

Appendix 4: Attendee Comments

Positive Comments – What we got right

"I regularly attend Fairbridge Folk Fest so came along without too many expectations and conscious of the fact that i would be comparing the two. I loved every aspect - live performances, art, workshops, setting, atmosphere. There was more to do than i could fit in. I really did not take advantage of the Reserve tours and wish i had made the effort to come on Friday night for night sky sessions "

"I enjoyed the camaraderie and the camping"

"My partner and I loved the 2 hour bus tour, and Saturday night's music and dancing. The toilets and showers were impeccably maintained, well done to them!"

"The event was awesome and great to be able to camp there"

"I enjoyed the whole event, camping and relaxing. I felt it was well organised. No need for change."

" i enjoyed the vibe, the acts, the music, the people, the food, the camping. in reference to improvement, well I really don't know, nothing comes to mind"

"The Festival is in an amazing location (Charles Darwin Reserve) and there's a fantastic community feel to the event, with a sense that many attendees were from the area. You could feel the local pride"

"Everything was amazing. Busy all day. Farming speakers were great."

"The atmosphere and entertainment was fantastic. I loved the strong arts focus."

"The opportunity to visit this country and see what is being done to protect and improve it for the future. A good promotion for the Perenjori region."

"enjoyed the tour of CDR Enjoyed the music Great facilities and atmosphere"

"We all enjoyed that it was quality music and activities without the crowds and hype. camping was lovely and quiet and the atmosphere was chilled. There was also a good selection of food."

"It was fantastic. The food,entertainment and people, both attendees and all the workers we had contact with were very friendly and proces were very reasonable."

"We enjoyed the Music,Food, Activities. Deciding on Saturday Morning to attend the Festival we arrived by 1pm. The company of strangers :) all campers were friendly. The ladies cleaning toilets were unbelievably cheerful and helpful, friendliest cleaners I have ever met. Concert performances good ! C (Janis Joplan / Toni Childs) lady from N.S.W incredible guitar player/with a great voice. You did very well with your choice of musicians. I loved the sculptural people !! Fire dancer & trapeze artists added another dimension Having the Art/Craft attractions was excellent"

"I found the whole day/night to be amazing. There was something for everyone, with a relaxed atmosphere, the food was great. We enjoyed all the performers. We really enjoyed the chance for the kids to be involved with the dance performances and are very grateful for Blues for the Bush for

organizing this wonderful opportunity for the kids. Thank you for an amazing time and to all those wonderful people for thier dedication and organizing this wonderful event. Well done"

"Loved the food, music, relaxed atmosphere and all the activities for children as I went there with my 3 and they were very engaged in it all. Loved the workshop/ talk and loved camping. We are coming again next year for sure??"

"We drove up from Perth to attend the festival and it was well worth it. We really enjoyed ourselves. We stayed in Perenjori so we can not comment on the camping facilities suffice it say that as an observer it was good to see that it was free. This would attract people to come to the festival. The actual site was very well set up and as soon as you walked in you felt welcome. All the volunteers were friendly and helpful. The merchandise was varied and of good quality. The food was good and there was variety that would cater for most tastes. It was good to see the local footy club running the bar which was doing a roaring trade. The prices of the drinks were reasonable which was to see. The set up of the venue was terrific. There was plenty of activities for the kids which made it into a family affair. The focus on wildflowers was important and emphasised the fact that we were in the bush. We arrived around lunchtime on Saturday and so missed the activities on Friday and Saturday morning but reading through the program there was no shortage of things to do. It was a good year for seeing the wildflowers and I am sure the tours and the like were popular. The choice of bands was excellent and the organisers should be commended. The sound was good and all the performances of all the artists was excellent. The entertainment between sets was well thought out from the hoola hoops through to the circus performer. The fairies all lit up were a joy, especially to all the young girls who followed them wherever they went. I thought the artist added a great touch as did the people wandering around the festival on stilts I was cold but in true bush style it was not long before a massive grate and a ute and trailer full of firewood appeared. That brought everyone together! All in all it was a great community event and everyone involved should be extremely pleased on how it ended up. We really enjoyed ourselves and loved to community feel of the festival. We hope that you secure the funding for next year so we can return. One comment and suggestion is that few people in Perth seemed to know about the festival. I know it was advertised in Rhythm magazine and I only found out about it by reading the end of an email which I receive advising of various blues gigs around town. It might be worth considering partnering with one of the community radio stations such as RTRFM who have a brilliant weekly blues program every Monday called 'Spoonful of Blues'. Once again, take a bow. You put on a great event."

"We absolutely loved it! It was extremely well organised - you guys did a great job. I particularly enjoyed the bush flower arranging and raw cooking demonstration. All of the performers were great but really liked Phil Doncon's performance on the Friday night. A truly fantastic weekend. It was great that vegetarian food was available"

Constructive Criticism – What we could improve

“The camping area should be slashed to reduce the fire risk. One more headline act would have been a big improvement. More food choices would have been good.”

“Improvements: Please spend time mowing the area, both camping and entertainment. It would make a huge difference to the safety of the event”

“maybe more toilet blocks or spread out so we didn't have to walk so far (when busting) If you know where the event will be held, say in the same open space, get a tractor contractor in to mow the grasses down before they go to seed. It's lovely to be in the bush, but it wouldn't hurt to stop or reduce those seed heads. Maybe a few more food options. Vegetarian and juices”

“I'd prefer personal generators not being allowed or between 8:00AM & 4:00PM only. I had a number of personal generators being run outside of the stated hours, policing of this policy may help.”

“The ecology tours were very popular but booked out very quickly, sadly we missed out on going on one, how they were managed should be reviewed, there was conflicting info in the program (ie it stated no bookings required) to what happened in practice (all tours fully booked by Saturday morning).”

“I was concerned with the grass and potential fire hazard “

“Considering the cold night I thought it would have been wise to change the band line up and bring the Backsliders on earlier because a LOT of people left because of the coldness. Maybe another food van ? But loved it, well organised , will go back next time. Cheers.”

“I mostly enjoyed the concert performances, but was confused about the variety of genres of music for an event billed as blues. I'd be happy to attend the event again, even if it was a mixed music genre event again, not a straight blues festival. The food stalls were great, but clearly not enough of them for the size of the crowd: it took over an hour order and get a pizza (they were great pizzas, but that was too long a wait). The biggest annoyance were the personal generators of other campers. I think it would be better if they were banned as they really detract from camping in such an idyllic spot. While I enjoyed that there was no mobile coverage, I thought it was a bit of missed promotional opportunity that you couldn't use social media to promote what an enjoyable event it was. Maybe a portable Wifi station next time.”

“Would have liked to see the camping and festival area mowed. Also needed more local craft stalls. Was disappointed in the local produce not being offered.”

“ Maybe for the night events, some warming devices such as the large gas heaters could be considered. It was impossible to stay till late on both nights even though the entertainment was great. Another pizza supplier was needed. The wait for a pizza was very long.”

“If cold again, have the large fire pit that came out late lit at sunset. Then we could all defrost a bit if needed during the night. Many people left early because of the cold. Last band was not that great but everyone has different tastes! “

“If slash the sword grass? and the weekend is perfect “

“Have an area after the music has finished for those who would like to party on and wind down from being on such a buzz with the awesome music and musos, away from those who need there

sleep.Maybe over the other side of the paddock.I think the people who organised this years B.f t B did a fantastic job, the art, music, set ups everything, well done. Look forward to the next one."

"The music was excellent, would be good to start earlier, say at 3pm. Its hard too manage, but the temperature was very cold. If you had patio heaters set up around the site, more people may have stayed at the site. Every year is different and weather can be hard to manage. I feel you could charge a few dollars more, its a cheap event for what you get, I would pay up to \$100. "

"Only things that may be improved was the parking of vans - maybe need more direction - think this may have been caused as it was publicised that you couldn't get into 3.00 - we arrived earlier and thought that we would need to queue but we were allowed in - set up our van and our daughter arrived a bit later and set up tent - about 1 hour later we were told to move - after discussion we were allowed to stay - if we had had to move we would have been a long way from things - making sure people are directed to correct areas from the moment they are let in would stop this happening. Only other thing would be to do more mowing in entertainment area and camping areas. Congratulations to all concerned with this venture."