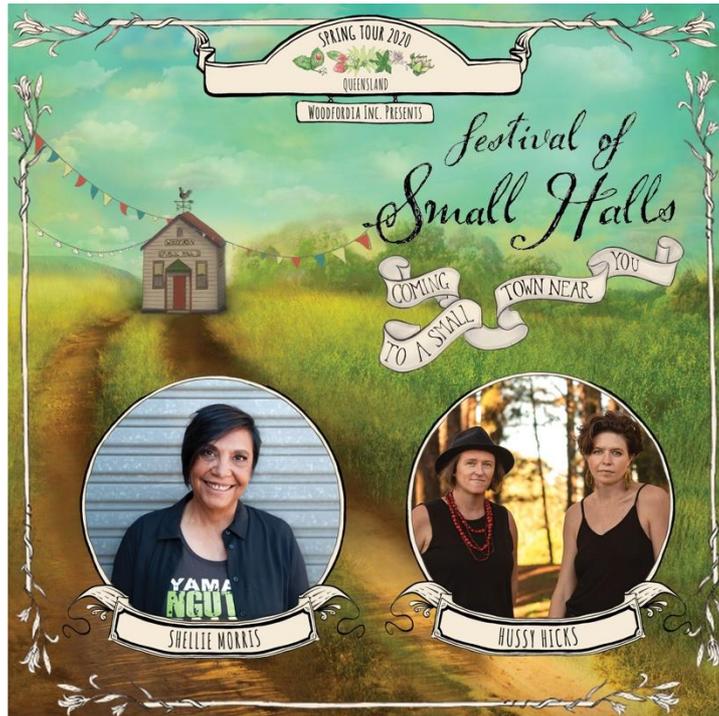




Event	Festival of Small Halls
Presenting Line	Woodfordia Inc presents Festival of Small Halls Spring Tour 2020 featuring Shellie Morris and Hussy Hicks
Artists	Shellie Morris Hussy Hicks
Regional Partners	see Locations
Tour Announce Date	9 September 2020
Tickets on Sale	9 September 2020 <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a> Prices vary by location
Web	<a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a> Handle: @SmallHallsAus #HallsSpring
Instagram	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/smallhallsaus/">https://www.instagram.com/smallhallsaus/</a>
YouTube	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/user/festivalofsmallhalls">http://www.youtube.com/user/festivalofsmallhalls</a>
Facebook	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/festivalofsmallhalls">https://www.facebook.com/festivalofsmallhalls</a>
Publicity Contact	Sarah Howells +61 407 298 793 iamsarahhowells@gmail.com



## ATTACHMENTS

Artist Biographies	3
Shellee Morris	3
Approved Quote	4
Hussy Hicks	5
Approved Quote	6
Tour Location Details	7
General Promo	8
ABOUT THE SPRING TOUR 2020	8
Producer Quote	8
FROM PREVIOUS ARTISTS	8
FROM OUR PATRONS	12
IN THE MEDIA	13

## Artist Biographies

# Shellie Morris



### Short Biography

Multi-award-winning singer/songwriter Shellie Morris creates music and sings in around 17 Australian Aboriginal languages, preserving and promoting culture. A celebrated international touring vocalist, feature performer in Black Arm Band and part of the internationally award-winning musical documentary Prison Songs, she is a varied and captivating artist.

### Full biography

One of Australia's favourite and celebrated female vocalists, Shellie Morris has spent the past 25 years creating and engaging in music as a healing tool. She imparts the importance of having a voice and that each individual is important.

While she has been in the spotlight over the years for her involvement with Black Arm Band, Deadly awards, ARIA nominations, Music Australia award, NAIDOC Award, G.R. Burarrawanga Memorial Award and Australian of the Year award; by and large, she works on the ground empowering and gently effecting change. Shellie creates music and sings in around 17 Aboriginal languages, many considered "sleeping".

Since discovering her Wardaman and Yanyuwa roots over 20 years ago, she has tirelessly worked to improve the lives of Indigenous Australians, especially in the Northern Territory.

She is the 2014 NT Australian of the Year, the 2014 NAIDOC National Artist of the Year, a multi Deadly Award winner and a driving force of the acclaimed album Ngambala Wiji li-Wunungu and the internationally award-winning musical documentary Prison Songs. The documentary has won film and humanitarian awards around the world and is nominated for five AACTA awards (including best sound and score), ATOM Awards - Best Indigenous Resource and a Walkley Documentary Award.

<https://www.shelliemorris.net>



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



<https://twitter.com/ShellieMorris>



<https://www.instagram.com/shelliemormismusic>



<http://bit.ly/ShellieMorrisYouTube>

"Talking to Shellie Morris is like talking to an old friend you didn't know you had. She has a voice that rings with truth and courage and raw sincerity both when she sings and when she talks."

– Sharon Lenehan, NQ Music Press

"Quite possibly the hardest working Indigenous entertainer in Australia is Shellie Morris. Shellie tirelessly spends no less than 9 months of each year on the road. Her work is divided up between her music, community development, as an educator and mentor."

– Rico Adjrun, Radio National

"Her music crosses boundaries and musical borders with ease"

– Australian of the Year Awards

## Approved Quote

"Rural and remote areas are so close to my heart, I've been working in them since I started my journey sharing song and language. These communities are the beating heart of our country contributing so much to the valuable social fabric and boasting countryside that is second to none across the world. I can't wait to visit all these incredible communities and share my stories, hear from the wonderful people and of course get back on the road safely!"

– Shellie Morris

# Hussy Hicks



## Short Biography

One of Australia's best live blues 'n' roots bands, Hussy Hicks are a tour de force featuring powerhouse vocalist, Leesa Gentz and award-winning guitarist, Julz Parker with six studio albums, 15 international tours and more than a thousand live shows under their belts.

## Full Biography

One of Australia's best live blues 'n' roots bands, Hussy Hicks are a tour de force featuring powerhouse vocalist, Leesa Gentz and award-winning guitarist, Julz Parker. Prolific and accomplished musicians, Hussy Hicks have honed their sonic dexterity over the past 13 years with six studio albums, multiple industry awards and more than 1,000 live shows under their belts, from Australia's biggest blues, roots and folk festivals to 15 international tours, which now sell out across Europe.

With a sonically adventurous reputation and energetic live show, it's no surprise Hussy Hicks have staying power. From Gold Coast Artist of the Year and Album of the Year wins to Queensland Music Award and Golden Guitar nominations, their critical accolades extend even further, with guitarist Parker winning Musician Of The Year at the 2020 Gold Coast Music Awards; touted by Australian legend, Phil Emmanuel as 'Australia's top female guitar player' and voted fifth in Bluesfest's Guitar Hero fan poll, among Santana and BB King.

Signed to her first record label at just 16 years old, Leesa is excited to be moving into the next phase of Hussy Hicks with long-time bassist, Tracy Bassy and new drummer, Ali Foster in the mix, making the band an all-female force. Following an award-winning production debut on Beccy Cole's AIR Country Album of the Year, Hussy Hicks new album is the first in six to be engineered and produced with Parker at the helm.

Never ones to shy away from activism, social commentary or using their voices for the greater good, Hussy Hicks follow up their 2017 Album of the Year winning release with their new 6th studio album, Gather Up The People out on 24 July, which looks at many of the issues at the forefront of the global consciousness this year, calling for a future without sexism, racism, homophobia and xenophobia, but most importantly, without fear.

<https://www.hussyhicks.com>



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



<https://twitter.com/hussyhicks>



<https://www.instagram.com/hussyhicks/>



<https://www.youtube.com/FunkFauna>

"A not to be missed act that are ready for the world."

- Peter Noble, Bluesfest Director

"Hussy Hicks Rock!"

- Michael Franti

"These girls epitomise everything I admire about great music - instinct, passion, courage, creativity and a distinct refusal to compromise their vision"

- Kim Cheshire, Country Update Magazine

### **Approved Quote**

"Julz and I could not be more thrilled to have the opportunity to tour throughout our home state for the Festival of Small Halls! We're doubly excited to be sharing the bill with the incredible Shellie Morris, who we've both been big fans of since we saw the Black Arm Band back in 2010 performing alongside Me'Shell Ndegeocello, Sinéad O'Connor, John Cale and the late Dr G Yunupingu. It's an honour to be involved in this tour and we just can't wait to play and sing our hearts out for you all!"

- Leesa Gentz, Hussy Hicks

### Tour Location Details

Oct-14	Springbrook	Springbrook Community Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Oct-15	Jondaryan	Jondaryan Public Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Oct-16	Texas	Texas Memorial Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Oct-17	Jackson	QWCA Jackson Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Oct-18	Cunnamulla	Paroo Shire Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Oct-22	Barcaldine	Barcaldine Town Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Oct-23	Hughenden	Parish Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Oct-24	Greenvale	Greenvale Community Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Oct-25	Ravenshoe	Ravenshoe Town Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Oct-29	Clermont	All Saints Anglican Church Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Oct-30	Wowan	Wowan RSL Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Oct-31	Guluguba	Downfall Creek Community Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Nov-1	Mapleton	Mapleton Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>

# General Promo

**Woodfordia Inc**  
**presents**  
**Festival of Small Halls Spring Tour 2020**  
**Shellie Morris and Hussy Hicks**

Festival of Small Halls is a series of tours that takes some of the best folk and contemporary acoustic artists 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.

Beginning in the green hinterlands of the Gold Coast, this tour launches out to some of the furthest flung corners of the Queensland Outback. Red dirt and sunsets in every colour imaginable will captivate two world-class touring artists as they travel a route like no other. From the centre of the state, to Queensland's highest town, to the trails left by dinosaurs the Spring Tour will take in 13 halls sprawled across rural, regional and remote Queensland

## ABOUT THE SPRING TOUR 2020

- This is the 19<sup>th</sup> Festival of Small Halls Tour in Australia
- 13 regional tour stops
- Shellie Morris is an inimitable and natural storyteller. Perhaps one of the more invaluable things about her musicianship is that she has learnt to sing in more than 17 Aboriginal languages – many of which are considered as 'sleeping' or close to extinction. One look through the list of projects and outreach programs she has been instrumental in delivering, and it's not hard to understand why she won Northern Territory Australian of the Year.
- Hussy Hicks are widely thought to have come out of the famous Byron Bay Bluesfest Buskers Competition (as did previous touring artists Claire Anne Taylor!), however, they actually toured internationally before entering the contest in 2008 because it is such a tough contest. At their now-programmed Bluesfest slots, you can sometimes catch Julz's Dad Greg on the harp!

## Producer Quote

*Festival of Small Halls celebrates the best in communities – the courage, the hospitality, the sense of kinship and looking out for your mates. We're so privileged to be welcomed in by each community and shown the best of their town. What's created by putting world class artists into these traditional, familiar venues is something quite unique, incredibly moving and almost spiritual to witness.*

- Eleanor Rigden, Producer, Festival of Small Halls

## FROM PREVIOUS ARTISTS

"The Festival of Small Halls was easily the most incredible tour experience for me. We only made it through the first couple of weeks before Covid took hold and sent us all home and yet those first shows perfectly captured the essence of human connection and delivering music to communities off the beaten tour track is so important. As an artist this tour gifted me with so many unique memories and far-too-big-to-carry-around-at-once feelings. The opportunity to travel and perform along side The Paul McKenna Band and the amazing crew, share my stories, collect cuddles like Easter eggs, be warmly welcomed at the community dinner table, all while getting to see more of this vast land that I am privileged to call home?! My heart was in a constant state of 'ready to burst into confetti'."

Alana Wilkinson, Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2020

"The Festival of Small Halls is a real one of a kind. As a touring artist I have been lucky enough to visit many countries over the years but only as part of Small Halls did the band and I manage to get a real understanding of the more rural areas and the beautiful people from each of the communities we visited. It's an experience that I will not forget and hope to be part of again."

Paul McKenna Band, Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2020

"The Festival of Small Halls tour was a wonderful experience for my band and I. It was our first trip to Australia from Scotland and we were made to feel so welcome by all of the communities which we visited and we learned a lot about the varying cultures and traditions along the way. It was so exciting to have the opportunity to visit so many different parts of Australia that we might not have had the chance to otherwise. The shows themselves were really enjoyable and it was a privilege to share our music each night. I came home from this tour full of inspiration and joy and I hope that I will be able to return again soon."

Siobhan Miller, Festival of Small Halls Summer Tour 2020

"The Festival of Small Halls was like a dream. The music, venues, adventures, towns and friendships I experienced will stay with me always. The instant sense of community each show creates was only rivalled by the camaraderie that grew within the confines of the tour van with every kilometre, ocean swim, new town and broken string."

Jack Carty, Festival of Small Halls Summer Tour 2020

"Festival of Small Halls was quite possibly our favourite tour we've ever been a part of. Whether it was a big festival or tiny town hall, the crowds welcomed us with open arms and brought so much love to the shows. You really got the sense of the whole community coming together for a special night. Travelling with and performing alongside an Aussie duo (Ash & Sara) was such a delight, finding instant camaraderie and friendship, which made the tour all the more enjoyable, while both our amazing tour manager and sound tech struck that magical balance of being similarly fantastic company while also running the tour logistics flawlessly. Also, oftentimes it seemed like everyone in Australia has some connection to Scotland, which is for us pretty special being so far from home. Australia has so much to offer in so many respects and it was such a privilege to receive the opportunity to experience it in this way."

The Jellyman's Daughter (SCO), Festival of Small Halls Spring Tour 2019

"When it comes to music, community and your sense of where you fit in the world, the Festival of Small Halls knows what your heart and soul truly needs more than you do. It was an epic journey filled with boundless music, laughter and memories. If asked to do it again, we would gladly make the 17000 + km trek. Because it's worth it."

Geraldine Hollet, The Once, Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2019

"Small Halls is a brilliant, inspiring tour that brings we musicians and regional communities together in a mutual discovery and celebration of each other. With this awareness Small Halls is helping build respect and sustain a healthy responsibility in the relationship between contemporary musicians work and regional Australian communities. I blinking loved every sweat, soaked, dusty morsel of every show and mile."

Liam Gerner, Festival of Small Halls Summer Tour 2019

*"It was a life-changing experience for me, being a part of the Festival of Small Halls Summer Tour. It was amazing sharing my music with communities I wouldn't normally get to visit and to be greeted with such warmth and generosity of spirit. We travelled through so many beautiful, special places that I will never forget, and I am sure my memories of the tour will filter into some of my songs in the future!"*

Lucy Wise, Festival of Small Halls Summer Tour 2018

*"Festival of Small Halls seems to do everything right. From mission to community to execution, this roving, nightly festival shares and is made by the same dedication and love as its parent festival—the Woodford Folk Festival. I saw and met amazing people and places I wouldn't ever have dreamed of seeing and visiting and felt able to deliver the best version of myself as an artist over a sustained and lengthy tour thanks to the amazing team. We went to extraordinary places for extraordinary community building and celebratory happenings. Thank you."*

Old Man Luedecke, Festival of Small Halls Summer Tour 2018

*"Festival of Small Halls breeds new life and culture into Australia's regional communities at a time when it is most needed. A fresh take on an old tradition."*

Elwood Gray, Festival of Small Halls Spring Tour 2018

*"The Festival of Small Halls solidified my love of Australia, giving me the opportunity to visit so many beautiful towns and villages that I would have never gotten to see otherwise."*

Dave Gunning, Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2018

*"The Festival of Small Halls was an experience of a lifetime. Imagine a traveling touring festival where the focus is celebration of community, family and music, all somehow beautifully wrapped in song and story performed by under-the-radar national and international artists, brought to distant corners of the Continent in order to co-create with local communities an evening to remember. It's mind blowing! My bandmate and I were introduced to regions of Australia that many Australians have never seen before, performing in community halls that most have never heard of, singing for audiences of all ages and all walks of life. I recall asking our fabulous tour manager why the parent organisation (Woodfordia) was so keen on the Small Halls tour idea. Her simple yet powerful response was "because it's important." With that I knew we were indeed part of something life changing, of something life giving, not only for us but for everyone involved in the endeavour. I am so honoured to have been a part."*

Cara Luft, The Small Glories, Festival of Small Halls Summer Tour 2018

*'The Festival Of Small Halls was easily one of the most rewarding tour experiences I have ever been a part of. I was blown away by the generosity and warmth of spirit of everyone involved and I feel that the bonds I have made along the way will be there for years to come.'*

Claire Anne Taylor, Festival of Small Halls, Summer and Autumn Tours 2018

*Festival of Small Halls - a brilliant remarkable concept. [The Summer Tour 2017 was] remarkable, artful, successful, fun, and an enlightening run. New friends and fans in a whole new hemisphere. Bucket list stuff for any musician much less any American. The width and breath of some Queensland countryside. I made great friends...*

Vance Gilbert, Festival of Small Halls, Summer Tour 2017

*The Festival of Small Halls is a unique program, centred around the spirit of community and the role of music and culture in bringing these communities together. This ethos is a central part of my own career, and to that of many other musicians I know, and it's a privilege and joy to be a part of such a unique tour that distills these simple, and incredibly important, ideas so well and with so much dedication and heart.*

Liz Stringer, Festival of Small Halls, Summer Tour 2017

*"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, 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