

MEDIA KIT
FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS AUTUMN TOUR 2018: PORT FAIRY TO THE NATIONAL

Event	Festival of Small Halls
Presenting Line	<i>Woodfordia Inc in partnership with Port Fairy Folk Festival and National Folk Festival presents Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2018: Port Fairy to the National featuring Dave Gunning and Claire Anne Taylor</i>
Tour Partners	Port Fairy Folk Festival and National Folk Festival
Artists	Dave Gunning (CAN) Claire Anne Taylor (AUS)
Regional Partners	See Locations
Tour Announce Date	12 January 2018
Tickets On Sale	12 January 2018 www.festivalofsmallhalls.com Prices vary by location
Web	www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Twitter	site: https://twitter.com/SmallHallsAUS Handle: @SmallHallsAus #HallsAutumn @dave_gunning @claire_a_taylor
Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/smallhallsaus/
YouTube	http://www.youtube.com/user/festivalofsmallhalls
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/festivalofsmallhalls

Attachments/Provisions

- Artist biographies
- About Festival of Small Halls
- Locations, local partners
- Media release #1 + Simple Promo Paragraph
- Logo (1)
- Artist Images (3)

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Artist Biographies

Dave Gunning (CAN)



Call it the silver lining in the cloud of a brutally cold Nova Scotia winter. When acclaimed folk singer/songwriter Dave Gunning decided it was time to make his 11th solo album, he found the bleak weather outside a blessing, not a curse. "We were literally snowed in, but the power was on and I was good to go," he says of the making of that album, *Lift*.

Eleven albums in, Dave Gunning has become a truly masterful songwriter, one who has earned real peer respect from such Canadian folk songwriting legends as Ron Hynes, David Francey, and James Keelaghan. "I grew up listening to people like Ron Hynes," says Dave. "I look up to them but then it hits me sometimes that I'm their peer and they like my stuff too. It's a weird headspace, flipping from being a fan to being a peer."

Gunning's recording career is now approaching a full two decades in length (his debut album, *Lost Tracks*, came out in 1996). Along with richly-deserved peer respect, he has also earned a shelf full of music industry awards. That tally now stands at eight East Coast Music Awards and two Canadian Folk Music Awards, plus a 2012 Juno Award nomination in the Roots & Traditional Solo Album of the Year category for his album ...a tribute to John Allan Cameron, a compelling homage to another of Dave's Maritime musical heroes.

His songwriting skill has also been internationally recognized, with earlier tunes scoring victories and high placings in some major international songwriting competitions. As a fervent hockey fan, Gunning was also thrilled to win the CBC's hotly-contested Hockey Night In Canada Song Quest in 2014 with "A Game Goin' On", a co-write with David Francey.

Give yourself a Lift and check out the work of an authentic artist at his creative peak.

www.davegunning.com



<https://www.facebook.com/davegunning>



https://www.instagram.com/dave_gunning/



https://twitter.com/dave_gunning



<https://www.youtube.com/user/davegunningvideos>

"Truly, what makes Gunning so remarkable as an entertainer is his rare gift to be able to befriend the audience as a whole from the stage throughout the course of the concert. And, indeed, you do feel as though he's as good of a friend as any after a night of songs, stories and lighthearted laughs."

- The Guardian

"Over a career now spanning 20 years and 10 albums, folk-based singer/songwriter Dave Gunning has earned multiple Canadian Folk Music and East Coast Music Awards (and a Juno nomination) for his well-crafted work. An engaging performer, he has entertained audiences in the U.S., Europe and Australia and is highly respected by his peers. New (eleventh) album Lift is shaping up as his best yet. The self-produced record has a sparse and acoustic feel, but there's plenty of lyrical and musical variety here, with some tunes having a pro-environment message. Gunning has a very honest and big-hearted vocal style, and we expect this fine album, Lift, to add to his trophy collection."

- newcanadianmusic.ca

Claire Anne Taylor (AUS)



Claire Anne Taylor grew up in Tasmania's ancient Tarkine rainforest, where she was born into her Father's hands in the family barn. Taylor and her five siblings were raised in a quaint bush home, rich with creativity and music. During her childhood, the Taylor barn was home to a family of Tasmanian Devils and some say that Taylor developed her unique singing style from nights spent listening to the devils growling beneath the floorboards.

Taylor crafts soulful folk songs that capture both the beautiful and dark elements of the human experience. Her music ranges from warm, mesmerising ballads to epic anthems. With vivid storytelling, colossal vocals and a powerfully captivating stage presence, her live shows leave the audience in no doubt that they have just witnessed something extraordinary.

After winning the Byron Bluesfest Busking Competition, Taylor relocated to Byron Bay to record her debut album, *Elemental*. Released in 2016, *Elemental* received widespread critical acclaim with *The Sydney Morning Herald* describing it as "strong and assured", *FATEA Magazine* calling it "exceptional" and the ABC's Rick Eaves hailing her as "a national treasure". Taylor's poignant debut album has garnered her significant radio airplay on Triple J, Double J and ABC radio as well as international radio airplay on programs such as *The International Americana Music Show*, *The Troubadour Show* and *Radio Nova*.

2016 was a breakout year for Taylor. The album release was supported by two national tours and numerous festival appearances including Nannup Music Festival, Bello Winter Music, Mullum Music Festival, PigSty in July and Cygnet Folk Festival. Other highlights include supporting Liz Stringer on her album launch tour and a co-headline tour with William Crighton.

<https://www.claireannetaylor.com>



www.facebook.com/claireannetaylormusic



www.instagram.com/claireannetaylor



www.twitter.com/claire_a_taylor



www.youtube.com/ClaireAnneTaylor

"Describing Claire's voice in words is almost impossible. Try to imagine Jess Glynne with something deeper, richer and more soulful. Wrapped in the smoke and gravel of her voice there's also a wonderful warmth."

- FATEA Magazine.

"It looks like it's gonna be a big year for Claire Anne Taylor...what a voice!"

- Sarah Howells, Triple J

"I'm going to go on the record now: everyone is going to be talking about Aussie Claire Anne Taylor come March. Incredible voice"

- The International Americana Music Show

Tour Location Details

Wednesday, March-07	Balaklava, SA	Balaklava Town Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com or at the Balaklava Town Hall
Thursday, March-08	Allendale East, SA	Allendale East Public Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com or at The Bellum Hotel, 22339 Riddock Hw Mt Schank 5291
Mar-09 - Mar 12	Port Fairy, VIC	Port Fairy Folk Festival	www.portfairfolkfestival.com
Wednesday, Mar-14	Natimuk, VIC	Natimuk Soldiers Memorial Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Thursday, Mar-15	Pomonal, VIC	Pomonal Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com or at the Pomonal General Store, Pomonal or the Halls Gap Post Office, Halls Gap
Friday, Mar-16	Apollo Bay, VIC	Apollo Bay Senior Citizens Centre	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com or the Bay of Apostles, Apollo Bay
Saturday, Mar-17	Sandy Point, VIC	Sandy Point Community Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Sunday, Mar-18	Belgrave, VIC	Brae Dale Lodge	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Wednesday, Mar-21	Wycheproof, VIC	Buloke Shire Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com or the Wycheproof Community Resource Centre, Wycheproof
Thursday, Mar-22	Caldwell, NSW	Caldwell Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Friday, Mar-23	Toongi, NSW	Toongi Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Saturday, Mar-24	Woodstock, NSW	Woodstock Memorial Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com or at Re'lish Home & Living, Shop 9a/95 Kendal Street, Cowra
Sunday, Mar-25	Batlow, NSW	Batlow Literary Institute	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Wednesday, Mar-28	Newlyn, VIC	Scrub Hill 1869	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Mar 29 - Apr 2	Canberra, ACT	National Folk Festival	Tickets available at http://folkfestival.org.au/
Wednesday, Apr-4	Osbornes Flat, VIC	Osbornes Flat Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Thursday, Apr-5	Dookie, VIC	Dooke Arts Hub	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Friday, Apr-6	Sedgwick, VIC	Sedgwick Public Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com or at Landers Music, Summer Street Orange
Saturday, Apr-7	Tylden, VIC	Tylden Public Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com or at the Tylden General Store, 36 Trentham Rd, Tylden
Sunday, Apr-8	Birregurra, VIC	Birregurra Public Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com

General Promo

Woodfordia Inc in partnership with Port Fairy Folk Festival and National Folk Festival presents Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2018 - Port Fairy to the National Dave Gunning and Claire Anne Taylor

The Festival of Small Halls is a series of tours that takes the best folk and contemporary acoustic artists performing at two large festivals, and sends them on the road to halls in communities all over Australia. Each night on the tour is a beautiful occasion for original music, and a chance to catch up with family and friends over cake and tea during a supper break.

From the tiny town of Balaklava in outback South Australia, the tour will move swiftly to showcase at partner festival Port Fairy Folk Festival. Dave, Claire and the team will visit tiny halls in every corner of Victoria, before moving onto a taste of country NSW and partner festival the National Folk Festival.

ABOUT THE AUTUMN TOUR 2018 - PORT FAIRY TO THE NATIONAL

- This is the ninth Festival of Small Halls Tour in Australia
- Two partner festivals – Port Fairy Folk Festival and National Folk Festival
- 18 regional tour stops
- Dave Gunning has released ten albums, received a Juno Award nomination, has been awarded two Canadian Folk Music Awards and recognized with eight East Coast Music Awards. He is also known for excellent impressions of musicians that he has worked with over the years.
- Claire Anne Taylor took the 2013 Byron Bay Bluesfest Buskers Competition by storm, winning despite not having played to a real audience since high school.

FROM OUR CURRENT PARTNERS

"We are so thrilled that our village program on opening night will feature the Festival of Small Halls, which will be presented in our historic Lecture Hall right in the heart of Port Fairy. The Festival of Small Halls is a wonderful program, that not only celebrates outstanding music but also puts the spotlight on regional towns and the halls of old which are treasured parts of our history, our present and our future. "

- Caroline Moore, Program Director Port Fairy Folk Festival

"Woodfordia's Festival of Small Halls is a wonderful initiative putting world class musicians in front of audiences and regional communities who would otherwise not have the opportunity to experience them. The National Folk Festival is delighted to be partnering with Small Halls to book-end the upcoming Autumn tour with Port Fairy Folk Festival. We look forward to welcoming Canada's Dave Gunning and Tasmanian artist Claire-Anne Taylor to Canberra this Easter."

- Pam Merrigan, Festival and Artistic Director, National Folk Festival

FROM PREVIOUS ARTISTS

"I cannot express how amazing our experience was touring the Tasmanian portion of "Festival of Small Halls Australia". Six out of the seven shows were sold out (the other was 90% full)...as a touring musician this never usually happens. It is a sign of hard work behind the scenes - proper organization, publicity, rapport with the venues and all around excellent team work. Judging by the amount of albums both acts sold, I think the show was enjoyed. A lot of these

communities were hurting for entertainment or a reason to come together. As I've seen in other areas where Small Halls has been, it really connects people by celebrating music. They can also forget about the struggle that sometimes happens in small communities. Being from one myself, I know what it's like not having outside culture grace your community... And when it does, you never forget it. The children in these small Tasmanian towns were bursting when it was time to talk at the end of the show. Several kids and a few teenagers told me that they plan on practicing their instruments more or taking up the fiddle (which is cool for me to hear). A real show with real people certainly tops watching one on television or YouTube. Thanks for giving us the opportunity to grace these towns and give back a gift that was given to us."

Tim Chaisson, The East Pointers, Canadian Artists, Festival of Small Halls, Summer Tour 2016

'It was one of the best, most inspiring things we've ever done! We are totally in love with the towns and communities we visited, with the extremely kind folk we met along the way, with Kate and Harry, and with the boys! Please know that we are 100% up for doing Small Halls again (and again and again). So grateful for the whole shebang. Will never forget it.'

Siskin River, Australian Artists, Festival of Small Halls, Autumn Tour 2015

'The Rhythm Boys unanimously agree that Festival of Small Halls Australia was one of the best tours we've ever been on... being immersed in the beautiful rural communities of Victoria and NSW made the experience all the more authentic and special. The crowds were extremely enthusiastic and appreciative for bringing music into their small halls.'

Gordie MacKeeman and His Rhythm Boys, Canadian Artists, Festival of Small Halls, Autumn Tour 2015

'My experience with the Festival of Small Halls was nothing short of magical. Coming from the frozen plains of Canada and jumping straight into a hot Australian summer gave me some worry at first, but all that worry quickly slipped away. What I walked into was a well run, well executed traveling show that was imbued with cultural relevance and importance that rivals any show I've taken in as a concert goer or as a performer. The greatest opportunity for me as a writer and performer was the chance to connect with a rural Australian audience. My songs and stories are agriculturally themed and I was given the chance hear stories from Australian farmers and producers and also people from all walks of life. This traveling festival seems like a model that could and should be implemented wherever possible. It's my belief that people do love music, and those of us who live in out of the way places don't get enough of an opportunity to take it in. It makes the most sense to me to bring a show to these towns. Rather than broadcast a message that music is only a cultural artifact of the urban landscape, we should all be interested in providing solid footing for the arts in the rural as equally as we do in the city.'

Del Barber, Canadian Artist, Festival of Small Halls Summer Tour 2014

'Small Halls is a concept we all really believe in. We are big believers in live music as a way of keeping communities and towns connected and alive. It was humbling to realise how unusual and novel live music is for people living in small or remote towns. More often than not we felt like we were participating in town social events and we felt privileged to encounter some really awesome, inspiring communities as well as some truly quirky ones! We taught songs to high school kids who have never been taught music before (they thought it was the weirdest thing they had ever heard of but ended up embracing it and having fun!) We were also gratified by how well people embraced weird folky music they had clearly not encountered before.'

The Mae Trio, Australian Artists, Festival of Small Halls, Summer Tour 2014

'Festival of Small Halls is an absolutely brilliant initiative! There are so many winners; from the regional communities who seldom have the chance to engage in live, original music, to the historic, intimate and often unused community halls, to the production crew who make the whole thing happen. The biggest winners, though are the artists. Meeting and sharing our music with the folks who turn out to these shows has been the most profoundly rewarding

experience. Their honest appreciation and genuine commitment to supporting the whole concept has filled our hearts with hope!

Starboard Cannons, Australian Artists, Festival of Small Halls, Spring Tour 2014

'The Small Halls tour was not just another tour! To go into these small, sometimes tiny towns to set up and play shows for the people was truly satisfying. Many of the towns were still in the rebuilding stages from devastating floods, and the Small Halls tour in many cases was the first bit of live entertainment they'd had since then. I felt like my music was helping people. And I'd never really felt that like this before.'

Jordie Lane, Australian Artist, Inaugural Festival of Small Halls Tour, Nov/Dec 2013

"Having grown up in a small town, my appreciation for the Small Halls Australia tour was deep. There is something truly special about a community coming together in the centre of town with food and drink and people of all ages, to share in a night of music. There was an element of surprise in each town as they showed their pride and colours. This is probably the most unique and memorable tour I've done and certainly a great introduction to many parts of Australia I may never have seen."

Rose Cousins, Canadian Artist, Inaugural Festival of Small Halls Tour, Nov/Dec 2013

FROM OUR PATRONS

"I just want to thank Meander Valley Council and particularly Patrick Gambles for the fabulous concert we had on Friday night. Our little community being under siege [from bushfires] for nearly a week and inundated and virtually "taken over" by strangers - I was dispirited, anxious, dog tired and in no mood for this event - it appeared to be just another thing we didn't need right at that moment. What eventuated was that it was EXACTLY what we DID need! The hall looked amazing and we burst with pride. It sounded amazing and we congratulated each other. The crowds were tremendous and we patted each other on the back. The concert was a HUGE success and we felt our spirits lift and our morale soar as we stomped, clapped, yahoo'd and danced with each other. Thank you MVC and Patrick and his team for this moment of light relief in a time of such gloom (literally!). Well done"

- J Lamont, Chudleigh Hall Committee

"This is truly one of the most lovely projects I have seen developed in regional Aus in forever. What a brilliant thing! Big visions and open hearts. These sorts of things sew community back together."

- P Larkins, Girgarre

"Made the four hour trip from Sydney to Grenfell to see these amazing international and local entertainers. What a great night. Can't wait for next year's. Thank you for making my boy exceedingly happy! Kirby exclaimed that Wednesday night at Grenfell Festival of Small Halls Australia was, "the best night of his entire life!" A big call for an 8 year old. Your cd has been on constant rotation, and it seems we'll be making a trip to Canberra, to see you again before you leave Oz. Thank you so very much."

- B Meur, Grenfell

"We live in an isolated area and are very drought-stricken at present. Our community is being hit hard...times are tough for people on our land, and in a micro-community, the effects are felt by all. However, sitting there last night watching such a beautiful and moving performance, all was lost for a while."

- K Sutton, St George

A great experience at Numinbah Valley School of Arts Community Hall. Was invited and really had no idea what to expect. Great concept and a wonderful way to use these halls. Friendly people and wonderful talents on stage.
- R Maguir, Numinbah Valley

IN THE MEDIA

"Once again the good people from the Woodford Folk Festival have hit the nail right on the head... Where in Australia are there promoters thinking of doing a tour featuring such improbable places as Forest Hill, Eulo, Barcaldine, Wallaville?"
Sam Cutler, Rhythms Magazine

"I always thought about the history of the place, the community meetings, the weddings, the dances, the loves lost and found. It always made me a little sad that those spaces were so often locked up and underused. So it cheered me to hear about the Festival of Small Halls..."
Noel Mengel, Courier Mail

"The event is not just an experience for those who watch it, but also for the musos themselves."
Lauren Grounsell, Caloundra Weekly