

MY FEST a raging success!

Highlights from MY FEST

Griffith was host recently to a two week youth festival, which provided a range of activities to young people in Griffith. MY FEST stands for the MURRUMBIDGEE YOUTH XTreme Arts FESTIVAL and it was a youth arts festival for young people from the Western Riverina.

Griffith Regional Theatre Manager and MY FEST Curator Raina Savage said when the Theatre realised that less than 1% of our audience was made up of young people, we felt that was really unacceptable.

“We set out to change that statistic by creating a unique, inclusive, high energy arts festival run by young people for young people,” said Ms Savage. “The festival was a huge success with over 1500 young people attending 24 different arts activities and events over 12 days!” MY FEST ran from 18-30 September and while there was a program of fantastic professional shows, the focus was on participation and the aim was for young people to experience the arts and learn new skills. There was something for just about every taste and interest with workshops in :

- Circus
- Parkour
- Aerosol Art
- Slam Poetry
- Drama and Film performance
- Dance
- Skateboarding, and
- BMX

Ms Savage said, “we also wanted to celebrate and showcase the talent of local young people – so there were plenty of opportunities for young people to get on stage and show us what they could do.”

The FAST TRACK Talent Quest had over 64 young participants – with the finalists performing on stage with Eurovision star Isaiah Firebrace and X Factor finalist AMALIA.

But the biggest event was MY JAM – a free concert in Neville Place on Saturday 23 September – with a full day line up

of amazing young local artists, with MC 17 year old Aduny Takele. Including food and art stalls, and free workshops MY JAM was a great success despite the record high temperatures.

“If young people were not coming into the Theatre then we needed to take the arts to where they were,” said Ms Savage. “So MY FEST included events at PCYC, Tirkandi, the Regional Art Gallery, the Skate park and our amazing free concert in Neville Place – as well as at the Regional Theatre.” “I would like to extend a huge thank you to Peta Dummett from Council’s Community Development Unit, our key partner in organising this event and all our sponsors as well as thanks and big congratulations to all the young people – including staff from Council – who organised and presented this amazing festival,” she added.

A call went out for young people to get involved and the Theatre ended up with over 30 young people aged 13-25, including reps from all the high schools in Griffith, on the committee. The committee organised, ran, documented and participated in all of the MY FEST activities.

Special mention to Nathan Hardy, Technician at Griffith Regional Theatre, who at just 22 ran MY JAM and all the MY FEST shows with a team of local young people, Ruby Blumer who promoted all the events and curated MY JAM and MY FEST Live, Karly Sivewright from Council’s Events Co-ordinator pitched in, and Bonnie Owen, and Kristy-Lee Agresta worked relentlessly. Of the young volunteers special mention must go to Aduny Takele - who was everywhere working back and front of stage, day after day as well as Monique Piesley – media and promotion, Beth Hodder - photography, Jacob Chaple and Tanner Cassidy set up and backstage who all did an awesome job.



What's on?

Every Sunday, 7am

Griffith Rotary Markets
15 Collier Street

Every Tuesday, 10am

Baby Bounce, Griffith City Library

Third Thursday of Each Month

Movie Club, Griffith City Library

Every Friday, 11am

Toddler Time, Griffith City Library

This September

My Fest

My Fest - the Murrumbidgee Youth Extreme Arts Festival will be held from 18-30 September. Get all the details from at Council’s website at griffith.nsw.gov.au

Now exhibiting

Justene Williams: The Curtain Breathed Deeply
Griffith Regional Art Gallery

Now exhibiting

May Gibbs Travelling Exhibition
Griffith City Library

From Sunday 8 October

Real Juice Citrus Sculptures
Banna Avenue

Wednesday 11 October

Master Triples Bowls Tournament
Griffith Exies Sports Club
Speirs Street, Griffith

See the latest event listings online at visitgriffith.com.au



Griffith Spring FEST

- Spring Fest Launch Party
13 October 5.30pm
- Griffith Garden Festival
13 - 16 October
- Real Juice Company Citrus Sculptures
8 - 21 October
- Griffith Multicultural Festival
14 October 10.30am
- Long Italian Table Dinner
14 October 6.30pm
- Spring Market
15 October 8am

Logos: CASELLA, Griffith City Council, DeBORTOLI, and a green circular logo.