

15 November 2021



GET READY TO SHAKE, RATTLE AND ROLL! PARKES ELVIS FESTIVAL RETURNS IN 2022

The King may have left the building for a short while, but things are revving up in Central West NSW with **Parkes Elvis Festival** set to return **20-24 April 2022**, jam-packed with a program of rockin' n' rollin' fun.

The King-sized program is filled with more than 200 Elvis and speedway inspired events, including much-loved festival favourites **Northparkes Mines Street Parade**, **Renewal of Vows Ceremony**, **Goodsell Machinery Miss Priscilla Dinner**, free **Cooke Park Main Stage Entertainment** and **Elvis Gospel Service**.

The Festival will host new events, including a **Speedway Exhibit** of rare and classic race cars, meet-and-greet racing stars and virtual reality simulators. A **Pin-Up Pageant** will be hosted over three days of the Festival for rockabilly and vintage fashion lovers. For the theatrical, **Sons of Sun** is a wild rock and roll play about Sun Records, Memphis, featuring songs from Elvis, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Roy Orbison. For the first time, fans will enjoy four days of free entertainment from the impressive new performance stage at Cooke Park.

Starting as a small get together between like-minded Elvis fans in 1993, the Festival has grown today into an internationally renowned phenomenon, recognised as one of the top events in Australia and attracting 24,000 fans.

This year's Festival theme is **Speedway**, dedicated to Elvis' 1968 musical hit about a race car driver with a heart of gold. Festival attendees are encouraged to dress in theme. Think go-go dancing girls, overalls, racing suits and red, white and blue. Top Australian tribute artist Mark Anthony will also stage a one-off special Speedway Show to celebrate the Festival theme.

Festival Director, Cathy Treasure said "The Festival is so excited to return next year, bigger and better than ever with a huge program of activities. Although we can't celebrate on Elvis' birthday like we normally do, we're planning a big party regardless and look forward to sharing this iconic festival experience with locals and visitors coming to Parkes."

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW Paul Toole said the NSW Regional Events Acceleration Fund will help next year's Parkes Elvis Festival deliver a bigger program of events.

"The multi-award-winning Parkes Elvis Festival will attract huge crowds of locals and visitors across five fabulous fun-filled days," Mr Toole said.



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“The Parkes Elvis Festival is considered one of Australia’s most iconic events and with a global media reach of more than 400 million people, this all helps to put a big spotlight on the region and bring welcome tourism dollars to local businesses

Minister for Tourism Stuart Ayres said the NSW Government was pleased to support the Parkes Elvis Festival, one of the most popular and recognisable events in Regional NSW.

“The NSW Government is proud to support this event through Destination NSW, our tourism and major events agency. This event will provide a significant injection into the local visitor economy by attracting music lovers to the region from all over the country.

“We are delighted to be back in business, celebrating such an exciting festival with the people of Parkes, after a challenging time for regional NSW. Events like this are vital to the recovery of our regions.”

Tickets to all events are on sale now, including the **Feature Concert Series** which will see the USA’s 2019 Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Champion, **Taylor Rodriguez**, make his Australian debut with four shows performed across the Festival, backed by the dynamic nine-piece TIC band. **Jeff Lewis** host of the famous 'Memphis After-Party' at Graceland's Elvis Week will MC.

The Festival will welcome a host of other top American talent with links to Elvis and the Speedway movie, including a virtual Q&A appearance by *Speedway* child star **Victoria Paige Meyerink**, and a chance to meet in person **Charles Stone**, tour producer for the Elvis Presley Tours in the 1970s.

Australian music legend, and Platinum artist **Brian Cadd** will be inducted to the **Wall of Fame**. The singer, songwriter, keyboard player and producer will be honoured as not only Australian music industry icon for over 50 years, but a continued force that is sure to set next year’s Festival off to a rockin' start.

Adam Harvey, Australia’s most decorated country artist, joins the Festival line-up for **Elvis Country Special**, performing a tribute to Elvis’ many country music hits.

The Festival isn’t just about all things Elvis, Australia’s colourful rockabilly and vintage communities are also celebrated. There will be a host of workshops held where fans can discover vintage styling, revel in burlesque performance and even take a masterclass in drawing The King himself.

The preliminary round of the international **Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist** Contest also returns in 2022, with leading Elvis tribute artists from Australia and abroad battling it out at Parkes Leagues Club. Officially endorsed by Elvis Presley Enterprises, Inc, the winner will represent Parkes in the Semi Final round of the 2022 Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest in Memphis, USA, during Elvis Week in August.

Tickets to all Parkes Elvis Festival shows, across the many venues in the city, will be available to purchase online, making booking your entire five-day Elvis extravaganza a breeze.

Accommodation options are available, including camping and caravanning, in Parkes and surrounding towns.

For all programming and ticketing information, visit www.parkeselvisfestival.com.au

EVENT: Parkes Elvis Festival

DATES: 20-24 April, 2022



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DOG FLAT GATE POST

THEME: Speedway

WEBSITE: www.parkeselvisfestival.com.au

LOCATION: Parkes, NSW, Australia



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