



# LAKE BOLAC EEL FESTIVAL

## KUYANG LAPAKIRA

- PLENTY EELS -

Music • Culture • Workshops • Art

23-25 March 2018

Festival site open Sat 11.30 to Sunday 2.30 pm approx

Program may be subject to change

## Friday 23 March

11:00 am – 5:00 pm  
Tibetan Buddhist sand mandala creation

**Venue:** St Bernard's Catholic Church (free event)

Welcome by Lake Bolac Community and local indigenous elders for Tibetan Buddhist Monks

Commence sand mandala, combining an important conversation on 'How do we care for each other?'

BYO Community Lunch

'Connecting to Country' activities for students

From 8:00pm Sarah Carroll live at Lake Bolac Hotel (free event)

Fresh from Port Fairy Folk Festival – enjoy one of Australia's most admired and respected singer songwriters. Hotel meals available – nightly 6-8 pm, lunch Sat-Sun 12-2 pm

6:00 – 10:00 pm  
Art auction and Festival dinner

**Venue:** Lake Bolac Memorial Hall

A creative explosion focusing on the richness of regional art: meet the artists, enjoy a delicious dinner and buy some awesome art

Traditional Tibetan food by Australia-New Zealand Tibetan Youth Group

**\$25 \*Festival fund-raising event and ticketed separately – on-line prepurchase required for catering**

After the auction stroll across the road to enjoy live music in the pub

NOTE: Friday – main Festival site not open

## Saturday 24 March

### COMMUNITY VENUES

8:00 am **Yoga** with Barbara Carr, A E McIntyre Hall, Lake Bolac College (1 hr)  
(Festival pass or gold coin donation)

9:00 am **Meditation** class with Venerable Khedup (1 hr)  
\* Followed by sand mandala creation (all day)

### FESTIVAL SITE – open from 11:30 am

Lake Bolac foreshore and Boat Shed

(Festival pass required – tickets online or available at main gate)

- **Festival Lounge:** healthy drinks, merchandise, literature and information, program updates, etc.
- **Displays:** Indigenous art from GHCMA 'Water and Country' project, historical, environmental and cultural topics
- **Children's activities** (See next page: For the young ones)

10:00 am **Mini Film festival** commences – A E McIntyre Hall, Lake Bolac College (Festival pass or gold coin donation)  
(See next page for details)

2:00 pm **Children's Mandala Workshop** (1 hr) \*

\* St Bernard's Catholic Church – open to everyone (free event)

- **Roving performers:** including festival favorites, The Connies
- **Food:** stalls providing a range of cuisines – (while main site is open)  
(See next page: Food & cuisine)

- **Market stalls:** focusing on environment and community

2:00 pm **Buskers' Stage** opens

**WORKSHOPS** – commence 1:00 pm (See insert for details)

### MAIN STAGE – opens 12:30 pm

Traditional Welcome to Country

### LIVE MUSIC – main stage

3:00 pm **ROSE BYGRAVE** – acclaimed songwriter and our own home grown sister of song

4:00 pm **ALICE SKYE** – emerging indigenous singer-songwriter, originally from Horsham

5:00 pm **MISSION SONGS** – reviving contemporary Australian Indigenous songs from 1900 to 1999

6:15 pm **DAVID BRIDIE** – a long-serving national treasure joined by friend Jida Gulpilil

### Saturday Forum and Q&A – main stage

Theme: '**Caring for Community**' (See next page for details)

7:15 pm **TWILIGHT CELEBRATION** (See next page for details)

8:45 pm **8-FOOT FELIX** – a stomping good time

10:00 pm **MICK THOMAS & THE ROVING COMMISSION** – an ever-evolving writer, performer and raconteur

11:00 pm Acoustic music by the fire

## Sunday 25 March

### COMMUNITY VENUES

7:45 am **Meditation** with Buddhist Monks – St Bernard's Catholic Church (1 hr)

8:00 am **Zumba** – upbeat dance experience with Helen Vallance – A E McIntyre Hall, Lake Bolac College (Festival pass or gold coin donation) (1 hr)

8:00 am **Lake Discovery Walk** with Lou Hollis, departs from main gate (free)

\* All welcome to attend Palm Sunday service in St Bernard's Catholic Church (time tba)

Venue details and all information at Festival Lounge or main gate.

9:00 am **Mini film festival** commences – A E McIntyre Hall, Lake Bolac College (Festival pass or gold coin donation)  
(See next page for details)

### FESTIVAL SITE – open from 7:45 am

Opens 7:45 am Lake Bolac foreshore and boat shed  
(Festival pass required – tickets available at main gate)

8:00 am **Yoga** with Barbara Carr – Boat Shed upstairs (1 hr)

9:30 am **Sunday Forum** and Q&A – main stage  
Theme: '**Caring for Country**' (See next page for details)

11:00 am **BRETT CLARKE** – long time Festival favourite, countryman Gunditjmarra singer songwriter

11:45 am **NEIL MURRAY & Friends** – born in Lake Bolac, Co-Festival founder well known for his work with Indigenous musicians. Neil will take us into his poetic world with spoken word and song.

1:00 pm **ACACIA GOLD WIND QUINTET** – world premiere of works written for the Festival by Melbourne composer Dindy Vaughan ('Lake Bolac Dusk to Dawn' and 'Mt Napier') and German composer Stefan Hakenberg ('Lake Winds')

1:30 pm (from) St Bernard's Catholic Church to the foreshore  
Ceremonial dissolution of sand mandala followed by a procession to offer the sand to the water to officially close the 12th Lake Bolac Eel Festival – Kuyang Lapakira (plenty eels)

NEXT FESTIVAL: 20 – 22 March 2020

Like us on Facebook & stay tuned: [lake-bolac-eel-festival](https://www.facebook.com/lake-bolac-eel-festival)

Bookings, program updates and information at [www.eelfestival.org.au](http://www.eelfestival.org.au)

We acknowledge the Djabwurrung as the traditional custodians of the land where the Festival is held and offer our sincere respect for elders past, present and emerging.

## Saturday Forum and Q&A – main stage

**Theme:** ‘Caring for Community’

How does traditional knowledge and wisdom take its place in the modern world?

Speakers include:

**Dr Greg Phillips** (Chair), from the Waanyi and Jaru peoples, is a leading change maker, thought leader and medical anthropologist and an Associate Professor and Research Fellow at The Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute. As CEO of ABSTARR he is producing a strong definition and rationale for self-determination in Korin Korin Balit-Djak – the new Victorian Aboriginal Health, Wellbeing and Safety Strategy

**Aunty Beverly Hand** is a proud Kabi Kabi woman (SE QLD) and is a conservationist and land management educator. She re-established the traditional bunya festival calling it Bunya Dreaming in 2007, bringing together Indigenous groups with the wider community celebrating and connecting with the sacred bunya tree, art, weaving, dance, song, and Bunya challenges

**Jamie Thomas** is a Gunnai Man and Peek Whuurrung descendant and co-founder and ED of Wayapa Wuurrk. He has worked extensively in community health education and tourism and holds a post-graduate Certificate in Family Therapy from Latrobe University

**Vicki Couzens**, a Keerray Wurrong Gunditjmara woman, is an artist, consultant and community cultural development facilitator/teacher. She is passionate about reclamation, regeneration and revitalisation of cultural knowledge and practices, especially language

**John Welford** grew up in Kenya and was a teacher at Geelong Grammar’s Timbertop for 20 years. He is passionate about community-based contemporary Rites of Passage and youth mentorship (Pathways Foundation)

**Emily Anderson** is EO for Grampians Pyrenees Primary Care Partnership. Her focus is the idea of partnerships and collective impact. She will speak about the Budja Budja indigenous health van project, and CORE – Communities of Respect and Equality (Grampians alliance of community groups, businesses, clubs, and health and community organisations addressing gender equality to prevent violence against women)

## Sunday Forum and Q&A – main stage

**Theme:** ‘Caring for Country’

Opening with Wotjobaluk Dancers

**Dr Adam Bester** (Chair), newly appointed CEO of Glenelg Hopkins CMA, is an ecologist and has worked with the CMA for eight years, most recently as Waterway and Catchment Health Program Manager. Adam will look at the importance of community engagement, and connecting a broader range of people to water and environment issues

**Dr Michelle Casanova** is an Emeritus Robert HT Smith Research Fellow at Federation University Australia. Michelle is a wetlands expert and has been working on water plants for twenty-five years, mostly in relation to water regime and environmental water requirements. Her presentation to the 2010 Eel Festival Forum on connectivity of wetlands was appreciated by a wide audience

**John Clarke** is a Giraewurrung man and a grandson of respected Gunditjmara Elder, Uncle Henry “Banjo” Clarke. John is a board member of Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and is passionate about cultural heritage management and youth projects, including Meerteeyt Marrang youth at risk program.

**Ben Nicholson** grew up at Wickliffe and is now assistant principal at Mildura Primary School. Ben is committed to finding pathways for his students to connect with culture and country along side mainstream education. He was instrumental in the success of the Djabwurrung Rivertime project.

\* DJABWURRUNG RIVERTIME is a youth song writing project, inspired by the Hopkins River, performed by students from Lake Bolac, Willaura, Maroona, Ararat and Mildura in collaboration with Gunditjmara song writer Lee Morgan and dancer Adeline McDonald

## Engaging workshops

Numbers for some workshops are limited and booking is essential. For details, booking etc., visit the Festival Lounge from 12 noon.

Various venues – mostly Saturday. Festival pass required unless otherwise indicated

- Indigenous weaving – Gunditjmara master weaver Bronwyn Razem
- Local bush foods – Brett Clarke
- Connecting Conversations – Aunty Beverly Hand

- Wayapa Wuurrk – indigenous wisdom – Jamie Thomas
- Rites of passage / men’s health – Matthew Perret & John Welford
- Indigenous language – Joel Wright
- Bush tanning – make your own eel leather – Josh Mclean
- Ukelele – Sarah Carroll (BYO ukulele if possible)
- Songwriting – Mick Thomas
- How to create a community solar farm – Morgan Kurrajong
- Sand mandala creation for kids and big kids – Tibetan Buddhist Monks

## Twilight celebration

Illuminating Culture and Country

7:15 pm

**FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR** – new work on the theme of ‘Care for Country, Care for Community, Care for Culture’ written for the Festival by two young composers, Holly Caldwell and Gene Holland

7:45 pm

**NGANONG PARREY, DURAM GUNDIDJ** and **WAYAPA WUURRK** indigenous dance groups, will welcome two new giant sculptures illuminating Culture and Country. (Supported by Regional Arts Victoria)

## Mini film festival

Saturday 10am – 5pm

Sunday 9am – 1pm

Venue - A E McIntyre Hall, Lake Bolac College - Festival pass or gold coin donation

Screening times available at Festival Lounge and main gate

- **Spear:** Bangarra Dance Theatre (84 mins)
- **Motor Kite Dreaming:** Australian outback adventure documentary (90 mins)
- **Fiery Creek: Connecting the Catchment:** A look at the history and land management of the Fiery Creek catchment (35 min)

- **The Willaura Yarn:** An oral recording of Willaura Community elders with animation by Willaura primary school students (15 min)
- **Ringbalin: Breaking the Drought:** healing Australia’s greatest river and its diverse peoples through ancient ceremony of culture and spirit (33 min)
- **Putuparri and the Rainmakers:** a universal story about the sacred relationship between people and place. (86 min)
- **Connection to Country:** Aboriginal elders from the Pilbara region of Western Australia fight to preserve their unique heritage from mining development (58 min)

## Food and cuisine (while Festival site is open)

Saturday 11:30 am – late

Sunday 7.45 am – end of festival (2:30ish)

- Food vendors providing international and local cuisine, snacks and kicking coffee
- Festival Lounge serving healthy non-alcoholic sugar-free drinks
- Off-site food options include café, milk bar, supermarket and hotel

## For the young ones

Plenty of creative, engaging and entertaining children’s activities available:

- Sand mandala creation for kids (Tibetan culture) St Bernard’s Catholic Church – Saturday 2-3 pm
- Yarn with The Connies as they roam around the Festival site or have fun in the beach play-area

More to be announced at the Festival Lounge

*“This friendly grass roots festival prides itself in providing a meaningful and inspirational program of indigenous culture, live music, visual arts and engaging and important conversations about us and this extraordinary and beautiful land we live on.”*

Elyjah McLeod – Festival Director

