



After midnight, giant pumpkins have the floor at the Collector village hall.

gourd work

From noon on Sunday, May 1, pumpkin growers and lovers will converge on the NSW country town of Collector, 30 minutes north of Canberra, for the annual Collector Village Pumpkin Festival. Inspired by a rural Italian tradition, the festival, now in its third year, has become a highlight of the local calendar. Everyone from schoolchildren to experienced farmers compete to grow the best specimen – the record to beat is last year's 149kg monster Atlantic Giant. As well as the competition for the biggest pumpkin, there will be contests for the most unusual pumpkin and best pumpkin scene. One important question remains – will at least some of the pumpkins turn into carriages in time for the Pumpkin Ball on April 30? For more information, visit www.pumpkinfestival.com.au