

SPARK

IPSWICH ARTS FESTIVAL

8-12 JULY

WELCOME

This winter, our premier arts festival returns to transform Ipswich with five days of colour, creativity and connection.

SPARK Ipswich Arts Festival is more than a festival – it's a celebration of everything that makes our city great: our people, our culture and our unstoppable community spirit.

The program includes hands-on workshops, mesmerising art and performances and interactive experiences designed to SPARK your curiosity.

Fan favourites Little Day Out and World of Music Ipswich are back and the Creative Hub will be buzzing day and night across all five days with school holiday entertainment and hands-on activities for the whole family.

Be immersed in Musical Mind, a glowing playground of light and sound where people of all ages and musical backgrounds can create bespoke compositions and dazzling displays.

You can also explore a vibrant range of independently produced events across the city, from music and dance to comedy and theatre.

SPARK Ipswich is the perfect excuse to light up your winter and experience the magic of our creative city with friends and family.



MAYOR TERESA HARDING
City of Ipswich

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Ipswich City Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners, the Jagera, Yuggera and Ugarapul People of the Yugara/Yagara Language Group, as custodians of the land and waters we share. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, as the keepers of the traditions, customs, cultures and stories of proud peoples.

SPARK IPSWICH ARTS FESTIVAL RETURNS FOR FIVE UNFORGETTABLE DAYS AND NIGHTS.

From Wednesday 8 to Sunday 12 July, the City of Ipswich lights up with creativity, connection and celebration. The city transforms into a vibrant festival playground, showcasing local talent, interactive art and hands-on creative opportunities.

This is an invitation to explore, discover and experience art in all its forms. From signature festival sites like Creative Hub, Little Day Out and World of Music Ipswich (WOMI), to independently produced events proudly presented as part of the program, SPARK Ipswich offers installations, performances, exhibitions, workshops and family-friendly moments that will *SPARK Your Curiosity.*




SPARK


CREATIVE HUB

Discover a bursting program of art and performance every day and night of the festival.


By day, from 10.00 am – 2.00 pm Nicholas Street Precinct is alive with creative play, mind-blowing street theatre and live music. There is an abundance of family-friendly fun to be had and plenty for adults too!


By night, the Creative Hub lights up from 5.00 pm - stretching from Tulmur Place to d'Arcy Doyle Place and spilling into local venues. Explore music, performance, interactive installations, workshops, projections, markets and more.


 **Wednesday 8 to Friday 10 July**

 10.00 am – 2.00 pm
5.00 pm – 8.30 pm

 **Saturday 11 July**

 9.00 am – 1.00 pm
5.00 pm – 8.30 pm

 **Sunday 12 July**

 10.00 am – 2.00 pm
5.00 pm – 8.30 pm

 **Nicholas Street Precinct
and d'Arcy Doyle Place**





LIVE MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE ON TULMUR STAGE DAY AND NIGHT

Laugh, gasp and tap your toes with an array of joyous acts.

See the website for everything from soulful lyrics to banging beats.

NIGHTLY PROJECTIONS + ANIMATED ARTWORKS

Experience spectacular projected artworks and animations by local artists with international acclaim. Screenings run nightly every half hour at the corner of Union Place and Nicholas Street.



BEYOND THE STAGE

Step beyond the main stage to encounter interactive installations and roving performances that invite curiosity and play – for kids and adults alike. A diverse program of workshops welcomes all ages to experiment with new art forms and share their own stories.

ARTIST NIGHT MARKET

+ DJs UNDER THE STARS

Soak up the sounds beneath the stars, then wander the stalls and sample the delights of the local creative community.

On Saturday night, Ipswich Art Gallery spills into the market space with a festival-featured, boundary-pushing sound project, MONO.

MUST SEE IN THE

SPARK CREATIVE HUB

SILENT DISCO TOURS

8–12 July | Every 30 minutes
5.30 pm – 7.00 pm
d'Arcy Doyle Place | **TICKETED**

Back by popular demand – enter a world of play and laughter as you are guided to dance your way through the festival.



CHALK + CHEESE

9–12 July | 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm
Tulmur Place | **TICKETED**

Think paint-and-sip... but with a facilitated Chalk Play shared canvas to create connection and art.

CHALK PLAY

8–12 July | 10.00 am – 2.00 pm*
and 5.00 pm – 8.30 pm
Tulmur Place | **FREE**

Wielding sticks of chalk, and guided by the artists of Inspired Art Studio, you are invited to join in the creation of a collaborative artwork inspired by Ipswich's plants and flowers. This temporary shared canvas brings people of all ages and abilities together to play and create.



KALEIDOSCOPE REFLECTIONS

8–12 July | 10.00 am – 2.00 pm*
and 5.00 pm – 8.30 pm
Tulmur Place | **FREE**

Kids and adults alike are invited to peer into giant interactive kaleidoscopes, exploring mesmerising patterns of colour and light. As evening falls, the experience pairs with the written word to cast new light on a hopeful future.



* Saturday 11 adjusted daytime hours 9.00 am – 1.00 pm



MUSICAL MIND

8-12 July | 10.00 am – 2.00 pm* and 5.00 pm – 8.30 pm | Tulumur Place | **FREE**

Step into Musical Mind by Amigo & Amigo, an immersive interactive installation that turns sound and light into a playground of creativity. Making its Queensland premiere, fresh from showings in the UK and Sydney, this artwork allows visitors of all ages to craft unique melodies and vibrant visuals through interactive touch panels. It is a celebration of innate musicality, blending harmonies and rhythms into a personalised experience.

Presented by Ipswich Festivals, produced by Amigo & Amigo.

THE BIG GROUP SING WITH MZAZA

Workshop: 11 July
5.00 pm – 6.00 pm
Near Zambrero's,
Nicholas Street Precinct | **FREE**

Performance: 11 July
7.30 pm – 8.30 pm
Tulumur Stage | **FREE**

You have the chance to join MZAZA (Australian Folk Artist of the Year, 2025) for a workshop, then step on stage to join them for a song in their set. Also catch lead singer Pauline Maudy with her brand new project on Tulumur Stage on Friday!



WORLD'S LARGEST TROMBONE ENSEMBLE RECORD ATTEMPT

12 July | 10.00 am – 12.00 pm
(Record attempt at 11.30 am)
Tulumur Place | **FREE**

How better to start a festival Sunday than with a buoyant set by the Ipswich City Big Band – and witnessing an attempt to beat the world record of 368 trombones playing together! Led by local legend Matthew Chambers, hundreds of trombones will fill Tulumur Place. Must be seen to be believed!

Have a trombone?

**Sign up to join the ensemble
on our website – all skill levels welcome.**

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS IN THE

SPARK CREATIVE HUB



MUSIC AND MOVEMENT ON TULMUR PLACE STAGE

A vibrant mix of amazing local musicians take the daytime slots from melodic storytelling to upbeat hip hop and the joy of big band, and more.



ILLUMINATED HULA HOOP PLAY SPACE

8-12 July | 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm
Tulmur Place | **FREE**

Step into the glow of an LED hoop and discover the skill of hula hooping with these drop-in workshops.



BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION WORKSHOP

8-12 July | 12.00 pm – 2.00 pm* and 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm
Tulmur Place | **FREE**

Join Nicole Crossell, scientific illustrator with the Queensland Herbarium, to discover the art of botanical illustration. Drop in for a single session or return day after day to develop and refine your skills.



* Saturday 11 adjusted daytime hours 9.00 am – 1.00 pm

STREET THEATRE

8-12 July | Various Times
Tulmur Place | **FREE**

Astounding circus stunts and big laughs for all ages as street theatre acts from around the world tumble into central Ipswich in both the day and evening program.



TIN CAN RADIO BY EVERYBODY NOW

Workshop: 8 July | 10.00 am – 2.00 pm | Nicholas Street | **TICKETED**
Broadcast: 10 July | 10.00 am – 2.00 pm | Nicholas Street | **FREE**

A playful live pop-up radio broadcast created and presented by local young people. Sign up to the workshop to be one of the key hosts and learn how to create radio! Alternatively, drop in on the broadcast to submit top tips and interview questions, create segments or sound effects, guest host or simply enjoy the live radio experience.



Image credit: Elements Collective Get On Up Youth Program

STREET DANCE WORKSHOP

8-10 July | 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm |
Tulmur Place | **FREE**

Street dance artists from Elements Collective invite you onto Tulmur Stage for an open workshop combining movement, music and self-expression. All ages and abilities welcome.



MORE SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN AT SPARK

See the full lineup of workshops and performances at Creative Hub on the website.

Enjoy Tai Chi and Kids Zumba in Tulmur Place with Active and Healthy, explore Ipswich Libraries activities across the city and discover even more throughout the school holidays.

EXPLORE THE FULL PROGRAM SPARKIPSWICH.COM.AU

SPARK

LITTLE DAY OUT

Little by name, BIG on fun.

With a focus on sustainability, Little Day Out, presented by Verso Projects in partnership with Ipswich Festivals, is bursting with live music, hands-on creative experiences, tasty food trucks and delightful roving entertainment. Gather your festival crew and get ready to sing, dance, create and play as Ripley Town Square fills with energy and imagination.

From building a cardboard box village to grooving at the Jumbo Funk Disco or adding your handprint to the pledge wall, there's plenty to explore. Plus you won't want to miss 3-piece Australian band, The Gumboots, bringing playful, high-energy songs that get kids and adults dancing together.

So, grab your dancing shoes (or gumboots!) and get ready to boogie at Little Day Out.

Little Day Out programming is focused on children aged 8 and under.

-  **Saturday 11 July**
-  **9.00 am – 3.00 pm**
-  **Ripley Town Square**
-  **\$5 per entry**
children with a purchased ticket receive a bucket hat

**VERSO
PROJECTS.**

 **IPSWICH
FESTIVALS**



SPARK

WORLD OF MUSIC

A celebration of global music,
dance, culture and community.

This vibrant, free event returns to Springfield with live performances, hands-on workshops, international flavours plus artisan crafts and markets, showcasing the rich cultural diversity of Ipswich and South East Queensland.

Main Street, Orion Springfield Central, comes alive with rhythm and colour as performers from around the world share their music and stories. Whether you're dancing, discovering something new or soaking up the atmosphere, it's a lively celebration for all ages.

Featuring performances by:

Afrophonix | Bullhorn
City of Ipswich Pipe Band
East of West | Estampa
Gen | Girl From Greece
Let's Bollywood
Matala 'o e Pasifiki | Menaka
Milne Bay Dancers
Ngā Mānia Onewhero
Samba Vibes

-  **Sunday 12 July**
-  **9.00 am – 4.00 pm**
-  **Main Street,
Orion Springfield Central**
-  **FREE**

Supported by



Orion
Springfield Central

 **IPSWICH
FESTIVALS**

SPARK SPOTLIGHT

BEYOND THE KEY FESTIVAL SITES

FEVER: CANDLELIGHT CONCERTS

10 July | 6.00 pm and 8.00 pm
St Mary's Catholic Church | **TICKETED**

Experience the magic, where live music meets a sea of flickering candles. Set within St Mary's Catholic Church, this intimate concert series transforms a familiar landmark into something extraordinary. From classical to contemporary, each performance blends atmosphere and artistry, creating a truly magical evening that lingers long after the final note.



JIMMY REES ONE NIGHT ONLY

11 July | 7.30 pm
Ipswich Civic Centre | **TICKETED**

Fresh from his sold-out 2025 *In Reel Life* tour, Australia's favourite entertainer Jimmy Rees brings his hit comedy to Ipswich for the first time in years.

With sharp satire and brilliant social commentary,

Jimmy has become a viral sensation, boasting 4.5 million followers worldwide.



Image credit: Jorge Serra

IAG X MONO

11 July | 5.00 pm – 9.00 pm
Ipswich Art Gallery and d'Arcy Doyle Place | **FREE**

Ipswich Art Gallery collides with the Institute of Modern Art for a special expanded presentation of MONO; a night of boundary pushing sound, evocative movement and durational performance that invites audiences to lean into sense and sensation! This experience weaves throughout the gallery and spills into d'Arcy Doyle Place.

Plus your chance to explore exhibitions: *LightPlay*, *The World Came Flooding In* and *Ties that Bind* in the Ipswich Art Gallery's UP LATE.

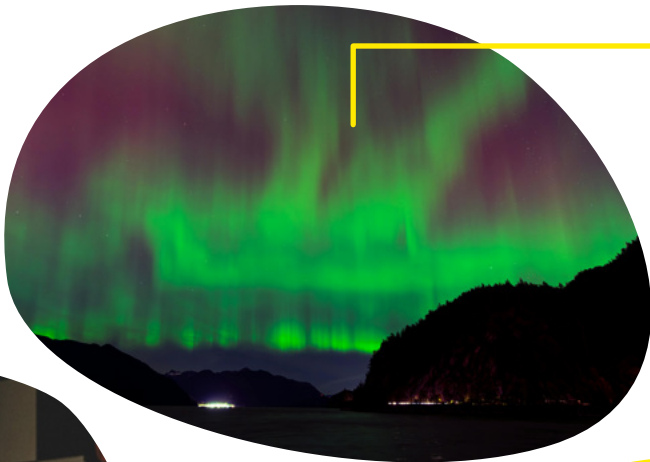




SCREAMFEEDER

11 July | 7.00 pm | Studio 188 | TICKETED

Screamfeeder bring their Mixtape Sessions to Studio 188, celebrating the enduring legacy of Rocks On the Soul. Expect an intimate night of iconic songs, deep cuts and stories from a band that helped define a generation of Australian independent music, delivered with energy, heart and grit live.



NORTHERN LIGHTS

11 July | 7.30 pm
St Mary's Catholic Church
TICKETED

The Blackstone-Ipswich Cambrian Choir Inc. invites you to bask beneath the Northern Lights and immerse yourself in a vast and sweeping landscape to the soundtrack of music from medieval to modern, featuring choir, strings, piano and organ.



SPARK AFTER PARTY

When the outdoor program wraps up, the festival continues with a late night trail of venues keeping the art, music and energy flowing. Visit the website for details.

**Banshees Bar & Artspace | Monte Lane
Stony Creek Brewing | The Rusty Nail**

SPARK SPOTLIGHT

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS AND MUST SEES



IT'S MATERIAL COLLECTIVE OPEN STUDIO

8–12 July | 12.00 pm – 6.30 pm
Ipswich Art Workshop | **FREE** | 12 years +

It's Material is an artists' collective whose contemporary jewellery practices span minimalist form, feminist ethics and the environment. Visit daily open studio sessions where you can meet the artists and get hands-on in exploring their art forms, making a small piece of jewellery for yourself.



SCIENCE OF STORIES: ZINE WORKSHOP

8 July | 10.00 am – 12.00 pm
Springfield Central Library
FREE | Strictly 12 years +

Get creative and hone your artistic skills in this hands-on zinemaking workshop. Construct an original short story employing art, crafts and words and walk away with your very own zine.

Presenter: Mei Jones

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

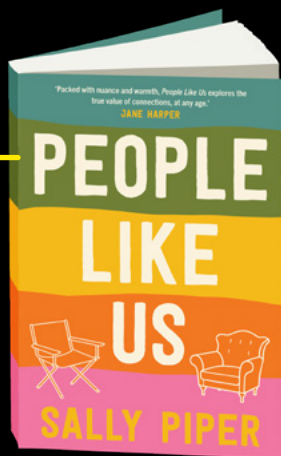


AUTHOR HOUR: SALLY PIPER

9 July | 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm
Ipswich Central Library | **FREE**

Join Sally as she discusses her new novel *People Like Us*, a topical, absorbing story celebrating the power of female friendships and the promise of unexpected new beginnings.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL



SAPLINGS

9 July | 7.30 pm
Ipswich Civic Centre
TICKETED

A collection of hilarious and heartbreaking stories born from workshops with young people experiencing the youth justice system.

This award-winning work by Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP) is presented by Ipswich Civic Centre.

Visit Tulumur Place before the show to complete your evening with music from powerful local bands LanGwij and Jamiesha.



THE 8 BALL AITKEN BAND AND DILLION JAMES

10 July | 7.00 pm
Banshees Bar & Artspace
TICKETED

Get ready to dance with an evening of swamp blues and soul. Check out Banshees Bar & Artspace full festival lineup.



FLOOD FEST

11–12 July | Various Times
Fire Station 101 | TICKETED

A two-day celebration of Ipswich's homegrown street dance style, featuring performances, workshops, battles and artists from across Australia and guests from the USA. Experience the growing underground talent in our own backyard.

SIDE QUESTS!

Ipswich is a vibrant creative city and the festival SPARKS a wealth of independently produced events across the region. Dive deeper and discover even more to see, do and experience throughout the city.

See the website for full listings, including:

Arttime Gallery & Fine Art Supplies
Decked Out skateboard exhibition

Booval Fair
Connected!
Mural Competition

Circus Ipswich
Cabaret and Circus Festival

Limestone Gallery and Studios
Exhibition and Workshops

The Book Bouquet
Local Author Spotlight

Yamanto Central
Celebration of Life exhibition

SPARK Ipswich Arts Festival is made possible by the generous support of our partners and the passion of volunteers who bring creativity to life across our community.

EVENT PARTNERS

VERSO
PROJECTS.

Orion
Springfield Central



Queensland
Government

SUPPORT PARTNERS

kg
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Story House
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MEDIA PARTNERS

9NEWS

scenestr



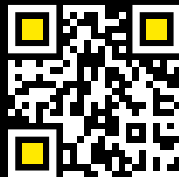
IPSWICH TRIBUNE TODAY

PROGRAMMING PARTNERS

ACTIVE AND HEALTHY IPSWICH | ARTTIME GALLERY & FINE ART SUPPLIES
BANSHEES BAR & ART SPACE | BLACKSTONE-IPSWICH CAMBRIAN CHOIR INC.
THE BOOK BOUQUET | BOOVAL FAIR | CIRCUS IPSWICH | FEVER
INSPIRED ART STUDIO | IPSWICH ART GALLERY | IPSWICH CIVIC CENTRE
IPSWICH LIBRARIES | IPSWICH WASTE SERVICES | LIMESTONE GALLERY AND STUDIOS
ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH | STONY CREEK BREWING | YAMANTO CENTRAL

STAY AND PLAY

Make the most of your
SPARK experience. Sip, savour
and explore a little more.



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IPSWICH FESTIVALS