



# FESTIVAL FANFARE

SPRING 2009

**D**ear Festival Supporters,  
 Welcome to the first newsletter since we wrapped up the 2009 Castlemaine State Festival earlier this year. While it has certainly been a period of rest and recovery, it has remained a busy time reviewing the 2009 Festival and kick starting plans for the next, now scheduled for Friday 1 to Sunday 10 April 2011. The festival team is enormously happy with our achievements. Just before the Opening Night celebrations, we received news that we had reached our box office target. By closing night, the festival had more than 50 000 attendees in Castlemaine and surrounds at the free and ticketed performances, exhibitions and literature events. Over the weeks and months following the end of the 2009 festival, we received letters, emails, telephone calls and media reports affirming the many positive experiences of the audiences. The 2009 festival was by no means perfect and we have welcomed, and continue to welcome, critical feedback so that we can continue to improve the quality and professionalism of the event and its organisation. To celebrate this culturally rich and unique place, the 2009 festival was committed to profiling the artists, communities and creative industries from this region. The festival directly engaged more than 90 locally based individuals and organisations in artistic, technical, marketing and administrative roles. Exceptional central Victorian-based individuals were featured alongside artists from across Australia and the globe. I would again like to acknowledge the extraordinary number of volunteers, in excess of 150, who offered their time, support and skills for vital tasks that included transporting and hosting artists, preparing vast amounts of fine food for special events, managing bars and drinks, constructing stages, proofreading and designing programs and websites, offering IT support, distributing promotional material across Victoria, coordinating venue front-of-house, decorating venues, cleaning toilets and more. Many local people and businesses supplied equipment, promoted the festival to their associates, joined Friends of the Festival, and offered donations and patronage. This exceptional generosity is a major reason why the Castlemaine State Festival continues to be so admired and highly regarded as an arts and community festival. A particular thanks also to our most significant financial supporters Arts Victoria, Don KR Castlemaine, Mount Alexander Shire and V/Line. Their contributions acknowledged the value of the arts and artists in building creative communities. In September of this year we were thrilled to receive news that V/Line and the Castlemaine State Festival won a major state award from the Australian Business Arts Foundation. V/Line not only helped us to bring new and significant audiences to the 2009 festival, but also helped us meet our responsibilities to reduce our carbon emissions. An impressive 3500 patrons travelled to the 2009 festival by train. We are currently in the wonderful phase of imagining new possibilities for the 2011 festival and I look forward to sharing our future plans with you over the next 18 months. Thank you for your ongoing support through the many avenues on offer. Be sure to put the festival dates 1 to 10 April 2011 in your diary.

Martin Paten - Festival Director

## Festival Fundraiser

The hardworking Board will be presenting an opportunity for the community to get involved in the forthcoming fundraising event. Book a table with friends to enjoy a fun-filled evening with the added excitement of bidding for a favoured book or piece of art from one of the following artists who exhibited during the 2009 Festival.

CASTLEMAINE STATE FESTIVAL FUNDRAISING EVENT

## Art & Book Auction

Celebrating the creative centre of Victoria  
 Saturday 7 November, 7:30pm - viewing from 7pm  
 Castlemaine Town Hall

Once again, our region's talented and highly regarded artists are donating their works in support of the Festival, including Helen Bodycomb, Lynne Edey, Phil Elson, Gretchen Hillhouse, Geoff Hocking, Robert MacLaurin, Julie Millock and more...

AND  
 Our brilliant writers have donated signed copies of their novels, poems, plays or non-fiction works, and/or a private reading. There are collections from Alex Miller (the very last time a complete collection can be offered), Ross Donlon and Larry O'Toole, and works from Carmel Bird, Raimond Galta, Julie Gittus, Lee Fox and more.

Entry - \$25 per person  
 Entertainment throughout the evening and a light supper will be provided (wine can be purchased)

See the on-line catalogue from mid October at [www.castlemainefestival.com.au](http://www.castlemainefestival.com.au)  
 Enquiries and bookings to the Festival Office on 5472-3733, [information@castlemainefestival.com.au](mailto:information@castlemainefestival.com.au)

Dress up, dress down, costumes welcome, and please - bring your bidding hand!

## OUR HEARTFELT THANKS

*It will never be possible to stage such a vast event without the goodwill and assistance of many people and organisations. AS always our heartfelt thanks go to the many wonderful sponsors, patrons, donors, supporters and volunteers who continue to support us in many different ways. We would also like to thank the many locals who go out of their way to welcome visitors with such warmth and friendliness - the warm, friendly atmosphere, so often commented on by artists and audiences alike, is one of the charms of the Festival that sees visitors returning time and time again. THANKS A MILLION AND MORE.*

## From the Board...

At the Annual General Meeting, new Board members were elected to fill two of the vacancies created with the retirement of Geoff Hocking, Christopher Whitehead and John Collier. John served two years on the Board and he continues in his role of President of the Friends of the Festival - a significant job in its own right. In recognition of their many years of committed service to the festival, the Board voted unanimously to award both Geoff and Christopher Life Membership of the Castlemaine State Festival. They were presented with the certificates at a function held in August, which was attended by a number of past Board members and Directors.

Geoff will be long remembered for the quirky and lively festival images he used in the logo, the program brochures and posters, and for the exhausting work he put into the design and layout of the brochures over the past 10 years. He often worked day and night to meet production and printing deadlines. Geoff's professional input and advice has been invaluable in all decisions that the Board has had to consider with regard to presenting the festival image.

Christopher has worked tirelessly in the office as a volunteer for many years, taking on the responsibility of writing and editing newsletters, keeping the patrons and donors program on track, and providing hospitality and catering for performers, crew and the festival volunteers. He has been the wise owl, whose knowledge of in-house production issues has proved invaluable to a succession of festival Directors. John Collier joined the Board in 2007 as president of the 'Friends' and became the all important conduit between the Festival Board and the Friends Committee. John had been a hardworking and willing member of the Friends Committee for several years before stepping up to the position of president when Peter Morris retired. This dual role was an enormous task and it was with regret that John relinquished his position on the Board after the 2009 festival. We thank John sincerely for his contributions over the years.

Under the Chairmanship of Gary McClure, the current Board members are Deb Fitzpatrick, Michelle Coillet, Oliver Halliwell, Lyndal McClure, Julie Millock, Lucy Roffey, Linda Sproul, Jacinta Walsh, Simon Westcott and Mez Woodward. New Board members - brief profiles

### Oliver Halliwell


In 1964, on the successful completion of a diploma in agricultural management, Oliver was awarded a scholarship to study at the University of Minnesota. On his return to Australia, he commenced his career with Dalgety (Aust) Limited, working as the budget officer for the Pastoral Division in Sydney. From that early beginning Oliver has enjoyed a long career that has been almost exclusively in the livestock production and meat processing industries in both Australia and South-East Asia. After some time with Dalgety and Elders IXL, Oliver joined the Castlemaine Bacon Company until his retirement in April 2007. Oliver's very interesting and rewarding corporate life in senior management and executive positions led ultimately to the position of Chief of Operations at Don KR Castlemaine. Now living in Harcourt and enjoying a life of semi-retirement, Oliver looks forward to being more involved in community activities, being able to travel and occasionally pursuing private consulting opportunities. Together with his wife Anne, he is now enjoying a greater degree of participation in the 'real life', including the arts, music and theatre. Oliver currently enjoys membership of the National Gallery of Victoria, the Castlemaine Art Gallery & Historical Museum and Friends of the Castlemaine State Festival. Both Oliver and Anne actively participate at the Castlemaine Children's Farm but they also take time out to enjoy the tranquillity of the beautiful Harcourt Valley.

### Lucy Roffey

Lucy has held a range of senior financial and general management positions within the government, and the arts and tourism industries. She currently holds the position of General Manager Corporate Services at the Hepburn Shire Council. Prior to her role at Hepburn Shire, Lucy was the Commercial and Planning Director at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI). ACMI is a Victorian Government funded arts/culture institution located in Federation Square, delivering cinema, exhibition and festival programs to more than 500 000 visitors per year. Lucy holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Melbourne, a Graduate Diploma in Management from the Australian Graduate School of Management, and has been a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants for 17 years. She currently sits on the Institute of Chartered Accountants Public Sector Advisory Panel. To take up the role at Hepburn Shire, Lucy moved to Castlemaine recently with her three children and husband Andrew (a paramedic now working at Kyneton).



Photo: Julie Millock



**FRIENDS OF CASTLEMAINE STATE FESTIVAL**  
 The Castlemaine State Festival  
 thanks you for your support

**Subscription for a 2-YEAR PERIOD is:**  
 \$30 single • \$60 double  
 Payment may be made by cheque or credit card.

**PAYMENT DETAILS**  
 either  New Member or  Renew Membership  
 Sum Paid / charge credit card \$.....  
 either  cheque enclosed (pay Friends of Castlemaine State Festival)  
 or  
 charge credit card number .....

Bankcard  Mastercard  Visa

Expiry date ..... / .....

Signature .....

Title(s) ..... Surname(s) .....

First Name(s) .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Phone: (home) .....  
 (business) .....  
 (mobile) .....  
 (fax) .....

Email: .....  
please print email address clearly

Please send this form with payment and a stamped, self-addressed envelope for a return of your membership card to:

**Friends of Castlemaine State Festival Inc.**  
 PO Box 573, Castlemaine Vic 3450

Phone: (03) 5472 1965 Registration No. A40762X



## Festival Patrons & Donors

We are currently reviewing the Patrons and Donors program, exploring ways in which we can enhance and expand what we have to offer. We recognise that the generosity of patrons and donors is a key component of our ongoing viability as a major arts organisation. Obviously, how we structure the program is crucial if we are to meet the needs of our patrons and donors, while at the same time ensuring the future of the Festival and it is in this context that we would appreciate any feedback which might help us to enrich the Festival experience for you. Once we have finished our review and compiled an information brochure outlining our new-look Patrons and Donors program, a copy will be sent to all current and prospective Patrons and Donors. Please make sure that we have your email address to help us to reduce the costs of sending the brochure by regular post and be in the running to win a great prize by sending us your email address! (See below for details)

With the retirement of Christopher Whitehead, the role of coordinator will be taken over by Val Victor-Gordon who can be contacted through the Festival office on 54723733 or [patrons@castlemainefestival.com.au](mailto:patrons@castlemainefestival.com.au)

## 2009 Festival Statistics

In 2009 the overall attendance at the CSF was closely estimated to be 50,570. Ticket sold were 11,830. Non ticketed and free public events, including the Visual Arts Biennial were attended by 31,540. The Schools program of 27 events over 5 days was attended by 1,500 local school children. The Visitor Information Centre had 18,408 enquiries over the 10 days of the Festival.

## Friends of the Castlemaine State Festival

The hard work of the Friends of the Castlemaine State Festival continues, with a full calendar of functions and fund-raising events. You can help this very dedicated group by coming along to Friends events and joining the group - this will provide essential support for the next festival scheduled for 2011.

### Sunday 25 October

**- Jazz in the Vines**  
 Jazz in the Vines is an annual event held at Harcourt Valley Winery on the last Sunday in October. A fabulous day for family and friends as you sit under the beautiful red gums and listen to the scintillating, titillating and toe-tapping music of 'The Ugly Uncles' and 'Little Big Band'. Barbecue food provided by the Friends Committee will be available or you can bring a picnic lunch. PLEASE do not bring alcohol - sparkling wine and beer will be available for purchase at the venue, along with red and white wines from the Harcourt Valley Winery cellar door. Harcourt Valley Winery is located on the Old Calder Highway - take the Harcourt turn off from Melbourne, head towards the centre of Harcourt and turn right onto the old highway, the winery is on the right-hand side a couple of kilometres towards Melbourne.

### 2009 major raffle

**- drawn Sunday 13 December**  
 A major raffle with outstanding prizes, including wine, pottery, piano lessons and vouchers, will get underway on Sunday 25 October. It will be drawn on Sunday 13 December at Twilight Cocktails at 5 pm (see below). Books of tickets will be available for Friends to sell from John Collier (5472 1965) or from the House of Ferguson Frog in Barker Street Castlemaine (5472 2410). It is very important that we all work together to make the raffle a success and we urge you to assist by taking a book of tickets to sell.

### Sunday 13 December

**- Twilight Cocktails**  
 Twilight Cocktails will be held at the home of John Collier, 7 Forest Street Castlemaine, on Sunday 13 December at 5 pm. Light food and entertainment will be provided. This is a great opportunity to meet with the Friends for a pre-Christmas drink and a few laughs. Cost will be \$10 per head, to be paid on the night at the door. Please ring John if you plan to attend (5472 1965) to help with catering arrangements. The major raffle will be drawn at the cocktail party.

### Join the Friends

Becoming a Friend of the Castlemaine State Festival is not only a very tangible way of ensuring the future of the Festival, it is also a fantastic way to make new friends and enjoy a whole program of social events. As an all important organisation sponsoring events and supporting each festival, it is crucial that the Friends continue to maintain a solid membership base and present an exciting and varied program of events for members to enjoy. Planning is now underway for 2010 and the program of events will be sent out to all Friends very soon. By joining the Friends you can be more than just a festival audience member - you can become an integral part of the festival community. Subscription for a two-year period is \$30 per person. This entitles you to concession prices for Friends and festival events, and regular newsletters with up-to-date information on events, and gives you the opportunity to become an important part of the festival family. For more information regarding Friends membership:  
 'Friends of the CSF' Inc  
 PO Box 573  
 Castlemaine 3450  
 or  
 John Collier 5472 1965, [jcollier@gcom.net.au](mailto:jcollier@gcom.net.au)

## Postage Costs vs Email - Help! Help! Help!

With increasing printing and postage costs we are urging all Newsletter recipients to forward their current email address to our office on [information@castlemainefestival.com.au](mailto:information@castlemainefestival.com.au) For every email address we have by the end of October we will put your name into a draw for a number of prizes including vouchers and wine.

We also realise that not everyone has internet and email access and we like to reassure everyone that will continue to send newsletters and other information via regular mail where this is the case.

## Mailing list update

We are currently in the long and involved process of bringing our Data Base up to date. To help with the sending out of our newsletter we would like you to take a minute and answer the following questions. This will help you receive the newsletter speedily.

Please tick the appropriate box:

Do you wish to continue to receive the Newsletter?  
 Yes  No

Do you wish to receive the Newsletter by email?  
 Yes  No

If yes, what is your email address?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to receive the Newsletter by post? If yes, what is your mailing address?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this information to:  
 PO Box 230, Castlemaine 3450

Thank you for taking the time to answer to the questions.



Photography: Julie Millock