



the planner

COMPILED BY RACHEL OLDING THEPLANNER@SMH.COM.AU 9282 3159

IN SUMMER
 HERALD
 TOMORROW



CELEBRITY SPOTTER'S GUIDE

OUT OF TOWN

BEST TENNIS FIX

Stars including Lleyton Hewitt, David Nalbandian, Serena Williams, Amelie Mauresmo and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga hit the court for this week's Medibank International Sydney. Up for grabs is more than \$1 million in prize money and a tournament win going into next week's Australian Open in Melbourne. The week of international tennis also features off-court entertainment including Diesel, Axle Whitehead and Kram.

Today until January 17, gates open 9am, play begins 11am, from \$9.90 for ground pass or \$49.90/\$44.90 for day session pass, Sydney Olympic Park Tennis Centre, Sydney Olympic Park, 1300 888 104, medibankinternational.com.au.

BEST HIP-HOP

Soul, funk, hip-hop, reggae, Latin, ska, African, disco, house and breaks all combine when Mr Scruff takes to the decks for one of his marathon DJ sets. He is accompanied tonight by Aussie hip-hop, soul and rock producer Katalyst and Thief, who is an Australian beats DJ with old-school turntable skills.

Tonight, 8pm, \$28, Beck's Festival Bar, Hyde Park Barracks, Macquarie St, city, 9007 0007, sydneyfestival.org.au.

BEST BEACH TALK

Dr Rob Brander of the University of New South Wales presents a series of talks sponsored by a group of coastal councils aiming to reduce the number of rescues and drownings at Sydney's beaches. The visual explanation will teach beachgoers everything they want to know about how waves, rips and beaches work as well as providing valuable beach safety knowledge.

Today, 3-4.30pm, free, Pittwater Coastal Environment Centre, Lake Park Road, North

Narrabeen, 9970 6905, scienceofthesurf.com.

BEST STAND-UP

Australia's largest open microphone comedy competition, Raw Comedy, is travelling the country looking for the best jokesters to progress through to state finals and then on to the national grand final at the 2009 Melbourne International Comedy Festival. Five minutes of new, original comedy material is all that is asked of competitors whether it be stand-up, sketch, double and triple acts or musical comedy.

Tonight's first heat, hosted by Harley Breen, will feature 10 acts. **Tonight, 8.30pm, \$15/\$10, Comedy Store, Entertainment Quarter, Lang Road, Moore Park, 9357 1419, comedystore.com.au.**

BEST COLLAGES

Famous for her collage picture books, including *Where The Forest Meets The Sea*, artist Jeannie Baker has collected a series of 16 collages from her book, *Belonging*, and made them into a travelling exhibition. *Belonging* follows a young girl who turns her derelict street into a place of peace and beauty.

Daily until Sunday, 10am-5pm, free, Casula Powerhouse, 1 Casula Road, Casula, 9824 1121, casulapowerhouse.com.

BEST FAMILY GIG

Dan Zanes, former lead singer of rock group the Del Fuegos, and his Brooklyn-based band perform groovy beats inspired by all kinds of music from folk roots to early rock'n'roll. The family-friendly gig includes soulful folk favourites, dance classics and catchy originals from the man whose albums have featured Lou Reed, Nick Cave and Debbie Harry yet are accessible enough for the under-10 set to sing along.

Today, 11am and 3pm, \$25, Courtyard, Riverside Theatres, corner Church and Market

streets, Parramatta, 8839 3398, sydneyfestival.org.au.

BEST SEASCAPES

Lynda Howitt's series of canvas paintings in *Affinity* aims to inspire contemplation, relaxation and a connection with the sea and sky. The sweeping images of the natural landscape are accompanied by photographs from Christian Mushenko, who also explores the beauty of the ocean. After leaving the Charles Hewitt Gallery, one of Hewitt's works will hang in the Royal Hospital for Women's birth ward as a way to inspire calm in the most stressful of times.

Today, 10am-6pm, Charles Hewitt Gallery, 335 South Dowling Street, Darlinghurst, free, 9331 4988, charleshewitt.com.au.

BEST COLLECTION

The best of the best goes west. A selection of iconic treasures and prized pieces from the Art Gallery of NSW, Australian Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art and Powerhouse Museum, among other institutions, heads west for the first time. The exhibition, entitled *Great Collections*, includes items of national significance like Henry Lawson's original notebooks and original works by Joseph Banks, Picasso and Brett Whiteley.

Daily until Sunday, 10am-4pm, free, Campbelltown Arts

Centre, corner Camden and Appin roads, Campbelltown, 4645 4100, campbelltown.nsw.gov.au.

BEST PLAYTIME

A piano on the footpath? British artist Luke Jerram lets 30 pianos loose around Sydney as part of his public piano project, *Play Me, I'm Yours*. The idea grew out of his observation that people rarely stop to say hello on the streets and