



## LUCKY IN LOVE

WHY THIS COUPLE WED  
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## WIN A \$9000 TV

DETAILS ON PAGE 4



THAT'S GOLD: Didgeridoo player David Williams was seen by four billion people as he played at the Olympic Games' opening ceremony in Beijing last night.

PHOTO: IMAGE USED WITH PERMISSION BY DAVID WILLIAMS

# BEIJING'S A BLAST FOR ROCKY'S DAVID

Starring role for musician at opening ceremony

By ADRIAN TAYLOR

HE MIGHT not be an athlete, but David Williams made sure Rockhampton was centre stage last night as the Beijing Olympics got off to a spectacular start.

David performed in front of 90,000 people.

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## Big pay day for Comet Karl

CENTRAL Comets' gun centre Karl Johnson is set to pick up a reported \$140,000 when he signs a deal for a 12-week stint with a Japanese rugby union club.

Johnson, who is expected to link up with the club during the Comets' off-season program early next year, is currently sidelined with a broken wrist.

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## Legal twist in Wyatt drama

TOM Wyatt may never work a day in the office job demotion Rockhampton Regional Council CEO Alastair Dawson has planned for him.

It is believed the union representing Mr Wyatt has mounted a strong case under the Local Government Act to have him returned to work only as the manager of parks, sport and recreation.

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## David sounds didgeridoo for the world

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And it was in the Bird's Nest Olympic Stadium, and was watched by a television audience estimated at four billion, during the opening ceremony.

The Rockhampton-born and raised 24-year-old was one of nine indigenous Australians who mixed with musicians from around the globe to play for the athletes as they marched into the stadium.

Speaking exclusively to *The Morning Bulletin* yesterday, David said playing in "the world's largest gig" was the proudest moment of his life.

And it was equally exciting for his grandmother, Maureen Williams, who watched the ceremony at her home in North Rockhampton.

Maureen sparked

David's interest in Aboriginal culture when he was a small boy, teaching him songs she had learned from her own great grandfather.

"I don't know where he learnt to play the didgeridoo, but he was always a talented musician as a boy and he's always travelling the world to perform. It's difficult to keep

**"I always watch the Olympics anyway, but this is very special for me**

track of him.

"It's a big thrill for me. I always watch the Olympics anyway, but this is very special for me."

David grew up in Rockhampton and went to St Anthony's



MY BOY: Maureen Williams proudly displays a portrait of her grandson at the moment of one his earlier achievements.

PHOTO: ADRIAN TAYLOR

TRADITION: David Williams in his traditional role as didgeridoo player.

PHOTO: IMAGE USED WITH PERMISSION BY DAVID WILLIAMS

Primary School.

But his family moved to Nambour in his early teens so David and his brother could go to a specialist music school.

Although he's a talented pianist and trombonist, it's the didgeridoo that has brought him fame and opened the door to the world. He's played in Europe and in America for John Travolta

and this is his fifth visit to China.

But the Olympic experience is the highlight of his career. He's been in Beijing now for two weeks and performed in three dress rehearsals in the Bird's Nest before the main event last night.

"It's an amazing thing and the sheer numbers involved almost make it unreal

- like a movie.

"The best thing is that I've had front seats at the most spectacular show ever staged."

Brisbane-based, David runs an Aboriginal design agency, Gilimbbaa, and is also an internationally renowned artist with works in private collections in Australia, Italy, Spain, England, Sweden and Germany.



## BULLY BRIEFS

### Girls strut

STRUTTERS Nightclub will host Australia's longest-running grid girl competition this weekend - Bartercard Miss Indy.

Heat three will see five girls take to the stage tonight aiming for the local final on August 23. Entry before 10pm is free.

### River art

AN art project will create a collaborative artist book inspired by the Fitzroy River.

The finished product will be displayed in the Rockhampton Art Gallery, giving participants a gallery experience for their work.

The program runs from September 1 to 5 at the Walter Reid Cultural Centre. Call 4927 7129 for bookings and information.

### Festival nears

THE Village Festival is almost here, so why not find out all you can about it?

Tune into Channel 10 tomorrow morning at 10am as one of the festival stars, comedian Ellen Briggs, is appearing and letting you know all about the August 29 to 31 festival at Yeppoon Pony Club.