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| Event | Festival of Small Halls |
| Presenting Line | Woodfordia Inc presents Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2021 featuring Bobby Alu and This Way North |
| Artists | Bobby Alu This Way North |
| Regional Partners | see Locations |
| Tour Announce Date | 24 February 2021 |
| Tickets on Sale | 24 February 2021 www.festivalofsmallhalls.com Prices vary by location |
| Web | www.festivalofsmallhalls.com Handle: @SmallHallsAus #HallsAutumn |
| Instagram | https://www.instagram.com/smallhallsaus/ |
| YouTube | http://www.youtube.com/user/festivalofsmallhalls |
| Facebook | https://www.facebook.com/festivalofsmallhalls |
| Publicity Contact | Sheree Ramage 0416 839 0222 sheree.ramage@gmail.com |



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Artist Biographies

Bobby Alu



Short Biography

Amidst smooth harmonies, rhythms inspired by a strong family lineage of Polynesian performance, and unassuming grooves that work a gradual, smile-inducing high through even a casual listener, Bobby Alu tunes have a way of sneaking into the subconscious and taking up residence. Every now and then, one will pop up as a toe-tapping reminder to take it slow, enjoy the ride. It's the curator of calm's way – deliver island-time vibes with gentle optimism rather than forceful instruction, and encourage the type of reflection best achieved in a hammock. Though it's not all palm trees and daydreams – there's a robust energy in Alu's mastery of traditional Samoan log drums, and a vitality to his songwriting that nods to world, roots and pop intelligence.

Full biography

Move. And be moved. Find your flow and go about each day to the rhythm of your own making.

That's the theme of Byron Bay singer, ukulele strummer and drummer Bobby Alu.

Amidst smooth harmonies, rhythms inspired by a strong family lineage of Polynesian performance, and unassuming grooves that work a gradual, smile-inducing high through even a casual listener, Bobby Alu tunes have a way of sneaking into the subconscious and taking up residence. Every now and then, one will pop up as a toe-tapping reminder to take it slow, enjoy the ride. It's the curator of calm's way – deliver island-time vibes with gentle optimism rather than forceful instruction, and encourage the type of reflection best achieved in a hammock. Though it's not all palm trees and daydreams – there's a robust energy in Alu's mastery of traditional Samoan log drums, and a vitality to his songwriting that nods to world, roots and pop intelligence.

Sharing a well-nurtured and lengthy musical connection with producer and multi-instrumentalist tour buddy Paulie Bromley (The Beautiful Girls, george), Alu's recorded and live presence has been boosted from a range of creative alliances. Having dedicated his world-class percussion skills to touring internationally with Xavier Rudd for five years, it was time for the equatorial folk of Bobby Alu to chart its own dedicated course again in 2018. He played 132 shows across 14 countries, and stopped in at every state and territory of Australia, supporting John Butler Trio (EU), Trevor Hall (EU/AU), UB40 (AU) and The Beautiful Girls (EU/AU) along the way. For the Gold Coast raised artist, performing and co-writing a song for the Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony was a surreal homecoming. 2019 saw BIGSOUND showcases, a support tour across North America with his friend Xavier Rudd and a national run opening for Busby Marou.

Things stepped up on a songwriting and recording level too. Following the exploratory Self-titled debut (triple j Roots 'n All top 10 album of 2010), the clear island-time stylistic intention of 2013's Take It Slow, and the cruisy grooves of 2015's Bay Sessions EP, Alu spent 2019 back in the studio completing his third album Flow, which landed Double J feature album on week of release in October 2019 and no.1 on the AIR 100% Independent Album Charts. Singles 'Move', 'Other Side' and 'Finally' received glowing praise and playlist adds on ABC Local Radio and Double J, with 'Move' scoring a nomination for Best Blues & Roots song at the Queensland Music Awards (2019), alongside 'Dust' in 2020. 'Other Side' received an Honourable Mention (top 1%) in the International Songwriting Competition. In 2020 Alu spent his lockdown reimagining the songs from his debut self-titled album to create a 10-year anniversary reflection - Bobby Alu (2020).

bobbyalu.com

 [fb.com/bobbyalu](https://www.facebook.com/bobbyalu)

 <https://twitter.com/bobbyalu>

 [instagram.com/bobby_alu](https://www.instagram.com/bobby_alu)

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

"His chilled out Pacific tunes have a long-lasting feel good effect and his finely crafted songs have instant appeal."

- ABC Radio Australia

"Whether you're on, near, or simply pining for a body of water and a calmer frame of mind, Bobby's brand of coastal folk will take you there. It takes a lot of skill to make something this good sound so effortless."

- Dorothy Markek – Flow Double J Feature Album

"It's a perfect summer soundtrack: upbeat and uplifting, with a good dose of tropical tinged reality."

- Sarah Howells - The Australian ☆☆☆☆

Approved Quote

"I couldn't think of a more perfect way to get back to touring after the longest break I've had since hitting the road over a decade ago. I'm really excited to visit, explore and perform in these regional towns." - Bobby Alu

This Way North



Short Biography

Taking out Best Outer Suburban Act 2018 at The Age Music Victoria Awards, Australian act This Way North are on a steady incline. It's easy to forget they are just a two-piece band. Drummer/vocalist Cat Leahy and guitarist/vocalist Leisha Jungalwalla create explosive energy and expansive sound, that translates effortlessly from the studio to the stage.

This Way North bring more passion and energy than a 10-piece band, drumming up a contagious euphoria. The duo has brought their show to audiences from the Arctic in Canada, across Australia's sweeping central desert and down to the geysers of New Zealand.

With the release their new seven-song EP Vol. 3 in February 2021, This Way North beckon us to shake off the year that was 2020 and welcome brighter days.

Full Biography

Taking out Best Outer Suburban Act 2018 at The Age Music Victoria Awards, Australian act This Way North are on a steady incline. It's easy to forget they are just

a two-piece band. Drummer/vocalist Cat Leahy and guitarist/vocalist Leisha Jungalwalla create explosive energy and expansive sound, that translates effortlessly from the studio to the stage.

After spending years touring full time and living on the road, This Way North are currently taking their COVID forced grounding in the historic and arts centric tiny town of Yackandandah in North Eastern Victoria.

This Way North will release their new seven-song EP Vol. 3 in February 2021, beckoning us to shake off the year that was 2020 and welcome brighter days.

Recorded in Nashville in January 2020 on a trip to the US—where This Way North was invited to showcase at the Folk Alliance International Conference in New Orleans—and produced by Brad Jones (Skipping Girl Vinegar, Justin Townes Earle, Bob Evans), EP Vol. 3 is at its heart celebratory, reminding us that things were once ok, and will be once again.

It is also the ultimate instalment in a trilogy of EPs (joining 2016's EP Vol. 1 and 2018's EP Vol. 2)—and is a collection of new tracks from guitarist/singer Leisha Jungalwalla and drummer/singer Cat Leahy, written while travelling and touring around Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

For three years Jungalwalla and Leahy traded a bricks-and-mortar home for van life on the road, and a spirit of adventure and unbridled joy has taken up permanent residence in their music—no more so than this new collection.

“Living on the road meant we were able to visit some beautiful places to write new music, including an off-grid community in Tassie; a big permaculture property in the Canada's BC Interior; and, the Sunshine Coast hinterland,” says Jungalwalla.

Since their last release in 2018, This Way North—named Music Victoria's Best Regional/Outer Suburban Act in the same year—had continued full-time touring across Australia, New Zealand and Canada, supporting Ash Grunwald and Kate Ceberano along the way; and, playing local festivals including Queenscliff, Mullumbimby, Woodford, Port Fairy, and the Ness Creek, and Robson Valley festivals in Canada. The duo also released standalone single Night Terrors in 2019, a taste of things to come.

Alongside This Way North, Jungalwalla and Leahy also founded Sass the Patriarchy in 2018, an event series aimed at improving gender equality in the music industry. Their events and festivals in Australia and overseas have featured artists including Thando, Dallas Frasca, Hollie Joyce, Bitch Diesel, The Twoks, and Simona Castricum. Whether in a local dive bar or at a major festival, This Way North bring more passion and energy than a 10-piece band, drumming up a contagious euphoria. The duo has brought their show to audiences from the Arctic in Canada, across Australia's sweeping central desert and down to the geysers of New Zealand.

thiswaynorth.com

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

 <https://twitter.com/thiswaynorthHQ>

 <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvBaFWCelWelh9xfDeUX9LA/featured>

"You Be You is a gorgeous tune from This Way North, their sweet harmonies sending us drifting all the way up to cloud nine."

- Sarah Howells, Double J

"Those rumbling drums, that sneaky little slide guitar line... the way it all comes together to become a lush, powerful piece of music that's so easy to get caught up in."

- DOUBLE J RADIO

"These women are what makes music great. Energy, passion, beautifully crafted songs, kick-arse drummer, and a powerful frontwoman who combine to make sure you can't stand still."

- Higgs Triple M Radio

"This Way North are such an impressive live duo! Their blend of genres is unlike anything else around. Great grooves, and they know how to rock!"

- ASH GRUNWALD

Approved Quote

"We are beyond excited to resume life on the road with Festival of Small Halls, touring regionally is one of our favourite things to do, the places, the people, playing shows, the road, it's our happy place!" - Leisha Jungalwalla

Tour Location Details

| DATE | VENUE | TOWN |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Apr-7 | Yetman Memorial Hall | Yetman, NSW |
| Apr-8 | Frederickton School of Arts Hall | Frederickton, NSW |
| Apr-9 | Currabubula Hall | Currabubula, NSW |
| Apr-10 | J H Davis Memorial Hall | Dorrigo, NSW |
| Apr-11 | | |
| Apr-14 | The Foundations | Portland, NSW |
| Apr-15 | Woodstock Memorial Hall | Woodstock, NSW |
| Apr-16 | St Saviour's Cathedral Hall | Goulburn, NSW |
| Apr-17 | Dalgety Hall | Dalgety, NSW |
| Apr-18 | Gilmore Hall | Gilmore, NSW |
| Apr-21 | Savernake School of Arts Hall | Savernake, NSW |
| Apr-22 | Paradise Palladium Theatre | Morundah, NSW |
| Apr-23 | Ganmain Hall | Ganmain, NSW |
| Apr-24 | Pyree School of Arts Hall | Pyree, NSW |
| Apr-25 | Bloomfield Hall | Orange, NSW |
| Apr-28 | Nymagee Community Hall | Nymagee, NSW |
| Apr-29 | Marthaguy Hall | Marthaguy, NSW |
| Apr-30 | Burren Junction School of Arts Hall | Burren Junction, NSW |
| May-1 | Mullaley Memorial Hall | Mullaley, NSW |
| May-2 | Coramba Community Hall | Coramba, NSW |

General Promo

Woodfordia Inc
presents
Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2021
Bobby Alu and This Way North

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.

Halls of all shapes and sizes will throw open their doors, from the rolling green hills of the Mid North hinterlands, to the dry bush of the Central West, from goldrush country to the fertile Southern Tablelands; from the golden sands of the south east coast, to the majesty of the Snowys. The tour will take in the sprawling mass of regional New South Wales in a four-week marathon of excellent music, community spirit and the finest of country hospitality.

ABOUT THE AUTUMN TOUR 2021

- This is the 21st Festival of Small Halls Tour in Australia
- 20 regional tour stops
- Fun fact: Bobby Alu got his performing name by accident. His full name is Charles Robert Fa'agalu Wall, and when he put out his first recording, during his university years, he put his full name on the CD. A friend of his, Sarah Howells [former Festival of Small Halls publicist] played it on Triple J and said 'this is Bobby Alu', and so he remained professionally.
- Fun fact: This Way North are ideally suited to the far-flung Festival of Small Halls touring routes – once, they both stuck to their schedule even after Leisha suffered stingray bites to both ankles while on tour in WA.

Producer Quote

"These music shows have always been inspiring and joyous ways for communities to pull together. In the aftermath of Covid-19, watching these towns get back on their feet and work to safely bring their neighbours, their friends and visitors back together has been so inspiring. We've all been alone for a little while in the last 12 months and our treasured halls are waiting, as they have been for generations, to host our reunions and once more come alive with music, memories, kindness and the spirit of community."

- Eleanor Rigden, Producer, Festival of Small Halls

FROM PREVIOUS ARTISTS

"Festival of Small Halls is easily the best tour I have ever been on! Everything was impeccably organised and thoughtfully done. The work put into promotion and rapport-building ensured that we had great support from the community at every stop along the way. Ultimately it was an absolute pleasure to play each show. I believe strongly that music is integral to community, so I feel very aligned with the vision of Festival of Small Halls. People in our regional communities need and deserve music as much as those in the cities - maybe more - so to play a part in bringing these communities together night after night was truly joyous."

Karl S. Williams, Festival of Small Halls Summer Tour 2020

"Festival of Small Halls was a really joyful experience for women in docs. The team were fun and professional, and the gigs were well attended and engaged the local communities. This tour came straight after a year of no gigs due to COVID-19 and so being on stage was so very welcome at that time. We loved engaging with audiences again, singing along together, and, for one outdoor show, it was our first gig with dancing! Festival of Small Halls is an amazing community engagement program that celebrates regional areas, local bands and arts workers, and brings people together all over Australia."

Chanel Lucas, women in docs, Festival of Small Halls Summer Tour 2020

"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