

Our Victorian Seniors Festival 2026 Highlights Guide

By the Seniors in Melbourne community



Welcome!

Seniors in Melbourne are gearing up for the much-anticipated Victorian Seniors Festival this October 2026. What was once celebrated as Seniors Week has grown into a month-long program of activities, performances, and special events across the state.

If you haven't come across us before, Seniors in Melbourne is an online community dedicated to helping older Victorians discover things to do, places to visit, and events across Melbourne and regional Victoria — all year round, not just during the Festival. While we're not involved in organising the Festival, we love supporting it by sharing Melbourne and regional Victoria's highlights and helping you find events you'll enjoy most.

This guide is here to help you plan your month. Inside, you'll find:

- What's on in Metro Melbourne — free and ticketed events across history, music, theatre, gardens, arts, and community activities
- What's on in Regional Victoria — highlights from the Northern, Eastern and Western regions, plus our feature on spring in the Bendigo Region
- Best Deals — Seniors Card discounts on attractions, sightseeing, food, health and entertainment throughout October

Browse by section, or use the contents page to jump straight to what interests you most. Head out and enjoy.

Contents

Free Public Transport for Seniors Week	3
What's on in Metro Melbourne – Victorian Seniors Festival	4
History & Cultural Events	4
Seniors in Melbourne events - our own gatherings	5
Free Music & Performance Events – Seniors Festival	6
Ticketed Music & Theatre Events – Seniors Festival	7
Garden & Nature Events – Seniors Festival.....	8
Arts & Exhibitions – Seniors Festival	9
Free Film Events – Seniors Festival	10
Community & Social Events – Seniors Festival	10
Sport & Wellness Events – Seniors Festival	11
What's on in Regional Victoria – Victorian Seniors Festival	12
Northern Regions Victorian Seniors Festival Events	13
East & Southeast Regions Victorian Seniors Festival Events	14
Western Regions Victorian Seniors Festival Events	16
Best Discounts For Seniors During Seniors Festival 2026	18
Seniors Month Sightseeing Deals in Melbourne	18
Best Seniors Festival Deals on Attractions.....	19
Best Seniors Festival Food and Drink Deals in Melbourne	19
Best Seniors Month Deals on Health & Recreation.....	20
Best Seniors Festival Deals on Live Shows & Entertainment	20
Best Seniors Festival Deals in Regional Victoria	20
Navigating the Seniors Festival Event Calendar	22

Free Public Transport for Seniors Week

Victorian Seniors Card holders receive nine days of completely free travel across the state as part of the Festival — covering Melbourne trains, trams and buses, plus regional trains, coaches and regional town bus services. Dates for 2026 are **Saturday 3 October to Sunday 11 October**.

Key tips

- **Carry your Seniors Card:** Bring your Victorian Seniors Card (and Seniors myki, if you use one) with you every time you travel.
- **Tap on and off as usual:** On Melbourne trains, trams and buses, touch on and off with your Seniors myki exactly as normal. You won't be charged, but the tap is still required.
- **Regional services without myki:** On regional buses and coaches that aren't myki-enabled, simply show your Seniors Card to the conductor or driver instead of tapping on.
- **Travel off-peak where you can:** You'll be more likely to find a seat outside the morning and afternoon peaks.
- **Book ahead for V/Line — seats fill quickly!** Reservations are available on most long-distance V/Line trains and some coaches. Book at your nearest staffed station or agent, or call 1800 800 007. Tickets must be collected within 48 hours.
- **Travelling as a group?** Small groups (fewer than 19 on a train, or fewer than 11 on a coach) can book at a staffed station or agent. Larger groups need to submit a request via vline.com.au/grouptravel, with bookings opening 10am Tuesday 1 September. Group sizes are capped at 45 per train and 20 per coach.
- **Plans changed?** If you've booked but can't travel, let V/Line know — your seat can then go to someone else who needs it.
- **Know what's excluded:** Private bus operators, airport services (like SkyBus) and privately operated tourist trains and buses are not included in the free travel week.

For full details and the latest updates, visit transport.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival.

What's on in Metro Melbourne – Victorian Seniors Festival

Celebration Day (Sun 3 Oct 2026). The festival kicks off with a spectacular celebration at Federation Square from 12 pm to 7 pm. This event will launch the festival with a full day of free entertainment, live music, inspirational speakers and hands-on activities. Free entry, no booking required. We hope to see you there!

Federation Square, Swanston St & Flinders St. [Find more information here.](#)



History & Cultural Events

Swinging Sixties at Old Treasury (open daily). This free exhibition explores life in Victoria during the 1960s through fashion, music, protest, pop culture and social change. Featuring original costumes, memorabilia, photographs and rare artefacts, it revisits one of the most transformative decades in Australian history.

20 Spring Street, Melbourne. Free entry.

Under The Clocks: Premium City Walking Tour (Fridays, 10 am – 1 pm). Join us for a guided tour of Melbourne's laneways, meet new friends and savour revelations about the city you thought you knew. 3-hour walking tour, including coffee or tea mid-way. Tickets \$60. [Read Kathy's review.](#)

Flinders Street Station, Tickets \$60. [Book here.](#)

Hardware Lane Precinct: 1.5-hour Walking Tour (Fridays, 2 pm – 3.30 pm). Behind Bourke Street, uncover the old warehouses, service lanes and quiet corners revealing how the city has reinvented itself over time. Tickets \$40.

PO Building (under the H&M sign) in Bourke Street, Tickets \$40. [Book here.](#)

Melbourne Athenaeum Library (5 - 10 Oct 2026). Unearth the fascinating history of Melbourne's oldest cultural institution. The Collins Street building opened in 1842 and houses a subscription library, two theatres and one of the city's earliest lifts. Explore the library and hear stories behind this enduring icon. (Bookings open 1 Sept).

Melbourne Athenaeum Library, L1, 188 Collins St, Melbourne. [Book here.](#)

College of Surgeons Museum, East Melbourne (Mon & Tues). Explore fascinating medical history on a self-guided tour, Mon–Tue 10am–4pm (or Wed by appointment). Free entry, gold coin donation appreciated.

250-290 Spring Street, East Melbourne

Australian History Talk: Notoriety (Fri 30 Oct). Explore a fascinating chapter of Australian history at this talk hosted by Richmond Neighbourhood Centre.

Richmond Neighbourhood Centre, Richmond. [Book here.](#)

Seniors in Melbourne events - our own gatherings

Bendigo Day Trip with Lunch & Walking Tour (Sat 3 Oct & Sat 7 Nov 2026). Travel through the scenic Macedon Ranges before exploring Bendigo's grand gold rush heritage on a guided walking tour with Paul Daffey. Visit historic landmarks, stroll through Rosalind Park and enjoy a relaxed lunch during the tour. 9 AM – 5.30 PM. Tickets \$115. [Book tickets here.](#)

Meet the Author: Marny Lishman (Thurs 15 Oct 2026, 11 am). Join psychologist and author Marny Lishman for an insightful author event exploring wellbeing, mindset and the ideas behind her work. A great opportunity to hear her share practical insights and connect with fellow readers. Tickets \$10.

Parks & Gardens Cruise Event (Mon 19 Oct 2026, 10 am). Enjoy a relaxed morning cruise along the Yarra with Seniors in Melbourne, including tea, coffee and guided commentary. Meet fellow readers and explore Melbourne from the river as you take in the city's parks and gardens.

Melbourne River Cruises, Berth 2 Southbank Promenade, Southbank. Tickets \$32.80. [Book tickets here.](#)

One Enchanted Evening Mystery Book Night (Tues 27 Oct 2026, 6.15pm). Join us and enjoy a special evening celebrating books, storytelling and the magic of live author events at Mary Martin Books. Tickets include a mystery book, a cosy venue, a glass of wine, and a moderated author session with signing. Tickets \$50. [Book tickets here.](#)

City of Literature: 3-hour Walking Tour (Thursdays, 10 am – 1 pm). This tour is ideal for curious readers, history lovers and anyone interested in the cultural forces that shaped Melbourne. 3-hour walking tour, including coffee or tea mid-way.

State Library Victoria, Tickets \$60. [Book here.](#)

The Life & Times of Flinders Lane: 1.5-hour Walking Tour (Thurs 2 pm – 3.30 pm). Flinders Lane has lived many lives — and its story is written into the buildings, laneways and corners that most people hurry past.

Corner of Spring Street and Flinders Lane, Tickets \$40. [Book here.](#)

Free Music & Performance Events – Seniors Festival

Monash Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival Gala (Sun 4 Oct 2026). Experience a vibrant celebration of Eastern culture as talented Chinese community members present an entertaining program of music, song and dance.

Jordanville Community Centre Hall, 94 Batesford Road, Chadstone. [Find more information here.](#)

Big Band Dance (Mon 5 Oct 2026). Enjoy an afternoon of big band music and dancing as part of the Victorian Seniors Festival, with the event running from midday into the afternoon.

Melbourne Town Hall, 90–130 Swanston Street, Melbourne. Free entry. [Find more information here.](#)

A Morning of Jazz (Tues 13 Oct 2026). Enjoy a morning of Parisian flair and timeless jazz classics from Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Billie Holiday, with complimentary morning tea included.

Menzies Malvern, 1306 High Street, Malvern. Free entry. [Find more information here.](#)

Dancing from the Heart (Sun 18 Oct 2026). A warm, informal afternoon of group and independent dancing to familiar tunes, MC-led, with afternoon tea included. Come solo or bring friends.

Collingwood Town Hall, 140 Hoddle Street, Abbotsford. Free entry. [Find more information here.](#)

Let's Line Dance! (Mon 26 Oct 2026). Put on your dancing shoes for a fun morning of line dancing, followed by coffee and conversation in a relaxed social setting.

1251 High Street, Malvern. Free entry. [Find more information here.](#)

Ticketed Music & Theatre Events – Seniors Festival

Harp Meditations (Thurs 8 Oct 2026). Settle into a calming seated meditation followed by a gentle harp concert with Michael Johnson, woven with stories drawn from the Gardens themselves.

Royal Botanic Gardens, 100 Birdwood Avenue, Melbourne. Tickets \$25. [Book tickets here.](#)

Starry Night – Monash Chorale (Sat 10 Oct 2026). Enjoy an uplifting evening of choral music inspired by the beauty and mystery of the night sky. Performed by Monash Chorale with guest artists, the program features a rich selection of classical and contemporary works celebrating the wonder of the stars.

Glen Waverley Uniting Church, 10 Bogong Avenue, Glen Waverley, 3150. Tickets \$35. [Book tickets here.](#)

Steel Magnolias (16–31 Oct 2026). See Robert Harling's much-loved stage play about friendship, family and the strength of a close-knit group of women, directed by Susan Rundle.

Clayton Community Centre Theatre, 9–15 Cooke Street, Clayton. Tickets \$35. [Book tickets here.](#)

Mozart, Salieri & Pleyel – Australian Brandenburg Orchestra (15-18 Oct 2026). Explore the music and rivalry of Mozart and Salieri, alongside the elegant works of Ignaz Pleyel, in a sparkling performance by the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra on period instruments. Receive our exclusive 20% discount on A & B reserve seats using code **SENIORSMELB20**

Melbourne Recital Centre, 31 Sturt St, Southbank. Tickets from \$52. [Book tickets here.](#)

Morning Music: Invictus Quartet (Tues 20 Oct 2026). Melbourne favourites Invictus Quartet present a lively morning of movie music favourites, blending virtuosic strings with humour, storytelling and audience interaction. Morning tea is included, making this a relaxed and entertaining concert to enjoy with friends.

Hawthorn Arts Centre, Hawthorn. Tickets \$20. [Book tickets here.](#)

MSO in Your Neighbourhood (Fri 23 Oct 2026). Enjoy a performance by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra featuring Joe Chindamo's new Flute Concerto, performed by flautist Eliza Shephard, alongside works celebrating Māori culture.

Wyndham Cultural Centre, Werribee. All tickets \$10; children free. [Book tickets here.](#)

Come Dance! Non-stop 50s/60s Rock and Roll (Mon 26 Oct 2026). Dance the afternoon away to non-stop rock and roll favourites from the 1950s and 1960s at this lively social event. With classic hits, a welcoming atmosphere and plenty of room to dance, it's the perfect outing for music lovers and anyone who enjoys a great afternoon of entertainment.

City of Melbourne Bowls Club Flagstaff Gardens, West Melbourne. Tickets \$25 - \$35. [Book tickets here.](#)

[Mostly Mozart Matinee: Piano Concerto No.21 \(Thurs 29 Oct 2026\)](#). The final concert in the Mostly Mozart matinee series showcases more of Mozart's timeless masterpieces alongside works by his contemporaries, performed by leading Australian musicians in the intimate setting of Elisabeth Murdoch Hall.

Melbourne Recital Centre, 31 Sturt St, Southbank. Tickets from \$52. [Book tickets here.](#)

Garden & Nature Events – Seniors Festival

[Guided Bird Walk at Wilson Reserve \(Sun 4 Oct 2026\)](#). Explore the varied habitats of Wilson Reserve with urban ecologist Dr Jacinta Humphrey, learning about local bird species, their behaviours and the importance of riverside environments for urban wildlife.

Wilson Reserve, 4 Irvine Road, Ivanhoe. Free entry, bookings essential. [Find more information here.](#)

[Learn About the Flora and Fauna of Valley Conservation Reserve \(Fri 9 Oct 2026\)](#). Join the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve for a guided walk through the reserve, learning about its native plants and animals, wetlands and Aboriginal history.

Valley Conservation Reserve, corner Waimarie Drive and Wills Avenue, Mount Waverley. Donation. [Find more information here.](#)

[Discover The World of Honey Bees \(Mon 12 Oct 2026\)](#). Meet beekeeper and author Mary Trumble for a special talk with honey tastings and garden inspiration.

Vermont South Club 30A Livingstone Road, Vermont South. Free Entry. [Find more information here.](#)

[Seniors Wildflower Walk \(Tues 13 Oct 2026\)](#). Experience spring at Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary on a special guided walk, learning about the wildflowers blooming throughout the sanctuary with a biodiversity officer.

Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary, La Trobe Avenue, Bundoora. Free entry, bookings essential. [Find more information here.](#)

[Breakfast with the Birds \(Sun 25 Oct 2026\)](#). Head to Banyule Flats Reserve for a guided birdwatching walk with local experts, followed by a delicious breakfast and presentations back at the starting point.

Old Shire Offices, 60 Beverly Road, Heidelberg. Free entry, bookings essential. [Find more information here.](#)

[The Explorer Melbourne Royal Botanic Garden Tour \(daily\)](#). Cruise around in an open-air minibus, soaking in the lush greenery and captivating living collections. The Royal Botanic Gardens hosts a variety of tours to showcase its diverse plant collections.

Read [our review here](#), or [book tickets for The Explorer tour here](#).

Arts & Exhibitions – Seniors Festival

[Eggshell Artistry: Ashburton](#) (Sat 3 Oct 2026). Explore the delicate art of eggshell decoration at this exhibition showcasing intricate and imaginative works created by members of the Victorian Egg Decorators Guild. Ashburton Community Centre, Ashburton. Ticket price not confirmed on the event page.

The Craig Family Centre, 7 Samarinda Ave Ashburton, Free entry. [Find more information here.](#)

[Stories Through the Lens](#) (5–19 Oct 2026). Explore identity, memories and life stories through a creative three-part photography series for LGBTIQA+ community members, culminating in a community gallery night. No photography experience is required.

Power Neighbourhood House, 54 Power Avenue, Ashwood. [Find more information here.](#)

[Printmaking Workshop](#) (Wed 7 Oct 2026). Carve a linocut plate, roll up ink and print your own artwork in a heritage firestation studio, guided by professional printmakers, with refreshments included.

Firestation Print Studio, 2 Willis Street, Armadale. Free entry. [Find more information here.](#)

[Dementia-Friendly Art Chat](#) (Wed 7 Oct 2026). A relaxed, small-group conversation about two or three artworks in the Gallery, facilitated by trained NGV educators — no prior art knowledge needed.

NGV Australia, Fed Square, Melbourne. Free entry. [Find more information here.](#)

[Explore Shodo: The Art of Japanese Calligraphy](#) (Tues 6 Oct 2026). Join artist, Junko Azukawa, as she hosts a Japanese calligraphy workshop. With Shodo, you will learn various brush techniques, calligraphy styles, stroke order and balance of Japanese characters.

Caesia Gardens Retirement Village, Caroline Springs. Free entry. [Find more information here.](#)

[Tapestry Hanging](#) (15 & 22 Oct 2026). Learn to use a sewing machine to create a patchwork tapestry over two sessions, then collaborate on a larger display for exhibition in Yarra libraries.

Carlton Library, 667 Rathdowne Street, Carlton North. Free entry. [Find more information here.](#)

[Celebrating Our Parks and Gardens](#) (23 Sep – 7 Nov 2026). Explore a vibrant community exhibition inspired by the parks, gardens and natural spaces that enrich

everyday life. Featuring paintings, drawings, prints and textiles, the exhibition celebrates creativity, wellbeing and a shared appreciation of nature.

Town Hall Gallery, Hawthorn. Free entry. [Find more information here.](#)

[Noble Park Community Centre Art Show \(16–18 Oct 2026\)](#). See a diverse collection of artwork created by local artists in this relaxed community exhibition, which gives both emerging and experienced artists the chance to showcase their work.

Noble Park Community Centre, Memorial Drive, Noble Park. Free entry. [Find more information here.](#)

Free Film Events – Seniors Festival

[ACMI Seniors Film Festival: An Emma Thompson Season \(5–11 Oct 2026\)](#). A week-long celebration of Emma Thompson across five films spanning her career — the restrained longing of *The Remains of the Day*, her Oscar-winning turn in *Howards End*, *Sense and Sensibility* (for which she also won Best Adapted Screenplay), *Saving Mr. Banks*, and the warmth and wit of *Good Luck to You, Leo Grande*.

ACMI Cinemas, Federation Square. Free entry, bookings essential. [Find more information here.](#)

[City of Melbourne Film Festival \(5–15 Oct 2026, multiple sessions\)](#). Free screenings across Cinema Nova and Library at the Dock celebrating love, resilience and the richness of later life, with light refreshments and post-movie conversation. LGBTIQ+ inclusive.

Cinema Nova, 380 Lygon Street, Carlton. Free entry, bookings essential. [Find more information here.](#)

[Boroondara Seniors Film Festival \(6–22 Oct 2026, multiple sessions\)](#). Five free screenings celebrating the richness of older lives on screen — from Spanish drama *Calle Málaga* to David Gulpilil's *Charlie's Country*, with director Rolf de Heer joining in person for a Q&A. Also showing: *The Truffle Hunters*, *The Richest Woman in the World* and *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*. Bookings open Tuesday 8 September, one film per person per day.

Village Cinemas Rivoli, Lido Cinemas and Palace Cinema Balwyn. Free entry, bookings essential. [Find more information here.](#)

Community & Social Events – Seniors Festival

[LGBTQIA+ Bent Twig Lunch \(Thurs 8 Oct 2026\)](#). The Bent Twig Alliance's annual social lunch offers a safe, welcoming space for older LGBTQIA+ people to connect and converse.

Djerring Centre, Eddy Court, Abbotsford. Free entry. [Find more information here.](#)

[Let's Talk Ageing with Jean Kittson \(Thurs 8 Oct 2026\)](#). Comedian, actor and author Jean Kittson shares her unique insights on ageing, wellbeing and embracing life's next chapter — with humour and honesty.

Glen Eira Town Hall, Corner Glen Eira and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield. Tickets \$20 (includes snack). [Book tickets here.](#)

[The Real Deal Chinese Dumpling \(Fri 9 Oct 2026\)](#). Learn to make authentic dumplings from scratch with U3A Chinese in Yarra, guided by Mandarin-speaking bicultural hosts, then sit down to enjoy what you've made.

Atherton Gardens Housing Estate, 95 Napier Street, Fitzroy. Free entry (bring an apron). [Find more information here.](#)

[Coffee and Culture for Seniors – delivered in Italian \(Wed 14 Oct 2026\)](#). Join an NGV guide for an informal conversation in Italian about artworks from the Gallery's collection, followed by coffee and conversation.

NGV International, 180 St Kilda Road, Melbourne. Free entry, bookings required. [Find more information here.](#)

[Hobsons Bay Tea Dance \(Wed 14 Oct 2026\)](#). Take to the floor for ballroom dancing with a live band, plus light refreshments, tea and coffee, at this non-alcoholic tea dance.

Williamstown Town Hall, 104 Ferguson Street, Williamstown. Tickets \$13.90. [Book tickets here.](#)

[Family Life Elwood Op Shop: Behind the Scenes \(Fri 23 Oct 2026\)](#). Curious about volunteering? Join an interactive behind-the-scenes session over a cuppa to learn about the organisation and how to get involved.

Family Life, 22 Ormond Road, Elwood. Free entry. [Find more information here.](#)

[Intergenerational Playgroup and Morning Tea \(Mon 26 Oct 2026\)](#). Enjoy a joyful morning of stories, music, singing, dancing, arts and crafts, sensory play and a complimentary morning tea. Bring the grandchildren or join in for a friendly morning of intergenerational connection and community fun.

Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub, 275 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe. Free entry. [Find more information here.](#)

Sport & Wellness Events – Seniors Festival

[Cycling Tour of Yarra \(Thurs 1 Oct 2026\)](#). A relaxed 20km ride from Princes Park to Cremorne taking in First Nations heritage and landmarks, with a rest and coffee stop at Abbotsford Convent.

Corner of Bowen Crescent and Park Street, Princes Park. Free entry. [Find more information here.](#)

[Friday Social Golf \(2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 Oct 2026\)](#). Enjoy a relaxed social round of golf on a compact nine-hole course, followed by coffee and friendly conversation at the Pro Shop.

Oakleigh Public Golf Course, 7 Park Road, Oakleigh. Pensioners \$13.85; concession \$20.75; golf club hire \$30.85. [Book tickets here.](#)

[Social Tennis \(6, 13 & 20 Oct 2026\)](#). A relaxed, friendly social hit for post-beginner/intermediate players, with light refreshments after. Bring your own racket or hire one on the day.

Royal Park Tennis Club, 333 The Avenue, Parkville. \$5 per session. [Book tickets here.](#)

[Silver Salties – Free Trial Classes \(8–28 Oct 2026\)](#). Try Yoga, Tai Chi, Pilates, Open Water Swimming or Strength & Mobility, free for over-60s across four Thursdays in October.

Sandringham Life Saving Club. Free entry. [Find more information here.](#)

What's on in Regional Victoria – Victorian Seniors Festival

Featured Listing

Spring into Bloom in the Bendigo Region

Spring in the Bendigo Region runs from late August right through to November, so there's no need to wait for the Seniors Festival to make the trip. Head over in September to catch the tulips and floral displays at their peak, or plan your visit for October and take in a full calendar of arts, culture, heritage and wine events as part of [Bloom 2026](#).

Delve into [175 years of gold rush history](#), or breathe in the fresh country air across landscapes shaped over more than 60,000 years. If you're visiting during the Festival month, catch the tail end of the Bloom program with the [Loddon Valley Arts Trail](#) (2–4 October) and the illuminated [Bloom After Dark](#), then stay on for the [Bendigo Comedy Festival](#) (7 – 17 October) and the [Heathcote Wine and Food Festival](#) (10–11 October). Animal and food lovers should also keep an eye on the popular [Vegecareian Festival](#) (3 October), held annually at the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion.

Treat yourself to a deluxe high tea, join a heritage or food walking tour, browse local art shows, or simply enjoy the warm hospitality of regional towns. However you like to explore, the Bendigo Region is ready to welcome you this spring.

Find more information on [Bloom here.](#)



Northern Regions Victorian Seniors Festival Events

[Retirees on the River – Seniors’ Celebrations \(7–18 Sep 2026\)](#). Echuca Moama’s inaugural seniors and retirees program invites visitors to slow down and stay a little longer on the Murray. More than 30 local businesses are offering deals across accommodation, dining, guided tours, workshops and entertainment throughout the 12 days.

Echuca Moama. Dates run just ahead of Seniors Festival month. [Find more information here.](#)

[Victorian Goldfields Railway Seniors Festival \(1–31 Oct 2026\)](#). Celebrate the Victorian Seniors Festival with a nostalgic heritage train journey through the picturesque Goldfields countryside between Castlemaine and Maldon. Seniors receive a 15% Discount when booking online during October - use PROMO Code: SENIORS26

Platform/3 Kennedy St, Castlemaine, [Book Tickets here](#) or phone (03) 5470 6658 or email info@vgr.com.au for assistance.

[Bendigo Day Trip with Lunch & Walking Tour \(Sat 3 Oct, Sat 7 Nov 2026\)](#). Travel through the scenic Macedon Ranges before exploring Bendigo’s grand gold rush heritage on a guided walking tour with Paul Daffey. Visit historic landmarks, stroll through Rosalind Park and enjoy a relaxed lunch (included in ticket price), with free weekend train travel available using a Seniors myki.

Meet at Southern Cross Station, Melbourne. [Book Tickets \\$115.](#)

Local Lands Through Elders' Eyes Exhibition (30 Sep – 15 Oct 2026). An exhibition celebrating local First Nations culture, identity, memory and belonging through the wisdom of Elders and vibrant art. No bookings required.

Benalla Visitor Information Centre, Benalla. Free. [Find more information here.](#)

Mildura Wentworth Country Music Festival (26 Sep – 4 Oct 2026). Enjoy nine days of live country music across multiple venues, featuring more than 40 Australian artists, free performances, ticketed concerts and line dancing. Set against the Murray River, this much-loved festival celebrates the best of country music in a welcoming regional atmosphere.

Mildura & Wentworth, [Read for more info](#)

Grit & Resilience Festival (10 Oct 2026). Celebrate World Mental Health Day at this free community festival featuring live music, food, games, interactive activities and wellbeing experiences. With the theme Together We Thrive, the event encourages connection, inclusion and community in a fun, welcoming atmosphere for all ages.

King George Garden, Wangaratta. Free entry. [Find more information here.](#)

Honky Tonk Queens (13 Oct 2026). Amber Joy Poulton celebrates the legendary first ladies of country music—Patsy Cline, Dolly Parton, Tammy Wynette and Loretta Lynn—with timeless hits including Jolene, Crazy, Stand By Your Man and Coal Miner's Daughter. Backed by The Holy Two, this uplifting one-hour concert is part of the Victorian Seniors Festival.

Shepparton Riverbank Eastbank. Tickets \$5. [Book tickets here.](#)

Shepparton Country Music Festival (16 October 2026). Head to the Shepparton Showgrounds for a day of live country music, part of the region's growing country music calendar. A fun, foot-tapping day out for anyone who enjoyed the Mildura Wentworth Country Music Festival earlier in the month.

Shepparton Showgrounds. [Find more information here.](#)

Wangaratta Performing Arts & Convention Centre — October Line-up. A packed month of tribute shows and theatre: Andrew Lloyd Webber favourites in *Music of the Night* (10 Oct), Michael Jackson tribute *MOONWALKER* (17 Oct), classic rock in *The Eagles Story* (24 Oct), and Bell Shakespeare's *Macbeth* (29 Oct).

Wangaratta Performing Arts & Convention Centre. Tickets from \$49.

East & Southeast Regions Victorian Seniors Festival Events

Paint and Sip with Yarra Valley Arts (3 & 31 Oct 2026). A relaxed paint and sip session with all materials supplied, run twice across October.

Healesville Memorial Hall (back room), Healesville. \$55 (\$25 for Yarra Valley Arts members), bookings required. [Find more information here.](#)

[In Their Footsteps – Bespoke Tour & High Tea at Bonegilla Migrant Experience](#) (14 Oct 2026). Be inspired by the remarkable stories of Australia's post-war migrants during a guided tour of the Bonegilla Migrant Experience. The afternoon includes a delicious high tea and fascinating insights into one of the nation's most significant heritage sites.

132 Bonegilla Road, Bonegilla, [Book Tickets \\$30.](#)

Wodonga Football and Sports Club — [Dance Through the Decades](#) (11 Oct) and [Rodney Vincent Concert](#) (16 Oct). Two social afternoons of music and nostalgia — dress up for classic hits from the 1950s to 80s, or enjoy a lively mix of country, rock 'n' roll and sing-along favourites.

84 Vermont Street, Wodonga. **Tickets soon.**

[CherryHill Orchards Blossom Festival](#) (18 Sep – 4 Oct 2026). Wander among thousands of blossoming cherry trees at CherryHill Orchards, with live music, tastings, lawn games and extra entertainment on weekends.

CherryHill Orchards, 474 Queens Road, Wandin East. Weekdays \$15 adults/\$13.50 concession; weekends \$20 adults/\$13.50 concession, \$10 children. [Book tickets here.](#)

[Tesselaar Tulip Festival](#) (12 Sep – 11 Oct 2026). Wander through fields of more than a million spring flowers, with tulips, live entertainment, international food and garden activities creating a colourful spring day out.

Tesselaar Flower Farm, 357 Monbulk Road, Silvan. Adults \$39.50, concession \$35; off-peak adults \$27.50, concession \$24.50; children aged 3–16 free. [Book tickets here.](#)

[Tea Blending Workshop](#) (multiple dates throughout Oct 2026). Spend 90 minutes tasting, learning and blending your own tea to take home with James Harris from The Botanical Brothers. Parking available.

179 Maroondah Hwy, Healesville. \$65, bookings required. [Book tickets here.](#)

[Latrobe Landfill and Pinegro Composting Facility Tour](#) (9 & 20 Oct 2026). A bus tour taking in Latrobe City Landfill and the Pinegro composting facility, with a talk on environmental controls and a look at what happens to FOGO bin contents after collection. Light morning tea provided.

Departs Gippsland Performing Arts Centre, Traralgon. Free, [bookings required.](#)

[Curatorial Exhibition and Back of House Tour](#) (multiple dates, 9–23 Oct 2026). A guide-led journey through current exhibitions, with insight into the stories behind featured works.

Latrobe Regional Gallery, Morwell. Free, [bookings required.](#)

[Old Gipps Town Heritage Park Demonstrations](#) (14 Oct 2026). Watch the blacksmith at work, explore traditional woodworking and hand spinning, see sewing on a treadle

machine, and meet volunteers in period costume along Main Street as part of the Positive Ageing Festival. Café open on-site.

Old Gippsstown Heritage Park, Moe. Gold coin donation, bookings required. [Book tickets here.](#)

[Morwell Centenary Rose Garden History and Garden Tour \(16 Oct 2026\)](#). A guided walk through the garden's history and layout, covering rose varieties, growth habits and tips for growing roses through the season.

Cnr Commercial Road and Maryvale Crescent, Morwell. Free, bookings required. [Book tickets here.](#)

Western Regions Victorian Seniors Festival Events

***[Seniors Vegemite History Trivia Tour \(7 & 21 Oct 2026\)](#)**. Celebrate the Victorian Seniors Festival with a fun and nostalgic tour exploring the history of Vegemite and its inventor, Cyril Callister. Enjoy history trivia, fascinating stories, a short film, morning tea and a delicious Vegemite-inspired treat in this friendly, interactive museum experience.

Cyril Callister Museum, Beaufort, Tickets \$15. [Book tickets here.](#)

[Bay & River: Two Cruise City Explorer](#) — Port Phillip Ferries (Tues 13 Oct 2026). For Bellarine locals: Cruise Portarlington to Docklands, then enjoy a guided Yarra River cruise, with coffee and tea included. Spend the rest of the day exploring the city before your ferry trip back. *Tickets \$80. [Book here](#)*

[Discovering the Impressionists](#), Geelong Gallery (until 11 Oct 2026). This exhibition flows across five galleries, presenting more than 70 paintings from across two generations of Impressionist artists, the majority from private collections in France and never before seen in Australia. **[Tickets from \\$25.](#)**

There is also **[Claude Monet and Australian Impressionism \(until 25 Oct 2026\)](#)**, a free exhibition pairing Claude Monet's celebrated Haystacks, midday with works by leading Australian Impressionists.

Geelong Gallery, Little Malop Street, Geelong, Free entry.

[Garden Sanctuary: Visions of Australian Flora \(5 Sep – 6 Dec 2026\)](#). Explore a new exhibition bringing together four contemporary artists whose work responds to the richness and complexity of Australian plant life, from botanical illustration to sculpture.

National Centre for Environmental Art, WAMA Foundation, Halls Gap. Read our [review of WAMA here.](#)

[Bolobek Garden Fair \(3–4 Oct 2026\)](#). Enjoy a weekend celebrating horticulture with garden tours, guest speakers and more than 50 specialist stallholders, all set within the historic gardens of Bolobek.

Bolobek, 370 Mount Macedon Road, Macedon. Ticket prices to be announced; sales open from late August 2026. [Find more information here.](#)

[Geelong Stamp and Coin Fair \(9 Oct 2026\)](#). A morning for collectors, with 25 stamp and coin dealers plus local club members on hand, and coffee, tea and biscuits included.

Geelong West Town Hall, Geelong West. Free. [Find more information here.](#)

[British Baking Class: Scones & Welshcakes \(10 Oct 2026\)](#). Learn classic British baking techniques in this hands-on class, including an award-winning scone recipe and Welshcakes, with recipes, tea and take-home treats included.

Piper Street Food Co, Piper Street, Kyneton. [Find more information here.](#)

[Duneira Estate Bluebell Festival \(31 Oct – 1 Nov 2026\)](#). Celebrate spring at historic Duneira Estate as its Dutch Elm Avenue is carpeted with bluebells. Enjoy local music, guided garden tours, the historic homestead, art, local produce and refreshments.

Duneira Estate, 1 Officer Lane, Mount Macedon. [Find more information here.](#)

[Celebrating Seniors Festival at Creswick Woollen Mills \(1–16 Oct 2026\)](#). Join a short, expert-led talk through the Mill Museum's Recycling Exhibition, where locals share the "Legends of Recycling" behind this pioneering regional textile business — now turning end-of-life fabric into rugs and blankets. Complimentary tea and coffee included, and the Mill Shop and farmyard are open weekends.

Creswick Woollen Mills, Creswick. Free, must be pre-booked 48 hours in advance (booking code PGZB9G). [Find more information here.](#)

[Candlelight: Ed Sheeran Meets Coldplay \(23 Oct 2026\)](#). Enjoy favourite songs by Ed Sheeran and Coldplay performed by a string quartet in the atmospheric candlelit setting of Ballarat's historic Goods Shed.

Terminus Theatre at The Goods Shed Ballarat, 200 Lydiard Street North, Soldiers Hill. Tickets from \$47. [Book tickets here.](#)

[J Ward Heritage Tour, Ararat \(5 & 7 Oct 2026\)](#). Travel together from Melbourne and enjoy a guided heritage tour of J Ward's historic asylum buildings with free time to explore Ararat. Free for Seniors Card holders.

Meet at Southern Cross Station at 7.50 AM. [Book here](#)

[Fascinating Fridays at Flagstaff Hill \(9, 16, 23 & 30 Oct 2026, 2–3.30pm\)](#). A different themed afternoon each Friday in October at this historic maritime village — step back in time for a Corsets & Curves fashion parade, meet a Maremma guardian dog and hear the penguin protection story, discover 1870s school life, or uncover some of Warrnambool's hidden historical stories.

Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village, 89 Merri Street, Warrnambool. [Find more information here.](#)

Best Discounts For Seniors During Seniors Festival 2026



Seniors Month Sightseeing Deals in Melbourne

*[Melbourne River Cruises](#) (1 – 31 Oct 2026). Cruise the Yarra this Seniors Month with 20% off concession tickets on all sightseeing cruises when booking online. The discount is applied automatically at checkout for Seniors Card holders, or you can book in person at the kiosk on Berth 2, Southbank. Read [Kathy's review here](#) for tips and insights on her own experience. [Book tickets here.](#)

*[Melbourne Skydeck](#) (1 – 31 Oct 2026). Take your Melbourne adventure to new heights! At Melbourne Skydeck, Seniors Card holders enjoy an exclusive offer of **\$25 General Admission** with a free tea or coffee to enjoy from the Skydeck. **Available for walk-ins during October only**; no pre-booking required. Read about [Chris' thrilling experience on The Edge here](#). [Book tickets here.](#)

[Arthur's Seat Eagle Gondola Ticket](#) (1 – 31 Oct 2026). **10% Seniors Card discount** Soar above the treetops on a scenic gondola ride to the summit of Arthurs Seat, taking in spectacular views across Port Phillip Bay, Melbourne's skyline and the Mornington Peninsula National Park. Tickets from \$22. Book online: [Arthur's Seat Eagle Gondola Ticket.](#)

[Birrarung Wilam Walk – Public Walking Tour](#) (Monday – Friday, 1.00 pm). Take **50% off** this guided walk from Federation Square to the Aboriginal art installations along the Yarra, learning the stories of the Kulin Nation and Melbourne's cultural history. Ends with

a hands-on artefact session at the Koorie Heritage Trust. Seniors Card tickets \$20. [Book online.](#)

Best Seniors Festival Deals on Attractions

*[Peninsula Hot Springs \(1–31 October\)](#). Time to unwind — Seniors Card holders enjoy Bath House entry from \$50, and every visit in October goes into the draw for an overnight Eco Lodge stay worth \$1,460! [Book tickets here.](#)

*[SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium \(book here\)](#) — Seniors Card holders get 20% off entry this October. Tickets from \$32. Wander through underwater tunnels and come face-to-face with sharks, rays and rescued sea turtles. *Read our review.* [Book tickets here.](#)

[Smithsonian Starstruck: An Immersive VR Experience](#) (Ongoing). 15% Seniors Card discount

Journey beyond the stars in a free-roam virtual reality adventure, where real astronomical data brings galaxies, black holes and distant worlds to life in an unforgettable immersive experience. Tickets from \$34.50, [Book online here.](#)

[ArtVo](#) (Ongoing). 18% off entry for Seniors Card holders

ArtVo transforms traditional art appreciation into an immersive experience, inviting visitors to step inside the interactive murals and unleash their creativity within a world where every wall becomes a canvas for boundless self-expression. [Book ArtVo tickets here.](#)

[Machu Picchu VR: Journey to the Lost City](#) (Ongoing). 15% Seniors Card discount.

An immersive VR experience giving visitors the chance to walk through the famed ruins of Machu Picchu in extraordinary detail. Seniors Card tickets \$30. [Read Kathy's review here.](#) [Book tickets here.](#)

[Rome: Empire, Power, People – Melbourne Museum](#) (until 25 Oct 2026). This major Melbourne-exclusive exhibition brings ancient Rome to life through more than 150 original artefacts—including statues, mosaics and jewellery—exploring the Empire's power, culture and everyday life through immersive displays and storytelling. *Seniors Card tickets \$30.* [Read Kathy's review here.](#) [Book tickets here.](#)

[Rippon Lea Estate Garden + Souvenir](#) (Ongoing). 10% Seniors Card/Concession discount

Explore the magnificent Rippon Lea Estate, where nearly 14 acres of heritage gardens, tranquil lakes and grand Victorian landscapes provide the perfect setting for a relaxing day out. Tickets from \$24. [Book online here.](#)

Best Seniors Festival Food and Drink Deals in Melbourne

[Chocolate Buddha, Federation Square](#) (1 – 31 Oct 2026). Tasty Japanese meals and a sushi train in the heart of the CBD. Festival special: When you spend \$20 per head, enjoy a delicious dessert with tea or coffee for just \$10. Also enjoy **10% off the total bill**. Year-

round offer of 10% discount. Highly recommended, read our [review of Chocolate Buddha here](#).

[Gaylord Indian Restaurant, Grand Hotel](#) (1 – 31 Oct 2026). Authentic Indian dishes in a quiet and relaxed restaurant. **Take 10% off your total bill** when presenting your Seniors Card. [Read our review here](#).

[Strangers Corridor/Parliament of Victoria Dining Rooms](#) (1 – 31 Oct 2026). Treat yourself to a royal affair at Parliament House in Melbourne and savour the essence of Victorian elegance in every sip and bite. Take 10% off the standard lunch menu or high tea. [Read our review here](#).

Best Seniors Month Deals on Health & Recreation

[Livewell Health Physio](#) – \$42 Balance and Fall Risk Assessment (save over 60%), 1 Sept–31 Oct. A personalised check for over-60s to help you stay strong, steady and confident.

[Book online](#) or call 03 9193 7639.

[Ascot Vale Leisure Centre](#) – Save 28% on entry to the gym, 25m indoor pool, spa, steam, sauna and over 100 group fitness classes.

2 Langs Road, Ascot Vale. Ph: 03 9283 6402. [Find more information here](#).

Best Seniors Festival Deals on Live Shows & Entertainment

[Mozart, Salieri & Pleyel – Australian Brandenburg Orchestra](#) (15-18 Oct 2026). Receive our exclusive **20% discount** on A & B reserve seats using code **SENIORSMELB20**. Explore the music and rivalry of Mozart and Salieri, alongside the elegant works of Ignaz Pleyel, in a sparkling performance by the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra on period instruments. [Book Tickets here](#).

[Melbourne Magic Show – Impossible Occurrences](#) (Fridays, 7.30 pm or 9.30 pm). Experience mind-blowing illusions and mind-reading up close in this intimate magic performance by master magician Luke Hocking at the Marriott Hotel, Melbourne, blending sleight of hand, theatrical flair and audience interaction. **\$35 tickets (Seniors Card discount)**. [Tickets & info here](#).

[Candlelight Concerts](#) (various dates). Discover the beauty of [Candlelight Concerts](#) in iconic venues across Melbourne, showcasing a variety of musical genres under the soft glow of candlelight.

Various dates and venues. Tickets from \$28. [Book tickets here](#).

Best Seniors Festival Deals in Regional Victoria

[A TRAMendous Day Out, Bendigo \(4–11 Oct 2026\)](#). \$25 for three experiences. Your Seniors Card gets you a Vintage Talking Tram tour through Bendigo's historic streets, entry to the Bendigo Military Museum, and scones with jam, cream and a hot drink at the Bendigo Tram Café — all wheelchair accessible.

[Book by phone: \(03\) 4444 2810.](#)

[Walk with Wildlife Tour, Apollo Bay \(1–31 Oct 2026\)](#). 50% off with code **WWSENIORS2026.** A 75-minute guided walk through the Wildlife Wonders sanctuary on a step-free 1.4km trail, with a chance to spot koalas, kangaroos and emus in the wild. Accessible parking and toilets on site. Tickets from \$26.50. **[Book online.](#)**

[Trail of Lights, Mildura \(1–31 Oct 2026\)](#). \$15 for seniors — use code "Seniors" online. An immersive evening walk along the Murray River through artist Bruce Munro's 12,500-light installation, including his signature *Gone Fishing* sculptures. Wheelchair and pram accessible with assistance; a free beverage is included for senior ticket holders. **[Book online](#)** or in person at the Mildura Visitor Information Centre.

[Warrnambool Annual Orchid Show — Behind-the-Scenes Tour \(2 Oct 2026\)](#). \$4 entry. An exclusive preview of the Warrnambool and District Orchid Society's show before public opening, with local experts on hand to share growing and care tips for the award-worthy blooms on display. **[Find more information here.](#)**

[Creswick Woollen Mills \(1–16 Oct 2026\)](#). Join a short, expert-led talk through the Mill Museum's Recycling Exhibition, where locals share the "Legends of Recycling" behind this pioneering regional textile business — now turning end-of-life fabric into rugs and blankets. Complimentary tea and coffee included, and the Mill Shop and farmyard are open weekends. *Creswick Woollen Mills, Creswick. Free, must be pre-booked 48 hours in advance (booking code **PGZB9G**).* **[Book here.](#)**

Navigating the Seniors Festival Event Calendar

Here is the direct link to the official Seniors Festival Event Calendar:

<https://www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/festival-calendar>

Step 1: Search by keyword

If you already know roughly what you're after, start with the search term box at the top and type it in — the calendar suggests things like "dance," "table tennis" or "scones" as examples, so don't overthink it. A simple word is enough.

Step 2: Narrow it down by category

If you're browsing rather than searching for something specific, use the Category and Sub-category dropdowns instead. This is often quicker than scrolling through everything on offer.

Step 3: Set your location and radius

Enter your town or postcode in the Location field, or click "Use my location" to let it find you automatically. There's also a search radius option (10km by default) — widen it if nothing's coming up nearby, or narrow it if you're only after something walkable.

Step 4: Filter by date

Everything runs across October, but events are spread throughout the month. Pop in a start and end date to see what's on when you're free.

Step 5: Try the map view

Alongside the List view, there's a Map view showing events as pins across the state. It's a great way to see what's happening near you at a glance — the numbered clusters show how many events are grouped in an area, and it zooms in as you click through. One tip: hold Ctrl and scroll your mouse wheel to zoom in and out smoothly, rather than using the on-screen zoom buttons.

Step 6: Save events to your favourites

Here's the one most people miss: there's a "View favourites" heart icon in the top right of the page. As you browse, you can save events you're interested in rather than trying to remember them all or keeping a separate list. Well worth using if you're planning to come back and book later.

A few honest tips

- We're not affiliated with the Victorian Seniors Festival or the team behind the event calendar — we're just fellow Victorians who've spent a lot of time on this site ourselves and want to make it easier for you.
- If you're struggling to reach anyone for help with a booking or question, you're not imagining it — customer service can be hard to get hold of during the festival

period. Your first port of call should be the Festival organisers directly: email seniorsfestival@dffh.vic.gov.au or call 03 8850 6164.

- Don't feel like you're doing something wrong if it takes a few goes. It's a big system covering well over a thousand events, and it trips up plenty of people.
- If you're still stuck, or a booking link isn't working, or you just want a second pair of eyes — email us at amy@seniorsinmelbourne.com.au. While we can't fix the site itself, we'll do our best to help you track down what you're after.

Don't forget to check our local library, Coles supermarket or community centre for a printed copy of the guide.