Calendar Winter

Even in winter, there's always an Australian festival to warm you up

Sing it loud

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What: Festival of Voices When: July 7-11

The Festival of Voices is one of Tasmania's many winter events. Held annually since 2005, the festival's mission is to "gather choirs to celebrate the power and joy of voice" and enrich the community creatively, socially, spiritually and economically.

Last year, more then 35 choirs travelled from all over Australia to take part in this big event.

Festival-goers can attend concerts, performances and workshops throughout Hobart and gather under the night sky for one of the weekend's highlights: the Bonfire and Big Sing in Salamanca Place on Hobart's historic waterfront.

Workshops range from short courses to daily workshops including young voices, opera, choral to a major workshop program. Check the website for more information. Where: Hobart, Tasmania

More: www.festivalofvoices.com or (03) 6224 5975



OCEAN WAVE: A whale breaches obligingly for the cameras in Hervey Bay. Picture: Tourism Queensland

Family fun

What: Hervey Bay Whale Festival When: August 7

The Hervey Bay Whale Festival is a once-a-year opportunity to gather for a great cause: appreciation of the whales.

August is peak whale-watching season, so this weekend is a celebration of Hervey Bay's unique coastal community and the link

between humans, the environment and conservation. The family fun day is abuzz with an eco-expo, kids' recycle factory, live entertainment, rides and market stalls.

In the afternoon an Illuminated Street Parade is staged, showcasing floats created by community organisations. The day concludes with a Live Whale Aid concert featuring talented Australian musicians with a strong focus on raising funds for whale conservation. It all ends with a dazzling fireworks

display Where: Hervey Bay Seafront Oval, Hervey Bay, Queensland More: www.herveybaywhale festival.com.au or 1300 794 929

Top End talent

What: Darwin Festival When: August 12-29 Darwin comes alive in August with outdoor concerts and exhibitions, workshops, theatre, dance and street performances staged over 18 days and nights. With more than 1000 artists showcasing their talents - mostly national and Territory artists and cultural groups - the Darwin Festival reflects the indigenous, Asian and Pacific cultures of the region

Whether it's the free outdoor events, dancing or music, films or sensational food, there's something to interest all walks of life. Where: Darwin, Northern Territory More: www.darwinfestival.org.au or (08) 8943 4200

Island jazz

What: Pinetrees Jazz Program When: July and August

Pinetrees Resort on Lord Howe Island hosts a range of jazz performers and bands as part of the resort's entertainment every winter. Some have been returning for years (Sydney band the Moods are back for their 19th event) and include Wobbly Boots Jazz & Blues band, Fireworks Jazz Band and jazz pianist Dick Hughes. The styles vary from New Orleans, big band swing, South American dance, gospel, Latin and more. Performances take place on selected weeks throughout winter. Check out a full program on the entertainment page at the Pinetrees Resort website. Where: Pinetrees Resort, Lord Howe Island, NSW More: www.pinetrees.com.au or (02) 9262 6585

heraldsun.com.au

