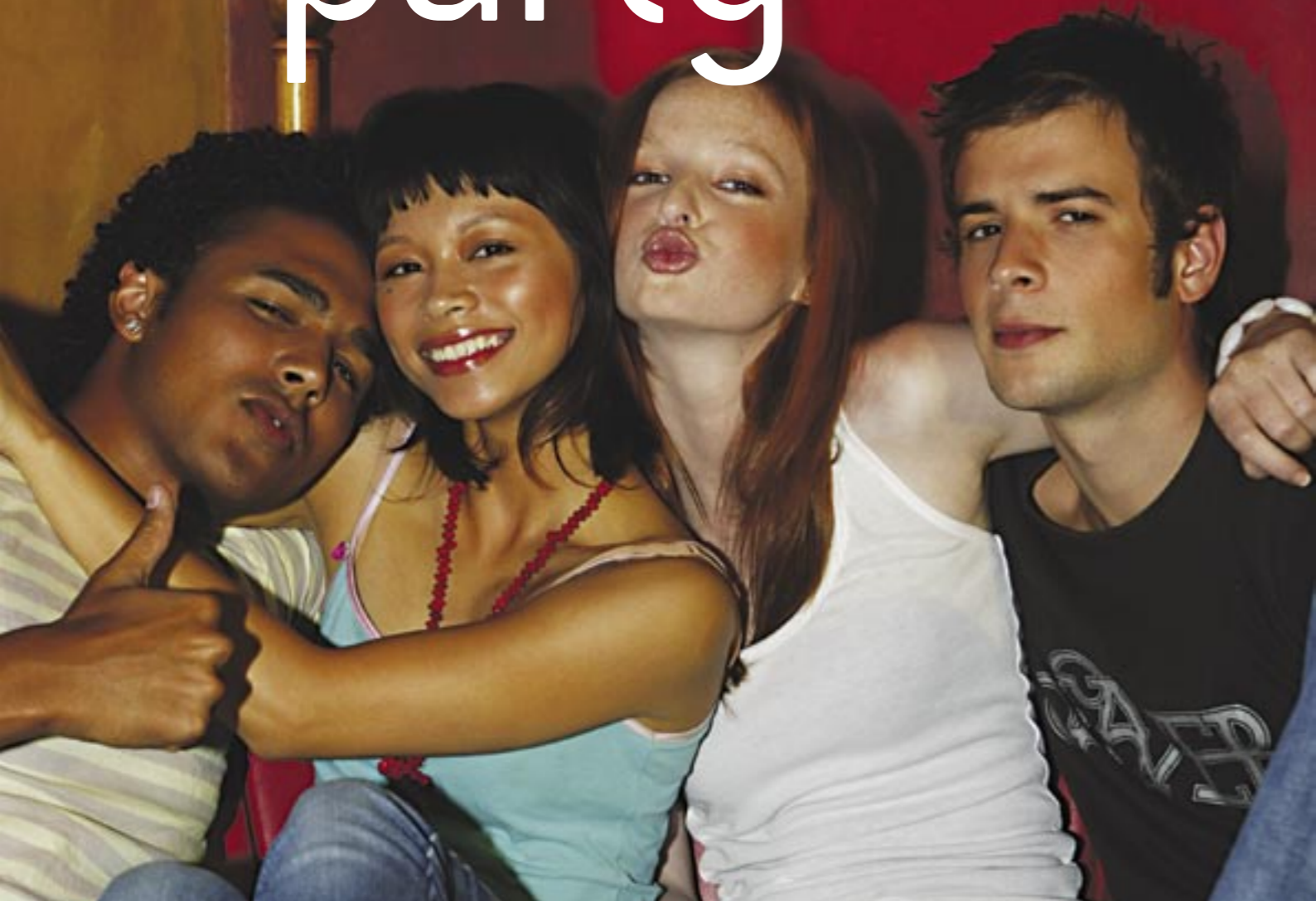


let's party



With school all wrapped up, you only need to worry about one thing—having a blast! For most school leavers it's party time and whether you're throwing a big bash at home or heading out of town, get the right info here to have the time of your life.

For a party that's super-cool as well as safe, we've got everything covered, from food and drink suggestions through to how to make sure your party doesn't get crashed.

Of course, there's more than one way to party, and if being a guest rather than a host is more your style, follow the fun and head out of town. Here's a guide to help you make it out alive, plus tips on where to go if you like your celebrations a little more sane.

So read this, relax and let the good times roll!

SCHOOLIES

Ah... Schoolies, that great Australian end-of-year tradition. It all began some thirty-odd years ago in Surfers Paradise on the Gold Coast, and you can find out more about it online at www.schooliesweek.com.au. It can be a lot of fun, but it has its down sides too. Each year, around 20,000 revellers from NSW descend on the Goldie for a piece of the action. Should you join them?

the good

- There's 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's stacks of structured activities, from beach parties to 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

- It's a fair way to travel for a party, and that can be a real hassle.
- Fights sometimes break out, and you don't want to be in the middle of one.
- You'll find yourself in crowds of thousands of people, so look for emergency help points in case trouble breaks out.
- It costs a lot.

What's the alternative?

You've earned the right to party. But that doesn't mean you have to do anything at all. Plenty of people just want to relax at home after all the stress of the last year at school. Make the most of being able to go to the beach or the shops, catch a movie or just veg out with friends.

If you want to take a trip but don't want to face the crowds at Schoolies, there are lots of destinations close by which may be more appealing. In NSW, try Bryon Bay, Coffs Harbour or Port Macquarie—there's lots of websites out there that will give you info on accommodation and stuff to do. Or gather some friends together and organise a road trip somewhere else (see page 38 for more info).

If you want to hang out on the beach, stay in at night or just see some sights, go right ahead. For the \$1000 or more Schoolies can cost you, you could easily get a package to an overseas destination such as Fiji or Vanuatu. Check with your local travel agent to see what's on offer.

Over the next couple of pages we've got some hints and tips for dealing with throwing your own party. In case you missed it, back on page 9 we've talked to a few people about what they did, which might inspire a few ideas of how you're going to spend the next few weeks. The bottom line is there's no one "right" way to celebrate ending school and moving on—so use this as a guide to find out what'll be fun for you!



food + drink

A party without food or drink isn't much of a party. To keep the hordes satisfied, load 'em up with these tasty morsels.

mocktini

Glass: 90 ml Martini glass (with wide rim)

Mixers: 15ml lime juice
15ml lemon juice
60ml tonic water

Method: Place in cocktail shaker with ice. Shake, strain and serve.

Garnish: Lemon twist or green olive on toothpick.

mock champers

Glass: Champagne glass

Mixers: 2/3 cup sugar
2/3 cup water
1 cup grapefruit juice
1/2 cup orange juice
3 tsp grenadine syrup
dash ginger ale

Method: Combine sugar and water in saucepan over low heat. Stir until sugar is dissolved. Bring to boil for 10 minutes. Add sugar syrup to grapefruit and orange juice and chill. Add grenadine and ginger ale just before serving.

punch

Glass: Jug

Mixers: 1 bottle lime juice
1 bottle lemon juice
1 litre of soda water or mineral water
1 bottle of pineapple juice
1 bottle of orange juice
1 bottle ginger ale

Method: Mix together in a big jug or large bowl over ice.

Garnish: Sliced lemons and oranges.

grub

The key to good party food is keeping it simple and non-salty. For snacks, chop up a few loaves of Turkish bread and lay them on trays with lots of dips, cheese, carrots sticks and sun-dried tomatoes. For the main fare, a BBQ with lots of meats and salads is an easy option, or a spit roast is extra tasty. For desert, Pavlova always goes down a treat.

Don't get busted

It's your party, and if anything goes wrong, you're going to be held responsible. So you've got to know who's coming and what they're likely to bring. If you suspect it's drugs, you need to tell people outright that it's not on. This sounds hard-core, but you're responsible.

If people do start doing drugs

at your party, you can ask them to leave, ask them to get rid of the drugs, or call the cops.

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 and set your limits.

Drink spiking

Drink spiking can happen to anyone. It can happen anywhere including parties, homes, pubs, clubs and even on a date. Drink spiking is illegal. Offenders can be fined and jailed.

Drink spiking is where alcohol or other drugs are added to a person's drink (alcoholic or not) without their knowledge or consent. Alcohol is the most likely drug to be used in drink spiking and is the drug most often associated with sexual assault. Other drugs such as tranquilisers, 'special K', amphetamine and GHB may also be used. Many of these drugs have no colour, taste or smell. Playing a prank on someone by adding alcohol or other drugs to their drink to get them drunk is drink spiking and is illegal. To help safeguard yourself, here's some tips:

- 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. Make sure you can watch the drink being poured or opened.
- Look out for each other. Many people become more trusting as the night goes on.
- If you are unsure about your drink don't drink it.
- Tell the host of the party or bar staff if you see spiking happening.
- Let your friends know you are leaving.
- If you see a friend leaving with someone new, see if they are OK.
- If you feel drowsy or suddenly 'out of it', don't wait and hope it'll pass. Have someone you trust take you to a safe place. You may become unconscious, unable to defend yourself or not remember what happened. You may be robbed or sexually assaulted. If you suspect your drink has been spiked or you have been assaulted, go to a doctor or hospital emergency department immediately or call 000.

BEST PICK-UP LINES

Ok, so they're cheesy, but they're pretty funny and can break the ice. Here's some of the best chat-up lines you'll hear:

I lost my phone number. Can I have yours?

If I follow you, will you keep me?

If I could rearrange the alphabet, I'd put U and I together.

Do your legs hurt from running through my dreams all night?

Do you believe in love at first sight, or do you need me to walk around the room again?

You must be a parking ticket 'cause you have 'fine' written all over you.

Can I have directions? (To where?) To your heart!

ALWAYS CARRY ID

Chances are you will be asked for ID when buying alcohol or entering a bar or pub, so make sure you have a current driver's licence, Proof of Age Card, NSW Photo Card or passport. Using fake ID is a dumb idea—if you get caught, it can land you a fine of over \$1000 and a trip to the police station.



FIRST AID

Hopefully you won't need to use this at your party, but if anything goes wrong, here's what to do. Remember, in an emergency dial 000.

- If someone collapses, don't panic. Check their airway then roll them onto their side and call an ambulance. Cover them

- with a blanket or clothing, (do not use hot water bottles). Do not give them anything to eat or drink.
- If you suspect someone has a broken bone, don't move them unless they're in immediate danger.
- If someone gets badly burnt call an ambulance. Run affected area under cold water for ten minutes. Do not remove clothing

- that is sticking to a burn.
- If someone 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 ASAP.
- 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.

picking up

Picking up at parties happens all the time, but what happens if you hook up and decide to take it further? If alcohol is involved, it's probably not the best idea because it encourages risky behaviour like unsafe sex, plus you risk the whole party knowing about every intimate detail.

Try and use your gut instincts—can you trust this person? Will they take no for an answer? Of course, your gut instincts aren't always right, so if you go home with someone introduce them to your friends first, and make sure you're going to a safe place—don't go anywhere you're not comfortable. And always, always use protection.

GATECRASHERS

We've all heard the horror stories about uninvited guests turning up at a party and all hell breaking loose. To minimise gatecrashing, do the following:

- If you hear your party's been posted on the internet, you need to tell your parents and register the party with your local police station at least one week beforehand.
- Make invites a condition of entry, and make sure there is a dress code or theme, so it will be obvious who the crashers are.
- Have only one entry point to the party.
- Think about hiring security if you can afford it.

Throwing a party

Hosting a party? A bit of pre-planning goes a long way:

checklist

- Remember to line up some good music, or a DJ.
- Think about the venue—either your house or think about hiring a venue if you can afford it.
- If you provide alcohol, make sure you have plenty of food and non-alcoholic drinks available (some guests may be under 18).
- Having a theme gives a party instant energy. To ensure everyone gets involved, stipulate on the invite that no themed dress equals no entry. For the hottest dress themes and party looks, check out www.supre.com.au
- Have a plan for security, to deter any uninvited guests. Drunks and gatecrashers can ruin your night quickly, so figure out how to deal with them beforehand.
- Food—what are you going to eat, and who's bringing it along? You can cut down on price and preparation time if you organise for everyone to bring a plate of nibbles.
- Have a budget, and whatever happens, don't break it.
- Noise complaints are the most common reason police are called to parties—find out any local council limits on noise and time, and either invite the neighbours or warn them.
- Make sure you have a safe, lockable place to store valuables.
- Have some games—music is essential, but also think about karaoke and old school party games like limbo and musical chairs. Retro but cool!



DID YOU KNOW?

It is against the law to sell or supply alcohol to minors (people under the age of 18). So, if you are having a party and there are people under the age of 18 drinking at your place you could be up for a hefty fine. Also, if you are going to a party and taking your own alcohol make sure you're not supplying for anyone under 18. If some of your friends are 17 it's illegal for you to buy or supply them alcohol. Find more at www.dgr.nsw.gov.au

rural or remote areas

For those in out-of-the-way areas looking for some organised fun, B&S balls are a blast. To the uninitiated, they're usually held under a marquee in a big paddock with a bar. There's live music, and usually a fair bit of mud.

web hit

- For info on B&S (or Bachelor and Spinsters) balls Australia wide, head to <http://reddirtbns.com>
- Another option is a day at the races. Country Racing NSW has a membership club aimed at 18-35 year olds. Check out www.clubfestivus.com.au for more details.