



EST. 1977

**THORPDALE**

**POTATO**

**FESTIVAL**



**2025 COVER WINNER**

Evie Mara - Thorpdale Primary School

**2025 Souvenir Program**

## 2025 Runner-Up



**ELEANOR STEENDAM**  
St. Joseph's - Trafalgar

# Potato Equipment for the **Professional Grower**



*Vin Rowe Proudly  
Support the  
Thorpdale Potato  
Festival*

**AVR** POTATO HARVESTERS: Single and 2 Row Trailed Bunker,  
4 Row Self Propelled. **AVR** POTATO PLANTERS:  
2 Row Linkage, 4 Row Linkage and Trailing. **VALENTINI** FOLDING  
ROTARY HOES: Up to 12m. FOLDING POWER HARROWS: Up to 9m  
STONE CRUSHERS: Working Width 1m to 3m. Working Depth to 70cm.  
**BASELIER** INTERROW CULTIVATORS & HAULSHREDDERS  
**KUBOTA** TRACTORS

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION TALK TO WAYNE MILLS 0417 945584**



**VIN ROWE**  
FARM MACHINERY

3 ENDEAVOUR STREET  
WARRAGUL VIC 3820  
PH: (03) 5622 9100  
[WWW.VINROWE.COM.AU](http://WWW.VINROWE.COM.AU)



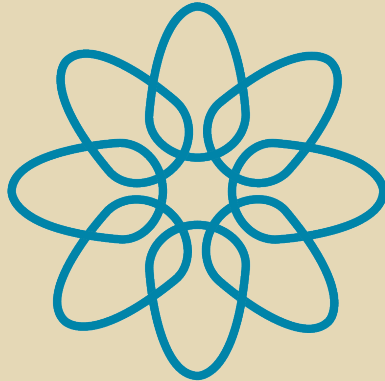
# GOLD SPONSORS

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# GOLD SPONSORS



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SEEING POSSIBILITIES IN POTATOES

# SPUD EVENTS



## Categories

### Experienced Pickers/Open

Pick 3 x 50kg bags.  
(no spuds to be left on ground after the pick,  
bags to be sewn)

**Prizes: 1st \$500, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$100**

### Amateur Pickers (Ages 16+)

(Entrants cannot enter both Open & Amateur  
events)

Pick 3 x 15kg cartons.

**Prizes: 1st \$300, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$50**

### Juniors (12-15 years)

Pick 3 x 15kg cartons.

**Prizes: 1st \$150, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$50**

### Pallet Throw (in pairs)

Pair that can throw a 50kg bag onto the highest  
pallet stack wins.

**Prizes: 1st \$500**



### The Vin Rowe Spud Challenge

Run 300m carrying a 50kg spud bag on your shoulders!

**Prizes: 1st \$600, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$100**

## Hessians on the Field



Get ready for another exciting year of creativity and fun at the Thorpdale Potato Festival's popular "Hessians on the Field" competition. With over \$1800 in prize money up for grabs, this year's event promises to be bigger and better than ever. Participants of all ages, from primary school students to adults, will have the opportunity to showcase their fashion and design skills by transforming humble potato sacks into unique and imaginative wearable art. The competition features Primary, Secondary, and Open categories, encouraging both budding designers and seasoned fashionistas to step onto the catwalk.

Whether it's a bold fashion statement or a playful take on a potato sack, we can't wait to see what you'll create. The fashion show will be held on the Brandt Arts Stage, with Kellie Eddy as MC for the event. Judging will be handled by a talented panel, including Sara Erderly, Jessica Odgers and Jessika Mylne. Don't miss your chance to be part of this iconic event and bring home a prize!



# FESTIVAL TIMELINE

## FESTIVAL HOURS

9:30AM	<b>GATES OPEN</b>
4:30PM	<b>GATES CLOSE</b>

### ALL DAY EVENTS

<b>PROFESSIONAL WOOD CHOP</b>
<b>CHAINSAW WOOD CARVERS</b>
<b>TC TRIKZ MOTOBIKES (4 SHOWS)</b>
<b>SCOUTS VIC - KIDS ACTIVITIES</b>
<b>FREE KIDS ZONE</b>
<b>CFA DEMONSTRATIONS</b>

### SHEARING & MUSIC STAGE AREA

9:45-10:15AM	<b>WORKING DOG DEMO</b>
10:15-10:45AM	<b>SHEARING DEMO</b>
10:45-11:15AM	<b>WORKING DOG DEMO</b>
11:15-11:45AM	<b>SHEARING DEMO</b>
11:45AM-12:15PM	<b>WORKING DOG DEMO</b>
12:15-12:45PM	<b>SHEARING DEMO</b>
12:45-1:15PM	<b>WORKING DOG DEMO</b>
1:15-2:00PM	<b>MUSIC - THE FOSSILS</b>
2:15-2:45PM	<b>SHEARING DEMO</b>
2:45-3:15PM	<b>WORKING DOG DEMO</b>
3:15-4:00PM	<b>MUSIC - THE FOSSILS</b>

### ARTS STAGE

10:30-11:00AM	<b>ANIMALS OF OZ</b>
11:15-11:45AM	<b>ELIO SIMONETTI</b>
12:00-1:00PM	<b>HESSIANS ON THE FIELD</b>
1:30-2:00PM	<b>MASHED POTATO COMP</b>
2:30-3:00PM	<b>ANIMALS OF OZ</b>
3:15-3:45PM	<b>ELIO SIMONETTI</b>

### SPUD EVENTS

10:45AM-12:00PM	<b>JUNIORS (12-15YRS) SPUD EVENTS</b>
12:15-1:30PM	<b>AMATUER (16YRS+) SPUD EVENTS</b>
2:30-3:15PM	<b>PROFESSIONAL SPUD EVENTS</b>
3:15-4:00PM	<b>PALLET TOSS</b>
4:00-4:10PM	<b>VIN ROWE SPUD CHALLENGE</b>

### INDUSTRY TENT

10:30-11:30AM	<b>GRAND RIDGE ORGANICS</b>
11:30AM-12:30PM	<b>PEPPERMINT RIDGE FARM</b>
1:00-2:00PM	<b>EIMEAR MCNELIS</b>
2:00-3:00PM	<b>JACICAN</b>

**NOTE** - TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.



**MARKET STALLS**

3099 JERKY  
 ANDAH DESIGNS  
 BRUSH AND BLUE  
 BY KHY  
 CARAVAN CHAI  
 CARICATURES BY VICCAS  
 CORKIES CREATIONS  
 CRYSTAL ESSENCE  
 CUP FULL OF CHEER  
 CUSTOM CREATIONS BY RYAN PARSONS  
 DUNN WITH LOVE  
 EDIBLE ALCHEMY  
 EMPRESS MOTH  
 GEDZWORK  
 GEORGIA GRACE CHILDREN'S BOUTIQUE  
 GRAND RIDGE ORGANICS  
 GROW HEIRLOOM SEEDS  
 HANDMADE BY CHARLIZE  
 HAY CUTIE HANDMADE  
 HEAVEN SENT GIFTWARE  
 HELLS BREATH FOR CHILLI LOVERS  
 HOLY SMOKES QUEEN  
 J & K SNAP - HANDMADE JEWEL  
 JAN DAWES LEADLIGHT GARDEN ART  
 KATE BILLINGSLEY  
 LATROBE VALLEY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION  
 LI'L EM BIBS  
 LITTLE FOX BOUTIQUE  
 LITTLE LUXURIES SOAP ATELIER  
 LYAISH  
 MADDISONS MAGICAL POP 'N' FLOSS  
 MADE BY KY  
 MADE BY NANNY G  
 MADEBYTAYLAHROSE  
 MELLYS PAINT N PLASTER  
 MJS GARDEN  
 NATURAL HOME AND BODY  
 NATIVE SEED BOX  
 ORIGINAL SPIRIT CO  
 PASTA 51  
 PEPPERMINT RIDGE FARM  
 PLANTS AND CLAY AUSTRALIA  
 POSTCODE HIVES  
 QUEEN BEE HANDBAGS  
 REMI & FLORENCE BAKEHOUSE  
 RHI & MATT'S 3D FORGE  
 SALAMI SHACK  
 SIXTEEN PAWS DOGHOUSE BAKERY  
 SMOKING FEVER  
 SPREAD MAYA  
 ST FIACRES FARM  
 STUCK ON WOOD GIPPSLAND  
 SWEET STOP  
 TARAGO OLIVES  
 THE BACKWATER CREATIVE CO  
 THE BELLA FROMAGE COMPANY  
 THE BIG ISSUE

**MARKET STALLS**

THE GAY FARMER CANDLES  
 THERMOMIX GIPPSLAND  
 THOR'S ELEMENT  
 TICKLED PINK ART STUDIO  
 TROPIC OF CAPRICORN  
 WHAT THE FUDGE HOMEMADE DESSERTS  
 WHISTLING DIXIE  
 YARRA VALLEY MOCCASINS & UGG BOOTS  
 ZEPHYR AND SOUL

**FOOD VENDORS**

BIG BEARS DONUTS  
 BUBBLE TEA BAR  
 BTB - BUSH TUCKER BITES CATERING  
 CEYLON VIBES  
 CREPE MAMA  
 DINE WITH A DIFFERENCE  
 DOIN' DUMPLINGS  
 FLAMIN SKEWERS  
 FRENCHHEESE  
 GIPPSLAND BAKED POTATOES  
 GIPPSLAND JERSEY  
 GRAZING DELIGHTZ - POFFERTJES  
 HAPPI ACAI  
 KIKI COFFEE  
 LFK ON THE MOVE  
 MR FRESH TRUCK  
 OMG! DECADENT DONUTS BAW BAW  
 SAMPSONS BAR AND GRILL  
 SIPPING SLUSHIES  
 SUZY'S COFFEE BREAK  
 THE ARANCINI MANN  
 THE HONEYPUFF CHICKS  
 TWISTA BRO'S  
 WHEELIE GOOD PIZZAS  
 YUM CUP

**LOCAL COMMUNITY STALLS**

FESTIVAL FARMERS MARKET  
 FESTIVAL MERCHANDISE  
 NARRACAN PRIMARY SCHOOL - POPCORN  
 NARRACAN PUBLIC HALL - TWISTED SPUDS  
 THORPDALE CRICKET CLUB INC - HOT CHIPS  
 THORPDALE FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB - BAR  
 THORPDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL - BBQ  
 THORPDALE TENNIS CLUB - ICE CREAMS

**SPONSOR STALLS**

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# FESTIVAL MAP

	EVENTS + DEMOS		TOILETS
	FOOD + DRINK		ACCESSIBLE TOILETS
	MARKET STALLS		BABY FEED/CHANGE
	CORPORATE/ CLUB STALLS		FIRST AID
	KIDS ACTIVITIES		FIRE HYDRANT
	DRINKING WATER		EMERGENCY EXIT

PARKING ON  
MORWELL  
THORPALE RD

ENTRY

STOCKDALES ROAD

LOCAL PRODUCE  
+ MERCH

WOOD  
CARVING

WOOD  
CHOPPING

CFA  
DISPLAY

SPONSOR  
DISPLAY

SHEARING +  
MUSIC STAGE

KIDS +  
NOVELTY  
EVENTS

WORKING  
DOGS

KIDS FREE ACTIVITIES

HISTORIC  
TRACTOR  
DISPLAY

INDUSTRY TENT/  
COOKING DEMOS





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SEEING POSSIBILITIES IN POTATOES



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FARM MACHINERY

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# FESTIVAL ATTRACTIONS

## Wood Carving

Presented by Able Mechanical, Brandon Kroon is a master of chainsaw carving, turning fallen trees into breathtaking works of art. With a lifelong passion for creating and building, he entered the carving and sculpting scene in 2013 and has since completed a diverse range of projects across Australia. Known for his intricate detail and larger-than-life sculptures, Brandon will be carving live near the festival entry, giving visitors the chance to see his incredible craftsmanship in action. Don't miss this unique display of skill and creativity!



## Woodchopping

Feel the power and precision of competitive woodchopping at the Thorpdale Potato Festival! Presented by Dobmac Agricultural Machinery, the South & Central Gippsland Axemen's Association will be putting on thrilling displays of strength and skill throughout the day. Located near the entrance next to the wood carving, this age-old sport is a true test of endurance and technique.

## Sheep Shearing Demonstrations

*Ewe and I* is a Victorian, family owned and run business by Jason & Kelly Kretschmer. Jason grew up on a sheep farming operation and watched his dad shear from a young age. With over 30 years of experience they bring a wealth of knowledge and professionalism to their business. Today you will find Jason, Kelly and the team on the Lamb Weston Stage demonstrating the speed and skill their staff use daily to shear thousands of head of sheep. They will be supported on the day by local Heiniger rep Joel Barton.



## Working Dog Demonstrations

Steve Sudero and Taleigha Emmerson from *Yarra Valley Working Dogs* have over 20 years experience between them, rehabilitating and training adult dogs. Steve also specialises in dog boot camp for training dogs that are problematic with behaviour and stock work. Today you will find Steve near the Lamb Weston Stage demonstrating his working dogs' skills in herding ducks!

# FESTIVAL ATTRACTIONS

## Scenic Heli Flights

See Thorpdale from the sky with Riverina Helicopters! Offering 10-minute scenic flights for just \$90 per person, this is your chance to take in breathtaking aerial views of the festival and surrounding farmland. Whether you're a local seeing your town from a new perspective or a visitor wanting to experience the stunning landscape, this ride is an unforgettable way to make the most of the day. Flights run throughout the festival with a minimum of two and a maximum of three passengers per trip. Don't miss your chance to take off—book in on the day!



## TC Trickz

TC Trickz Trials Entertainment, presented by *Elders Pakenham*, is a high-energy motorcycle stunt show featuring world-renowned trials rider Tim Coleman and his talented team. At the Thorpdale Potato Festival, TC Trickz will be delivering multiple thrilling performances throughout the day, showcasing their gravity-defying tricks, technical precision, and pure motorcycle mastery.



## Farmers Market

Discover the best of Thorpdale's local produce at our Farmers Market, next to the festival entrance! Grab crisp cabbages from Hobsons Farms, onions from Powells Farms, and premium potatoes from Murphy Farms, grown in the region famous for them! You'll also find jams and nashi fruits from Sunny Creek Organic Berry Farm, flowers from Blooms on the Hill, and juicy apples from Kelowna Orchards. With produce grown just minutes away, it's the perfect way to support local farmers and take home a true taste of Thorpdale!



## Festival Merchandise

Take home a piece of the Thorpdale Potato Festival with our official merchandise, available alongside the Farmers Market! From kids' and adults' hats and t-shirts to stubby holders and high-quality potato brushes, there's something for everyone. Whether you're after a practical keepsake or a unique gift, these locally branded items let you celebrate the festival long after the day is done. Be sure to check out the merch stand and grab your festival essentials while they last!



# KIDS ACTIVITIES

## Animals of Oz

As a child, owner, Sarah spent all day running around the bush. She later studied and researched ecology and wildlife management. Sarah loves that every day she gets to share her passion about our environment. *Animals of Oz* will keep everyone engaged, young and old, as they hear stories and meet the animals! Today *Animals of Oz* will deliver fun, entertaining and educational animal displays on the *Brandt Arts Stage*.



## Elio Simonetti

*Elio Simonetti* is a world-class magician who blends elegant sleight of hand with theatrical flair to create a spellbinding experience for audiences of all ages! With his mesmerizing illusions, charming wit, and a touch of old-world mystery, he will leave you wondering where reality ends and magic begins. Catch him throughout the day on the *Brandt Arts Stage*!

## 1st Mirboo North Scout Group

The *1st Mirboo North Scout Group* including Joeys, Cubs and Scouts have fun, adventure and positive challenges thrown at them, building resilience and confidence. All this, whilst making friends and being part of the world's largest youth movement - these kids thrive! Scouting provides limitless, positive opportunities for life.

Today you will find them on the oval running FREE kids potato crafts, games and races including sack races, spud and spoon, crate stacking, potato bowling and much more.



## Free Kids Zone

The *Free Kids Zone* is brought to you by *Bendigo Community Bank Trafalgar & District*. This awesome kids zone includes a jumping castle, chair'o'plane, obstacle course and adventure jungle! So let your little tikes run wild, all FREE!

# INDUSTRY TENT

## Peppermint Ridge Farm

Julie from Peppermint Ridge Native Foods has been dedicated to sustainable native bushfoods since 1996. She will demonstrate how to incorporate bushfoods into everyday cooking, drawing inspiration from their specialist nursery, cooking classes, and immersive Tour and Taste experiences.



## Eimear McNelis – Thermomix Consultant | Red Dirt Road

Eimear and her family began an edible food permaculture garden on their town block in Thorpdale 12 years ago and continue to enjoy cooking from scratch. Diagnosed with coeliac disease, Eimear shares recipes, wellbeing, and gardening articles on her blog, [www.reddirtroad.life](http://www.reddirtroad.life). With 12 years of Thermomix experience, she demonstrates how to cook gluten-free, save time and money, reduce processed food consumption, and promote sustainability in the kitchen.

## Jacican

Jaci Hicken shares her love for using homegrown and pantry staples through cooking classes in Mirboo North, offering everything from preserving to pastry-making and five-course garden-to-table long lunches. At the demo, she will prepare pan-fried golden kipfler potatoes, gnocchi, and potato ice cream—entrée, main, and dessert.



## Grand Ridge Organics

Based in Gippsland, Grand Ridge Organics is a NASSA Certified Organic farm producing high-quality organic food while prioritizing sustainability and biodiversity. Their commitment to regenerative farming helps nurture the land and create premium, chemical-free produce for the community.

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