

THE PLANNER

Books	Community	Out of town	Next weekend	For the diary
	<p>ROBOT FAIR Danger, Will Robinson! Actually, the robot from <i>Lost in Space</i> would pop his diodes in delight at this event, which features everything robotic from toys (pictured) and DVDs to posters, a robot-building workshop and films and documentaries from 7.30pm. Sunday, fair 1-5pm, back of King Furniture Building, corner Trafalgar Street and Parramatta Road, Annandale, entry by donation, films \$10, mumeson.org.</p> <p>SENIORS' WEEK Music, theatre, workshops, talks ... there are dozens of events during this celebration, including retro swing at Darling Harbour on Friday at 5pm and free golf lessons at Marrickville Golf Course on Friday at 9am. Sunday until March 25, nswseniorsweek.com.au.</p> <p>COLOURS OF RYDE The suburb marks Harmony Day with a multicultural celebration featuring games; sports clinics run by the Sydney Kings and Cricket NSW from 3pm; Korean, Chinese and Indonesian cooking demonstrations from 4pm; plus live music, dance, kids' activities and a sausage sizzle. Sunday, 3-7pm, Ryde Park, free, ryde.nsw.gov.au/rydefestival.</p> <p>SURF SWIM Choose from the 750-metre or 1.5-kilometre swim – or cheer your mates on from the comfort of the beach – during the second annual <i>Sun-Herald</i> charity fund-raising event. Sunday, 9am for 750-metre event, 10am for 1.5-kilometre, Dee Why Beach, \$40-\$52, competitors register at thesurfswim.com.au.</p>	 <p>ROCKS THE HUNTER Country power couple Faith Hill and Tim McGraw (pictured) perform for the first time together outside of North America along with Wynonna "the new Patsy Cline" Judd, Lee Kernaghan, Tex Perkins and the Dark Horses, and James Blundell during Australia's biggest international country and roots festival. Saturday and Sunday, Hope Estate, Hunter Valley, \$79-\$249, 1300 923 314.</p> <p>CLASSIC THEATRE Robyn Nevin, Blazey Best, Steve Le Marquand and Helen Thomson star in Neil Armfield's production of the classic Australian drama <i>Summer of the Seventeenth Doll</i>. Contrary to carnival wisdom, not everyone who receives a kewpie doll wins a prize. Wednesday to March 24, Illawarra Performing Arts Centre, Wollongong, \$39-\$65, 4224 5999.</p> <p>5 LANDS ART TRAIL View the work of 20 Central Coast artists including Carol Marando and John Woulfe in their studios. Patrons can drive to each location. Saturday and Sunday, 10am-4pm, starting at Avoca Beach, free, locations at 5landsarttrail.com.</p> <p>BLUE MOUNTAINS MUSIC FESTIVAL A feast of music in the mountains – Harry Manx, Blue King Brown, My Friend the Chocolate Cake and Judy Collins on Saturday; ahab, Ben Sollee, Krystle Warren on Sunday. This weekend, Katoomba, from \$55, bmff.org.au.</p>	<p>LA TRAVIATA Opera Australia performs Verdi's much-loved tale of romance and regret on a stage floating on the harbour. Saturday, March 24 to April 15, Mrs Macquaries Point, Royal Botanic Gardens, \$85-\$350, 1300 723 038, ticketmaster.com.au.</p> <p>VINTAGE CLOTHES Dress up as a flapper or Prohibition gentleman as you peruse 1920s beaded dresses, glamorous gowns, Bakelite brooches, antique prints and more, with workshops and parades running throughout. Friday, 5.30-9pm, Saturday, March 24, 10am-5pm, Sunday, March 25, 10am-4pm, Hordern Pavilion, Entertainment Quarter, Moore Park, \$14/\$12, lovevintage.com.au.</p> <p>PHONE PHOTOS Kodak has stopped making film because everyone takes snaps digitally now. Learn how to use your mobile phone to take pictures at this Art Month Sydney event, inspired by Trent Parke's <i>Minutes to Midnight</i>. For ages 12 to 16. Saturday, March 24, 10am, Stills Gallery, 36 Gosbell Street, Paddington, free but bookings essential on 9331 7775.</p> <p>A CENTURY OF BOYD Former prime minister Bob Hawke will open this collection of paintings and bronzes by the Boyd dynasty, including Arthur Boyd's <i>Lost Bride</i> circa 1955-57, hidden for decades but now on public display for the first time and Lenore Boyd's <i>Phoenix</i> (pictured). Saturday, March 24, 2.30pm, show runs until June, Galeria Aniela fine art gallery and sculpture park, 261A Mount Scanzi Road, Kangaroo Valley, free, 4465 1494.</p>	 <p>INFINITY The Australian Ballet celebrates its 50th year with the world premiere of three new Australian works by Graeme Murphy, Gideon Obarzanek (Madeleine Eastoe is pictured in <i>There's Definitely a Prince Involved</i>) and Stephen Page, with original music performed by the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra. April 5-25, Sydney Opera House, \$33-\$186, 9250 7777.</p> <p>BLUESFEST A stellar line-up for the great and good of blues and roots including John Fogerty, Crosby, Stills and Nash, Canned Heat, John Butler Trio, The Specials, Yes, Lucinda Williams and The Pogues. April 5-9, Tyagarah Tea Tree Farm, Byron Bay, from \$45, bluesfest.com.au.</p> <p>TCHAIKOVSKY During its 80th birthday year Sydney Symphony blows out the candles on venerable classics <i>Nutcracker</i> and <i>Swan Lake</i>, as well as Falla's <i>Nights in the Gardens of Spain</i> and Osvaldo Golijov's <i>Last Round</i> at this ballet-inspired concert. April 19-23, Sydney Opera House, \$35-\$119, 9250 7777.</p> <p>JUAN LUIS GUERRA The Dominican singer-songwriter's polished repertoire of peppy merengue and sexy bachata from his homeland, and salsa and boleros from Cuba, have won him multiple Grammys. He brings his 20-piece band to Australia for the first time. April 24, Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre, \$199.99/\$149.99/\$99.99, ticketdirect.com.au.</p>
<p>BELLINGEN FESTIVAL Best-selling children's author Morris Gleitzman, Alice Pung (pictured), Robert Drewe and Richard Glover are among writers at the Bellingen Readers and Writers Festival, which includes poetry slams, literary lunches and art in the scenic town. Friday to March 25, Bellingen and surrounds, individual sessions from \$20, bellingenwritersfestival.com.au.</p> <p>ANNA KRIEN The award-winning writer discusses our relationship with animals, from pets to food source, and our unjust treatment of them in this talk centred around her <i>Quarterly Essay</i> piece, <i>Us and Them</i>. "The real question is, just how much of this injustice are we prepared to live with?" she asks. Tuesday, 6pm for 6.30pm, Gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Road, Glebe, \$10/\$7, 9660 2333.</p> <p>MICHAEL WATERHOUSE The author will talk about Australia's experience in Papua New Guinea before World War II – including pioneering pilots, miners discovering rich gold fields and planners building towns in the jungle – as featured in his book, <i>Not a Poor Man's Field</i>. Thursday, 6pm, Dymocks, 424 George Street, city, free, dymocks.com.au.</p> <p>TONY TAYLOR In <i>Fishing the River of Time</i>, the 80-year-old tries to teach his eight-year-old grandson the patient art of fly-fishing: an experience he will recall at this event. Thursday, 6.30pm, Berkelouw Mona Vale, 12-14 Park Street, Mona Vale, \$8, 9979 2112.</p>				

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Lewin

Wild ART

This major retrospective showcases over 150 beautiful original works by John Lewin (1770-1819), Australia's first professional artist.

A FREE EXHIBITION
UNTIL 27 MAY 2012

Artists in residence
See artists at work weekdays in the Galleries, from 10 am to 2 pm. Coming up: Sally Gibbs, 19-30 March

Wild ramblings
Enjoy a curator-led tour of *Lewin: Wild Art*, then go into the 'wild' at the Royal Botanic Gardens where a guide will bring Lewin's work to life! 28 March and 14 April, 1 pm - 4 pm meet in the State Library Galleries \$25, \$20 (Friends & conc.)

Tuesdays in the Galleries
Enjoy free events every Tuesday from 6 pm.
20 March: The art of printmaking with State Librarian Alex Byrne
27 March: 5000 years of civilisation – Shen Yun performing arts
www.sl.nsw.gov.au/tuesdays
Bookings required: (02) 9273 1770 bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au

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