artsmildura

Mildura – Artistic and Cultural Hub

www.artsmildura.com.au

"Mildura understands, as do many other towns battling climate change, drought, stuff-ups with water and an embattled global economy, that art is not a dispensable item in the survival pack. This town is providing an essential model for the role of art - not only in battling isolated regional centres, but for the whole of the country. When times are tough, the soul needs Art even more - and I'm not talking just about entertainment...I'm talking about the Arts... ***Why on earth are the arts flourishing in Mildura?****"*

Robyn Archer
Manning Clarke Lecture
March 2009

Arts Mildura

Since its inception in late 1994, **Arts Mildura** has grown steadily from a small weekend festival showcasing music and writing, to an annual suite of five major festivals catering for fine music, performing and visual arts, literature, poetry, contemporary sculpture, performance and installation art and jazz.

Arts Mildura is a leading community-driven arts organisation, charged with the development and delivery of a diverse annual program of creative arts through these festival events in the Mildura region:

Murray River International Music Festival	January/February (classical music)
Mildura Wentworth Arts Festival	March (performing arts, youth music, community arts)
Mildura Writers Festival	July (poets, writers, and literary artists)
Mildura Palimpsest Biennale	October (visual site specific arts)
Mildura Jazz, Food and Wine Festival	November (traditional jazz/live music, regional food & wine)
Wallflower Photomedia Gallery	Year round (exhibitions rotate monthly)

Arts Mildura has a proud history, with nineteen years of delivering quality arts festivals, promoting opportunities for local and regional artists, and attracting the highest calibre of talent into the Mildura region.

For any further information please do not hesitate to contact us on 03 5022 9542 or info@artsmildura.com.au

education partner LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

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Murray River International Music Festival

January – February
http://www.artsmildura.com.au/mrimf/

Beautiful Music in Beautiful Locations – that is what the Murray River International Music Festival is all about.

This fine music festival began as an initiative of Stefano de Pieri and Helen Healy and has been running for seven years. Each year Sergio de Pieri, who was awarded an OAM for his contribution to music, embarks on his annual pilgrimage to Mildura, bringing with him marvellous virtuosi from Italy and other parts of the world.

Each day of the program provides world-class performances combined with master-classes, workshops and school visits. The artists perform in venues ranging from riverside settings to inland gardens, wineries to regional arts venues. The Murray River International Music Festival provides a dynamic program of performances at Mildura, Ouyen, Wentworth, Balranald, Broken Hill, Renmark, Swan Hill, Echuca, Cohuna and Shepparton venues, providing regional food and wine experiences.

The Festival traditionally opens with a performance in one of the most beautiful settings in regional Australia, *Ampelon Gardens*. Patrons at this opening concert experience an unforgettable night and are transported from the banks of the Murray, to Venice, Paris and Prague, etc., by some of the finest internationally renowned virtuosic players.

Mildura Wentworth Arts Festival

March
http://www.artsmildura.com.au/mwaf/

The Mildura Wentworth Arts Festival is one of Australia's leading regional arts festivals and has been recognised with Major Festival Status by Arts Victoria. The festival offers a rich and vibrant program in March of visual and performing arts, workshops, theatre, Big Screen outdoor cinema, music, exhibitions, parades and comedy – all in a diverse range of venues that showcase the unique landscapes, natural beauty and rich heritage of the Mildura district.

Arts Mildura's vision is to be a regional leader in promoting innovative and challenging arts. Underpinning their ability to achieve this vision is their mission to explore and celebrate Mildura and Wentworth's unique regional identity through the provision of diverse arts experiences. **Arts Mildura** makes the most of its region – and the Mildura Wentworth Arts Festival packages unique artists and art forms, spectacular environments and gourmet produce in such a way as to bring the local community together and draw visitors from the surrounding and metro regions.

The festival incorporates ticketed and free events and presents a program that appeals across age, socio-economic and cultural divides. It provides the opportunity for local talent to perform and engage with international and national performers and artists.

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Mildura Writers Festival

July
http://www.artsmildura.com.au/writers/

The Mildura Writers' Festival brings together some of Australia's best writers in an intimate, winter program of workshops, lectures and discussion forums.

Beginning in 1994 in Stefano de Pieri's cellar restaurant, this event has evolved to be acclaimed to be among the finest literary festivals in the country, not only because of its literary pleasures, but also because of the talent it attracts and its atmosphere of conviviality - building upon the provincial Victorian winter, with late night discussions around wood fires, showcasing the local and regional gourmet food and wine. With such a reputation the Mildura Writers' Festival has over the years attracted some of Australia's best writers including Nobel Laureates such as JM Coetze, renowned authors such as David Malouf and Les Murray, and international stars such as Clive James.

Mildura Palimpsest Biennale

October
http://www.artsmildura.com.au/palimpsest/

Inaugurated in 1998, Mildura Palimpsest Biennale is regional Australia's premier site-specific visual arts festival. Located in the arid border territories at the junction of the Murray and Darling Rivers in Victoria and NSW, Mildura Palimpsest continues the rich experimental tradition established in the early 1970s by the Mildura Sculptural Triennials.

Mildura Palimpsest Biennale brings contemporary Arts practice together with cross-disciplinary dialogue to encourage visionary engagement with the natural and cultural environment of inland Australia. Palimpsest is significant for its direct engagement with issues of environmental and social sustainability and its remarkable regional location; near the border of three states (VIC, NSW and SA), the junction of the Murray and Darling Rivers, one of Australia's most important cultural sites - Lake Mungo National Park, and set in the intersecting terrain of desert and irrigated horticulture. Mildura Palimpsest Biennale provides an opportunity for artists to work outside the white cube, with residencies and symposium run between the biennial Palimpsest exposition to encourage collaborative investigations of the Palimpsest concept.

Palimpsest, meaning a parchment which has been partly erased and re-inscribed, evokes the marks made by human settlement on the land, the passage of time, presence and absence, and the web of inter-dependence connecting the natural and the cultural, the material and the immaterial, spheres of existence.

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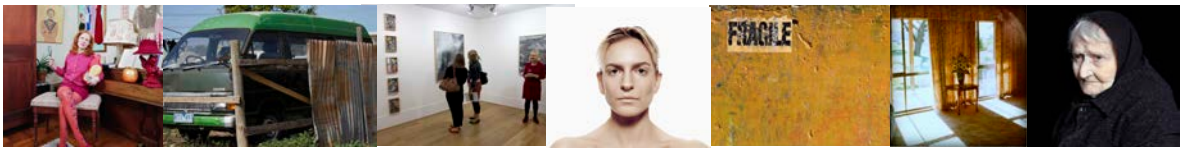
Mildura Jazz Food and Wine Festival

November
http://www.artsmildura.com.au/jazz/

Run annually the weekend prior to Melbourne Cup, the Mildura Jazz, Food and Wine Festival is a well-established event that has attracted many locals and visitors to the Mildura district over the past thirty-four years. The Festival takes place as an annual Spring-time event, presenting five days of around-the-clock jazz entertainment in popular clubs, bars and cafes, restaurants, churches, as well as street side and riverside venues – with feature events utilising unique Murray River settings and all events showcasing regional food and wine.

The Festival combines Traditional Jazz and Swing with more contemporary and quirky sounds and caters to hard core jazz enthusiasts and music lovers, not to mention those that just enjoy sitting back to the music, soaking in the ambiance of one of Mildura's paddle steamers, riverside wineries and parks, taking in the gourmet food and locally produced wine. The Festival incorporates ticketed and free events and provides a non-stop program that caters to the tastes of all, attracting a growing number of visitors, as well as local audience members.



Wallflower Photomedia Gallery

Year round – exhibitions rotate monthly
http://wallflowerphotomediagallery.blogspot.com.au

Wallflower Photomedia Gallery at 41 Deakin Avenue opened in 2012 to establish connections between regional artists and artists from all over the world; build international audiences through connections with international artists and the world wide web; provide networking and career opportunities for local artists; provide world class experiences of global culture every day in our remote corner of the world and to create an open door for **Arts Mildura** to engage more directly with our community.

"Arts activities in regional communities such as Mildura and surrounds add value to our lifestyle and local economy. The arts are fun, they stimulate ideas and participation, whilst entertaining and challenging us. They throw up delights in an often dull day and can always generate discussion and debate. Enriching our lives with activities that make us healthy, make us laugh, make us think and make us join in surely is a good thing. After all if we don't make the effort to entertain ourselves, who will? Television? I think not. Join in; it will reward you over and over again."

Ross Lake, OAM
Chairman
Arts Mildura Board of Directors

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