

14TH EDITION
SUMMER 2017

THE BLUESLETTER



SEE YOU AT
THE FESTIVAL
9-12 NOV.
2017

SUMMER SHOWCASE AT THE RIFLE

Barely time to pause for breath between the closing guitar riffs of BB&RMF 2016 and the start of BB&RMF's 2017 season.

The first Blues & Roots Showcase of the year is again at the Rifle Brigade Hotel. This year punters will be treated to a nine-and-a-half hour *extended* Showcase, featuring Geoffrey Williams, The Northern Folk, Erica Hawkey Band, Pip Cowan, Luke Watt and a dozen or so others. Alister Turrill, a frequent visitor to these parts, again joins the fray.

Geoffrey Williams returns to Bendigo. He's the consummate one-man-band: "It's just me singing, playing guitar, percussion and loop pedal." His has been a rich and varied career so far, releasing six albums and playing some out-of-the-way places. Norway, in winter, stands out.

"When I was in a band in the '80s, I played a gig in Tromsø in Norway. It was freezing! Who told us to tour Norway in the winter? We also played in a place called Sauda. When we started our set,

everyone got up and started dancing. We thought, "this is gonna be great!" When we finished the first number, everyone sat down without clapping. They did this with practically every song we did. Weird!"

The Rifle Brigade Hotel in Bendigo, on a late summer's day, will be a bit more welcoming, and conventional.

The Northern Folk won friends and influenced people at BB&RMF in November. And again on their return to Bendigo at the Old Church on the Hill in late December. The Albury ensemble – sometimes an 11-piece, sometimes less – put on a captivating show with their folk-pop-stomp-rock sound.

The young guys in Gravy Boat have been building a reputation recently with their interpretations of late '60s and early '70s blues and rock classics. Gravy Boat are a welcome addition to an already burgeoning, talented stable.

Local legend Albert 'Skip' Skipper has been reminding us a bit more about his talents lately. Skip & The Lost and Found Dept will be a big draw at the Rifle.

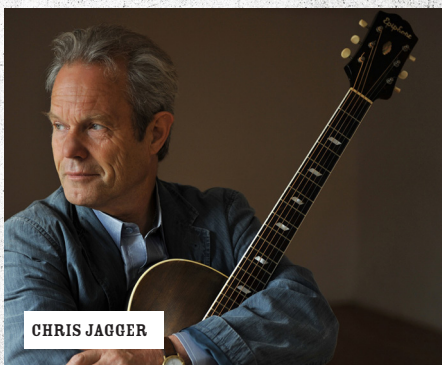


JAGGER TO TOUR BENDIGO

Well, not *that* Jagger. But his younger brother, Chris Jagger, will be in Bendigo in March for three gigs in two days, including a journey through town on the Blues Tram with Bill Barber in tow on Saturday March 25. He'll also play at the Handle Bar on Friday March 24, and at the Rifle on the Saturday night.

Jagger junior has been playing *his* brand of blues, rock n roll and country since the early 1970s.

Jagger's contribution to culture is very broad and includes clothes design, theatre, film making and journalism. He has worked in France as a



lyricist for acclaimed producer Franck Langolf and also contributed to acclaimed Rolling Stones albums *Dirty Work* and *Steel Wheels*. The Chris Jagger shows promise to be a treat

ECONOMIC BOON FOR BENDIGO

From modest beginnings, the Festival has grown significantly over six years – and without losing the friendly, intimate vibe that has made it so popular.

Last year around 17,000 people attended the Festival, generating an estimated \$3.5M and the equivalent of 17 jobs over the year.

A great festival, and a great buzz around Bendigo. It all happens again in November.

DROP US A LINE: BENDIGOBLUES@GMAIL.COM
VISIT OUR WEBSITE: BENDIGOBLUESANDROOTS.COM.AU

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SOME UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS

**THE BLUES TRAM WITH
THE MOJO CORNER (DUO)
AND EMILEE SOUTH.**
Saturday March 4
at 2pm.

**ARCHER AND GRACIANA
HOLLAND AT THE OLD
CHURCH ON THE HILL.**
Friday March 17
at 7.30pm.

**WHITE LIGHTNING
AND HIGHWAY 79 AT
THE GOLDEN VINE.**
Saturday April 1
at 9.00pm.

Keep in touch with *everything* BB&RMF: www.bendigobluesandroots.com.au/events

ARCHER

VOLUNTEERING WITH THE FESTIVAL

The Bendigo Blues & Roots Music Festival has over 200 volunteers contributing in very different ways to what is becoming one of regional Australia's top music festivals.

Sally Warhurst is one of them: "Volunteering with the BB&RMF has allowed me to appreciate the great talent we have not only here in Bendigo, but nationally. Being involved with the merchandise side of the festival I have had many great conversations with artists and followers alike. I've met so many interesting people, and it's great fun, lots of laughs. There's a great community feel to it

all. What better way to spend your time...?"

Jo Walters has been volunteering since almost the start: "This will be the sixth year I've been involved with the festival. I became more heavily involved each year. I now co-manage the merchandise set-up. I love hearing all the fantastic music and getting to know the musos and volunteers. If it wasn't for volunteering I would miss out on discovering so many amazing artists. I don't think I would attend nearly as many gigs as I do now."

BB&RMF is always keen to take on new volunteers in various roles. If you want to get involved with like-minded people, please go to the BB&RMF website, look under 'Get Involved' and complete your details.



JO WALTERS & SALLY WARHURST

COL'S 2 BOB WORTH

COLIN THOMPSON
FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

I'd like to again thank everyone who donated to our first-ever crowdfunding campaign, which we recently ran.

The difficulties we faced in 2016 were challenging, but the show of faith by our friends and supporters in giving so generously is heartening and inspiring.

2016's program was met with much praise, for which we are extremely grateful. One of my favourite pieces of feedback, heard time and again, was the joy people felt in being able to walk the streets late at night feeling completely safe and content that they were around good people, all out for the same purpose - to hear top quality music and discover new acts.

We will deliver another massive program in 2017, not just in November, but at our Summer Showcase at the Rifle, and our Winter Showcase on July 16 at the Golden Vine. There will be regular Blues Tram gigs, singer-songwriter concerts at The Old Church on the Hill, and partnered gigs at different venues throughout the region.

The Easter Blues Bender will roll again with some of our favourite acts dishing out fine tunes across the city at the Handle Bar, Golden Vine, Basement Bar, Gold Dust Lounge, Yard Bird and more venues than I have space to list here. Bookmark our website events page and follow our social media updates throughout the year.

Thanks for being part of Bendigo's live music scene. Regardless of your preferred genre, your favourite music is out there waiting for you to discover it - so be sure to get out there and lap it up!

OUR SPONSORS

