



2011  
**CASTLEMAINE  
STATE FESTIVAL**  
1-10 APRIL

## MEDIA KIT

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### Children's Program:

## Workshops, dances and a children's day

In 2009, the **Castlemaine State Festival** launched an ambitious children's Schools Program, which brought together all primary school students in the Mount Alexander Shire for a week of coordinated workshops and performances by leading local and international guest artists.

This year the Castlemaine State Festival's Schools Program will again involve **over 1500 primary aged children from the 18 local primary schools in the Shire**. Children will be engaged in an extraordinary range of multi-arts and cultural events.

One of these events is a **musical instrument making workshop** for children and adults, by makers **Andy Rigby** and **John Madin**. In these free after-school workshops, participants will have the rare opportunity to create their own panpipes, hand drums, boing pipes and okarinas. Then, following each session, Victory Park's autumn twilight hours will be acoustically lit up with community jams led by local percussionist and musical director **Justin Marshall**, who, together with amateur and professional musicians, will explore Klezmer, Celtic, Latin and African musical genres.

The Festival is thrilled to present the mesmerising performance of **Saltbush**, an internationally acclaimed **Italian/Australian interactive multimedia dance theatre piece**. Italian company **Compagnia TPO** has worked in collaboration with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians to create another beautiful piece in the highly acclaimed **Children's Cheering Carpet series**. The Saltbush narrative centres on the journey of two friends from different Aboriginal backgrounds as they cross Australia on foot, and is performed on a touch-sensitive floor using infra-red imaging technology that triggers images and sound. Children will be invited to explore, play and dance with the performers as the landscape unfolds around them, providing a stunning immersive experience, where the audience can become part of this visually beautiful journey.

In addition, children will attend **inspiring artists' talks** by exhibitors selected for the 2011 Castlemaine Visual Arts Biennial, and experience hands on art making with leading national and international artists, including special guest — world-renowned sculptor/printmaker **Heri Dono** (Indonesia).

Finally on the closing weekend, **Saturday 9 April** will mark the first day of the school holidays and **Children's Day** - a large, free community celebration for children, friends and families. It will feature cultural stories and music about bird migration, and will include the Migration March — a dynamic and colourful world music children's parade.

Children's Day will begin with a welcome performance based on **Crow Dreaming of the Dja Dja Wurrung**, a newly commissioned Festival dance. Performed by local Indigenous students who have contributed to its development, these lead dancers will be joined by other local children who have learnt the dance throughout the preceding week as part of the Festival's Schools Program.

Following the dance welcome, a parade will kick off featuring the **Migration Marching Band**; a foot-stomping, potpourri street orchestra of the musicians and children who have developed their instruments and pieces during the previous week. Playing their instruments, wearing costumes and carrying the puppets they have made, children and adults will take part in this unique **Victory Park** event, created by them for the enjoyment of all.

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