



---

## People Power Lights up Melbourne

# THE LIGHT IN WINTER 2013

Federation Square, 1-30 June FREE

**The Light Winter**, directed by arts luminary **Robyn Archer AO**, returns with a world premiere of one of the most striking sculptural endeavours undertaken at Federation Square.

Federation Square's annual program, **The Light in Winter** brings together over 20 of Victoria's diverse communities, along with artists and designers, to explore the power of the human voice over a month of free events, exhibitions, film screenings, forums and the much-loved **Solstice Celebration**.

"There are numerous lighting festivals throughout the world, and, following **The Light in Winter's** first appearance in 2007, they are also springing up in Australia too. But none has quite the magic of this month-long celebration which has warmed the heart of Melbourne; so much so, that winter no longer begins 1 June, but 1 July instead. The secret to its success is a unique combination of commissions from the very best lighting artists in the world and deep connections to the richness of Melbourne's richly diverse cultural life." Says Robyn Archer.

Rising up from the centre of Federation Square is **Helix Tree** – a sculpture of steel and light by renowned lighting designer **Bruce Ramus**. Inspired by the naturally occurring shape of the helix, the sculpture is constructed from 21 curved steel beams fitted with hundreds of LED lights. Like branches of a tree, the beams spiral 13 metres high into the sky from a central trunk. The **Helix Tree** uses sound-responsive technology via which voices of Melbourne bring to life its unique and vivid light displays.

Each night at dusk, Melbourne choirs, whose repertoires will include an anthem specially commissioned by Melbourne singer/composer **Lou Bennett**, will 'sing up' the **Helix Tree**. Following these free performances, the public have their own chance to sing to the sculpture and produce their own spectacle of light.

The Indigenous Campfire Program returns to **Leempeeyt Weeyn** for fireside performances, workshops and storytelling from local Indigenous practitioners as they connect voice to country through traditional language, stories and song.

An extended **Solstice Weekend** (20 - 23 June) features the retro playfulness of YO GOBO, and the now traditional and much-loved **Solstice Celebration** on Saturday 22 June.

The **Solstice Celebration** is a feast of music, performance and food from more than 20 of Melbourne's culturally diverse groups including Afghani, Chilean, Mexican and Congolese communities. The evening includes a procession of a thousand handmade lanterns, collaborative performances from the culturally diverse members of Square of Light, and a special en masse choir performance led by Lou Bennett. The **Gift of Light Orchestra** is a unique fusion ensemble, borne of The Light in Winter, and it will have people up and dancing in the heart of Melbourne, to welcome the start of the slow return to Spring.

A weekly series of free forums and talks will respond to this year's interconnecting themes of the helix, the power of the human voice (both literal and metaphoric) and the helix's profile in natural science. Leading academics, artists, community leaders and prominent public speakers will be part of this series, which includes a forum on the power of the voice in contemporary democracies when Fed Square will participate in a live cross to the National Press Club in Canberra.

A laboratory for creative collaboration, **The Light in Winter** is now in its seventh consecutive year and has developed a lively platform both for the arts of illumination, and the diverse cultural pathways to enlightenment.



---

## Program Details

# THE LIGHT IN WINTER 2013

Federation Square, 1 – 30 June 2013, FREE

[fedsquare.com/thelightinwinter](http://fedsquare.com/thelightinwinter)

@fed\_square

---

## HELIX TREE

Rising up from 17-metre wide base containing a reflective water pond, **Bruce Ramus' Helix Tree** of curved steel beams spirals 13 metres into the sky with 1.5 kms of LED lights entwined throughout the branches. The *Helix Tree* is equipped with advanced sound-responsive technology designed to respond to both volume and pitch of the voice with a colourful light display.

Weighing over 11 tonnes, *Helix Tree* is one of the most striking sculptural endeavors undertaken at Federation Square.

At dusk throughout June, Melbourne choirs will gather at its base for **Singing up the Helix Tree**. **Lou Bennett** (Black Arm Band) has been commissioned to create an anthem in collaboration with The Light in Winter's diverse communities. Exploring what it really means to be Australian, this new work will be performed en-masse during the **Solstice Celebration** and feature during **Singing up the Helix Tree** on various nights throughout the month.

Following the choral performances at the *Helix Tree* each evening, the public is invited to set The Square alight with the power of their own voices.

Once lighting the way of rock royalty including U2, David Bowie and R.E.M, **Bruce Ramus** is now celebrated for setting hearts aglow with his luminous public art projects. His design works have included large-scale projections; visual content for Melbourne's AAMI Park; design and visual content of the world's largest interactive digital media façade in the Darling Quarter precinct; and lighting and visual content design for the entertainment industry.

### Program:

- **The Unspoken Voice**, 5pm - 5.30pm  
Melbourne Intentional Film Festival will help begin each evening's *Helix Tree* activation with a selection of short films on the Big Screen.
  - **Singing up the Helix Tree – Choirs**, 5.30pm - 6pm  
Melbourne's community choirs use the power of their voices to bring the *Helix Tree* to life.
  - **Singing up the Helix Tree - Everyone can do it!** 6pm - 7.30pm  
The public's chance to put their vocal skills to the test and animate the *Helix Tree*.
- 

## LEEMPEEYT WEEYN'

*"Wangan Ngootyoong: Come sit by the fire...with our hearts we will listen"*

While the *Helix Tree* is the heart of this year's program, **Leempeeyt Weeyn'** remains the soul of **The Light in Winter**. Created by **Vicki Couzens** and the elders of Melbourne's Indigenous communities, the lighting of the campfire installation *Leempeeyt Weeyn'*, heralds the start of The Light in Winter each year.



## Program:

- **Opening Ceremony**, Saturday 1 June, 5pm – 6pm
- **Campfire Workshops**, Thursdays 6 + 20 June (Schools Program), Fridays 7 + 14 June 6pm – 7pm, Saturdays 8 + 15 June 6pm – 7.30pm
- **Closing Ceremony**, Sunday 30 June, 5pm – 5.30pm

## SOLSTICE WEEKEND

On the eve of the true solstice, **Light Play** provides the public with the opportunity to take control of a full lighting rig in The Atrium. Together with light artist **Bruce Ramus**, participants can push buttons, try out different effects and create their very own lighting design in response to music.

Award-winning design consultancy **Electrolight** presents **YO GOBO**, a series of light interventions with the low-tech traditions of the GOBO - a steel or glass template placed in front of a spotlight. Local artists have created custom GOBOs which will be projected onto buildings in St Paul's Court. Think stencil art, but with light!

Held on the Saturday night closest to the true winter solstice, the **Solstice Celebration** provides Melbourne with a night of music, performance and food. The evening includes a procession of a thousand handheld lanterns, an array of free food offerings, the **Gift of Light Orchestra** with their cross-cultural fusion of music, installations from City of Greater Dandenong's **Nocturnal** and the premiere performance from **Square of Light**, a new 3-year collaboration led by Fed Square with over 20 of Victoria's diverse cultural communities.

Emerging from The Light in Winter's encouragement of cross-cultural collaboration, **Square of Light** brings together artists and community performers to creatively respond to issues surrounding race and power. Responding to the question: 'When does the light turn on?' participants explore moments of cultural understanding and awareness through music, performance and film. **Change Media** have created a series of screen moments that capture the voices, faces and gestures of contemporary Australians, while a team of choreographers including **Tony Yap** (Tony Yap Company) and **John Gray** (Diverse Dancers) are developing a series of new performances to premiere at the **Solstice Celebration**.

## Program:

- **YO GOBO**, 20 – 23 June, 6pm - late
- **Light Play**, Thursday 20 June, 6pm – 8pm
- **Solstice Celebration**, Saturday 22 June, 5pm – 8pm

---

## FORUMS

A series of free forums about science, democracy and power held in Federation Square's Deakin Edge.

### **The Voice of the People: Instrument for change or just a lot of noise?**

Tuesday 4 June, 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Presented by **RMIT SEEDS** and hosted by **ABC 774 host Jon Faine**, the forum looks into the relationships between freedom of speech, social media, crowd sourcing and political movements. Panelists including journalist **Paddy Manning**, **Dr Peter Chen** and National Director of GetUp **Sam McLean** will dissect the omnipresence of the people's voices and whether these masses are shaping the power of democracy in contemporary society.

### **The Future Journey of Democracy: an Australian experience**

Tuesday 11 June, 6.30pm- 8.30pm

It's an election year and this free forum will bring Melbourne and Canberra together in a heady discussion on the power of the human voice and Australian democracy in a global context. Academics in Canberra



---

tackle the rich content of the Arab Spring, while representatives from Melbourne's Greek, Indian, Somali and Burmese communities provide a rare insight into democracy on the ground in Melbourne. The topical and emotive discussions will be taken to a new level with a live cross from Melbourne to a Centenary of Canberra forum at the **National Press Club**.

### **The Molecular machines that create your flesh and blood**

Tuesday 18 June, 6pm – 8.30pm

Award-winning biomedical animator **Drew Berry** presents a forum dissecting the power of the DNA revolution. In the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the discovery of the double helix structure of DNA, a panel of academics discusses how this knowledge has shaped our lives and its power to shape our future. Presented by the **Walter and Eliza Hall Institute**.

### **Science City: Has Melbourne got what it takes?**

Tuesday 25 June, 6pm – 7.30pm

As part of the popular Melbourne Conversations series, the forum will explore Melbourne's scientific credentials as a "City of Science". Moderator **Peter Mares**, former **ABC Radio National** presenter, leads the team of panelists including research biologist Sir Gus Nossal AC.

---

## **EXHIBITIONS**

**The Light in Winter at Kirra Galleries** presents a radiant display of light-emitting glass art by leading artists and designers. Hobart artists from **MONA's** Dark MOFO cross the Strait to meet Melbourne sound and light artists to present hybrid of installation and performance with **Sound to Light: Crossing Borders**. A striking and poetic perspective of Australian Indigenous voices is portrayed in the immersive film installation, **Warwick Thornton: Mother Courage** at ACMI. Captivating biomedical animations by award-winning animator, **Drew Berry** play throughout the month on Fed Square's Big Screen.

### **Program:**

- **The Light in Winter at Kirra Galleries**, The Atrium, 6 – 30 June, 10am – 6pm
- **Sound to Light – Crossing Borders** No Vacancy Project Space, 15 – 23 June, Tuesday – Saturday 11am – 5pm, Sunday, 12pm – 5pm
- **Warwick Thornton: Mother Courage**, ACMI, June. 22 – 23 June, 10am – 5pm
- **Animations by Drew Berry**, Big Screen, 1 – 30 June, various times