

Diary

The best of what's on in Australia, state by state.



AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

← Eugene von Guérard: Nature Revealed

THROUGHOUT MAY

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra. The Vienna-born artist (1811-1901) was colonial Victoria's most important landscape painter, with meticulous vistas of Gippsland, the Otways and other locations. This retrospective brushes with scenes he captured in trips around Australia and the world. www.nga.gov.au

Eugene von Guérard, *North-East View From The Northern Top Of Mount Kosciusko*, 1863

UNTIL MAY 28

✦ **The Green Desert**, Customs House, Sydney. Artful aerial photos of Lake Eyre. www.peterelfesphotography.com

FROM MAY 4

✦ **Head On Photo Festival**, various venues, Sydney. Snap to it – exhibitions, seminars, workshops, portrait prize. headon.com.au

FROM MAY 11

✦ **Australian Symbolism: The Art Of Dreams**, Art Gallery of NSW. Fantasy and mythology among the gum trees; 70 art works showing Australian creators at the late-Victorian cutting edge, some immersed in the European scene, others Down Under fashioning the zeitgeist to local conditions. Artists include Conder, Streeton, Roberts, Bunny, Long, Mackennal and Lambert. www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au

FROM MAY 12

✦ **The Force: 150 Years Of NSW Police**, Justice & Police Museum, Sydney. From truncheons to taser, the force that has been with us since 1862. Photos, artefacts and film are all offered in evidence. www.hht.net.au

MAY 14-20

✦ **Sydney Writers' Festival**, various venues. Words don't fail them. Jeffrey Eugenides talks to Caroline Baum, Dava Sobel talks about Copernicus and Robert Dossaix seems likely to wax lyrical about anything. swf.org.au

MAY 17-19

✦ **A Return To The Trees**, Carriageworks, Sydney. Aerial theatre by Strings Attached offers an apocalyptic future.

www.carriageworks.com.au

FROM MAY 18

✦ **An Officer & A Gentleman**, Sydney Lyric, The Star, Sydney. Based on the 1982 movie and starring Ben Mingay from *Jersey Boys* and Amanda Harrison from *Wicked*. If it lifts you up then it's where you belong. See story page 139. anofficerandagentleman.com.au

MAY 19-20

✦ **Lovedale Long Lunch**, Hunter Valley. Wine and dine your way around seven wineries. www.lovedalelonglunch.com.au

FROM MAY 25

✦ **Vivid Sydney**, Sydney Cove. Let there be light – the Opera House illuminated, illuminating ideas forums, music and more when the festival of "light, music and ideas" powers up. www.vividsydney.com

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

www.visitcanberra.com.au

MAY 11-20

✦ **Canberra International Music Festival**, various venues. Quality choirs, composers and ensembles galore in these classical-leaning concerts. www.cimf.org.au

NEW SOUTH WALES

www.visitnsw.com.au

THROUGHOUT MAY

✦ **Home Front: Wartime Sydney 1939-45**, Museum of Sydney. Artefacts and memories from WWII-era Sydney. See the microphone with which PM Menzies announced Australia was at war, bits of the Japanese midget sub that took on Sydney, propaganda posters, soldiers' letters home, wartime fashions, photos and art works. www.hht.net.au

THROUGHOUT MAY

✦ **Les Liaisons Dangereuses**, Wharf One, Sydney. Trouble at salon, with Pamela Rabe and Hugo Weaving in this adaption of an 18th-century French novel best known for the 1988 John Malkovich movie version. www.sydneytheatre.com.au

THROUGHOUT MAY

✦ **Archibald Prize**, Art Gallery of NSW. The venerable portraiture contest is Australia's most popular art show. It's your patriotic

duty to face up and bemoan the judges' choices. www.thearchibaldprize.com.au

UNTIL MAY 12

✦ **Sydney Comedy Festival**, various venues. The event that doesn't mind being called a real joke. Rest assured they'll do their jest. www.sydneycomedyfest.com.au

UNTIL MAY 20

✦ **Salon des Refusés: The Alternative Archibald & Wynne Prize**, SH Ervin Gallery, Sydney. The anti-Archibald – entries not

deemed wall-worthy for the official hanging. www.nsw.nationaltrust.org.au

UNTIL MAY 27

✦ **Lewin: Wild Art**, State Library NSW, Sydney. Arriving from England in 1800, John Lewin was Australia's first professional natural history artist, although he also did some fine portraits and landscapes. Two bird species are named after him and his *Birds Of New Holland* was published in 1808. This big show has 150 of Lewin's paintings. sl.nsw.gov.au

QUEENSLAND

www.queenslandholidays.com.au

THROUGHOUT MAY

❖ **Modern Woman: Daughters & Lovers**

1850-1918, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane. See Degas, Renoir, Manet, Pissarro and Rodin turn from the ideal to the everyday in their depictions of the female form. Drawn from the Musée d'Orsay, Paris. www.qag.qld.gov.au

THROUGHOUT MAY

❖ **Mummy: Secrets Of The Tomb**,

Queensland Museum, Brisbane. Join Nesperennub, a mummified Egyptian priest, on his first Queensland holiday – an outing under wraps for 3000 years. Medical scanning and 3D-imaging offer tomb much information about his long-gone world (and innards). Plus three other British Museum mummies and much ancient bric-a-brac, none too shabti. www.mummy.qm.qld.gov.au

www.mummy.qm.qld.gov.au

MAY 12-13

❖ **Australian Body Art Carnivale**,

Eumundi. The body is not so much a temple here as a canvas, or maybe a panel van. This year's theme is *Under The Sea*. www.australianbodyart.com.au

www.australianbodyart.com.au

MAY 17-20

❖ **Noosa International Food & Wine**

Festival, Noosa. Featuring "The Cook, The Chef & The Orchestra" gala concert and dinner, and also the Qantas Best Dinner in the World, with seven top chefs each cooking one course of a degustation dinner. www.noosafoodandwine.com.au

MAY 18-27

❖ **Port Douglas Carnivale**,

various venues. Going troppo? You'll warm to the music, arts, sports, food, beach fun day and street parade on offer. www.carnivale.com.au

www.carnivale.com.au

MAY 20

❖ **Hampton High Country Food &**

Arts Festival, Hampton. The best of the Toowoomba region's music, art and food. www.hamptonfestival.com

MAY 24-27

❖ **Sanctuary Cove International Boat**

Show, Gold Coast. They really float the dollar. sanctuarycoveboatshow.com.au

MAY 24-27

❖ **Blues On Broadbeach Music Festival**,

Gold Coast. Jeff Lang, Kevin Borich, Diesel,

Doc Span, Bob Malone and Wiley Reed are among many first-rate purveyors of the devil's music in this free festival.

www.bluesonbroadbeach.com

FROM MAY 26

❖ **Italian Week**, Brisbane. Illuminated

buildings and a waiters' race are among the Italian events. italianweek.com.au

FROM MAY 27

❖ **The Magic Flute**, QPAC, Brisbane. *The*

Lion King director Julie Taymor presents a family-friendly production of Mozart's maddest opera, with puppetry and weird creatures. www.qpac.com.au

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

www.westernaustralia.com

THROUGHOUT MAY

❖ **Mary Poppins**, Burswood Theatre,

Perth. In a satisfyingly line-filling word – supercalifragilisticexpialidocious.

www.burswood.com.au

UNTIL MAY 20

❖ **Debt Of Honour**, WA Museum, Perth.

In 1942, 300 Australian commandos fought a successful guerrilla campaign against 10,000 Japanese troops in East Timor. This exhibition tells the story and explores the ongoing ties between Australia and East Timor. www.museum.wa.gov.au

MAY 12-20

❖ **Castaways Sculpture Awards**,

Rockingham foreshore. Art works fashioned from recycled materials.

www.rockingham.wa.gov.au

FROM MAY 17

❖ **The Magic Hour**, Victoria Hall,

Fremantle. Fairy tales retold for adults via story and song in this one-woman show with Ursula Yovich.

www.deckchairtheatre.com.au

FROM MAY 25

❖ **Ord Valley Muster**, Kununurra.

Music, sports and events aplenty in the Kimberley, including the Kimberley Moon Experience on June 2.

www.ordvalleymuster.com

VICTORIA

www.visitvictoria.com

THROUGHOUT MAY

❖ **Grace Kelly: Style Icon**, Bendigo

Art Gallery. No, not Ned's sister – the American movie star who became a



Shaun Tan, *Fifth Avenue, Mount Lawley*, 2004

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

FROM MAY 19

❖ **Shaun Tan: Suburban Odyssey**, Fremantle

Arts Centre. The book illustrator who won an Oscar for his animated short film *The Lost Thing* here exhibits his paintings, drawings, preparatory sketches for the film, video storyboards and diaries. fac.org.au

Monegasque princess in 1956. Here's her *High Society* frock, Dior dresses, Cartier jewellery and not an iron helmet in sight. www.bendigoartgallery.com.au

THROUGHOUT MAY

❖ **Roy Lichtenstein: A Pop Remix**,

Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery. Pop in for a squiz at 100-plus art works from the 1950s to the 1990s, focusing on Lichtenstein's remixing of Monet, Dali, Pollock and cartoons that became his own signature pop look.

mprg.mornpen.vic.gov.au

THROUGHOUT MAY

❖ **Love & Devotion: From Persia &**

Beyond, State Library of Victoria. The first major Persian manuscript exhibition in Australia, with 70 or so 13th- to 18th-century Persian, Mughal Indian and Ottoman Turkish illustrated manuscripts and miniatures on tour from the Bodleian Libraries (UK).

www.slv.vic.gov.au

THROUGHOUT MAY

❖ **Ancient Rome: Explore The Empire That**

Shaped The World, Waterfront City Pavilion, Docklands, Melbourne. Ancient Roman stuff re-created: war machines, catapults, mosaics – you can even test yourself in *testudo* formation (just remember, war is shell).

www.romanexhibition.com.au

THROUGHOUT MAY

❖ **Fred Williams: Infinite Horizons**, Ian

Potter Centre: NGV Australia, Melbourne. The first big Fred Williams retrospective in a quarter-century shows how the wide horizons and colours of the outback inspired his work, and also explores his fascination for seascapes and talent for portraiture.

www.ngv.vic.gov.au

UNTIL MAY 17

❖ **The Barber Of Seville**, State Theatre, Arts Centre, Melbourne. Rossini's rollicking comic masterpiece reFigaro-ed to occur in a 1930s health spa. And until May 11, *Turandot* is Puccini's princess who'd rather behead than wed her suitors; until May 12, a family-friendly version of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*.

www.opera-australia.org.au

UNTIL MAY 26

❖ **Australia Day**, Arts Centre, Melbourne. Geoff Morrell in a comedy about an Australia Day planning committee. mtc.com.au

MAY 5-6

❖ **Back To Booktown**, Clunes. Booksellers rush to the gold-rush town. Geoffrey Blainey and others. www.booktown.clunes.org

MAY 8-13

❖ **Sundowner**, Fairfax Studio, Arts Centre Melbourne. Drama and dance explore dementia, memory and hallucination. Helen Morse. www.artscentremelbourne.com.au

MAY 12-13

❖ **Ballarat Heritage Weekend**, Ballarat. Past glory galore. ballaratheritageweekend.com

MAY 16-23

❖ **Midnight Son**, Merlyn Theatre, Melbourne. New opera by Gordon Kerry and Louis Nowra shows people losing control of their lives. Antoinette Halloran. victorianopera.com.au

MAY 16-27

❖ **The Merry Widow**, State Theatre, Arts Centre, Melbourne. David Hobson and Amelia Farrugia in the evergreen comic operetta about whether to marry for your country or for love. opera-australia.org.au

MAY 18-27

❖ **High Country Harvest**, North-east Victoria. Ten days of food, wine and beer, alfresco cooking classes, tastings and tours.

www.highcountryharvest.com.au

MAY 19-20

❖ **Buddha's Day & Multicultural Festival**, Federation Square. Celebrate Buddha's birthday, along with the mind, body and spirit. www.buddhaday.org.au

MAY 22-27

❖ **St Kilda Film Festival**, Melbourne. Big short film festival is just for flicks.

www.stkildafilmfestival.com.au



Chronicle of
Nebuchadnezzar,
605-594 BC

VICTORIA FROM MAY 4

The Wonders Of Ancient Mesopotamia, Melbourne Museum. More than 170 artefacts from three of the world's most ancient civilisations – Sumer, Assyria and Babylon – courtesy of the British Museum. museumvictoria.com.au

MAY 24-27

❖ **Art Melbourne**, Royal Exhibition Building, Carlton. Affordable art from hundreds of creators, the Emerging Art Prize and also art walks and talks. artmelbourne12.com.au

MAY 25-27

❖ **Historic Winton**, Winton Motor Raceway, Benalla. A real race into the past, with 350-plus historic cars, motorcycles and sidecars in 44 events. historicwinton.org

TASMANIA

www.discovertasmania.com.au

MAY 29-30

❖ **Syncopation**, Theatre Royal, Hobart. Comedy, drama and ballroom dancing set in 1912 New York. www.theatreroyal.com.au

NORTHERN TERRITORY

www.travelnt.com

THROUGHOUT MAY

❖ **Yalangbara: Art Of The Djang'kawu**, Museum & Art Gallery of the NT, Darwin. More than 60 Yalangbara (north-east Arnhem Land) art works from 1930s bark paintings to

contemporary paintings, prints, sculptures and fibre works. www.magnt.nt.gov.au

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

www.southaustralia.com

MAY 4-26

❖ **The Glass Menagerie**, Dunstan Playhouse, Adelaide. Tennessee Williams' southern fried "memory play" set in St Louis in the 1930s. www.adelaidefestivalcentre.com.au

MAY 17-27

❖ **Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival**, various venues. Drink to the arts and literary highlights of the region in an arts festival combined tastefully with a toast to local Coonawarra wines. www.artsfestival.com.au

ON TOUR

THROUGHOUT MAY

❖ **National Trust Heritage Festival**, South Australia, Tasmania, WA, Queensland, Victoria. Themed *Innovation Plus Invention*, this year's festival channels our legacy of cleverness via tours, exhibitions, walks, talks, concerts and fairs. nsw.nationaltrust.org.au

THROUGHOUT MAY

❖ **Macbeth**, Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne. Dan Spielman succumbs to vaulting ambition, which gives Kate Mulvany a spot of bother in this modern-costume version of the Scottish play. www.bellshakespeare.com.au

THROUGHOUT MAY

❖ **Circa**, Carnarvon, Mandurah, Albany, Esperance, Adelaide, Port Lincoln, Whyalla, Port Pirie, Melbourne. The world-beating Australian circus sets off on its first home-turf national tour. performinglines.org.au/productions/circa

MAY 1-15

❖ **Heston Blumenthal Live**, Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth. The Fat Duck man, clearly no quack in the kitchen, flies south for our winter (almost) to talk turkey re cooking – snail porridge, edible sand, etc. www.hestonlive.com.au

MAY 13

❖ **Mother's Day Classic**, 40 locations Australia-wide. Australia's largest fun run in all capital cities, raising funds for breast cancer research. mothersdayclassic.com.au