

Film fest hosts gala opening

# Stars to hit red carpet



**SUSTAINABILITY . . . festival producer Dee Cameron with some of the entries in the photographic exhibit** Photo:SCOTT RADFORD-CHISHOLM

By JOHN ANDERSEN

**POLITICIAN** Malcolm Turnbull and actress Daryl Hannah will be two of the stars walking the red carpet at the gala opening of the Mission Beach Film Festival tomorrow night.

The festival, which has sustainability as its theme, will kick off with a screening of the acclaimed Queensland-French produced film *The Tree* which is set in rural Queensland. The film is centered around a young girl who believes that her dead father has come back to life as a Moreton Bay fig tree in rural Queensland. The film, adapted from Brisbane writer Judy Pascoe's debut novel *Our Father Who Art in a Tree*, received a standing ovation at the closing night of the Cannes Film Festival. Mission Beach Film Festival producer Dee Cameron said that although the film was not due for commercial release until September 30, there was already a buzz about it in film industry circles.

Ms Cameron said that Daryl Hannah, star of box office hits such as *Splash*, *Steel Magnolias* and *Kill Bill*, will open the festival tomorrow

course. We are Australia's number one sustainable film festival," Ms Cameron said.

She said the films screening at the festival all contained a message about sustainability. She said *Coral Sea Dreaming* was a documentary about the reef and that *The Most Dangerous Man in America* was about the unsustainability of war.

She said 18 films would be shown and there was a full program for children.

"We've got eight children's films and Ranger Dan and Ranger Jackie from Hands On Wildlife in Townsville will be here to talk to children on Saturday about living sustainably with wildlife.

"They will have animals here and the kids will be able to interact with those animals," she said.

"And there will be a panel of film animation experts here to talk to children about what they do and how they do it," she said.

She said that a photographic exhibition themed around sustainability and a short film competition were being held in conjunction with the festival.

night. She said Ms Hannan was already in North Queensland and was taking part in a permaculture course on the Atherton Tableland.

"We are excited about having her open the festival. Our theme is sustainability and Daryl Hannah is all about sustainability. That's why she is here doing the permaculture

Ms Cameron said that newly installed Coalition front bencher Malcolm Turnbull would be providing the introduction to the gripping French drama *Farewell*.

Mr Turnbull's wife Lucy, an investment banker and former Lord Mayor of Sydney, will be a panelist on a forum dealing with sustainable living.