

## Exciting changes ahead for the 2011 Fairfax Festival

As the Fairfax Festival heads into its 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the organising committee and the Fairfax family are pleased to announce two significant changes to the event in 2011.

For the first time since its inception the full name of the festival will be changed to the

### **George Fairfax Memorial Regional Youth Theatre Festival.**



Another change will be the addition of another full day of exciting activities to the Festival program.

Swan Hill Rural City Council's Performing Arts Director and Fairfax Festival Manager, Adrian Corbett said the changes reflect the new direction the Festival took when it was reformatted in 2008 and would open up even more opportunities for youth throughout Regional Victoria to enjoy the Arts.

"The organising committee is thrilled to announce that the Festival is to be extended from three to four days and the decision to extend was made following its huge success over the last few years and the constant pleading from all the students and teachers involved" Mr Corbett said.

"The Festival encourages youth to come together and be creative, imaginative and inventive whilst working with theatre professionals to develop their skills".

The festival doors will also be opened to invite secondary school aged youth from theatre, youth, community and cultural groups throughout Victoria to participate within their own cultural or community groups.



The George Fairfax Memorial Regional Schools Theatre Festival was first held in November 1997, after then Director of Performing Arts, John Fowler invited George Fairfax to direct and host an evening with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra.

George accepted however sadly became ill and passed away before the event could be presented.

Mr Fowler approached George's wife, Vicki Fairfax, with the idea of establishing a regional school theatre festival in the same area where George had spent his childhood.

"The affect that the Festival has had on regional youth is significant and has inspired many to pursue their talents in theatre, music and the arts". Mr Corbett said.

"I encourage all youth to consider being part of the Festival this year and invite them to contact me if they would like to be involved".

The Festival will commence on Tuesday, 25 October 2011 and culminate in a Gala Performance at the Swan Hill Town Hall Performing Arts and Conference Centre on Friday, 28 October 2011.

**For more information concerning the Fairfax Festival, interviews with Festival personnel or high-res images please contact Adrian Corbett, Festival Manager on 0407 853 167 or email [acorbett@swanhill.vic.gov.au](mailto:acorbett@swanhill.vic.gov.au).**

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