



THE COUNTDOWN TO WHITE NIGHT MELBOURNE 2017 IS ON NEW PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS ANNOUNCED TODAY

In less than 3 weeks **White Night Melbourne** will return for its fifth year. On **Saturday 18 February** from sunset to sunrise national and international artists, musicians and performers will weave a spell over the city in a celebration of culture and creativity. Today new program highlights were announced by White Night's Artistic Director and Executive Producer, **David Atkins**.

The highlights announced today include **Axiom** in the Alexandra Gardens by Melbourne-based artist Kit Webster. Sculpted from a matrix of more than 700,000 LEDs, Axiom is a large scale structural installation that explores the elements of light, sound, space and time. In a *Where's Wally* styled game, **Point to the Possums** by the White Night Possum Fanciers is for the young and the young at heart. Forty fluffy, glowing, red-eyed possums will be hiding in the trees that lead to the Royal Exhibition Building, can you find them all? In Alexandra Gardens, an awe-inspiring 5.5 metre puppet by A Blanck Canvas, **The White Night Messenger** is White Night's own herald of love, peace and compassion.

The artists for the **White Night Melbourne** music stages were also announced today, whether you're a fan of jazz, blues, rock or foot-stompin' bluegrass there is something for everyone in Bourke Street Mall at White Night's **Live Music Marathon** stage. At MPavillion, take a chill pill and indulge in the sounds of some of Melbourne's most intimate performers at **Unplugged**. If you're looking for entertainment for the whole family head down to Birrarung Marr and enjoy the colourful spectacle of **The World – Live** stage featuring Bollywood, African, Mambo, Colombian and Mexican music. For set lists and artists for each stage please visit <https://whitenightmelbourne.com.au/program>.

These highlights and more have been added to the program that was announced in December and include the monstrous fire-erupting **Pyrophone Juggernaut** at the Melbourne Museum Plaza and **Rhythms of the Night** which will light up the façade of the Royal Exhibition Building. Little Lonsdale Street will feature **Purple Rain**, the unforgettable sensory experience that was a smash-hit with revellers in 2014. Collins Street will come alive with the dance marathon, **Swing City presented by VicHealth** and St Paul's Cathedral will host a powerful collection of 24 portraits celebrating Indigenous faces of Ballarat with **Black Face (Real Face)**.

In the Alexandra Gardens large illuminated white rabbits will take over with **Intrude** and if you look up you may catch a glimpse of **The Medusa**, a majestic jellyfish floating high above the park. Across the road at The National Gallery of Victoria a special projection installation will take you on a journey through the walls of the gallery with **Viktor&Rolf – Inside Out**.

For further information on these events and the entire **White Night Melbourne 2017** program please visit <https://whitenightmelbourne.com.au/program>

With so much on offer, including installations, lighting, exhibitions, street performances, film, music, dance and interactive events, here are a few pointers to help you plan and get the most out of **White Night Melbourne 2017**.

1. **White Night Melbourne** is a popular event, so expect large crowds from 7pm to midnight. The program runs all night, so if a particular work is busy, come back at a later time. If you find yourself in a crowd, be patient and follow any directions from the **White Night Melbourne** team.
2. If you are planning to take the train consider getting off at Melbourne Central and commencing your journey at the north end which includes stunning works at the Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne Museum plaza and the Carlton Gardens.
3. Attendance is expected to be lighter after midnight. Consider arriving later or booking in dinner first.
4. The projections will take full effect from around 9:00pm, and run all night through to 7:00am.
5. Public transport will run all night (trams, trains and buses) and all city loop stations are open. Other options are bike parking and special deals with participating car parks.
6. This year, the **White Night Melbourne** northern and southern precincts have expanded considerably. Consider commencing your journey in either the Carlton Gardens or Alexandra Gardens and the Queen Victoria Gardens before coming into the city.
7. Extra road closures this year mean that while Swanston Street and Flinders Street may be particularly busy between 7:00pm and 11:00pm, Russell and Elizabeth Streets are expected to have lighter pedestrian foot traffic.
8. This year there is a great Geo map that can assist with planning your journey. Go to www.whitenightmelbourne.com.au from February 1.
9. There is so much on offer, you may not be able to see everything. However, if you do try, take advantage of the quieter spaces to rest and recharge.
10. Finally, look out for one another and have a wonderful **White Night Melbourne 2017!**

White Night Melbourne runs from 7pm Saturday 18 February to 7am Sunday 19 February. From sunset to sunrise, national and international artists, musicians and performers will weave a spell over the city in a celebration of culture and creativity. Under the ephemeral cloak of darkness the event magically transforms the City through installations, lighting, exhibitions, street performances, film, music, dance and interactive events for 12 brief hours.

White Night Ballarat will follow Melbourne from 7pm Saturday 4 March 2017 to 7am Sunday 5 March.

For the White Night Melbourne 2017 program please visit:

<https://whitenightmelbourne.com.au/program>

For footage and images please go to:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/mw2h3oa3k86a8kb/AACwmSXfg-Zit-A7vc93bNH5a?dl=0>

White Night Melbourne: 7pm Saturday 18 February – 7am Sunday 19 February 2017

For further details visit: www.whitenightmelbourne.com.au

White Night Ballarat: 7pm Saturday 4 March 2017 – 7am Sunday 5 March 2017

For further details visit: www.whitenightballarat.com.au

Media Enquiries: Kerry O'Brien Publicity

Kerry O'Brien **M:** 0418 256 503 **E:** kerry@kob.com.au
Tess Yodgee **M:** 0432 904 899 **E:** publicity2@kob.com.au

