



illawarra FOLK FESTIVAL

12-15 JANUARY 2012

BULLI SHOWGROUND, WOLLONGONG, NSW



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

info@illawarrafolkclub.org.au www.illawarrafolkfestival.com.au FESTIVAL HOTLINE 1300 887 034

Media release: 6 January, 2012

The first (and last) time ever we see Peggy's face

The singer who inspired one of the great love songs of the 20th century is one of the stars of this year's Illawarra Folk Festival at Bulli Showground in Wollongong's northern suburbs from January 12-15.

Legendary American folk singer Peggy Seeger will perform four times at Bulli on Friday, Saturday and Sunday as part of her farewell tour of Australia. It is her first time at the Illawarra Folk Festival.

The 76-year-old is a member of North America's first family of folk, and a half-sister of iconic 20th century protest singer Pete Seeger. She cut her first record at the age of 18, has recorded 22 solo albums since then, and participated directly in more than a hundred others. She has also written music and songs for films and television.

Fans will be hoping she sings *The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face*, written for her in 1957 by British folk singer Ewan MacColl, who was to become her husband. The song has been recorded by many artists, and became an international No. 1 when Roberta Flack recorded it in 1972.

Peggy is contemplating her retirement from live performance and is making one last tour to Australia to say goodbye to her many loyal fans.

"Peggy Seeger has been an amazing performer for well over half a century, and we feel incredibly privileged to have her playing at our festival," said Illawarra Folk Festival Artistic Director David De Santi.

"We have got a great lineup of international, national and local performers, and our usual eclectic mix of musical styles. But the festival's roots are in great folk music, and Peggy Seeger is one of the greats.

Being a Seeger, many of her songs are about social justice issues. She is a humanist and a feminist, but foremost she is a fantastic musician and singer.

"We're also excited because the Peggy plays the autoharp, which is the featured instrument for the 2012 festival."

Peggy is equally at home with beautiful traditional mountain ballads on five-string banjo and autoharp or playing her own contemporary songs on piano or guitar.

Her first show is on Friday (13 January) at 4.45pm in the Black Diamond Marquee. On the Saturday she will be playing on the intimate Chapel stage at 2pm and the Grandstand Restaurant at 8.30pm. On Sunday her final performance will be at 4.45pm at the Chapel.

The 27th staging of what has become the state's biggest folk festival will feature more than 150 acts from around Australia and overseas.

Other international headline acts include Scottish folk singer Dougie Maclean and regular visitors The Beez from Germany, while Australian performers range from the grand dame of Australian folk-singing Judy Small to comedian/singer Pete Denahy.

There is also a great line-up of contemporary acts, including The Bearded Gypsy Band from Adelaide and Melbourne bands, the Woohoo Revue and Triple J indie-music favourites Skipping Girl Vinegar.

Illawarra artists will also be well represented, with many of region's best musicians on show.

The stellar line-up suggests that January's festival may top the 2011 event, which attracted almost 10,000 music-lovers to Bulli over the four days.

Four day passes for this year's festival are just \$130.

You can book your tickets through the festival website www.illawarrafolkfestival.com.au or by phoning the **FESTIVAL HOTLINE** 1300 887 034. Tickets are also available over the counter at Albion Park and Bulli post offices.

MEDIA INTERVIEWS: PEGGY SEEGER'S CONTACT NUMBER: 0457 397 506

GREEN MUSIC TRAINS

A feature of the festival is the Green Music Trains that travel from Sydney to the festival, featuring some of the festival acts. The first train on Saturday 14 January will leave Bondi Junction at 8.13am, picking up at Central (platform 25) at 8.29, Hurstville at 8.48 and Sutherland at 8.59, arriving at Bulli at 9.57. The second train will follow one hour later. On Sunday the only service will be the 8.13am train originating at Bondi Junction, with the same pick-up times along the route.

Entry into the carriages is with a CityRail ticket. Passengers can pre-purchase their festival pass at the festival website www.illawarrafolkfestival.com.au or purchase at the end of your journey at the Festival Office at the Showground. To plan the trip go to 131500.com.au or call 131 500.

The Illawarra Folk Festival is an annual event presented by volunteers from the Illawarra Folk Club.

Festival highlights - Thursday 12 January – Sunday 15 January:

Peggy Seeger: Friday: 4.45pm; Saturday 2pm and 8.30pm, Sunday 4.45p,

Pete Denahy: Thursday: 6.45pm and 9.15pm; Friday: 4pm; Saturday: 4.15pm; Sunday: 10.15am.

Dougie Maclean: Saturday, 14 January: 3.15pm; Sunday: 4.45pm and 7.15pm (festival finale)

The Woohoo Revue: Friday 2.15pm and 10.45pm; Saturday 9pm; Sunday: 7.45pm.

Skipping Girl Vinegar: Saturday 2pm; Sunday 6pm.

The Bearded Gypsy Band: Thursday 8.30pm; Friday 8.30pm; Saturday 11.30am; Sunday 3.30pm.

The Beez: Thursday: 10.15pm; Friday: 6pm; Saturday: 9.45pm; Sunday: 9pm.

Caption: US folk singing legend Peggy Seeger will be performing at the Illawarra Folk Festival in January as part of a farewell tour of Australia.

Issued by Nick Hartgerink (Honorary Publicity Officer): Ph 0418 424085