

## Media Release



# MELBA

## Community and Thanksgiving Day

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The Melba Festival concept created and driven by Marjorie Woollands two years ago has evolved into a major event for the Yarra Valley and the Shire. The Festival focuses on two elements - to combine the wine and food that the valley is so well known for with a showcase of classical music recognizing the Dame Nellie Melba historical connection to Yarra Glen; and to recognize, reinvigorate and celebrate community in Yarra Glen with a family friendly "grass roots" fair type gathering. The musical element to the 2008 Melba Festival was recently completed over a weekend packed with a diversity of offerings from various artists.

It's time now to celebrate the strengths and diversity of our community and what better way than to integrate the community event with the National Day of Thanksgiving on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May. *(A recent initiative, growing in recognition, the National Day of Thanksgiving opened last year by the Governor General Michael Jeffrey and included addresses by both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition).* The National Day of Thanksgiving initiative gives us the opportunity to acknowledge and thank those citizens who contribute so much. Last year, Yarra Glen saw a street BBQ/Parade, local volunteer group's displays, school bands, art competitions and family focused static and interactive displays. Heartland church based in Yarra Glen, who run playgroup, Glen. youth and Sunday activities, have accepted the coordination role for this year's community event. The Melba Community and Thanksgiving afternoon will be held at the Magnificent Yarra Glen Racing Centre from 12.00p.m. till 4.30p.m. and will be focused on fun for the family as well as showcasing local groups and clubs. If you are interested in being involved please contact Mike Baimbridge from Heartland on 97302910 to ensure this event truly celebrates and acknowledges the value of community.

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