



## **15th EEL FESTIVAL LAUNCHED**

Music Program confirmed

24 November 2025

Next year's Lake Bolac Eel Festival was launched yesterday by recent Ararat Rural City Council Mayor, Cr Jo Armstrong, following the festival AGM.

The confirmed music program announced at the launch includes Ruby Lou Band, Trudy Fatnowna Edgeley, Pirritu, Neil Murray, Heart Songs, Charlie Needs Braces, Stretch & The Truth and Ganga Giri Band.

Cr Armstrong congratulated the committee on the sustainability of the festival noting next year is the 15th festival since 2005.

"The wisdom of elders has helped shape the recognition of the festival which is a true multigenerational experience", Cr Armstrong said.

To be held on March 27-29, 2026, the festival will, for the first time, include a free Lake Walk on the Sunday sponsored by the Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group after the festival on the Saturday comprised of the music program, Forum, workshops and a Twilight Celebration.

The Festival Art Auction showcasing the talent of the region will be held on the Friday night.

At the launch, Gunditjmara Gunaikurnai woman, Adeline Thomas, provided welcomed all to Country via a video performance and introduced the festival theme 'Connecting Country and Culture'.

Known as the 'Little festival with the big heart', the festival was inspired by Lake Bolac singer-songwriter Neil Murray after a commemorative walk emulating the ancient journey to 'Buluk' (the traditional name for Lake Bolac) for the annual gathering of some 800 First Nations people for the autumn eel harvest.

So far, the next festival has secured sponsorship support from Ararat Rural City Council, Community Bank Willaura and Lake Bolac, Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group and Treasure Hunter's Hall.

Early Eel Tickets via Humanitix will be announced soon.

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