

NO PETS

Leave your pets at home. Please don't chain your pet outside the site or lock it in your car. The NO PETS policy is of long standing and is invariably advertised - no excuses please

PEOPLE WITH PETS WILL BE EVICTED

CONFEST WEBSITES

The DTE Website is.....www.dte.org.au
The main site for the Down To Earth Cooperative which looks after Melb/Syd Confest and Confab

The Confest Website is.....www.confest.org.au
The Confest site is about matters specific to Confest, contains a forum, gallery and chat

RUBBISH

Bring as little as possible and take your rubbish home, there is NO kerbside rubbish/recycling service at Confest. Organic matter can be thrown down a toilet. Avoid bringing glass as it is dangerous for bare feet and potentially lethal for wildlife.

NO DISPOSABLES

Down To Earth has a non negotiable "No Disposables" rule for Confest (this includes food market vendors). Please bring a Mug, Plate, Bowl and Cutlery for use at the Market and our Community Cooking Spaces. Please be aware of the amount of potential garbage you bring on site, and please take all non compostable garbage away with you when you leave.

WHAT TO BRING

Confest is a camp-out. Bring simple camping gear, some food, a hat, a water bottle, sun block or protective clothing, personal medications, insect repellent, torch, musical instruments, light footwear.

Bring some warm clothes as the nights may be cold. Ear-plugs can be good for blocking out noise when you want to sleep. Remember to bring earphones for your radio, CD or MP3 player.

THIS MAYBE THE LAST NEWSLETTER

For environmental reasonsthis maybe the last printed version of the newsletter we are likely to send. If you would like it emailed to you, please email your address to folks@dte.org.au

If the internet is not convenient for you and would like to continue to receive Newsletters in the mail please confirm your address below and either mail to DTE - Po Box 295 - Brunswick East. Vic 3057. or hand in at the gate.

First Name.....Surname.....

Street.....Suburb.....

State.....Postcode.....Email.....

It is good to bring a cup, a plate and cutlery for use at any of the community cooking spaces as well as any dietary specific food you may need. As you wander about Confest carry a cup and have a cuppa at the community spaces.

Consider bringing drums, acoustic instruments,, singing voices, art and painting gear, anything unusual. Most essential of all, bring yourself and your spirit of Confest

OTHER STUFF TO BRING

- Ticket/map/directions
- Cash (no ATM's available on site)
- Tent/pegs & equipment to assemble-hammer/rake/novelty flag to distinguish tent etc
- Torch – no open flames allowed ie. Candles, Kero/oil-lamps personal camp fires etc.
- Sleeping gear: mat/air bed/pump/sleeping bag/patch kit etc
- Esky/water & water bottle to carry as you walk around (water provided on site is drinkable/ ice is dependent on volunteers)
- Campsite set up personal preferences eg. Chairs, cushions, mats, tarps, beanbags etc
- Personals & medications e.g. paracetamol /nurofen/condoms/tampons
- Sunscreen & hat/sunglasses/umbrella/AloaVera for possible sunburn
- Insect repellent
- Toiletries eg. Towel/toothbrush & paste/soap/shampoo/tissue etc.
- Clothing optional but bring some warm clothing for night time and wet weather gear
- Comfortable foot wear
- Jumper leads/ car fluids
- A friendly, positive, supportive, proactive disposition is a must.
- Acoustic Musical instruments, other entertaining possibilities to share, spontaneity and energy
- Food vegetarian/vegan promoted – food sold at market is vegetarian. Bring cooking utensils and plates/bowls/cutlery for use in community kitchens set up areas throughout campsite. Gypsy Kitchen is a predominantly a vegetarian community kitchen set up with cooking, utensils etc – it is run by all confesters (volunteers) food donations & sharing are welcomed & encourage.



WHEN AND WHERE

Easter 2008 Confest
Good Friday 21st March ~ Tuesday 25th march

Adults \$70
15 and under, when with a parent or guardian, \$1

Confest gate opens for ticket sales and entry , Thursday 20/3/2008 - midday. You can purchase Confest tix online at www.confest.org.au/earlytickets or www.dte.org.au/earlytickets

For safety, the road entrance gate is locked before dark and reopened in the morning.

How to get there map! - <http://confest.org.au/pages/gathering/transport>

WHAT IS A CONFEST

a.. We are unshakeable in the belief that people have many wonderful qualities and it is wrong to measure individual worth solely by reference to wealth and power.

b.. We believe each of us has a right to decide what is good and have that decision respected by others.

c.. We are convinced we have the power to make real our dreams and work together to make them real.

d.. We believe as children of nature and not its masters we must respect and nurture our environment

e.. The Confest belongs to you

f.. It is a precious and unique social experiment the outcome of which is entirely in your hands.

g.. It is an occasion when we attempt to bring about a compassionate, caring, humane community, where people have concern for and co-operate with each other.

h.. We enrich each other through the sharing of thoughts, experiences and skills.

i.. We do work not out of a duty to some authority but as a willing service to each other

PHOTO POLICY

Many people are protective of their privacy and sensitive to photography . Photos may only be taken with the permission of all those in the photo or their parent/guardian. To protect your privacy, all photos taken at Confest remain the copyright of Down To Earth co-op

Cameras can cause offence or conflict

DECLARATION OF WELLBEING

We the DTE Directors, the Core DTE Group energizing Confest sites, and the Confest Committee of the Board support the sustained evolving and improvement of community-based processes to sustain a wellbeing climate within and between these groups and the wider Confest Community.

We recognize Confest as a precious open space for exploring and experiencing new possibilities and boundaries. Some everyday assumptions tend to be challenged. Confest in each of its aspects is an open process – something rare and valued.

We also recognize that this interplay of exploring of alternatives and boundaries calls out for the highest ethical tone, mutual respect and care for each others wellbeing and integrity. It also calls out for anyone who holds himself or herself out as an enabler (supporting others to be able) to have a higher responsibility to ensure no harm and no danger of harm flows from their behavior or the contexts they set up or finds themselves in.

Recognising these things, we encourage all Confesters to adopt this Declaration. We and you and all of us can support wellbeing processes. We can all call upon each other as resources to ensure wellbeing and that action is taking to return people to wellbeing if lapses occur.

We the DTE Directors, the Core DTE Group, and the Confest Committee of the Board energizing Confest recognize a higher responsibility in all of this and can be called upon in times of need.

CONFERENCE / WORKSHOPS

ConFest stands for Conference Festival and there is some energy for creating one or more Conferencing spaces.

Two Conference Notice Boards will be set up at the end of the Workshop Notice boards.

At least one Conference space will be pre-prepared.

Would you like to give a talk? And then open discussion for a time?

FIND A LOCATION

Workshops can be one or more hours. Chalk is placed on the ground in front of the boards. Block out the time you need and write in your Workshop title, theme and some description.

You are encouraged to put on and attend workshops.

FINDING A WORKSHOP FOR YOU

You will typically find the Workshop notice Boards set up near Information. There are typically three to five Workshop Boards available for any one day and typically two days workshops are shown. From then on Workshop Boards are rotated with say Monday's Boards being reused for Wednesday. Please use the Workshop Notice Boards only for Workshop Notices.

The names of the Workshop spaces are on the tops of the columns and a nearby map shows where to find the Spaces. There are times down the left hand side of each board.

Around ten to fourteen workshop spaces are created by hanging tarps from trees for shade.

Some signage goes up to help you locate the Workshop Spaces. Asking others for directions is great fun even if they don't know where the workshop spaces are.

You and others can create and name other workshop spaces and write up the name on the top of any blank Column, as well as on the Map. We usually end up with around 17-19 locations. We had around 360 workshops at Easter ConFest 2007.

In preparing your own workshop space, walk the site and ask around re energy – is this the quieter area, is this okay for this kind of workshop – ask your camper neighbours.

A CONFEST THOUGHT

As with life,
our experience of ConFest is what we make it
as a community and as individuals,
by what we choose to do or not to do.
Every one of us has a talent, gift, skill, awareness
or understanding that will enrich ConFest in some way.

ConFest is a Community We all share the
responsibility and the fun of creating a joyous, safe and
sustainable celebration.

FIRE CIRCLES AND FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Fires can ONLY be lit only in half 44gall drums in approved fire circles.

Local Fire Laws apply at ConFest. Breaching these laws is a CRIME and will be dealt with accordingly

"adopt" a fire circle near you.

We hope that each fire circle will have a group of people who join together to be the core of a village community.

If you find a fire circle you would like to support please send an email to:

folks@dte.org.au ... Or ask around at information.

Last New Year there seemed to be a lack of people with the time and energy to arrange the approved cooking/fire circles.

There is (we think) enough gas stoves etc ... to go into all the approved cooking/fire areas ...

Tarps etc... should be available.

THE ENVIRONMENT

The current ConFest site at Moulamein; once the site of logging and sheep farming, now hosts our community gatherings.

Located on the Edward River and nestled amongst a twin billabong system it has a variety of smaller ecosystems, from thick vigorous groves of Eucalypt saplings to grassed plains populated with much larger trees. During the spring delicate and brightly coloured wildflowers bloom.

Due to the past uses of the land, much of the variety of indigenous plant life has been reduced, and there are (ob)noxious weeds in many areas.

If you are on site and positively identify a weed, please pull it up and leave the roots in the sun to dry and die. Please be sure of your identifications, every remaining indigenous plant is precious if the land is to recover.

Please try and be aware of any indigenous plants that are growing where you plan to camp or park your car, likewise be aware of animal habitats (hollow logs etc) when you are collecting firewood.

As with the plant life, there are also introduced animal species on the property; foxes, cats and european wasps have all been sighted. There is however an abundance of indigenous animals on the property, kangaroos, echidnas, lace monitors, cockatoos, emus, snakes and long-necked tortoises to name a few.

As well as a stunning variety of insects, from colonies of ants who etch star-like patterns in the earth with their paths to the enormous and beautiful goats head moth.

VOLUNTEER PLEASE

When you arrive at ConFest please check in with information to see what you can do to help volunteer at ConFest. Each person is expected to volunteer at least 2hrs of their time at each festival.

Please remember ConFest is entirely created by volunteers ...often the people at information are not aware of what is or is not happening around the site ...so ... Please report all information to the information tent ... Thank you

Volunteer at ConFest outside ConFest

1-2 weeks before each confest, a small group of core volunteers arrive on site to erect all the basic infrastructure. Toilets, water, 1st aid, information, front gate, and planning permits are the main things needed at the beginning of each ConFest.

This is often a smaller group than is needed for the set up process to be completed, stress free and on time. These are often the same people who have the difficult task of arranging our permits to hold ConFest, and the responsibility of seeing that we do not break the conditions which various government depts' place on the festival.

If you can help please go to the forum at confest.org.au and register or contact DTE at folks@dte.org.au

The very existence of ConFest depends on our ability to control our selves and keep our agreements with the council and fire authorities etc... commitments which have been made on the behalf of ConFest as a whole...

Without this group of dedicated people we could not hold ConFest, we owe them much thanks and respect.

If you wish to join the setup - Contact the meeting or David Cruise on cruise@pacific.net.au

WHAT YOU CAN DO THIS CONFEST!

One of the founding principles of ConFest is; to explore ways to shape new alternatives towards a better future, this is as important in the way we relate to to the environment and the creatures in it, as it is in the way we relate to one another. We are creating the traditions, the customs and lifestyles of the future.... by everything we do.

Please do everything possible to 'walk lightly' on the earth while you are at ConFest. As humans we are "the caretakers of the earth" in a way. At ConFest we share a responsibility to each other, the future of the site as a gathering space, to the environment itself and the creatures that inhabit it.

Some ideas and suggestions towards this end are;
Carpooling, organic based soaps and non-oil sunscreens, avoid bringing glass, choose your campsite carefully, adhere to fire regulations, follow site car access policies, avoid disturbing river shallows where possible (enter water via log or platforms), take all rubbish home, avoid bringing balloons, avoid burning kerosene, use renewable energy sources for lighting, bring ashtrays with lids.

HARMONY, ANOTHER WORD FOR SECURITY

One of the most positive thing that can occur at ConFest is a forum which allows people to feel secure. Once people feel secure they can let down the defences so many people find they need to survive in our 'normal' society. It is these defences against invasion by other people which prevent us from learning much from each other. While these defences are in place the harmony needed for us to openly interact is blocked.

For a society to live in harmony all people in it need to be equal and must respect each other's right to be. If this happens there is no need for rules, there is no need for 'security'. Unfortunately we enter ConFest from a society which is rife with inequalities. Even though the thought is there, it is difficult to enter ConFest in a state which will allow this harmony. The role of security, therefore, is to mediate and help people find the place

THE FOLLOWING AVENUES MAY BE USED IN RESOLVING CONFLICTS WHICH ARISE.

1. The parties to the conflict resolve the problem themselves.
2. They seek advice or assistance from their immediate community in resolving the issue.
3. They seek advice or assistance from the people attending to security in resolving the issue

If all these steps fail to bring resolution the people taking responsibility for security may need to take action which, in extreme circumstances, may include expulsion of one or all parties from the site. This would generally occur only where people are not prepared to modify behaviour which is having a severe effect on the harmony of the group.

In this way the primary responsibility for security falls on the ConFest community but in a situation where someone doesn't feel able to resolve a problem or cannot get acceptable assistance from the community, there will be security people available to assist, contact Information or speak to any person you see walking around with a handheld.



Bring this
coupon to the
ConFest Gate
and collect a full
colour poster