

We The People  
Program 350 August 12, 2019  
We the People 350 Main Beach Spring Flower Festival



**Good Day to you.** The term Renaissance literally means new birth and this is what Spring represents with the renewing of nature when plants wake and majestic flowers bloom again. My earliest memories of the family home at The Entrance are of my father's **Ranunculus** blazing with colour in spring time and this binds them to my heart. So it is with flowers where many of us have a favourite bloom with a particular significance and their colour and scent brightens our day and reflects lovely aspects of our life. Who could deny that the **Rose** is the flower of love or that the **Daffodil and Jonquil** represent rebirth or indeed that Queensland's floral emblem is the magnificent **Cooktown Orchid**. Of course what on earth could replace the **Golden Wattle** as Australia's national flower.....nothing. Now a special and unique enclave on the Gold Coast is Main Beach which for a long time was the place to be seen with a collage of interesting boutique shops and endless cappuccinos on weekends while watching the Beemers and Rollers jostle for a prime parking spot. Mind you my Ford Escort was always welcome too. Time has taken a little of the gloss away however now a couple of locals being **Sue Donovan and Rita Noon** have decided it's time for a Main Beach Spring renaissance and good for them and their initiative. To rejoice in Main Beach history these two self appointed social meerkats have organised the Main Beach Spring Flower Festival on the weekend of September 7 and 8 **free to the public** so mark it in your diaries now. The reference to Meerkats comes from popping up rapidly here and there and surveying the country side and I could well be in trouble for relaying this wonderful analogy.



What better time than springtime for a flower festival and what better place than Main Beach. The ladies have secured the services of a professional floral creationist to ensure Tedder Avenue looks the part and welcomes everyone. Now of course her name is **Julia Rose** isn't it and she too is absolutely possessed by flowers and has worked with the best. The Festival weekend is chock full of events and theatre and because time doesn't permit I suggest you go to the festival web page at [www.mainbeachflowerfestival.com.au](http://www.mainbeachflowerfestival.com.au) where you can find all the blooming details. However one event which will be truly memorable and captured my attention is the extensive use of old Library book pages. The women's triumvirate have come up with the biggest origami flower show the Gold Coast will have ever seen. As the public libraries finally finish with their books they are usually discarded but in this case the pages are being folded carefully into thousands of flowers and will appear from exploding books like a frozen action picture. This promises to build a really theatrical sculpture in Tedder avenue along with a myriad of other flower stands and floral salutations. It's also an opportunity to mention the wonderful support from a large number of sponsors. For example, Main Beach Travel have donated a luxury Spring River Cruise for two, including airfares, through Belgium and Holland at the height of the tulip season. The prize is valued at \$22,000, and only 999 tickets have been issued. You can buy the raffle tickets on the Flower Festival website.



Just summing up, one of the better known flowers of the world is found in Switzerland growing precariously in the mountain alps. Most people have heard of it but many do not know it's a handsome little white flower which grows regardless of the cold or how barren the ground is. It's a metaphor for life in fact and underpins the tenacity of Main Beach and flowers without borders..... Edelweiss Edelweiss, Every morning you greet me, Small and white, Clean and bright, You look happy to meet me (fade up music [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNwmHHs9N\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNwmHHs9N_4) under at the 1.56 mark) (At the 2.47 mark fade under and bring up the outro.....)

.....A festival of flowers and Until next time this is Kent Bayley

