VENUE INFORMATION
33 Manning River Drive, Taree.
Ph: 6592 5466 | mec.production@midcoast.nsw.gov.au | theMEC.com.au

TO BUY TICKETS
Visit the website: theMEC.com.au
Come to the box office (Tuesday to Friday 10am to 1pm)
Call us on 6592 5466 (Tuesday to Friday 10am to 1pm)
Visit Stockland Forster Customer Information Desk
Come to the theatre one hour before each performance unless sold out.

KEEP UP TO DATE
New shows are regularly added to our website theMEC.com.au where you can also sign up for our newsletter.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ManningEntCent
Instagram: Check out Instagram for the latest news, photos and behind the scenes fun.
TripAdvisor: Visit Trip Advisor and leave your review after the show.

Details in this brochure are correct at the time of publication. We reserve the right to add or substitute artists and vary the program should the need arise.

Manning Entertainment Centre is a cultural service of MidCoast Council.

The Perfect Gift
Whether it be a birthday, anniversary, Christmas or thank you, a MEC gift voucher is the perfect gift for any special occasion. Starting at just $25, it’s simple to purchase a gift voucher online, from the MEC box office or at the Stockland Forster Customer Information Desk. Team it with our new season program and the lucky recipient can choose a show they’d love. It will be a gift to remember!

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE MEC AND SAVE
Annual Friend membership is only $25 and will save you a bundle on the shows listed here and even more on other shows throughout the year. See page 9 for further details and benefits.

ACCESSIBILITY AND WHEELCHAIR PATRONS
All seats in Row A are removable for wheelchair access. Wheelchair seating cannot be booked online, so we request that patrons using wheelchairs call us on 6592 5466 so that we can personally arrange seating that best suits your specific needs. The theatre is fitted with a T-switch hearing aid loop that is accessible from all seats. We accept NSW Companion Cards. Our team is very happy to assist you with particular requirements.

Creative Learning @ the MEC
Did you know you can use your Creative Kids Voucher at the MEC?
Visit our website or subscribe to our mailing list to keep updated in Term 3 and 4 for after school workshops
- Develop Basic Writing Techniques and
- Fundamentals in Sound and Lighting

Teacher Professional Learning
Our professional learning programs at the MEC are designed to be practical, hands-on and equip you with the skills to apply immediately into the classroom.
Subscribe to our education e-newsletter for updates in terms 3 & 4. Email Ali Haigh, our Public Programs and Education Engagement Officer: ali.haigh@midcoast.nsw.gov.au
Looking for a laugh? The Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow is coming to town. Forget I-Spy, spotto and stale servo snacks, this road trip is jam-packed with a crew of fantastically funny comedians, specially selected to bring the fun of the Festival to towns and cities around the nation.

This year at the MEC, we have jokemeisters Dave Callan (MC), Ivan Aristeguieta, Nikki Britton, Pat McCaffrie and the winner of Best Newcomer at this year’s festival, Blake Freeman!

For 20 years the Melbourne International Comedy Festival has been touring far and wide, bringing giggles, guffaws and good times to Australia and further afield. Whether you’re in Katherine, Quirindi, Kyneton or Cairns, you can still experience Australia’s largest and best-loved comedy festival in your own backyard. We’ve got over 80 destinations on the laugh-laden schedule, and a line-up of artists to tickle anyone’s funny bone. The Roadshow really has something for everyone!

Grab a mate, grab a date... grab a ticket to the Roadshow!

Performances may contain coarse language, sexual references and material that can offend. It is recommended for people aged 15 years or older. Performance contains smoke/haze.
This year audiences have the chance to witness World Champion Irish dancers direct from the West End’s Lord of the Dance, as A TASTE OF IRELAND – THE IRISH MUSIC AND DANCE SENSATION tours Australia-wide telling the tale of the world’s most loved nation in one incredible performance.

Told through Irish music and dance, A TASTE OF IRELAND explores magical tales spanning generations of Irish storytelling and culture. This world class show features World, All Ireland & National Champion Irish dancers, and musicians from around the globe performing unique music and dance that reflects the story that is Ireland. Melodic Celtic flute is complemented by raw and rhythmic guitar to create the heart felt sounds of Ireland. The show features a dynamic musical duo and impressive dancing rarely seen outside of the World Championship stage. "A Taste of Ireland" was composed and choreographed in Dublin and is quickly on its way to becoming the new frontier in Irish entertainment.

Created and produced by Pace Entertainment Group, the show will transport the audience to a time and place where tunes, taps and tradition showcase the very essence of celebrating the Irish spirit.
Melbourne City Ballet

Melbourne City Ballet’s Michael Pappalardo (Artistic Director) and Brendan Bradshaw (Artistic Associate) pay homage to the well known novel by Lewis Carroll, “Alice In Wonderland”, with this enchanting ballet complemented by one of Tchaikovsky’s most famous scores.

“Alice In Wonderland” tells the story of a young girl who is whisked away to a magical world of wonder. Falling through a rabbit hole she meets magical creatures both strange and mysterious on her adventure to find her way home.

Join the White Rabbit, Queen of Hearts and the Mad Hatter as Alice ventures through Wonderland. This all new ballet is perfect for all ages and is a magical portrayal of the classical story. Over a year in the making, Melbourne City Ballet is set to entertain across Australia and New Zealand and bring a smile to both ballet audiences with its exquisite choreography and non-ballet audiences through its dynamic story telling.

With 40 unique costumes and newly designed tour-able sets, this ballet is sure to be a colourful and playful rendition on this story. In true Melbourne City Ballet fashion, the company brings a feast of movement to the stage.
From Hidden Valleys

Tallowdale Music, Filmworks Media and the Manning Winter Festival present a show not to be missed!
‘From Hidden Valleys’ is a short nature film with soundtrack by local composer, Jonathan Billingham. Take in the sights and sounds of our majestic Manning Valley. Experience a bird’s-eye view, journeying over Barrington Tops and Lansdowne Escarpment, through rugged gullies, past forests and flood plains all the way to the open sea.
This special event will also include a virtuosic performance of music by Tchaikovsky, Liszt, Rachmaninov and Billingham for cello, violin, clarinet and piano.

TCHAIKOVSKY Souvenir d’un lieu cher for violin & piano
LISZT Reminiscences de Don Juan for piano
RACHMANINOV Sonata in G minor for cello & piano
BILLINGHAM A collection of works for piano trio

The concert and film premiere will be followed by light refreshments in the foyer.

A cinematic journey through the Manning Valley
They Shall Not Grow Old is a 2018 BAFTA nominated documentary film directed and produced by Peter Jackson. The film has been created using original footage of World War I from the Imperial War Museum's archives, most of it previously unseen, alongside audio from BBC and IWM interviews of British servicemen who fought in the conflict.

Most of the footage has been colourised and transformed with modern production techniques, with the addition of sound effects and voice to be more evocative and feel closer to the soldiers’ actual experiences. The crew reviewed 600 hours of interviews from 200 veterans and 100 hours of original film footage to make the film. The title was inspired by the line “They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old” from the 1914 poem “For the Fallen” by Laurence Binyon, famous for being used in the Ode of Remembrance.

Jackson, whose grandfather (to whom the film is dedicated) fought in the war, intended for the film to be an immersive experience of “what it was like to be a soldier” rather than a story or a recount of events.

Pre Show Platters and Drinks at Ovations

Feeling a bit peckish before the show? Ovations Bar at the MEC offers a variety of drinks and snacks one hour before and after each performance. Sit back and relax under the sparkly lights in our foyer and enjoy catching up with friends.

We now offer the perfect light snack to accompany your drink prior to selected shows. Enjoy a pre-show cheese platter. The platters must be pre-booked online when you book your tickets or when you call to book (at least 48 hours before the show). Call our Box Office on 6592 5466.

Simply go to the bar and give your name and your order will be ready for you. The cheese platters include a variety of cheeses with a selection of biscuits.

$20 for 2 people  |  $35 for 4 people
The Australian Tenors

With a fabulous new show for 2019, The Australian Tenors’ versatility spans all genres of the classical tenor repertoire.

Five of the best tenor voices in Australia, The Australian Tenors bring a sensational program for 2019 along with romance, excitement, warmth and humour to their performance at the Manning Entertainment Centre. Audiences will be thrilled by the ever-popular classical arias from well known Operas along with songs from hit music theatre productions. Beautiful duets are also a part of the program including ‘Time to Say Goodbye’.

The Australian Tenors are: Lorenzo Rositano, Murray Mayday, David McKenzie, John Donohoe & Martin Buckingham – backed by the Southern Cross Orchestra under the direction of Musical Director & Conductor Dr Joseph Macri. Guest soprano, Giuseppina Grech.

The spirit, beauty and vocal demand of truly authentic tenor voices.

“I want to thank The Australian Tenors for their magnificent performance at our launch. Prince Harry, the honoured guests and sponsors were thrilled.”

JO GRANT, INVICTUS GAMES AUSTRALIAN COMMITTEE
A Tribute to Joe Cocker & The Blues Brothers

This rocking show features tributes to two of the music industry’s most loved and iconic acts: Joe Cocker and The Blues Brothers, backed by a stellar live band.

Come and Shake Your Tailfeather to all the hits from the legendary film, including Gimme Some Lovin, Soul Man, Everybody Needs Somebody, Rawhide, Sweet Home Chicago, and more. All songs are backed by the fantastic live band and back-up singers featuring some of Australia’s finest musical talent.

You’ll get two of Australia’s best tributes in one huge show. Not to be missed – book now!

Following their hugely successful tour in 2017, the Yamato Drummers are back in Australia by popular demand.

Their acclaimed performances of Japanese Taiko drumming and music have captivated audiences of over 7 million people in 54 countries across the globe. In a brand new show “Passion”, the drummers challenge and push themselves to their absolute limits. Yamato will leave audiences exhilarated by this visually spectacular, high-energy and explosive show.

This performance contains smoke/haze.
OnScreen Films

Our OnScreen films bring the world’s finest entertainment to our big screen, captured live from the great international stages. See productions from the UK’s National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company, New York’s MET Opera and Broadway, The Australian Ballet and Handa’s Opera Australia on Sydney Harbour. Join the regulars who never miss a screening and savour the brilliance of the world’s best performers.

As an added bonus, there are special discounts for Friends of the MEC, Friends of the Gallery, Taree Film Society members and MidCoast Library Bookclub members!

New titles are added monthly, so check our website: theMEC.com.au

When the 1960’s British Invasion hit worldwide, Herman’s Hermits were one of the biggest groups out of the UK. Their Australian No. 1 hits, ‘Mrs. Brown you’ve got a lovely daughter’ and ‘No milk today’ made the group one of the most popular groups of the day here in Australia. In 2019 they come to Taree with all their hits in a show starting at 6pm. The 6 O’clock Hop.

Our idea is to put our show on at a convenient time in the winter months of August and September where audience members are encouraged to get an early dinner and enjoy a 2 hour show packed full of hits and fun, in the knowledge they’ll be safely home at a reasonable time!

Ticket prices

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<th>Adult</th>
<th>Concession*</th>
<th>Group of 8+</th>
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<td>Under 18 yrs</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
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<td>Group of 8+</td>
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* Concession = Pensioners, Seniors Card Holders and Student Card Holders

Time 6pm
Duration 2 hrs including interval

Ticket prices

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WINNER

OLIVIER AWARDS
2003, BEST ACTRESS (HELEN MIRREN)
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR (RICHARD McCABE)

TONY®
AWARD
NOMINATIONS
including BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTRESS in a Leading Role (HELEN MIRREN)

“Helen Mirren is smashing.
Her Majesty will
see you now.”
NEW YORK TIMES
Sydney International Piano Competition

The Sydney International Piano Competition (The Sydney) has, from its inception, held events at the highest international level inspiring pianists and audiences alike and stimulating interest in the piano, and music in general. It has provided a showcase platform for outstanding pianists from all over the world and assisted with the development of their careers.

American Kenny Broberg achieved success as one of the grand finalists in The Sydney 2016 and recently was awarded the silver medal of the 2017 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. This spring The Sydney welcomes Kenny to Australia for his debut tour of the country.

Expect to hear sublime playing that will undoubtedly confirm Kenny as one of the next great talents of the piano. Indeed, his career since his wins in Sydney and Fort Worth, has propelled him into the spotlight with demands for his playing world-wide. Don't miss your chance to hear this extraordinary young artist.

Program:
• Johann Sebastian Bach: Prelude and Fugue in A-flat Major BWV 862
• Ludwig van Beethoven: Sonata No.31 in A-flat Major Op.110
• Frédéric Chopin: Fantaisie in F minor Op.49
• Claude Debussy: Children's Corner
• Maurice Ravel: Gaspard de la nuit

Kenny will be conducting an exclusive masterclass during his Taree visit. Please call 6592 5466 for details.
Arj Barker  
We Need to Talk

Hey, you got an hour?
Look, I’ve been doing a shit-ton of thinking about...us, and where we’re headed. This isn’t easy, but I need to be 100% honest with you, even if what I say makes you laugh, very, very hard.
You had better sit down for this....
Australia’s adopted son of comedy returns with his brand new show ‘We Need To Talk’.
Support Act: Joel Osborn

The world famous Glenn Miller Orchestra returns to Australia with a brand new programme in a Concert Spectacular featuring 21 musicians, singers and dancers on stage.
Expect all the famous Glenn Miller classics including Moonlight Serenade, Tuxedo Junction and of course, In The Mood, with Broadway Swing Dancers in gorgeous costumes are special guests, dancing to the Big Band hits.

"An evening of nostalgia...unforgettable music...an absolutely brilliant concert."
THE AUSTRALIAN STAGE

Performances may contain coarse language, sexual references and material that can offend. It is recommended for people aged 15 years or older.
Jay Scott-Berry - Incantations

Once upon a time, in a not too distant kingdom, there lived a grand wizard. A master he was, of prestidigitation, weaving visions of wonder into pure inspiration. Some say he revealed secrets of space and time, while singing stories and conjuring rhyme.

He had been the youngest mage to grace the stage, at the castle of magic in the woods of holly. Composing music and mystery in theatrical alchemy, a spellbinding, mesmerising, celestial symphony.

The carnival in Venice, a game of thrones, a mirage in Vegas to the circle of stones. Timeless wonders and magical rings, in the tents of sultans and courts of kings.

On the ancient isle in the crystal cave, Excalibur lie concealed. Pulling it from the philosopher’s stone, its magic was revealed. Sword in hand, the tor he climbed, hailing the golden dawn. Sipping the grail at the sacred well, lifting the veil of Avalon.

The hilltop beacons were lit and burned. The call went out that Merlin had returned!

Incantations
A celebration of wonders for all shapes and sizes. A mystical voyage of song and surprises. A world of imagination, dreams and laughter, where all may live... Happily ever after.
Melbourne City Ballet

“Then close your eyes and tap your heels together three times...”

Melbourne City Ballet will recreate the cherished story of The Wonderful Wizard of Oz for audiences across Australia in 2019. The dancers will click their heels together and get a little bit wicked as they follow the classic tale of Dorothy Gale, a young country girl who is swept away to the magical world of Oz.

Full of enchanting characters, some friendly and some truly wicked! The Wonderful Wizard of Oz will be imaginatively brought to life in this brand new production for Melbourne City Ballet. With stunning new sets and costumes and the company’s largest ensemble to date, this brand new ballet proves there is no place like home, and will be an enchanting event suitable for the whole family. Don’t miss your chance to see this colourful new ballet, right here on the MidCoast!

“A wonderful telling of this timeless tale...the biggest and brightest work staged by Melbourne City Ballet so far... exquisitely performed.”

DANCELIFE.COM.AU

Due to overwhelming demand, Elvis an American Trilogy, the show that embodies the essence of The King, is back in Australia this September. Three of the world’s leading Elvis performers will take the audience on a spellbinding journey through the many eras of The King, a 20th century icon and one of the world’s most recognisable figures. Don’t miss the ultimate Elvis experience!

The complete story direct from the United States.
A delightful infusion of intense physical theatre, comedy and dance, BLUE LOVE offers a poetic and satirical take on the clichés of pop culture, romance, coupledom and suburbia.

From a fantastic place where TV soap meets art-house film, Glenn and Rhonda draw on popular works of art across theatre, music and film, parodying the lip-service given to love and its incarnations. BLUE LOVE is quirky, character-based theatre complete with a fat dose of funny!

Shaun Parker takes to the stage to perform the role of Glenn Flune, alongside the hysterical and dynamic Jo Stone as Rhonda Flune.

I was made for loving you baby, you were made for loving me...

“So much fun it can’t possibly be good for you!”
SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

This project is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.
Shaun Parker & Company is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.
Matinée Idols & Evening Stars
Jane Rutter and Peter Cousens

West End musical star Peter Cousens and legendary flutist Jane Rutter Chevalière des Arts et Lettres join forces to bring you a magical afternoon of musical romance, performing popular classical pieces and romantic songs by some of the world’s greatest popular composers: Gershwin, Cole Porter, Massenet, Offenbach, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Ravel, Lehár, Lerner and Loewe, Bernstein and more...

The two take you on a romantic journey featuring best-loved songs from Peter’s starring roles in West Side Story, Camelot, Showboat, Aspects of Love, Phantom of the Opera and Les Miserables as well as luscious romantic pieces from Jane’s 23 solo albums.

Jane and Peter have attained National Treasure status in Australia – a sensational duo, whose debut Sydney Opera House Concert Hall performance was a sell-out. Don’t miss this endearingly intimate, witty take on all things romantic.

An afternoon of elegance, guaranteed to make your heart sing!

Jane and Peter will be conducting a masterclass on Saturday the 9th of November. Please call 6592 5466 for details.

An intimate and witty take on all things romantic.

"Jane Rutter is the Bette Midler of the flute. ‘The Divine Miss R.’ She’s a classical siren in whose hands the flute becomes an instrument of seduction and sensual pleasure...”

LINDA VAN NUNEN—THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN

"Peter Cousens... his phrasing and delivery achieves remarkable clarity and richness...draws out pathos even in the bawdiest and boldest of turns.... surely the most polished act in town.”

BRYCE HALLETT
SYDNEY MORNING HERALD
Australia’s Prince of crooning and love ballads, Harrison Craig, returns in 2019 to embark on a national tour honouring the emotional, intimate and soulful love songs of the great, Sir Elton John.

This show will be a delicately curated set of Elton John’s love ballads the likes of “Can You Feel The Love Tonight”, “Circle Of Life”, “Candle In The Wind”, “Sacrifice” and of course the title track, “Rocketman”, all performed with Harrison Craig’s trademark rich vocal tones and accompanied by piano.

Add to this a selection of Harrison’s own hits as well as showcasing his brand new original song that will be released later this year titled “Even If You Say So”.

As an artist, Harrison has had the unique experience of working with the likes of Seal, David Foster, Baz Luhrmann, Diane Warren, Barry Gibb (The Bee Gees) and Australia’s own Olivia Newton-John.

OnScreen Films

Our OnScreen films bring the world’s finest entertainment to our big screen, captured live from the great international stages. See productions from the UK’s National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company, New York’s MET Opera and Broadway, The Australian Ballet and Handa’s Opera Australia on Sydney Harbour. Join the regulars who never miss a screening and savour the brilliance of the world’s best performers.

As an added bonus, there are special discounts for Friends of the MEC, Friends of the Gallery, Taree Film Society, The Lehman Trilogy members and MidCoast Library Bookclub members!

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