

**REGIONAL CENTRE FOR CULTURE  
KICKS OFF 2018 ON VALENTINES DAY  
WITH A LOVE LETTER TO THE HEART OF VICTORIA**

Victorians are invited to celebrate the start of the inaugural **Regional Centre for Culture** program that kicks off in Bendigo's Rosalind Park on Wednesday, February 14, from 6:00pm to 9:30pm.

The event, ***Love Letters to the Heart Of Victoria***, will celebrate the wonder of Central Victoria with the unveiling of a commissioned large-scale sculpture, a music stage, street performers and interactive installations. Visitors are invited to bring a rug and a picnic or enjoy a bite from one of the on-site food trucks.

This free public event heralds the beginning of an unprecedented showcase of local creativity set to enliven the cultural communities of four municipalities in central Victoria across 2018 - **The City of Greater Bendigo, Central Goldfields, Mount Alexander and Hepburn Shires**.

The evening will feature a large-scale artwork ***Heart*** - an enormous sculpture created by **Felipe Reynolds** and Traditional Dja Dja Wurrung Owner and artist **Racquel Kerr**. Inspired by the rivers, country and mountains of Dja Dja Wurrung Country, ***Heart*** will be the centrepiece around which thousands of love letters written by people from the region will be incorporated into the sculpture.

Regional Centre for Culture producers **Jo Porter** and **Elizabeth Walsh**, have put a call out to local community groups, residents and visitors to share their insights and passions for the region in which they live, love and call home.

'Everyone is invited to write and bring their love letters to Rosalind Park where they will be incorporated into the huge artwork that celebrates the region and will be kept as a record of the Regional Centre for Culture,' said Porter/Walsh. 'Write or draw your letter on A4 paper and post them from February 10 in the giant letter box in Rosalind Park, or bring them along to the event on Valentine's Day'.

The free Valentine's Day program will also feature a smoking ceremony from the Dja Dja Wurrung People and the announcement of additional RCC 2018 program elements.

The band stage will showcase Victorian talent including family based rock band **Leeway**, live electronic duo **Rachel by the Sea**, Balkan brass band **Seducephones**, and a **Dja Dja Wurrung Presentation**.

Other attractions include **Dudu Gudu Silent Disco Tours** and the interactive performance art installation **Gherkin Khan's Amusement Alcazar**. Animal sculptures from Clunes based artist **Tom Ripon**. The **League of Kindness** and a big entrance from members of **Bike Bendigo** will bring additional colour and wonder to the event.

***Love Letters to the Heart of Victoria*** is the first event of the **Regional Centre for Culture 2018** program to be delivered under the headline, **Wonder**. The yearlong program is divided into themes that align with the six seasonal Times observed by the Dja Dja Wurrung people and celebrates the region's vibrant culture and diverse communities.

**Larrka Dja Dja Wurrung Kundingja**  
*Home of the Dja Dja Wurrung People*

**Love Letter to the Heart of Victoria event details:**

**Date:** February 14, 2018

**Time:** 6:00pm – 9:30pm

**Place:** Rosalind Park, Bendigo

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