



Check out the fancy and fabulous fun

Anthony Templeton

SYDNEY can brag it hosts Australia's largest gay and lesbian celebration but organisers of Brisbane's Big Gay Day claim they have the ultimate street party.

Kiwi comedian and event host Cal Wilson summed up the atmosphere of the crowd as "beautifully underdressed and having the best time".

"There is going to be a lot of sore calf muscles tomorrow from all the dancing that has been going on here," she said.

More than 6000 partygoers descended on the Wickham Hotel yesterday to celebrate and party with American entertainer Kelly Rowland.

Just the mention of Rowland's name was enough to send the crowd into a frenzy.

"You just have to mention her name and everyone just goes completely bonkers," Ms Wilson said.

"The crowd is beautiful and everyone is enjoying the warm, sweaty fun," Ms Wilson said.

The event did have a serious side though with more than 25 per cent of the gate takings being donated to charities.

Wickham Hotel manager Maree Brown said the event was an important fundraising event for the gay and lesbian community.

"Over the past 10 years this event has raised more than \$160,000 for charity, with an emphasis on support for the GLBTI (Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transsexual Intersex) community and their families," she said.



ALL DRESSED UP: Trixie Onassis and Maude Boat were in a party mood at Brisbane's Big Gay Day. **Picture: Sarah Marshall**



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ON THE TOWN

Big Gay Day

The Wickham Hotel,
 The Valley



Marie Purcell and Nat Norris.



Shane Horig and Ryan Parry.



Aleesha Smith and Lexus Smyth.



Kim Sheather and Pam Korte.



Wade Mackness and Michael Byrne.