



The 2008 Charters Towers  
**COUNTRYMUSIC**  
FESTIVAL

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
Issued Monday 21 April 2008

**Charters Towers Country Music Festival recognized by National Awards  
2 – 4 May 2008**

The Charters Towers Country Music Festival has been named among 28 finalists selected from the 225 national entries received in the inaugural 'Music in Communities Awards.' Run by the Music Council of Australia's music advocacy program, Music. Play for Life, the Awards are all about recognising and rewarding people and places helping to spread the music-making bug throughout Australia.

Finalists include the Dandenong Ranges Music Council in regional Victoria, the Sydney Street Choir for homeless people, the Cairns Municipal Band and the Bosnian Women's Choir.

"These inaugural Awards have helped show that Australia's hills, valleys, beaches and cities are truly alive with the sound of music," said Awards organiser, Tina Broad, from *Music. Play for Life*. "The 28 organisations and groups which have been selected as finalists clearly punch above their weight in terms of the impact they have on the cultural life of their local communities. They are all inspiring examples of the power of music to connect people and to activate a community's creative life."

All the finalists can be viewed at [www.musicincommunities.org.au](http://www.musicincommunities.org.au)

The shortlisted entrants will move on to the next phase of the Awards, the national judging, in early May. The Music in Communities Awards are run with the generous support of NAMM - the international music products industry association.

The 2008 Charters Towers Country Music Festival will be held the long weekend in May, 2 – 4 May. Tickets are on sale now and more details visit: [www.charterstowerscountrymusic.com](http://www.charterstowerscountrymusic.com)

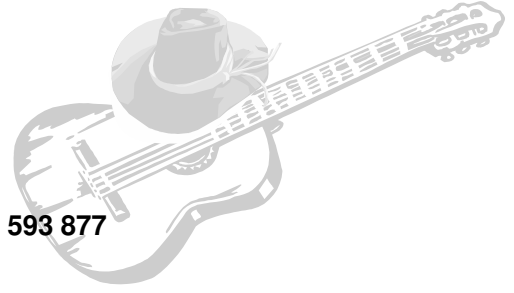
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**Entry forms and competition information**

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