



Event	Festival of Small Halls
Presenting Line	Woodfordia Inc presents Festival of Small Halls Summer Tour 2022 featuring Karen Lee Andrews and Juzzie Smith
Artists	Karen Lee Andrews Juzzie Smith
Regional Partners	see Locations
Tour Announce Date	5 January 2022
Tickets on Sale	5 January 2022 www.festivalofsmallhalls.com Prices vary by location
Web	www.festivalofsmallhalls.com Handle: @SmallHallsAus #HallsSummer
Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/smallhallsaus/
YouTube	http://www.youtube.com/user/festivalofsmallhalls
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/festivalofsmallhalls
Publicity Contact	Jen Kyna 0423 196 880 jenkyna@gmail.com



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Artist Biographies

Karen Lee Andrews



Short Biography

Karen Lee Andrews is in possession of a unique sense of artistic purpose. Surrounded by music her entire life, Karen's career to date has largely revolved around classic soul and rhythm and blues sounds, but in recent years, as her musicality has evolved, she's been leaning more towards blues.

The influence of soul, gospel and Karen's Polynesian background continues to inform what she does, but the blues has come to feel more like home. The beginnings of this shift were apparent on Karen's 2018 EP, *Far From Paradise*, which served as a declaration of independence following several years appeasing the expectations of a major label.

Karen's played at Woodford Folk Festival, Queenscliff Music Festival, was the audience favourite on *The Voice*, was chosen as *Herald Sun*'s Album of the Week,

receiving 4 stars, and has appeared on *RockWiz*, *the Today Show*, *Morning Show*, *Sunrise* and *Weekend Today*.

Full biography

Karen Lee Andrews is in possession of a unique sense of artistic purpose. Surrounded by music her entire life, Karen's career to date has largely revolved around classic soul and rhythm and blues sounds, but in recent years, as her musicality has evolved, she's been leaning more towards blues.

The influence of soul, gospel and Karen's Polynesian background continues to inform what she does, but the blues has come to feel more like home. The beginnings of this shift were apparent on Karen's 2018 EP, *Far From Paradise*, which served as a declaration of independence following several years appeasing the expectations of a major label.

Karen wrote every song on *Far From Paradise*, and in the process she found not just a distinct songwriting voice, but also a vindicating artistic practice.

'*Far From Paradise* was all of me – it explains who I am and also some of the songs were written about certain people that I really love,' she says. 'I felt like that was a true expression of who I am.'

The EP was led by the Sharon Jones-esque single, 'Higher', which sees Karen toting a guitar in a manner akin to the Black Keys' Dan Auerbach, supported by a muscular rhythm section. The four-song sequence also features the soul-baring spiritual, 'Troubled Mind', replete with evangelic organ, and the mud-stained rocker, 'Going Down'.

Karen's guitar playing on the latter explains why she's secured an endorsement from famed luthiers, Eastman Guitars, who also supply guitars for members of The Kinks, Sonic Youth and Wilco.

'Whenever I sing the songs from *Far From Paradise*, it still has the same impact as it did when I first recorded it,' says Karen. 'That's how I know it's something honest from me.'

Karen's also one of the country's hardest working live performers. From the release of *Far From Paradise* up until the standstill of 2020, Karen and her band spent nearly every weekend travelling the east coast of Australia, appearing at Woodford Folk Festival, Queenscliff Music Festival and Bello Winter Music and supporting icons such as Jimmy Barnes and Gregory Porter.

Along the way, they were road-testing songs from Karen's upcoming release, *Edin*, the title of which translates to 'place of pleasure'.

'Audiences receive these new originals really well, which gives me even more confidence to know that it's good,' Karen says.

Karen's latest originals take a more comprehensive trip through the potentialities of blues music than *Far From Paradise*, while also providing a candid expression of her personal identity.

'The new music is more exposed and more vulnerable,' she says. 'I felt like *Far From Paradise* gave me the confidence to tell people even more so who I am and what I've been through and what I like and things I don't like.'

Karen Lee Andrews' songcraft is built on a thorough knowledge of blues, gospel and soul music and motored by an undeniable hunger to connect. Yet the defining ingredient is Karen's unshakeable artistic passion.

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

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

 <https://twitter.com/karenleeandrews>

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

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

One of the most original and dignified talents to emerge in Australian entertainment in a long time. She manages to be both imperial yet vulnerable.

- Sydney Morning Herald

Andrews is on an inspiring and passionate musical journey. A must see.

- Beat Magazine

Commanding and brilliant.

- Daily Telegraph

Karen Lee Andrews doesn't need a band behind her to fill a room with music. Her voice is big enough on its own.

- The Australian

Approved Artist Quote

"I'm so excited to share this beautiful experience and my music with the wonderful New South Wales Small Halls tour audiences. I can't wait to see you."

- Karen Lee Andrews

Juzzie Smith



Short Biography

A true musical virtuoso with a style that is bluesy/folk mixed into a world of its own, Juzzie Smith is a ridiculously talented one-man band, based in Byron Bay. Juzzie gives performances that are marked by an amazing ability to play guitar, harmonica and percussion at the same time using all of his body. It seems Juzzie is at home holding anything that makes a sound, and he combines this with a real rhythmic talent and a raw, warm vocal style. The result is truly engaging, mesmerizing music that makes you want to move and leaves you feeling inspired. This is a show that has spread to over 200 million views on social media and placed on the top of the iTunes blues charts all around the world.

Full Biography

Juzzie is a walking, talking, singing example of how it pays to follow your heart. Juzzie is one of those truly creative souls who makes a living out of doing something he absolutely loves. As a young father, tired of late nights on the pub circuit with a band, Juzzie made a loving decision to become a One-Man Band and take his music to the people and the streets. So he took up busking, mostly at local markets on the NSW North Coast of Australia, drawing bigger and more enthusiastic crowds each time he played. In this way Juzzie created a reputation, becoming a true grassroots phenomenon. He is now a festival circuit favourite, loved for his energetic and awe-inspiring live performances.

To this date he has performed in Canada, Europe, United Kingdom, Singapore, Malaysia, China, and New Zealand at Blues, Country, Jazz, Folk and Pop Festivals. A true musical virtuoso with a style that is bluesy/folk/ mixed into a world of its own. Juzzie gives performances that are marked by an amazing ability to play guitar, harmonica and percussion at the same time using all of his body. It is like he is the conductor of his own orchestra. It seems he is at home holding anything that makes a sound, and he combines this with a real rhythmic talent and a raw, warm vocal style. The result is truly engaging, mesmerizing music that makes you want to move and leaves you feeling inspired.

So how many instruments does he play? Well, it's a bit more of a matter of 'what doesn't he play'? For a start, he straps eight harmonicas to his belt so he has quick access to the one in the right key to slide into his neck holder. Then there's the guitar, slide guitar Cigar box guitar and ukulele, keys, Dan Moi (which is like a jaw harp but from Vietnam) and a range of percussion instruments that is infinite. And he not only sings, but has also mastered the difficult art of harmonic singing, producing two tones simultaneously with his voice. With many of these instruments an integral part of his usual set, it isn't hard to see that Juzzie has his hands pretty full on stage.

Just when you think he couldn't possibly do any more then comes the ultimate crowd stopper. Chuka Chuks, which are three shaker balls creating amazing grooves while juggling. While the Chuka Chuks are playfully thrown all around his body then comes the beat with his feet and to put icing on the cake he plays a harmonica groove at the same time that will blow you away. Now, *this* is fun to watch. Or as Juzzie puts it: 'Percussive juggling allows me to be more playful and connect with the audience in a way that everyone is together and smiling'.

Juzzie has been viewed by over 200 million on social media and placed in the top blues charts around the world on iTunes, sold over 130,000 albums and taught 20,000 harmonica students with his teaching cd and download pack.

To top it all Juzzie has done a full circle. He was inspired to play harmonica from listening to a television commercial at the age of 13 and now today has become a successful composer for film and television. What's next for Juzzie? 'Just keep having fun learning, experimenting, creating and sharing the joy of music'.

<https://juzziesmith.com/>



<https://www.facebook.com/juzziesmithofficialmk2/>



<https://instagram.com/juzziesmithofficial>



https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeI-4_UjLwwHvTGjM0cKEIw/videos

'But the one-man music phenomenon, who hails from Byron Bay, isn't all just 'bells and whistles' ... he's a prodigious talent'.

- WA Today

'... an afternoon of wonderful performances including particularly remarkable performance by Australian music maven Juzzie Smith, whose unique talents include making beats by juggling (something you'd actually have to see to believe).'

- Texxandthecity.com

Approved Artist Quote

Festival of Small Halls tours is the ultimate Australian tour. Playing intimate venues in small country towns is going to be an adventure of a lifetime.

- Juzzie Smith

Tour Location Details

Feb 9	Iluka	Iluka Community Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com or locally at the Iluka shop
Feb 10	Coramba	Coramba Community Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Feb 11	Frederickton	Frederickton Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Feb 12	Laguna	Laguna Community Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Feb 13	Portland	The Foundations	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Feb 16	Goulburn	St Saviours Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com or locally at the Goulburn Visitor Information Centre
Feb 17	Dalton	Dalton Public Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com or locally at the Dalton Post Office
Feb 18	Ganmain	Ganmain Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com or locally at Fisher and Farmer Homewares
Feb 19	Retreat	Retreat Public Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com or locally via Rose Tilley, pick-up at the Finley library
Feb 20	Savernake	Savernake School of Arts Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Feb 23	Humula	Humula Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Feb 24	Brungle	Brungle Memorial Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Feb 25	Numeralla	Numeralla Diggers Memorial Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Feb 26	Woodstock	Woodstock Soldiers Memorial Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com or locally via JJ Dresser & Co or Shoes4You Cowra
Feb 27	Orange	Bloomfield Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com or locally at Landers Music
Mar 2	Currabubula	Currabubula Memorial Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Mar 3	Guyra	Australian Poetry Hall of Fame	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com or locally at the Australian Poetry Hall of Fame
Mar 4	Argent's Hill	Argent's Hill Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Mar 5	Toormina	Toormina Community Centre	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com
Mar 6	Eureka	Eureka Public Hall	Tickets available at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com

General Promo

Woodfordia Inc

presents

Festival of Small Halls Summer Tour 2022: New South Wales

Karen Lee Andrews and Juzzie Smith

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.

Karen Lee Andrews and Juzzie Smith are packing up their blues and heading to coastal and rural New South Wales in Summer 2021 – from the cruisy oceanside town of Illuka right down to the fragrant gums shading the mighty Murray and back up to the rolling hills of the Northern Rivers, we're passing farms and floodlands, waterfalls and weirs, beaches and backcountry on an epic one month tour.

ABOUT THE SUMMER TOUR 2022

- This is the 25th Festival of Small Halls Tour in Australia
- 20 regional tour stops
- Karen Lee Andrews is in possession of a unique sense of artistic purpose. Surrounded by music her entire life, Karen's career to date has largely revolved around classic soul and rhythm and blues sounds, but in recent years, as her musicality has evolved, she's been leaning more towards blues. The influence of soul, gospel and Karen's Polynesian background continues to inform what she does, but the blues has come to feel more like home. The beginnings of this shift were apparent on Karen's 2018 EP, *Far From Paradise*, which served as a declaration of independence following several years appeasing the expectations of a major label.
- A true musical virtuoso with a style that is bluesy/folk mixed into a world of its own, Juzzie Smith is a ridiculously talented one-man band, based in Byron Bay. Juzzie gives performances that are marked by an amazing ability to play guitar, harmonica and percussion at the same time using all of his body. It seems Juzzie is at home holding anything that makes a sound, and he combines this with a real rhythmic talent and a raw, warm vocal style. The result is truly engaging, mesmerizing music that makes you want to move and leaves you feeling inspired. This is a show that has spread to over 200 million views on social media and placed on the top of the iTunes blues charts all around the world.

Producer Quote

We've been extremely lucky to be able to safely tour some of Australia's best artists into regional communities during Covid. These have been hard times and music is uplifting, it allows catharsis, connection, and inspiration. These towns we're heading to already know how to connect and support each other – we hope Festival of Small Halls gives them an opportunity to celebrate themselves as well as enjoying these fantastic artists.

- Eleanor Rigden, Producer, Festival of Small Halls

FROM PREVIOUS ARTISTS

The opportunity to be a part of a Small Halls tour is on every Australian artist's bucket list. When I mentioned I was going on one, so many of my peers said they couldn't wait to get on one of the tours. Small Halls reputation is second to none as an amazing opportunity, not only because of the incredible locations and performance spaces provided, but to be able to perform to audiences outside of mainstream locations and build upon your organic audience by performing to music fans that may not ever get the opportunity to see you perform in a more commercial location. The people and audiences I met on the tour were so open and excited to be able to attend and see some good quality live music. I have since had many contacting me privately requesting I return and perform for their town again, which in these times of limited work, has offered me a means to continue performing and making a living from my art, which is a wonderful side-effect of having participated in the Small Halls tour. The other artist on the tour, and the supportive crew were so professional and respectful, and provided me a safe and nurturing performance environment which was so soul enriching. I am forever grateful to have been a part of a Small Halls tour, and can confidently say it is a very high quality program with many positive outcomes and impacts for all involved.

Sue Ray, AUSTRALIA, Resilience Tour 2021

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 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