The Mutton Birds are back in town

Towards the end of September each year the annual migration of the short-tailed shearwaters, or mutton birds, occurs as they arrive on Griffiths Island from their far flung journey in the northern hemisphere.

Griffiths Island can be reached via walking tracks and a causeway and is a great place to explore, with the nesting birds and the iconic Port Fairy Lighthouse. The island is home to the mutton bird colony, which spend our winter months around the Aleutian Islands near Alaska.

The shearwaters are a spectacular example of the natural life cycle that Port Fairy is lucky to share with the wider community. Their arrival is a really fascinating time – they generally return to the breeding area on the same day each year (usually September 22) and occupy the same nest as the previous year, with the same breeding partner. The birds nest in burrows in the sand, incubating their eggs through to hatching in January. By April the adult birds set off on their annual 15,000 kilometre migration, leaving the chicks behind. Eventually hunger will force the chicks to follow their parents on the two-month voyage, which passes Japan and skirts the coast of North America. It is quite a sight to see the masses of birds returning to their burrows at dusk each day between September and April. If you are visiting the island please keep to the tracks as wandering off tracks can collapse the burrows and bury the chicks.

For more information on the short-tailed shearwaters and other bird life on Griffiths Island contact the Visitor Information Centre on Bank Street, ph 03 5568 2682.

Kirkstall to celebrate 150 years

The countdown is on to the 150th anniversary celebrations for Kirkstall.

Next year the township will celebrate its 150th anniversary with a festival celebrating the town's incredible social and cultural history.

KirkFest will be held from the 15th to 20th February 2011 to mark the establishment of the township in February 1861 by the then Governor of the Colony of Victoria, Sir Henry Barkly.

Events and artists for the festival are still being confirmed, but activities will include music and dancing, Indigenous culture showcases, the release of 150 balloons by local children and a hotly contested cricket match between Kirkstall and Koroit.

Organisers say support from the local community and businesses in the region is important to help make KirkFest a great success.

For more information and to find out how you can get involved visit the KirkFest website at kirkfest.webs.com
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What’s on this month

18th: **Port Fairy Farmers Market**, Village Green, cnr Sackville & Bank Streets, from 8.00am - 1.00pm
The monthly farmers markets highlight produce from local farmers including fruit, vegetables, flowers and honey in season, plants, baking, eggs and much more.

19th: **Movie - SHREK, Forever After**
Port Fairy Consolidated School presents Shrek, Forever After. After challenging an evil dragon, rescuing a beautiful princess and saving your in-laws' kingdom, what's an ogre to do? 2pm, Reardon Theatre, Port Fairy. Tickets available at the door.
ADULTS $10 KIDS $5

22nd: **Mutton Birds arrive**
The Mutton Birds are a spectacular example of the natural life cycle that Port Fairy is lucky to share with the wider community. The Shearwaters have an annual migration cycle to the Pacific Ocean. Their lifecycle really is fascinating – they generally return to the breeding area on the same day each year and occupy the same nest as the previous year, with the same breeding partner. They usually embark on their annual 15,000 kilometre, two-month migratory voyage – that passes Japan and skirts the coast of North America – on April 16.

25th: **Port Fairy Community Market** at the Port Fairy Village Green, corner Sackville and Bank Streets, 9 am to 2 pm
Held on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month, the community party has anywhere between 25 and 80 stalls selling crafts, plants, food and local produce, jewellery and many other items. Contact the market coordinator on 0488 654 298

28th: **Tuesday afternoon classic movie matinees at Port Fairy's Reardon Theatre**
Four monthly classic films from the 30s, 40s, 50s and 60s. Concession rates for Senior Citizens Club, Moyneyana House Residents and the Day Centre. Screens from 1.30pm.

Visit Port Fairy website

Our web team have been very busy over the past few weeks adding new accommodation and dining listings to the Port Fairy website.
So, if you’re looking for accommodation in Port Fairy or across the Moyne Shire, then take a look at the listings at [www.visitportfairy-moyneshire.com.au](http://www.visitportfairy-moyneshire.com.au)
The website is also a great source of information on upcoming events in the area. Follow the menu from the homepage to view the listings of upcoming events, explore the towns and activities and attractions across the Shire.

What’s your opinion? Can you provide us with tourism feedback? We want to know what you think? What do you like and what do you dislike?
Do you have any feedback you would like to share? Email Tanya on tanya@wordwiz.com.au or call her on 0437 658 007.
Rain brings thunder to Hopkins Falls

The incredible rains in the region during August and early September have left the Hopkins Falls, just 15 minutes north-east of Warrnambool, a sight to behold.

The majestic falls are flowing thunderously, the water plunging 12 metres over the dark basalt rocks, leaving mist trailing in the wind.

The Hopkins Falls are the largest falls on the Hopkins River and are accessed by sealed road, 15 minutes north-east of Warrnambool.

The Hopkins River is an important waterway for eels and during the winter migration period, juvenile eels (elvers) can sometimes be viewed jumping up the rocky ledges of the falls.

Visitors to the reserve can enjoy the picnic facilities and view the falls from lookouts accessed from the carpark. With more rain forecast in weeks ahead, the falls are sure to remain a popular destination for locals and visitors alike.

Hats off to two-hatted Merrijig Inn

Congratulations to the team at Merrijig Inn for the two chefs hats received in the 2011 Good Food Guide published by The Age.

This isn’t the first hat success for the Port Fairy restaurant, which has been a recipient of the coveted hats since winning it’s first in 2008.

In 2009 the restaurant won a second hat, out of a possible three, and has retained the two-hat title since winning it’s first in 2008.

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Country Victoria did especially well this year, with The Royal Mail Hotel in Dunkeld winning restaurant of the year - the second time since the awards began that a restaurant outside of Melbourne has won the top gong.

Walk the Rail Trail line in spring

Take a step back in history and get fit while you follow the tracks of an abandoned rail line between Port Fairy and Warrnambool this spring.

The first section of the trail was finished in June with an 18km stretch through farmlands from Port Fairy to the historic Irish township of Koroit.

The entire trail is expected to be completed by June 2011.

“The opening of the first stage has been popular with cyclists, with many groups making the journey during the opening weekend in June.

“As the weather warms into spring we expect it to be a popular feature for people of all ages and abilities,” says Dean Robertson of Moyne Shire Council.

When completed the Rail Trail will creates a circuit link by joining the 22km long Mahogany Walk which follows the coastline from Warrnambool back to Port Fairy and will be popular with those interested in the region’s colourful history.
Classical festival welcomes spring to Port Fairy

A highlight of the classical music calendar, the Port Fairy Spring Music Festival presents classical and contemporary ensemble music in the historic surrounds of Port Fairy. The 2010 program includes:

8th October
The Dreyfus Picture Show: Sebastian's Greatest Adventure
Highly entertaining children's event.

The Dreyfus Picture Show: The Prize
An eight-piece ensemble delightful, neo-classical soundtracks.

Opening Concert: Schubertiade
Two of Schubert's most celestial works.

Katie Noonan & String Quartet
Katie Noonan joins guitarist Cameron Deyell and a string quartet.

9 October
Conversations: Words & Music
"How far can music be mated to poetry without damage to one or the other?"

Cathedrals of Sound: A Tribute to Mahler
Celebrating the 150th anniversary of Mahler with the Kegelstatt Ensemble.

The Ring Tone Cycle
A mini-operetta that tells the story of a love affair in a text message age.

Carducci String Quartet plays Beethoven (pictured)
The UK-based Carducci String Quartet has established an enthusiastic international following.

Lunch: A Tribute to Noel Coward
Join the Adelaide Chamber Singers for lunch. (also on Sunday)

Art of Song
Ji-Young Yang celebrates with Australian pianist Kate Stevens.

Brech and his Collaborators
Join Robyn Archer in a program of European cabaret.

Dichterliebe
Born in a Taxi joins Duo Axis.

Grigoryan Brothers
Slava and Leonard Grigoryan are Australia’s finest guitar duo.

Sing your own Musical
Bring your vocal chords.

Air and Angels
Australian lutenist Rosemary Hodgson and actor Helen Morse.

Nocturne: Chopin by Candlelight
A candlelit tribute to Chopin.

Fantasie Impromptu
Pianist Joe Chindamo continues our tribute to Chopin.

Conversations: A life in music
Much-loved pianist Ronald Farren-Price looks back on a life in music.

10 October:
Fire Songs
Join the Adelaide Chamber Singers for a celebration of the madrigal.

Solo Reflections
What came first: music or dance?

The Glass Soldier
The inspiring true story of World War I cornet player and stretcher-bearer Nelson Ferguson, from Ballarat.

Duets
Michael Dauth and Roger Benedict are two of Australia’s finest string players.

Free Events:
Born in a Taxi - The Gold People
(Saturday & Sunday)

Masterclasses (Various times)
Warrnambool & District Pipe Band
(Sunday)

www.portfairyspringfest.com.au