



# NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL LIMITED

ABN: 96 058 761 274

## ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14



**NATIONAL  
FOLK  
FESTIVAL**  
Est. 1967

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## Background

A 'National' Festival of Folk Music was first held in Melbourne, Victoria in 1967. In 1969, the annual Festival was held in Queensland and for the next 20 years it roved around the country being organised by local folk federations/clubs. The last traveling National Folk Festival was held in 1992. The National Folk Festival Limited, a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, was formed in 1992 for the primary purpose of annually conducting the National Folk Festival in Canberra in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). Since 1993, the Festival has been held every Easter at Exhibition Park, Canberra.

The National Folk Festival is an annual highlight for Australia's folk community as well as a huge number of other people who love to come to the Festival. It attracts a broad audience across different ages, sexes, races and socioeconomic backgrounds with a high percentage in the over 50 demographic. Patrons come from all over Australia and some from overseas. The Festival also attracts a total of over 4,000 volunteers, stall holders, instrument makers, high quality National and International performers and community and grass roots folk groups.

The National Folk Festival provides a diverse program that includes music, song, dance, spoken word, film, circus, performance skills and traditional crafts. It presents excellent high-end entertainment experiences and also has a high emphasis on participation – providing opportunities for patrons to undertake workshops in a range of folk genres. Patrons can listen to their favourite performers and discover new ones, marvel at the talent of those who handcraft instruments, be tempted in our Festival market stalls and socialise with family and friends while enjoying a variety of mouth-watering fresh and tasty food styles from around the world. KIDZFEST is a special corner of the Festival for all the family, but especially children. A hallmark of the event is its wonderful sense of community, familiarity and inclusiveness.

The Festival supplements the large permanent venues on site with temporary venues (all with seating) providing patrons with a range of performance spaces and other facilities where they can relax and enjoy the entertainment. Many come for the whole long-weekend, camping on site.

Over its 48 year history, the National Folk Festival has prospered with the enthusiastic support of volunteers, performers and the wider folk community. The Festival is a cultural product with meaning and value, a strategic player in the wider folk community and a highly regarded advocate for excellence, innovation and accessibility across all disciplines of the folk arts. It is a key event on the ACT's cultural calendar and generates significant economic benefits to ACT tourism and the local community.



## **Mission Statement 2013-14**

- To preserve and promote folk culture as a vital element in Australian life
- To promote the benefits of folk culture as a medium for education.

## **Vision Statement 2013-14**

- To continue to position the National Folk Festival as Australia's leading Folk Festival event
- To develop a series of educational projects that utilise folk culture as a valuable tool for education
- To position the National Folk Festival as a strategic player in the further development of the ACT as a cultural centre in the lead up to the 2013 Centenary of Canberra and beyond.

## **Our Values**

- Diversity in tradition
- Welcoming community
- Tradition bearing and passing on of tradition
- Participation
- Volunteering and the community it generates
- Sustainability
- Safe environment
- Respect for self and others
- Contemporary expression of tradition
- Education





## President's Report

The end of the reporting year is the time to reflect on what has been achieved in the year to 30 June 2014. From an organisational perspective, it was a year of change, consolidation and ultimately stability, giving the Board and Festival office staff time and energy to embark on necessary strategic planning. Attendance at the National Folk Festival has remained relatively stable in the past few years as has the Company's income which derives primarily from Festival ticket sales. But with prudent financial management we ended the year with the Company in a financially healthier position, essential for the long term survival of the Festival. Overall, it was a 'good' year.

This report could focus on the changes made in 2013-14, including the new ticketing system for the Festival or it could tell you how the National Folk Festival won the 'Festivals and Events' category in the 2013 Canberra & Capital Region Tourism Awards, but this year, people are the focus of my report. I want people to know that their individual and collective contributions to the National Folk Festival are valued and appreciated.

People make the amazing experience that is the National Folk Festival and people, both paid and unpaid, make the Festival happen. While individual responsibilities and contributions differ, all work together like parts in a complex machine, all integral to the success of an individual Festival and ultimately its long term sustainability.

For our paid staff, the National Folk Festival is a 365 day/year commitment. Their year revolves around Easter which is the end of a year's hard work and the start of the next. Even before the Festival is over, they are planning the next and looking even further ahead. Several important staffing changes occurred this year. From 1 July 2013 the Board implemented a new office staffing structure with Pam Merrigan at the helm as Festival Director, a new position essentially combining the overall day-to-day management of the organisation with the important artistic program management role. That the Board even considered this role combination possible was a vote of confidence in Pam's capabilities. To support Pam, Lainey Keir's Finance Manager role was broadened to that of Business Manager and Ruby Hudson's Volunteer Manager role was made full-time and broadened to include 'Special Events and Protocol'. The Production Manager role remained unchanged but with a new person in the job. Amy Whiting, who had worked as a volunteer in the Production Team at the Festival for several years commenced in the role in mid July and quickly became a valued member of the full-time Festival management team. Although there was no change to the part-time positions of Jocelyn Vasey, our Stalls Manager, and Vu Pham, our IT Assistant, a new accounts role was created and ably filled by Piya Pattamarangoon. Several other important roles were filled on a contract basis, with Jess Henderson as Design and Publications Manager, Patrice Wallace as Operations Manager and Bettina Richter as the Festival's Publicist.



Over the past 48 years, volunteers have been central to the running of the National Folk Festival. Volunteers still undertake a huge number of roles, some involving a greater time commitment than others but all making a valued contribution. This year, Lance Green's efforts as IT Manager and Kim Navin's contribution in the office deserve special mention. Others provided grateful assistance in the office at various times during the year, particularly in the busy few months prior to the Festival. For the Festival event, 62 volunteer Area Coordinators managed their respective areas and volunteer teams before, during and after the Festival. The time and energy commitment of the Coordinators is always significant. Under the Coordinators there are over 1200 volunteers, many doing more than the minimum hours required for their Festival ticket. When we say the Festival could not happen without its volunteers, we mean it.

Board Members are also volunteers and devote many hours to their Board responsibilities throughout the year. In the second half of 2013 three Board Members stepped down (Peter Logue, Mark Cranfield and Graham Chalker) and we welcomed three new Members (Sharon Casey, Ron Brent and Peter Williams). But the efforts of the Board, paid staff and volunteers would be in vain if people did not buy tickets to the Festival or apply to perform at the Festival. Whether they travel from distant parts of the country or live locally, our ticket-buying patrons sustain us financially. Our performers sustain us in other ways, entertaining us, sharing their knowledge and skills in workshops and sessions and generally giving life to the Festival.

Ticket-buyers, performers, staff, volunteers and a host of others contribute to keeping the National Folk Festival the amazing event it is. Together we make it happen. Together we experience it. Together we will keep it alive for many years to come.

Gabrielle Mackey  
President





## **Festival Director's Report**

As I wrote in the 2014 Program welcome, festivals are the lynchpin of the folk scene. They are the gathering places, places for sharing and celebration and, they provide the stages where our performers share their art. In 2014 the weather gods smiled down, the rain of early April disappeared and *5 days in a perfect world* began. The Festival is the culmination of 12 months of intense and careful planning. It delivered my second artistic program and was my first as Director of the organisation. This dual role has been both a challenge and a highly rewarding experience.

In a year that saw a tightening of budget control with the major focus on consolidation to ensure a sustainable business model to secure the Festival's future, it was pleasing to receive overwhelming feedback from both patrons and performers describing 2014 as one of the best Nationals they have attended. Once again we lit up Exhibition Park, Canberra to showcase and celebrate some of the best national and international folk artists across a broad range of disciplines from music and dance to spoken word, circus and more. 2014 also saw the largest number of expressions of interest from artists wanting to perform with over 1000 in the mix, presenting an exceptional field for consideration in the artistic program.

A number of new initiatives contributed to the smooth running of the 2014 event. The first of these was to bring a new ticketing provider on board, not only saving in costs but also providing a more efficient and patron friendly service eliminating entertainment zone scanning and long gate queues for redemption of wristbands. Bettina Richter was engaged as the Festival publicist and mounted a successful media campaign developed around the Festival's "5 days in a perfect world" tag and our status as a leading festival of the folk arts. This resulted in increased media coverage, raising the profile of the Festival both in the ACT and nationally, attracting new patrons to the event.

The entertainment precinct also underwent some minor adjustments and tweaking resulting from feedback after the 2013 Festival. The Scrumpy with its Bar moved to the Majestic end of site and stalls between the Carnival Stage and the Majestic were brought closer to the pedestrian thoroughfare creating a more vibrant space. Moving the Scrumpy did much to eliminate sound spill and noise complaint issues. The worst of the sound spill was between the Marquee and Bohemia Bar and this will be addressed for 2015. Also slated for attention in 2015 are the sound issues experienced in the Coorong and the size of the Bally, which proved inadequate for many programmed events. As always, there are things on which we can improve and which require attention and we will continue to act on feedback where possible, to ensure a safe and enjoyable Festival for all. A major change in 2014 to bring the Festival into line with ACT legislation was the entertainment zone becoming a smoke free area.



Our 2014 Festival Launch at the National Library of Australia (NLA) in February was a wonderful way to herald the Event and highlighted the strong partnership the National Folk Festival enjoys with the Library. I would also like to acknowledge the engagement of our company members in supporting the Launch, enabling us to stage a high quality evening and to showcase two exciting young acts, local duo Sparrow Folk and The Raglins from Melbourne. Our NLA partnership also extends to the annual National Folk Fellowship and this year we saw “Bilarni”, a fantastic production from Jan “Yarn” Wositzky, the culmination of his Fellowship research project.

As Festival Director I am acutely aware of the responsibility the National Folk Festival has to the wider folk community in ensuring our event embodies all the key elements that bring people together to celebrate and engage in the folk arts. We continue to work closely with grassroots, community and folk organisations to include a wide range of events that encourage participation. In 2014 a record number of people took part in our festival ensembles, dance events and participatory programs including the daily *Australian Settler Session*, *Fiddle Rally* and *Choir* to name just a few. These are some of the real strengths of the National and I thank those who invest so much time and dedication to make them happen.

This year’s program featured some 1227 performers in 211 Acts with a broad representation of genres across the various folk arts. From world music exponents like Joseph Tawadros Trio, Santa Taranta and Australian Chinese Ensemble to Celtic offerings from Siobhan Owen and Fásta, to the dance, the poetry, the circus and music from our own backyard there was a lot to take in. Western Australia was our featured state and we were fortunate to have the support of the Folk Federation of WA through an Arts Flight Grant to bring Justin Walshe Duo and Kerriane Cox and Albert Wiggan to the Festival as part of the WA contingent.

One of my key goals since assuming responsibility for the artistic program has been to include a greater content and presence of Indigenous music, culture and artists at the Festival. In 2014 this was achieved through a grant from Events ACT. Our Celebration of Australia's First Peoples was highly successful and saw outstanding performances from no less than ten Indigenous acts headlined by Archie Roach who received a standing ovation at the conclusion of his first Budawang concert. I am pleased to report that a Celebration of Australia's First Peoples will be an integral component of future artistic programs.

The Festival was also successful in securing funding from Arts ACT and the Embassy of USA. The first supported the ACTIVE Folk Arts Program and the engagement of emerging young folk artists and the second assisted with costs in bringing Woody Mann and the Alaska String Band to the Festival. I was also pleased to have folk icon Martin Carthy on the program. Someone described his appearance as “pulling a last minute rabbit out of the hat” but it was in fact the end of 6 months’ work to make it happen.





The National Folk Festival also plays a role in celebrating and recognising excellence and contributions to the folk arts. We honoured the late John Dengate in a Tribute Concert led by Jason Roweth and through our Awards Program celebrated the achievements of Margaret RoadKnight and recognized performances from emerging young acts Serendipity, Tolka, Oh Pep and The Mae Trio. If the closing concert was a little long it certainly wrapped up an Easter where participation in the folk arts was right up there with the best of the concert performances.

Finally, to all who were there, our growing new audience and our highly valued loyal returning patrons, our performers and phenomenal volunteers whose dedication and passion permit the festival to continue, the stall holders and contractors who contribute so much, to the Board and the staff for their indefatigable work throughout the year, a big thumbs up. It's your National Folk Festival, thank you for being a part of it.

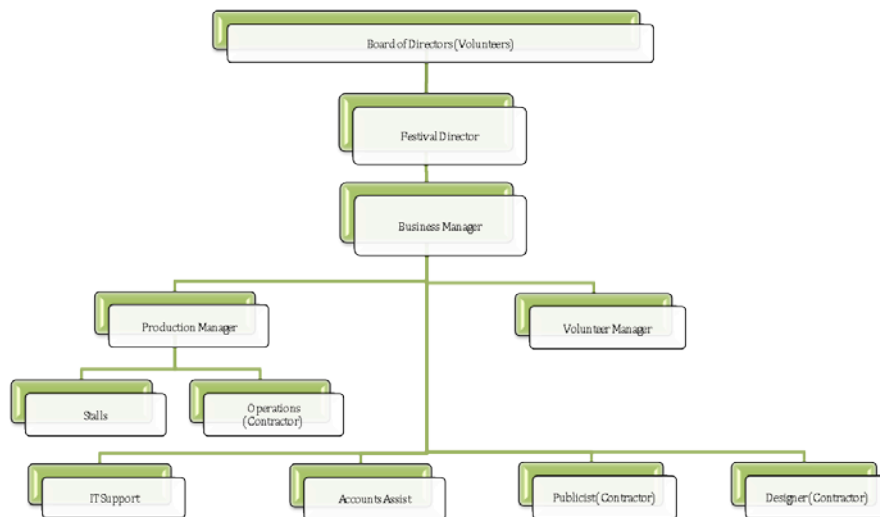
Pam Merrigan  
Festival Director





## About the Organisation

### Organisational Structure 2013-14



### Company Members

The National Folk Festival Limited is a limited-liability non-profit company formed for the purpose of promoting, organising and conducting annually in Canberra, the National Folk Festival and related activities. There are currently 32 Company Members. They include the subscribers to the original Memorandum of Association of the Company, former Managing /Festival Directors and other persons with requisite qualifications, skills and experience, most of whom have been Festival Area Coordinators or volunteers in other capacities or folk performers. All are long-term Festival attendees.

### Board of Directors

The volunteer Board of Directors is elected annually by Company Members as are the executive positions of President and Vice President. Board Members in the current reporting year (including positions held and the year appointed to the Board) are listed below. Those marked \* have also held Board positions in past years and been reappointed. The qualifications, skills and experience of Board Members in any given year are detailed in annual Financial Reports.

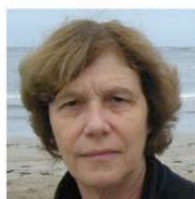
|                  |   |       |
|------------------|---|-------|
| Gabrielle Mackey | President   | 2010* |
| John Taylor      | Vice President (until 19 November 2013) and<br>Co-Chair, Governance Committee | 2010* |
| Phil Green       | Vice President (from 19 November 2013) and<br>Co-Chair, Governance Committee  | 2009  |



|                     |  |       |
|---------------------|--|-------|
| Rick Kenyon         | Chair, Finance and Audit Committee   | 2010  |
| Graham Chalker      | Company Secretary and Chair, Marketing Committee<br>(until 19 November 2013) | 2006  |
| Sharon Casey        | Company Secretary (from 19 November 2013)                                    | 2013  |
| Jacqueline Bradley  | Chair, Marketing & Communications Committee<br>(from December 2013)          | 2011  |
| Pam Merrigan        | Board Member and Festival Director (from July 2013)                          | 2013  |
| Graham McDonald     | Board Member   | 2012* |
| Cassidy Richens     | Board Member   | 2012* |
| Peter Logue         | Board Member (until August 2013)   | 2006  |
| Mark Cranfield      | Board Member (until 19 November 2013)  | 2006  |
| Ronald Brent        | Board Member (from 19 November 2013)   | 2013  |
| Peter (PJ) Williams | Board Member (from 19 November 2013)   | 2013  |

### Festival Staff

The Board appoints the Festival Director and Business Manager. While the Board is generally involved in the selection of other managerial staff, the Festival Director is responsible for these and other paid and unpaid positions in the office. The staff, contractors and Area Coordinators manage the entire event.



PAM MERRIGAN  
Festival Director



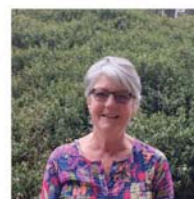
LAINY KEIR  
Business Manager



AMY WHITING  
Production Manager



RUBY HUDSON  
Volunteer & Special Events Manager



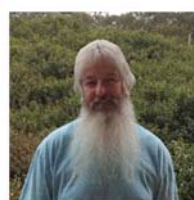
JOCelyn VASEY  
Stalls Manager



VU PHAM  
IT Assistant



PIYA PATTAMARANGOON  
Accounts Assistant



KIM NAVIN  
Office Administration



JESS HENDERSON  
Design & Publications Manager

Staff members (some full-time (F/T), some part-time (P/T)), in the current reporting year (including positions held and when commenced/finished in role) were:

|                     |                                    |                |     |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|-----|
| Pam Merrigan        | Festival Director                  | July 2013 –    | F/T |
| Lainey Keir         | Business Manager                   | July 2013 –    | F/T |
| Ruby Hudson         | Volunteer & Special Events Manager | July 2013 –    | F/T |
| Amy Whiting         | Production Manager                 | July 2013 –    | F/T |
| Jocelyn Vasey       | Stalls Manager                     | August 2010 –  | P/T |
| Vu Pham             | IT Assistant                       | August 2011 –  | P/T |
| Piya Pattamarangoon | Accounts Assistant                 | October 2013 – | P/T |



## **Key Contractors**

|                 |                               |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Jess Henderson  | Design & Publications Manager |
| Patrice Wallace | Operations Manager            |
| Bettina Richter | Festival Publicist            |

## **Volunteers**

The Festival has over 1300 volunteers, the majority of whom do their volunteer work during the Festival period, but some work throughout the year, including Lance Green, the (volunteer) IT Manager for the Festival and Kim Navin (Office Administration) .

There are over 60 Area Coordinators for major areas of Festival operations and who are personally acknowledged in the Festival Program each year. Other persons who give assistance in a variety of ways (including program, site and venue decoration, marketing and photographs) are also acknowledged in the Program.





## Our Sponsors, Supporters and Partners

The National Folk Festival had a large number of sponsors for the 2014 Festival who supported the Festival in various ways. We acknowledge and thank them for their valuable support and assistance.

|                                |                                 |   |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Public Funding Partners</b> |                                 |   |
| ACT Government                 | VisitCanberra                   | USA Department of State                     |
| <b>Media Partners</b>          |                                 |   |
| Southern Cross Ten             | ArtSound FM 92.7                | Canberra Weekly                             |
| Qantas                         | Peppermint Magazine             | AEU ACT Branch                              |
| <b>Platinum Sponsors</b>       |                                 |   |
| Nova Multimedia                |                                 |   |
| <b>Gold Sponsors</b>           |                                 |   |
| Barlens                        | Eclipse Lighting and Sound      |   |
| <b>Silver Sponsors</b>         |                                 |   |
| Coopers                        | The Hills Cider Company         | EPIC [Exhibition Park Canberra]             |
| <b>Bronze Sponsors</b>         |                                 |   |
| Infinite Networks              | St. Francis Xavier College      | Jim Murphy Market Cellars                   |
| Unions ACT                     | AvantCard                       |   |
| <b>Distinguished Partners</b>  |                                 |   |
| ACTION                         | The Green Shed                  | CanPrint                                    |
| artsHub                        | National Library of Australia   | ACT & Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry |
| SITA                           | B & V Caravan Hire - Queanbeyan | G.D.S Exhibition Cleaning                   |
| Canberra Milk                  | Kennards Hire                   |   |



## **Festival Awards**

Nurturing and acknowledging talent and contribution to folk culture is paramount to company's mission for the National Folk Festival. One way the Festival does this is through its annual awards. The following awards were presented to individual artists and groups as encouragement and recognition of artistic achievement in folk music, dance and the folk arts.

### **National Folk Festival Lifetime Achievement Award**

Awarded to an artist of long standing for his or her lifetime contribution to enriching the culture of folk music and arts in Australia.

**2014 Winner: Margret RoadKnight**

### **National Folk Festival Volunteer of the Year Award**

Recognises the exceptional efforts and dedication of a volunteer who has gone above and beyond.

**2014 Winner: David Pinson, (Coordinator, Waste and Recycling Team).**

### **Lis Johnston Award**

Awarded to an excellent 'unknown' singer at the National, this award is presented in memory of Lis Johnston, a wonderful singer and stalwart of the Victorian folk community.

**2014 Winner: Serendipity**

### **Traditional Social Dance Association of Victoria Awards**

Awarded to the creators of two new dance compositions.

- **Beat Klippel Memorial Trophy (best General Social Dance category):**  
**Keith Wood**, for his dance 'Black Swan Waltz Quadrille'
- **VFMC Perpetual Trophy, (a dance for More Experienced Dancers):**  
**Peter Gamble**, for his 'Waltz for Ann'

### **National Folk Festival Reciter of the Year Award**

This perpetual award, crafted in solid Ironbark wood, was awarded for the 30th time, to the Best performer at the Poet's Breakfasts.

**2014 Winner: Milton Taylor**

### **Yarn Spinner's Award**

Awarded to the best yarn-spinner at the Festival.

**2014 Winner: Milton Taylor**

### **National Film and Sound Archive National Folk Recording Award**

This award was established in 2001 to encourage and reward excellence in Australian folk music recording. Award entrants are selected from outstanding



recordings released in 2013 by a performer appearing at the 2014 Festival.

**2014 Winner: The Mae Trio for their recording titled *Housewarming***

#### **Infinite Song Competition**

The ever-popular competition run with a new theme at the Festival each year where performers give a different take on their chosen song. The theme in 2014 was songs of Elvis.

**2014 Winner: Tangalo**

#### **Folk Alliance Australia Youth Folk Award**

Presented by Folk Alliance Australia and the National Folk Festival, this is an award to a young, promising performer aged between 10-18 years and nominated by a folk club or festival. The finalists perform at the FAA Young Folk Awards Concert at the Festival when judging occurs.

**2014 Winner: Oh Pep!**

#### **Peter J Daly Memorial Award**

Established by Meg Daly in memory of her husband Peter Daly, a long-standing volunteer for the Festival and Stalls Coordinator for many years, this award is made to an artist or group of Australian origin that gives an outstanding performance of Celtic music at the Festival.

**2014 Winner: Tolka**

#### **Alistair Hulett Memorial Songs for Social Justice Songwriting Award**

Presented in memory of the late great Scottish folk writer and singer whose name is inextricably linked to songs of social justice. Presented by the Alistair Hulett Memorial Fund, the award is presented for the best song of social justice.

**2014 Winner: Miriam Jones for her song 'Post Post Feminist Revolution'**





## Festival Attendance and Survey Results

**Attendance** (ie. total numbers on site over the 5 days of the Festival)

| Day                 | Number of purchased ticket holders* | Number of other season ticket holders** | Total number on site |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Thursday – 17 April | 5442                                | 4885                                    | 10327                |
| Friday – 18 April   | 5442                                | 4885                                    | 10327                |
| Saturday - 19 April | 6802                                | 4885                                    | 11687                |
| Sunday - 20 April   | 4935                                | 4885                                    | 9820                 |
| Monday – 21 April   | 4311                                | 4885                                    | 9196                 |
| <b>Total</b>        |                                     |   | <b>51357</b>         |

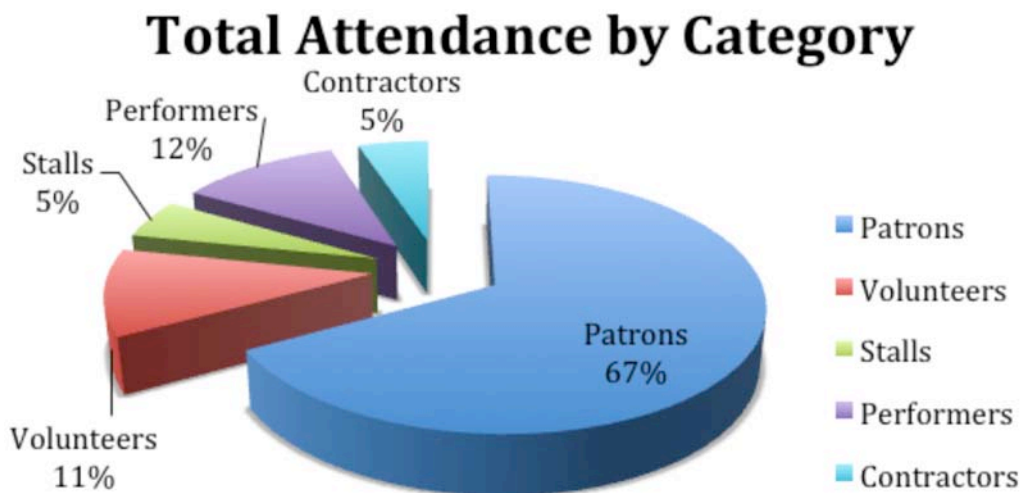
\* Daily figures include 3409 Season ticket holders on site all 5 days so are counted each day.

\*\*Daily figures include 1300 volunteers, 1300 performers and 2285 others including stall holder and on site service providers, media passes and ‘other’ complimentary season ticket holders (staff, Company & Board members, VIPs/sponsors & raffle prizewinners).

### Attendance compared to previous years

| Year | Total number on site |
|------|----------------------|
| 2014 | 51,357               |
| 2013 | 50,191               |
| 2012 | 52,338               |
| 2011 | 50,935               |
| 2010 | 55,092               |

This year we were able to gather very detailed information from our ticketing system:

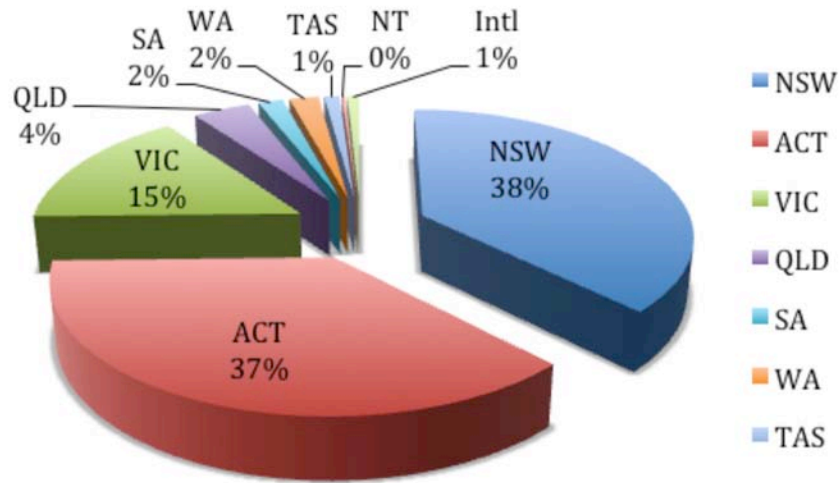


In the above chart VIPs and other complimentary ticket holders are included in the Patron’s figure.

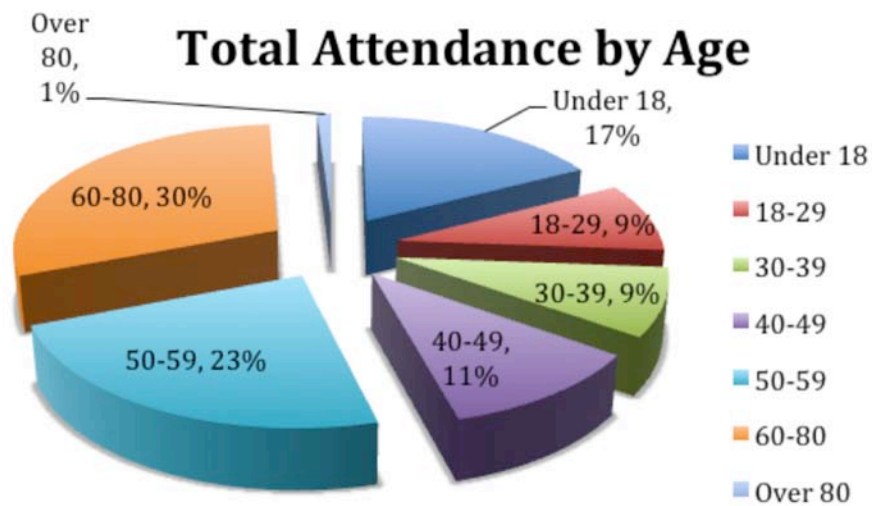




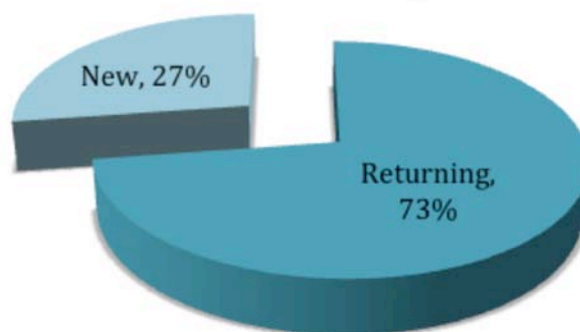
## Total Attendance by State



## Total Attendance by Age



## Total Attendance New vs Returning



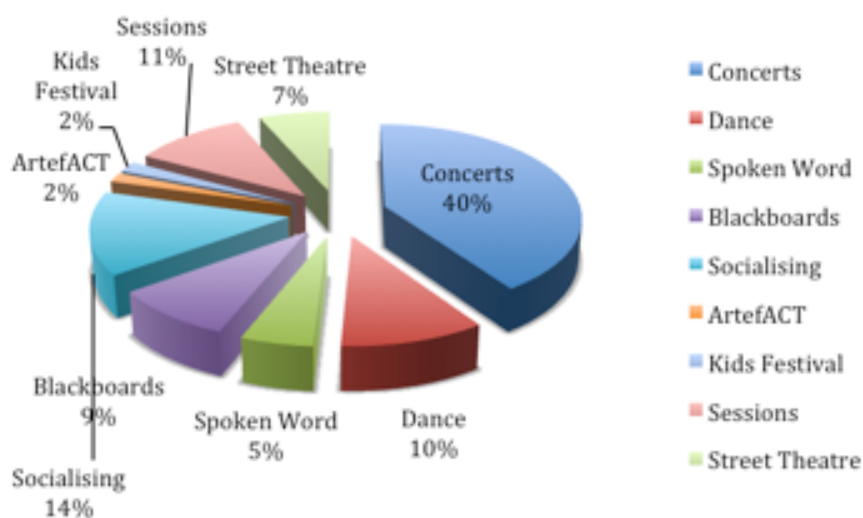


## Survey Results

The Festival has an online survey to collect additional information about Festival-goers and their views on many aspects of the Festival. Volunteers roaming the Festival also obtained survey responses from patrons. Some Festival-goers also wrote letters after the Festival. Where possible, comments and feedback are added to the online survey information.

In total, 1033 people (61% female, 39% male) provided comments and feedback following the 2014 Festival. Demographic information obtained from both the survey and the ticketing data is used for planning purposes, grant and award applications and pursuing sponsorship opportunities.

The following chart reflects responses to the question: *What did you enjoy most about the Festival.*



While the majority of comments and feedback is positive, the Festival's patrons are not shy in letting Festival management know about things they did not like and make suggestions about how things can be done differently. The comments and feedback feed into continual improvement of the Festival.

Below are some of the comments received following the 2014 Festival which let Festival management know their efforts were appreciated.

*I've lived in Canberra now for almost fourteen years and went along to the festival for the first time this year and can't believe I've left it this long. Brilliant atmosphere, brilliant performers and, as much as I love bluegrass, SO glad it wasn't just fiddle bands. Loved the circus and comedy acts too.*

*I wish to say I had a truly wonderful time, along with children and grandsons (the free entry on Monday was a bonus). The organisation, the overall variety, the workshops and so many of the performers were absolutely superb. It is I think*



*remarkable that the first performances of the morning and the late night performances each day are right up amongst the best.*

*Thank you for a truly wonderful and generous festival. Please convey our thanks to the marvelous Beth in the Access Team. Her kindness and genuine understanding were incomparable and her willingness and timely ability to solve any problem made the festival an absolute pleasure for us.*

*We just wanted to say thanks for including us in your program for NFF 2014. It was such a great festival and a pleasure to perform at. I wanted to give special mention to the quality of the sound and the professional attitudes of the sound techs and stage managers. All too often gigs are marred for both performers and audiences by the sound being bad - this was certainly NOT the case at the National. Every show we played and every show we watched had terrific sound, and everyone was friendly and helpful.*

*The whole weekend had such a great vibe about it, heaps to see and do and amazing food. It's clearly more than just a music festival, it's got to be one of the most complete festivals I've been to. And it's clear that everyone involved is really focused on making it an enjoyable experience for all the punters.*

*I feel that this was one of the very best National Folk Festivals I have attended and was very pleased to read that attendances were also very good. The whole event was a credit to all those involved.*

