



# Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival

In Australia's Most Beautiful Valley

15-17 October 2021

## Performer Guidelines

### About The Festival

The Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival is presented and organised by Shoalhaven Folk Club Inc.

The 15th Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival will be held on 15-17 October 2021 at the Kangaroo Valley Showground. See the festival web site for more details.

### How To Apply

Applications to perform at the 2021 Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival close 30 April 2021.

No late applications will be accepted.

An online application form can be accessed on our web site.

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### Festival Format 2021

Since the NSW COVID19 restrictions have been eased, we are now excited and reasonably confident that the festival can go ahead as normal, with a COVIDSafe plan. This is of course conditional on there being no future tightening of the restrictions.

### Special Note for International Performers

It seems unlikely that international acts will be able to travel to Australia this year, but let's hope for the best. The Festival may book one or two international artists who are touring Australia at the time. We are not in a position to sponsor acts or arrange tours. We do not provide airfares. International acts also must arrange their own visas.

If you have organised a tour in Australia around the date of our Festival, we welcome your, or your agent's, enquiry or application.

### Selection Process

Applications close 30 April 2021 and we anticipate that performer selection will be completed by the end of June. Please do not contact us before then to find out if you have been successful. We will contact you if you are selected.

The initial application is essentially an expression of interest, with sufficient information to assess the application. Those acts selected to perform at the festival will be contacted and asked to provide additional information (eg confirmation of personnel and accommodation requirements, festival passes required etc.)

Please assist us by not leaving it to the last minute to submit your application. It helps us by spreading the workload involved in assessing applications and we may be able to give you a decision earlier as well.

## **Personnel and Availability Changes**

If you are accepted, it is on the basis of the line-up and availability listed in your application. If the personnel changes significantly or you change your availability we reserve the right to cancel the acceptance or to negotiate a lower fee.

## **Authority and obligations**

In an effort to minimize the legal jargon and to make the application process as friendly as possible we have avoided the use of strict “terms and conditions”.

However, we will take it as granted that in filling out and submitting the application, the person doing so (and the contact listed on the application form if a different person) has the permission to represent the artist/act and all members of the act in all dealings with Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival.

It is the responsibility of the representative for the artist/act to pass on all the information provided by the festival to all members of the act. Similarly, it is also the responsibility of the representative of the act to inform the Festival of any changes to the information provided in the application. Such changes may have implications with regard to the outcome of the application. It is also the best way to ensure that problems later on with regard to performers' ticketing, admission, accommodation, and performance scheduling are avoided.

## **Rejected applications**

The Festival receives many times the number of applications than we can book. There are always many disappointed acts. Rejection of an application does not necessarily reflect lack of quality. Choices in programming are made on a number of different criteria each year and we endeavour to produce a varied program from year to year. If unsuccessful one year, please consider reapplying for another year.

Unsuccessful applicants are also reminded that the Festival has blackboard-concert type venues and you are welcome to attend at your expense and to participate in such concerts, sessions, etc. Our festival organisers often “talent-scout” such venues for future festivals or folk club concerts throughout the year.

Since we receive such a large number of applications, **we will not necessarily notify you if you are unsuccessful**, but we will respond to enquiries on the status of your application.

## **Selection Criteria**

### **Type of Material**

“Folk” covers a broad spectrum of music styles, both traditional and contemporary. The Festival includes elements of blues, bluegrass, country, Anglo-Celtic, world-music, jazz, singer-songwriters, folkloric dancing, indigenous, bush poetry and yarn telling, comedy, etc. It is very difficult to be prescriptive as to styles and many performers are at home in different music ‘scenes’ (eg country and folk). However, performers who are exclusively ‘pop’ or ‘rock’ for example are unlikely to be successful.

### **Type of Performances**

Performers offering workshops and themed presentations are always more favoured than those just offering concert performances. Performers who can also play for children and dances are also sought. We also prefer performers who do not place too many restrictions on their availability, who can stay for the whole festival and participate in sessions and the general festival atmosphere.

### **Returning Performers**

Generally speaking we try not to book acts for more than two years in a row. In an effort to support our local performers we make an exception to this rule and many of our local performers are regulars. However, quality is the important determining factor and just because you live locally this will not necessarily guarantee you a spot. For performers coming from further afield we may also make an exception where an established act fits a

hard-to-fill niche or comes up with something new and innovative (such as interesting themed concerts and presentations). Consequently, do not be too surprised or disappointed if your application is not successful if you have performed at the previous couple of festivals even if you were a “hit” at those festivals. We have probably just chosen to give you a break this time around and may have you back in future years.

## **Fees**

The Festival is a small, not-for-profit event with a limited budget, run by volunteers so please take this into consideration when quoting a fee. Be realistic if you wish your application to be considered. All fees quoted are to be totally inclusive of all costs such as GST, travel, meals and accommodation (see accommodation section below). A good starting point is \$100 per person for local acts and \$150 per person for visiting acts. International performers please refer to note above.

We typically receive over 5 times more applications than we can accept. Many performers choose to charge a small fee but benefit from CD sales. Large choirs or dance groups generally are not paid a fee, and receive free day or weekend tickets for their members.

Applications submitted by agents asking several thousand dollars are generally not considered for this festival.

## **Street performers and buskers**

are welcome to apply as we love the colour and diversity they provide. Such acts who have performances suitable for young children (eg, clowns, magic acts, puppeteers, kids crafts, etc) are highly sought after for our children’s program.

## **Volunteering**

The festival welcomes and encourages performers who contribute to the successful running of the festival. We are always looking for MC/Venue Managers in particular.

There is no obligation for performers to volunteer their services and not doing so will not have a bearing on the success or failure of the application. There is also no obligation for the festival to accept an offer to volunteer by a performer.

## **Programming**

In general, the festival will program up to four performances per act, usually a combination of concerts, workshops and themed concerts over the three days of the festival.

Concert performances per act vary between 30 minutes to one hour (usually 45 minutes), workshops 45 to 90 minutes. We try to schedule 15 minutes set up time before the performance. The quicker you can set up, the more performance time you have! If your act has special requirements that will necessitate a longer set up time, you need to let us know so that we can schedule your performances at times that will allow this and minimise the effect on the rest of the schedule. Performers who deliberately play past their allotted finish time or bully our volunteer MC’s will not be asked back.

## **PERFORMER ACCOMMODATION**

### **Free Camping On Site**

We are now offering free camping for performers within in the festival site (KV Showground). Toilets and basic showers are provided. Many performers take a break to swim in the Kangaroo River.

### **Camping at Glenmack Park**

The commercial campground Glenmack Park is adjacent to the festival site and provides unpowered and powered sites, as well as some cabins. The facilities are excellent and the camping areas are not allowed to become overcrowded.

For an unpowered site, the cost per night is currently \$20 per adult and \$16 per child 3-15. If you want the extra comfort of staying at Glenmack, you will need to include the cost in your fee.

Glenmack Park takes bookings for campsites and usually fills up long before the festival. Once selected for the festival you should make your booking straight away.

### **Other Accommodation**

Free camping is available at the beautiful Bendeela Campground 8 km from the festival. Large groups may find that camping at Bendeela is the best option, especially if partying after midnight is likely.

A limited number of billets are available and are usually reserved for interstate or international artists. There are also many B&B's and other accommodation options in Kangaroo Valley.

### **Insurance**

Performers accept responsibility for their own liability insurance.

When performing, you are a Festival service provider and as such, are not covered by the Festival's public liability insurance.

We suggest investigating insurance options with Folk Alliance Australia, see [www.folkalliance.org.au](http://www.folkalliance.org.au). You need to be or become a member of Folk Alliance Australia.

Performers also accept all responsibility for their Tax obligations, Superannuation and WorkCover requirements.

### **Support Material**

Please note that if you are accepted to perform at the festival the biography you provide in your application will be used on our website and possibly in festival publicity including the program.

In your application please include web links showing images, recordings and videos. If links are not available, send a CD, DVD and/or photos. The performance should be representative of the act that you are proposing to perform at the festival.

**Good luck with your application!**