

Portland Upwelling Festival 2009

31 October 2009 (9am - 7pm)

Portland Foreshore will come alive and 'well up' with excitement with this new festival concept - celebrating the unique features of our beautiful coastal town.



A community celebration of the Bonney Upwelling

Presented by the Portland Tourist Association (PTA), working in partnership Glenelg Shire Council (GSC)

This new annual Festival celebrates the Bonney Upwelling – a unique marine phenomena which, from November to May, drives a massive inflow of nutrient rich cold water from the Antarctic to the south west coast of Victoria and powers a seven month feeding frenzy of blue whales, tuna, crayfish, giant crabs, squid, fish, krill, seabirds and seals.

An incredibly rich ecological food web, the Bonney Upwelling is at its greatest off the coast of Portland and is the cornerstone of the lucrative local fishing and tourism industry. Up to 33 metres long and the largest animal on Earth, blue whales are the signature species for the Upwelling and a major environmental and tourism icon. Portland is the most significant land-based blue whale watching area in Australia.

Program of Events

9.00am Blessing of the Fishing Fleet Trawler Wharf

10.00am Upwelling Street Parade Bentinck Street

11.30am to 6.00pm Local entertainment on two stages Foreshore

12.00pm to 5.00pm Upwelling Forum – industry talks Yacht Club

4.00pm Relay for Life 'Duck Derby' Marina

6.00pm to 7.00pm 50s guitar surf rock band 'Johnnie and the Johnnie Johnnies', Main Stage

All day Upwelling markets

Foreshore

Highlight

AMAZING TEMPORARY ART INSTALLATION - FIVE LIFE SIZE (24 metre) BLUE WHALES IN FIVE DIFFERENT ART MEDIUMS – all of which will blow the tell-tale blue whale blow at different intervals during the day

Off Site events

All day Cape Nelson Lighthouse Tours

All day Mission to Seafarers open house and art exhibition

10.00am to 3.00pm Portland's 'historical' Customs House Museum

1.00pm to 5.00pm 'Waves and Whales' – local surf films and whale documentaries presented by the Portland Film Society, Portland Arts Centre

All weekend Rotary Art Show and Sale, Civic Hall

Sunday 1 November Coastal Real Estate *Three Bays Marathon*