

## **Calendar Crammed with Events for All**

Country music and cat shows, dragon boats and dog shows, models and markets, fetes and fireworks, canoes, crafts and carols. While most regional centres have a hallmark event on which to focus, Penrith has an entire calendar of them.

Penrith's Olympic facilities - the Sydney International Regatta Centre and Penrith Whitewater Stadium - have attracted a host of major events. State and national rowing championships, the Kings Cup and Head of the River regattas, State and national canoeing championships, whitewater slalom events, dragon boat championships, triathlons and endurance swims keep competitors and spectators heading for Penrith throughout the year.

For those less attracted by physical exertion, Penrith Valley is a constant carnival of fairs, fetes and festivals. Both Luddenham and Penrith stage annual shows, recalling the valley's early role as the food supply for the Sydney colony.

The Mt Schoenstatt annual bush fete is held in August in the serenity of the Mulgoa setting of Joseph Kentenich House, and September sees the annual St Marys spring festival in Bennett Park.

Historic Mamre Homestead hosts its annual colonial spring craft and art fair in October, featuring more than 50 stalls of quality crafts plus cultural demonstrations and international folk dancing. There are both cat and dog shows - luckily at separate venues - in November, and St Paul's Grammar also stages its annual art and craft exhibition.

A highlight of December's activities is always the annual Festival of Carols by Candlelight at Tench Reserve.

For some Penrith Valley institutions, an annual festival is not often enough. Vicary's Winery - the Sydney region's oldest continuously-operating winery - stages its Vineyard Fair on the second Sunday of each month. A full day of family fun with everything from wine and cheese tastings to train rides. And for those for whom once a month is not often enough, there's weekly markets every Wednesday at Penrith Showgrounds and every Sunday in Panthers carpark.