

MALENY YOUTH FESTIVAL 2018

The Maleny Youth Festival is back in 2018, transforming the Maleny Neighbourhood Centre into a magical gypsy encampment with music, food, stalls and workshops from 3:00–9:00pm on Friday, September 14.

This is the 5th annual event and is hosted by the Maleny Flexi School with the support of the Neighbourhood Centre. The Maleny Youth Festival is a free event to showcase and celebrate the creativity of our local youth.

The festival will have a line-up of bands and musicians as well as performers, dancers and exciting live entertainment. The annual Youth Art Exhibition will be curated by students and will include photography, painting, drawing, print and sculpture.

There will be a variety of workshops and activities including face painting and henna, sword play and fortune telling, market and food stalls. We are inviting youth support services to attend the event in order to show their support for our young people and deepen their connection with the Hinterland community.

This festival is very special and unique as young people have been involved from the very beginning in developing the fantastic festival program.

"The Maleny Flexi School students chose a "Gypsy Carnival" theme to celebrate the creativity of the young people in our community" Sammalen Sek-Reid (year 11), one of the youth organisers explained. "The lifestyle of a gypsy involves travelling around, exploring new places, meeting different people and finding their place in the world. That resonates with us, we try to express ourselves, figure out where we belong and what kind of people we want to be. That is the purpose of this event, to help the youth of our community to express themselves, connect with each other and find their place."

"With no youth space or youth support it has led to young people feeling disconnected from our community. This needs to change; said Felix Wedderburn-Bisshop (year 10)

"Young people should have a space in this community, a place to belong, as well as access to support services and friends. We are hoping to create awareness and gather support for a Maleny Youth Space. We want to show the community how creative and inspiring we actually are if we are given the opportunity. We want to feel safe and wanted and to have our own space and events where we can really express who we are and who we aspire to be."

We encourage the whole community to attend our festival and in particular to complete the **Youth Space Survey**. The survey outcomes will help us put together the Maleny Youth Action Plan that will inform our proposals, grant applications and ensure youth participation in decision making. Maleny Neighbourhood Centre is proud to support the annual event and the Flexi School in bringing this event to the community and is looking forward to the youth engagement informing future actions.

We are eager to announce the music and entertainment line-up and invite interested artists, stall holders, entertainers and performers to
contact Sammalen at the Maleny Flexi School on (07) 54296958