



# 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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## Countdown to the Illawarra Folk Festival

The state's biggest folk festival is just a month away, with more than 150 acts from around Australia and overseas booked for the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Illawarra Folk Festival at Bulli Showground on January 12-15.

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.

Regular visitors The Beez are back from Germany in 2012, 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 two 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.

Early bird four-day passes at just \$100 – a saving of \$30 over the full ticket price - are available until December 22.

They'd make the perfect Christmas gift, provide four days and nights of great entertainment, including world class musicians, poetry, folk dancing and musical workshops. The festival passes could make an ideal gift for the whole family, as children under 12 are admitted free if they accompany a paying adult, while there are also youth season passes for just \$40.

But with the Early Bird offer ending on 22 December, don't delay. You can book your tickets through the festival website [www.illawarrafolkfestival.com.au](http://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.

Artistic director David De Santi promises the festival's traditional eclectic mix of world, acoustic, Celtic, traditional folk, gypsy and bluegrass music, along with poetry, spoken word, dances, workshops and plenty of stalls selling great food and clothing.

He said organisers received more than 500 applications from performers wanting to be part of the 2012 festival, and it was an extremely difficult task settling on the final line-up.

"The applications have come from overseas, around Australia and from local performers. We had a very difficult time choosing the final line-up, but that's great news for festival patrons."

And 2012 will be the year of the autoharp, with organisers inviting a number of Australian and US autoharp players to share the magic of their unique instrument at concerts and workshops as part of the festival's Folk Summer School.

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](http://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](http://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.

**Caption:** Melbourne's Woohoo Revue will bring their distinctive brand of Gypsy music to the Illawarra Folk Festival.

**Caption:** German band The Beez are popular regular visitors to the Illawarra Folk Festival.

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