



History of the Ballarat International Foto Biennale

Our vision: To celebrate Australian photographers and Australian photography on the world stage. Photography is the premier art medium of the 21st century. Our aim is to educate, inspire and question by presenting photography from the world to Australia and from Australia to the world.

Emerging from the embryonic and highly successful Daylesford Foto Biennales (DFB) of 2005 and 2007, the 2009 Ballarat International Foto Biennale aims to enlarge and expand this concept into a truly world-class, global event.

The DFB was born out of a vision by the founder and current Festival Director, Jeff Moorfoot. A former advertising photographer and educator, Moorfoot saw similarities between Daylesford and Arles. Daylesford is a small town with a strong arts community and well-developed tourist infrastructure built up over a century around the mineral springs, close to Melbourne and the regional centres of Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo. In 2004 Moorfoot gathered together a small but dedicated group of volunteers to hold the inaugural Daylesford Foto Biennale in June 2005.

DFB'05 consisted of 55 events staged over 28 venues throughout Daylesford and Hepburn Springs, including three exhibitions by international photographers. The festival attracted an estimated audience of 10,000+ visitors and achieved fabulous audience feedback and an extensive media profile.

DFB'07 expanded to produce 128 events staged over 55 separate venues in both Daylesford and surrounding towns of Clunes, Trentham and Creswick and Smeaton. Along with local artists, the 2007 festival presented international exhibitions from Japan, UK, Poland, Scotland, USA, Argentina and Norway, and included visits from four of the international artists featured in the program. DFB07 gained extensive Australian media coverage and increased the festival's profile as an international photography event. The 2007 festival ran at a profit and distributed these funds to local community groups.

In late 2008, the DFB moved 40kms down the Midland Highway to Ballarat to expand and improve on the groundwork and solid relationships established with our stakeholders over the first two Biennales. The 2009 Biennale was once again an outstanding success, and has built on the firm foundations established in Daylesford. BIFB has the full support for a minimum of three festivals from the City of Ballarat, which will firmly cement the festival in regional Victoria.