

Fifth Armenian Cultural Festival Postponed

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The Armenian Cultural Festival, Hye Hoki's most successful community event, has been postponed indefinitely due to a combination of financial pressures and a lack of volunteer support and commitment.

"We're disappointed to announce that the Armenian Cultural Festival (ACF) will not go ahead in 2009, and the new date is yet to be set," said Hye Hoki Executive Committee member Gregory Chahrozian.

"We are hopeful to reschedule for 2010, but this is dependent on volunteer commitment and numbers and the economic climate."

The ACF is a not-for-profit, volunteer-run community festival that has been held four times. The inaugural Festival was held in 2003 with approximately 5,000 visitors, and each Festival following has seen an increasing number of visitors. The most recent Festival was held in 2007 and was attended by a record number of 25,000 visitors.

Volunteer Hye Hoki members coordinate the ACF with support from the Australian-Armenian community. Unfortunately the number of Hye Hoki members actively involved in the ACF has decreased significantly, which has impacted Hye Hoki's ability to coordinate a fifth Festival. The current economic climate, influenced by the Global Economic Crisis, has also affected the ACF sponsorship drive.

"Without financial support and the commitment of a dedicated group of volunteers headed by a Festival Coordinator, the next ACF may be postponed indefinitely until these key factors are in place," said Chahrozian.

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About the Armenian Cultural Festival

The Armenian Cultural Festival is a fun, family day showcasing Armenian culture and history. It is a free, public event held in Tumbalong Park, Darling Harbour, with entertainment, food, arts and crafts and games offering something for everyone.

The inaugural Armenian Cultural Festival was held in 2003 with more than 5,000 people attending. The consecutive three festivals were held in 2004, 2005 and 2007, with a record 25,000 people attending each festival. The Festival is organised by a group of enthusiastic, motivated volunteers that work through Hye Hoki.

About Hye Hoki

Hye Hoki is a non-partisan, non-denominational youth network of Australian-Armenian individuals, organisations, groups and business enterprises. It aims to facilitate the development of the Armenian community in Australia.

On behalf of the Hye Hoki Executive of 2009
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