

# Surprisingly festive

*When it comes to entertainment, events and festivals Lithgow definitely has a surprisingly diverse array of activities! After all, where else can you see international jousting, watch Australia's richest female footrace or ride a zig zag railway with wizards and witches?*

**Rapidly becoming known as a place that hosts not only local but national and international events, the Lithgow area has something to offer year round.**

Our annual events calendar is on the next page and for any other events that pop up during the year simply log on to our website [www.tourism.lithgow.com.au](http://www.tourism.lithgow.com.au).

And don't forget our neighbours at Jenolan Caves, Oberon, the Blue Mountains and along the Bells Line of Road. They too host a great variety of events which makes exploring the region a thoroughly entertaining experience.

## AFTER DARK

**As the sun goes down in Lithgow and surrounding villages a vibrant music scene in the local pubs and clubs comes to life.** Check out what's on in the local

newspaper or simply drop by. Bands often play a range of music from rock and jazz to folk. Local up-and-coming talent along with stars from the big smoke make for fun nights out in Lithgow.

## UNION AND CRYSTAL THEATRES

**A rich array of entertainment**, from locally-produced theatre, musicals and eisteddfods to performances by touring musicians and theatre companies is organized by local community groups and can be found at the Union Theatre in Lithgow or Crystal Theatre in Portland.

## COMMUNITY CINEMA

**The Community Cinema Groups in Lithgow (16 Main Street) and Portland (Crystal Theatre in Wolgan Street) show films on a regular basis.** Check out the program, you may be able to catch an old favourite.

## LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

**Large and small events and festivals of local, national and international significance are held in the Lithgow area.** Annual events such as Ironfest, Daffodils at Rydal, mountain bike challenges, the Lithgow Flash® Gift, two agricultural shows and the forever popular Wizard Express at the Zig Zag Railway set Lithgow apart.

With enviable outdoor recreational areas including State forests, well-appointed showgrounds, parks and ovals, the Lithgow area is also an excellent location to host large events such as the Sydney World Masters Games Orienteering (2009), Australian Four Day Enduro Motorcycle and State Hockey Championships (2010).

Contact the staff at the Lithgow Visitor Information Centre for further information on attending and hosting events in the region.

*Events and festivals for everyone ...*



artistic community  
diverse festivals and events

something for everyone

feel welcome



**Ironfest**

Ironfest was developed to celebrate Lithgow's industrial and iron-making heritage. It's now a major attraction each year.

[www.tourism.lithgow.com](http://www.tourism.lithgow.com)

# Lithgow

## Annual festivals and events

See [www.tourism.lithgow.com](http://www.tourism.lithgow.com) for annual dates

### JANUARY

#### Australia Day Celebrations

Celebrate Australia Day in Lithgow and villages

#### A Day out with Thomas

A unique steam train ride with Thomas and his friends.

### FEBRUARY

#### Rydal Agricultural Show

The greatest 'little show' in the west. All things Australian from horse riding and wood-chopping to sheep and wool, floral and craft displays.

### MARCH

#### Lithgow Flash® Gift

Australia's richest female footrace. With a prize pool over \$30,000, it is a professional athletics carnival for seniors and juniors that attracts athletes from all over Australia.

#### Portland Art Exhibition

Premier artworks from local and Australian artists.

#### Lithgow Agricultural Show

Agricultural displays, motorbikes, ute muster, fireworks, animals, rides and side show alley.

### APRIL

#### "Car Net" Rally of Lithgow

A rally car race around the forests and roads of the Lithgow area.

#### A day out with Thomas

A unique steam train ride with Thomas and his friends.

#### Ironfest

A festival of all things metal with entertainment, music and art. Featuring an international jousting championship and colonial re-enactments.

### MAY

#### Autumn harvest food and wine fair

Fresh produce from local producers and growers to tantalise the tastebuds.

#### Mothers Day

Take Mum out for a special day. Check with the Lithgow Visitor Information Centre for different activities.

### JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

#### Wizards Express

Magic and mystery at the Zig Zag Railway's Harry Potter themed Wizards Express.

#### Wizards School of Magic – Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens

Fun with Wizard's Mistress Wollemia Bubblebark at the Wizards School of Magic.

#### Yulefest

Celebrate a "Cool Yule" with traditional Christmas celebrations in an Australian winter



*Wizards Express*  
Wizards and witches are part of the magic and mystery of the Wizards Express which runs on a regular basis at the Zig Zag Railway.



*Daffodils at Rydal*  
Daffodils of all shapes and sizes can be seen in spring gardens in and around the historic village of Rydal during the Daffodils at Rydal Festival. Enjoy a drive in the country, music and flowers in the open gardens with all proceeds going to local charities.



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*Lithgow Pipe Band*



*Celebrate Lithgow*



*Welcoming ceremony*



A surprisingly diverse range of events and festivals can be enjoyed in the Lithgow area

## SEPTEMBER

### Daffodils at Rydal

The magic of spring gardens displayed over two weekends.

### Spring into Colour – Mt Tomah Botanic Gardens

Spring flowers at their best.

### KTM Sunny Corner Trail Bike Rally

The extreme action of motocross trail bikes. A social, fun trail ride for registered and licensed riders.

### Capertee Challenge

A mountain bike challenge in the beautiful Capertee Valley.

## OCTOBER

### A Day out with Thomas

A unique steam train ride with Thomas and his friends.

### Portland Spring Fair

Street stalls, entertainment and markets in the village of Portland.

### Hartley Big Backyard

The historic village of Hartley celebrates spring with entertainment, arts, crafts and music.

## NOVEMBER

### Celebrate Lithgow

A week of celebration culminating in a street party with amusements, stalls and entertainment.

### Mountain Cruizers Car Club Inc – Charity Car, Bike and Hot Rod Show

Vintage cars, hot rods and motor bikes. If it has two wheels or four we would love to see your vehicle there!

## DECEMBER

### Sunny Corner Sunday

Artists from the village of Sunny Corner display local arts with entertainment.

### Lithgow Triathlon

A multi-sport endurance race around the streets of Lithgow.

### Christmas Concerts

Christmas festivities with carols by candlelight in Lithgow and Jenolan Caves.

## MONTHLY AND/OR REGULAR EVENTS

**Motocross action at Happy Valley via Clarence**

**Go Kart Racing at Marrangaroo, Lithgow.**

**Car racing at Cullen Bullen Speedway**

**Central Tablelands Mountain Bike Clubs race series – downhill and cross-country**

**Bowenfels Station markets - First and third Saturdays of every month (during summer and spring)**

**Lake Wallace Sailing on the lake at Wallerawang – social sailing and regattas**

**Capertee Markets – 3rd Sunday of every month**



### Lithgow Flash® Gift

Australia's richest female running race celebrates the achievements of Marjorie Jackson, 'The Lithgow Flash', who won a gold medal at the Helsinki Olympic Games in 1952. A statue of Marjorie Jackson, made by local artist Anthony Symons, can be found in Cook Street Plaza in Lithgow.

## REGULAR UPDATES

**Find something to do every weekend.**

**Keep an eye on these websites for upcoming events in our region**

[www.tourism.lithgow.com](http://www.tourism.lithgow.com)

[www.visitbluemountains.com.au](http://www.visitbluemountains.com.au)

[www.oberonfestivals.com.au](http://www.oberonfestivals.com.au)

[www.jenolancaves.com.au](http://www.jenolancaves.com.au)

[www.mounttomahbotanicgardens.com.au](http://www.mounttomahbotanicgardens.com.au)

[www.zigzagrailway.com.au](http://www.zigzagrailway.com.au)



Rydal Show



Lithgow Flash® Gift

# Creatively speaking

*It's an inspiring place to live and visit*

**Lithgow has always been a place where people make things and the tradition continues. Our hills and valleys are alive with artists and artisans, musicians and film makers, writers and poets who have made the area their home.**



## **Lithgow's Black Rose**

*In 1875 the first smelting of iron occurred at Rutherford's Blast Furnace in Lithgow. The Lithgow Black Rose was made by Joseph Hallam from this first smelting in January 1876. Further black roses were made as ornaments for coffins in the 1800s. Examples of this fine craftsmanship can be found at Eskbank House Museum.*

This creative tradition goes back to 1876 with the casting of the Lithgow Black Rose from the first smelting of iron.

Amazing engineering feats such as the Zig Zag Railway put Lithgow on the creative map along with innovative textile and industrial design – a feature of the former Berlei and Small Arms Factories. And of course there was Lithgow Pottery, Australia's oldest commercial pottery.

The proximity to Sydney, the Blue Mountains, the Central West and beyond makes it possible for creative people to live and work in the Lithgow area and still have access to local and national markets.

Come and be inspired by the landscape, the history and the people. Bring your paints and brushes, your quills and cameras, your musical instruments and see what others have seen before.

It's truly an inspiring place to be creative.

## **Lithgow Pottery**

*The Lithgow Valley Pottery started operations in the 1870s and was responsible for a wide range of domestic and industrial ceramic ware from butter dishes and jugs to toilet bowls! A collection can be seen at Eskbank House Museum.*

## **GALLERIES**

**Galleries are springing up and more and more local artists are showcasing their works.**

You can meet the makers in the Hartley Valley, or have a coffee amongst fine artworks in Wallerawang. Visit the Community Crafts Centre in Lithgow and meet any number of weavers, embroiderers, quilters and the like.

Metal edged mirrors, ceramics, glassworks, jewellery, wooden rocking horses and finely beaded purses, quirky embroideries of floozies and aprons, paintings and photography can all be found. Enjoy the array of fine artworks as you travel around.





A diverse range of locally produced creative works are available in the region.

## SCULPTURE AND PUBLIC ART

**The art of forging and metal artisanship is still alive in Lithgow.** Fine examples of this can be seen in a number of galleries and the artisan skills are demonstrated at Ironfest each year. You may even be able to see forging demonstrated at the State Mine Heritage Park from time to time.

Modern metal sculptures commemorating our past and living history can also be seen. The miners' memorial near the Lithgow Visitor Information Centre, the statue of Marjorie Jackson in Cook Street Plaza in Lithgow and the memorial to Charles Darwin at Lake Wallace in Wallerawang are fine examples of recently produced sculptures.

The etched glass windows in the historic St Matthews Church in Rydal are also worth seeing.

Take a step back in time and explore the many murals on the walls of the Portland shopping district and the railway bridge in Eskbank Street, Lithgow. They're sure to bring back some memories!

## FARM PRODUCTS

**Our galleries and tea houses proudly display a rich array of locally made produce and craftworks.**

The rural lifestyle provides the perfect setting for creativity. Look out for artisan made goats cheese, jams and pickles, alpaca wool hats and fine felted shawls to name a few!

## FILM MAKING

**Film making is common in the Lithgow area. Stunning landscapes, historic villages and places rich in heritage provide perfect locations.** A number of internationally renowned film makers have made the area their home and many local young people are making their mark in multimedia productions.

The Lithgow area is often used as a backdrop for commercial films, documentaries and advertising. For example historic areas such as the Lithgow Blast Furnace Park, the streets of Lithgow and its villages, the rolling rural hillsides and wild wilderness areas have all featured in advertising and films.

The Lithgow Visitor Information Centre is only too happy to assist with identifying locations for filming.

## WRITING

**Many fine books on the history and scenic splendour of the area, written by local authors, have been produced and can be found in local bookshops and at the Visitor Information Centre.** These books provide in-depth information on the workings of the many mines and industries across the area and of the landscapes and wilderness areas in the World Heritage national parks.



**Local art**  
Just as in the 1800s, local artisans are still making things in Lithgow. This mirror made by metal worker Ron Fitzpatrick is a fine example of contemporary works being created in Lithgow.



Portland mural



Local musicians and exhibition opening



Local products