



Celebrating the 50th Top Half Folk Festival

11th – 14th June 2021
Mary River Wilderness Retreat

Newsletter No 4 – late May 2021

Not long to go before the 50th Top Half Folk Festival commences with a fantastic weekend of music, song and workshops to commemorate this incredible milestone.

The 2021 Program...

At the 50th Top Half Folk Festival we look back at all the fantastic songwriters and performers who have attended past festivals as well as celebrating new song writers and performers, who have not only contributed to NT music, but have made a considerable contribution to Australian folk music. It is important that the stories of the NT continue to be told and we have focussed on these artists to celebrate their contribution to Territory music with two key events during the weekend.

The festival program is jam packed and starts with a welcome concert on Friday night. The festival will be opened on Saturday morning after the Poets' Breakfast and just before Territory legends Ted Egan and Bill Yidumduma Harney entertain us with their stories.

Throughout the weekend there will be workshops for everyone. Bring your instruments and voices along and join in. There's also a fantastic program for the kids, including making music and crafts – although listed as being for the kids, it is not exclusive, so if you think you are a big kid and want to get involved – that's OK!

We are very lucky that people from all over Australia love coming to the Top Half Folk Festival to perform in our concerts. We have an exceptional line up this year with performers from Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia along with all the NT mob.

As always, the **informal sessions** will be happening around the camp fire and on the verandah into the wee hours where you don't have to get on a stage to perform. The festival will conclude at lunch time Monday following the farewell concert.

A taste of the Festival

Workshops will feature old timey banjo, Scottish fiddle, 'flatpick' techniques on the guitar, ukulele and singing. Along with the ever-popular Festival favourites – Stewie's themed presentation and the Folk Quiz

There will also be celebrations of the music and song of passed members including Paul Lawler, Chris Buch and Ken Fergusson. These are not to be missed events!

Last chance to order Festival T-Shirts

Until 31 May you still have time to order and pay for Festival T-shirts in advance. The order form and options can be found at the end of this Newsletter. Pre-ordered T-shirts can be collected at the Festival desk.

You can take your chances that some may be left for sale at the festival or alternatively, bring your own blank T-shirt or singlet and print it yourself at the Festival, these are one colour only.

See the T-shirt order form for full details at the end of this newsletter.



Get involved in the Worts 'n' All home brew session



This presentation 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 brews.

If you have something to contribute (including your brew), Jeff would like to hear from you ASAP via phone 0410 682 086 or email (jeffcorfield@yahoo.com.au).

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

We are ALL performers

Prior to the Festival all performers will have signed a Festival **Talent Release Form**, which enables the use of film, photos and sound recordings taken during the Festival.

As part of the 50th celebrations videographers will be on site to film performances and audiences. If you don't wish to be filmed, make sure you let the Festival Desk know when you register.

CD Sales

If you are performing or presenting and have merchandise for sale, bring it with you 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 let us know by emailing secretary@topendfolkclub.org

The Gael and Danny Spooner Gift

Every Australian folkie will know of Danny Spooner, a veritable library of folk songs and folk lore. Danny has been a guest at many Top Half Festivals and passed away on 3 March 2017, a short time after recording his last CD. His partner, Gael Shannon has offered a gift of 32 CDs to the 50th Top Half Folk Festival as a gift from Danny and herself.

To facilitate Gael's wishes, all weekend ticket holders will go into a draw to win one of the Danny Spooner CD's. So when you pick up your Weekend Ticket your name will go into the draw to take place on Sunday at the conclusion of the afternoon concert.

Festival Market Place

Weekend Ticket holders and performers have an opportunity to sell their wares to Festival patrons on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Set up will be during the lunch break and pack up by 5.00pm.

What you need to know:

- 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 as internet services are limited making EFTPOS sales difficult
- Stalls will be unpowered
- There will be no charge for a stall, but a donation to the Festival would be appreciated.

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 ONLY. Places are limited. If you need transport, complete the relevant box in the Weekend Ticket booking form. If you require other arrangements, just ask and we will assist where possible.

Venue and Reservations and Accommodation

Accommodation at Mary River Wilderness Retreat is fully booked. However, there may be late cancellations so check with the venue by emailing info@maryriverretreat.com.au or calling (08) 8978 8877.

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. However, some unpowered camping sites may be available for the whole weekend. Call (08) 8978 8988 to enquire.
2. **Corroboree Park**, approx. 27km before Mary River on the Arnhem Highway also has vacancies. 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 located on the Pool Lawn will be available for lunch and dinner at \$10 per person. The restaurant will be serving a buffet style evening meal at \$27 per person.

A camp kitchen is also 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. Please contact Mary River to advise.**

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

COVID-19 Plan

The Festival venue has an approved Covid Safe Plan. Everyone attending the Festival is expected to abide by and follow all COVID-19 requirements. A contact tracing register will list the details of every person who attends the Festival.

Tickets

If you haven't yet bought your ticket/s there is still time to buy on-line and pay in advance by **Bank Transfer until 5 June**. 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 Ticket purchases at the Festival must be in CASH.

- 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.

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. Also note that late cancellations after 4 June may incur a cancellation fee.

Other Activities

- Mary River Wilderness Retreat are considering conducting river cruises (subject to numbers). Please ask at the Resort when you check in.
- There is also an opportunity to hire your own self-drive boat – no licence required – check in at Reception.
- And as a special extra this year Julie Cope will be holding a YOGA session on both Saturday and Sunday mornings – so pack your Yoga mat and your zen!

We are super excited to be seeing you all and celebrating our 50th birthday!!

ORDER FORM

50th Top Half Folk Festival T-Shirts

50th Commemorative T-shirts orders

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

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.

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

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

50th TOP HALF FOLK FESTIVAL

Ticket purchase and transport order form

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 to be advised on application		

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 are to be collected on production of a receipt at the Festival Desk.

The desk will be open from 3pm on Friday 11th June.

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