

C O U N C I L 2 C O M M U N I T Y

Q20C

Lighthouse Theatre

SHINES

APRIL 2012



M A G A Z I N E O F T H E W A R R N A M B O O L C I T Y C O U N C I L

Celebrating our history



Warrnambool has exported many seriously talented people who have left their mark on our nation, and even the world.

These people will be celebrated in the upcoming 2012 National Trust Heritage Festival.

One such man is Ern Harris. In the 60s he invented high tensile aluminium and moveable race rails. His innovation was adopted worldwide and greatly reduced mortality rates in jockeys. The rails are still in use at Rosehill and have been used at major tracks such as Macau, Caulfield and Ellerslie Park.

Mr Harris is just one of Warrnambool's innovators or inventors. Many others will be recognised at the festival which opens on Wednesday April 18 and continues for a month. The program is packed with walks, exhibitions, displays and more.

City strategy co-ordinator Lisa Gervasoni said the diverse program of events would allow everyone in the community to learn more about Warrnambool's rich history.

"This year's heritage festival provides a range of opportunities to celebrate Australian inventions and the stories that made Warrnambool the great city it is today," she said.

Heritage Festival Program

Warrnambool Heritage Strategy launch

Wednesday April 18, 6.30pm-7.30pm
Civic Centre, reception room

Makers and Shapers exhibition

Friday April 20-Sunday May 20
Warrnambool Art Gallery

Memorials and Memories of the Warrnambool CBD walking tour

Saturday April 21, 10.30am-12.30pm
Warrnambool Library

Military History Display

Saturday April 21-Sunday April 29,
10am-10pm
Warrnambool RSL

WestVic Dairy Innovation Gala Awards Night

Thursday April 26
Glenormiston College

Cemetery Walk

Saturday May 5, 2pm-3.30pm
Warrnambool Cemetery

Wollaston Bridge

Tuesday May 8, 12.30pm-1.30pm
St James Park, Warrnambool

Coastal Ramble In The Steps of Lucas and Gill

Wednesday May 9, 9.30am-11.30am
Point Richie

Middle Island

Wednesday May 16, 8.30am-9.30am
Stingray Bay

Tea and Talk in the Gardens

Thursday May 17, 4pm-5pm
Warrnambool Botanic Gardens

Genealogy Research Seminar

Saturday May 19, 9.30am-4pm
Warrnambool Family History Group

Innovation Quest

Friday May 20-Monday April 30, 2pm-4pm
History House, Warrnambool

From the smallest country towns to the biggest of cities, the 2012 National Trust Heritage Festival will for the first time celebrate Australian history everywhere.

There will be more than 150 events across 18 regions in Victoria alone, including a series of workshops, presentations and tours in Warrnambool.

The theme for this year's festival is Innovation and Invention – recognising Australia's many life-changing breakthroughs, from the ever-popular ute and combine harvester to the humble clothesline and of course, Australian Rules Football.

InBusiness

Support for business surveys

Support has been strong for the second annual Warrnambool businesses survey. Deakin University will compile and analyse the data to track changes in business trends since the inaugural survey in 2011. The information will then be used to advise Council's business support services and could also lead to strengthened government support for local businesses. Results will be available from May.

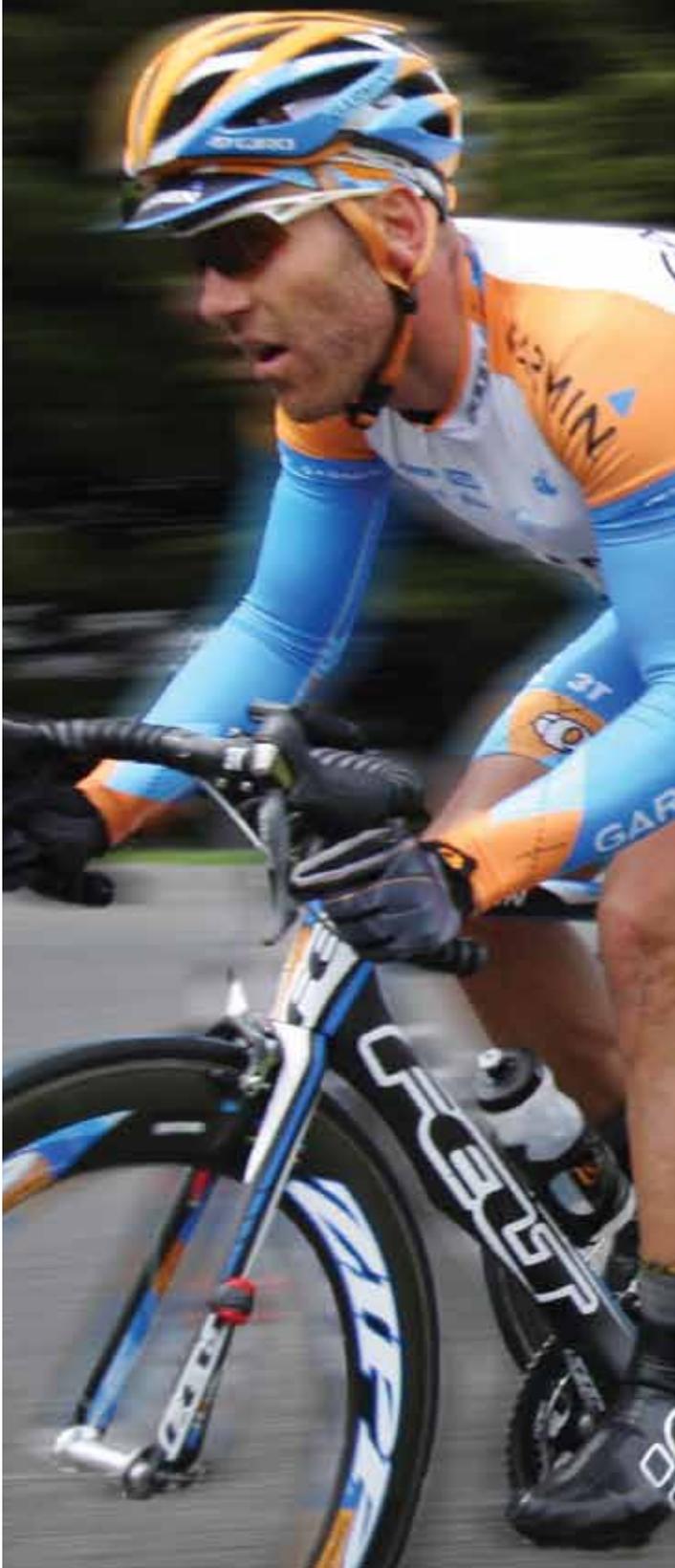
Rewards for excellent customer service

If you have received exceptional customer service from anyone in a local shop or business of any kind, you may like to nominate them for a Customer Service Award at www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au and follow the links under the For Business tab.

Regional Victoria Living Expo

Warrnambool's lifestyle, education and business opportunities will be showcased at the Regional Victoria Living Expo this month. Warrnambool City Council will represent the city at the three-day event in Melbourne, promoting the city as a great place to live and work to potential new residents and businesses.

\$200,000 spin off from cycling



The South West economy is set to gain a \$200,000 boost with the introduction of the Anchor Point Tour of the South West.

The inaugural event will be a warm up to the State's winter cycling season, staged in Warrnambool and throughout the Moyne Shire in the last weekend of April.

Council's events manager Luke Cann said Warrnambool had been very successful in attracting sports-based events in recent years, and the Tour of the South West had the potential to become a feature event in the city's annual calendar.

"Cycling is a popular and well supported sport in Warrnambool, and the Tour of the South West will provide an event for local cyclists and professionals to compete in."

More than 100 competitors will line up for the inaugural race including the Melbourne-based professional cycling team, search2retain.

Director Peter Shandon said the team looked forward to returning to Warrnambool, where member Luke Fetch placed third in the Melbourne to Warrnambool Cycling Classic last year. "We always enjoy racing in the area," he said.

Staged by Warrnambool City Council, the tour is expected to challenge even the most advanced cyclists with Warrnambool's notorious steep hills and strong winds.

The first stage will begin from the Wangoom Recreation Reserve, with riders completing a 30km return course and 17km circuit with short but tough climbs.

It will be followed by an undulating 12.7km individual time trial circuit, sure to prove decisive in determining the overall tour winner in each division.

The third and final stage – the Yes Optus Warrnambool Criterium – will see riders take on a challenging course starting in Simpson St. The tour is being organised by Warrnambool City Council.

Registrations for the tour are open at www.tourofthesouthwest.com.au

Tour schedule

Saturday April 28 - Road Race

Start – 9.30am Wangoom Recreation Reserve, Wangoom
Finish – Wangoom Recreation Reserve, Wangoom (ETA 1.30pm)
A Grade – 115 km, B Grade – 98km C Grade – 81km

Saturday April 28 – Individual Time Trial – 12.7km circuit

Start – 2.30pm Wangoom Recreation Reserve, Wangoom
Finish – Wangoom Recreation Reserve, Wangoom (ETA 4.30pm)

Sunday April 29 – Optus Criterium

Start/Finish – 9am Simpson Street, Warrnambool
A Grade – 60mins + 3 laps, B Grade – 50mins + 3 laps, C Grade – 40mins + 3 laps

Official event dinner

Relive the excitement of day one's racing action at the inaugural Tour of the South West Dinner at Lady Bay Resort on Saturday, April 28.

Tickets are just \$21 each and bookings close April 22.

Visit www.tourofthesouthwest.com.au for more details.

The devil has been in the detail

Greg Diamantis and his team have been touring around like gypsies for the past 12 months, taking literally the adage that The Show Must Go On.

Stacking drinks into the boot of an Astra, hanging lights off wooden ladders, loading trucks with wet laundry in the middle of the night, and finding sponge cake in Mortlake have been just some of the jobs that wouldn't normally fall to the Lighthouse Theatre team. But their efforts to take theatre to the people while the people couldn't go to the theatre has been rewarding.

Shows have been staged at Mortlake, Timboon, Port Fairy, Camperdown, Kings College and Brauer College to very appreciative audiences.

"We received great feedback, especially from people in Mortlake and Timboon," Mr Diamantis said.

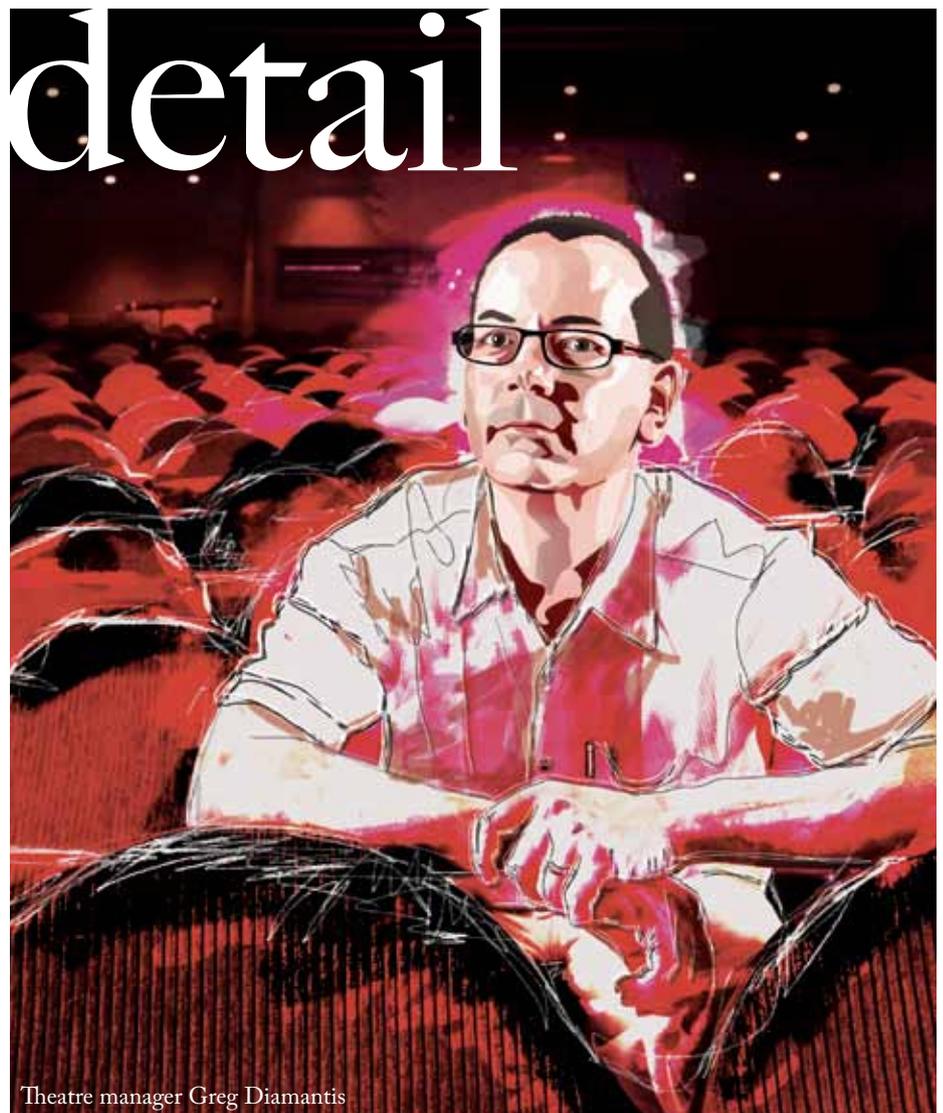
The team has been invited back to the smaller towns, and plan to continue the roadshow program once they are settled into their new home.

"This has proven that taking a show into a community is just as important as putting on a show in a large theatre," Greg said.

"We will continue small town theatre once we recover from the opening experience."

For Greg and the team the challenges of the past 12 months have been many. While staging the roadshow and dealing with tricky logistics, there has also been the other sideshow to consider – the \$8.9 million redevelopment of one of the cities grand old ladies.

There has been a large team working to deliver the project, but as theatre manager, Greg has been centre stage. And the experience has been as far removed



Theatre manager Greg Diamantis

from the glamour of theatre as one could get. "It has definitely been consuming," Greg said. "There have been an incredible number of details and implications for every single change we have made.

"When you spend thousands of dollars on a light, it has to be the right light. "And when you buy new furniture for the foyer, it has to be the right height.

"I know the things we have done are the best possible solution given the age of the building and the size of the footprint, and as we get closer and closer to opening I see that so

many of the little choices and details make the venue better."

Greg is now feverishly helping sort out the finishing touches on the building while organising the spectacular opening celebration SHINE on April 21.

Opening night will be a mix of nerves and excitement, but by the end of the night it will just be relief.

"Once our first performance is over I will probably slide gracefully down onto the floor with a very large glass of whisky in hand and think 'now all the hard work begins!'"





History meets high-tech

The theatre scene - it's glitz, glamour and sophistication.

Renowned as high class and high tech, the theatre creates a shiver of excitement when the lights go up.

But for the past year the theatre scene in Warrnambool has created shivers of a different kind for hundreds of people involved in the radical transformation of the former entertainment centre.

The team had 12 months to completely overhaul the heart of Warrnambool's entertainment precinct and despite many challenges, they have delivered. Amid the dust and grind of a major reconstruction, the team also waved a little magic and sprinkled some stardust along the way.

The result is spectacular. The walls of coloured glass are a work of art on their own and Warrnambool now boasts an entertainment showpiece.

While there are many highly technical improvements to the building, and some show-stopping design elements, one of the major achievements has been retaining the

history of the building while transforming it. The Town Hall façade was built in 1891 and still remains a vital part of the building's architecture. The former town hall area has become a key feature of the new development, with the space converted into an expansive foyer and bar area, complete with some of the original tessellated tiled flooring.

Glass panels have been installed into the original town hall façade to provide light to the foyer while giving patrons views from the foyer onto the Civic Green.

The original foundation stone from 1891 remains on the town hall façade, while another historic stone laid in 1924 remains on the Timor Street side of the building.

And the infamous painting on the loading dock wall done by Rolf

Harris remains proudly inside this historic building that now boasts one of the most advanced retractable seating systems in Australia, a studio theatre that converts to a function room and state-of-the art light and sound systems.

It is a development that pays homage to our city's history while incorporating advances in technology and community needs.

Where for art thou loo queue?

One of the most impressive achievements in the Lighthouse Theatre redevelopment has to be demolition of the lengthy loo queue. Everyone who has been to the former Warrnambool theatre will be familiar with the not-so-glamorous experience of the female loo queue that snaked through the bar area at interval.

The men would be designated drink-buyers, while the women rushed to secure a place in the loo queue. If the men were quick enough, the ladies could legitimately drink champagne while waiting in the loo queue!

So with vastly more toilets in the new building, negotiating the loo queue shouldn't take up an entire interval, allowing more time for that glass of bubbles.

The redevelopment recognises the theatre is just as much about socialising and social attitudes as it is about seeing a show.

Visitors to the theatre will now be able to arrive early and meet their friends for drinks in the expansive foyer complete with a modern bar area.

And they will be able to take a lift to the new Lighthouse Studio, where the hi-tech retractable seating system will transform the space from a function room to a Black Box Theatre.

In the Lighthouse Studio people will see cutting-edge, experimental performances, many of which will shine a light on the social attitudes of today.

While the new building is breathtaking in its obvious transformation, the behind-the-scenes improvements are equally impressive and will make life easier for people working backstage.

Lighting will be better, backdrops will be easily manoeuvred, acoustics will be greatly improved and the orchestra will be more comfortable and will produce better sound.

Overall, the experience of attending the Lighthouse Theatre will be glitzy, glamorous and sophisticated

The redevelopment recognises the theatre is just as much about socialising and social attitudes as it is about seeing a show.



Skilled migration has many benefits

Skilled migration is injecting more than \$50-million into the South-West each year.

Since its establishment in 2008, the Great South Coast Skilled Migration Program has attracted, recruited or retained 140 skilled workers from overseas into specialised vacancies in Warrnambool and surrounding districts.

“The program has a magnificent flow-on affect which really benefits the whole community,” said project manager Phil Hoggan.

“As well as the economic benefits, we are also welcoming new families into our neighbourhoods, schools and community groups and continually enriching our cultural diversity which is great to see.”

Mother of three Chanuja Perera says the skilled migration program has given her young family the best possible chance at a happy, safe and successful life.

Mrs Perera began working as an early childhood educator at Florence Collins Children’s Services Centre in Warrnambool last year after obtaining her degree in Melbourne.

Growing up in Sri Lanka she had always dreamed of someday living in Australia. “I knew it was beautiful and calm and green, there were more opportunities and no problems like war and terrorism,” she said.

“After we moved to Melbourne, my husband and I came to Warrnambool one weekend to visit friends and we fell in love with everything. Now we are both working here, our children are in school, we have bought land and the next step is to build our new home.

“I am very grateful to Phil for all his help in making this happen.”

“My husband and I came to Warrnambool one weekend to visit friends and we fell in love with everything”.

Mr Hoggan said the Skilled Migration program could help local businesses fill vacant positions that required specialised skills, if suitable staff could not be found locally. “If a business has identified a suitable candidate for a job who is a skilled migrant, then we can also help with the visa process,” Mr Hoggan said.

For more information about the skilled migration program visit www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au and follow the link to Skilled Migration under the My Business tab, or contact Phil Hoggan on 5559 4956 or email phoggan@warrnambool.vic.gov.au

It’s all happening...

Lighthouse Theatre

The finishing touches are now being made in preparation for the Lighthouse Theatre opening celebration SHINE on Saturday, April 21. Tickets are selling fast so book now to avoid disappointment.

Brauerander Park Aquifer storage and recovery

The Brauerander Park Aquifer Storage and Recovery scheme has been officially commissioned following a successful eight-month trial. The system can collect up to 15-million litres of stormwater from Brauer College each year for the irrigation of the adjacent Brauerander Park. The project was jointly funded by the Victorian Water Trust (\$400,000) and Warrnambool City Council (\$205,000).

Lower landing expanding

Work to expand the lower landing of the breakwater is almost complete. This project is the first stage of works aimed at improving the safety and functionality of Warrnambool’s port. The upgraded lower landing will reduce manual handling for commercial fishermen by providing direct vehicular access to a new lower landing.

Payne Reserve

A new playground has been installed at Payne Reserve in Dennington. Work is now underway to construct a half-size basketball court, upgraded barbecue shelter and new pathways connecting the playground and picnic area to the river-front walkway. Total cost of the project is \$124,000.

Did you know?

In 2000 the median residential property price in Warrnambool was \$128,000 and last year it had risen to \$322,000.

Compact Stats

1765

Total number of overseas born residents living in Warrnambool (2006)

7588

Number of people who owned or were paying off a home in Warrnambool (2006)

19,614

Number of Meals on Wheels delivered in Warrnambool in six months (Jul-Dec 2011)

103

Babies born in Warrnambool from October-December 2011

70%

The percentage of Council’s Home and Community Care service clients who are female (Oct-Dec 2011)

Thumbs up



This is a salute to all that is great about the people and organisations in our city and highlights the things that touch our hearts and make our community a better place to live.

👍 Firstly I would like to congratulate and thank the staff of Lighthouse Theatre for their dedication and commitment during the past 18 months.

Without a theatre to stage performances, the team took the show on the road - presenting a full season of shows at various venues throughout the South-West.

This month their hard work will pay off with the grand opening of the Lighthouse Theatre marking the beginning of a new era for performing arts and live entertainment in the heart of Warrnambool.

👍 There is nothing more rewarding than doing something to help save a life - and that's exactly what I and many others in the Warrnambool community did during last month's Heart of Victoria blood donation challenge. Thank you to everyone who took part and I encourage all eligible donors to give blood.

👍 Last month I also had the privilege of meeting with the Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens. This group directs their love of the gardens in a positive and enjoyable way and, in collaboration with Council staff they ensure the future of our beautiful Guilfoyle designed gardens.

👍 "Warrnambool is a very attractive and clean city." This is a comment I receive regularly from visitors to our city and there is no accident here. The beautiful appearance is a direct reflection of the priorities expressed by our community - and this was never more apparent than during Clean Up Australia Day last month.

👍 I would like to thank the Hopkins Probus Club and Warrnambool VIEW Club which I had the pleasure of meeting at their AGM and International Women's Day functions respectively.

👍 Finally, an enormous thanks must go to Gerry Billings who retired recently after 28 years of voluntary service as Warrnambool's SES Controller. Gerry has supported the Warrnambool community through some of its toughest times and has earned a long and happy retirement.

Councillor Jacinta Ermacora Mayor

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Contact Us

Visiting us in person

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Website

www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au

Online Directories

Council's online Business and Community directories can be found at www.directories.warrnambool.vic.gov.au.

Connect2Council

Find out how to have your say by logging onto our website at www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au and visiting the Connect2Council page.

Council Meetings

April - Monday 16

Reception Room,
Warrnambool Civic Centre, 25 Liebig St

For further information on meeting dates and times, please call Customer Service on 5559 4800.



Councillor Rob Askew

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Councillor Peter Hulin

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e. phulin@warrnambool.vic.gov.au



Councillor Andrew Fawcett

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Councillor Jennifer Lowe

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Councillor John Harris

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e. jharris@warrnambool.vic.gov.au



Councillor Michael Neoh

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*All Councillors phone numbers listed above divert to their mobiles at the cost of a local call.

April Calendar 2012



C2C

Saturday April 7-Sunday April 8

Annual Easter Fishing Competition

Hopkins River

Open to all ages, the annual fishing competition returns with great prizes on offer. Call 5562 8404 for more information.

Sunday April 8, 9am-6pm

Day on the Hill

Flagstaff Hill

Enjoy live music in the heart of the village, a range of food and craft stalls and children's activities. The Easter Bunny will also make a guest appearance.

Visit www.flagstaffhill.com.au for more information.



Sunday April 8, 10am-4pm

Collecta-Boo! Easter Fair

Warrnambool Showground

A wide range of collectables on sale, as well as valuations, live music, demonstrations and food.

Call 0418 140 489 for more information.

Wednesday April 18-Sunday May 20

Heritage Festival

Various locations

Featuring a range of workshops, tours, exhibitions and other events celebrating Warrnambool's rich heritage.

Visit www.nationaltrust.com.au/heritagefestival for more information.

Saturday April 21, 8am-noon

Flaggy Car Boot Sale

Flagstaff Hill carpark

Help Warrnambool's Women's Whaleboating Champions to the International Championships in the United States by supporting this fundraising event. Sites are \$20 per parking space.

Visit www.flagstaffhill.com.au for more information.



Saturday April 21, 7pm

SHINE – The Opening Celebration

Lighthouse Theatre

Celebrate the opening of Warrnambool's new Lighthouse Theatre with a spectacular performance by the energetic Deep Blue Orchestra.

Visit www.lighthousetheatre.com.au for more information.

Wednesday April 25

Anzac Day

War Memorial, Merri St

Commemorate Anzac Day and remember the fallen Diggers at the dawn service and later the Anzac Day march and ceremony.

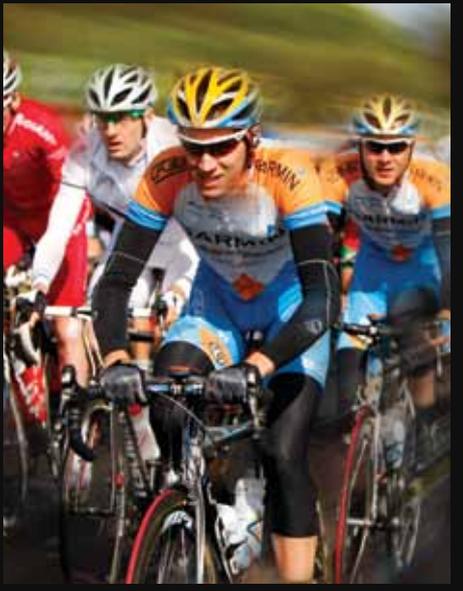
Saturday April 28 – Sunday April 29

Anchor Point Tour of the South West

Warrnambool and Moyne Shire

A two day, three stage cycling tour providing cyclists the opportunity to test themselves on challenging terrain throughout Warrnambool and the Moyne Shire.

Visit www.tourofthesouthwest.com.au for more information.



SHINE

Spectacular.
Dynamic.
Brilliant.

Lighthouse Theatre Opening Celebration

LIGHTHOUSE
THEATRE
WARRNAMBOOL

Featuring Deep Blue – a brand new kind of orchestra that dispenses with conductors and music stands and replaces them with stilts, unicycles and fun.

April 21, 7pm

Tickets \$50 (concessions available)

Available from Lighthouse Theatre Box Office at the Warrnambool Art Gallery or phone 55594999