

10 unmissable events in February

Our guide to the best celebrations, holidays and festivals in Australia and New Zealand this month



11 FEBRUARY – 6 MARCH
Festival of Flowers
 Christchurch, South Island, NZ
 Christchurch lives up to its nickname of the 'Garden City' with its Festival of Flowers. The city's hallmark event celebrates gardens, plants and all things floral with displays, music, food, storytelling, garden tours, photography and a New Zealand tree-climbing competition. The city's streets and venues blossom with all kinds of floral-related displays.
www.festivalofflowers.co.nz



27 FEBRUARY
Harvest Picnic
 Hanging Rock, Victoria
 All you need to take to The Age Harvest Picnic at Hanging Rock is a picnic blanket and a big appetite. Food and wine producers from across Victoria showcase their tasty wares for you to buy, then you can enjoy munching them under the shady gum trees. With over 100 exhibitors there's plenty to choose from.
www.harvestpicnic.com.au



25-27 FEBRUARY
Royal Canberra Show
 Canberra, ACT
 You can watch an alpaca show, stroke farm animals and pick up show bags for the kids during the Royal Canberra Show at Exhibition Park. There are plenty of sticky treats on offer, plus a lot of wholesome fare too. As well as 5,000 animals to admire, there are fashion parades, freestyle motocross, 4x4 stunt driving and live entertainment.
www.mcas.org.au

3 FEBRUARY
Chinese New Year
 Melbourne, Victoria
 Eighty people carry the 92-metre Dai Loong (Great Dragon) through Melbourne's Chinatown to celebrate the Chinese New Year. All locals join in with the celebrations, whether of Chinese descent or not. February 2011 heralds the Year of the Rabbit and, as usual, the festival features plenty of Chinese cultural events.
www.chinesenewyear.com.au



6 FEBRUARY
Cole Classic
 Sydney, New South Wales
 A heroic spectacle of churning limbs and bobbing, coloured caps, the Cole Classic is Australia's most popular roughwater swim. Two thousand intrepid swimmers battle for breathing space over the 1.25-mile course around Sydney's Manly Bay. The Classic Challenge starts from Shelly Beach and finishes at Manly Beach.
colecClassic.com.au



19 FEBRUARY – 5 MARCH
Sydney Mardi Gras
 Sydney, New South Wales
 Sydney Mardi Gras is world-famous for this two-week festival, punctuated by major events on three successive weekends. The Mardi Gras Parade flaunts through the city centre, and is one of the most extraordinary street events you will ever see. It is a truly community-based event that anyone can enjoy, whatever their orientation.
www.mardigras.org.au

12 FEBRUARY
Wine Festival
 Marlborough, New Zealand
 The winelands around Blenheim in the Marlborough district of New Zealand's South Island open their doors to the public for tastings, gourmet cooking and live music. Over 50 wineries present their wines with workshops led by the winemakers themselves, accompanied by live music and a Fashion in the Vines contest.
www.wine-marlborough-festival.co.nz



11-13 FEBRUARY
Multicultural Festival
 Canberra, ACT
 The National Multicultural Festival takes over Canberra with three days of street entertainment, performances, food markets and exhibitions. The festival provides a unique glimpse into the life, music, dress and food of different cultures, with plenty of music concerts, dance performances and film screenings.
www.multiculturalfestival.com.au



15-20 FEBRUARY
Art Deco Weekend
 Napier, North Island, NZ
 Known for having the greatest concentration of Art Deco buildings worldwide, and built post-1931 after a devastating earthquake, the North Island town of Napier celebrates its heritage with wining, dining, jazz, dancing, film, theatre, house tours, plane rides and plenty more during its famous Art Deco Weekend.
www.artdeconapier.com



Words: Liane Voisey Image top: Simon Clark Photography Image right: Harvest Picnic Foundation Image bottom: Royal Canberra Show

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