



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 20th February 2015

THE NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL LAUNCHES 2015 PROGRAM

On Wednesday night the National Folk Festival launched its full 2015 program and artist line-up and announced the recipient of the National Folk Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award at the National Library of Australia in Canberra. Over 200 acts were announced at the launch including an A-list of 180 Australian acts and 23 International artists including headliners **Bob Fox** and **Outside Track**, who are exclusive to the Festival.

Bob Fox is recognised as one of the leading artists of the Folk Revival period - he's been nominated as Best Folk Singer in the BBC Folk Awards twice, he's toured extensively for over 40 years throughout the UK, Europe, USA, New Zealand and Australia, and played with the likes of Ralph McTell, Richard Thompson, Billy Mitchell and Fairport Convention. Most recently Bob has played the role of Songman in the multi-award winning stage production of WarHorse throughout the UK/Ireland and South Africa for 3 years.

Winner of Best Group in the Live Ireland Awards and the TIR Awards, **The Outside Track** are one of the top Celtic acts in the world. A stunning synthesis of virtuosity and energy, their marriage of Celtic music, song and dance has been rapturously received around the world. Hailing from Scotland, Ireland, and Cape Breton, its five members effortlessly fuse traditional and contemporary with winning joie de vivre, blending fiddle, accordion, harp, guitar, whistle, step-dance and vocals with breathtaking vitality.

The impressive line-up of over 200 A-list acts also includes

From Overseas: Kvonn (Denmark), Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas (SCOT/USA), Baka Beyond (UK/Africa), Kim Richey (US), Nuala Kennedy Band (IRE/SCOT), Joe Filisko & Eric Noden (US), The Heartstring Quartet (IRE), Gordie MacKeeman and his Rhythm Boy (CAN), David Francey, Kipori Wolf Woods New Orleans Band (US), Pekka Mikklä (FINLAND), Chris While & Julie Matthews (UK) and more.

Australian Artists: My Friend the Chocolate Cake, Mikangelo and the Black Sea Gentlemen, Mark Moldre, The Griffyn Ensemble, Lucie Thorne & Hamish Stuart, The Flying Emus, Shane Howard, The Spooky Men's Chorale, Jan Preston's Boogie Circus, Greshka, All Our Exes Live in Texas, Christopher Coleman Collective, Mustered Courage, Sparrow-Folk and many more

The Festival is delighted to celebrate Australia's rich Indigenous story with a special dedicated program celebrating Australia's first peoples which includes **Kutcha Edward Trio, Gina Williams & Guy Ghouse, Col Hardy** and **John Bennett with David Hyams**. Special events include **Price's Cafe**, a pop-up exhibition which celebrates a unique reconciliation story of the south coast; and **Animals of the Dreaming**, which will see Col Hardy telling stories and songs about animals of the dreaming with real live animals in association with the Taronga Zoomobile.

The recipient of the *2015 National Folk Festival Lifetime Achievement Award* is the **Hon. Ted Egan AO**. An old bushy from Alice Springs, he first began recording music in 1969 and has released 30 albums which focus on outback life, history and Aboriginal affairs. Ted has written 10 books and was also the presenter of 13 x 1 hour documentary films titled This Land Australia. In 1993 Ted Egan was made a Member of the Order of Australia for his ongoing contribution to the literary heritage of Australia through song and verse and was recently listed as a National Living Treasure by the National Trust of Australia.

Special guests at the Launch included ACT Government Chief Minister Andrew Barr, Director-General of the National Library Ms Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, President of the Board of the National Folk Festival Ms Gabrielle Mackey, and Festival Director Ms Pam Merrigan with music by award-winning WA Artists Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse, and Canberra favourite Fred Smith.

The National Folk Festival is one of Australia's most accessible and longest running folk festivals. Expect nothing less than five days in a perfect world with over 1,200 artists from around the planet at the National Capital at Easter [from 2-6 April](#). There will be 18 venues at the Festival Site at Exhibition Park including the delightful and entertaining KidzFest, hands-on art experiences and workshops at ArteFACT, hundreds of poetry, dance and music experiences and workshops to indulge in, and don't miss out on witnessing the wonders of the Festival Parade as it twinkles its way through the Festival Village.

Earlybird3 Tix available till [30th March](#). BYO tent, motor home, caravan or hire a tent on-site with our Rent-a-Tent Accommodation. Purchase a ticket and share it with your friends for as little as \$82.50 per day with our Package of Days pass. More info at www.folkfestival.org.au or follow National Folk Festival on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @natfolkfest #5daysinaperfectworld

All Media Enquiries to National Folk Festival Publicist Bettina Richter
mob: [0414 441 860](tel:0414441860) e: media@folkfestival.org.au

All Media Enquiries to National Folk Festival Publicist Bettina Richter
mob: 0414 441 860 e: media@folkfestival.org.au