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A sneak preview of Viva La Gong 2009

The countdown is on. The city's streets will come alive with colourfully knitted trees, unique art installations, diverse musical performances and activities as part of Viva La Gong next Saturday, 7 November,

Artists and performers will join Wollongong City Council to launch the annual arts and cultural celebration tomorrow from 10am at the Wollongong City Art Gallery.

As part of this year's Viva theme, 'A Stitch in Time,' festival events, workshops, performances and installations will reflect the city's rich migrant heritage and the contribution of industrial and textile workers to the development of Wollongong.

The 'Main Event' will take place next Saturday in MacCabe Park with roaming circus performances, craft workshops, multicultural food stalls, rides and a main stage concert featuring a great mix of local and national musicians between 10am and 5pm.

Australian singer songwriter Lior will headline the festival, and will be joined on the main stage throughout the day by Roger Loves Betty, The Baro Lové Gypsy Brass Orkestra and hip hop rappers Morganics and Wire MC.

While the festival hub will be MacCabe Park, Viva events and installations will start appearing from tomorrow in key locations including the Crown Street Mall, Wollongong City Gallery and the city centre.

In true Viva fashion, tomorrow's launch will begin with a bang- the unveiling of a new large scale photographic exhibition on the external walls of the Gallery.

Artist, Mayu Kanamori, captures some of the city's post war migrants in the places they first lived to reflect the experiences of World War II migrants and the important role they play in shaping the city's cultural identity.

The Gallery will also be the location of the first 'graffiti attack' by Denise Litchfield. One of the Gallery's landmarks will be given a new colourful look tomorrow. In the lead up to Viva you can expect to see more knitted local landmarks appearing around the city.

Viva 09 has something for everyone so bring your family and friends to MacCabe Park next Saturday. For more details on events and activities, visit www.vivalagongfestival.org