



Media Release

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Drama At The Gasfields wows Pete and the local community

Singer/songwriter Pete Murray has praised QGC's *Drama At The Gasfields*, after joining about 2,500 people to watch La Boite Theatre Company turn his life into a stage musical at Windibri ampitheatre on Saturday.

Pete was the surprise guest at the event where locals laughed, cried and applauded the show, *Opportunity*, written and directed for the occasion by La Boite's Sean Mee.

To the delight of the audience as well as his family and friends, the former Chinchilla boy arrived from Adelaide where he had played to a crowd of 30,000 at the Clipsal 500 V8 Supercar series the previous night.

"The show was fantastic, great," Pete said. "It's weird sitting there in front of a story about yourself, but it actually took me through my life – a shortened version of it, anyway.

"The characters were great – they had a real likeness to who those people were, my friends, my family and even myself.

"Putting these performances on is great for the community because it lets the community know that this organisation (QGC) is not about being selfish, you want to give back to the community as well because you're in their environment, you're working here now. I think they're pretty appreciative of that. The turnout reflects pretty positively on that."

Families from Chinchilla, Miles, Tara, Dalby and further afield streamed to Windibri throughout the afternoon. Dozens of QGC staff came from Brisbane by bus and car, and those from the gasfields arrived with their families.

More than 500 people booked seats on free buses shuttling from nearby towns. Kids enjoyed face-painting, the giant slide, jumping castle, quad bikes, petting the kangaroos and possums of Woop Woop Wildlife Rescue and working on their own Aboriginal art masterpieces.

Students from the Chinchilla and Miles state schools, the Memphis Moovers band, indigenous dancers and local junior singing sensation Jordi-Anne Oberle wowed the crowds. The Chinchilla Lions and Rotary clubs, Condamine P&C and the CWA also ran popular fund-raising stalls.

Managing Director Catherine Tanna thanked staff who had given 110 per cent to make the event such a great success – more than doubling 2008 attendance figures.

"I've walked around and spoken to a wide range of community representatives here at the event, and I think they've all had a fabulous time," Catherine said.

"Drama At The Gasfields is all about fun. It's about our major sponsorship of the year with La Boite Theatre Company, but most importantly it is about developing community partnership with the many people that we rely on to work with us to develop our aspirations.

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"We live in the most difficult economic times and we know that a lot of our own staff and people in our communities are dealing with very big challenges at the moment. So it's lovely to be able to take a day out, to not have to worry about how you get here – because QGC provided free buses for all the communities to get here and to get home safely – to come and have a fantastic day out at low cost.

"The only money that's spent here today is when people buy things from the local community groups who are raising money for this area."

Dalby Regional Council Mayor Ray Brown said *Drama At The Gasfields* would be the talk of the towns for months to come, and was a win-win event for QGC and the local communities.

"There's community ownership," he said. "QGC might think they own it, but I'll tell you what, I think our community owns it too. It's a wonderful experience for all."

La Boite's former artistic director, Sean Mee, who wrote the musical after spending hours with Pete, his family and friends, also paid special tribute to the 40 Chinchilla State High School students who joined the La Boite cast as enthusiastic dancers, singers and actors.

Sean had spent hours with Pete, his family and friends at Chinchilla, in southern Queensland, and Eureka, in northern New South Wales, recording the funny, sad and extraordinary events of the musician's life to date.

Opportunity starred Randall Mettam as Pete, as well as Peter Marshall, Tim Jackman and Barbara Fordham who starred in the musical, *Long Gone Lonesome Cowgirls*, at last year's Drama At The Gasfields.

The first Drama At The Gasfields in 2006 attracted 500 people. In 2008, 1,200 people attended and the events both received Australian Business Arts Foundation state and national awards.

But the last word went to Pete's beaming mum, Jan Murray.

"It was brilliant - I just loved it!" she said. "I'm very proud. The whole cast, everybody has done such a great job. I'd really like to thank QGC for putting this on. It has just been great for the district."

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For more information, images or to arrange an interview:

Sue Fuller, Synergy Marketing & Public Relations

Ph: (07) 3303 9966

Mob: 0411 463 693 Email: susan.fuller@synergypr.net.au

NOTES TO EDITORS

About QGC

Queensland Gas Company Limited (ACN: 089 642 553) is a leading and award-winning Australian integrated energy business with a strategy focused on developing its world-class coal seam gas reserves in the Surat Basin for domestic supply and power generation, and international supply. Founded in 2000 as a junior explorer, QGC now employs more than 320 staff who are developing projects including the 140 MW gasfired Condamine Power Station and the



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Queensland Curtis LNG Project. For further information go to www.qgc.com.au

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