



Event	Festival of Small Halls Australia
Presenting Line	Woodfordia Inc presents Festival of Small Halls Summer Tour 2021 featuring Andrea Kirwin and Tullara
Artists	Andrea Kirwin (AUS) Tullara (AUS)
Regional Partners	see Locations
Tour Announce Date	Wednesday 6 th October 2021
Tickets on Sale	Wednesday 6 th October 2021 www.festivalofsmallhalls.com Prices vary by location
Web	www.festivalofsmallhalls.com Handle: @SmallHallsAus #QldSummer #HallsSummer #FOSH #smallhallsaustralia #summertour
Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/smallhallsaus/
YouTube	http://www.youtube.com/user/festivalofsmallhalls
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/festivalofsmallhalls
Publicity Contact	Jen Kyna jenikyna@gmail.com +61423 196 880

SUMMER TOUR 2021

QUEENSLAND

WOODFORDIA INC. PRESENTS

Festival of Small Halls

COMING TO A SMALL TOWN NEAR YOU

SUMMER TOUR 10TH NOV - 5TH DEC 2021

WED 10 NOV	SOUTHBROOK, SOUTHBROOK HALL, QLD	THUR 25 NOV	BAUPLE, BAUPLE BAND HALL, QLD
THUR 11 NOV	KUMBIA, KUMBIA MEMORIAL HALL, QLD	FRI 26 NOV	COOKOY, COOKOY MEMORIAL HALL, QLD
FRI 12 NOV	RAINBOW BEACH, RAINBOW BEACH COMMUNITY HALL, QLD	SAT 27 NOV	QUINALOW, QUINALOW HALL, QLD
SAT 13 NOV	BENARABY, BENARABY PROGRESS HALL, QLD	SUN 28 NOV	GOOMBURRA, GOOMBURRA TOWN HALL, QLD
SUN 14 NOV	YEPPON, EMU PARK CULTURAL HALL, QLD	TUES 30 NOV	MA MA CREEK, MA MA CREEK COMMUNITY HALL, QLD
THUR 18 NOV	KOAH, KOAH HALL, QLD	WEDS 1 DEC	THE SUMMIT, THE SUMMIT HALL, QLD
FRI 19 NOV	INNISFAIL, INNISFAIL SHIRE HALL, QLD	THUR 2 DEC	CABARLAN, CABARLAN HILL, QLD
SAT 20 NOV	BLUEWATER, BLUEWATER COMMUNITY CENTRE, QLD	FRI 3 DEC	SPRINGBROOK, SPRINGBROOK COMMUNITY HALL, QLD
SUN 21 NOV	EUNGELLA, EUNGELLA HUB, QLD	SAT 4 DEC	AUSTINVILLE, MT NIMMEL HALL, QLD
WED 24 NOV	CAPTAIN CREEK, CAPTAIN CREEK COMMUNITY CLUB, QLD	SUN 5 DEC	EUDLO, EUDLO HALL, QLD



ANDREA KIRWIN



TULLARA



Queensland Government

WWW.FESTIVALOFSMALLHALLS.COM

Artist Biographies

Andrea Kirwin (AUSTRALIA)



Andrea Kirwin is an Australian-Fijian Artist/Producer based in Nambour on the Sunshine Coast, Australia. With a warm stage presence, retro soulful sound and a knack for storytelling, Andrea has been steadily building a national following since the release of her first album, 'From the Ground Up' in 2013. Having self-produced five independent albums, she has continued to build a sustainable music career and has now opened up a shopfront for her record label, Peace Run Records, at 14 Queen St, Nambour (Label est. 2009).

Andrea's unique brand of Island Soul has continued to evolve over the past eight years since she has been recording her original music. Having built her career as a singer-songwriter over the years by gigging up to 300+ shows a year, she has become a seasoned and sought-after performer and is versatile in performing solo or as a trio and up to her full band for Festivals. Andrea's laidback style of folk-soul-jazz has crystalized in her new album, 'BLOOM', which was launched on 1 May 2021, with a full band show at Sunshine Sounds Festival, QLD, curated by Katie Noonan, and is now available for purchase digitally at Bandcamp and on cd and vinyl at www.peacerunrecords.com, and has also recently been released on Streaming platforms.

Andrea has been hosting boutique livestream events at Peace Run Records and Agency and in the past 6 months has held a nine hour livestream launch featuring 20 artists, a Blues

Night and a Survival Day First nations concert which was co-hosted by Deline Briscoe of Gaba Musik. Andrea hopes to host more livestream shows in the coming months and is currently offering these services in South East QLD for their live shows as well.

Festivals have always been amongst some of Andrea's favourite music memories having been introduced to the Australian Festival scene early on with her first band, The Andi and George Band, who toured the East coast of Australia Festival hopping in 2008 and playing Woodford Folk Festival, National Multicultural Fringe Festival, WOMADelaide, Folk Rhythm and Life and more.

<https://www.andreakirwin.com>



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



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



<https://www.youtube.com/c/AndreaKirwin>

'Andrea Kirwin has a rare voice that runs deep... deep enough to carry you back to an era where the way an artist delivered their message was everything.'

- LIOR

'When I heard Andrea, I was totally excited to hear such a competent, unique and exciting new songwriter. It is one of the joys of being a musician, traveling the globe and hearing exciting music that I wouldn't have found at home, yet it is a rare joy. I find there are many competent yet mediocre musicians out there and Andrea was way above anything I had heard for a long, long time.'

- KRISTINA OLSEN

Approved Quote from Andrea Kirwin

'Small Halls has been one of my dream gigs for years now. I love playing in character buildings and to be invited to tour my home state of QLD during this time is a really special opportunity. I can't wait to get on the road and visit regional towns across our beautiful Sunshine State through the Small Halls tour!'

Tullara (AUSTRALIA)



With her percussive finger tapping, guitar playing wizardry, not to mention the alluring power of her voice, **Tullara** has an undeniable, uniquely endearing stage presence full of raw, powerful honesty, and swagger. This northern NSW homegrown artist, now based in Townsville, is taking the genre of Folk/Roots to a whole new level.

Tullara has been making her mark across the Australian music industry since her debut release '**Better Hold On**' in 2016. Born and raised on a parrot farm in Ramornie, northern NSW (true story), Folk/Roots rocker Tullara went on to win 'BEST EP' at the 2017 '**Australian Roots Music Awards**' and independently hit over 1,000,000 streams on Spotify in 2018.

As her performance rep grew, Tullara won the attention and praise of ARIA Award Winner **John Butler** who said '*Tullara has a way with words and a way with that guitar!*', and was invited to open for Aussie legends such as **The Waifs, Jeff Lang, Troy Cassar-Daley** and **Mia Dyson**. Soon after, Tullara was chosen as the National Australia Tour support act for international artist **Donavon Frankenreiter (USA)** and **Wallis Bird (IRE)**, as well as opening for **The East Pointers (CAN)**.

Tullara has since racked up performances at some of the biggest and most respected festivals both in Australia and abroad including: **Woodford Folk Festival, Queenscliff Music Festival, Artswells Festival (CAN), LeCheile Festival (IRE), Umefolk (SE), Floating Castle Festival (SI)**, plus many more. Tullara's highly anticipated follow-up release '**Waiting for the Encore**' hit the stores and online platforms **December 11 2020**.

<http://tullara.com>

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

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

 <https://open.spotify.com/artist/3iFr5ino9acpv1abFMZP2t>

 <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0rSBlvslXo5v0Ozp-gdViQ>

'I love Tullara – she's magic.'

Nkechi Anele - triple j Roots and All

'As nimble on guitar as she is vocals, Tullara's strong performance steadies the song and bubbles up high with a catchy, melodic hook. It's just as much pop as it is folk/roots, highlighting a penchant for structure that we can't wait to hear more of when she releases *both* her forthcoming EPs later this year.'

Chris Sing – theaureview.com

'Breaking Australian artist Tullara found the perfect balance between inviting accessibility and authentic ingenuity with her single *16 Seconds* which was released on May 8th. The reflectively moody tone in the Alt Rock single proved to be a synergetic pairing for Tullara's understated yet profoundly resonant vocals. It's safe to say that *16 Seconds* was the most cathartically connectable perennial Pop earworm we've heard this year so far. If she's not already on it, get her on your radar. She's undoubtedly one to watch.'

Amelia Vandergast – anfactory.com

Approved Quote from Tullara

'After such a rough 16 months of not being able to properly do what I love - which is tour Australia playing music - I am bouncing out of my skin with excitement to hit the road for the Festival of Small Halls Tour! Especially in my newfound home of Queensland! I can't wait to get back out there into the community and play some new music. My last Small Halls Tour back in 2015 changed my life - let's do it again.'

Tour Location Details

WEEK 1		Location	Venue
Wed	Nov 10	Southbrook (Jarowair & Giabal Country)	Southbrook Hall
Thur	Nov 11	Kumbia (Wakka Waaka Country)	Kumbia Memorial Hall
Fri	Nov 12	Rainbow Beach (Butchulla and Kabi Kabi Country)	Rainbow Beach Community Hall
Sat	Nov 13	Benaraby (Byellee, Gooreng Gooreng, Gurang and Taribelang Bunda Country)	Benaraby Progress Hall
Sun	Nov 14	Yeppoon (Darumbal Country)	Emu Park Cultural Hall
WEEK 2			
Thur	Nov 18	Koah (Tjapukai/Djabugay and Bulwai Country)	Koah Hall
Fri	Nov 19	Innisfail (Mamu Country)	Innisfail Shire Hall
Sat	Nov 20	Bluewater (Bindal and Wulgurukaba Country)	Bluewater Community Centre
Sun	Nov 21	Eungella (Widi Country)	Eungella Hub
WEEK 3			
Wed	Nov 24	Captain Creek (Gooreng Gooreng Country)	Captain Creek Community Sport and Recreation Club
Thur	Nov 25	Bauple (Butchulla & Kabi Kabi Country)	Bauple Band Hall
Fri	Nov 26	Cooroy (Kabi Kabi Country)	Cooroy Memorial Hall
Sat	Nov 27	Quinalow	Quinalow Hall
Sun	Nov 28	Goomburra (Gitabul Country)	Goomburra Town Hall
WEEK 4			
Tues	Nov-30	Ma Ma Creek (Yuggera Ugarapul Country)	Ma Ma Creek Community Hall
Wed	Dec 1	The Summit (Kambuwal Country)	The Summit Hall
Thur	Dec 2	Cabarlah (Jarowair Country)	Cabarlah Hall
Fri	Dec 3	Springbrook (Yugambah Country)	Springbrook Community Hall
Sat	Dec 4	Austinvile (Yugambah Country)	Mt Nimmel Hall
Sun	Dec 5	Eudlo (Gubbi Gubbi Country)	Eudlo Hall

General

**Woodfordia Inc
presents**

Festival of Small Halls Queensland Summer Tour 2021: Andrea Kirwin and Tullara

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 north! We take our mission to reach out from the metropolitan centres very seriously here and we plan to put some serious miles on the tour van in this tour that runs from Southbrook on the Darling Downs to Eudlo in the Sunshine Coast Hinterland

ABOUT THE QUEENSLAND SUMMER TOUR 2021

- This is the 24th Festival of Small Halls Tour in Australia
- Twenty regional tour stops
- **Andrea Kirwin** is an Australian-Fijian Artist/Producer based in Nambour on the Sunshine Coast. With a warm stage presence, retro soulful sound and a knack for storytelling, Andrea has been steadily building a national following since the release of her first album, 'From the Ground Up' in 2013. Having self-produced five independent albums, she has continued to build a sustainable music career and has now opened up a shopfront for her record label, Peace Run Records
- With her percussive finger tapping, guitar playing wizardry, not to mention the alluring power of her voice, **Tullara** has an undeniable, uniquely endearing stage presence full of raw, powerful honesty, and swagger. This northern NSW homegrown artist – raised on a parrot farm - now based in Townsville, is taking the genre of Folk/Roots to a whole new level.

Woodfordia Quote

'This tour puts some serious miles on the tour van – and we love it. Festival of Small Halls was created specifically to reach out into regions that might not see a lot of touring artists, and we've worn a solid groove each year out into Western Queensland, and up North, since 2013. The artists on this tour have blown audiences away in some of Australia's largest festivals, but they're also just wonderful people. There is no doubt in my mind that this tour is going to be great fun for both the artists and the communities who host them.

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

This was the most enjoyable working experience of my touring life. The team were amazing and the entire machine ran like clockwork. I felt supported, valued and the whole experience gave me hope for a bright future after what have been some strange and difficult times. The Small Halls concept is truly wonderful and I am so glad I was able to take part. I saw first-hand how it changes for the better the lives of people in the community and had the pleasure of sharing so many poignant and intimate moments that filled the cup of both myself and the audience. Music heals, it brings people together and it we are all better for it. Bloody lovely.

Paddy McHugh, AUSTRALIA, Resilience Tour 2021

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 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, 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 folky 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