



NORTH SYDNEY FESTIVAL

Saturday 2 November 2024

PROGRAM

Time	Mount Street Main Stage	Denison Street Workshops, Market Stalls & Aqualand Kids Creative Zone	Brett Whiteley Place Art Installation & Entertainment
11am	<p>Welcome to Country, followed by the official Festival opening</p> <p>The main stage will be emceed by writer and comedian and Jennifer Wong, all day</p>	<p>Olivia Arnold Brush Turkey Sculptures</p> <p>Sydney Textiles and Primrose Paper Arts</p> <p>Upcycled Fabric & Paper Flowers</p> <p>Koori Kinnections Bush Food Tour</p> <p>Artisan market stalls</p> <p>Aqualand Kids' Creative Zone</p> <p>Weird and Wonderful Animals</p> <p>Stanton Library</p> <p>Cosy corner</p>	<p>Art Installation by award-winning Australian artist Thom roberts from Studio A</p> <p>The Bears</p> <p>Toybox Jesters</p>
11.30am	Sarah McLeod curated by Small Fry Rock		
12pm		<p>Aqualand Kids' Creative Zone</p> <p>Good Chef/Bad Chef</p>	Toybox Jesters
12.30 pm	Ben Lee curated by Small Fry Rock		
1pm			Toybox Jesters
1:15pm		<p>Aqualand Kids' Creative Zone</p> <p>Author workshop</p> <p>Best-selling author Kristin Darell</p>	
1:20pm			Sydney Bollywood
1:40pm			Shaun Parker & Company present Hover
2pm	The Toothpicks presented by Mary's	Koori Kinnections Keep the Fire Burning Q&A	Up Up and Away
2:45pm	Jet City Sports Club presented by Mary's		
3pm		<p>Aqualand Kids' Creative Zone</p> <p>Scrolling Action/Adventure</p>	Up Up and Away
3:30pm	Sesame Girl presented by Mary's		
4pm		<p>Aqualand Kids' Creative Zone</p> <p>Zine Making</p>	<p>Up Up and Away</p> <p>Lucky African Dance</p>
4:20pm	STUMPS presented by Mary's		
5pm	Event Close		

MUSIC

[Sarah McLeod](#), curated by Small Fry Rock

11.30am, Main Stage, Mount Street

Australian singer-songwriter and rock icon, Sarah McLeod, a founding member of three-time ARIA award-winning band, The Superjesus, opens the day with a brilliant set curated by Small Fry Rock, suitable for audiences of all ages – babies and toddlers included.

[Ben Lee](#), curated by Small Fry Rock

12.30pm, Main Stage, Mount Street

On the eve of announcing his new solo album, *This One's for the Old Headz*, multi-ARIA-winner Ben Lee bring his signature romantic anthems and indie pop classics to the North Sydney Festival mainstage. Once again, this set is curated by Small Fry Rock, targeting souls both young and older.

[The Toothpicks](#), presented by Mary's

2pm, Main Stage, Mount Street

Inspired by the fearless energy of the Arctic Monkeys, the Beatles, Amy Winehouse, Jeff Buckley, and the Strokes, The Toothpicks deliver sardonic lyrics with soulful intensity. Expect infectious grooves that will tug at your heartstrings.

Listen at [Triple J Unearthed](#)

[Jet City Sports Club](#), presented by Mary's

2.45pm, Main Stage, Mount Street

Jet City Sports Club blend influences of Britpop and Aussie indie, bringing an infectious guitar driven sound topped with shimmering vocal melodies and lead lines.

Listen at [Triple J Unearthed](#)

[Sesame Girl](#), presented by Mary's

3.30pm, Main Stage, Mount Street

Since 2020 Canberra-based Sesame Girl has been steadily gaining traction along the east coast supporting the likes of Teen Jesus & The Jean Teasers, DZ Deathrays, Spacey Jane and MAY-A, whilst also selling out multiple shows of their own. Bringing a unique immediately recognisable sound influenced by 80s and 90s alt-rock, featuring founder Heather Duncan's textured, dreamy vocals, paired with energetic riffs.

Listen at [Triple J Unearthed](#)

[STUMPS](#), presented by Mary's

4.20pm, Main Stage, Mount Street

Over the past five years STUMPS have grown into one of Australia's most exciting indie finds. Known for their genre-bending, anthemic hooks and deep lyricism, the band's energetic performances have captivated audiences at headline shows, in support spots for the likes of Trophy Eyes, Dear Seattle, and Maddy Jane, and at festivals including Lost Paradise, FOTSUN and NYE On The Hill.

Listen at [Triple J Unearthed](#)

ART

Art installation by award-winning Australian artist Thom Roberts from [Studio A](#)

All day

Brett Whiteley Place

Award-winning Australian artist Thom Roberts works across painting, drawing, installation, animation and performance.

A four-time Archibald Prize finalist, you would likely recognise his iconic portraits of artist Ken Done, 2024; architect Farhad Haidari, 2023; Mud founder Shelley Simpson, 2022; and Studio A Chairman Shane Simpson, 2021.

Thom's work has been curated into some of Australia's most prestigious exhibitions and he has undertaken important residencies both in Australia and abroad.

Thom sees the world through a kaleidoscope lens. People, transport and infrastructure systems are interpreted as colourful multiples. A tangara train is named Kylie and also perceived as the Gold Coast Tower. Thom himself identifies as Burj Khalifa Tower in Dubai and as the Country Link Express service.

Trains are central to Thom's art practice. The photocopier is his other great muse and core to his process and practice.

Earlier this month Thom treated a dozen lucky locals to a special Thom-style tour and ride of the new Sydney Metro (northside). The experience started at Studio A in St Leonards, with Thom touring his visitors through his studio rituals (starting with coffee and biscuits!) and artistic practice, followed by a walk to his new local metro station Crows Nest (which Thom calls 'Wombat Town') and ride through to Victoria Cross ('Melbourne Tick station'), all narrated and experienced through Thom's unique lens.

Since then he's been working on a new public artwork inspired by this experience, to be revealed at North Sydney Festival. Keep your eyes peeled for something surprising, installed for everyone to enjoy at Brett Whiteley Place.

Studio A's talented artists with intellectual disability come together to express their artistic visions through diverse mediums. Each member of our collective is a committed professional, driven by passion and creativity. Their inspiring artworks captivate audiences of all kinds and demonstrate the rich tapestry of creativity that defines Studio A's artistic community.

ENTERTAINMENT

The Bears

11am

Brett Whiteley Place and surrounds

Players from the North Sydney Bears, along with the Bears mascot will be dropping in to join the fun at the Festival. Make sure to say hi as they make their way through the crowd and grab a photo with the stars of our local team.

Toybox Jesters

11am, 12pm and 1pm

Brett Whiteley Place and surrounds

Watch out for these long-legged roving jesters, as they make their way on stilts through the crowd.

Sydney Bollywood

1.20pm

Brett Whiteley Place and surrounds

Sydney Bollywood bring their high-energy, fun and colourful performance to North Sydney, presenting a melange of Bollywood dance favourites, alongside new South Asian fusion styles.

Shaun Parker & Company present Hover

1.40pm

Brett Whiteley Place and surrounds

Multi-award-winning Australian dance company, Shaun Parker & Company head to the streets with this expertly crafted, fun performance on wheels. Set to a soundtrack of pop favourites, five exceptionally talented dancers blend breakdance, tutting, popping, and acrobatics, while hover gliding and zooming with ease.

Up, Up and Away

2pm, 3pm and 4pm

Brett Whiteley Place and surrounds

The old romantic world of airship travel is captured in this gloriously eccentric roving act, set to a waltzing soundtrack. Grab a photo with these daring and dashing aeronauts out for a ground training session, before they head up, up and away to the clouds.

Lucky African Dance

4pm

Brett Whiteley Place and surrounds

Be sure to catch this dynamic troupe of drummers and dancers, bringing their feel-good beats and feats to the streets of North Sydney for the first time. Founded in 2012 by Ghanaian Dancer & Choreographer Lucky Lartey, Lucky African Dance brings a unique fusion of artistry and culture, delivering unmissable one of kind transformational high-energy rhythm and dance shows.

WORKSHOPS

Brush Turkey Sculpture workshop, led by [Olivia Arnold](#)

11am – 5pm, drop in anytime throughout the day

Denison Street

Discover the fascinating world of one of Australia's most famous native Australian birds, the brush turkey, and create a personalised paper feather, which will become part of a North Sydney wide display. North Shore artist Olivia Arnold leads this workshop – with the assistance of local high school students, and in the days following the Festival will bring the feathers together in a community artwork. Drop in and become part of the brush turkey flock.

Upcycled Fabric & Paper Flowers workshop, led by [Sydney Textiles](#) and [Primrose Paper Arts](#)

11am – 5pm, drop in anytime throughout the day

Denison Street

Transform fabric and paper off-cuts into beautiful, eco-friendly art pieces. Join the teams behind Textiles Sydney and Primrose Paper Arts for this free hands-on workshop and take home your own piece of upcycled wearable art.

[Koori Kinnections](#) Bush Food Tour

11am – 5pm, drop in anytime throughout the day

Denison Street

Meet the inspirational team behind Koori Kinnections and let them guide you through an interactive smell, touch, taste experience showcasing native ingredients and local bush foods. Come early for a free giveaway of native Warrigal Greens seeds – known as Australia's version of spinach, popularised by MasterChef – for your home garden.

At 2pm, join Koori Kinnections Founder/Managing Director Yuin and Wailwan woman Jessica Sinnott for a yarn about “Keep the Fire Burning,” and an “Ask Me Anything” Q&A.

ESPECIALLY FOR KIDS & TEENS

Aqualand Kids' Creative Zone

11am to 4pm

Denison Street

Hosted by the talented Siobhan Coombs, owner of [Cockatoo Comics](#) and co-organiser of the Brazen comic convention, the Aqualand Kids' Creative Zone presents a series of mind-poppingly engaging drop-in workshops throughout the day. Each session lasts one hour, allowing your little creators to come and go as they please.

11am to 12pm

Weird and Wonderful Animals:

Let your child's imagination run wild as they craft unique animals using cut-out paper parts. They'll then create a fun fact file comic, detailing their creature's habitat, diet, and special abilities.

12pm to 1pm

Good Chef/Bad Chef:

Is your child a dreamer or a daredevil in the kitchen? In this workshop, they'll design their dream (or nightmare!) dessert and star in a comic where they teach readers how to make their fantastical creation.

1.15pm to 2.15pm

Special guest workshop with best-selling author [Kristin Darell](#):

Join Kristin Darell as she guides you through the exciting world of zoos in this storytelling workshop. Curious? Come monkey around and create your own story!

3pm to 4pm

Scrolling Action/Adventure:

Young adventurers can turn a three-panel comic into an ancient scroll, complete with a mini-adventure story. They'll assemble their scroll using tape, a skewer, and ribbon.

4pm to 5pm

Zine Making:

Aimed at teens and older kids, this workshop introduces the art of zine creation. Participants will learn to fold zines in two unique ways and receive story prompts to create a fanzine, autobiographical comic, or even a spooky horror story.

[Stanton Library](#) Cosy corner

11am to 4pm

Denison Street

Nestled within the vibrant atmosphere of the North Sydney Festival, the Stanton Library Cosy Corner invites kids to relax and explore their creativity. With comfy cushions and soft seating, this charming space offers a retreat from the busy day with quiet reading nooks and gentle play.