



Event	Festival of Small Halls Australia
Presenting Line	Woodfordia Inc presents Festival of Small Halls Spring Tour 2021 featuring Darren Hanlon and Kelly Brouhaha
Artists	Darren Hanlon (AUS) Kelly Brouhaha (AUS)
Regional Partners	see Locations
Tour Announce Date	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2021
Tickets on Sale	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2021 <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 #QldSpring #FOSH #smallhallsaustralia #springtour
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>
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SPRING TOUR 2021

QUEENSLAND

WOODFORDIA INC. PRESENTS

# Festival of Small Halls

COMING TO A SMALL TOWN NEAR YOU

SPRING TOUR 13<sup>TH</sup> - 31<sup>ST</sup> OCT 2021

WED 13 OCT	GREYMARK, GREYMARK HALL, QLD	SAT 23 OCT	CLERMONT, ANGLICAN CHURCH HALL, QLD
THUR 14 OCT	TEXAS, TEXAS MEMORIAL HALL, QLD	SUN 24 OCT	THANGOOI, THANGOOI RECREATION RESERVE, QLD
FRI 15 OCT	DERRANBANDI, DERRANBANDI CIVIC CENTRE, QLD	WED 27 OCT	BRIGALOW, BRIGALOW PUBLIC HALL, QLD
SAT 16 OCT	CUNNAMULLA, PAROO SHIRE HALL, QLD	THUR 28 OCT	TALWOOD, TALWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE, QLD
SUN 17 OCT	MUCKADILLA, MUCKADILLA HALL, QLD	FRI 29 OCT	CAMBOOYA, CAMBOOYA HALL, QLD
WED 20 OCT	ALPHA, ALPHA TOWN HALL, QLD	SAT 30 OCT	CROWS NEST, ANDURAMBA HALL, QLD
THUR 21 OCT	HUGHENDEN, PARKSH HALL, QLD	SUN 31 OCT	MAPLETON, MAPLETON HALL, QLD
FRI 22 OCT	CHARTERS TOWERS, ST PAUL'S PLAYHOUSE, QLD		



KELLY BROUHAHA



DARREN HANLON



[WWW.FESTIVALOFSMALLHALLS.COM](http://WWW.FESTIVALOFSMALLHALLS.COM)

# Artist Biographies

**Darren Hanlon (AUSTRALIA)**



After years of touring the far-flung corners of Australia and the greater world, Darren Hanlon has carved a sacred place in the hearts of many who cross his path with his candid and charming music and storytelling. He is known for his engagement with his audiences and having the ability to make a large crowd feel like they're in a lounge room amongst friends.

Not deterred by the Covid situation, Hanlon has managed to have a rich few years, appearing in and singing the credits of the new Slim Dusty bio-pic 'Slim & I' and garnering high rotation on ABC with his pandemic themed song 'We All Cope in Different Ways.'

He is also releasing what will be his 6th studio album called 'Life Tax' (Jan 2022) written and recorded in the Uniting Church Hall, Northcote with his new band consisting of some of Melbourne's indie elite: Leah Senior, Jesse Williams, Zoe Fox and Dylan Young. It's his most stripped back and narrative driven album to date and features the single and already crowd favourite 'Lapsed Catholic.'

<https://www.darrenhanlon.com/>



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



<https://open.spotify.com/artist/0e1rRNkYxmrlDewTwmpA6K>



<https://www.instagram.com/theblueguitar/?hl=en>



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7iHWVDT9Q153yq4GYQOncA>

'Hanlon has a novelist's eye for detail and sparse prose...While his country Australia accent has been smoothed with years of absence, the upwards inflection on the second last syllable of most lines means the country hasn't been taken out of him. This delivery adds an element of the bush storyteller, taking his city cousins camping and learning them around the fire in his charming, warm monotone that emphasises what he is saying as much as how.'

Starvingkids.org

'Former fourth Lucksmith and ex-Simpletons guitarist Darren Hanlon understands that the difference between simple and simple-headed is, quite literally, wit. Like his aforementioned countryfolk, the longtime Australian musician has a knack for quirky tunefulness, good-naturedly ambitious rhymes and tingly everyday details, shared over shopworn guitars and embellished with piano, violin or the occasional toy instrument.'

Pitchfork

'Hanlon's words – witty, seemingly casual but far too smartly done to be just tossed off – are acutely observant and simultaneously very "us" and very "him". They are the reasons we would keep coming back even if his songs were merely OK... – they all bring enough to keep you entertained for days. The thing is, though, that his tunes have never been merely OK, despite his casual delivery and thin sound,.. from rockabilly, gospel and country to mountain ballads, folk pop and southern soul.'

The Sydney Morning Herald

### **Approved Quote from Darren Hanlon**

'I'm so excited to have the opportunity to perform in these towns, most of them I've never even been to before. Small Halls does an amazing job of reaching places that have been neglected on the Australian touring map. Can't wait to meet some of my fellow Queenslanders.'

## Kelly Brouhaha (AUSTRALIA)



The South Australian Award-Winning Songwriter is one of those artists who's unique style simply cannot be put into a box. From big blues to soulful country, it is music that is real and raw and vulnerable.

Releasing her debut album in 2019, the Americana artist has had many a success including ABC radio rotation, #1 AMRAP radio charting and inclusion on hit country Spotify playlists. Her latest album 'Unplugged' hit #1 on the AMRAP radio charts and was the ABC Country Feature Album June 17, 2021.

A sought-after session musician, she's also known for lending backing vocals, percussion and guitar duties to some of the country's finest including Beccy Cole, Jen Mize, Libby O'Donovan and Amber Joy Poulton.

Whether around a campfire, in RSLs or in the intimate setting of people's living rooms - this is an artist you simply need to hear. Her captivating live show will have you giggling one minute and in tears the next as she tells stories about her travels, her family and her much loved 1992 Toyota Hiace 'Pamela Vanderson'.

<https://www.kellybrouhaha.com.au/about>



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



<https://www.instagram.com/kellybrouhaha/?hl=en>



<https://open.spotify.com/album/38vXWPELPuNqwZFSJbRWYR>



[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnfe\\_G2-bWYi-miGU\\_t1exA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnfe_G2-bWYi-miGU_t1exA)

'She's known for having an extraordinarily rare voice...'  
Clare Bowditch

'It's just so much fun, that girls got amazing pipes, she sounds like Amy Winehouse - but with more of a soulful edge as opposed to a jazz hook.'  
Nkechi Anele – Triple J Roots and All

'I really don't know if we have anyone similar in Australia, I am pretty sure that we don't. She has similar elements of other artists from overseas, and maybe a touch of Renee Geyer, but basically, she is a one-off. In a close tunnel genre in Australia, Kelly is Queen. She is a no-nonsense, firebrand.'  
Cowgirl Up Blog

### **Approved Quote from Kelly Brouhaha**

'I am so excited to be invited to play the Small Halls tour. For someone who prefers living on the road in a van and hasn't been able to travel in quite some time, I'm really grateful to have the opportunity and the privilege to experience Western Queensland with this excellent crew. I moved to Brisbane a day before NSW went into lockdown and to have an opportunity like this to keep playing shows while the live industry is really struggling feels like a real honour.'

## Tour Location Details

WEEK 1		Town	Venue	Tickets
Wed	Oct 13	<b>Greymare</b> Kambuwal Country	Greymare Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a> or locally via the Greymare Hall Committee
Thu	Oct 14	<b>Texas</b> Bigambul and Kambuwal Country	Texas Memorial Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a> or locally at the Texas Library, Texas
Fri	Oct 15	<b>Dirranbandi</b>	Dirranbandi Civic Centre	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Sat	Oct 16	<b>Cunnamulla</b> Kunja Country	Paroo Shire Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a> or locally at the Paroo Shire Council Office, Cunnamulla
Sun	Oct 17	<b>Muckadilla</b> Gunggari Country	Muckadilla Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
WEEK 2				
Wed	Oct 20	<b>Alpha</b> Iningai Country	Alpha Town Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Thu	Oct 21	<b>Hughenden</b> Yirendali Country	Parish Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Fri	Oct 22	<b>Charters Towers</b> Gudjul Country	St Paul's Playhouse	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a> or locally at the Charters Towers Regional Council, Charters Towers
Sat	Oct 23	<b>Clermont</b> Wangan Country	Anglican Church Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a> or locally via Isaac Performing Arts
Sun	Oct 24	<b>Thangool</b> Gaangalu Country	Thangool Recreation Reserve	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a> or locally at the Thangool Roadhouse
WEEK 3				
Wed	Oct 27	<b>Brigalow</b>	Brigalow Public Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a> or locally at the Brigalow General Store, Brigalow
Thur	Oct 28	<b>Talwood</b> Gamilaraay Country	Talwood Community Centre	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a> or locally via the Talwood Community Centre
Fri	Oct 29	<b>Cambooya</b> Western Wakka Wakka, Gaibul and Jarrowair Country	Cambooya Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>
Sat	Oct 30	<b>Anduramba</b>	Anduramba Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a> or locally at <u>Chic Shoe Store, Crows Nest</u>
Sun	Oct 31	<b>Mapleton</b> Jinibara Country	Mapleton Hall	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.festivalofsmallhalls.com">www.festivalofsmallhalls.com</a>

# General

**Woodfordia Inc  
presents**

## **Festival of Small Halls Queensland Spring Tour 2021: Darren Hanlon and Kelly Brouhaha**

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.

Head West! We take our mission to reach out from the East Coast very seriously here and we plan to put some serious miles on the tour van in this tour that runs from Greymare (Kambuwal Country), on the fertile Southern Downs, right through the outback – as far west as Cunnamulla (Kunja Country) - up the guts of Queensland before being bending south again through the Brigalow Belt to finish in the Sunshine Coast mountain village of Mapleton (Jinibara Country).

### **ABOUT THE QUEENSLAND SPRING TOUR 2021**

- This is the 23rd Festival of Small Halls Tour in Australia
- Fifteen regional tour stops
- Darren Hanlon has carved a sacred place in the hearts of many who cross his path with his candid and charming music and storytelling. He is known for his engagement with his audiences and having the ability to make a large crowd feel like they're in a lounge room amongst friends.
- Whether around a campfire, in RSLs or in the intimate setting of people's living rooms – Kelly Brouhaha is an artist you simply need to hear. Her captivating live show will have you giggling one minute and in tears the next as she tells stories about her travels, her family and her much loved 1992 Toyota Hiace 'Pamela Vanderson'

### **Woodfordia Quote**

'This Western Queensland Tour is the closest thing to our original tour from back in 2013. We have fond memories of the scenery, the people, the bakery road stops and of course, the glorious Halls. It's going to be amazing to head out again with Queensland-based artists who haven't had the chance to check out this part of their own backyard. We were on a Zoom call a few days ago with Scottish artists who headed out on this tour in 2019, and they reckon it's the best tour they've ever done – that's in no small part due to the people they met and the welcome they received from these towns.

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

Small Halls was one of the most unique and enjoyable experiences I have had during my 12 years of touring internationally. It felt really special to perform and connect to so many different communities and towns I'd never heard of in Australia. I loved it. Can I go again one day, please?

Bobby Alu, AUSTRALIA, Autumn Tour 2021

Festival of Small Halls was an absolute treat. The team are the most lovely bunch of people we've had the pleasure of touring with. Being on a consistent tour again after such a long break through Covid was incredible timing for us and being able to collaborate with the other artist on the bill brought new energy to us as musicians. The halls and communities we played to were so brilliantly aligned with what we had to bring and this tour will forever be a delicious memory we hold dear to our hearts.

This Way North, AUSTRALIA, Autumn Tour 2021

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, AUSTRALIA, 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.

women in docs, AUSTRALIA, Summer Tour 2020

We played the Festival of Small Halls 2020 Spring tour through regional Queensland and it was a totally unique touring experience for us. We played in some really remote, small towns, playing in gorgeous old halls to communities who rarely get to experience live music events. This tour is a really special and important connector between musicians and regional audiences, and we made lifelong friendships and a swag of memories that will stay with us forever.

Hussy Hicks, AUSTRALIA, Spring 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 alongside 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, AUSTRALIA, Autumn 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, SCOTLAND Autumn, 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, SCOTLAND, Summer 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, AUSTRALIA, Summer 2020

Festival of Small Halls for us was, apart from the thousands of Kilometres travelled by road, more than a thousand magical steps into the hearts of the communities. We were welcomed in with open arms - even though some communities were going through tough times due to the droughts and fires that were happening at that time - their welcome was of warmth and welcome. It was quite the experience for us to make such a connection with the people of these halls through our music and such a privilege to be held so kindly in their community. This experience only happened because of the Festival of Small Halls. It shows this beautiful country in its wonderful glory in its regional areas to artists that would have never had this experience or opportunity before.

Hat Fitz and Cara, AUSTRALIA, Summer 2019

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, SCOTLAND, Spring 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.

The Once, CANADA, Autumn 2019

Small Halls is a brilliant, inspiring tour that brings us 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, AUSTRALIA, Summer 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, AUSTRALIA, Summer 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, CANADA, Summer 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.

Harry Jakamarra, AUSTRALIA 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, CANADA, Autumn 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.

The Small Glories, CANADA, Summer 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, AUSTRALIA, Summer and Autumn 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 breadth of some Queensland countryside. I made great friends...

Vance Gilbert, USA, Summer 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 distils these simple, and incredibly important, ideas so well and with so much dedication and heart.

Liz Stringer, AUSTRALIA, Summer 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 visit these towns and give back a gift that was given to us. The East Pointers, CANADA, Summer 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, AUSTRALIA, Autumn 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, CANADA, Autumn 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, CANADA, Summer 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 folk music they had clearly not encountered before. The Mae Trio, AUSTRALIA, Summer 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, AUSTRALIA, Spring 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, AUSTRALIA, Inaugural Festival of Small Halls Tour, 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, CANADA, Inaugural Festival of Small Halls Tour, 2013

## FROM HALLS 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