

Poet to visit region

Aussie icon to host Support Homeless People Luncheon

CELEBRATED Australian and internationally recognised poet Rupert McCall OAM will visit Mount Gambier to perform the role of emcee for the 2020 Support Homeless People Luncheon on April 3 at The Barn Palais.

The Brisbane-based poet recently launched his much anticipated "best of" anthology, *Golden Soil*, which marks his 25th year as one of the nation's leading poets, who has been honoured with addressing crowds from Anzac Cove at Gallipoli to Ground Zero for the New York Fire Department.

One of the attendees at Mr McCall's book launch in December last year was Liam Flaherty, Captain of Rescue 2, the most revered station in New York's iconic Fire Department.

Captain Flaherty said when he first heard Mr McCall's critically acclaimed tribute, *A Firefighter's Dream*, written in response to the tragic events of 9/11, he was blown away and determined to meet the poet.

"I basically told him that in the nine years since 9/11, I had heard speeches, songs, poems and sermons from poets, priests and politicians alike, but this poem was head and shoulders above," Captain Flaherty said.

Mr McCall wrote the poem at the request of Australian firefighters travelling for the Tour of Duty Charity Run in the USA in 2010.

There was a big send-off in Sydney, where he recited *A Firefighter's Dream* for the Australian firefighters, with former prime minister John Howard attending in his role as patron.

The poem was recorded and played at a function at the Australian Consulate in Los Angeles before the run and was well received by the Americans.

Captain Flaherty subsequently rang Mr McCall, asking him to fly to New York 30 days later for the 9/11 Ceremony at Ground Zero.

"Of course I said yes," Mr McCall said.

He delivered the poem on the night of 9/11 in 2011 during a sunset ceremony

at the site of the World Trade Centre.

"He stunned a crowd of thousands when he recited those magical words on the very ground where so many of my brothers were lost," Captain Flaherty said.

"There was not a dry eye on the street that night and it remains one of the most powerful moments I have ever experienced."

Support Homeless People Luncheon chairman Barry Stafford said the committee was excited to be able to bring the renowned poet to Mount Gambier for the event through a local connection.

Q Advertising Public Relations

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RUPERT MCCALL
AUSTRALIAN POET

director Peppi Bueti lived in Mount Gambier during his formative years.

He now lives and works on the Sunshine Coast of Queensland, but still makes regular visits to the Limestone Coast to catch up with family and friends and maintain his connection to his hometown.

"I have known Rupert for well over a decade and I have seen him perform at a number of major events in Australia and overseas and I was also fortunate to be engaged to undertake the communications for his recent book launch," he said.

"I have always wanted to bring Rupert back home to perform in Mount

Gambier and when I suggested it to Barry, he was very keen as he knew Rupert would help take the event to the next level.

"We have a table booked at the lunch and I'll be there to see Rupert perform his magic to a massive crowd, while also supporting such an important cause."

Mr Stafford said the luncheon was "all about relationships and how we can help others".

"It's through relationships that we can bring the speakers to town and it is through relationships that we can find local solutions to societal issues too," he said.

Golden Soil features many of Mr McCall's finest works spanning nearly three decades, including his renowned masterpiece *Green and Gold Malaria*, along with odes to Roger Federer, Rod Laver, Steve Irwin, Winx, Shane Warne, Black Caviar, the Wallabies and the Melbourne Cup.

There are also tributes to the soldiers of Afghanistan and another piece commissioned by the Australian War Memorial for the Anzac Centenary.

"In my conversations with Barry, I am learning about the challenges that people can face in country towns when they are experiencing homelessness," Mr McCall said.

"I have been impressed by the success of the Support Homeless People Luncheon and how the business community comes together to support a local charity.

"The fact the funds raised remain in the town to directly help local people makes this event even more special.

"I'm really looking forward to meeting people and hearing from a young woman speaking about her experiences and how ac.care has supported her."

Contact Barry Stafford at the Barry Maney Group on 8721 3400 for tickets to the 2020 Support Homeless People Luncheon.



MILESTONE: Go Transit chief operating officer Rick Chapman, poet Rupert McCall OAM and Australian singer and musician Bernard Fanning at the launch of Mr McCall's *Golden Soil* poetry anthology.

Horoscopes

with Sarah Kulkens



ARIES

March 21 - April 20

Lucky Colour: Cream **Racing Numbers:** 1, 3, 2, 5
Lucky Day: Monday **Lotto Numbers:** 1, 15, 26, 24, 40, 33
A very busy period in which most will have to be very careful in making decisions that concern others and their assets wisher to separate love and career dealings for now.



TAURUS

April 21 - May 20

Lucky Colour: White **Racing Numbers:** 1, 6, 9, 5
Lucky Day: Friday **Lotto Numbers:** 1, 25, 29, 35, 36, 30
Many will be tying up loose ends and some will be extricating themselves out of difficult situations. On the domestic scene any will be re arranging furniture changing address and their life style, improvements are indicated.



GEMINI

May 21 - June 21

Lucky Colour: Yellow **Racing Numbers:** 2, 3, 2, 1
Lucky Day: Wednesday **Lotto Numbers:** 2, 12, 29, 9, 8, 11
Think before you say anything that could lose support where you need it most. For many travel plans could be altered or deferred. Later this period people could be more inclined to listen to your carefully thought out plans.



CANCER

June 22 - July 22

Lucky Colour: Violet **Racing Numbers:** 2, 6, 6, 9
Lucky Day: Monday **Lotto Numbers:** 3, 25, 29, 7, 45, 30
A lot will depend on how you handle the family budget now is the time to pay the bills and return favours. Check the small print before signing anything. Some could get caught between warring friends and find it hard to stay neutral.



LEO

July 23 - August 22

Lucky Colour: Cream **Racing Numbers:** 2, 6, 5, 3
Lucky Day: Tuesday **Lotto Numbers:** 2, 15, 26, 34, 40, 45
For the patient things are about to return too normal. If planning major moves ponder on who gets the most benefit. For now its wiser to stay with the one you know best.



VIRGO

August 23 - September 23

Lucky Colour: Orange **Racing Numbers:** 2, 3, 5, 6
Lucky Day: Thursday **Lotto Numbers:** 2, 15, 26, 29, 34, 40
Someone close could irritate you so don't take their remarks too personally. For those with the get up and go very many changes coming up and more success is indicated.



LIBRA

September 24 - October 23

Lucky Colour: Green **Racing Numbers:** 5, 6, 2, 4
Lucky Day: Monday **Lotto Numbers:** 5, 12, 26, 34, 40, 22
By using that charm on all around you the chance or a choice of a lifetime could present itself. Many singles could decide to make a permanent romantic relationship.



SCORPIO

October 24 - November 22

Lucky Colour: Violet **Racing Numbers:** 8, 6, 5, 2
Lucky Day: Tuesday **Lotto Numbers:** 2, 15, 29, 38, 6, 11
Not wise to mix business with pleasure, almost anything started this period had an element of success attached to it. Sudden changes for many can come through also sudden prosperity.



SAGITTARIUS

November 23 - December 20

Lucky Colour: Blue **Racing Numbers:** 2, 6, 5, 8
Lucky Day: Wednesday **Lotto Numbers:** 1, 15, 26, 34, 40, 22
Irritations or outside influences could interfere with personal relationships, so keep your cool. Although this is a progressive period things aren't as they seem to be so get everything in writing.



CAPRICORN

December 21 - January 19

Lucky Colour: Silver **Racing Numbers:** 5, 6, 2, 3
Lucky Day: Thursday **Lotto Numbers:** 5, 12, 26, 34, 36, 39
Far distant places or persons could be important in your future planning, not the time to take risks with any shared assets, avoid speculating on the unknown.



AQUARIUS

January 20 - February 19

Lucky Colour: Green **Racing Numbers:** 2, 3, 5, 6
Lucky Day: Tuesday **Lotto Numbers:** 2, 15, 24, 40, 22, 29
Not too easy to keep the peace in any close relationship. Someone close could be experiencing problems and need your help. On almost all levels stability returns.



PISCES

February 20 - March 20

Lucky Colour: Grey **Racing Numbers:** 2, 6, 5, 9
Lucky Day: Friday **Lotto Numbers:** 5, 12, 29, 34, 40, 22
A very moody influence around you and you will need to make quite an effort to keep organised. Good chance of an opportunity to bring some of your dreams to reality could present itself.



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