

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS SET TO BE *AWESOME* AS AWESOME FESTIVAL COMES TO BUNBURY



The Bubble Canteen at AWESOME Festival Bunbury Hub 2024

25 September 2026 – BREC | Thousands of South West families are set to flock to the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre this school holidays as the free AWESOME International Arts Festival for Bright Young Things makes its return to Bunbury.

More than 4300 kids and their families took part in the 2024 edition of the two-day arts festival, taking part in creative and activities designed specifically for children aged 12 and under. More than 4300 kids and their families took part in the 2024 edition of the two-day arts festival, taking part in creative and performance activities designed specifically for children aged 12 and under.

This year the festival is back bigger than ever. It remains completely free of charge, providing vibrant school holiday entertainment for families feeling the pinch of cost-of-living pressures.

On top of the many workshops and arts experiences on offer, families are invited into BREC's main theatre for four free performances of the brand-new Barking Gecko Arts production, *Walk of the Whales*.

BUNBURY REGIONAL ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

bunburyentertainment.com | 1300 661 272

For media enquiries please contact Sarah Whitby, Senior Marketing Coordinator
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Based on the award-winning picture book by Nick Bland and adapted for stage by WA playwright Gita Bezard, *Walk of the Whales* is a moving and imaginative play about a world where whales leave the oceans and move into the towns in an analogy of human activities in the oceans, transferring to Bunbury straight from its premiere season in Perth.

Enterprising young creatives have been invited to take part in the Kids' Maker Market. The young artisans will sell their crafty wares to the general public from their very own market stall, showcasing their skills and fostering young entrepreneurial spirits.

Local artists offer workshops, sharing their skills and fostering creative play. Candice Nannup will lead kids of all ages in exploring the beauty, creatures and textures of the ocean through paint, tissue paper, tulle, sand and oil pastels.

Busselton's Sarah Francis will host a playful movement workshop in hour-long sessions designed for kids 5 and above to enjoy the freedom of contemporary dance – and gain some skills which might be useful for the daily Awesome Pop Up talent quest.

Theatre-maker Siobhan Maiden leads a drama workshop, introducing kids aged 7-12 to improvised storytelling through movement, props and spoken word.

The Gnaala Karla Booja Ranger Service will also be part of the festival, inviting families to stop by their stall outside BREC for activities, information and a yarn with the Rangers.

On top of a huge range of local talent, interstate and international artists are also joining the fun. Queensland's *Madame Lark* flies in with a musical saw and a zeal for the many and varied voices of birds. From Scotland, *Experts Radio Lab* will be on air, inviting kids to talk about what they know about, what they love or what they are 'expert in'. West Australia's Glenn Swift, Awesome Festival's Storyteller-in-Residence, will pop up sharing stories where you least expect it.

BREC Executive Director Fiona de Garis said she is hoping the festival will build on the success of 2024.

"We want BREC to be a place where everyone feels welcome, and AWESOME is a wonderful way of opening the whole building up to children and families. They can see fantastic professional work, make things, dance, tell stories and discover their own creativity - and because it's free, every family can come along and be part of it.

"We're incredibly grateful to all our partners, donors and supporters whose generosity has helped us bring this fantastic festival back to Bunbury."

The AWESOME Festival is a stay and play experience, offering the perfect opportunity for families to connect. All children must be accompanied and supervised by a Grown-Up at all times.

EVENT DETAILS

WHAT:	BREC and AWESOME Festival present AWESOME INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL Bunbury Hub
WHERE:	Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre
WHEN:	Wednesday 07 October 2026 10am – 3pm Thursday 08 October 2026 10am – 3pm

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FOR AGES: 0-12 years
 PATRON ADVICE: This is a STAY AND PLAY experience.
 All children must be accompanied by a Grown-Up.

BOOKINGS AND INFO <https://www.bunburyentertainment.com/whats-on/awesome-festival-bunbury-hub-2026/> or call the BREC Box office on 1300 661 272

IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD [HERE](#)
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We gratefully acknowledge our sponsors and supporters of this show:



For further information, interviews or images please contact:

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Synopses for AWESOME activities

Walk of the Whales
Ages 8-12

Two sessions per day: 11am to 11:55am & 2pm to 2:55pm

When the whales walk out of the ocean and into the streets, the people of Seaside don't quite know what to think. At first, the whales are a wonder, swimming in pools, catching trains and dancing in the ballet. But soon the town begins to flood, the shops run out of fish, and patience runs thin.

Amid the chaos, a curious girl named Frida decides to ask the whales the question no one else will: Why did you leave the sea?

Based on the award-winning picture book by Nick Bland and adapted for stage by Gita Bezard, Walk of the Whales is a moving and imaginative play about friendship, understanding, and the small changes that can make a big difference.

Entry is free, but gold coin donations are appreciated

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Experts Radio Lab **Ages 5+**

Set within a fun, colourful, 80's-style radio studio, Experts Radio Lab is a drop-in performance where young people are interviewed as the expert on a topic of their choice.

The interactive performance is hosted by 'born storyteller', theatre-maker Alice Mary Cooper and experienced team of performers. The interviews are shared live over a PA to an audience of fellow interviewees, their families, and curious onlookers in a specially designed listening zone.

Storyteller in Residence Glenn Swift **All ages**

Prepare to be captivated as master storyteller and host extraordinaire Glenn Swift welcomes you into an enchanting world of stories, books, rhymes, and literary magic. Come and bask in the glorious glow of words as you listen, imagine, build, and share stories inspired by some of your favourite books.

Kids' Maker Market **All ages**

Bring along your pocket money and support local budding artisans at the AWESOME Kids Market! We've put a callout to young entrepreneurs aged 14 and under to host their own market stall for a day at the Bunbury AWESOME Festival Hub.

Come along and support our WA kids who will be selling their homemade creations such as jewellery, greeting cards, bags, candles, and more!

Wander through and find something special as these Bun-Geo junior artisans share what they're passionate about making.

Madame Lark **All Ages**

She has a musical saw and a zeal for the many and varied voices of birds. Madame Lark offers her own vocal interpretations of the things around her... Along with her particular interest in hair, drawings, shapes and pedestrian elements of society, she gives an affectionate nod to the chatter and warblings of the air dwellers with surprisingly accurate Australian bird calls.

Gnaala Karla Booja Ranger Services **All ages**

Stationed at the entrance this year is Gnaala Karla Booja's Ranger Services! Activities across the day include kylie (boomerang) workshops, kodj and daarp (stone tool) demonstrations, weaving workshop using traditional products and tools and weapons 'hands on' displays within a culturally themed safe yarnning space for young people and adults.

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Ocean Adventure: Drama Workshop with Siobhan Maiden

Ages 7-12

3 sessions each day: 10:00am to 11:00am | 11:15am to 12:15pm | 12:45pm to 1:45pm

Dive into a world of imagination! In this playful drama workshop, children will set off on an ocean adventure, creating colourful characters, discovering curious sea creatures and transforming everyday objects into underwater props.

Led by theatre-maker and teaching artist Siobhan Maiden, this hour-long workshop introduces children to improvised storytelling through movement, props and spoken word. Together, they'll explore what might be hiding beneath the waves, who they might meet along the way and where their imaginations can take them.

Wardan Dreaming: Create Your Own Ocean Artwork with Candice Nannup

All ages

2 sessions per day: 10am to 12:30pm & 1pm to 2:45pm

Inspired by the artistic practice of Noongar artist Candice Nannup, this hands-on workshop invites children to explore the beauty, creatures and textures of the ocean through paint, tissue paper, tulle, sand and oil pastels.

Choose your favourite ocean creature; from whales, turtles and dolphins to sharks, octopuses, even mermaids and transform your cardboard canvas into a colourful, layered and textured work of art. With interactive stations to explore, young artists can experiment with colour, texture and pattern, creating a unique artwork inspired by the ocean and their own imagination.

Play, Imagine & Move: Dance workshop with Sarah Francis

30 participants per session: 10:00am to 10:45am – All Ages | 11am to 12pm – Ages 5-7 | 12:45pm to 1:45pm – All Ages | 1:45pm to 2:45pm – Ages 5-7

A playful dance workshop designed to connect with joy, freedom and imagination. Together we'll play games, dance and become oceans, creatures of the wild and whatever else our imaginations can dream up. Using contemporary dance tools, we'll move, explore, create and connect through play.

What might you become?

SILENT DISCO

All ages

This is a high-energy, interactive event where kids can dance like nobody is watching—because they're in their own world of music!

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With special wireless headphones, children can select from different music channels and let their feet do the talking as they follow the rhythm they love most.

The perfect way to burn off energy, enjoy some funky tunes, and have a blast with friends in a safe, family-friendly environment.

Mini Film Festival

4 sessions each day: 10am to 11am – Ages 8+ | 11am to 12pm – Ages 4-8 | 12pm to 2pm – Ages 8+ | 2pm to 3pm – Ages 4-8

Grab a beanbag, find a comfy spot and dive into a sea of short films! With screenings running throughout the day, drop in whenever you're ready and set sail on a cinematic adventure packed with stories, characters and plenty of imagination.

ENDS

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