



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

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American roots musicians to feature at folk festival

American husband and wife duo Rick and Donna Nestler are the latest international act confirmed for the 27th annual Illawarra Folk Festival at Bulli Showground on January 12-15.

The Nestlers are well-known on the American roots music and folk festival circuit, playing a variety of traditional genres including jug band, blues, country and maritime music.

Rick and one of his songs, *The River That Flows Both Ways*, is featured on Pete Seeger's latest Grammy-winning album *Tomorrow's Children*, while Rick has also released six albums of his own.

The Nestlers will be part of a strong US contingent at January's festival, including American folk-singing legend and political activist Peggy Seeger (Pete Seeger's half-sister).

"We're really excited to have Rick and Don Nestler on our program," said Illawarra Folk Festival artistic director David De Santi. "They have very different backgrounds and influences. Donna is a classically-trained multi-instrumentalist who has toured Europe and even played a bassoon solo at Hiedelberg Castle in Germany, while Rick is a self-taught picker.

"Together they have played with people like Peter Seeger and Tom Chapin, so I think festival patrons will be in for a real treat."

Rick said he and Donna were really looking forward to the festival, and will play in the Festival Train – a special railway service bringing festival patrons from Sydney's Central Station to Bulli for the festival.

"Encouraging folks to attend the festival by train is a brilliant idea," Rick said. "Trains are so much more energy efficient and it cuts down on greenhouse gasses. Putting live music on the train is icing in the cake. "

Scottish folk singer Dougie Maclean and quirky German folk band The Beez are part of a strong international line-up for the festival. MacLean's moving song Caledonia and melody The Gael (used in The Last of the Mohicans) have been recorded by hundreds of artists, while Caledonia hit the headlines when it was launched as the main star in the Homecoming Scotland 2009 TV advertising campaign.

Australian performers range from the grand dame of Australian folk-singing Judy Small to comedian/singer Pete Denahy and Triple J indie-music favourites Skipping Girl Vinegar, who head a line-up of artists that will appeal to younger festival patrons.

The festival will feature its traditional eclectic mix of world, acoustic, Celtic, traditional folk, gypsy and bluegrass music, along with poetry, spoken word, dances and workshops.

And 2012 will be the year of the autoharp at the Illawarra Folk Festival, 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 variety of international food stalls, reflecting the multicultural Illawarra community.

Early Bird season tickets are now on sale for the festival – a four-day event held at Bulli Showground in the northern Illawarra from 12-15 January. Early Bird season tickets at just \$100 are on sale until 22 December. That's just \$25 per day for four days and nights of great entertainment, including world class musicians, poetry, folk dancing and musical workshops. It's also a \$30 saving on the full price season ticket.

The Illawarra Folk Festival is an annual event presented by volunteers from the Illawarra Folk Club, and over more than a quarter of a century has established itself as the largest folk festival in NSW. David is quietly confident that the 2012 festival will be the best yet and he urged people considering camping on-site to register early, as spaces are limited.

Early bird season tickets and on-site camping are on sale from September 1. Visit www.illawarrafestival.com.au to book. Tickets are also available at Albion Park and Bulli post offices or by phoning the **FESTIVAL HOTLINE 1300 887 034**

You can also follow the festival on facebook.

Caption: Rick and Donna Nestler are part of a strong American lineup at the 27th annual Illawarra Folk Festival in January.

Nick Hartgerink, Festival Publicist (Honorary)

nick@hartgerink.com.au mob: 0418 424 085