

MARCH

EVENTS



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Victoria's Events March 2012

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REGIONAL VICTORIA

[Gippsland Inspired](#), various locations throughout Gippsland, until end of March

[Queen Elizabeth II by Cecil Beaton exhibition](#): The Art Gallery of Ballarat, throughout March and until 15 April

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[Tastes of Rutherglen](#), Rutherglen wine region, Victoria's High Country, 10 - 11 and 17-18 March

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MELBOURNE



The Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, various venues throughout Melbourne and regional Victoria, 2 - 21 March

This year the festival celebrates 20 years with 20 days of tantalising events. Highlights include cooking demonstrations by world-renowned chefs and winemakers, talks by wine growers, purveyors, authors, food and wine commentators and critics alongside some of Australia's best food experts. A few standout events are the Gala Dinner, Masterclass and The World's Longest lunch which is celebrated in Melbourne and throughout regional Victoria

For more information: visit www.melbournefoodandwine.com.au

Media contact: Penny France (03) 9823 6113



Commonwealth Bank ODI, Australia v Sri Lanka, Melbourne Cricket Ground, 2 March Cricket Victoria presents an exciting one day cricket match when Australia clash with World Cup Finalists Sri Lanka in the Commonwealth Bank Series One Day International. The Australian team will be looking to re-assert itself as a dominant side and the benchmark of world cricket, while World Cup Finalists Sri Lanka will also want to build on their successes at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

For more information: visit www.cricket.com.au

Media contact: (03) 9653 8814

Jetty Images



L'Oréal Melbourne Fashion Festival, various venues throughout Melbourne, 8 - 15 March

L'Oréal Melbourne Fashion Festival is the largest consumer fashion event in Australia. Held annually at Docklands, the festival heralds the launch of Australia's autumn/winter collections to the public, the fashion industry and the media. Lovers of fashion can enjoy a week of runway shows, business forums, performances, art exhibitions, film screenings, retail events and of course plenty of glamorous parties.

For more information: visit www.lmf.com.au

Media contact: Brooke Jones (03) 9428 2299



Moomba Festival, Birrarung Marr and the Yarra River, 9 - 12 March

Melbourne's largest outdoor community festival brings together generations of Melburnians to join in and celebrate the vibrancy and spirit of the city. Moomba stages an outstanding program of free activities, fun-park rides and food stalls throughout the city's parks, streets and Yarra River. Highlight events include a free music program, Riverside Skate Park, free children's events and waterskiing. The popular Birdman Rally will be held on Sunday 11 March and the Moomba Parade on Monday 12 March.

For more information: visit www.thatsmelbourne.com.au

Media contact: Beck Angel (03) 9658 9858



2012 Formula 1™ Australian Grand Prix, Albert Park, 15 - 18 March

This is one of Australia's biggest international sporting events, offering an action-packed extravaganza of on-track and off-track activities for people of all ages to enjoy. Celebrate motor sports with four days of world-class car racing, festivities and food at Albert Park Lake and see sporting greats including Jenson Button and Australia's Mark Webber vie for the second chequered flag of the season.

For more information: visit www.grandprix.com.au

Media contact: Laura McLachlan (03) 9258 7100

**Ironman Asia-Pacific Championship, Bayside Melbourne, 25 March**

The inaugural Ironman Asia-Pacific Championship will take place in bayside Melbourne. The 226 kilometre race will be staged in Melbourne's South East and Bayside precincts including a 3.8 kilometres swim at Frankston, a 180 kilometre bike ride on the Eastlink Tollway and a 42.2 kilometre run from Frankston to the Ironman Asia Pacific Championship finish line at the St Kilda Sea Baths.

For more information: visit www.ironman.com/events

Media contact: Trent Taylor (02) 8815 8161

**Melbourne International Comedy Festival, various venues throughout Melbourne, 28 March - 22 April**

This hilarious annual event takes place throughout Australia's comedy capital each autumn, presenting an enormous program of stand-up comedy, cabaret, theatre, street performances, film, television, radio and visual arts. Great value laughs are dished out by the most popular of local comics and international guests in various locations throughout Melbourne. The festival also includes an extensive free program.

For more information: visit www.comedyfestival.com.au

Media contact: Tatia Sloley (03) 9419 8837

**Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show, Carlton Gardens, 28 March – 1 April**

The largest horticultural event in the Southern Hemisphere, The Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show brings together Australia's top floral and landscape designers for a stunning showcase of displays. Staged at the World Heritage listed Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, this prestigious show is a must-see for garden-lovers.

For more information: visit www.melbflowershow.com.au

Media contact: (03) 8689 2252

REGIONAL VICTORIA**Gippsland Inspired, various locations throughout Gippsland, until the end of March**

Experience the beauty and extraordinary diversity of Gippsland with a cluster of five culinary events held under the banner 'Gippsland Inspired'. Discover delicious produce at Inverloch Food and Wine Festival, be entertained by local talent at the Boolarra Folk Festival, or enjoy a long-weekend at the three-day Moe Jazz Festival and Mossvale Music Festival and the Palette of Passions in West Gippsland.

For more information: visit www.inspiredbygippsland.com.au

Media contact: James Archibald (03) 5655 2044

Queen Elizabeth II by Cecil Beaton Exhibition: The Art Gallery of Ballarat, throughout March and until 15 April

Ballarat is honoured to showcase the Queen Elizabeth II by Cecil Beaton: A Diamond Jubilee Celebration. The photography exhibition features a series of portraits by the famous royal photographer. The Art Gallery of Ballarat will be the only Australian location to house the exhibition from London's Victoria and Albert Museum.

For more information: www.artgalleryofballarat.com.au

Media contact: (03) 5320 5791

Mildura Wentworth Arts Festival, The Murray, 2 - 11 March

The Mildura Wentworth Arts Festival is one of Australia's leading regional arts festivals and a major event on the Arts Victoria calendar. Enjoy a rich and vibrant 10-day program of visual and performing arts, workshops, theatre, big screen outdoor cinema, classical music and opera, contemporary music, exhibitions, parades and comedy – all staged across a range of venues that showcase the unique landscapes, natural beauty and rich heritage of the Mildura district. Activities also seek to involve the region's diverse migrant and aboriginal communities.

For more information: visit www.artsmildura.com.au

Media contact: (03) 5021 5100

Swan Hill Region Food & Wine Festival, Swan Hill Region, 2 – 4 March

The Swan Hill Region Food & Wine Festival, part of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, features three days of tasty events including a food cruise on the PS Pyap. Visitors collect a wine glass when entering the Pioneer Settlement and then enjoy a series of food and wine tastings at a number of stalls located throughout the village.

For more information: visit www.swnhillonline.com

Media contact: (03) 5032 3033

SheppARTon Festival: Brave Voices, Shepparton, The Murray, 4 - 12 March

The annual SheppARTon Festival presents over 40 events spanning nine exciting days, including visual arts, music, poetry, film, multicultural and culinary entertainment. The 2012 theme is 'Brave Voices', inviting visitors to celebrate the Goulburn Valley regions cultural diversity in order to enhance understanding between the cultures through artistic expression.

For more information: visit www.sheppartonfestival.net.au

Media contact: (03) 5832 9501

ChillOut 2012: Daylesford, 9 - 12 March

ChillOut festival returns to Daylesford, transforming the beautiful and relaxing Central Victoria spa region into a celebration of gay and lesbian culture over four fun-packed days. ChillOut retains a relaxed atmosphere with events including lunches, dance party and an all-day open-air Carnival Day packed with live music and market stalls. Plus there's plenty of opportunity to let you hair down at the famous Street Parade. The theme for 2012 is Pirates Recapturing the Pearls.

For more information: visit www.chilloutfestival.com.au

Media contact: 0434 511 337

Phillip Island Classic Festival of Motorsport, Phillip Island Circuit, 9 - 11 March

Each year this historic event gathers together cars and drivers from around the world to compete, celebrate and relive the gallant traditions of motorsport. Watch more than 500 international and local cars compete in 45 races over two days, culminating in a 20 lap race between sports cars.

For more information: www.vhrr.com

Media contact: (03) 5952 2710

Port Fairy Folk Festival, Great Ocean Road, 9 – 12 March

Port Fairy hosts more than 500 international and local artists at one of Australia's largest music festivals attracting music-lovers of all ages. The event also incorporates a highly regarded children's festival, 'The Folk Circus' and free Festival of the Streets, all set against magnificent coastal scenery in one of the oldest maritime villages in Australia.

For more information: visit www.portfairyfolkfestival.com

Media contact: (03) 5568 2682

Bike Buller Mountain Bike Festival, Mount Buller, Victoria's High Country, 10 – 12 March

The three-day mountain bike festival takes place on the spectacular trails at Mt Buller in the breathtaking Victorian Alps and coincides with the March long weekend and the popular 'Picnic in the Park' food, wine and music festival. Mountain bike riders of all abilities from recreational riders to racers are welcome to join in the fun.

For more information: visit www.mtbuller.com.au

Media contact: (02) 5261 5511

Ballarat Begonia Festival, Ballarat Botanical Gardens, 10 – 12 March

The annual Ballarat Begonia Festival this year celebrates its 60th year and is the place to enjoy some Goldfields' hospitality. The colourful family-friendly event presents free music performances, garden and nursery tours, the begonia parade, food and wine, children's events and the ever-popular begonia display located next to picturesque Lake Wendouree and the Ballarat Botanical Gardens.

For more information: visit www.ballaratbegoniafestival.com

Media contact: 1800 446 633

Grace Kelly: Style Icon, Bendigo Art Gallery, Goldfields, 11 March – 17 June

Grace Kelly: Style Icon will highlight the spectacular wardrobe of Grace Kelly and examine her glamorous Hollywood image and enduring appeal. The exhibition features dresses from films as *High Society* as well as the gown she wore to accept her Oscar in 1955. Also featured is her extensive wedding trousseau and her haute couture gowns of the 1960s and 1970s by her favourite fashion houses of Dior, Balenciaga, Givenchy and Yves St Laurent.

For more information: visit www.bendigoartgallery.com.au

Media contact: Sharon Wells (03) 9417 4665

Peninsula Piers and Pinots, Flinders Foreshore, Mornington Peninsula, 11 March

The Peninsula Piers and Pinots festival brings together over 20 Mornington Peninsula vigneron, showcasing cool climate pinots. Relax with friends and family and enjoy the live music and local produce. Entry includes complimentary glass and wine tastings.

For more information: www.mpva.com.au

Media contact: Cheryl Lee (03) 5989 2377

Tastes of Rutherglen, Rutherglen wine region, Victoria's High Country, 10 - 11 and 17 - 18 March

North East Victoria's favourite food and wine festival is gearing up to celebrate vintage under autumn skies as 19 wineries and even more chefs join together to host the ultimate party for gourmands in regional Victoria.

For more information: visit www.rutherglencvic.com

Media contact: call 1800 622 871

Ararat Jailhouse Rock Festival, Grampians, 16 - 18 March

Victoria's premier rock 'n' roll festival, the Ararat Jailhouse Rock Festival, is a four-day celebration of 50s and 60s music. Step back in time to this exciting era with live music, rock 'n' roll dancing, classic cars, hot rods, trucks and motorcycles. The theme for 2012 is 'Dedicated to Highway 8'.

For more information: visit www.ararat.vic.gov.au

Media contact: (03) 5455 0274

Avoca Indie Festival, Pyrenees, 23 – 25 March

Enjoy a weekend of live Blues, Roots and Country Rock performances on two stages in Avoca. A number of well known international and Australian artists will come to Avoca including Peter Denahy, Rudely Interrupted, The Long and the Short of It and Shandell.

For more information: visit www.avocamusicfestival.com

Media contact: 1800 206 622

For media images please contact operators direct or register online at visionsofvictoria.com

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