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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Top 'o' the Gulf Country Music Festival plus Truck Muster and 16th Annual Talent Quest**

24- 26 April, Port Augusta

This weekend's country Music Festival at Port August is the place to be for great country entertainment!

On Friday night, it's a warm-up to the weekend with *Fully-Loaded* supported by young talent quest competitors and local performers at the Barracks in the Port Augusta Cultural Centre – Yarta Purtli. The main event on Saturday at Coinda Hall is when the winners of the talent quest are announced and one of Australia's favourite performers - Lee Forster - with guest artists Kristal Collins takes the stage.

On Saturday morning the competition begins! The Talent quest offers competitors *only one of two chances* to qualify for the SA Council for Country Music's Champion of Champions. Junior entrants will compete for awards in best vocal, gospel and instrumental. The Open section expands to also include awards for best duet, group, Golden Olden Oldie, songwriting, best female and male performer as well as an Encouragement Award with a special award for local senior performer.

John Sharp, one of the dedicated event organisers and member of the Port Augusta and Districts Country Music Club said, "the Festival is a great event for families and friends to enjoy top-class performers, try their hand at dancing and have some country style fun."

"The Talent Quest is a great opportunity for new and emerging performers to strut their stuff, entertain people and support the competitors in their quest for fame," he said.

Gabrielle Ballard an enthusiastic competitor and one of 2008's Junior winners said, "I love the Country Music Festival. I've been involved in the Festival for a number of years now and found it totally amazing! I love country music and winning is just a bonus, because music is always fun, right!

Gabrielle was only 12 last year when she went onto win the SA Council for Country Music's Junior Champion of Champions competition held in Adelaide. She is looking forward to once again showing off her music and had improving her stage experience.

On Sunday morning big trucks of all ages and sizes roll-out for the muster in Beauchamp Lane followed that afternoon by the Festival's Junior and Open Entertainer of the Year competition.

The event is kindly sponsored by Country Arts SA, Port Augusta City Council, MM Electrical, Lorraine Poole, Augusta Power Stations, Better Home Supplies, Augusta Automall and the Standpipe Motel.

For more information, list of events and performers contact Kaye on 0400 789 819 or visit our website at [www.saccm.com/padcmc](http://www.saccm.com/padcmc) . Gabrielle Ballard can be contact via her mother, Karen Ballard on 0418 838 739. In the case of inclement weather outdoor venues will be moved into the Institute Theatre.