

Open Spaces festival

Sat 17 and Sun 18 November 2018



The Abbotsford Convent is set to showcase more than 150 artists, writers, musicians, designers, creatives, wellness practitioners and performers, welcoming thousands of visitors to the Convent's biggest weekend of the year – Open Spaces. On Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 November, explore the Convent inside and out, with an impressive program of arts, design, markets, tours, food, wellbeing and live music.

The festival opens at 12 noon on the Saturday with **Ngulu-nganjin**, a two-part project celebrating Wurundjeri music, language and stories. This community celebration will showcase some of the musicians and artists who have been hard at work developing and recordings a new Wurundjeri/Woiwurrung sound trail for the Convent site. Visitors can enjoy flagship Ngulu-nganjin sounds, performed for the first time, as well as workshops, ochre face painting, traditional games, and more.

Open Sounds programmed by multitalented producer **Joel Ma (Joelistics)** takes centre stage this year. Across the weekend, there will be bands and solo artists on the Gulanboon stage in the natural amphitheatre of the Convent's Heritage Gardens, including **Cool Out Sun**, **Senegambian Jazz Band**, hip hop duo **Aaron Choulai x Daichi Yamamoto**, and more. Eclectic DJs will bring good vibes to the Sacred Heart courtyard, playing a mix of funk, soul, reggae, dub and global music, with the discs spinning until 9pm on the Saturday night. And expect to unearth some musical treasures at the **3MBS Record Fair**.

In true festival style, there will be outdoor bars, market pop-ups and food trucks, including Taiwanese street food by **Ghost Kitchen** and the much-loved **Taco Truck**. **Billy van Creamy** will be bringing the creamiest, thickest natural ice cream going around, including a flavour hand-crafted for the Convent. There will also be popular food stalls from the Convent's regular monthly markets – the **Slow Food Farmers' Market** and the **Vegan Market of Melbourne**.

Independent makers market, **Design Space**, will be returning to the atmospheric Industrial School. Peruse and purchase handcrafted homewares, ceramics, jewellery, clothing, prints and more. Over in the Community Room, sister market **Print Space**, will feature a selection of independent writers, thinkers and publishers. Check out prints, artist's books and publications by the likes of Perimeter, Matters Journal, Uro Publishing, West Space and **c3 Contemporary Art Space**. An exciting addition to Print Space this year is a pop-up from **Dog Photog Studios**, taking portraits of your four-legged mates. Think dogs dressed as scouts, sailors and artists!

Discover a diverse range of exhibitions, participatory art projects, installations, and performances within the buildings and the striking landscape of the Convent grounds. Some exciting picks include: 'Every1's a Winger (Bingo Mode)' by **Steven Rhall**; 'Flux-Kit-Mel' by **Jamie Lewis** and **Dan Koop**; a series of participatory actions by **Luke George**; ambitious collage installation 'A Room of My Own' by resident artist **Minna Gilligan** and a pop-up Japanese tearoom by Butoh performance-artist **Yumi Umiumare**.

From wheel-thrown pottery to screen printing tote bags, there are plenty of opportunities to meet our creative community in their **Open Studios**. Join a **guided tour** of the creative studios or take a specialised tour with an architect or gardener. Those looking for some 'me time' can enjoy free yoga, tai chi and meditation, and taster sessions of the Convent's unique wellness offerings.

Open Spaces is a family-friendly event, with free admission for children aged under five. There are hands-on **activities for kids** of all ages, from flag-making to book-making. Polyglot Theatre will present 'Sound Of Drawing,' bringing together textures and technology in a soundscape of kids' own making.

Open Spaces is the Convent's annual celebration of multi-disciplinary arts, diverse cultures, community and place. General admission is \$5 per person, per day, with tickets available at the gate. Admission is free for children under 5 and for Companion Card Holders.

We have a big weekend planned. Browse the full Open Spaces program:

[Open Spaces 2018](#). [Ngulu-nganjin](#). [Open Sounds programmed by Joel Ma](#). [Community Music](#). [Art](#). [Food](#). [Markets](#). [Studios](#). [Tours](#). [Health & Wellbeing](#).

Full URL: www.abbotsfordconvent.com.au/whats-on/key-programs/open-spaces

Abbotsford Convent CEO, Collette Brennan:

'Open Spaces is a celebration of the Convent's incredible community of artists, writers, creatives, makers and wellness practitioners, and the stunning buildings and green spaces, now included on the national heritage list, that inspire our community.'

'Open Spaces is an invitation to explore the Convent inside and out, as artists and creatives reimagine and reinterpret our unique spaces, and the entire precinct is brought to life through contemporary art, installations, music, markets, workshops, delicious food and events.

'From interactive performances to world beats in our heritage gardens, we invite everyone to come to Convent and see for themselves all that Australia's largest multi-arts precinct has to offer.'

Programmer of the Open Sounds music program at Open Spaces 2018, Joel Ma (Joelistics):

‘Expect a program brimming with new sounds, showcasing artists from different communities, representative of the brilliance that makes the Melbourne music scene feel so alive. The music will be perfect for relaxing on the hill with family and friends in the sunshine and then picking up the tempo for a party in the evening.’

‘It’s important to me to program a gender equal line up with a mix of emerging artists, masters and local legends, a few wild cards and some dedicated party starters.’

See more on the Abbotsford Convent blog:

[In Conversation with Music Programmer Joel Ma \(Joelistics\)](#)

OPEN SPACES FESTIVAL 2018

#OpenSpaces18

Saturday 17 November (12 – 9pm)

Sunday 18 November (12 – 6pm)

Entry is \$5 per person per day, with tickets available at the gate from 11am each day. Admission is free for children under 5 and for Companion Card Holders.

Abbotsford Convent

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Instagram @abbotsfordconvent

Facebook @AbbotsfordConvent

Open Spaces Facebook event: [facebook.com/events/2077057035917920/](https://www.facebook.com/events/2077057035917920/)

Media Enquiries

Holly Cochrane, Marketing and Communications Manager, Abbotsford Convent on (03) 9415 3602 or via hcochrane@abbotsfordconvent.com.au.

Imagery

A selection of promotional images is available at:

Short URL: <http://bit.ly/OpenSpaces18Images>

Direct URL: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7hvmmc749z6dpjs/AADVfQr9ZDT9vPxbkHxc3KN9a?dl=0>

Please note image credits are included in the file names. Please contact us if you require specific images of artists and/or activities.

If you wish to obtain images for Ngulu-nganjin (provided by Wurundjeri Land Tribe Council), please contact hcochrane@abbotsfordconvent.com.au