

2026 ANNUAL GRANTS PROGRAM - FESTIVALS & EVENTS FUNDING STREAM

Applicant	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Recommended Funding
Lilydale Township Action Group LTAG	Lilydale Melba Festival & Street Fair	Lilydale Identity & Street Fair Initiative Lilydale Township Action Group Inc will strengthen Lilydale’s identity through heritage celebration and community collaboration—supporting local businesses, cultural groups, and First Nations peoples. Paired with LTAG’s Street Fair, the event will feature entertainment, market stalls, and educational displays, aiming to revitalise Lilydale and promote it as a vibrant destination.	\$10,000.00

Applicant	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Recommended Funding
Melbourne Gun Club	2026 World Championships Fosse Universelle - UT Opening & Closing Ceremony	Melbourne Gun Club will host the World Championships for Clay Target Shooting and would like to showcase an amazing Opening Ceremony to welcome athletes from all over the world where we will acknowledge our indigenous heritage and all of the things the amazing Yarra Valley has to offer.	\$5,150.00

Applicant	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Recommended Funding
Selby Community House Inc	SelbyFest	SelbyFest is a free festival in the scenic Minak Reserve, Dandenong Ranges, celebrating environment, culture, and inclusivity. With live music, art, workshops, buskers, and stalls showcasing local artists, food, and businesses, it's a vibrant day for all. Highlights include the Indigenous Bush Food Garden and Wombalana Wild Garden Playground, creating a welcoming space for all ages, cultures, and abilities.	\$15,000.00
Mountain District Radio Inc (3MDR)	3MDR 2026 Events	In 2026, 3MDR will host two live studio gigs and broadcast four key community events: our Sri Lankan program's music showcase, Belgrave Survival Day, and the Anzac Day dawn service. The much-loved vinyl fair returns, attracting music fans across the hills. We'll also deliver two professional development seminars to support local musicians with expert insights into gigs, festivals, and airplay.	\$8,500.00
Healesville Toastmasters	Healesville Zine and Comic Festival	The Healesville Zine and Comic Festival celebrates the art of storytelling with zines and comics. A two-day celebration of storytelling at the Memo, featuring zine and comic workshops, speeches, open mic poetry, Toastmasters demos, D&D, and a vibrant zine fair. Leading up, Healesville Sanctuary hosts Wild Zine workshops where visitors create nature-inspired zines to trade at the fair. Supported by Toastmasters D73, Yarra Valley FM, Healesville Sanctuary, Your Library & Sticky Institute.	\$14,863.00

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Warburton Primary School	Night of Lights Lantern Festival and Bush dance	For the first time, Warburton and Millwarra Primary Schools will co-host two inclusive community events. The Lantern Festival features a student lantern parade, bush dance, dinner, and live music. Millwarra's Market Day at East Warburton will showcase local stalls and school spirit. Both events aim to bring families and the wider community together in celebration.	\$5,000.00

Applicant	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Recommended Funding
Kilsyth Community Action Group	Kilsyth Festival	Kilsyth Village Fair — Community Celebration at Elizabeth Bridge Reserve Kilsyth Community Action Group will host a relaxed outdoor festival at Elizabeth Bridge Reserve, featuring live performances, activity zones, and stalls from local artists, businesses, and groups. Designed to foster community spirit, the event aims to engage more families, youth, and local traders.	\$15,000.00

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Healesville Festival Inc	Healesville Festival	Following glowing community feedback, this two-day festival builds on the 2025 format with multicultural performances, First Nations artists, workshops, and family-friendly fun. Day One activates local venues with music and cultural acts; Day Two, “Family Fun Day,” brings free activities, roaming performers, and local food to a Yarra Ranges Council outdoor space. The event celebrates diversity, strengthens connections, and supports Healesville’s growing identity as a cultural destination.	\$15,000.00
Connecting Community Festival	Connecting Community Festival	A vibrant two-day celebration kicks off with Friday night's Writers & Rhythm concert at the Uniting Church, featuring a Melbourne guest artist. Saturday brings family fun at Healesville Library, creative workshops and performances at The Memo—including poetry, belly dancing, zine-making, and more—plus a street parade and community showcases. The evening wraps up with a Rotary/U3A Community Ball and an Outdoor Youth Concert spotlighting emerging local talent.	\$15,000.00
Ranges Academy of Performing Arts Inc.	Lantern and Light International Children's Film Festival (LLICFF) 2026	The LLICFF is a major international children’s festival, focused on essential short films made by young people. Alongside regional young filmmakers, the LLICFF hosts stories from many cultures and varying ways of life. This intercultural adventure encourages empathy and understanding, with films made through the eyes of young people themselves.	\$9,410.00

Applicant	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Recommended Funding
Healesville Connect	Healesville Connect Twilight Picnic Encore	This inclusive community picnic offers all-age entertainment with Wurundjeri Welcome and Smoking Ceremony, old-fashioned races, live music, and bush dancing. Guided park explorations, a petting zoo, and activities with Healesville Sanctuary volunteers celebrate local nature and culture. Thanks to YRC sponsorship, the event features a free BBQ, fresh fruit, and sweet treats — no cost, just connection.	\$6,957.00
Cire Services	Celebrate Yarra Ranges!	Cire Community Hubs is hosting a free two-day October event in Yarra Junction brings together over 3,000 people for art, cultural performances, workshops, and interactive experiences. Backed by 20+ local partners and students, the festival celebrates diversity, fosters collaboration, and showcases Yarra Ranges as a thriving cultural hub.	\$15,000.00

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Dandenong Ranges Literary Festival	Dandenong Ranges Literary Festival	Dandenong Ranges Literary Festival — Celebrating Storytelling in Belgrave. Planned for October 2026, this weekend festival will highlight the region’s literary heritage through talks, readings, spoken word, workshops, and industry showcases. Designed to engage writers, readers, creatives, and professionals of all ages, the event builds on insights from the inaugural 2025 festival.	\$10,000.00

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Yarra Junction Community Group	Yarra Junction Community Carols 2026	A Festive Gathering for All Yarra Junction Community Group invites everyone to a joyful, inclusive evening of music, performances, and singalongs. Featuring local schools, artists, choirs, and supported by community groups—with Santa arriving on a CFA fire truck, our postmaster in costume, and a Rotary-run sausage sizzle—this celebration brings the spirit of togetherness to life.	\$5,000.00
Yarra Valley Arts Council t/a Yarra Valley Arts	Yarra Valley Open Studios 2026	This Spring, Yarra Valley and Upper Yarra artists welcome visitors into their home studios for a hands-on glimpse into their creative process. An exhibition at The Memo Gallery highlights featured works, while guided tours offer deeper engagement. Guests can meet artists, experience works-in-progress, and purchase art directly—immersing themselves in the region’s rich artistic spirit.	\$15,000.00
Yarra Ranges Film Society	Warburton Film Festival 2026	Held the weekend after the King’s Birthday in June, the 2026 festival features eight film sessions over three days, plus a Saturday night dinner. Showcasing recent feature films from diverse genres and countries, each session includes an SUYS competition entry, with a dedicated awards presentation. We are excited that 2026 will be our 41st year of operation.	\$5,000.00

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Yarra Ranges Film Society	Healesville Mini-Film Festival 2026	Healesville Mini-Film Festival — This one-day community film event showcases three themed movies—linked by trilogy, director, or region—and features a guest speaker to spark discussion and broaden genre appreciation. A catered afternoon tea with themed cuisine rounds out the experience.	\$4,197.15
Olinda Community Pool Association (OCPA)	Sights and Sounds of Summer Season	Sights and Sounds of Summer is a vibrant seasonal series designed to bring people together in a safe, fun, and inclusive space. Highlights include a bold headline act in January 2026—such as feminist water ballet team The Clams—plus movie afternoons with water inflatables and games, and up to eight live music sessions featuring local artists from Jan to Mar. A festive “welcome back” movie in December 2026 kicks off the 2026/27 season with energy and connection.	\$7,950.00
Greater Eastern Malayalee's Melbourne INC	"Festive Harmony: Indian Christmas & New Year Extravaganza in Yarra Ranges"	Our project, "Festive Harmony: Indian Christmas & New Year Extravaganza in Yarra Ranges," is a vibrant community celebration blending Indian and South Indian traditions with holiday festivities. Held at Kilsyth Memorial Hall, this inclusive celebration blends Indian and South Indian traditions with holiday cheer through music, dance, and a festive buffet. Bringing together 200–250 people from diverse backgrounds, it fosters connection, cultural pride, and community spirit, while offering opportunities for volunteering and skill-building.	\$2,000.00

Applicant	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Recommended Funding
Celebrate Mooroolbark Inc	The Yarra Valley Wool & Handicrafts Show	This annual event celebrates fibre arts, handmade crafts, and local creativity with artisan stalls, workshops, a fashion parade, and demos. Drawing crowds from across Victoria, it fosters social connection, supports small businesses, and encourages wellbeing through hands-on activities. With support from groups like the CWA—famous for their Devonshire Tea—and craft guilds, the show is donation-based, inclusive, and proudly community-driven.	\$5,000.00
TOTAL			\$189,027.15