

2016 Fairfax Information Guide for Prospective Participants

The Fairfax is a community cultural engagement project that brings professional artists to rural Victoria and NSW to teach young people new skills in a range of creative practices and to develop performance pieces created by the young people themselves.

The Fairfax engages young people aged 12 - 17 living in smaller communities in northern Victoria and nearby NSW communities who may have little or no access to the arts through their schools or communities.

We provide the opportunity to experience working with professional artists so that young people can learn new and creative ways of expressing themselves and share their own experiences through performance, whether theatre, storytelling, music, filmmaking or other formats. The project aims to increase their self-esteem, develop new skills and experiences, create team-building experiences in a safe and creative environment, and introduce them to a variety of art and performance styles.

The project has two major components:

In Community Workshops (Four Days in June, July & August 2016)

The Fairfax will assign your group a professional artist/company to come to your community to engage in four days of workshops. This may be four consecutive days or two sets of two days, depending upon your preference. The artist develops a relationship with your participants, gets to know who they are, shares their experiences as young people living in rural communities and engages them in skill sharing workshops (artists might be circus performers, hip hop artists, actors, puppeteers). The artists then supports them through the process of creating a work that is of significance to them.

In Community workshops take place in June, July and August of 2016. Workshop days are the equivalent of a standard school day and the attendance of suitably qualified group leaders (1:10 ratio) is required.

Fairfax Week (Tuesday 13 - Friday 16 September 2016)

In September, all participants come to Swan Hill for the Fairfax Week. This is a week of new experiences, performances, and of coming together with other young people from rural communities for a unique exchange of ideas, performances and activities.

All groups will attend daily workshops with their artist mentors to continue working on their piece in preparation for a community performance. In addition, each group attends daily workshops with all the other artists who have been working with other groups of young people across the district in different creative forms. This gives everyone the opportunity to experience other types of creative expression as well as the chance to meet more artists and other young people.

Each evening we have activities for participants including theatre performances and film screenings.

The week ends with a performance of all the great work the young people have been creating with a community performance at the Swan Hill Town Hall.

There is a participation fee of \$550 (inc. GST) which covers the entire cost of your groups participation (maximum participants per group is 10) as well as for a maximum of two group leaders per group. This fee covers the cost of artists presenting in-community workshops, artists

presenting Fairfax Week workshops with your group and other groups, all catering and accommodation in group-share accommodation during Fairfax Week, and additional entertainment and performances.

Group leaders must take responsibility for their groups, attend workshops, ensure all paperwork is submitted on time and arrange transport to and from Swan Hill for the Fairfax week.

The Fairfax is committed to minimising barriers to your participation to ensure that the most marginalised young people in our community have equal access to this program. We have a flexible schedule whereby groups who don't wish to stay overnight at camp (such as participants requiring special support that is beyond the scope of the projects abilities) are not required to; groups experiencing financial difficulties will be supported in identifying funding opportunities in order to participate and the offer of other forms of support if available.

In our 20th year, the Fairfax is committed to identifying those young people who not only have limited access to arts and culture due to their geographic location and the subsequent limitations of their communities and schools, but who may not be engaged in school and would benefit enormously from this experience.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Expressions of interest are now open and the closing date is 12 February 2016. Expressions of Interest are not confirmation of your involvement, nor does it lock you into a commitment regarding costs or participation. All applicants will be notified in writing within two weeks of the closing date and then further information will be sent to successful applicants along with agreements.

On behalf of the Fairfax team we wish you a safe and enjoyable break over the Christmas period and we look forward to reaching your EOI's.

Yours sincerely,



Dominique Haslam
Fairfax Festival Manager
Swan Hill Rural City Council
PO Box 488
Swan Hill Vic. 3585
E: fairfaxmanager@swanhill.vic.gov.au
P: 0488 171 297
W: www.fairfaxfestival.com.au
F: [facebook.com/FairfaxFestival](https://www.facebook.com/FairfaxFestival)