



illawarra FOLK FESTIVAL

12-15 JANUARY 2012

BULLI SHOWGROUND, WOLLONGONG, NSW



Presented Illawarra Folk Club Inc. PO Box 5289, Wollongong, NSW 2500

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Singing in the Bulli rain

Illawarra Folk Festival organisers were delighted with the success of this year's event, despite some turbulent weather.

Heavy rain on Saturday night and Sunday morning failed to dampen the spirits of festival attendees or the organisers, who were thrilled with the four-day attendance for what was billed as the best line-up of performers in the festival's 27-year history.

The program included international folk stars Peggy Seeger (US) and Dougie Maclean (Scotland) as well as many of Australia's finest performers.

"Artistically, this festival was undoubtedly one of the most successful we've ever staged," said Illawarra Folk Festival president Russell Hannah. "We had an incredible variety of music, bush poetry, comedy, dance, workshops ... you name it. And the festival site handled the wet weather really well. We had very heavy rain on Saturday night and Sunday morning, and while it did affect the campers it didn't affect the performance stages."

Despite the inclement weather, the organisers estimated that the attendance figure of 9300 equalled that of last year.

"By Saturday afternoon we were looking at a record crowd figure for the weekend, but the wet weather on Saturday night and Sunday morning definitely affected our Sunday crowd and we ended up very close to last year," Mr Hannah said.

"Overall, we are delighted with the response to this year's festival. It is now a genuine four-day festival, with strong attendances on Thursday and Friday as well as the weekend. Incrementally, it is edging towards becoming a five-day festival, with bigger crowds at our Music School and events on Wednesday as well."

Mr Hannah paid tribute to the army of 350 volunteers who staged this year's festival. "Every year this festival happens because of a lot of people do an awful lot of work," he said. "They'll wake up on Monday morning exhausted and saying never again ... and then start planning for next year."

The festival concluded with an emotional Festival Finale Concert that included John Broomhall, Dougie Maclean and a poignant rendition of "Waltzing Matilda" by Dennis O'Keefe.

For more information, contact festival Marketing and Media Director Peter O'Neill on 0429 674005.