

9 August 2017

What's On 2017-2018: Geelong & The Bellarine

Geelong, The Bellarine and Moorabool Valley are home to a diverse, jam-packed year-round calendar of events. Visitors to the region can choose from an impressive line-up of events that include everything from music to world-class cycling, motoring and golf championships, along with seafood, beer, wine and cultural events.

Here is a taste of what's to come over the next 12 months;

Geelong Cup – 25 October, 2017

The Geelong Cup is an historic race, run since 1872 and held over a distance of 2400 metres. Traditionally held on the Wednesday after the Caulfield Cup, the event has hosted several horses who a fortnight later went on to win the Melbourne Cup. This year racegoers will enjoy a Little Geelong Entertainment Precinct where there will be food, fashion and fun. The precinct will offer local food and beverages, Fashions on the Field and chairs to relax between races. A great day out for family and race-goers alike.

Where: Geelong Racing Club, Breakwater Road, East Geelong

When: 25 October, 2017

Tickets: Early bird tickets are available online from \$25 for adults or at the gate for \$30, concession is \$20.

Children aged under 17 are free with an accompanying adult

Website: <https://country.racing.com/geelong>

Archibald Prize – 28 October – 10 December, 2017

The *Archibald Prize* is Australia's favourite art award, and one of its most prestigious. Awarded to the best portrait painting, it's a who's who of Australian culture, with subjects often including politicians, celebrities, sporting heroes, authors and artists. Since first being awarded in 1921, the *Archibald Prize* has been engaging art enthusiasts and the prize has been awarded to many of Australia's most prominent artists. The Geelong Gallery is delighted to be the exclusive Victorian venue for the *2017 Archibald Prize*, bringing it home to where JF Archibald, for whom it was named, was born

Where: Geelong Gallery

When: 28 October – 10 December, 2017

Tickets: Available online or at the gallery, adult \$16, concession \$12, child \$7

Website: <http://www.geelonggallery.org.au/whats-on/exhibitions/upcoming/archibald-prize-2017>

Toast to the Coast – 4-5 November, 2017

Held over the Melbourne Cup long weekend, Toast to the Coast offers two days of wine, festivities and fun. It includes more than 25 wineries from the Geelong region and showcases the area's cool climate wines and local produce, with activities held across The Bellarine, Moorabool Valley and Surf Coast. Meet the makers and growers of the family owned, estate grown and hand crafted local wines.

Where: Various locations throughout The Bellarine, Moorabool Valley and Surf Coast

When: 4-5 November, 2017

Tickets: Tickets available online from 1 August, 2017

Website: www.winegeelong.com.au/toast-to-the-coast

[Queenscliff Music Festival](#) – 24-26 November, 2017

The iconic Queenscliff Music Festival will host an amazing line-up of local and international talent plus emerging artists. The 2017 program will see Xavier Rudd taking the headline spot on Friday night, Bernard Fanning headlining Saturday night and The Temper Trap closing the festival on Sunday. Other acts include Nai Palm with her band Hiatus Kaiyote, Australian music icons Yothu Yindi & The Treaty Project and roots outfit The Beautiful Girls will play a Victorian exclusive set at Queenscliff after a European tour. US group Jon Cleary & the Absolute Monster Gentlemen will showcase their reggae-infused sounds and The Teskey Brothers will bring their dynamic Melbourne-via-Motown sound to the festival. A must for any music lover.

Where: Princess Park, Queenscliff Foreshore Reserve and various venues in Queenscliff

When: 24-26 November, 2017

Tickets: Single day, three day, youth, adult, camping tickets and ferry packages available starting from \$75 for adults.

Website: www.qmf.net.au

[Geelong Revival Motoring Festival](#) – 24-26 November, 2017

Held on the stunning Geelong waterfront, this weekend of motoring action will showcase more than 600 quirky, valuable and fascinating vehicles. Take pole position for the historical quarter-mile sprints as 400 classic cars and motorbikes sprint down Ritchie Boulevard at full throttle. There will be a Friday night cruise along the streets parading the vehicles, vintage fashion awards, music, and great food offerings. The Geelong Revival Motoring Festival offers a great weekend of family entertainment.

Where: Geelong Waterfront, Geelong

When: 24-26 November, 2017

Tickets: Spectators can view the cars and join the waterfront activities at no cost. Tickets to pit lane and VIP are available online. Prices for Pit Lane start at \$5 for children (under 5 free), \$10 concession and \$15 adults.

Website: www.geelongrevival.com.au

[Portarlington Mussel Festival](#) – 13 January, 2018

The annual Portarlington Mussel Festival, held in the idyllic seaside town of Portarlington on The Bellarine, offers great all day family entertainment with an assortment of gourmet stalls, cooking demonstrations, live music and roaming entertainment. Around 10 ton of cooked and fresh mussels are sold at the festival from more than 150 stallholders. Catch the ferry from Docklands or venture into town as it comes alive for one day of festival fun.

Where: Newcombe Street, Portarlington

When: 13 January, 2018

Tickets: Entry to the festival is \$2 at the gate

Website: www.portmusselfestival.com

[Festival of Sails](#) – 26-28 January, 2018

Australia's oldest sporting event and the largest regatta in the southern hemisphere, the Festival of Sails, returns to Geelong's stunning waterfront. Each year more than 3,000 competitors, 300 boats and 100,000 visitors flock to Geelong to soak up the atmosphere. Whether you are a sailor or a spectator looking for some fun with the family, there is something on offer for everyone. There is live music, market stalls, food and wine areas, a regional summer boat show, free family friendly activities and a Discover Sailing program just to name a few. The shore-side activities rival the spectacular sailing.

Where: Geelong Waterfront, Geelong

When: 26-28 January, 2018

Website: www.festivalofsails.com.au

[Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race](#) – 27-28 January, 2018

The Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race offers a weekend of world-class cycling and entertainment including events for athletes and novices alike. Cyclists can join Cadel Evans himself in the People's Ride which starts

and finishes in Geelong. It takes participants through some of the most beautiful and iconic areas of Victoria's Bellarine, including some of Cadel's favourite riding routes. There are long and short courses available for all fitness levels. Tens of thousands of fans line the streets to cheer on the best male and female cyclists from Australia and around the world on both days, with the weekend culminating in the men's race on the Sunday. The 174km men's one-day classic has reached the pinnacle of road cycling, having successfully secured a place on the coveted UCI WorldTour racing calendar from 2017 – 2019.

Where: Geelong, Barwon Heads, Torquay

When: 27-28 January, 2018

Website: www.cadelevansgreateoceanroadrace.com.au

Oates Vic Open Golf Championships – February, 2018

Australia's best golfers and an array of international talent will play at the Oates Vic Open hosted by Thirteenth Beach Golf Links in Barwon Heads. The Oates Vic Open is an integral event on the PGA Australasia and ALPG Tour schedule and is a 72-hole competition. Prize money is evenly split between the men and women. This event is one of only two golf tournaments in the world which allows both men and women to compete in the same event (with both a men's and women's prize pool).

Where: Thirteenth Beach Golf Links, 1732 Barwon Heads Road, Barwon Heads

When: February 2018

Website: www.13thbeach.net

Great Australian Beer Festival – 17 February 2018

Lovers of a fine brew can spend an afternoon sipping, sampling and tasting over 200 craft beers and ciders on offer at Australia's biggest alfresco craft beer and cider garden. The Great Australian Beer Festival introduces attendees to the many facets of craft beer, with workshops and demonstrations on how to combine beer with food. Plenty of tastings will also be on offer. The amber ale can be enjoyed with organic local gourmet foods, live music, vibrant cabaret, indie stalls and visual arts.

Where: Geelong Racecourse, 99 Breakwater Road, Geelong

When: 17 February 2018

Tickets: Are available online

Website: www.gabfgeelong.com.au

Pako Festa – 24 February 2018

The unique and popular Pako Festa is Geelong's much loved, award-winning, free, annual community arts festival. Held on the last weekend of February, the event takes over Geelong's west end of cosmopolitan Pakington Street – the multicultural heart of Geelong. The event incorporates an extravagant street parade with floats and hundreds of performers representing ethnic communities and other community groups and organisations. The street is lined with stalls selling traditional foods and arts and crafts.

Where: Pakington Street, Geelong West

When: 24 February 2018

Tickets: Entry to Pako Festa is free

Website: www.pakofesta.com.au

Lara Food & Wine Festival – 25 March 2018

Local food and wine from the greater Geelong region will be showcased at the annual Lara Food & Wine Festival. Taking place at the historic Pirra Homestead just outside Geelong, the family friendly event also features an art show and photo competition and plenty of children's activities.

Where: Pirra Homestead, 110 Windermere Road, Lara

When: 25 March, 2018

Tickets: \$5 for adults and free entry for children under 18.

Website: www.larafoodandwinefestival.com.au

M-M (Mountain to Mouth Walk) – 4-5 May, 2018

Be part of an 80km extreme arts journey of discovery over two days and 11 stages. M~M begins at the You Yangs mountain range, crosses Geelong's industrial heartland at nightfall and arrives in the city centre to coincide with Geelong After Dark, a night of extreme and unexpected arts. At dawn the next day, follow the Barwon River through Bellarine farmland, along ocean beach to reach river mouth at sunset. In the tradition of Wadawurrung, M~M creates a contemporary songline across the Geelong and Queenscliffe regions. Distances - 80km, 12km and 3km. You choose the distance. You choose the challenge. A total of 50% of tickets sold fund a planting program of indigenous species along the 80 kilometre walk.

Where: You Yangs – Geelong - Bellarine

When: 4-5 May, 2018

Website: www.mountaintomouth.com.au

Geelong After Dark – 4 May, 2018

When Geelong's 'one night only' arts event – 'Geelong After Dark' – comes to town, the heart of the city comes alive with free pop-up performances, mini-exhibitions and installations. The arts event features a night of discovery and sharp and edgy art, as contemporary spaces by day transform at night into something exciting and unexpected. The city centre, its streets, laneways, intersections, cafes and cultural institutions act as a canvas to present works from all disciplines. Attendees can expect vibrant projection art, underground and street performances, circus performers, installations, travelling artworks and much more.

Where: Central Geelong

When: 4 May, 2018

Website: www.geelongafterdark.com.au

National Celtic Festival – 8-11 June, 2018

The National Celtic Festival is hosted in the seaside town of Portarlington on The Bellarine over the Queen's Birthday long weekend. Regarded as the Southern Hemisphere's largest and most diverse celebration of Celtic music and culture, the festival incorporates music, song, dance, theatre workshops and more. Festival goers can discover the fascinating cultures of the seven unique Celtic lands, delve into their own Celtic heritage or learn about the Celts who came from across the seas to help shape Australia into what it is today. A festival of celtic music and tradition lighting up Portarlington.

Where: Portarlington

When: 8-11 June, 2018 (June long weekend)

Tickets: available online

Website: www.nationalcelticfestival.com

For more information about events taking place around Geelong and the Bellarine go to www.visitgeelongbellarine.com.au/what'son.

For further information or high resolution imagery please contact:

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