

SUCCESSFUL 2027 CLARE VALLEY FESTIVAL OF THE LAMB

The 2026 Clare Valley Festival of the Lamb was another wonderful success with International, Inter and Intrastate visitors mixing with locals to celebrate the Spring Equinox and the region's local produce. Many were return visitors who now make this an annual visit to the region.

With 25 events across 17 venues, the festival continues to expand its significance. This included the Hon Don Farrell Federal Minister for Trade and Tourism on the eve to his meetings in the USA to discuss sheep exports. The Deputy Consul-General Mr Wang Hongsun of the People's Republic of China in Adelaide officially opened the stunning Flinders Uni TAFESA "From Farm to Fashion" wool designer awards and exhibition with its Chinese theme. This exhibition included garments for the China based Changshu Hi-Tech Vocation School Fashion and Design students.

Festival Coordinator Simon Millcock said this volunteer run event has again exceeded expectations noting that many of the culinary events were sold out.

"From art to fashion to makers and to featuring the fine lamb through the skills of the Valleys award winning chefs complimented by the finest wines the region has to offer this year's event has received positive feedback from all involved," Mr Millcock said.

"We started the festival with conversations at a community dinner which reflected on supporting each other with speakers from Weather it Together, Family and Business Mentors and Lifeline to ensure we all stay connected."

"It was wonderful to see new venues involved this year including Flinders Food Co, Kilikanoon and Jeanneret Wines who all took to the task of honouring local lamb."

"The roll of volunteers is paramount to regions and this year the partnership by the Mintaro Progress Association who manage the festival was strengthened with the SACWA Warnes Group and the Arts Collective of Clare Valley. Plus, the inclusion of Slow Food South Australia was valuable to ensure that the message of good, clean and fare food was shared".

"The festival is as a case study for a PhD through the Adelaide University looking into Volunteerism in Regional Community led Festivals which are a cornerstone of the South Australian Tourism Industry. Plus, a Torrens University researcher is exploring how the Clare Valley Festival of the Lamb supports connection and participation across generations."

"The festival is growing every year, and as we continue to focus on the connection between the land, producer, chef and consumer."

"We are also thankful for the support from the State Government through their funding programs including the Regional Festival and Events grant."

"These events bring people together, support local enterprise and honour the traditions that continue to shape the identity not only of the Clare Valley but of Regional Australia."

For further information call Simon Millcock 0407819000

