LABOUR DAY WEEKEND
MARCH 7–9 2009

AT THE MEREDITH
SUPERNATURAL AMPHITHEATRE

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

IF YOU SEE A SNIFFER DOG

• If a sniffer dog sits down next to you, the police are allowed to search you.

• If you do have drugs, do not suddenly take them. It's dangerous and does not mean you will escape detection.

• **Do not hide your drugs inside your body.**

IF POLICE WANT TO SEARCH YOU

1. Stay calm and be polite. Don't swear. Do not actively resist the search or push a sniffer dog away.

2. Be cooperative and let the police search you. Police can search you, including a pat down search, in a public place. They can also search anything you are carrying and the car you are travelling in. You are entitled to ask them why they are searching you, and ask them for their name, rank and station, if you wish.

3. If you have drugs on you the law says you must give your correct name and address to police. You don't have to say anything more, this is your right to silence.

If police want you to accompany them for further questioning, ask if you are being arrested and what the charge is. Without arrest you are free to go. If you are arrested seek legal advice as soon as possible.

4. If you don't have drugs on you and police ask for your name and address, ask them whether you have to. If police say you have to give your name & address, then it is better to cooperate. Generally Police will make an effort to question you in a private place to avoid embarrassing you.

5. If you feel you have been unfairly targeted or harassed by police and/or their sniffer dogs complaints can be made to the Victorian Ombudsman or Office of Police Integrity at a later stage. If the sniffer dogs do visit us, festival organisers have arranged for some lawyers to be on site to provide free legal advice to festival patrons.

For further information, here is a link to the Fitzroy Legal Service's webpage about police powers in relation to drugs and alcohol:
www.vicdrugguide.org.au/handbook/ch10s03.php.

And here is a link to a document about PAD dogs which has been prepared by Victoria Police:
www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?a=internetBridgingPage&Media_ID=35809

PLEASE LOOK AFTER YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Here at the Meredith Supernatural Amphitheatre, we want you to have the best possible time. The time of your life. We also want your friends and the people around you to have a great time too. This can of course absolutely be achieved without the use or abuse of alcohol or drugs. So...please don't stuff up your weekend or that of your friends by being irresponsible for your wellbeing. Be aware that although Golden Plains may feel like a sovereign dominion (her own country), the usual laws apply within the festival boundaries as they do outside them. Perhaps more importantly, the laws of the human body are likewise no different here than anywhere else. If you are intending to take drugs or drink alcohol, please do take these things into consideration:

- **Rest and rehydrate**. The festival goes for two days – pace yourself if you want to enjoy it all. Take regular drinks of water.
- Mixing alcohol and drugs **greatly increases** the possibility of overdose or accidents, as does **mixing two or more** drugs, even if taken hours apart.
- Do not use drugs on your own. If you are feeling unwell – **tell someone**.
- If you or someone near you is feeling unwell, alert our staff, or security, or the **Medical Centre** (opposite Info Tent – to the far right of stage) immediately. Please also be aware that if you or a friend has taken drugs and is in need of medical attention the medical staff are not obliged to involve the police. So do not be afraid to go to the Medical Centre. The medical team is not here to judge you, there are here to help you – be honest with them.

We are asking you to help – if you see someone who is obviously unwell – please alert our staff immediately. We have a team of dedicated Helpers roaming the festival keeping an eye out as well.

EMERGENCY SYMPTONS INCLUDE

• Feeling hot, cold or just unwell

• Fainting / collapse

• Stomach cramps

• Severe headaches

• Becoming confused or irrational

• Having trouble breathing

• Falling asleep / losing consciousness

• Convulsions / having a fit

If you or someone near you is experiencing these symptoms, get them to the Medical Centre or alert festival staff ASAP. We recommend you have a good look at the map in this program, familiarise yourself with the location of First Aid, and mark your tent location. There are some poles in the campground that have the map reference points on them.

Thanks, it's much appreciated.