



Seafood in the spotlight on bus tour

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Seafood will be the order of the day at this year's St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend in June.

The Greater Whitsunday Food Network (GWFN) has arranged the fourth annual farm to plate celebrations with a bus tour and seafood lunch – and there are still some places available for foodies wishing to join in.

The tour will focus on fresh seafood from the coast, including chili mud crab, barramundi and prawns and TV chef Matt Golinski, who was a regular on TV cooking contest Ready Steady Cook, will be on hand to prepare lunch for guests.

Reef Catchments sustainable agriculture project officer Tegan McBride said the bus tour would be one of the highlights of the weekend. "This is the region's fourth annual farm to plate event, this time we're hitting the road down to St Lawrence to explore the southern coast of our region.

"Chef Matt Golinski's menu will focus on regional produce, specifically seafood from our region including the signature Wetlands Weekend chilli mud crab, wild caught barramundi and prawns, as well as showcasing strawberries and St Lawrence's own Bedford Park Pork. Other guest chefs include Nik Flack from native-inspired home chef service Flackyard dining."

School students from North Mackay High School will have the opportunity to work alongside Matt Golinski for work experience, as wait staff for the event. The menu will be released in the coming weeks.

Those on board will also have a chance to explore the sugar industry with a private tour of the Sarina Sugar Shed and hear about the innovations in sustainable agriculture occurring in this industry as well as tasting an award-winning rum.

The final farm visit will be to McArthur Holdings Mystery Park. The McArthurs have had a recent boarder staying at their property, Fred the emu, who should be around on the day to say hi to the crowd.

Reef Catchments general manager Katrina Dent said: "Our relationship with the Greater Whitsunday Food Network annual farm to plate events allows our organisation to showcase the sustainable land management practices of the farmers in our region.

"These events are always a delicious combination of fabulous local food, experiencing farm life and gaining insight into the ways our natural resources are being managed by the people responsible for our land and water."



Isaac Regional Council Mayor Anne Baker said the region is proud St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend will play host to the GWFN farm to plate celebrations as the Isaac Coast is set to burst to life.

“Held at the unspoilt St Lawrence Wetlands, this emerging festival will be both appetising and educational,” Mayor Baker said.

“From delicious food, markets, eco-tours, arts workshops, reptile displays and cooking demonstrations, there really is something for everyone.

“This is a nature adventure you don’t want to miss.”

The St Lawrence Wetlands Weekend is on June 7 to 9. The bus tour and lunch will be held on Saturday, June 8 and will depart at 8am sharp from the Reef Catchments office at 85 Gordon Street, Mackay.

More information and booking details can be found at <https://www.isaac.qld.gov.au/wetlandsweekend>

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