

BONDI PAVILION

2025 Artistic
Program

BONDIPAVILION.COM.AU



WAVERLEY
COUNCIL

Welcome



2025 is set to be a year of adventure, magic and fun at the Pav with a wonderful array of artists lined up to entice, inspire and delight you.

This preview program is just a selection of some of the events we have to offer, arranged by seasons, to help you plan and enjoy our iconic seaside cultural hub.

We invite you to be inspired, open your imagination, and wonder at our natural world. We have tales of love and laughter, mischief and magic, works that provoke and works that will thrill. You'll see stories of whales, dolphins, penguins, dinosaurs, creatures great and small, thriving and endangered.

This year at the Pav there will be something for audiences of all ages – for the young and the young at heart. With new music, visual art, cabaret, comedy, theatre, dance, talks and ideas and more, it's a program deeply rooted in our natural environment, at our home where culture meets the sea.

Come share with us a season of creativity in 2025.

CHRIS BENDALL
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Bondi Pavilion is the place to be in 2025.

Beyond the natural beauty of Bondi Beach, I am thrilled to invite you to experience this extraordinary line up of arts and culture offerings for the next year.

Our page-turning program gives a taste of just some of the amazing experiences you will have here in 2025. From free entertainment in the courtyard and on the forecourt, to uplifting art gallery exhibitions, inspiring circus, cabaret and comedy to film festivals and more, Bondi Pavilion's artistic program offers something for everyone.

At Waverley Council, we know that arts and culture is at the beating heart of our community, and we are as passionate as you are about bringing the best of it right here to Bondi.

Enjoy! And see you at the Pav.

WILL NEMESH,
MAYOR OF WAVERLEY

Bondi Pavilion acknowledges the Bidiagal, Birrabirragal and Gadigal people, who traditionally occupied the Sydney Coast, and we pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders both past and present.



Photo Annabel Oshane



Photo Objects by Shaun Parker & Company



Photo Linda Coy



Photo Lucy Parakhina

SUMMER



Photo: Tashi Hoell

FAMILY

The Whale

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre

4 – 12 Jan

GARU COURTYARD

It's impossible not to be in awe of the majesty of a whale. Even a distant glimpse can move us to wonderment. So, imagine what it will be like to see one up close! In the centre of the Pav's courtyard, watch our whale move majestically as if on its migration down the coastline, surrounded by an oceanic swarm of fantastical creatures.

Created by the brilliant Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, this interactive experience for all ages (can you move the whale? Yes, you can!) will inspire, surprise and celebrate these mighty creatures at play in our ecosystem.

A free outdoor event for all ages.
A SYDNEY FESTIVAL EVENT

SUMMER



Photo courtesy Station Gallery Australia

EXHIBITION

Rise and Fall

Karla Dickens

7 Dec 24 – 2 Feb 25

ART GALLERY

Rise and Fall is a powerful new installation by Wiradjuri artist Karla Dickens.

Exploring climate change through a First Nations lens and inspired by the devastating Lismore floods of 2022, *Rise and Fall* merges sculpture, photography and video to reimagine Bondi's mermaid mythologies with a post-apocalyptic twist. An urgent call for survival and shared responsibility from one of Australia's great storyteller-artists.

Curated by Daniel Mudie Cunningham.

SUMMER



Photo Steve Ullathorne

CABARET

An Evening Without Kate Bush

Made by Sarah-Louise Young & Russell Lucas
Produced by Hey Dowling

13 – 15 Feb

THEATRE

Encounter *Strange Phenomena* and howl with *The Hounds of Love*; dance on the wily, windy moors like no one is watching! A breakout hit of Sydney Festival 2024, live-wire performer Sarah-Louise Young invites you to go Bush in this joyful, mind-blowing tribute to one of music's trailblazing mega-talents. Including classics such as *Running Up That Hill*, *Cloudbusting* and *The Man with the Child in his Eyes*, this unique performance has to be experienced live to be believed

Suitable for ages 15+.

A SYDNEY GAY AND LESBIAN MARDI GRAS EVENT.

★★★★★ "Spellbinding"

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH



Photo Damien Bennett

MUSIC

Tim Freedman's Moonlit Deck

28 Feb

THEATRE

After the sold out success of the *Love This City 25 Years* tour in 2024, Tim Freedman is ready to strip things back, have a chat, and get his cabaret on. Tim will take you on a journey through his repertoire, gently recount some new tales from his adventures in showbiz, and reveal untold stories about the genesis of the best known Whitlams songs.

His steady hand will guide you through the highlights of his nine album catalogue with songs such as *Blow Up the Pokies* and *No Aphrodisiac*, and into some lesser known detours including the recent country outing, *The Whitlams Black Stump* album *Kookaburra*.

Suitable for audiences of all ages.

AUTUMN

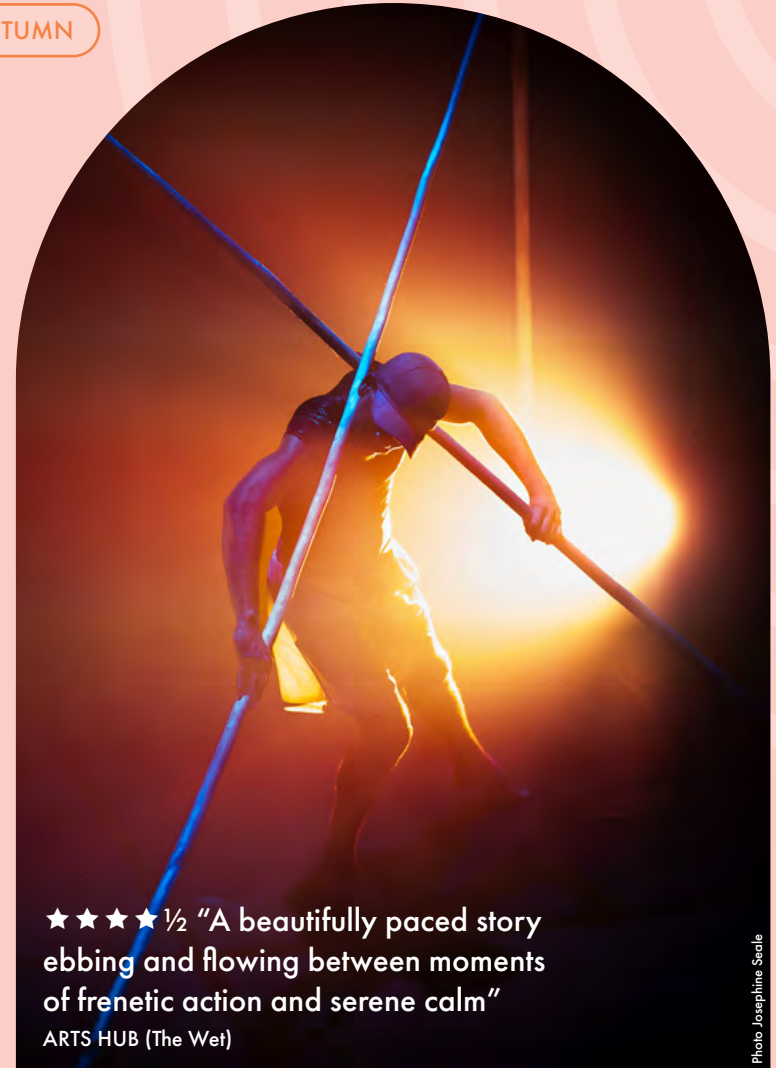


Photo Josephine Seale

★★★★½ "A beautifully paced story ebbing and flowing between moments of frenetic action and serene calm"

ARTS HUB (The Wet)

CIRCUS

The Dry

Circa Cairns

8 – 9 Mar

GARU COURTYARD

Far North Queensland's dry season brings an anticipation into the Country that pulsates through its people. Now you can feel it here in Bondi in this brilliant blending of elite circus skills, Cultural knowledge and a lot of sassy humour from Circa Cairns. Inspired by the sun-soaked landscape of FNQ, *The Dry* is a cry of joy and mischief from the people who call this parched land home.

A free outdoor event suitable for ages 3+

AUTUMN

VISUAL ARTS

Common Ground

Waverley Artist Studios

7 Feb – 16 Mar

ART GALLERY

To meet on common ground. We hear that phrase a lot. But what does it really mean – and can it even be found in times when we seem to be moving further and further apart? New exhibition, *Common Ground* presents the latest work from the 2024 and 2025 cohorts of the Waverley Artist Studios, work created on the common ground of the studios themselves – a space for artists to create, connect and develop their practice.



Waverley Artist Studios 2024

TALK & AWARD

International Women's Day

7 Mar

THEATRE

On the eve of International Women's Day 2025, we honour an extraordinary female leader from our community with Waverley Council's International Women's Day Award.

Enjoy complimentary refreshments on the stunning Nandiri Balcony, then move into the theatre for an inspiring address from this year's winner recognising commitment to empowering women in Waverley and beyond.

Check out the stories of previous recipients in the Bondi Story Room or online at bondistoryroom.com.au.



2024 Winner Diana Olsberg

AUTUMN

FAMILY

Locus

Erth Visual & Physical Inc

26 – 27 Apr

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Stumble upon a Sumatran Rhino, sidle up to a Thylacine and get a nuzzle from a Numbat in this extraordinary adventure from the acclaimed Erth Visual & Physical Inc. A talented troupe of young local performers will work with Erth to bring you close up to life-size puppets of endangered creatures in the hidden spaces of the Bondi Pav. A memorable, immersive adventure you'll never forget!

Suitable for audiences 5+.

Registrations for young participants aged 12–17 will open early 2025.



PhotoLucy Parakhina

EXHIBITION

One Minute Mountain

Phillip George

21 Mar – 4 May

ART GALLERY

Bondi artist Phillip George's recent works present the sea as a mirror that reflects and repeats our broken histories and images. Filmed and photographed in Bondi as well as in Europe, Persia and the Middle East, *One Minute Mountain* uses water as a metaphor for the appearance and disappearance of culture and meaning.



Phillip George "Isidian" from the "Swimming to Hades Suite" 2024.

AUTUMN



Photo Dylan Woodley

COMEDY

Garry Starr: Classic Penguins

30 – 31 May
THEATRE

Having already performed every theatre genre in one show, Garry Starr is back and hell-bent on performing every Penguin Classic novel ever written – in an hour and mostly naked (but with flippers). From *The Little Prince* to *Moby Dick*, nothing is safe from being lampooned with the utmost nincompoopery!

For ages 18+

“Brilliantly ticklish... joyfully silly.”

GUARDIAN (UK)

★★★★★

“A very funny man who is peculiarly averse to wearing trousers”

SCOTSMAN (UK)”



Photo

MUSIC

Odette: The Seahorses Tour

14 Mar
THEATRE

Odette is BACK and she’s celebrating her bodacious, bubbly and scathing new single *Seahorses* with ethereal, killer shows that’ll make you laugh, cry and scream. Her unique and authentic voice has been part of the Australian music landscape since her 2018 debut album, *To A Stranger*, was nominated for two Aria Awards. Citing Joanna Newsom as an influence, Odette’s latest music is grittier than ever, urging us to celebrate bravery and find absurdity, joy and strength in our surroundings.

For audiences 15+.

“A night of uninhibited, infectious joy.”

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

AUTUMN



Image courtesy National Maritime Museum

EXHIBITION

Souter’s Bondi

10 May – 29 Jun
ART GALLERY

Souter’s Bondi brings a cherished artefact back to Bondi Beach and reinterprets it through a contemporary lens.

Celebrating Scots-born artist David Henry Souter and his pivotal role in popularising Art Deco in Australian design and illustration, this exhibition features new art commissions inspired by his iconic murals, including his 1934 five-panel mural *Bathers and Lifesavers* on Bondi Beach on special loan from the National Maritime Museum.

Also, keep your eyes peeled for our free Art Deco centenary celebration events on 24 – 25 May.



Shannen Elise Photography

Bondi WAVE

Youth Songwriting Program

May – Aug
MUSIC STUDIOS

Whether you're new to music or an experienced player, Bondi Wave is a great introduction to making your music your way.

In a 12-week course aimed at upper primary and high school-aged musos, you'll learn how to write and arrange your own music in sessions mentored by industry professionals like Jim Elliot (The Cruel Sea), Abby Dobson (Leonardo's Bride), Lily Richardson (Clews) and Brendan Gallagher (Karma County).

The program culminates with a concert performance in the Pav Theatre on Saturday 2 August.

Bondi Festival

4 – 20 Jul

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Bondi Festival is an arts festival for all ages, bringing the cool winter vibes to the shores of Bondi Beach every July.

Featuring an ice-skating rink, a Ferris Wheel and award-winning shows and experiences at the Pav and beyond, there's plenty for everyone to see and do. Bondi Festival has quickly become a winter favourite with locals and visitors, enlivening the area with immersive stories, interactive art, cabaret, comedy, dance parties, live music and more. Make the most of Bondi Beach off-season and soak up the fun!



Photo Patrick Boland

Waverley Art Prize

4 Jul – 17 Aug

GALLERY

The acclaimed Waverley Art Prize opens the Festival each year with a national award celebrating drawing and painting.

In its 39th year, the 2025 Waverley Art Prize will be judged by Jasper Knight (artist) and Anne Ryan (Curator, Australian Art, AGNSW).



Waverley Art Prize, 2024. Courtesy

WINTER

THEATRE

Shore Break

by Chris Pitman. In association with Ninetyfive Theatre and Brink Productions

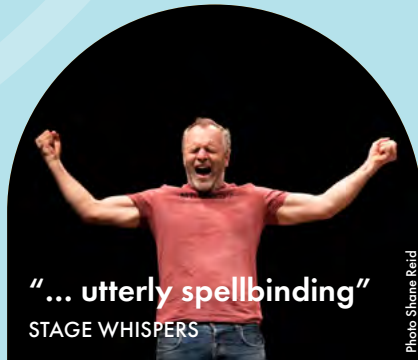
7 – 8 Aug

THEATRE

The waves are about to break. A man sits with his surfboard, observing the water. He remembers moments shared with people. The laughs. But he is alone...

Hilarious and gut-wrenching, Chris Pitman's *Shore Break* is a play about a man looking to the ocean for answers. A patchwork of storytelling, poetry and haunting performance from one of Adelaide's most revered performers, *Shore Break* speaks to male vulnerability and delivers an emotional wave you won't see coming.

Suitable for audiences 15+



FAMILY

IMAGINE LIVE

By Jolyon James based on the book *Imagine* by Alison Lester

16 Aug, 11 am & 2pm

THEATRE

Spot a leopard, dive with a dolphin and dig up a dinosaur! Magical and meaningful, *IMAGINE LIVE* brings performers, puppets, original music and the audience together in a celebration of creativity, friendship and the natural world. Inspired by Alison Lester's best-selling book, this is a show about animals, about imagination and about our home.

For ages 4+



SPRING

Festival of the Winds

14 Sep

BONDI BEACH – FREE

On the second Sunday of every September, one of the biggest and most loved kite-flying festivals in the world takes over Bondi Beach.

See professional flyers and makers show off kites big and small to the soundtrack of concerts in Bondi Park.

Join in kite making and flying sessions while sampling an all-day program of live music entertainment, delicious food and gorgeous arts and craft.



EXHIBITION

Mating Dance

Anna-Wili Highfield

22 Aug – 2 Nov

GALLERY

Accompanied by a soundscape composed by Bree Van Reyk, Anna-Wili Highfield's beautiful installation of life-sized brolgas in courtship formations pays tribute to Australia's famous dancing bird.

Crafted from cotton paper and brass and suspended as if frozen mid-ballet, *Mating Dance* captures the shared spirit between humans and animals.



SPRING

THEATRE

Night Night

The Last Great Hunt

11 – 13 Sep

THEATRE

It's David Attenborough meets Wes Anderson! From Perth indie wunderkinds The Last Great Hunt comes this quirky tale of an Antarctic scientist searching for the origin of life and the mysterious, glowing spirit that helps save both their souls. Using puppetry, digital tricks and some classic theatre magic, *Night Night* probes the thin veil between reality and imagination in a highly visual, playfully cinematic treat.

Recommended for audiences 15+.

"It was truly inspiring, exhilarating and full of heart."

AUDIENCE MEMBER, PERTH



FAMILY

Pajamazon Jungle

The Vegetable Plot

10 – 11 Oct

THEATRE

The Pajamazon Jungle? Enter if you dare, but watch out, there are earworms everywhere!

Tune into the fantastic ARIA-nominated kids band The Vegetable Plot – Aspara Gus, Ru Barb and Sir Paul McCarrotney – as they spread funky-fresh tunes and stinky vegetable puns in a show that grown-ups love just as much as kids. Sense of humour essential! For ages 3+



SPRING

DANCE

The Walking Track

Karul Projects

11 – 12 Oct

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

The Walking Track is a guided tour like no other.

Led by Karul Projects' Thomas E.S. Kelly, five new short dance works by local First Nations artists will be embedded in the urban and natural landscape surrounding Bondi Pavilion in a roving performance that will change the way you see the world around you.

A free event suitable for all ages.



Mark & Evette Moran Nib Literary Award

Apr – Nov

With a major prize of \$40,000, Waverley Council's prestigious national literary award opens for nominations in April 2025.

Other prizes include the \$4,000 Nib People's Choice Prize, and six \$1,500 Alex Buzo Shortlist Prizes.

Submissions are judged on literary merit, quality of research, readability and value to the community.

Winners will be announced at an exclusive event at Bondi Pavilion in November. Tickets available online from October.

The Mark & Evette Moran Nib Literary Award is presented annually by Waverley Council with generous support from Principal Sponsors Mark and Evette Moran, and community partner Gertrude and Alice Bookshop and Café.



Daniel Kekcec Photography

Local Creative Collaborations

Local Creative Collaborations invite Waverley's creative community to connect and create at the Pav.

Opportunities to develop new projects are available to artists at all stages of their practice from emerging to established. For the latest information on how to submit an Expression of Interest, please see the Local Creative Collaborations page on the Bondi Pavilion website.

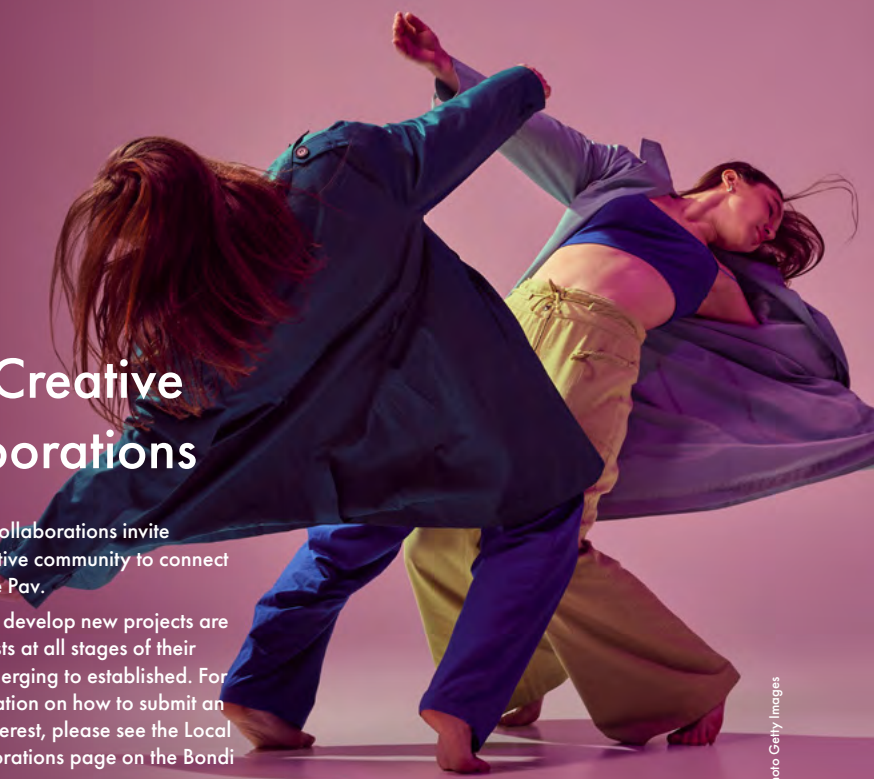


Photo Cathy Images

Bondi Story Room

Year-round
10am – 5pm daily, free

Bondi Story Room's interactive digital exhibition captures the rich history of this wonderful beachside suburb through the stories of its people, places and special moments.

Created with local community organisations, the Gujaga Foundation and crafted by award-winning technologists Grumpy Sailor, this permanent exhibition invites you to explore Indigenous chronicles, surf legends, pioneers, leading ladies, arts, culture and more.



Photo courtesy of Jitresca Photography

Talks & Ideas

The Pav hosts a vibrant program of year-round artist and author talks, including panel discussions, professional forums and lively conversations.

Look out for book launches and author talks in partnership with Gertrude and Alice Bookstore in the Theatre and artist talks in the Art Gallery.

Locals and visitors alike are invited to engage with diverse ideas and new perspectives from a range of expert guests.



Photo William Morris

Music

You can enjoy music across the Pav, with year-round events from leading contemporary artists, world music, Jazz at the Pav and more.

Each month we host free Lunchtime Concerts in the High Tide Room, and over 50s can join our popular weekly Sunshine Singers choir.



Liya Oluwole Photo: Malissa Aravena

Film Screenings

We bring the best in live theatre from around the world to you in this series of film screenings throughout the year.

This series captures the West End's hottest stage shows, including the very popular National Theatre Live productions, starring some of the biggest names to tread the boards. These screenings sell out fast – so book early!



Photo Marc Brenne

With thanks

Bondi Pavilion acknowledges the generous support of the following organisations.

THE WHALE



This project was co-commissioned by Bondi Pavilion, The City of Busselton and Curtin University.

AN EVENING WITHOUT KATE BUSH



LOCUS



THE DRY



CLASSIC PENGUINS



SOUTER'S BONDI



SHORE BREAK



IMAGINE LIVE



WALKING TRACK



NIGHT NIGHT



HOW TO BOOK



1. Head to bondipavilion.com.au/whats_on
2. Search for the show/event
3. Book your ticket



Bondi Pav Newsletter

Sign up to the Pav newsletter for priority access to events and receive special offers from our dining partners.



Bondi Festival, Photo: Patrick Boland

Bondi Pavilion is a welcoming space that is accessible and inclusive to everyone.



Entry Ways

There are two entrances to Bondi Pavilion including entry via Bondi Beachfront and Campbell Parade, both providing accessible entrances.



Venue Accessibility

You can find ramp access with mobility parking spaces at the front and rear of the building. There are two floors, the ground floor has full access with a lift to level 1 where you can find the Theatre, Ocean Room, Seagull Room, Bar and Balcony.

Accessible Amenities

Accessible amenities are located on both the ground floor and level 1. There is an adult change facility on the ground floor which is operated by a Master Access Locksmith Key (MLAK). A MLAK is available at the Welcome Centre for people with disability and their carers.



Bondi Pavilion Theatre

The theatre is an inclusive space that is accessible and fitted with Hearing Augmentation Systems. For companion cards of accessible seating bookings please contact the Box Office via email: Boxoffice.bondipavilion@waverley.nsw.gov.au Queen Elizabeth Drive, Bondi Beach NSW 2026. Office hours: 9am–5pm, Monday to Friday Tel: 02 9083 8400



Bondi Pavilion, Photo: Annabel Osborne



Bondi Festival, Photo: Lucy Prestiblin

BONDI PAVILION

Cover image: Festival of the Winds, 2023.
Photo Matthias Engesser

Right: Bondi Pavilion Opening Launch.
Photo Katherine Griffiths

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