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## Media Release

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### Malcolm Turnbull Features At Mission Beach Film Festival

Malcolm Turnbull will play a lead role at the 2010 Mission Beach Film Festival and heads a strong line up of guest speakers including environmentalists, farmers and film makers.

The Mission Beach Film Festival's guest speaker series will complement 18 film screenings over three days from Friday September 17 to Sunday September 19. The guest speaker series is designed to stimulate thought and discussion in relation to sustainability.

Mr Turnbull has been a member of the Australian House of Representatives since 2004, was Minister for Environment and Water Resources in 2007, and was Leader of the Opposition and parliamentary leader of the Liberal Party from September 2008 to December 2009. He is a national leader in the climate change debate.

Mr Turnbull said: "Australia's Wet Tropics and the Great Barrier Reef itself are Australia's richest and most diverse habitats, but are under threat not simply from climate change but unsustainable development more generally. "

"The Mission Beach Film Festival will raise awareness of the issues and Lucy and I are delighted to be part of this exciting event," he said.

Mr Turnbull will provide a special introduction to the Saturday night feature film, "Farewell" which will be held in Cinema 1 at 7.30 pm at the Mission Beach Resort, the film festival site. Set in the early 1980s and based on a true story, "Farewell" is a Cold War espionage film about events that changed history.

Other guest speakers include cinematographer and producer, David Hannan. David has won international acclaim for his tropical and temperate marine images including an Emmy Award. His classic film, Coral Sea Dreaming, will be screened in Cinema 2 at 3pm Saturday and it will be followed by a Q and A panel discussion including Mr Hannan and Dr. "Charlie" Veron, a world renowned coral expert.



Following the screening of "The Real Dirt on Farmer John" in Cinema 2 on Sunday at 3.30pm in Cinema 2, the audience will be treated to a fascinating talk by Mission Beach's very own "Farmer Pete". Pete Salleras is a renowned tropical fruit grower and was last year's recipient of the Wet Tropics Management Authority "World Heritage Neighbour" Award.

The line up of guest speakers includes Roger Phillips (CEO Australian Rainforest Foundation), Lucy Hughes Turnbull (Cities Expert Panel, COAG Reform Council), Pete Faulkner (Chairman, Coral Cay Conservation), Geoff McPherson (JCU), Kevin Ramm (Stanwell Corp.), Roger Beeden (Acting Director, Climate Change Group, GBRMPA) and Paul Williams (Inventor & Designer).

Moderator of the Coral Reefs Panel and MBFF Steering Committee member, Pete Faulkner says, "We are delighted to be welcoming such a distinguished and varied collection of guest speakers and panelists to this year's Festival. They should add a fascinating extra dimension for our audience."

Children will also benefit from expert speakers and presenters. The Kids Cinema on Saturday afternoon will host Rangers Jackie and Dan. They will give a hands on wildlife demonstration and a presentation on living sustainably with nature.

On Sunday afternoon there will be a special discussion on cartoon making and the secrets behind animation. It's all part of a big slate of family fun including feature films "The Water Horse" on Saturday at 7.30pm and "Grow Your Own" on Sunday at 6.30pm all in the Kids Cinema.

The Stills Photography and Short Film Competitions is another feature of the Mission Beach Film Festival and the quality and number of entries have exceeded expectations.

Both are free events with the winners being announced on Saturday (Short Film) and Sunday (Stills) evenings. Festival goers will be invited to vote for the "People's Choice" winner in three categories for the Stills Competition, while the short films will be judged by an expert panel.

Actor, film maker and environmental advocate Ms Daryl Hannah will launch the 2010 Mission Beach Film Festival on Friday September 17 at the Mission Beach Resort prior to the special Gala Screening of the French/Australian co-production of 'The Tree'.

'The Tree' was selected for Official Competition as well as being the closing night film at this years Cannes Film Festival where it received a 10 minute standing ovation.

Tickets are available now from a range of outlets all listed on the festival website [www.missionbeachfilmfestival.com.au](http://www.missionbeachfilmfestival.com.au) .

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