



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: 10 January, 2012

Bulli Showground transformation underway

Illawarra Folk Festival volunteers have begun the annual task of transforming Bulli Showground into a performance mecca, and organisers say the site is the ideal festival venue with protection from any kind of summer weather.

They are confident that, whatever the weather conditions, the showground site will handle the thousands of music lovers expected to flock to the festival this weekend to see the 150 acts.

Over the next two days hundreds of volunteers will be working to convert the harness racing centre into a top-class festival venue for the state's biggest folk festival.

It starts on Thursday afternoon, followed by three full days and nights of performances and other activities until the final act at 9pm on Sunday.

"We have 11 undercover performance venues, and plenty of cover from sun or rain under the main grandstand or in the grandstand seating," festival marketing manager Peter O'Neill said. "We are naturally hoping for a fine weekend, but even if there is some rain the festival site will cope well."

Mr O'Neill said last year's festival attracted almost 10,000 people and organisers were hoping to crack the 10,000 mark this year.

"We certainly have a great line-up of international, national and local acts this year, so we're hoping for a record-breaking attendance," he said.

International headline acts include Scottish folk singer Dougie Maclean and American folk legend and political activist Peggy Seeger, who is on a farewell tour of Australia.

Festival organisers traditionally hold a charity concert on the Thursday night featuring some of the festival's top performers.

This year the charity concert will feature eight acts, including the dynamic Bearded Gypsy Band from South Australia and the hilarious Victorian singer-songwriter Pete Denahy, whose wry observations on Australian life always have his audiences in stitches. Proceeds from the charity concert will go to Greenacres and the NSW Cancer Council.

On Friday the festival gets into full swing, with some of the festival's international acts including the legendary Peggy Seeger hitting the stage. She will perform four times at the festival.

Mr O'Neill said access to the festival site was straightforward, with the harness racing track utilised for parking. However, with the festival site being close to Bulli railway station and the Princes Hwy bus route, he urged festival attendees to consider public transport options.

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: Scottish folk singer Dougie Maclean will be performing three times at the Illawarra Folk Festival this weekend.

PETER O'NEILL can be contacted on 0429 674005.

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