



Growing Winchelsea

SUMMARY REPORT

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

**FUTURE EVENTS 4
WINCHELSEA**



www.growingwinchelsea.com



INTRODUCTION

The ***Future Events 4 Winchelsea Forum*** was a wonderful success, bringing together residents, community groups, and local stakeholders to share their passion for making Winchelsea a hub of vibrant events and celebrations.

We sincerely thank everyone who participated and acknowledge the generous support of our sponsors — **Community Bank Winchelsea & District** and the **Winchelsea Lions Club** — whose commitment made this forum possible.

This document captures the breadth of ideas shared across themes during the forum. It will inform the development of a ***Festival & Events Strategy***, providing a roadmap for Winchelsea's future calendar of events.

1. Food & Wine

17 respondents expressed interest in food & wine events.

- Paddock-to-plate dining experiences.
- Food truck and street food festival.
- Longest Lunch on the Bluestone Bridge.
- Mad Hatter's Tea Party.
- "Winchelsea Bunch" long lunch showcasing local produce.
- Rabbit-inspired menus, including an Easter Fair celebrating rabbits.

2. Agricultural Fair

13 respondents wanted an agricultural fair.

- Shearing competitions, wool sports, and spinning demonstrations.
- Farm-based activities and country life showcases.
- The Great Winchelsea Scone Bake-Off.
- Dog trials and terrier races.
- Vintage machinery and "machinery of yesterday" displays.
- Agricultural art show.
- Country bands, bush dances, and live pub performances.
- Focus on regenerative and biodynamic farming.
- Host in a warmer month for accessibility.
- Opportunities to use Barwon Park as a venue.

3. Music & Arts

18 respondents wanted an arts & music festival, 25 wanted live music, 13 wanted arts/photography exhibitions.

- Live music weekends and genre-focused concerts.
- Opera at Barwon Park and Marjorie Lawrence celebrations.
- Arts & culture as a biennale event.
- Outdoor cinema/film festival.
- Photography and visual arts exhibitions.
- Bush dances and community music events.
- Utilise different venues such as pubs, Globe Theatre, outdoors.

4. Heritage & History

12 respondents wanted heritage/history events, 11 wanted tours & re-enactments.

- Vintage machinery and fashion shows.
- Ghost tours and heritage walks.
- Victorian era-style lunches and themed historical re-enactments.
- Opera Festival at Barwon Park.
- "Ode to the Rabbit" creative activities and competitions.
- Celebrations of Winchelsea's historical figures such as Marjorie Lawrence.

5. Family & Youth

Revival of Trick or Treat Kidz Fest (previously attracted up to 5,000 visitors).

Children's festivals with themed activities.

Treasure hunts and Easter Bunny celebrations.

Kite festivals.

Community art projects with public unveiling at events.

6. Markets & Makers

13 respondents wanted markets/makers, 26 wanted food trucks & local produce.

- Seasonal markets and artisan showcases.
- Old trades fairs.
- Flower show reboot.
- Otway Harvest Trail signature event.
- Dog shows (non-competitive).

7. Nature & River Themed Events

21 respondents wanted nature/river themed, 16 wanted outdoor adventure/nature walks.

- Platypus-themed activities.
- Walking and hiking festivals.
- River trails and Run Rabbit Run weekend.
- Fire/flood history commemorations.
- Mountain bike ride “Coalmine to Coast.”
- Outdoor treasure hunt activities.

8. Specialty & Signature Events

- Winchelsea Wedding Expo showcasing local venues and suppliers.
- Masquerade Balls and comedy shows.
- B&S Ball – for both young & old.
- “Dunny Festival” celebrating Australia’s quirks.
- Gothic or Steampunk Festival.
- Mrs Austin Festival.
- RabbitFest.
- Marjorie Lawrence Festival.

CLOSING NOTE

This summary reflects the creativity and enthusiasm of the Winchelsea community. It provides a strong foundation for developing a ***Festival & Events Strategy***, ensuring a vibrant and sustainable calendar of activities that celebrate our town’s heritage, creativity, and community spirit.

Do you want to lend a hand!

JOHN TEBBUTT
PRESIDENT
1 September 2025

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