



MEDIA RELEASE

NATURE FESTIVAL 2026 PLANTS BEAUTIFUL SEEDS ACROSS SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Seed swaps, First Nations storytelling, botanical art, food, music and community action headline South Australia's biggest nature celebration.

From desert landscapes to city gardens, coastal wetlands to regional communities, [Nature Festival 2026](#) will transform South Australia into a living celebration of possibility, renewal and connection, with over 350 events across the state these school holidays, 25 September – 11 October 2026.

In its seventh year, the theme *Seed* invites South Australians to consider the small beginnings that shape our future: the seeds we plant in gardens, in communities, in culture, in children, and in our collective relationship with nature.

Sitting at the intersection of nature and culture, the festival features hundreds of experiences spanning art, adventure, outdoors, music, food, wine, wellbeing, gardens and Aboriginal culture, with plenty of free and family-friendly events across the state, from Andamooka to Kangaroo Island and everywhere in between.

Nature Festival is a collaborative movement of more than 200 community groups and organisations celebrating South Australia's unique love of nature.

The 2026 program expands the festival's growing focus on participation, creativity and community action, encouraging people not only to experience nature, but to help shape a cooler, greener and more connected South Australia.

This year's Festival features six Seed Stewards whose lives and work engage the idea of *Seed* from distinct perspectives - including through food, cultural memory, cultivation, and conservation. One of this year's Seed Stewards, is well known restaurateur, academic, and prize-winning author Durkhanai Ayubi, who will host her own book launch and poetry event as part of Nature Festival 2026.

Under embargo until program launch date Friday 21 August 2026

“A seed carries memory, resilience and hope. In every culture, seeds are more than food, they are a promise to the future. Nature Festival reminds us that the smallest acts of care, whether planting a seed, sharing a meal, teaching a child, or protecting a place, can grow into something far greater than ourselves.”

— Durkhanai Ayubi, Nature Festival 2026 Seed Steward

2026 Program Highlights

The Seedling Exchange

Daily throughout Nature Festival 2026 | North Terrace, outside the State Library

A temporary public pavilion where visitors plant a seed, water it, and contribute to a growing shared garden. Small acts of propagation gradually become a collective nursery of care, participation and future possibility.

Silent Country: Exhibition & Dinner Experience

Friday 25 September | Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute

An exhibition opening, live performance by Electric Fields, and panel conversation exploring the cultural and ecological impacts of buffel grass. Followed by an intimate Warndu dinner curated with chefs Matt Stone and Shannon Fleming, celebrating native foods and the abundance of healthy Country.

Sophie Hyde: Untitled Oyster Project

29 September – 11 October | Art Gallery of South Australia, ART POD & Adelaide Town Hall

A major cross-disciplinary project bringing together film, marine science and restoration to respond to South Australia's changing seas and oyster reef recovery. Includes a Tuesday Talk with Leigh Robb, a daily ArtPod exhibition, and a closing public conversation with scientists, artists and First Nations voices.

The Amazing Nature Race

Sunday 27 September | Brinkworth Reserve, Port Lincoln

An adventure awaits as participants solve nature-inspired challenges, uncover hidden treasures and discover the richness of the natural world. Hosted by the Port Lincoln Multicultural Council.

Spring into 140 Years at State Flora

Saturday 3 October | State Flora Nursery, Belair National Park

Celebrate 140 years of State Flora. Rare archival images of the early days at Belair as well as free family activities and a native plant tube giveaway for the first 140 sales.

Blossom & Bud: Springtime Picnic

Sunday 4 October | Jauma Farm, Lenswood

A guided walk through blossoming orchards and spring vineyards followed by a long picnic celebrating organic farming and seasonal renewal. Wine, food and stories from the farm trace the journey from blossom and bud through to fruit and harvest.

Andamooka Airport Garden Party

Saturday 3 October | Andamooka Airport, Andamooka

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Hosted by the Andamooka Opal Fields Tourism Association, an out-of-this-world Nature Festival garden party celebrates the Andamooka Airport Native Corridor revegetation project.

Ikara Hiking Retreat

Friday 2 October - Monday 5 October | Ikara Flinders Ranges

Combines hiking, culture, adventure, and meaningful connection amongst the ancient landscapes of Ikara-Wilpena Pound. Cultural learning facilitated by Adnyamathanha woman Rehanna Coulthard from Yura Artu.

Kangaroo Island Rare Plant Garden

Sunday 4 October & Monday 5 October | Cygnet River, Kangaroo Island

A multi-purpose garden designed to safeguard the many rare species of plants that grow only on the Island and to showcase the diversity of habitats the Island has to offer. The open garden features threatened and endemic Kangaroo Island plants and seed conservation work.

Bruce Pascoe: The European Mind – Adelaide Launch

Tuesday 6 October | Art Gallery of South Australia

Bruce Pascoe launches his new book examining colonialism, capitalism, Christianity and their continuing influence on land and community. A timely conversation on Country, history and the possibilities for reimagining the future.

Kardla: A Journey of Healing Country Through Fire

Friday 9 October | Adelaide Parklands

Walk with Kurna Kardla and explore the cultural, ecological and regenerative role of cultural burning. The session challenges dominant assumptions about fire and land stewardship and highlights the contemporary relevance of Traditional Knowledge.

The Living Table

Saturday 10 October | Esmay Restaurant, Hackney

An interactive shared lunch celebrating growers, producers and custodians shaping the future of Australian food. Seasonal installations, native ingredient cocktails and conversations with farmers explore biodiversity, resilience and the character of place.

7x7 Seed Talks

Sunday 27 September | Radford Auditorium, Art Gallery of South Australia

In its third year, 7x7 offers seven diverse expert speakers each presenting a succinct and entertaining seven-minute talk, inspired by the festival's theme seed, with topics dipping into science, arts, culture and leadership.

Art for Takayna - Exhibition and Live Events

Friday 18 Sept - Saturday 10 October | Immersive Light & Art (ILA), Adelaide

The sounds of a grand piano in Australia's largest temperate rainforest, more than 30 stunning artworks from across the nation, and a live music series surrounded by 110 m2 of LED screens lit up with spectacular forest scenes, experience the work of artists from the transformative Art for Takayna residency with the Bob Brown Foundation in a truly immersive setting.

Seed Stories: Lessons for These Times

Saturday 10 October | Art Gallery of South Australia

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An afternoon of oral storytelling, seed sorting and collective reflection on what it means to steward seeds in uncertain times. Practical knowledge sharing sits alongside deeper conversations about food systems, memory and our connection to the earth.

The full program is available at naturefestival.org.au

“Seed is an invitation to think about what we are growing together, starting with our little ones. This year’s program is filled with experiences that help kids and families plant beautiful seeds in their lives and with the natural world. There is something for everyone, so get outdoors, bring your kids and grandkids, and plant the seed for a lifelong connection with nature.”

— Vicki-Jo Russell AM, Co-founder and Chair, Nature Festival

For another year, Nature Festival, generously supported by RAA and the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board awarded 25 micro-grants to regional community-based grassroots projects across South Australia, ranging from a ‘living music of plants’ experience in the Adelaide Hills, a seed-inspired poetry workshop in Mintaro, Clare Valley and an immersive art experience set amongst our stunning Coorong.

With grants up to \$1,000, each project showcases a unique creative response to place, ecology, connection and will activate regional sites across South Australia with workshops, installations, and performances that inspire meaningful encounters with the natural world.

The Nature Festival is also a proud supporter of Adelaide as a National Park City, a global movement with a long-term vision and commitment to improve the nature of cities.

“Nature Festival is a powerful example of how culture, creativity and nature can come together to activate Adelaide and attract visitors into the heart of the city. As Adelaide continues to strengthen its reputation as a vibrant, liveable and globally distinctive city, Nature Festival showcases the experiences that connect people with place, community and the unique character of Adelaide.”

— Greg Ratsch, General Manager, Adelaide Economic Development Agency.

Nature Festival will once again support Solar Slice, with a sustainability surcharge on paid ticketing that embeds climate and nature priorities into live events. Through this partnership \$1 from every ticket sold goes directly to fund biodiversity conservation projects and industry decarbonisation. This year’s Nature Festival funds will support the [Agroecology Land Trust](#), which will hold farmland in commons, providing First Peoples and agroecological farmers with secure tenure and equitable access to land.

Nature Festival recognises with thanks the ongoing support of our Principal Partner, Green Adelaide alongside the continued support of our Major Partners the State Government through the South Australian Tourism Commission and the City of Adelaide and Adelaide Economic Development Agency.

“Nature Festival captures what makes South Australia so special: extraordinary landscapes, strong community spirit, rich Aboriginal culture and experiences that invite people to connect more deeply with the places they visit. The Festival invites

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people to experience the natural wonders, local stories and sense of place that make South Australia such a great place to explore.”

— Emma Terry, CEO, South Australian Tourism Commission

The strong and continued support from these, our festival partners and wonderful community of hosts demonstrates how much South Australia supports and celebrates our unique love of nature.

What beautiful seeds will you plant?

Nature Festival 2026

25 September – 11 October 2026

Full program out Friday 21 August at naturefestival.org.au

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Media Contact

Chloe Tanner | Tanner Creative

hello@tannercreative.com.au

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