

MEDIA RELEASE



Birregurra Weekend
Festival and Art Show
10 – 12 October 2008

Event Info: 5236-2486; www.birregurra.com/festival

6 October 2008

EMBRACE COUNTRY LIFE AT THIS WEEKEND'S BIRREGURRA WEEKEND FESTIVAL & ART SHOW

Birregurra may have only one pub, but for almost a decade thousands of visitors have descended on the tiny hamlet – only 30 minutes from the Great Ocean Road – to embrace authentic country hospitality at the Birregurra Weekend Festival & Art Show.

The Victorian Western District's finest food, wine, art and music will again be showcased at this weekend's Festival from **October 10 to 12**, and Melburnians can board a return Heritage Blue Train to the event this Saturday, October 11.

The 2008 Festival will continue the community tradition established in previous years with a line-up of market stalls and local producers selling olives, ice-cream, cheese, beer, wine, Chai and Devonshire tea. Visitors will also have the opportunity to stock up on vegetables, cakes, grain-fed meat and gourmet sausages.

The Art Show kicks off the festivities on Friday night and has consistently attracted a high standard of entries in categories including botanical art, watercolour, oil, drawing and pastelwork. Photomedia will be introduced for the first time this year and all exhibited works will be for sale.

The Festival stops traffic – literally – with roving circus performers; dog jumping and terrier races; long-haired llamas; camel rides; and a children's farmyard. Other highlights include a rock climbing wall, beech jeep rides and live musical shows for the kids; crafts; and a vintage train display.

The event promises an eclectic mix of music all weekend on the town centre's main stage and at Christ Church – renowned for its acoustics. The Church will host gospel, folk, pop, rock n' roll, country and classical music performed by local artists, and a 'textile extravaganza' featuring fashion parades, wearable art, fibre and textiles stalls. Original sculptures will be exhibited in the Church grounds.

For those essential pantry fillers, don't forget your calico bag or basket; Birregurra was declared Victoria's first "plastic bag free" town – a badge it wears proudly!

To take the Heritage Blue Train from Newport, Seymour or various stops in between on Saturday, visit www.srhc.org.au for details.

Other return Melbourne train services scheduled for the weekend can be downloaded from the Festival website at www.birregurra.com/festival. For further information visit the website or phone 5236 2486.

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