



MEDIA RELEASE

CASTLEMAINE STATE FESTIVAL • 15 - 24 MARCH 2013

A WEEKEND OF SUSTAINABILITY, FOOD & CREATIVE ART: THE GROVE

The 2013 Castlemaine State Festival presents **The Grove**, a place of festivity and performance set in the leafy surrounds of central Castlemaine's Victory Park.

Exploring the fertile intersections between art, food and sustainability, **The Grove** reveals a hive of edible and aesthetic riches just waiting to be devoured. Borne out of months of dedicated creative explorations and community workshops, expect a delicious homegrown program filled with imaginative performances and interactive activities served with a side of fresh local produce.

The centre piece of **The Grove, The Living Stage** combines stage design, permaculture and community engagement to create a recyclable, biodegradable and edible performance space. Part theatre and part garden, it features vertical garden walls, suspended pots and portable garden beds with edible plants. **The Living Stage** will house a series of experimental works that draw on the concept of regeneration, and interact with the unique design that surrounds them. At the end of the festival, the community will consume the stage – its physical structures will become their garden beds, its plants will become their food, and its waste will become their compost, inspiring optimism about the future of sustainable living.

Using **The Living Stage** as both a venue and inspiration, on the 16 and 17 March at 3pm, **CreateAbility (Bendigo)** along with **Born in a Taxi** and **Justin Bull (undue noise)** present **Produce**, an ambitious new work full of budding, shooting, blooming liveliness — out of the fruit bowl and into the fresh air. Set amongst the elements, taking cues from the living world around us, **Produce** grafts together sound and movement and a living, interactive theatrical space (The Living Stage). Playful and surreal, we witness growth, change, moments of unexpected generosity and the chaos of nature in this visual feast.

The Preserves Project invites people to the table to share their recipes, stories, images and ideas and to discover, exchange, share and make art. Dig into philosophical question about what we value most and what want to take into the future with bernie m janssen, Alison Richards and their team around the preserves table and add your words, thoughts, drawings, stamps and stencils to the Big Tablecloth.

On 16 March at 1pm using produce from **The Living Stage**, two comic hosts and three hilarious judges will entertain as local chefs and food celebrities face-off for the 2012 Castlemaine State Festival **Garden Chef** title. The **Carmen Mirandas** and their entourage of little singing helpers from Castlemaine Primary School will add spice to the flavourful atmosphere.

Community harvest group **Growing Abundance** brings the **Long Table Feast** to **The Grove** on 16 and 17 March at 2.30pm. Using food sourced within 100 miles of Castlemaine, expect a delectable bounty of local produce and a celebration community spirit.

Working with **Eliza-Jane Gilchrist** and **Suzanne Kalk**, Winters Flat Primary School students will create **Mindful of Growth** to decorate the park for **The Grove** weekend, leaving 'minds full of growth' in their wake.

DETAILS

Dates & Times:

Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 March 11am - 4pm

Venue: Victory Park, Mostyn St, Castlemaine

Admission: Free / all ages

Individual event times:

Produce - Saturday and Sunday 3pm

Garden Chef - Saturday 1pm

Long Table Feast - Saturday and Sunday 2.30pm