

6 November, 2013

NSW Home to Australia's Favourite Festivals for 2013

Three NSW events have been revealed among Australia's Top Ten favourites in this year's much-anticipated Australian Event Awards.

Vivid Sydney, Top Gear Festival Sydney and Sprung Festival in NSW's Bathurst have made the list of the country's most revered events, with Australia's Favourite Event to be decided by public vote and announced on Tuesday 19 November, 2013.

Minister for Tourism and Major Events, George Souris said, "There are incredible events happening in NSW constantly – whether it's in regional NSW or the capital Sydney. Sporting events, lifestyle events, arts, culture, music, entertainment – NSW has it all.

"Events are central to delivering visitor growth and expenditure. The 184 events secured by the NSW Government since March 2011 will deliver an estimated \$1.2 billion into the economy."

Owned and managed by the NSW Government through Destination NSW, Vivid Sydney was enjoyed by more than 800,000 people in 2013, coming together for the ever-popular 18-day festival of light, music and ideas. The event will be back in 2014, held in various locations in Sydney on 23 May-9 June.

Also featured in the top 10 list was Top Gear Sydney, secured exclusively for Sydney by Destination NSW in 2013, with its great mix of high octane entertainment – and due to return to Sydney on 8-9 March 2014; and The Sprung Festival, a seven-night creativity and entertainment event held at the Charles Sturt University Bathurst Campus.

Sandra Chipchase, CEO of Destination NSW said, "Events are a fantastic way of exploring a city or region, giving visitors a unique experience and often a very different perspective of the destination.

"It is particularly positive to see Vivid Sydney, an event that features so prominently in the events calendar during winter, voted as one of Australia's top ten events."

Voting for Australia's Favourite Event is open to everyone and can be cast at <http://www.eventawards.com.au/>. The country's favourite event will be revealed after voting closes at 9:00pm Tuesday 19 November, at a black tie awards night function in Sydney.

For more information on these and other events supported by Destination NSW, visit www.sydney.com and www.visitnsw.com.

ENDS

Media Contact: Jasmine Cook, Destination NSW, 02 9931 1426,
jasmine.cook@dnsw.com.au