



PARTY TIME

School's nearly out, and that means one thing—it's time to let your hair down! No matter where you are, make your party season all about the fun you deserve and play it safe.

W

Whether it's a schoolies party, a gathering of your best friends at home or a night out on the town, you

need to get all the right info about having the time of your life. Having fun is one thing, but getting your party crashed and ending up at the police station while your house is being trashed by a heap of strangers makes for a seriously uncool night.

You might think it won't happen to you, but things can get out of hand quickly and you should be prepared. With a bit of forward planning, there are some simple ways that you can make sure your party season is all about having the fun you deserve now that the hard work is almost over. Read on, relax and let the good times roll!

SCHOOLIES

Ah ... Schoolies, that great Australian end of year tradition. It all began some 30 odd years ago in Surfers Paradise on the Gold Coast, and these days it's one of the biggest youth events in the country. Each year, around 20,000 school leavers go to the Gold Coast to celebrate. But unfortunately, with all the buzz of such a big event come a few downsides as well. So, should you join the crowds? For some more information about Schoolies and what you should expect, visit www.schooliesweek.qld.gov.au

THE GOOD BITS

- There have been major improvements in crowd control and communication between police and party goers in recent years, which makes it a much safer event.
- You won't get bored. There are stacks of structured activities, from beach parties and toga parties to cruises, surfing and beach volleyball.
- The atmosphere is amazing. You'll party with thousands of people your age from all over the country.

THE BAD BITS

- It's a fair way to travel for a party, which can be a real hassle. Think about how you'd get up there and back.
- Fights sometimes break out between different crowds, and

you don't want to be in the middle of one.

- Crowds are full-on, so you need to go with people you trust and keep an eye out for emergency help points.
- It can cost a lot. Sometimes even as much as an overseas holiday for a week.
- Toolies—non-Schoolies who head to Schoolies destinations hoping to get in on the action and start fights or try to pick up. Stay with your friends and never accept a drink from anyone. And if you see anything suspicious, report it to the organisers or police immediately.

TOP TIPS FOR SCHOOLIES

- Organise your accommodation early. Check out www.schoolies.com for prices and some great options. Places can book up quickly, so sort out where you'd most like to stay and have a few back-up options as well.
- Register online at www.schoolies.qld.gov.au for your official schoolies ID to be involved in some great activities. It's also a good way of identifying fellow schoolies attendees and making sure you don't get mixed up with any Toolies.
- Know and stick to the house rules of the place you are staying at—you don't want to pay all that money for your end-of-year celebrations and end up kicked out because you didn't read the fine print. Ask for a printed copy of the rules and circulate it between your friends.
- Start saving early—accommodation, food, transport and activities for a week can be costly. Make a list of everything you will need money for during your trip to give yourself a rough idea of how much money you need to save for your celebration.
- Carry the help card attached to this magazine in your wallet. It has all the emergency numbers and help lines

you might need while you are at Schoolies.

- Always have a hidden \$20 somewhere on yourself (inside your sock or a spare pocket) so that, if you find yourself in a difficult situation, you can grab a cab and get to safety.
- Look out for your friends—most people go to Schoolies in groups, so make a pact to always watch each other's backs and step in if someone is in trouble or can't take care of themselves.
- Never accept drinks from strangers or leave drinks unattended.



Blake McKeown BONDI RESCUE

"Congratulations on getting to your HSC! Finally it's time to party and enjoy life! All I want to say is make sure you do just that—enjoy life! Go after whatever it is that you want to do, because there's nothing worse than living with regrets. Get out there and live the best, most enjoyable, most fulfilling life you possibly can!"



Schoolies Classic

ALEX

What was the first thing you did when you finished the HSC?

One of my friends had a barbecue and most of my year went around there for the afternoon.

Did you do anything big to celebrate the end of school?

I went to Schoolies on the Gold Coast for a week.

How many people did you go up there with?

I knew 16 people from my school.

How much did it all cost?

Around \$1250—the accommodation was \$550, travel was \$200 and I spent about \$500 over the week.

How did you pay for it?

I worked casually two afternoons a week and saved up for it over the year. We had to book a year in advance to get a good hotel.

What was the highlight of your chosen activity?

Not having to worry about anything, just relaxing and going to the beach. One of the most fun experiences was paintball in the torrential rain.

Were there any disappointing or bad parts to the week?

It rained for the last couple of days.

What are your plans for the year ahead?

I'm working to save money for a bit of travelling and trying to build up a photography portfolio so that I can get into a photography course or get some actual work.

DON'T DRINK AND SWIM

It makes sense that you want to make the most of summer and head to the beach to party. But swimming doesn't mix with alcohol. Don't do it! Even if you haven't been drinking, it's not a good idea to swim at night—no matter how tempting the water might be. Submerged objects are always harder to see and if something goes wrong, it's less likely people nearby will be able to help you out. Save the swimming for the daytime and stick to partying at night.

Throw your own party

If you are up for hosting your own end of year bash, the trick is to do it safely while making it a memorable night. That doesn't mean no fun and everyone out by 9 pm. Know the right way to throw a killer party!

ALL BAR NONE:

If you and your friends are under 18, throw your own mocktail party that looks and feels like the real thing. What could be better in summery weather than a glass of cold bubbles and a few of your closest mates?

HOUSE PARTY:

Mix up a delicious punch with lime juice, soda water, pineapple juice, ginger ale and fresh fruit pieces, pour into cold glasses with plenty of ice and a sprig of mint, and voila! All you need is some cool tunes and you'll be sipping in style.

EAT UP:

The key to good party food is keeping it simple. For snacks, chop up some toasted Turkish bread and lay the pieces on trays with a few dips, cheese, olives and sun-dried tomatoes. The classic ham on bread snack also goes down a treat—spread crusty French bread sticks with grainy mustard or chutney and top with carved leg ham pieces, plus a sprinkle of cracked pepper.

For a main affair, try a barbecue with lots of meats, grilled vegies and salads. For dessert, a moist carrot or orange cake is always popular, or just serve halved strawberries with chopped mint, a sprinkle of sugar and ice cream.

STAY SAFE:

It's your party and if anything goes wrong, you'll be held responsible. Simple. So you need to know who's coming and what people are bringing. If you suspect it's drugs, you need to tell them outright it's not on. Of course nobody likes telling people what to do, but at the end of the day you're responsible for what happens—ask yourself if they'd be cool with you doing the same thing at their place? If people do start doing drugs at your party, tell them to leave, ask them to get rid of the drugs, or call the police.

It's the misuse of alcohol and drugs at some parties that often causes problems. In terms of personal boundaries, decide before a party what you're going to do, set your limits and stick to them.



THERE'S MORE TO SCHOOLIES

Going to Schoolies on the Gold Coast doesn't have to be all about partying every night and sleeping through the gorgeous sunshine every day. If you're going all the way to one of Australia's most beautiful destinations, you might as well make the most of it. Take advantage of all the organised activities Schoolies has to offer, including beach volleyball, pool parties and bands, as well as these great ideas nearby:

Visit a fun park. You are only a stone's throw from Dreamworld, Seaworld, White Water World and Warner Bros Movie World, so get the gang together and hit the rides for a day of thrills.

Check out the markets. The Esplanade at Surfers has night markets packed with stalls selling food, clothes and more.

Catch a movie. Chill out from it all, take a night off from partying and head to the cinema to check out one of the summer blockbusters on offer.



Hopefully you won't need to use it, but if anything goes wrong, here's what to do. Remember, in an emergency, always call 000 as quickly as possible.

FIRST AID

- ▣ If someone collapses, check their airway, roll them on their side and call an ambulance. Cover them with a blanket or clothing and don't give them anything to eat or drink.
- ▣ If someone has a broken bone, don't move them unless they're in danger.

- ▣ If someone gets burnt, call an ambulance and then run cold water over the affected area until it arrives. Don't try and remove any clothing or other material that's stuck to the burn.
- ▣ If somebody has been hit on the head and they're groggy or have been unconscious—even

for a brief time—they need to see a doctor as soon as possible. Get help straight away, even if they tell you they feel fine.

- ▣ This information isn't a substitute for first aid training. If you want to learn first aid, call St John Ambulance Australia on 1300 360 455.

DRINK SPIKING

It can happen anywhere—at parties, homes, pubs, clubs and even on a date. Drink spiking is illegal and offenders can be fined and jailed if they're caught. Know the risks and how to avoid them—it could happen to you.

Alcohol is the most likely substance to be used in drink spiking and is most often associated with sexual assault and violence. Playing a prank on someone by adding something to their drink is never funny—it's illegal. Keep these simple tips in mind to stay safe.

- Never accept drinks from strangers or leave drinks unattended when you go to the dance floor, the toilet or become involved in a conversation.
- If someone offers you a drink, go with them to the bar or the place where the alcohol is being served. Watch the drink being poured or a new bottle opened.
- Look out for each other. People can become more trusting as the night goes on, so stay alert.
- If you're unsure what's in your drink, don't drink it.
- Tell the host or bar staff if you see spiking happening.
- Tell your friends when you're leaving and who with.
- If you see a friend leaving with someone new, make sure they are OK and get the details of the person.
- If you feel drowsy or suddenly 'out of it', don't sit it out. Have someone you trust take you to a safe place. If your drink has been spiked, you could quickly fall unconscious, become unable to defend yourself and might not remember what happened.
- In the unfortunate event that you or a friend have had a drink spiked or been assaulted, call 000 immediately or go to hospital right away.

PARTY CHECKLIST

- Music is essential, but there's no need to spend a fortune on special party compilation CDs. Download some songs, create a few playlists and blast them out.
- Think about the venue. Will everyone fit? If you can afford it, hire a venue like a hall.
- If you provide alcohol, make sure you have plenty of food and non alcoholic drinks available, as not everybody will want to drink and some guests might be under 18.
- Having a theme gives a party instant energy. To ensure everyone gets involved, put the special dress code on the invitation or offer a prize to the best-dressed guest.
- Have a plan for security to deter any uninvited guests. Gatecrashers can ruin your night quickly, so figure out how to deal with them before it happens.
- Think about the food. What are you going to eat, and who will provide it? An easy way to cut down costs and preparation time is to ask everyone to bring a plate.
- Have a budget. And whatever happens, don't break it.
- Noise complaints are the most common reason police are called to private parties—find out any local council limits on noise and warn your neighbours beforehand. Organise a bus or other transportation to take your guests to another venue or back to their own homes after the noise curfew.
- Make sure you have a safe, lockable place for valuables.
- Have some organised games and don't be afraid to make people participate. For example, limbo and musical chairs.

Did you know?

In NSW, it is against the law to sell or supply alcohol to people under the age of 18 years. So, if you are having a party and want to invite some of your underage friends, you could be up for a hefty fine if they decide to drink while they are there.

Also, if you are going to a party and taking your own alcohol, make sure you're not supplying it to anybody under 18. If some of your friends are only 17, it's illegal for you to buy or supply them with alcohol. Even though saying no to your friends might be hard, getting in trouble with the law is even more annoying.

Adults who supply alcohol to minors could be fined as much as \$11,000 and get 12 months imprisonment. It all comes down to one fact: Good friends don't ask their older friends to buy them alcohol! Find out more at www.olgr.nsw.gov.au.

Identify yourself

If you're out on the town and entering any bars or pubs, chances are you will be asked for identification. Get used to carrying photo ID on you, like a current driver's licence, NSW Photo Card or a passport. Using fake ID is a dumb idea—if you get caught, it could land you a fine of more than \$2,200 and a trip to the police station. Also, never let a friend borrow your ID, because if it gets into the wrong hands and is used by an underage drinker to buy alcohol, you'll also find yourself in a whole lot of trouble.

GATECRASHERS

We've all heard horror stories about uninvited guests turning up to a party and all hell breaking loose. Don't let gatecrashers ruin your night. Follow these simple guidelines:

- ➔ If you hear your party's been posted on the internet, you need to tell your parents as soon as possible and then register the party with your local police station at least one week beforehand.
- ➔ Make invitations a condition of entry, and think about having a dress code or theme, so it will be obvious who the gatecrashers are.
- ➔ Have only one entry point to the party, like a front door or side gate that makes it hard for crashers to sneak in.
- ➔ Think about hiring security if you can afford it. Or at least find a family friend or older sibling to check people are only arriving if they've been invited.