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Mattara booms for pets and people

BY JACQUI JONES

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From the colourful and creative, to pets and parades, cannons and competitions: this year's Mattara's Festival has it all.

The event was launched at City Hall yesterday ahead of its opening at The Foreshore's Camp Shortland on Monday.

Organiser Kim Hillery said many new attractions had been added to the program in the event's 49th year.

These included a body art competition on October 4, which will coincide with World Animal Day.

Models were on hand at yesterday's launch to offer a preview of what's in store.

Tibo Roger sported a set of cow-print overalls, while Melissa Mace was cute as a cheetah and Jacquie Twomey slipped into snakeskin.

Other highlights for Mattara 2010, which runs until October 10, include an animal beer drinking competition, cannon building challenge, kayaking on the harbour, talent contest, a psychic fair and the traditional grand parade.

“It's just amazing how big Mattara's gotten this year,” Ms Hillery said.

“It's just gone through the roof.

“Everybody in Newcastle knows what Mattara means.”

For more information go to mattarafestival.org.au.



TRIPTYCH: Melissa Mace, Jacquie Twomey and Tibo Roger painted up for Mattara's body art competition. – Pictures by Simone De Peak

