

South Australia

# Nature Festival 2026

25 Sept  
–11 Oct  
2026

Event host  
info pack

[naturefestival.org.au](http://naturefestival.org.au)

Nature  
Festival

# Always was. Always will be.

We acknowledge and pay respects to elders past, present, and emerging of the Kurna, Ngarrindjeri, Adnyamathanha, Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara, and more than thirty other groups of traditional owners of the land now known as South Australia.

Want to host  
an event?

Applications open June 16th  
and close July 31st

[naturefestival.org.au/  
participate](https://naturefestival.org.au/participate)

# Participate in 2026: SEED



The Nature Festival exists to celebrate South Australia's love of nature and remind us of the wellbeing that a deeper connection to nature can offer all of us.

As a collaborative cultural movement organised around a festival, we feature diverse events designed to meet people where they are and invite them into a deeper relationship with nature.

We hope you are excited as we are for this year, which will run from **25 Sept - 11 Oct** with the theme of **Seed**.

Last year the community of **223 partners** hosted over **350 events** with an attendance of more than **42k** right across South Australia.

Events include arts, music, food, family, performance, Aboriginal Culture, gardens, learning, and adventure. As a lightly curated community festival we invite **you** to **join our community** by applying to run an event.

Our theme this year is **Seed**. It is a theme that holds cycles, beginnings, and the quiet intensity of possibility.

Seed acknowledges that change is slow and sometimes unseen at first, shaped through patience, attention, and care.

Seed speaks to this moment of standing on the edge, of starting. It encapsulates the time when something has not yet taken form, but the conditions for transformation are present.

Whether you want to seed ideas, relationships, encounters or experiences, we welcome diverse interpretations.

As long as your event relates to nature, it doesn't have to respond to the theme, but many people find it helpful to use the theme as a creative springboard.

We're particularly interested in authentic and unusual ways of connecting to nature, so we're looking for **diverse event hosts** including artists, environmental orgs, musicians, tourism operators, health and wellness, wineries, large institutions, restaurants, and local businesses.

For events, we're looking for all sorts of creative, participatory, emotional, and remarkable experiences. These might involve traditional knowledge or the latest technology. They might excite and intrigue or bring wonder or tears.

We encourage events for a range of ages and abilities as long as they deepen our relationship with nature as South Australians.

# Why host an event?



## Help your community feel part of something bigger

If we want people to take positive action for nature (sustainable behaviours, preserving trees, planting natives), we need them to see and celebrate that part of their individual and community identity.

## Be part of something positive

From bushfires to coronavirus, it's been a difficult decade. We could all use some celebration, and we could all use more positive experiences of nature. Spring is a time of new beginnings, and nothing says Adelaide more than emerging from Winter into a festival of nature.

## Nature is good for you —and your brand

Over 90% of South Australians get out into our parks and beaches every year. More than 70% are happy to pay more for environmentally friendly products. 94% think conserving nature is of critical importance. And all of these numbers were from state-wide polling before this last bushfire season.

Whether you are an outdoor tourism operator, an eco-friendly cafe, an environmental non-profit, a winery that cares about the land, a yoga studio, a psychology practice encouraging healthy activity, love of nature is a strong and powerful differentiator that aligns with the values of the vast majority of South Australians. This festival is a great way to demonstrate and enact your values as an organisation.

## Try something new

The Nature Festival is a platform that's specifically designed to support you to try new things in your community. We're dedicated to sharing ideas and spreading what works.

## New supporters, new customers

Our primary audience for the festival are families and professionals who might say something like "I'm no greenie, but I love going bushwalking whenever I can." It turns out that this is most South Australians. Positive love of nature in SA is astronomically high. We're developing this festival as a channel to help you access that audience.

## We're louder together

There are a lot of great nature initiatives happening in South Australia. We're louder when we act together. Joining the festival lets you benefit from shared communications and PR and lets you access a larger shared audience.

## Earn ticket revenue

We welcome both free and ticketed events. Like Fringe, you set the ticket prices yourself and keep the proceeds.

## Move beyond partisanship and division

We don't agree with how politicised nature has become. A meaningful relationship with nature is one of our natural rights as human beings and not only contributes to better emotional and physical wellbeing, it also reminds us we are part of a vast and wondrous ecology that we depend on and that depends on us. This festival is specifically aimed at cutting across division by focusing a relationship with nature that unites all of us.

## Join our supportive community

We're working to build a community of like-minded hosts in SA. You'll be invited along to host event in September and other host nights once or twice a year.

# What makes a great event?



## Great events for Nature Festival are...

**Beautiful:** Whether it is big or small, the best events are intentionally and elegantly designed.

**Unusual:** Our relationships with nature are as diverse as our society. We encourage events that use arts, culture, food, gardening, adventure, sport, wonder and more to connect to nature. We want to meet people where they are.

**Invitation to depth:** Whether big or small, the best events all offer a new way of thinking about our relationship to nature or an opportunity to deepen or extend it.

**Connected to the bigger story:** The best events often also incorporate a moment that connects it to the bigger story of South Australia and our society's relationship with nature.

**Special:** Not all events have to be made specifically for the festival, but the most successful ones usually are. One way is to try to connect to the theme. This year it is 'Flow'.

## What's not a great fit?

**An entire sub-program of events:** for instance, if you are a local library running a multi-day school holiday program, we recommend focusing on one or two specific events that are a good fit for the festival.

**Self-guided trails or resources:** to include something like this, we recommend 'activating' it with a guided tour, talk, or launch.

**Anytime activities** like museums or tours that can be experienced at anytime outside of the festival. We recommend creating a limited-time offering that's special for our audience.

## Aboriginal cultural events

**Aboriginal cultural events:** we are excited about and love Aboriginal cultural events. Please note that events that include aspects of First Nations culture or IP must include a First Nations person who is properly paid for their work.

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## Get help

[help@naturefestival.org.au](mailto:help@naturefestival.org.au)

If you're not sure about your event, we'd love to hear your ideas and we'd be happy to work with you to help you to shape up your ideas to make them more compelling or successful.

We can also sometimes help in limited ways with venue matchmaking and other logistics.

# Apply to host in 3 steps



## Step 1

### Event application [naturefestival.org.au/host](http://naturefestival.org.au/host)

Login or sign up to the host dashboard. After signing in, click the “Register an Event” button.

Tell us about the details of your organisation, and then continue to fill out the basic details of your event and why you think it will be a good fit for the Nature Festival.

Host dashboard

Sign in to register and manage events

Email Address

Password

Sign In

Forgot Password?

Don't have an account?

Sign up

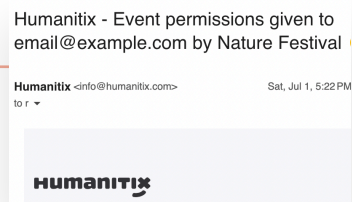
### Wait for us to accept the event

We have to review all event applications. This can take up to 1 week.

### Edit in Humanitix:

Your event will be automatically created in Humanitix and you'll get an email invite from Humanitix to edit it.

Add your event details into the Humanitix event (don't create a new one), then publish the event.



## Step 2

### Submit to Nature Festival program

When you're done, come back to the [Host dashboard](#) and hit 'submit to program'.

Event status

Waiting for you to finalise in Humanitix. Click below to edit, then hit submit when you are finished.

Edit in Humanitix

Submit to program

## Step 3

### We'll do a final check and publish the event in the festival program

We have to review all event applications. This can take up to 1 week. You'll receive an email when it is complete.

### Want to make changes later?

Go to the [host dashboard](#) and click “Edit details” to access your event. Make your changes in Humanitix and then **press 'Update Program'** to sync your changes with the Nature Festival online program.

Event status

Live in the program

Edit in Humanitix

Update program



# Key dates



Event registrations open: **May 18th**

Registration deadline: **July 13th**

Program launch: **Aug 14th**

Nature Festival: **25 Sept - 11 Oct 2026**

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# Registration FAQs

## What does it cost to register?

It's free to register an event in the Nature Festival.

## Can I charge for my event?

Absolutely, and in fact we encourage it! Even a small fee can make people more likely to value the event and turn up.

## Does Nature Festival take a fee?

While the festival doesn't take a fee for ourselves, we do add \$1 on every paid ticket that is then donated to nature conservation efforts. This year our partner is the Murray-Darling Conservation Alliance.

## Do I have to use Nature Festival's ticketing?

Yes, our ticketing system integrates closely with our website, online program, and reporting. We understand that you might use a different platform at other times, but you will need to use ours to be included in the festival. Feel free to get in touch with any questions about this.

## Do I need public liability insurance?

Yes. You must provide your own event insurance. If this is a barrier, [get in touch](#). We may be able to recommend an affordable option or connect you with a partner who can help.

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# Get help

[help@naturefestival.org.au](mailto:help@naturefestival.org.au)

The Nature Festival is run by a dedicated but small team working part-time. We will do our best to promptly reply to any queries. Please don't hesitate to get in touch.

# Promoting your event



The beauty of the festival is that by all working together we can add a bit to each other's audiences. That said, you will still need an existing audience and channels to reach them apart from the festival. **You cannot rely on your festival listing alone to bring attendees.** Here are 9 tips for maximising your marketing and making the most of your participation in the Nature Festival.

## 9 tips for promoting your event

1. **Share the right link:** We understand this is a bit confusing, but you will have a Nature Festival program link and a Humanitix link. It is very important to always share the **Nature Festival link** (it will look like: <http://naturefestival.org.au/event/your-event>) This ensures all of your host info will be correctly displayed and that **events all cross-promote** each other correctly.
2. **Social tiles and logos:** Go to the "Promo tools" tab on the [Host Dashboard](#) for resources including email banners, facebook and instagram squares/stories and our logos.
3. **Promote others:** Promoting others is a great excuse to promote yourself. Are there other events that might pair well with yours (e.g. other 'tree events'? Share a round-up of events that includes yours.
4. **Be personal:** Sharing the personal relationship or history with nature for someone involved with your event. This doesn't feel as much like marketing and gives you an angle for additional posts. Tag @naturefestivalsa and use the hashtags #naturevoices and #naturefestivalsa. [Example nature voice](#).
5. **Give aways:** Give aways are great ways to promote your event, particularly if you can put together a package of tickets and add-ons with a value of over \$200 or more.
6. **Facebook event:** Set up a Facebook event that links to the program, add Nature Festival as a co-host and we'll help share.
7. **Link into ANPC:** If you want to link your event into a bigger narrative, you can download the The Adelaide National Park City logos or posters from the promo pack.
8. **PR Kit:** Against the Grain have created a [DIY PR Kit](#) with do's and don'ts, example media release, and Adelaide PR contacts.
9. **Social media:** Use the #naturefestivalsa hashtag and/or tag @NatureFestivalSA in your Facebook or Instagram posts and stories and we'll share whenever possible.

# Designing a great event



*Need help designing your event? Consider the five E's along the entire journey that your audience will take.*

## Entice

*Who is your audience?*

*What will entice them to book?*

### Tips and considerations

**Creative and unusual** events are more likely to attract interest.

Could your event be in an unusual location? Maybe somewhere people don't usually get access to? Happen at an unusual time? ('nature at night' was very popular last year). Could you find an unusual partner or a big name to feature?

Or is your event more about an interesting concept or idea, or perhaps a new way of looking at something normal?

## Entry

*How will people find out about your event?*

*What happens when they first arrive?*

### Tips and considerations

You should think about channels beyond the Nature Festival to help get the word out. Are you a member of a local community group or newsletter? See if they can help you spread the word.

### On arrival

- How will you make sure people know they are part of the Nature Festival?
- How will you make people feel welcome?
- How will you engage participants from the very start?
- How will you acknowledge country?

## Engage

*What will the experience be like?*

*What will make it engaging, meaningful, and memorable?*

## Exit

*How can you end on a high note?*

## Extend

*How will people feel afterward?*

*What will they take away?*

### Tips and considerations

**Lean into emotion:** Is your event playful and exciting or more quiet and reflective? Is there an aspect of wonder or imagination? What about social connection or conviviality?

**Consider participation:** even for more performative or presentation-based events can benefit from a participatory element to make the event more personally meaningful.

**Consider place:** Where is your event taking place? Is there anything unique about that place, the nature there, or its history that could tie into your event and make it more meaningful?

**Consider identity:** For some events, adding an element of reflection or tying into people's personal history or social identities can make it more meaningful.

**Consider the larger Nature Festival:** Is there some way to make the event feel connected to a larger movement around nature in South Australia?

### Tips and considerations

The end of an event has an out-sized impact on how people feel about the event overall. How might you end on a high note?

Make sure to recommend people check out other events in the Nature Festival. You could recommend one or two specific ones that you think your audience might like.

### Tips and considerations

How do you want people to feel after the event?

What will they be taking away? Will they have new relationships? A new understanding? A renewed sense of wonder?

What do you imagine they will say to their family that evening about what they did at your event?

# The big picture



## What is the vision of the nature festival?

While we are very much also a festival in the traditional celebratory sense, we primarily view Nature Festival as a process of discovering and of affirming identity.

Specifically, we are interested in **personal identity**, narrative, and personal relationship with nature as well as our **state identity** and collective relationship with nature.

We know that we won't create the full scope of change we want with any one event or festival, but we want to demonstrate a small movement in the right direction by doing what we call '**bridging the narrative gap**':

### 1. Bridge the narrative gap

Enjoyment of nature is a foundational part of who we are as South Australians. Most of us highly value it and more than 90% of us get out into our beaches and national parks each year (South Australians and the Env, 2016).

Unfortunately, our **personal** values **don't always match** our **collective** narrative. Some researchers (Common Cause, 2016) suggest that while the great majority of people (74%) personally prioritise intrinsic, compassionate values like love of nature and community. However, the majority also *think* that *other* people prioritise 'extrinsic, selfish' values like money, status, and power.

This puts us in a strange position where we can end up with a **narrative gap**: we can have a **social norm** and public narrative that is at odds with what **most individuals** actually value.

-  Primary values are **intrinsic** (like nature and community)
-  Primary values are **extrinsic** (like wealth and status)



**How society looks**  
Most individuals in are primarily motivated by intrinsic values like care for family, community, nature, and wellbeing.



**How we think society looks**  
Most of us think most **other people** are motivated by extrinsic values like money, status, and power.

The **primary long-term goal** of the Nature Festival is to make the personal value that most individuals already share into a bigger part of our social norms, public narrative and state identity as South Australians.

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*From Common Cause, Perceptions Matter 2016.*

## 2. Deepening personal relationships

Our **secondary goal** is about deepening personal relationships with nature. We want help people build a visceral understanding that nature isn't something 'over there' that we might visit occasionally, but rather is something we are amongst and part of everyday.



*From Martin, Czeller  
Inclusion of nature in  
self scale, 2016.*

One way of thinking about what we're trying to do is to move people toward a felt, emotional, understanding of their relationship with nature as self rather than other.

### **Relationships are built through meaningful experience**

We're focused primarily on building that relationship through the lease of love of nature. This most commonly includes emotional, creative, or meaningful/spiritual experiences to reinforce our relationship with nature.

There are existing projects that focus on loss, grief, and the scale of the problem facing us. While we don't want to shy away from that challenge, the focus of this festival is the strength and resilience we can draw from our love of nature and ongoing relationship.

### **Relationships are more than knowledge and facts**

If you think about your relationship with loved ones in your life, part of your relationship is things you know about them, like their birthday or their favourite flavour of ice cream.

But your relationship is a lot more than just facts. It's about meaningful experiences together, doing things for one another, the community you share together, the history you've built and your hopes for the future.

While there are many good educational programs around nature that focus on knowledge, we are most interested in events and activities that look at the bigger, emotional, life-long relationship with nature.

### **Narrative reflection can strengthen relationship**

We are inspired by narrative practice and using reflection on past experiences to deepen or 'thicken' our personal narrative around nature. We have a hunch that including a reflective component in an event or experience can help strengthen a sense of identity.

# Key audiences



## 1. "I'm no greenie, but ..."

*"I'm no greenie... but I go bushwalking most weekends."*

The vast majority of South Australians get out into nature regularly and love it. Odds are excellent (over 90%) that the businesswoman in a suit across the boardroom table from you loves taking her family to the beach. She is part of a substantial cohort of people in South Australia who regularly engage with nature (bushwalking, gardening, surfing, cycling) but who do not identify as 'nature-lovers' or 'greenies.'

We anticipate the creative, interactive activities and the family-based activities will draw these people in. After the festival, we hope these individuals would be more readily able to name that nature was important to their sense of identity and an important part of their life and well-being.

## 2. Parents + active families



*"We want things to do as a family" during school holidays" or "we want more ways to demonstrate our care for nature."*

Many parents care about getting their kids outdoors, active, and off of their devices. Past Nature Festival events have had strong appeal to whole families looking for

activities to do together. Events exclusively aimed at children can also be an effective entry point for parents as a secondary audience.

## 3. Wired but disconnected

*"I'm feeling overwhelmed, often anxious and agitated. I want to slow down and feel more connected."*



This cohort may be engaged through their devices (like the 'text a tree project' or the VR tree exhibit, or smart phone photography), or they may be invited to put them down (forest bathing, meditation, mandala and art making).

## 4. Nature & experience-driven travellers



*"We're interested in visiting places that value nature, and we're interested in unusual nature experiences." or "We're looking for unique, local, cultural experiences."*

Many travellers seek natural as well as cultural experiences. The Botanic Gardens, for instance, are one of the most popular tourist attractions in South Australia. We hope the festival might attract new visitors or give this group a reason to spend more time in Adelaide as part of a longer trip through nature in Australia.



# Nature Festival

Nature isn't somewhere 'over there that we visit occasionally. It's all around us. We're part of it and amongst it all of the time.

[naturefestival.org.au](http://naturefestival.org.au)