



# Newsletter.

## Issue 36

January 2005

### Inside The Newsletter

#### **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 7:30pm Meeting**

Join us at this meeting as we look at the many aspects of the World of Disney from Animation, Theme Parks, and collectibles. A special look at Disneyland and much more.

**Come and join us for this exciting meeting.**

#### **Location:**

St. Marks Anglican Church Hall.  
Cnr. Auburn Rd and Hume Hwy Yagoona. (Near Bankstown.) Just 150m from the Yagoona Railway Station.

The Down Under Disneyana Newsletter is a publication of the Down Under Disneyana Club. The newsletter is published quarterly and distributed to members. Contributions to our newsletter are welcome.

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Down Under Disneyana Club is the Australian Chapter of the National Fantasy Fan Club of the USA, and our club is not associated with The Walt Disney Company in any way. **Ph: (02) 9644-1034**

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Welcome to Issue 36 of the club newsletter.

### **Latest Australian Disney News**

**The Wonderful World of Disney now on Saturday evenings on Channel 7 at 7.30pm.**

**Disney's / Pixar The Incredibles – opens Boxing day in cinemas.**

### **Upcoming Club Events**

#### **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February 7.00pm**

Join us at this meeting and Disneyana Auction to raise money for Starlight Foundation.

#### **St Marks Anglican Church hall**

Cnr Auburn Rd and Hume Hwy Yagoona only 1km along Auburn Rd from our old meeting location.

In this newsletter read about the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of Disneyland celebrations. Mission Space at Epcot and a wonderful crossword challenge put together by Julie and Jim Curtis. Also advance notice of our special Disneyana Auction evening to be held in February 2005 to raise money for charity. On a sad note read about the passing of two Disney legends and a look at their legacy. Enjoy this issue of the newsletter.

**Wayne**

# Coogee - 4 March to 24 April

Sand Sculpting Australia, the largest sand sculpting event in the Southern Hemisphere, is coming to Coogee in 2005. The world renowned event that has wowed audiences in Victoria and New South Wales in 2003 and 2004 is set to do the same in Coogee with more than 1,200 tonnes of sand carved into scenes and characters from classic Disney and Disney Pixar films.

The exhibition will feature the finest master sand sculptors from Australia and around the world including a number of current and former world champions working on a variety of sculptures.

As well as the amazing sculpture exhibition the event includes a range of activities for the whole family such as screenings of Disney and Disney Pixar films, a how to build a sand sculpture video presentation that shows how the experts create their masterpieces, Disney story-telling for the kids, a Hidden Mickey competition, hands-on sand workshops, Disney activity area and plenty of rides. Each display will feature scenes from new and classic Disney and Disney Pixar films including Winnie the Pooh, Bambi, The Incredibles, Lion King and classic Disney characters such as Cinderella, Mickey Mouse and friends.

## Location

Foreshore at Coogee.

## Dates and Times

Friday 4 March – Sunday 24 April 2005

Open Sunday – Thursday 10am – 6pm and Friday and Saturday from 10am – 9pm

Come and chat to the sculptors and see the work-in-progress until 7 March 2005 or visit the completed exhibition from 8 March until 24 April 2005.

## Activities

As well as the amazing sculpture exhibition the event will include a range of activities. Information for some of the activities (indicated with an \* in the list below) will be available on an Information Board at the event. Activities will include:

- How to build a sand sculpture video presentation \*
- Sand Sculpting Workshops – make your own amazing creations at our hands-on display
- Resident sculptor – see a sculptor at work throughout the entire event and ask questions about sand sculpting
- Disney movie screenings \*
- Disney story telling \*
- “Find the Hidden Mickey” competition
- Disney animation classes \*
- Disney activity area
- Rides for the children

## Ticket Prices

### All day passes:

#### Ticket type

Adults

Children up to (4-15 years)

Children under 4

Family (2 Adults, 2 Children)

Family (2 Adults, 3 Children)

Concession

Group bookings of 20 or more

Event and Unlimited ride wristbands (suitable for children only):

Children 4 - 15yo: \$17.50

Children under 4: \$12.00

## Public Transport Information

You can get a bus to Coogee from Central Station. For bus and train information call: 131 500 or go to the following websites:

- [Transport Information & Timetables for Train](#)
- [Transport Information for Buses and Ferries](#)

## For more information

Call 03 5986 6684 (BH) or email

[lynda@sandstormevents.com.au](mailto:lynda@sandstormevents.com.au)

### The Henry Ford to Create Travelling Exhibit Celebrating 50 Years of Disneyland

The Henry Ford in Dearborn, Michigan, will research and develop a travelling exhibit celebrating the 50th anniversary of Disneyland. The exhibit will be created by The Henry Ford in association with Walt Disney Imagineering and The Walt Disney Company.

In an unprecedented agreement, Walt Disney Imagineering, the creative design organization behind Walt Disney Parks and Resorts, will loan The Henry Ford up to 500 pieces of original artwork, models, construction drawings, ride vehicles and media materials relating to the architecture and design of Disneyland.

"During the celebration of Disneyland's 50th anniversary, this exhibit will offer a unique way to pay tribute to Walt's original park, a concept so popular, that it launched an entirely different genre of family entertainment that now spans the globe," said Marty Sklar, Vice-Chairman and Principal Creative Executive, Walt Disney Imagineering. The exhibition will open in Henry Ford Museum, part of The Henry Ford, in September 2005 and will feature rarely seen original artwork, early footage, blueprints and photographs revealing one man's vision of a family-friendly and fantasy-filled entertainment complex known today as Disneyland®. Visitors will also view original character sculpture; scenic elements of the park from the 1950s and sit in original ride cars such as those used for Dumbo the Flying Elephant® and Mr. Toad's Wild Ride®.

After its debut at Henry Ford Museum, the exhibit will tour nationally beginning in early 2006.

The rarest opportunity in this exhibit will be the chance to view up-close the original Abraham Lincoln figure from the 1964 World's Fair in New York. This figure is the first original Audio-Animatronics® "human" to appear in a Walt Disney show. It debuted in the Illinois pavilion of the World's Fair and has not been shown since.

"The fact that we have been granted access to this amazing collection is incredible," said Scott Mallwitz, Experience Design Director for The Henry Ford. "The show that will result from this access will celebrate Disneyland as an American innovation -- historically, an entertainment media that has had profound and enduring influence."

The historical connection between Disneyland and The Henry Ford can be traced back to Walt Disney himself and his first visit to Greenfield Village, part of The Henry Ford, in 1940. He was so taken with Henry Ford's vision of an idealized American village, he returned eight years later. These trips and visits to other destinations and fairs, across the country helped Walt frame the concept of a "Family Park" that would become Disneyland.

*Disney parks and resorts are among the most popular attractions anywhere on earth, representing a timeless tradition that millions of families continue to pass from one generation to another. For the first time, all 10 Disney theme parks around the world will join together for The Happiest Celebration on Earth to mark the 50th anniversary of Disneyland in Southern California. The impact of Disneyland on family entertainment is significant, and the park Walt Disney created 50 years ago became the foundation for the modern theme park industry.*

*The Henry Ford, located in Dearborn, Michigan was founded in 1929 by automotive pioneer Henry Ford. This history destination includes Henry Ford Museum, Greenfield Village, The Henry Ford IMAX Theatre, The Benson Ford Research Center and The Ford Rouge Factory Tour. The Henry Ford, America's Greatest History Attraction, is the history destination that brings the American Experience to life. For more information please visit our website <http://www.thehenryford.org>.*

*Walt Disney Imagineering is the unique, creative force behind Walt Disney Parks and Resorts that imagines, designs and builds all Disney theme parks, resorts, attractions, cruise ships, real estate developments, and regional entertainment venues worldwide. Imagineering's unique strength comes from the dynamic global team of 1,400 creative and technical professionals building on the Disney legacy of storytelling to pioneer new forms of entertainment through technical innovation and creativity.*

**--Posted September 28, 2004**

**Source: The Henry Ford**

## **Now It's 'Magic Your Way' at Walt Disney World Resort: New Tickets Let Guests Customize Their Dream Vacation**

**With new "Magic Your Way" tickets, Walt Disney World guests will be able to create their own ticket for their customized dream vacation.**

ORLANDO, FL USA 12/02/2004

New Ticket Plan Rewards Longer Stays

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla., Dec. 2 /PRNewswire/ -- Disney today announced an innovative new ticket plan -- "Magic Your Way" -- that allows Walt Disney World guests to create their own tickets for a customized vacation.

Starting Jan. 2, guests at Walt Disney World Resort will be able to purchase tickets to the various theme parks, attractions and other entertainment offerings that are tailored to the length of their vacation and the interests of their group -- and allow them to save more per day based on their length of stay.

"Whether ordering a computer, a car or a cup of coffee, people want things customized to fit their individual needs," said Walt Disney World President Al Weiss. "And now Walt Disney World guests will have that same ability to customize their dream vacation, creating the ticket that is just right for them."

And because "Magic Your Way" tickets offer savings that increase with the length of stay, a weeklong Walt Disney World vacation becomes even more affordable.

"Recent research shows that longer vacations are high on the wish list for families," Weiss said. "With so much to see and do at Walt Disney World, guests want to take a week to experience it all, at their own pace. With this new plan they can -- and at more affordable prices that reward more leisurely stays.

"Simply put," he said, "the more you play, the less you pay, per day."

Under this new program, a family of four will be able to enjoy a six-night/seven-day Walt Disney World vacation -- including a stay at an on-property Disney hotel with theme park tickets -- for as little as \$1,500.

### **Even More Choices: Disney Resorts, Benefits**

Staying in the "middle of the magic" at a Walt Disney World Resort hotel has always been the best and most relaxing way to enjoy a Walt Disney World vacation. And now Disney hotel guests get great new benefits, too, including more time in the parks and a convenient and affordable dining plan:

\* **Extra Magic Hours:** Each day the gates of one of Disney's magical theme parks open one hour early or stay open three hours later so Disney Resort hotel guests can enjoy select attractions. (A valid theme park ticket and Resort ID are required.)

\* **Disney Dining Plan:** Disney hotel guests who want the convenience of a more-inclusive "cruise-style" vacation can purchase the "Magic Your Way" Package Plus Dining. For each night of their resort stay guests can enjoy two meals and a snack at more than 100 select restaurants throughout the Walt Disney World parks and hotels.

With more than 20 uniquely themed Disney resorts -- Value, Moderate, Deluxe and Disney Vacation Club -- Walt Disney World offers accommodations for every taste and budget. Now that a longer Disney vacation has become even more affordable, Disney resort guests will be able to enjoy their hotel like never before -- spending quality "R & R" hours between park visits, whether it's pool time, a quick nap, shopping or meals.

### **"The Happiest Celebration on Earth"**

New values and benefits come at a perfect time, as Walt Disney World Resort prepares to launch "The Happiest Celebration on Earth," marking 50 years of Disney theme park magic since Disneyland opened in 1955.

Beginning May 5, 2005, Walt Disney World is importing attractions from Disney parks around the globe to mark the occasion:

\* At Disney-MGM Studios, a high-octane stunt show filled with speeding cars, motorcycles and jet skis comes direct from Disneyland Resort Paris.

\* At Epcot, a soaring adventure over California comes from Disneyland Resort.

\* At Magic Kingdom, a magical, musical "Cinderellabration" takes its cue from the popular Tokyo Disney Resort show.

\* And at Disney's Animal Kingdom, Lucky the dinosaur walks straight out of the secret labs of Walt Disney Imagineering.

### **"Magic Your Way" Easy to Book**

"Magic Your Way" tickets go on sale beginning Jan. 2. Until then, guests can find more information at <http://www.disneyworld.com>. Also beginning Jan. 2, a new step-by-step, shopping cart-style process on [disneyworld.com](http://www.disneyworld.com) makes it easy to customize and book a dream Walt Disney World vacation. Or guests can contact 407/W-DISNEY or their travel agent to book the magic -- their way.

Creating Your Ticket ... Your Way  
'Magic Your Way' Fact Sheet

With the new "Magic Your Way" ticket plan, guests create their own ticket for their perfect Walt Disney World

vacation -- whether that includes seven days of theme park fun, or water park action, or a night on the town at Downtown Disney.

Creating a custom ticket is easy. First, guests choose the number of days they want on a base ticket that allows them to visit one theme park each day.

Then they can select from a menu of ticket options that includes:

\* **Park Hopper Option:** Adding the Park Hopper option lets guests come and go as they please through all four Walt Disney World theme parks each day for the length of their ticket. Extra cost to the base-price ticket: \$35 -- or just \$5 per day on a seven-day ticket.

\* **Magic Plus Pack Option:** For Disney fun beyond the four theme parks, this option provides the choice of admission to Disney's Blizzard Beach water park, Disney's Typhoon Lagoon water park, DisneyQuest, Downtown Disney, Pleasure Island or Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex. Extra cost to the base-price ticket: \$45 (includes 2-5 visits to these other attractions, depending on the number of base ticket days purchased).

\* **No Expiration Option:** "Magic Your Way" tickets expire 14 days after their first use. Electing the "no expiration" option means the guest is free to come back and take advantage of unused ticket entitlements at any time. Extra cost to the base-price ticket: \$10 if 2-day ticket purchased, up to \$55 if 7-day ticket purchased.

\* **"Magic Your Way" Premium Pass:** To capture all that Walt Disney World Resort has to offer, this ticket combines the benefits of Park Hopper and Magic Plus Pack options.

\* **Advance Purchase Savings:** The savings gets even sweeter when guests purchase 5-, 6- or 7-day "Magic Your Way" tickets with the Park Hopper or Magic Plus Pack options -- or both -- before leaving home.

## **Disney and HKSAR Government Announce Hong Kong Disneyland Opening Day Special New Family Entertainment Revealed**

Disney and the Hong Kong SAR Government announced today that Hong Kong Disneyland will welcome its first guests on 12th September, 2005 (Monday), earlier than originally projected. The world-class theme park and resort, located on Lantau Island, will be Disney's first theme park in China offering magical experiences for the entire family ranging from Broadway-style shows and signature Disney attractions to vibrant fireworks and parades.

"We are delighted to be joining with the Hong Kong SAR Government to bring guests from Hong Kong and around the world such a unique quality family entertainment experience. Over the past four years since the announcement of this project, we have been working closely with the Hong Kong SAR Government to make

Hong Kong Disneyland a success, and we are grateful for their tremendous support in helping us deliver the magic even earlier than expected,” said Don Robinson, Hong Kong Disneyland Group Managing Director.

“The announcement of opening day for Hong Kong Disneyland marks a key milestone for the development of Hong Kong tourism and the economy as a whole,” said Henry Tang, Financial Secretary, Hong Kong SAR Government and the Guest of Honour at today’s announcement. Tang said that Hong Kong Disneyland’s opening would be a “driving force for tourism growth for Hong Kong, and family tourism development in particular,” noting that this year’s tourist arrivals are estimated to reach over 21 million, a rise of 37% over last year.

The Financial Secretary also highlighted that the whole economy will continue to benefit from the Hong Kong Disneyland project tremendously. “The project has already created 11,400 jobs during construction. Another 18,000 jobs are expected to be created in phases by opening. In the first 40 years after opening, Hong Kong Disneyland is forecast to bring about a huge economic benefit of \$148 billion to Hong Kong as a whole,” said Mr. Tang.

Noting that the project will be completed less than six years since its commencement five years ago in late 1999, the Financial Secretary said, “Never has a Disneyland been built so fast, achieving the same quality as other Disney theme parks and resorts.” The project will also be completed within budget. The Financial Secretary said that Government would continue to render full support for a most successful opening.

Families visiting the Hong Kong Disneyland Resort will be taken on a magical journey through three themed lands, a charming Main Street U.S.A and two Disney-style hotels. “Hong Kong Disneyland is designed for guests to leave the real world and enter one of fantasy, imagination and adventure,” said Wing Chao, Vice Chairman, Asia Pacific Development, Walt Disney Parks & Resorts, and Executive Vice President, Master Planning, Architecture & Design, Walt Disney Imagineering.

“When the guests first enter the Hong Kong Disneyland Resort, they will notice immediately the lush landscape, colourful signage, and decorative light fixtures. With the classic Disneyland design, combined with fun and exciting attractions created specifically for Hong Kong, guests from all around Asia will experience the unique Disney brand of entertainment, creating memories that will last a lifetime.”

#### **Captivating Featured Attractions Revealed – Jungle River Cruise and Festival of the Lion King**

In addition to the opening day announcement, Hong Kong Disneyland executives revealed two of the many featured attractions expected to enthral thousands of guests on a daily basis: Jungle River Cruise and Festivals of the Lion King.

Disney Imagineers, Tom Morris, Vice President and Executive Producer in charge of Hong Kong Disneyland

and Skip Lange, Vice President, Executive Production Designer in charge of Jungle River Cruise, revealed the conceptual renderings and storyboards of this adventurous journey through an African jungle that will be part of the exotic Adventureland experience.

An expansive river in the heart of Adventureland is set to become a spectacular centrepiece and the perfect setting for Jungle River Cruise. Guests will depart on exploration boats for an exotic journey along the waterways of some of the world’s most hidden regions.

Mystery and intrigue lurk around every bend as the riverboats travel a winding route filled with fascinating sights, sounds, surprises and fun.

An intrepid boat skipper will guide guests on a journey through busy river rafts; elephants, frolicking in water; quaking temple ruins; invading gorillas; erupting geysers and some very mischievous hippos.

“Hong Kong Disneyland’s Jungle River Cruise brings more of the adventure ‘on board’ and allows guests to get closer to the action as they navigate through this intriguing jungle,” said Morris. “We have added new features and surprises to this attraction to create a one-of-a-kind experience for our guests in Hong Kong.”

Hong Kong Disneyland is also delighted to present Festival of the Lion King, a joyous and high energy spectacle created through song, dance, puppetry, specialty performances and evocative imagery.

Ten years after its release, Disney’s The Lion King still holds the hearts and minds of audiences around the world. This animated masterpiece, which has become one of the most popular of all Disney classics, is now being brought to life in a unique Broadway-style theatrical spectacle created especially for Hong Kong Disneyland.

The audience is in the middle of the show as a troupe of tribal performers arrives and transforms the Theatre in the Wild into a colourful festival setting. Giraffes strut, birds swoop, gazelles leap! The entire savanna comes to life as the music soars. This is “Festival of the Lion King” – Disney storytelling at its best in a kingdom brimming with fun, wonder and adventure.

“Festival of The Lion King” will be unlike anything our guests have ever experienced in Hong Kong and will be the first Broadway-style production to be staged in Hong Kong on a permanent basis. The show will allow families to join with their circle of loved ones while marvelling at this breathtaking spectacle and timeless story, miraculously brought to life by a cast of over dynamic 20 performers,” said Laurie Jordan, Vice President of Entertainment for Hong Kong Disneyland.

#### **Hong Kong Disneyland Admission Pricing**

Guests will be able to immerse themselves in this magical Hong Kong Disneyland experience with an admission price of HK\$295 per adult during the week and HK\$350 on

weekends and peak days. Children's tickets (aged between three and 11 years) will be priced at HK\$210 during the week and HK\$250 on weekends and peak holidays. Senior citizens tickets (over the age of 65) can enjoy the Disney experience at a special rate of HK\$170 during the week and HK\$200 on weekends and peak days. Children under the age of three are free. Peak days will include Hong Kong public holidays, summer school holidays (i.e. July and August) and the Golden Weeks (1st week in May and October every year).

"We believe that the ticket prices for Hong Kong Disneyland represent excellent value for our guests who can enjoy a full day of adventure including an array of attractions, world-class hotels accommodations along with special dining and our unique evening firework spectacular. Our extensive research validated that our target customers understand Disney is a premium brand offering unique experiences not currently available in the market. When we open in less than a year, we look forward to welcoming guests of all ages, and from around the region to a great family vacation destination and to a world of fantasy, imagination and adventure," said Roy Tan Hardy, Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Hong Kong Disneyland.

### **Experiencing the Magic**

A Hong Kong Disneyland admission ticket will include a full day's program of magical adventures across Main Street U.S.A. and three themed lands - Fantasyland, Tomorrowland and Adventureland. There are no additional charges for individual attractions or entertainment. Guests will first enter Hong Kong Disneyland through Main Street, U.S.A., designed after quintessential small town America and evoking a time gone by when the gas lamp was giving way to electricity and the "horseless carriage" was the latest novelty.

Its nostalgic design will help transport guests from the every day world into a "magic kingdom" where they can then venture into the three themed lands.

Rising proudly above Main Street U.S.A. is Sleeping Beauty Castle, the gateway to Fantasyland where the colourful, whimsical, "once-upon-a-time" settings of Disney's animated classics come to life.

Here guests can indulge their childhood fantasies by riding on Disney's world famous "Dumbo the Flying Elephant"; the "Mad Hatter Tea Cups", the majestic Cinderella Carousel and "The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh." Guests will also be able to enjoy the 3-D animated feature film, Mickey's PhilharMagic, that will take the audience through an interactive experience featuring the head Mouse and other favourite Disney characters.

In Fantasy Gardens, a unique attraction designed specially for Hong Kong Disneyland, guests will have the opportunity to meet their all time favourite characters including Mickey Mouse, Winnie the Pooh and many of their Disney friends.

Over in Adventureland, guests will begin a journey into the exotic regions of the Asian and African jungles. Here

guests can take a daring ride on a jungle river cruise, and explore many other attractions including a whole island devoted to the "King of the Jungle" – Tarzan – and his rustic tree-house.

Adventureland is also home to the 2,200 seat Theatre-in-the-Wild, which is one of the most technically advanced theatrical venues in any Disney Park. It is here that guests can take in the Disney musical stage spectacular – Festivals of the Lion King.

For guests seeking a hint of the future, Tomorrowland will offer a world filled with science fiction and soaring space adventures. Taking a whole new approach to Tomorrowland that will be different from any other Disney theme park, Walt Disney Imagineers have created an entire land that becomes an Intergalactic Spaceport – and every restaurant, shop and attraction will be filled with robots, rocket ships or floating planets. Guests will be treated to the warp-speed adventure of "Space Mountain"; fly their own flying saucer in the attraction "Orbitron" and blast off with "Buzz Lightyear Astro Blasters".

### **Dining and Merchandising**

In addition to the Park's featured attractions and signature entertainment, Hong Kong Disneyland will offer a diverse range of food at eight restaurants, three of which will be table service restaurants and five of which will be self-service eateries, totalling 2,900 seats.

Each restaurant will be themed to match the unique, immersive atmosphere of its land, behind Hong Kong Disneyland's belief that food is part of the guest experience and of the "magic at work" inside the Park.

Hong Kong Disneyland's food and beverage team has carefully designed the Park's menus to feature popular dishes from different parts of Asia – from the Northwest, the Jiangnan region and Guangdong province in Mainland China, to Southeast Asia and Japan. Different kitchens in the Park's various restaurants will feature different styles of cooking, such as Steam Kitchens, which will serve dim sum and steamed dishes, Wok Kitchens, which will serve stir fries, as well as Curry, Noodle, and BBQ Kitchens.

Guests looking for a special Hong Kong Disneyland memento will be able to indulge in 11 specialty stores selling an exclusive and unique collection of Disney memorabilia and souvenirs. Over 5,000 kinds of products will be available - ranging from plush, apparel and confectionaries to souvenirs, most of which will only be available at Hong Kong Disneyland.

### **Disney-style Hotels**

The resort will feature two Disney-style hotels – the flagship Hong Kong Disneyland Hotel and Disney's Hollywood Hotel. The Hong Kong Disneyland Hotel, comprising 400 rooms, is set in grand Victorian design built on the shores of the South China Sea. The Disneyland Hotel is patterned after the Grand Floridian Beach Resort at Walt Disney World in Florida.

The hotel will feature two restaurants, several specialty shops, a lounge and tea area, a spa, 15 suites, meeting and convention space (including a grand ballroom), a wedding gazebo and lushly landscaped grounds that will feature formal gardens and a maze in the shape of Mickey Mouse's head.

Disney's Hollywood Hotel, designed with an Art Deco exterior and features motifs of Disney's world-famous mouse, is a tribute to the heyday of the movie-making capital of the world.

This sleek resort hotel will incorporate elements of Streamline Modern architecture while capturing the whimsical spirit of Hollywood - not only in its design, but in an outdoor plaza of walkways named after famous Hollywood freeways and boulevards, a piano-shaped swimming pool and iconic representations of well-known Southern California landmarks.

#### **About Hong Kong Disneyland**

The Hong Kong Disneyland project was announced in 1999 as a venture between The Walt Disney Company and the Hong Kong SAR Government. With the completion of reclamation for Hong Kong Disneyland Phase I by the Hong Kong SAR Government, theme park and resort construction began in January 2003, with the project now scheduled to open on 12th September, 2005. At opening day, Hong Kong Disneyland will comprise a theme park and two hotels.

The Phase I build-out includes a projected 10 million annual visitor Disneyland-style theme park, 2,100 hotel rooms, and an area for retail, dining and entertainment. The project is estimated to create 18,000 new jobs at opening (both Disney and other employment) growing to 36,000 once the first park reaches build-out. The Hong Kong SAR Government estimated that the first phase of the project will generate a present economic value of HK\$148 billion (US\$19 billion) in benefits to Hong Kong over a 40-year period. For more information, please refer to the Hong Kong Disneyland website at [www.hongkongdisneyland.com](http://www.hongkongdisneyland.com).  
--Posted November 23, 2004

*Source: Hong Kong Disneyland*

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. -- Flash flooding will take on a whole new meaning for Walt Disney World guests in 2005 as they experience Crush 'N' Gusher, a new white-knuckle "water coaster" thrill ride like never before at Disney's Typhoon Lagoon.

Crush 'N' Gusher will utilize "some of the latest water ride innovations in the industry today," said Patrick Brennan of Walt Disney Imagineering and lead creative designer of the new attraction. "When completed, Crush 'N' Gusher at Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Park will be the only water coaster thrill ride of its kind in Central Florida."

While riding Crush 'N' Gusher, guests will be whisked along a series of flumes and spillways that weave through what appears to be a rusted-out tropical fruit facility. It's another chapter of the Typhoon Lagoon legend.

As guests slip and slide through torrents of gushing water, gravity defying conditions caused by the recent typhoons create crushing bursts that propel guests up and down

through cavernous twists and turns, weaving in and out of treacherous wreckage and debris that once transported tropical fruit through the plant's wash facilities.

Walt Disney World guests will have three different fruit spillways to choose from, each ranging between 410 to 420 feet in length with varying degrees of slopes and turns -- Banana Blaster, Coconut Crusher and Pineapple Plunger.

#### **Stitch's Great Escape! Promises Pandemonium For Walt Disney World Guests**

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. -- Fans of Walt Disney Pictures' animated comedy "Lilo & Stitch" know him as a cuddly but destructive alien prone to hilarious fits of havoc. But what was Stitch like before the movie?

Walt Disney World guests will find out when they come face to face with the mischievous character in a new Magic Kingdom attraction -- Stitch's Great Escape!

Featuring some of the most sophisticated Audio-Animatronics technology ever developed by Walt Disney Imagineering, the multi-sensory Tomorrowland adventure puts guests in the middle of the mayhem caused by "Experiment 626" -- a.k.a. Stitch -- when he's sent to the Galactic Federation Prisoner Teleport Center.

In the unique theatre-in-the-round attraction, park guests arrive as new recruits at a detention facility designed to separate the galaxy's naughty from the nice. Guests are ushered into the centre's high-security teleportation chamber as the six-limbed Stitch beams in, tracked by two ceiling-mounted "plasma cannons" that follow his DNA whenever -- and wherever -- it moves.

With guests seated in DNA scanning restraints, Imagineering's proprietary "proximity audio" technology provides a close encounter with the playful Stitch as he attempts to outwit the galactic authorities in the circular chamber. Sights, sounds and -- ewwww! -- smells add to the pandemonium.

In addition to Stitch, the fun-filled attraction features several characters familiar to "Lilo & Stitch" fans, including the Galactic Federation Grand Councilwoman, Captain Gantu and Agent Pleakley, with voices supplied by the movie's original actors.

Stitch's Great Escape! offers Disney's FASTPASS, the innovative free service available to all guests that eliminates the need to wait in long lines at popular attractions.

Online, fans of the crafty alien can learn more about the new attraction and help Stitch explore Magic Kingdom in Stitch's Escape Game, a free download available for Windows PCs at [stitchescape.com](http://stitchescape.com).

#### **Fast Facts**

Location: Tomorrowland, Magic Kingdom  
Height Requirement: 35 inches  
Show Duration: 15 minutes  
Parents, take note: Includes brief periods of total darkness, loud noises and over-the-shoulder seat restraints; some effects may frighten young children

### Fun Facts

Stitch is the first Audio-Animatronics figure to spit. The alien language seen throughout the Prisoner Teleport Center was inspired by designs created for the opening scenes of "Lilo & Stitch." Graphic artists with Walt Disney Imagineering turned the designs into a practical alphabet that can be decoded into English.

"Skippy," an alien seen previously in The ExtraTERRORestrial Alien Encounter attraction, returns in a new role in Stitch's Great Escape!

The two "plasma cannons" that track Stitch's DNA were inspired by devices seen in "Lilo & Stitch." Each weighs more than 1,600 pounds.

Walt Disney Feature Animation produced all of the attraction's character animation. Many of the animators who worked on "Lilo & Stitch" partnered with Imagineers for Stitch's Great Escape!

### 16 November 2004: Living Seas Nemo enhancements

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. -- Imagine Crush, the sea turtle from "Finding Nemo," stopping mid-stream, turning to the audience from his movie-screen undersea environment and saying, "Hey you -- dude in the green-striped shirt -- what's that on your head?" Walt Disney Imagineers have created precisely this kind of magical interaction in "Turtle Talk With Crush" at Epcot.

The breakthrough experience gives Walt Disney World guests the chance to engage in live, unrehearsed conversations with the animated sea turtle from the Disney presentation of Pixar's "Finding Nemo." From his digital world under the sea, Crush chats, plays and jokes with guests in a unique, personalized way. The 152-year-old turtle recognizes guests and asks them questions about themselves and the human world in the first-of-its-kind live, real-time animated show.

Located in The Living Seas pavilion at Epcot, "Turtle Talk With Crush" is the latest milestone in Disney's legacy of bringing characters to life in new and incredible ways. It represents Imagineering's latest foray into real-time animation. Using digital projection and sophisticated, voice-activated animation, Imagineers created a new way for Disney guests to talk with this personality-rich character.

The new show began as a prototype in the Research and Development labs of Walt Disney Imagineering in California three years ago. The challenge was to give guests

a way to personally interact with Crush from his animated, undersea world.

"The Imagineering team exceeded our wildest hopes, and "Turtle Talk With Crush" is a magical experience that delights children and adults of all ages," said Kathy Mangum, executive show producer and vice president of Walt Disney Imagineering. "You never know what he is going to say, and our guests will be enchanted and amazed."

"Turtle Talk With Crush" opens the door to a new realm of theme park experiences -- one in which Disney guests and their favourite animated characters can talk, joke and play together in a way that only Disney can create.

Also new at The Living Seas: Bruce's Shark World.

Bruce, another of the stars from "Finding Nemo" (the one with the memorably toothy countenance), is featured in an interactive area that provides guests with photo opportunities plus colourful graphics full of fun facts about sharks.

Bruce's Shark World and "Turtle Talk With Crush" are included with Epcot admission and are presented during Future World operating hours.