

BONDI FESTIVAL RETURNS IN 2026 WITH A VIBRANT, JOYOUS WINTER PROGRAM BY THE SEA



Bondi Festival Ice Rink

Waverley Council is thrilled to announce the program for the 2026 **Bondi Festival**, bringing a fun and thought-provoking program of music, theatre, comedy, visual arts and immersive experiences to Bondi Beach from Friday 3 July to Sunday 19 July 2026.

Taking over iconic venues across Bondi, the 17-day, all-inclusive festival makes its triumphant return to Bondi Pavilion and surrounds.

Alongside the exciting arts program, visitors can enjoy festival favourites, including the beloved **Bondi Festival Ice Rink** and **Bondi Vista Ferris Wheel**, a 25-metre-high structure with 360-degree views of the breathtaking Bondi Beach.

2026 is also a special year for Bondi Festival. Bondi's postcode is 2026, giving rise to a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to unite the community around a uniquely symbolic milestone. To celebrate postcode 2026 in the year 2026, Bondi Festival is going bigger than ever, with the addition of the spectacular **Accordion** by Amigo & Amigo (21 June – 29 July). **Accordion** will bring light, colour and sound to the Bondi Pavilion Courtyard, in a playful sensory public art experience that celebrates the Bondi community.

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BONDI FESTIVAL

Bondi Festival Food Markets return bigger and better in 2026 following their hugely successful debut last year. Across three delicious weekends, Bondi Park becomes a vibrant hub of flavour, with Blue Sky Markets curating a diverse spread of hot food, ready-to-eat bites, artisan drinks and sweet treats.

All the while, **Music in the Park** provides a relaxed and lively soundtrack, with local DJs and musicians creating the perfect atmosphere to eat, unwind and soak up the festival by the sea.

Waverley Council Mayor **Will Nemesh** said: *"The iconic Bondi Festival is an unmissable event, with the nation's most famous beach transforming into a winter wonderland for three exciting weeks of jam-packed fun and entertainment. Expect world-class performances, stunning local art, and exciting cultural celebrations sure to delight everyone."*

Tanya Goldberg, Waverley Council Executive Manager, Arts, Culture and Events, added: *"Bondi at wintertime has its own special magic. We love celebrating that each year through Bondi Festival, with our most dynamic and surprising programming designed to elevate our audiences with the unexpected and extraordinary."*



Amalgamation by Hot Department

Bondi Festival kicks off on Friday 3 July with the opening of the 40th annual **Waverley Art Prize** at Bondi Pavilion Art Gallery, a milestone year for one of Australia's leading contemporary art awards celebrating excellence across the local arts community and visual arts sector.

Opening weekend also features the return of the **Bondi Festival Comedy Gala** after an outstanding, sell-out season in 2025. Audiences can expect two big nights of side-splitting, floor-rolling, unstoppable laughter, featuring a stellar line up of fan favourite and rising new stars of comedy.

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BONDI FESTIVAL

In celebration of NAIDOC Week, Bondi Festival is bringing ***Awesome Black*** to the Bondi Pavilion for a curated free live music event that focuses on the ongoing impact of First Nations cultural, contemporary innovation, and future-forward artistic expression.

It wouldn't be Bondi Festival without standout sessions for all the creative fiends with our friends from ***Gladdy Drawing Club***, once again delivering inclusive, body-positive life drawing sessions throughout the festival, featuring special guest artists and talks that are not to be missed.

Weekend Two kicks off with a fast-paced collision of surreal humour and sharp satire in ***Amalgamation*** by Hot Department (9–11 July), as the duo dive into an anthology of unhinged fan favourites and new sketches, while ***Pigeon Fool*** by Counterpilot (9–12 July) invites audiences into a theatrical Turing Test meets Game Show, exploring humanness in the midst of the AI revolution.

After 21 sell-out seasons across the world, New Zealand based Java Dance bring their 5-star immersive show ***Back of the Bus*** to Bondi from the 9-12 July, transforming a moving bus into a stage of physical comedy, kinetic energy and outrageous scenarios.

Festival icon ***Paw Parade*** also returns on Saturday 11 July, bringing together dog lovers for a free day of canine celebration. Enjoy dog themed art activities, stalls, awards and of course the Bondi Paw Parade!

And if you're in the mood for fun, glitz and cocktails, ***Bingo, Burlesque & Bondi Vybes*** takes over the Seagull Room on Saturday evening, delivering a variety night like no other with special guests Vybe, DJ Sexy Galaxy and sultry performer Yvette Santos.



For the Best by The Last Great Hunt

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BONDI FESTIVAL

The final weekend features the irreverent and playful *Little Squirt* (16–18 July), following one man’s ethical musings on reproduction and the future of our species, alongside *For The Best* (16–19 July), an intimate and moving performance built from real stories of friendship and change. This beautiful work will spring from the stories of Bondi locals who share their own raw takes on the ups and downs of modern friendships.

On Saturday 18 July, *M’ap Boulé* takes to the stage. Blending storytelling and song, this powerful and deeply personal work by Nancy Denis explores identity, culture and belonging with warmth and emotional depth. Nancy Denis will also be sharing space to explore creative performance through connection in a limited run of her *Spirit, Body, Soul Workshop* on Thursday 16 July.

The festival concludes with large-scale illuminated works by Curious Legends, including *Spark* and *Underwater Creatures*, presented across Bondi Park and the beach, closing the festival with a warming bonfire to say farewell.

Throughout the festival, visitors can also explore the iconic *Bondi Beach Sea Wall*, featuring mural paintings by leading and emerging street artists.



Accordion by Amigo & Amigo

Joyful, sometimes silly, and always exhilarating, Bondi Festival 2026 builds on its strongest years yet, presenting a much-loved program for our community and arts lovers everywhere.

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BONDI FESTIVAL

Bondi Festival is proud to be supported by **Create NSW** and **Creative New Zealand**; and welcomes our official Ice Rink Sponsor **Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation** to Bondi Festival for 2026.

The full program and tickets are available at <https://www.bondifestival.com.au>.

BONDI FESTIVAL:

Dates: Friday 3 July – Sunday 19 July 2026

Location: Bondi Beach and surrounds

Tickets: Open-access sites and ticketed events ranging from free to \$30.00.

-ENDS-

Images for media use [HERE](#)

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NOTES FOR THE EDITOR:

2026 LINE-UP:

WHOLE-OF-FEST EVENTS

Bondi Festival Ice Rink

Dates: 3 – 19 July 2026, 10am to 8.45pm daily

Bondi Vista Ferris Wheel

Dates: 3 – 19 July 2026, 10am to 9pm daily

Waverley Art Prize

Dates: 3 July – 23 August 2026, 10am to 5pm daily

Location: Gallery, Bondi Pavilion

FREE

Bondi Festival Locals Live

Dates: 3 – 19 July 2026

Location: Bondi Beach and surrounds

FREE

Bondi Beach Sea Wall

Dates: 3 – 19 July 2026

Location: Bondi Beach

FREE

Bondi Festival Food Markets

Dates: Every Saturday & Sunday of the festival, 10am – 9pm

Location: Bondi Park

Music in the Park

Dates: Every Saturday & Sunday of the festival

Location: Bondi Park

FREE

Accordion

Dates: 21 June – 29 July 2026, 6am to 10pm daily

Location: Bondi Beach

FREE

OPENING WEEKEND (3 – 5 JULY)

Bondi Festival + Waverley Art Prize Opening

Dates: 3 July, 6pm – 8pm

Location: Gallery, Bondi Pavilion

FREE

Bondi Festival Comedy Gala

Dates: 3 & 4 July, 7:30pm

Location: Theatre, Bondi Pavilion

NAIDOC Week Live - Awesome Black

Dates: 4 July, 12pm – 3pm

Location: Garu Courtyard, Bondi Pavilion

FREE

SECOND WEEKEND (9 – 12 JULY)

Amalgamation (Hot Department)

Dates: 9 – 11 July, 7:30pm

Location: Theatre, Bondi Pavilion

Pigeon Fool (Counterpilot)

Dates: 9 – 12 July, various times

Location: High Tide Room

Back of the Bus (Java Dance)

Dates: 9 – 10 July, 3:00pm & 7:00pm

11 – 12 July 3:00pm, 5:00pm & 7:00pm

Location: Various (mobile performance)

Pavilion Paw Parade

Dates: 11 July, 11am – 2pm

Location: Courtyard, Bondi Pavilion

FREE

Gladdy Drawing Club

Dates: 4, 9, 11, 17 & 18 July, 6pm – 7:30pm

Location: Bondi Pavilion Gallery

Bingo, Burlesque & Bondi Vybes

Dates: 11 July, 7pm

Location: Seagull Room, Bondi Pavilion

FINAL WEEKEND (16 – 19 July)

For The Best (The Last Great Hunt)

Dates: 16 – 17 July, 6:30pm

18 July 3:00pm & 6:30pm

Location: High Tide Room

Little Squirt

Dates: 16 – 18 July, 7pm

Location: Seagull Room, Bondi Pavilion

Ma'p Boulé

Dates: 18 July, 7:30pm

Location: Theatre, Bondi Pavilion

Nancy Denis: Spirit, Body, Soul Workshop

Dates: 16 July, 4pm

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Location: Yalagang Room, Bondi Pavilion

Spark (Curious Legends) + Bonfire

Dates: 18 July, 4pm – 8pm

Location: Bondi Park, Courtyard & Beach

FREE (workshop by reservation)

Underwater Creatures (Curious Legends)

Dates: 19 July, 4pm – 7pm

Location: Bondi Park

FREE