

**EMBARGOED
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**MEDIA RELEASE
Saturday 12 October 2019**

**Woodford Folk Festival 2019/20
Magical Children's Festival Programme Announced**

Whether your little one is a mover-n-shaker, a tiny tinkerer, a bush baby, a games guru or a book gobbler, Woodford Folk Festival presents a Children's programme that aims to satiate every sprout aged 1 to 12.

Lovingly wrapped in the arms of the folk festival are eight venues dedicated to widening eyes, busying hands, broadening minds and giving the giggles.

Deputy Festival Director, **Amanda Jackes**, says that, "The Children's Festival here at Woodford is one of the most stimulating, rewarding and memorable experiences you can give your kids this Christmas holidays.

"With over 300 individual workshops and a specially curated programme that features guests from the 'main' programme, and literally hundreds of all ages shows for those a bit big for the Children's Festival, it's also the best value for money".

"They'll go home with handmade creations, a head full of inspiration and some stellar show-n-tell material. There's plenty for the big kids too, with many of the activities being designed for parents and kids to enjoy together."

Got an aspiring inventor in the family? At the What's Inside workshop they can learn how stuff works by pulling it apart and putting it back together again.

Explore creativity through technology at the Stop Motion Extravaganza, an all-day workshop that takes kids through the journey of creating their own Shaun-the-Sheep-

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style animation. And for all budding environmentalists, there's talks on renewable energy, recycling, sustainability and natural building.

Those with ants in their pants will find release at the hip-hop and breakdance workshop; Miss Mimi's Dance Experience, a whole family dance circle of self-expression; and the Drama Games Extravaganza, where littlies can explore their dramatic side, expand their skills and stretch limbs and imaginations.

There's also yoga for the whole tribe, where kids and parents can play and connect with partner poses and circle yoga movement in a family sharing time.

When it's time for a sit-down, little Woodfordians will find no lack of inspiring, dreamy and thought-provoking stories to be absorbed. At Storytelling and Yarning with the Elders and Children of North East Arnhem Land, kids can sit with amazing elder women and spiritual healers as they tell stories of The Seven Sisters in the Canoe and other Creation Stories.

Bella the Bookworm encourages children and adults to use their imaginations and enjoy the simple art of a good story. At Jinibara Speaks, kids can join Traditional Custodian, Uncle Noel and family for a yarn while learning Jinibara language.

"We hope to instil seeds of hope and inspiration across every bit of the programme. We want our kids to be able to go out into the world feeling well-grounded and supported so that they can be who they want to be," says Manager of the Children's Festival Programme, **Becky Wandell**.

Organisers strive to ensure there are plenty of opportunities for kids to bring their own creations into the world. With safe industrial and commercial discards provided by Reverse Garbage, little ones are invited to make their very own monsters, robots from outer space and wind chimes.

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Other creative workshops will see kids craft funky fluffy bags; make and print their own caps at Shade Your Head Festival Cap; use old cables at Power Line Princess to make stick-figure dollies; and at Bush Carpentry, make a bush-squatters chair using sticks, as well as a bamboo shelter to pop it under.

Eyes are bound to widen and laughter to ensue when national treasure, **dirtgirl** takes to the stage with the equally cherished, **Costa Georgiadis** as the Garden Gnome and the ominous-sounding grubby bucket.

At the Flying Flea Circus, a brave little insect will shoot from a cannon to the whoops and cheers of onlookers and everyone will have no choice but to boogie down to the zany electro-folk, klezmer-fusion from one-man musical, **Niq Reefman**.

“It is our aim every year to give the children of Woodfordia, a programme that will excite, dazzle, inspire and carry them into the New Year with a head full of glistening memories, new friends, fierce ambition and a love of one another,” says Jackes.

“We hope that this year’s Children’s Festival is no exception and eagerly await the 27th, when the little ones descend on Woodfordia and breathe life into this lovingly curated programme from Becky Wandell and her team.”

Keen problem-solving kids will want to get involved in: the 10th Annual Junior Chess Championship for the chance to have their name engraved on the trophy; Big Bang Science Fun, where they can investigate light and colour, force and motion, magnets and sound; Celtic knot tying with native Scot, **Sybil Maclure**; and Adventure Science with Graham, where they’ll make a clay oven, learn some first aid, master more knots and discover how to tie up a rope bridge and then traverse it.

Come day five of the festival, our littlies will gather for the annual Children’s Parade.

Carrying or wearing their workshop creations, pixies, pranksters, bubble blowers, jugglers, scientists and chess players alike will pour into the festival streets, led by the

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brilliant Linsey Pollack and his merry band. Never failing to stop bigger Woodfordians in their tracks, this vibrant procession will wind its way through the streets of the folk festival, culminating in a frenzied dance off back at the children's base.

The Children's Festival is nestled in a shaded grove nearby the Season Camping Ground and close to the festival's dedicated child-minding service, The Land of Nod, where qualified supervisors will watch your wee ones while they play in the sandpit, splash pool, book corner, watch DVDs or tucker out and take a nap.

The Woodford Folk Festival's Children's Festival can be enjoyed as a day trip or stay for the duration of the event from 27th December 2019 – 1st January 2020.

Explore the Children's Festival programme online at woodfordfolkfestival.com

Tickets available online now at
woodfordfolkfestival.com/tickets

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Download high resolution imagery of the 2019/2020 poster art here:
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