sure you bring enough cash to make it through the week!

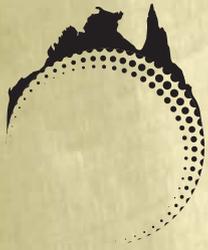
## SWIMMING

There is swimming onsite, however please observe these very serious rules!



- Swimming is only allowed at the two Swimming Beaches. Swimming is prohibited in the rest of the main dam and in the two outer dams.
- Swimming is only allowed during daylight hours.
- Do not swim while intoxicated.

**PEOPLE FOUND BREAKING THESE RULES MAY BE EJECTED FROM THE EVENT.**



# ECLIPSE 2012 SURVIVAL GUIDE

## POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ANIMALS

As we are in the middle of wild Aussie bushland, there are critters and insects around. Most of the dangerous ones will leave you alone if you don't bother them but it's important to be aware they are there and know what to do if an encounter happens.



**SNAKES** There are a few highly venomous snakes found in the area. If you see one, don't interfere, but walk slowly away. If bitten keep calm, stay still and get someone to run and seek immediate medical help for you from first aid.



**SPIDERS** While many spiders are relatively harmless, the funnel-web spider is deadly, and white-tail and red-back spiders can inflict painful bites, and present mortal danger to children. Treat all spider bites with great caution and seek immediate medical advice.



**SCORPIONS** are also dangerous, they can hide under rocks and rubbish, and in the folds of tents, clothing and inside shoes. Shake your shoes out before you put them on, and tap or shake your blankets before going to sleep.



**DINGOES** Generally dingoes go about their lives and stay clear of people. Wild dingoes have a natural fear of people and shy away. From time to time, dingoes may come close and some encounters can turn to tragedy. Stay alert and stay calm. Never leave food or rubbish lying around, as dingoes are exceptionally curious.



**FERAL PIGS** carry diseases, and can chase and attack people. If you see one, stay well away from it. They will eat almost anything, and are attracted by the smell of food and rubbish, Keep food and trash well sealed and away from your tent. If you're camping near your vehicle, these things should be stored inside.



**WASPS** When not at your camp, keep tents zipped up and vehicle windows closed to stop wasps and other flying insects. Keep an eye out in the trees for wasp nests and don't disturb.



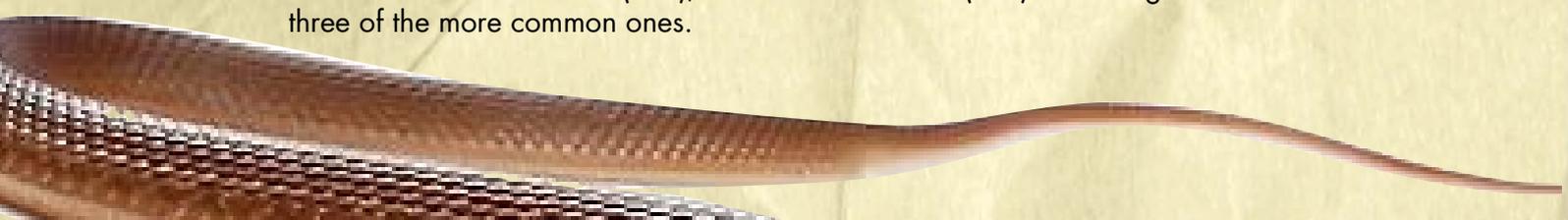
**ANTS** are attracted to any food crumbs too, and some of them bite up here, so again, keep camp and surrounds as clean as possible. Watch out for nests and do not touch, bring some antiseptic in the instance of getting bitten.



**CROCODILES** There are only freshwater crocs at the festival site, which are usually more scared of humans than anything. "Freshies" aren't aggressive and are rather shy, but if disturbed during the breeding season (which it currently is) or if they feel threatened they may attack. So **PLEASE** be very aware of this. Their teeth are razor sharp and they can inflict serious wounds. For this reason it's **VERY IMPORTANT** that you only swim where you are instructed to swim.



**Mosquitoes, Flies & Sandflies** -These are common throughout Australia. Use an insect repellent to deter insects, and wear appropriate clothing when insects are prevalent. There is a number of mosquito borne diseases known to occur throughout Australia. Ross River Virus (RRV), Barmah Forest Virus (BFV) and Dengue Fever are three of the more common ones.





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## WHEN YOU ARRIVE

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- Please follow the directions of the festival crew
  - Do not park your car on the vehicle tracks at any time for any reason! It is critical that vehicle tracks are kept clear for emergency vehicles.
  - Don't drive anywhere unless you are fully awake, aware and sober.
  - Arrive with plenty of time to set up camp and if camping with children, be aware of the direction of sound systems as music will run throughout the night, though some systems will be turned off during the heat of the day for everyone to cool down.
  - Keep 2 meters minimum space between campsites, negotiate campsites with love and say hi to your neighbours.
  - Organise your food and WATER and attach a drink bottle to carry with you at ALL times.
  - Familiarize yourself with the location of the info tent, where you can leave messages for your friends to find you, as well as the first aid response team, toilets, showers and security services, all marked on the site map.
  - Make a meeting place with your mates and family, especially children, in case you get separated.
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## THE ECLIPSE SAFE SOLAR VIEWING

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- For the ultimate viewing experience of the 2012 solar eclipse, it is vital that you wear protective eclipse glasses; by looking at the sun directly for a few seconds you can cause permanent damage to your retina.
  - Do not use binoculars, telescope or sunglasses.
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# ECLIPSE 2012

## SURVIVAL GUIDE

### THE DON'TS



- **STRICTLY NO GLASS** all glass items will be confiscated at the gate, so leave them at home and bring plastic bottles only.
- **STRICTLY NO FIRES** no candles, BBQs, gas stoves or naked flames at ALL. So bring food you don't need to cook or plan to buy your main meal of the day from the huge variety of food stalls on offer.
- No pets, including and especially dogs, no excuses, unless you are blind or otherwise reliant on one.
- No parking on internal roads, keep 6 meters clearance at all times.
- Don't wander off site, the climate and conditions mean you may not last long, seriously!
- No generators or renegade sound systems. We have big enough systems to cater to those who want to party all night long, trust us.
- Don't get dehydrated! There is more on this later...
- Don't peak too early! This is a seven-day event, remember to save some energy and some sparkles for the end – we certainly have!

### THE DO'S



- Always drive slowly and carefully onsite, being mindful of the dust you're creating.
- Make note of the wellbeing tent, first aid services and report any suspicious activity to security.
- Look out for your friends and anyone not having a good time, and help them have a better festival by lending a caring hand.
- Respect the art! Our installation artists put a lot of love and time into their pieces so please don't damage or steal them.
- Move your body, get endorphins flowing but rest, relax and take your quiet time when you need it.
- Please find bins for your rubbish or take it with you, including and especially cigarette butts!
- Seek out environments where you feel good and be mindful of sensible alcohol and drug use, especially that any form of substance will increase dehydration.
- Always wear your wrist strap, it is the only way we know you have gained legitimate entry to the festival and have contributed your share to the event.
- Rest before driving anywhere, and make sure you aren't intoxicated of any kind.



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### DEHYDRATION & SAFE PARTYING

- Humidity will be very high onsite during the festival, as will temperatures, be prepared for extreme conditions!!
- Organise your water before you arrive make sure you know where to access it at the festival
- The early stages of dehydration usually have no signs or symptoms, but can include dryness of the mouth and thirst. Other symptoms in early or mild dehydration may include dry, warm skin; dizziness; or cramping in the arms and legs.
- It is recommended that during hot weather we should drink water even when not thirsty. Drink at least one-and-a-half cups of water every half hour and at least one-and-a-half cups of water 20–30 minutes before playing or dancing in the heat.
- Avoid the sun in the middle, hottest part of the day by wearing sunscreen and a hat that shades your head, neck, ears and face to prevent sunburn, which stops your body from cooling itself down properly.
- If you are dancing during the day, drink plenty of fluids (such as water and sports drinks), but avoid alcohol and caffeine.
- There will be both a first aid tent and DANCEWISE for non-medical emergencies.

#### HOW CAN HEAT STROKE BE PREVENTED?

The most important measures to prevent heat strokes are to avoid becoming dehydrated and to avoid vigorous physical activities in hot and humid weather.

If you choose to dance all day, drink plenty of fluids (such as water and sports drinks), but avoid alcohol, caffeine (including soft drinks and tea), and tea, which may lead to dehydration.

Your body will need replenishment of electrolytes (such as sodium) as well as fluids if you sweat excessively or perform vigorous activity in the sunlight for prolonged periods.

Take frequent breaks to hydrate yourself.  
Wear hats and light-coloured, lightweight, loose clothes.

#### DIFFERENT PEOPLE MAY HAVE DIFFERENT SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS, COMMON SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS OF HEAT STROKE INCLUDE

high body temperature,  
the absence of sweating, with hot red or flushed dry skin,  
rapid pulse,  
difficulty breathing,  
strange behaviour,  
hallucinations,  
confusion,  
agitation,  
disorientation,  
seizure, and/or  
coma.