



## Geelong Advertiser

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# Families set to flock to Gala Day Celebrations in full swing

JESSICA CRAVEN

CROCS, celebs and Cats stars will be the centrepiece of colourful Gala Day celebrations this morning.

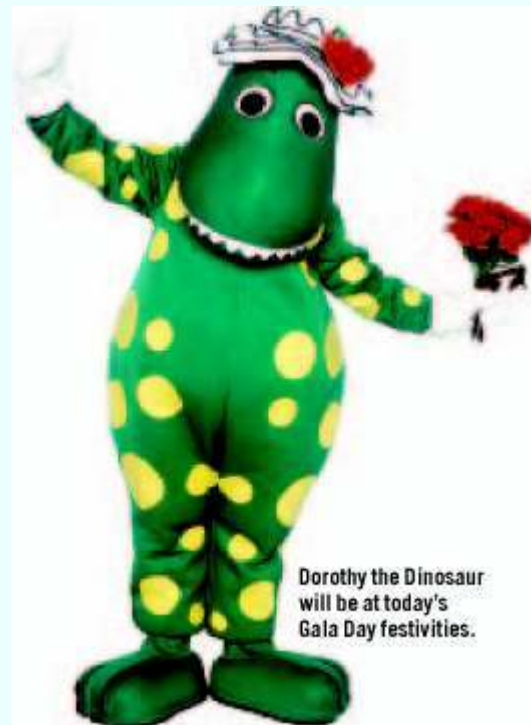
Hundreds of families are expected to flock to the streets of Geelong this year to witness a parade of dancers, marchers, bands and floats spreading Christmas cheer, all in support of the Geelong Hospital Appeal.

There are more than 60 entrants in this year's parade and drawcards include Santa, Spongebob Squarepants, the RAAF roulettes and Dorothy the Dinosaur.

Barwon Health Foundation executive director Gavin Seidel urged families across the region to make their way toward the waterfront to share in the delights Gala Day had to offer.

"This year's G-Force Gala Day will be the biggest and best yet, with many well-known childrens characters and acts on the programme. Gala Day is a great way to entertain the family and support the hospital and is a free event for the entire community to enjoy," he said.

The colourful celebration will be followed with a family fun day, which will include rides,



Dorothy the Dinosaur will be at today's Gala Day festivities.

showbags and lots of delectables to feast on from the many food and market stalls.

The event also features live stage performances, including everything from shows by Sponge Bob and Dorothy the Dinosaur to a live crocodile feeding.

*Neighbours* star Sam Clark, who plays Ringo on the Channel 10 drama, will also be on stage performing and

signing copies of his debut single *Broken*.

The Sweethearts of Swing will also sing their smooth tunes.

Footy fanatics can see their beloved players rev up the crowd, joined by team mascot Half Cat and other sporting heroes including Supercats Basketball players and local Olympians.

A new Youth Activities Area at the water-

## Timetable

■ The Gala Day parade begins in Malop St from 11am today.

■ The family fun day at Steampacket Gardens runs from noon to 5pm.

**A free shuttle service will operate as follows:**

**9.30am-11am** – The shuttle will operate on a continual loop between Hearne Parade/Tail Light Alley (Eastern Park) and Central Geelong. The Central Geelong drop off point will be on the corner of Yarra and Corio St, just near the Westfield Flyover.

**3pm-6pm** – The shuttle will operate on a continual loop between the waterfront/Steampacket Gardens, back to Hearne Parade/Tail Light Alley.

front skatepark will also be host to live bands and activities for 12-18 year-olds.

Healthy handouts of fresh fruit and Coles vouchers will be distributed along the parade route, and the streets will be lined with pin wheels, which will be available to be purchased at the parade for \$2 with all proceeds going to the Geelong Hospital Appeal.

This year's appeal will raise funds to support the redevelopment of the children's ward.