



Celebrating the 50th Top Half Folk Festival

11th – 14th June 2021
Mary River Wilderness Retreat

Newsletter No 3. May 2021

Excitement is building for the 50th Top Half Folk Festival celebrations with ticket and T-shirt sales rolling in.

The 2021 Program...

Performers are busy practicing and the rest of us are getting ready for a great weekend of music and sharing with others. The program is very busy so make sure you come with lots of energy to get involved.

This year, as we commemorate the 50th Top Half Folk Festival, we look back on all the fantastic performers that have attended past festivals. One of our feature events this year will focus on these artists and the contribution they have made to music in the Territory.

On Saturday immediately after Ted Egan and Bill Yidumduma Harney have shared their stories and experiences, we will have a team of song writers tell us about what has inspired them to write their songs and then treat us with a rendition of these songs. This format will be repeated on Sunday morning, this time with a completely new group of artists and songs. Both these workshops will be a real treat of storytelling and performance, with many of the songs performed having made a considerable contribution to the Australian folk scene. It's hard to go to a session anywhere in Australia without hearing songs from our premier NT songwriters, such as Ted Egan, Scotty Balfour, Barry Skipsey and more recently, Sally Balfour, all who tell stories about people and places in the NT.

In addition to workshops with the 'Desert Fiddle Club' and 'The Shavings', there will be plenty of other opportunities to hone your skills and techniques with specialist workshops featuring Fiddle with Di Gaylard and Jean McConnachie, playing 'beyond the 4 cords' on Ukulele with Emma Saxton, Flatpick Guitar with Kevin Parsell and Old Timey Banjo with Stan Gottschalk.

Oh! and don't forget the *kids' workshops* - which aren't always just for the kids 😊

Come along and print your own commemorative t-shirt featuring the 50th THFF design with Melody O'Meara. Join a sing along with Sally Balfour, make something crafty with Anne O'Dea, music jam with Crystal Robins and get involved in the paper bag candles with Martin Goreing. Martin will have some other surprises too, so come along and find out what they are.



Worts 'n All Home brew session 50th Top Half Folk Festival special



Former Top Ender Jeff Corfield will bring his notorious *Worts 'n All* home brew celebration session back to the 50th Top Half Folk Festival at Mary River Wilderness Retreat from 3:00pm on Saturday June 12.

Worts 'n All is a celebration of the brewer's art in song, verse, yarn - and brew tasting. While Jeff will provide some core themes, *Worts 'n All* also gives people an opportunity to contribute songs, verse and yarns about brewing (and consuming) brews. So, if you have something along these lines to contribute, Jeff would like to hear from you ASAP via phone 0410 682 086 or email (jeffcorfield@yahoo.com.au).



Of course, tasting home brews is also an integral part of *Worts 'n All*. While Jeff and friends will again provide a range of brews to sample, home brewers are encouraged to bring along their finest tippie for tasting and an informal peer assessment - if you are game!

There will be some basic prizes for the best brews. Anyone wishing to contribute brews to the *Worts n All* should provide the equivalent of 2x 750ml bottles for tasting to Jeff by 10:00am on Saturday morning June 12.

Keep up to date with the Festival happenings through our Facebook page or the web site: www.facebook.com/tophalffolkfestival or www.topendfolkclub.org/top-half-folk-festivals

As always, the **informal sessions** will be happening around the camp fire and on the verandas into the wee hours. In a change to the usual programming, the formal program will conclude at lunch time Monday with a morning farewell concert.

We are ALL performers

By the start of the Festival, individuals and groups will have signed the **Talent Release Form**, which then enables the Festival to use film, photos and sound recordings both during and after the Festival, this includes an opportunity for a virtual Festival attendance and for a record of the event.

For the first time the Festival will have a roaming Video Artist on site who will film performances and audiences throughout the weekend, for potential use in promoting future events. By purchasing a ticket you become an actor in the wider scheme of things. So, if you don't wish to be filmed, just let the video artist know you would like to be excluded.

CD Sales...

If you are performing or presenting and have merchandise for sale, bring it with you. Merchandise includes CDs, books and other folk related stuff. Sales will take place on Saturday and Sunday.

Make sure you deliver your merchandise to the Festival Desk from 5.00 pm on Friday 11 June. The Desk will handle and record sales and return your revenue and unsold items from 8.30 am on Monday 14 June.

If you do intend to bring items for sale, please give us a heads up by emailing secretary@topendfolkclub.org

Festival T Shirts

You can now order Festival T-shirts in advance – the order form and options can be found at the end of this Newsletter. T-Shirts can be collected at the Festival. Alternatively, buy/bring your own blank T-shirt and print it yourself at the Festival. See the T-shirt order form for full details.

Festival Market Place

Do you have creative works to sell?

Saturday afternoon is an opportunity for weekend ticket holders to set up their wares and sell to Festival patrons. Your CD's can be sold at the Festival Desk, but if you would like to set up a separate stall for signing and other merchandise or craft items, this is your opportunity.

Set up will be during lunch and pack up at 5.00pm.

What you need to do:

- Send your name and what you plan to sell to the Club secretary. No food or drink stalls please. Email secretary@topendfolkclub.org
- Bring whatever you need to set up your stall including cash floats or let us know if you need assistance with anything
- Set up and attend your stall for the duration of the market place.

Access:

- Stalls will be unpowered
- NB. internet is limited so EFTPOS may be difficult
- There will be no charge for a stall, but a donation to the Festival would be appreciated.

Venue and Reservations and Accommodation...

As with previous Festivals held in the Top End, the venue is the idyllic Mary River Wilderness Retreat, located 110km east of Darwin on the Arnhem Highway.

Venue details can be found at maryriverretreat.com.au

Do not use online booking - Bookings must be made by email to info@maryriverretreat.com.au or by phoning the venue direct on 08 8978 8877.

Bungalows and powered campsites are fully booked with some unpowered campsites still available. Suggest you call to check if there have been any cancellations for bungalows and powered sites.

ALL accommodation must be booked in advance – including camping sites.

Alternative accommodation

1. The newly renovated **Bark Hut Inn** located a further 2 km along the Arnhem Highway from the main Festival venue. Only the Friday and Sunday nights are available. Call 08 8978 8988 to enquire.
2. At a stretch, you might try **Corroboree Park**, about 22km before Mary River on the Arnhem Highway. Call (08) 8978 8920 during the day and ask for the manager.

Food and Drink

Mary River Wilderness Retreat will cater breakfasts, lunches and dinners. A continental buffet breakfast is \$12 per person. A BBQ out on the grass will be available for lunch and dinner at \$10 per person. The restaurant will serve a buffet style evening meal at \$27 per person.

A camp kitchen is available for anyone wishing to self-cater.

Vegetarian, gluten and lactose-free options will be available - these and any other **dietary requirements need to be advised in advance.**

The Bar will open from midday until 2.00am. BYO is not permitted in the restaurant, bar, decks and pool areas.

COVID Plan

The Festival venue has an approved Covid Safe Plan that covers the restaurant and main service areas. Everyone attending the Festival is expected to abide by and following all COVID-19 precautions and distancing requirements. As many of the Festival activities are out doors, including the main concerts, any additional requirements will be advised prior to or at the Festival to ensure everyone's safety.

Transport

The Club has arranged a 12-seater bus to travel to and from the Festival venue for **Weekend Ticket-holders** i.e. out Friday, back Monday (after the morning farewell concert) ONLY. Costs and timelines are yet to be determined. Places are limited. If you need transport, complete the relevant box in the Weekend Ticket booking form and we will do our utmost to assist.

Tickets...

It is recommended to purchase your weekend tickets early, as the Festival venue has a cap on numbers.

Get in early and fill out the booking and payment form at the end of this Newsletter or check out the website www.topendfolkclub.org/top-half-folk-festivals to make sure you are booked in!

- Weekend Adult ticket - \$110
- Youth Weekend ticket - \$25
- Kids under 12 - Free
- Day and Concert tickets for Adults and Youth are available if you can't make it for the full weekend.

If paying by Bank Transfer, PLEASE remember to email the payment form with your details to secretary@topendfolkclub.org – otherwise we won't know who you are and will not be able to issue a receipt.

If you have already paid for tickets and have not heard from us, please check that you have provided your details and get in touch by email.

Other Activities...

Mary River Wilderness Retreat are considering conducting river cruises (subject to numbers). Further details as they come to hand.

We look forward to seeing you there.

ORDER FORM

50th Top Half Folk Festival T-Shirts

50th Commemorative T-shirts orders NOW OPEN!

T-shirts are available in men's and women's sizes as follows:

MENS: S, M, L, XL and 2XL in colours Bone and Gunmetal.

LADIES: 10, 12, 14, 16 in colours White and Dk Grey.

All T-shirts are \$30 and must be ordered prior to the Festival as limited stock will be available at the Festival. **The cut-off date for advance orders is 31 May 2021.**

Once completed, send your order form to secretary@topendfolkclub.org

Alternatively, **'Paint your own commemorative shirt'** in a workshop with Melody O'Meara.

Bring your own T-shirt or singlet to the Festival and Melody will assist you to print the 50th Festival design with a one colour print (the colour of the print will depend on the light/dark colour of the t/shirt).

\$10 for Adults and Free for Kid's - pay on the day.



Name					
Contact email					
No. of T Shirts	Size	Men's Fit	Colour: Bone/ Gun Metal	Ladies Fit	Colour: Dk Grey/ White

Please deposit to:

Account Name Top End Folk Club Inc

BSB 805 050

Account No. 62343270

*** Please reference all deposits with your full name and the letter 'T'**

50th TOP HALF FOLK FESTIVAL

Ticket purchase and transport

Ticket Type	Adult Weekend (\$110)	Youth Weekend 12-18 (\$25)	Day Ticket – Sat or Sun Adult (\$55) Youth (\$20)	Single Concert Adult (\$30) Youth (\$10)
No. of Tickets				
Name 1				
Name 2				
Name 3				
Residential Address				
Email Address				
Phone Contact				
Bus Transport Seats required		Note: Transport costs per seat yet to be determined		

Kids under 12 free.

Add more 'name' rows as required.

Please note: All attendees must be logged against the venue COVID Safe plan.

How to buy tickets

Option 1 – Cheque

Step 1: Complete the details in the form

Step 2: Make out a cheque for the total amount to Top End Folk Club Inc.

Step 3: Post the form and cheque to:

Secretary – Top End Folk Club Inc
PO Box 41551
CASUARINA NT 0811

Option 2: – Bank Transfer

Step 1: Complete the details in the form

Step 2: Transfer the correct amount to:

BSB 805 050
Account No. 623 43270
Account Name Top End Folk Club Inc

Step 3: **Enter your surname into the Description field of the bank transfer form.**

If we don't know who paid us, we can't issue a receipt or a ticket.

Step 4: **Copy the form details into an email and send to secretary@topendfolkclub.org**

NOTE: Weekend Tickets can be collected on production of a receipt at the Festival Desk on the afternoon of Friday 11th June 2020.

NO CREDIT CARD OR EFTPOS FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE VENUE.