

TWILIGHT MARKETS

Eagle Farm's markets will run a twilight event for shoppers on December 23. The market will run from 3pm to 7pm, with Santa and carollers to add to the festivities.

TREE APPEAL

Brisbane residents are being reminded that time is running out to spread the Christmas cheer to our most vulnerable children and young people and donate to the Child Safety Christmas Tree Appeal by December 16 at 41, 80 and 111 George St, and 61 Mary St.



CREATIVE INPUT

Have your say about the creative future of Brisbane by posting comments on Arts Queensland's discussion paper. It was released ahead of a forum at the State Library next Wednesday. Visit arts.qld.gov.au.

Poll strain on parkland plan

THE Howard Smith Wharves project has been a political hot potato in the inner city for several years now.

The main objection surrounded council's plans to build a boutique hotel on the site.

The remainder was to be re-vamped to create public parkland.

Earlier this year, the State Government stepped in to can the project after January's floods inundated the site.

Eighteen months ago, the Central Ward had \$500,000 removed from its parks fund to bankroll the parkland for the project and residents are now rightly asking for their money back.

The park is at least two years away but council wants to hang on to the cash when it could be put to good use in parks being used by inner city residents, workers and visitors every day of the week.

Two years is a long time in politics and with a council election due early next year, anything can happen.

FROM THE EDITOR

Catherine Noble



GIFTING SOLUTION

After living in a house full of men for much of my adult life, I've formulated a foolproof Christmas gift giving solution.

Dropping hints doesn't work with family my sons or my partner, you just have to tell them exactly what you want for Christmas and where to get it.

Our *City News* Christmas Gift Guide will be strategically placed on the kitchen table, and the items I'm coveting will be circled in red. Everyone's happy!

WE'LL BE BACK

Next week is our final edition of *City News* for 2011, but you'll still be able to keep up with what's going on at our website during the Christmas/New Year break.

Visit questnews.com.au and click on Central.

Novel twist plays on male stereotype



MULTIPLE ASPECTS: Jamie McKinell is playing numerous roles in Brisbane Arts Theatre's *How to be a Man*.

WANT to question the stereotype of masculinity in Australia? Or just in need of a good laugh?

Then get along to the Brisbane Arts Theatre for their world-first production of *How to be a Man*.

The play is an adaptation of John Birmingham's book from the same name and draws on references from his bestselling novel *He Died with a Felafel in His Hand*.

Toowong actor Jamie McKinell is playing numerous roles in the play, including a Bob Katter cameo. He said his main role as alpha male Son of Elroy was a stretch from his natural persona.

"The character is the example of the typical stereotype of the yobbo-like alpha male," McKinell said.

Fans of Birmingham's work may wonder how this unconventional book could have been turned into a play but McKinell said scriptwriter Simon Bedak had worked well to create an interesting storyline.

"Simon kind of takes things from the world around him that he finds funny and puts them in the script. It works really well and is tied together with a storyline showing a different side to men."

➔ **How to be a Man is showing until December 17 on Thursdays to Saturdays from 8pm. Tickets start at \$20 at artstheatre.com.au**

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