

MEDIA RELEASE

MORAL FAIRGROUND'S FAIR@SQUARE FESTIVAL RETURNS TO FEDERATION SQUARE IN TIME FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Moral Fairground returns to Melbourne's Federation Square with its annual Fair@Square Festival on May 5, 2018 from 11:00am to 9:00pm. Celebrating all aspects of an ethical, sustainable and morally responsible lifestyle, this festival is shaping up to be the biggest, busiest and best to date.

Being the week before Mother's Day, opportunities abound for conscious gift shopping, with the Ethical Lifestyle Stalls offering a one-stop shop for visitors seeking ideas for ethical gifts. This marketplace also provides the opportunity to learn about and be inspired by the practices we can implement in our daily lives to create greater positive outcomes for the world.

Fashion

Conscious fashionistas will enjoy "Fair Fashion of the Future," an exhibition highlighting issues arising from the different stages of textile and fashion-supply chains and showcasing design-led solutions from local designers and academics. Garments from local fashion labels and social enterprises are displayed to showcase some of the ethical and sustainable clothing options consumers can now access.

Food

Of course, no festival is complete without great food and our Cooking Tent program. "The Good Kitchen," hosted by the Fair Food Forager, features cooking demonstrations by various ethical food brands with discussions on issues such as living a toxin-free lifestyle, using indigenous ingredients, and how promoting a vegan lifestyle can potentially lessen animal cruelty. Make sure to sit up front and get a chance to sample some of the cooking!

Speaking of which, various ethical food stalls will also be there with delicious dishes that help make a difference. So ready your tummy for something healthy and yummy!

Free Events and Workshops

You can feed your mind as well as your body by attending some of the many free events and workshops, including insightful and educational talks. Hear RMIT academics discuss current research on sustainable textile development to gain an understanding of how fashion can be used for social and environmental progress.

Creative types anxious to learn new ethical-living skills should visit the Sustainable Lifestyle Tent where you can learn to make alternative yarns and jewellery from waste materials. And here, everyone – creative nor not – can gather tips on how to reduce waste around the home, including advice on how to make simple repairs to your favourite garments.

Kids and adults alike will love the activation activity: "Little Disruptors." Visitors can share their views by writing them on small placards to be pinned onto or held by little toy figurines lined up in an area fondly dubbed as "Small Street." This engages visitors to express their support in a playful and fun way.

Diarise the Date

This is just a sampling of what the day holds. For more information, visit Fair@Square Festival 2018 at <http://moralfairground.com.au/fairsquare-ethical-lifestyle-festival-program-2018/> and be sure to highlight the date on your calendar.

We look forward to seeing you there!

About Moral Fairground

Moral Fairground is a Melbourne-based social enterprise and organiser of the annual Fair@Square, Australia's largest ethical lifestyle festival. Having operated within the ethical sector since 2009, Moral Fairground's aim is to create positive social impact by increasing economic opportunities and fairness within society – achievements met by creating avenues for enterprises to become more effective in delivering their social mission. Learn more about Fair@Square Festival 2018 at <http://moralfairground.com.au/fairsquare-ethical-lifestyle-festival-program-2018/>

Free to the public, the Fair@Square Festival demonstrates how Australians can act to create a sustainable future and make a difference. The festival showcases goods and services provided by conscious enterprises with staged entertainment, fair fashion shows, ethical cooking demonstrations, kid's activities, talk tents and conscious demonstrations. The festival takes place at Federation Square Melbourne on Saturday May 5, 2018, 11:00am to 9:00pm. An estimated 50,000 people are expected to attend the event.

BLURB

Fair@Square 2018

Celebrating ethical, sustainable and morally responsible behaviour, Fair@Square – the largest ethical lifestyle festival in Australia – is a free annual public event created to educate and excite visitors about conscious consumer choices, promoting ethical consumption and purchases just in time for Christmas – and for this year, Mother's Day.

This year's festival promises to be the biggest, busiest and best so far with endless opportunities for conscious Mother's Day shopping, great food, numerous free activities and workshops for the family, insightful and educational talks, live entertainment, and much, much more.

Here are some of this year's highlights:

- **The Sustainable “Lifestyle Tent for Every Age.”** If you love being creative and would enjoy picking up some new ethical-living skills, a visit to the Sustainable Lifestyle Tent is a must. There'll be plenty to keep the creative juices flowing, including the chance to make alternative yarns and jewellery from waste materials. Plus, we'll share a bunch of handy tips on ways to reduce waste around your home, including how to make simple repairs to your favourite garments. And those who enjoy adding colours to their everyday life will have a great opportunity to learn how to use natural dyes that are gentler to our beloved Mother Earth.
- **“Fair Fashion is the Future” Fashion Tent.** This exhibition highlights issues arising from the different stages of textile and fashion supply chains and showcases design-led solutions from local creatives and academics. Information about global supply chains is presented in the easily digestible form of text, imagery and interactive elements for viewers of all ages and backgrounds to engage with. Garments from local fashion labels and social enterprises are displayed to showcase some of the ethical and sustainable clothing options consumers can now access. Current research from RMIT academics on sustainable textile development is presented to enable viewers to gain a comprehensive understanding of how fashion can be used for social and environmental progress. We aim to create an environment in which attendees can learn and grow curious about where their clothes come from and how they impact the world.
- **“The Good Kitchen” Cooking Tent.** Fair Food Forager hosts the Cooking Tent program which features cooking demonstrations by different ethical food brands discussing various topics from every angle: how promoting a vegan lifestyle can potentially lessen animal cruelty, living a toxin-free lifestyle, using indigenous ingredients, etc.
- **Activation Activity: “Little Disruptors.”** Visitors can share their views by writing on small placards to be pinned onto or held by little toy figurines lined up in an area we fondly call “Small Street.” This engages visitors to express their support in a playful and fun way. Kids love it, but the activity is always hugely successful with adult audiences, too.

- **Live Entertainment.** Throughout the day engaging entertainment is provided in a variety of spots around the event.
- **Ethical Lifestyle Stalls.** The ethical lifestyle market comes alive with a range of colourful exhibitors offering ethical/Fair Trade, environmentally friendly giftware, homewares, fashion, children's wear, jewelry, new ethical products and an array of ethical service offerings that also provides a platform for advocacy groups to share the work they do in various industries such as environment protection, housing, finance, and more. The markets offer a one-stop shop for visitors looking for conscious gift ideas just in time for Mother's Day, and also provide the opportunity to learn about and be inspired by the practices they can implement in their daily lives to create greater positive outcomes for the world.

Confirmed exhibitors so far are:

1. For Dignity <https://www.fordignity.com.au/>
2. Henna Art <https://www.facebook.com/hennaartbysavita/>
3. Aloe Vera <http://www.aloevera.com.au/>
4. Northcote Natural Therapies <https://northcotenaturaltherapies.com/>
5. Inner Origin <https://www.innerorigin.com/>
6. Animal Justice Party <https://animaljusticeparty.org/>
7. Fair Food Forager <http://fairfoodforager.com.au/>
8. Australian Native Superfoods <http://www.natif.com.au/>
9. Dumu Balcony Cafe <https://www.facebook.com/dumubalconycafe/>
10. Pollinate Energy <https://pollinateenergy.org/>
11. Zeds Threads <http://www.zedsthreads.com/>
12. Qi Tea <http://qitea.com.au/>
13. Environment Victoria <https://environmentvictoria.org.au/>
14. Crepe Collective <https://www.facebook.com/crepecollective/>
15. Youth Projects <https://youthprojects.org.au/>
16. The International Avatar Course <http://www.theavatarcoursepacific.com/>
17. Homeground real Estate <http://www.homegroundrealestate.com.au>
18. Yarn Strong Sista <http://yarnstrongsista.com>
19. All-Eco Glitter www.all-ECO.com.au
20. V-Dog <https://v-dog.com/>
21. Double Park Coffee <https://www.doublepark.co/>
22. Oz Direct Marketing
23. Rolla Bottle <https://www.rollabottle.com.au>
24. Goodsmiths <https://www.goodsmiths.org/>
25. Gold Leaf Financial <https://www.goldleaffinancial.com.au/>
26. Sleepy Bear Books <http://stores.ebay.com.au/sleepybearbooks>
27. Happily Made <http://happilymade.com.au/>
28. Scarlett Vegan Bags <http://www.scarlettbags.com.au/>
29. The Timekeeper <https://www.thetimekeeper.co/>
30. Wrappa Reusable Food Wraps <http://wrappa.com.au/>
31. Eden Ministry <https://edenministry.org>
32. B-Alternative <https://www.b-alternative.com/>
33. Oxfam: <https://www.oxfam.org.au>
34. Ummu Gozleme (Turkish Pastries)
35. Finders and Makers <https://www.findersandmakers.com/>
36. Il Panzerotto Taste of Puglia <https://www.facebook.com/ilpanzerottotasteofpuglia/>

For an updated list of exhibitors, visit <http://moralfairground.com.au/exhibitors-at-fairsquare-2018/>

Quote from City of Melbourne, attributable to Chair of the City of Melbourne's Environment Portfolio, Councillor Cathy Oke:

"We're delighted to be a sponsor of Moral Fairground's 2018 Fair@Square, an event that helps raise people's awareness of the important role they can play in creating a more sustainable future. The City of Melbourne is fully committed to meet its pledge to limit global temperatures in line with the Paris Agreement. But we can't do it alone: we need everyone's input to help Melbourne become a city of sustainability. Events such as Fair@Square contribute to Melbourne's reputation as a global leader in sustainability and assist in our efforts to create a healthy city for healthy people."

(<http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-council/vision-goals/eco-city/Pages/eco-city.aspx>)

Quote from Lush:

"As a company that has implemented sustainability practices not just in the production of our range of Lush cosmetics, but throughout the entire operation – all plastic beverage containers are banned from our workspaces, and all Lush stores are now refill stations where customers can refill their reusable drink containers for free – we welcome the chance to be a sponsor of Moral Fairground's 2018 Fair@Square. Here, visitors can gather all sorts of ideas to help them lead even more sustainable lives – just as Lush is continually looking for ways to improve our sustainability profile."

(<http://www.businessawards.com.au/winners/2015/Sustainability/Lush-Cosmetics.php>)

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Links & Tags

- Program Page: <http://morfairground.com.au/fairsquare-ethical-lifestyle-festival-program-2018/>
- Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/morfairground/>
- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/events/116938009097303/>
- Twitter - <https://twitter.com/MoralFairground>
- LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/3234066/admin/updates/>
- Hashtag: **#fairatsquare**
- Tag: **@MoralFairground**