

AWESOME Festival

2025 ACCESSIBILITY GUIDE



**Beverley
Hub**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The AWESOME Festival and Barking Gecko Arts respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Western Australia, and Lands to which we travel nationally. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and acknowledge their deep historical and spiritual connection to culture, country, waterways, rivers and seas. We are honoured to create our work on Whadjuk Boodja, the ancestral lands of the Noongar people.





Foreword

Art is one of the sheer joys of life. Whether it is slapping some paint on canvas, bellowing a few scripted lines to an audience, or grooving to an infectious tune, there is no quicker way to touch happiness than through art.

Every child has a right to participate in art, yet not all children have ready access to it. Some can be hypersensitive to different sensory experiences, which can lead to high anxiety and an aversion to taking part in artistic experiences.

The AWESOME Festival has recognised this and has taken action through the development of their Accessibility Guide. This guide provides information that can help guide parents to the most appropriate shows for their children, and ensures that this wonderful festival is inclusive to all.

Congratulations to the AWESOME Festival for this pioneering guide, and I encourage everyone in the autism community to go and see the wonders on offer.



Professor Andrew Whitehouse

Angela Wright Bennett Professor of Autism Research Telethon Kids and University of Western Australia; Director, CliniKids



Access with AWESOME



Our goal in creating this guide is to provide the support to cater for all our bright young things. We have gathered information about all events being delivered at the AWESOME Festival Beverley Hub, and listed any possible triggers that could be of attention in providing the most comfortable, joyful experience for all.

Ultimately, it is parents and carers who are best placed to understand their child's needs and responses. We hope that this guide helps you to make decisions about the best events for your family to attend at the 2025 AWESOME Festival Beverley Hub.

How to use this Guide:

Within the guide you will find a rating scale at the bottom of each page. We encourage parents and carers to use the scale to evaluate the compatibility of the event with your child. This may assist in making decisions about what to see and do.

For easier navigation, all links in this document are clickable and will take you to other websites or pages.

Each event is also marked with an icon to indicate the type of events we have:



Literature



Exhibition



Theatre



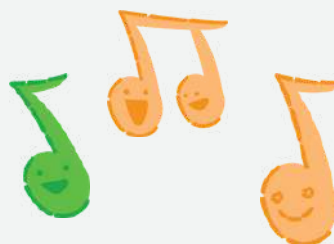
Music



Community



Creative



At the Festival:

Approach our team! All you need to do is say: "I have a child with additional needs." Our team member will respond: **"How can I help?"** and we will be guided by you to assist in any way that we can.

We will be wearing an AWESOME Festival t-shirt or pink volunteer vest.



We can help you with:

- leaving a venue
- finding a quiet space
- getting into a venue early
- finding appropriate seating



Contact Us!

We'd genuinely love your feedback on this guide as it is important for us to learn what works for you and what needs improvement.

If there is anything we can do to make our festival a more inclusive space, please don't hesitate to get in contact.

Or you can contact us at:
08 6184 4905 | gecko@barkinggecko.com.au



Contents

On a mobile device, you can navigate to each event page by clicking on the title!

Beverley Station Arts

<u>Kids Market Stalls</u>	2
<u>Storytelling</u>	3
<u>El Presidente Minusculo</u>	4
<u>Crafty Nannas – Textile Hub</u>	5
<u>Caity and the Crocodile</u>	6
<u>Author Event: Deb Fitzpatrick</u>	7
<u>Weaving Wildlife Magic into Magic: Workshop with Deb Fitzpatrick</u>	8
<u>Author Event: Kylie Howarth</u>	9
<u>Workshop with Kylie Howarth</u>	10



Beverley Station Arts

120 Vincent Street

Toilets

1 Accessible Toilet available

Access from ANZAC Lane

Best Access Point

From the Beverley Station Arts Car Park

Drop-off Point

From the Beverley Station Arts Car Park
directly in front of the arts centre.

Parking

Beverley Station Arts Car Park.

1 ACROD parking bays

Enter from Vincent Street

Overflow parking is available

across the road from the station

Enter from Vincent Street





Kids Market Stalls

All
Ages

By AWESOME Festival

We've called all young entrepreneurs in the Avon Valley to showcase their amazing creations at our AWESOME Kids Markets! Come along and support the next generation of local young artisans and entrepreneurs who have been busy creating a vast array of homemade treasures.

DATES AND TIMES: 7 - 8 OCT, 10:00AM - 2:00PM

TICKETS: FREE, No booking required!




























DURATION: Anytime, walk-up activity

VENUE: Beverley Station Arts, courtyard

GENRE: Community

THEMES: Entrepreneurship, homemade creations



Lighting & Sound	Participation	Senses, Emotions & Effects	Attention Span
Total Blackout (Audience) 	Children invited on stage N/A	Distinctive Smells Some stalls will be selling candles	Intermission/Breaks 
Lighting Level Outdoor, in marquee	Artist goes into audience N/A	Special effects 	Introduction 
Flashing Lights 	Manual Activity (e.g. read, draw, sing, paint) 	Textures 	Children need to sit in one place 
Loud sounds 	Undertake directed movement 	Balloons 	Appropriate to make noise/move around 
Repetitive Noises 	Participate in groups/pairs 	Characters express anger N/A	<div> 5 - YES!</div> <div> 4</div> <div> 3 - MAYBE</div> <div> 2</div> <div> 1 - NO</div> 
Drums 	Carers can support in participation 	Dialogue Driven N/A	
High Pitched Tones 	Children slower in movement can participate 	Props N/A	
Unexpected Sounds 			
Background Music 			

Storytelling

All
Ages

By Glenn Swift

Meet storyteller extraordinaire Glenn Swift!
Catch him in the Courtyard or roaming the Beverley
Station Arts grounds, delighting audiences with his
stories, rhymes, and books. A treat for all ages!

DATES AND TIMES: 7- 8 OCT, 10:00AM - 12:00PM,
1:00PM - 2:00PM

TICKETS: FREE, No booking required!























DURATION: 1 hour


VENUE: Beverley Station Arts, courtyard gazebo

GENRE: Literature

THEMES: Reading, Rhymes, Storytelling



Lighting & Sound	Participation	Senses, Emotions & Effects	Attention Span	
Total Blackout (Audience) 	Children invited on stage Audience invited to sing a line of response	Distinctive Smells 	Intermission /Breaks Audience may come and go as they please	
Lighting Level Indoors, well-lit	Artist goes into audience N/A	Special effects 	Introduction Very short, if any	
Flashing Lights 	Manual Activity (e.g. read, draw, sing, paint) Individuals can volunteer to read or sing.	Textures 	Children need to sit in one place 	
Loud sounds There may be loud noises in the audience responses	Undertake directed movement Audience invited to clap. Optional responding with sounds or words	Balloons 	Appropriate to make noise/move around 	
Repetitive Noises 	Participate in groups/pairs 	Characters express anger 	<div> 5 - YES!</div> <div> 4</div> <div> 3 - MAYBE</div> <div> 2</div> <div> 1 - NO</div>	
Drums 	Carers can support in participation 	Dialogue Driven Mostly. Involves sounds, actions, stories and pictures.		
High Pitched Tones 	Children slower in movement can participate 	Props 		
Unexpected Sounds 				
Background Music 				







El Presidente Minusculo

4+ yrs

By Barking Gecko Arts

After designing a new flag and writing their presidential decree, one kid becomes El Presidente Minusculo of the Festival and is treated with all the pomp and ceremony they deserve. Their Presidential motorcade (pulled by two grown-ups in splendid regalia) winds its way through the Festival grounds. With much fanfare, their decree is read aloud, and their word is law... until the newest El Presidente overthrows them.

DATES AND TIMES: 7 - 8 OCT, 10:00AM - 11:30AM, 12:30PM - 2:00PM

TICKETS: FREE, No booking required!



DURATION: 5 minutes

VENUE: Beverley Station Arts, courtyard

GENRE: Street Theatre

THEMES: Flags, rules, presidency



Lighting & Sound	Participation	Senses, Emotions & Effects	Attention Span
Total Blackout (Audience) ✗	Children invited on stage Optional	Distinctive Smells ✗	Intermission/Breaks ✗
Lighting Level Outdoors	Artist goes into audience ✓	Special effects ✗	Introduction ✗
Flashing Lights ✗	Manual Activity (e.g. read, draw, sing, paint) Optional writing a decree or drawing a flag using markers, crayons, pencil and paper	Textures Texture of the chair	Children need to sit in one place ✓
Loud sounds ✓	Undertake directed movement ✗	Balloons ✗	Appropriate to make noise/move around ✓
Repetitive Noises ✓	Participate in groups/pairs ✗	Characters express anger Not anger but authority	<div><div>5 - YES!</div><div>4</div><div>3 - MAYBE</div><div>2</div><div>1 - NO</div></div> <div></div>
Drums ✗	Carers can support in participation ✓	Dialogue Driven Minimal	
High Pitched Tones ✓	Children slower in movement can participate Some physical ability is required to climb onto the chariot. Wheelchair options available.	Props ✗	
Unexpected Sounds ✓			
Background Music ✓			



Crafty Nannas - Textile Hub

All
Ages

By Annick Akanni

Weave, create, and connect!

Join textile artist Annick Akanni at the Crafty Nannas Hub for a creative journey with weaving and giant yarn looms. Textile crafters of all ages are welcome to share their skills, explore colour, texture, and pattern, and enjoy this hands-on, intergenerational activity. Celebrate creativity, community, and connection through the art of textiles!

DATES AND TIMES: 7 - 8 OCT, 10:00AM - 12:30PM, 1:00PM - 2:00PM

TICKETS: FREE, no booking required!



























DURATION: Anytime, walk-up activity

VENUE: Beverley Station Arts Green Room & Platform

GENRE: Creative

THEMES: Teddy Bears, Sensory Play, Weaving



Lighting & Sound	Participation	Senses, Emotions & Effects	Attention Span	
Total Blackout (Audience) 	Children invited on stage N/A	Distinctive Smells 	Intermission/Breaks 	
Lighting Level Outdoors, in marquee	Artist goes into audience N/A	Special effects 	Introduction 5 minutes minimum	
Flashing Lights 	Manual Activity (e.g. read, draw, sing, paint) Constructing using scissors, glue, fabric, plastic needles, pom poms and recycled materials. May need to read and/or draw	Textures Fabrics and sensory art materials	Children need to sit in one place 	
Loud sounds 	Undertake directed movement Only when instructed	Balloons 	Appropriate to make noise/move around 	
Repetitive Noises 	Participate in groups/pairs Yes, but can work solo if preferred	Characters express anger 	<div> 5 - YES!</div> <div> 4</div> <div> 3 - MAYBE</div> <div> 2</div> <div> 1 - NO</div> <div></div>	
Drums 	Carers can support in participation 	Dialogue Driven 		
High Pitched Tones 	Children slower in movement can participate 	Props 		
Unexpected Sounds 				
Background Music 				





Caity and the Crocodile

5+ yrs

By Perth Symphony Orchestra

Experience the magic of Caity and the Crocodile, a vibrant Australian twist on Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf, brought to life by the trailblazing Perth Symphony Orchestra.

Follow adventurous Caity and her Granddad "Pop" on a journey through the stunning Kimberley, where music and storytelling unite to inspire young imaginations. This captivating performance introduces children to orchestral instruments while celebrating Australia's unique culture and biodiversity.

DATES AND TIMES: 8 OCT, 10:30AM - 11:10AM, 12:15PM - 12:55PM

TICKETS: FREE, No booking required!























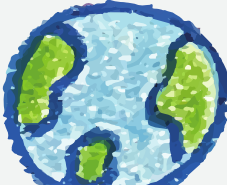







DURATION: 40 minutes

VENUE: Beverley Station Arts, Theatre

GENRE: Classical Music

THEMES: Crocodiles, Camping, Musical Instruments, Native animals



Lighting & Sound	Participation	Senses, Emotions & Effects	Attention Span
Total Blackout (Audience) 	Children invited on stage 	Distinctive Smells 	Intermission /Breaks 
Lighting Level Low	Artist goes into audience 	Special effects 	Introduction 
Flashing Lights 	Manual Activity (e.g. read, draw, sing, paint) 	Textures 	Children need to sit in one place 
Loud sounds French horn, flute, clarinet, oboe and bassoon.	Undertake directed movement 	Balloons 	Appropriate to make noise/move around 
Repetitive Noises 	Participate in groups/pairs 	Characters express anger 	<div> 5 - YES!</div> <div> 4</div> <div> 3 - MAYBE</div> <div> 2</div> <div> 1 - NO</div> <div></div>
Drums 	Carers can support in participation 	Dialogue Driven Narrated story with music.	
High Pitched Tones 	Children slower in movement can participate 	Props Headdresses worn by musicians of a python, crocodile, duck and ploverbird	
Unexpected Sounds 			
Background Music 			





Author Event: Deb Fitzpatrick

All Ages

By Deb Fitzpatrick

Join celebrated children's author Deb Fitzpatrick at the AWESOME Festival Beverley Hub as she shares the inspiration behind her much-loved adventure stories. With ten books to her name, Deb's latest novel Tawny Trouble is a must-read for nature-loving kids who care about animals and the environment. Don't miss this chance to hear how Deb creates her exciting stories set in Western Australia — and bring along your best questions for a lively, interactive session!

DATES AND TIMES: 7 OCT, 10:30AM - 11:20AM

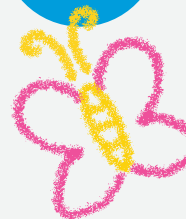
TICKETS: FREE, No booking required

DURATION: 50 minutes

VENUE: Beverley Station Arts, Theatre

GENRE: Literature

THEMES: Writing, Stories



Lighting & Sound	Participation	Senses, Emotions & Effects	Attention Span	
Total Blackout (Audience) 	Children invited on stage Possibly	Distinctive Smells 	Intermission /Breaks 	
Lighting Level Indoors, well-lit	Artist goes into audience 	Special effects 	Introduction 	
Flashing Lights 	Manual Activity (e.g. read, draw, sing, paint) Read along	Textures 	Children need to sit in one place 	
Loud sounds A 2 minute trailer will play that shows a forest adventure at night with scary sounds	Undertake directed movement 	Balloons 	Appropriate to make noise/move around 	
Repetitive Noises 	Participate in groups/pairs 	Characters express anger 	<div> 5 - YES!</div> <div> 4</div> <div> 3 - MAYBE</div> <div> 2</div> <div> 1 - NO</div>	
Drums 	Carers can support in participation 	Dialogue Driven 		
High Pitched Tones 	Children slower in movement can participate 	Props 		
Unexpected Sounds 				
Background Music 				



Weaving Wildlife into Magic: Workshop with Deb Fitzpatrick

7+ yrs

By Deb Fitzpatrick

In this hands-on workshop for young writers aged 7+, Deb will share how to weave the wonders of the world around us into exciting stories. Drawing inspiration from native Australian wildlife, fascinating details of everyday life, and characters who make a difference, participants will discover how to fuel their own fiction with what they love most. Author of Tawny Trouble, Kelpie Chaos, and the Spencer Gray series, Deb is passionate about inspiring the next generation of storytellers.

DATES AND TIMES: 7 OCT, 1:00PM - 2:00PM

TICKETS: FREE, No booking required

DURATION: 60 minutes

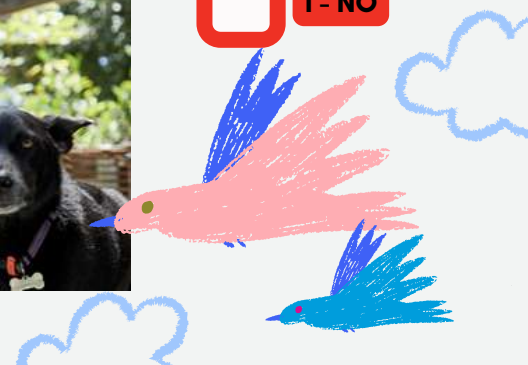
VENUE: Beverley Station Arts, Gallery

GENRE: Literature

THEMES: Native Animals



Lighting & Sound	Participation	Senses, Emotions & Effects	Attention Span	
Total Blackout (Audience) 	Children invited on stage N/A	Distinctive Smells 	Intermission /Breaks 	
Lighting Level Indoors, well-lit	Artist goes into audience 	Special effects 	Introduction 	
Flashing Lights 	Manual Activity (e.g. read, draw, sing, paint) Creative Writing	Textures 	Children need to sit in one place 	
Loud sounds A 2 minute trailer will play that shows a forest adventure at night with scary sounds	Undertake directed movement 	Balloons 	Appropriate to make noise/move around 	
Repetitive Noises 	Participate in groups/pairs 	Characters express anger 	<div> 5 - YES!</div> <div> 4</div> <div> 3 - MAYBE</div> <div> 2</div> <div> 1 - NO</div> <div></div>	
Drums 	Carers can support in participation 	Dialogue Driven Only explanations of workshop activities		
High Pitched Tones 	Children slower in movement can participate 	Props 		
Unexpected Sounds 				
Background Music 				





Author Event: Kylie Howarth

All
Ages

By Kylie Howarth

Get ready for a laugh-out-loud family event with award-winning author and illustrator Kylie Howarth!

Kylie will bring her hilarious book *Koalas Stole My Undies* to life in a session full of stories, fun, and surprises (you might even want to bring a spare pair, just in case any cheeky koalas turn up!).
A playful event for the whole family to enjoy.

DATES AND TIMES: 8 OCT, 11:15AM - 12:05PM

TICKETS: FREE, No booking required!


DURATION: 50 minutes

VENUE: Beverley Station Arts, Theatre

GENRE: Literature

THEMES: Character drawing, creativity



Lighting & Sound	Participation	Senses, Emotions & Effects	Attention Span
Total Blackout (Audience) ✗	Children invited on stage Possibly	Distinctive Smells ✗	Intermission/Breaks ✗
Lighting Level Indoors, well-lit	Artist goes into audience Possibly	Special effects ✗	Introduction ✓
Flashing Lights ✗	Manual Activity (e.g. read, draw, sing, paint) Read along	Textures ✗	Children need to sit in one place ✓
Loud sounds ✗	Undertake directed movement ✗	Balloons ✗	Appropriate to make noise/move around ✗
Repetitive Noises ✗	Participate in groups/pairs ✗	Characters express anger ✗	<div> <input type="checkbox"/> 5 - YES! </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> 4 </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> 3 - MAYBE </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> 2 </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 - NO </div>
Drums ✗	Carers can support in participation ✓	Dialogue Driven ✓	
High Pitched Tones ✗	Children slower in movement can participate ✓	Props ✗	
Unexpected Sounds ✗			
Background Music Possibly			

Workshop with Kylie Howarth

All Ages

By Kylie Howarth

The workshop features interactive drawing games, live demonstrations, and playful activities. Kids will explore techniques for creating characters, experimenting with shapes, expressions, and personalities to invent their own funny and imaginative characters. This hands-on session encourages creativity, confidence, and lots of laughter as young artists bring their unique ideas to life on the page.

DATES AND TIMES: 8 OCT, 1:00PM - 2:00PM

TICKETS: FREE, No booking required!





















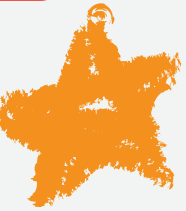








DURATION: 1 hour

VENUE: Beverley Station Arts, Station Gallery

GENRE: Literature

THEMES: Character drawing, creativity



Lighting & Sound	Participation	Senses, Emotions & Effects	Attention Span	
Total Blackout (Audience) 	Children invited on stage N/A	Distinctive Smells 	Intermission/Breaks 	
Lighting Level Indoors, well-lit	Artist goes into audience N/A	Special effects 	Introduction 	
Flashing Lights 	Manual Activity (e.g. read, draw, sing, paint) Drawing	Textures 	Children need to sit in one place 	
Loud sounds 	Undertake directed movement 	Balloons 	Appropriate to make noise/move around 	
Repetitive Noises 	Participate in groups/pairs 	Characters express anger Possibly	<div> 5 - YES!</div> <div> 4</div> <div> 3 - MAYBE</div> <div> 2</div> <div> 1 - NO</div> <div></div>	
Drums 	Carers can support in participation 	Dialogue Driven Only explanations of workshop activities		
High Pitched Tones 	Children slower in movement can participate 	Props Markers, pencils, paper		
Unexpected Sounds 				
Background Music Possibly				

Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to access and read our Accessibility Guide!

We hope this guide has been informative and helpful in creating a comfortable environment all of our patrons can enjoy.

We are a not-for-profit arts organisation that aims to inspire creativity in young people by crafting world-class, award-winning arts experiences designed to entertain, nourish, and inspire young minds. From captivating theatre performances and vibrant festivals, to dynamic workshops and innovative school programs, we offer a kaleidoscope of arts experiences that blend quality with boundless creativity.

In developing this guide we are hoping to create a model that other events and venues can use to be more welcoming of all abilities. We'd genuinely love your feedback as it is important for us to learn what works for you and what needs improvement.



The Barking Gecko Arts Team

(08) 6184 4905 | gecko@barkinggecko.com.au



