

Event Plan

Strawberry Fields Festival

16 November - 19 November 2017

Lower River Road, Tocumwal NSW

Prepared for Berrigan Shire Council

By

Strawberry Music Group Pty Ltd

ABN: 50 139 653 348

Draft: V1.3

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

This Document is an overview and summary of plans for the proposed Strawberry Fields Festival. It contains an overview of the proposed event, background & historical operation, Operational management plan, operational infrastructure other key information

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Document Overview

This Document is part of a wider group of documentation relating to the Event that Includes:

- i. Emergency Management Plan
- ii. Fire Management Plan
- iii. Medical Management Plan
- iv. Security Management Plan
- v. Water Activities Plan
- vi. Risk Management Matrix
- vii. Alcohol Management Plan
- viii. Traffic Control Plan
- ix. Site Map

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Document Control

Version #	Date	Description	Author
V1.1	June 5, 2017	Reworking of 2016 Event Plan with consideration to Stakeholder feedback to 2016 Event	Jeffrey Moss
V1.2	July 1, 2017	Update to incorporate feedback from NSW Health	Tara Benney
V1.3	July 3, 2017	Update to incorporate feedback from Traffic Control Plan & Fire Management	Tara Benney

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Event Overview

Description

Name: Strawberry Fields Music Festival

Dates: November 16 – 19, 2017

Attendance Numbers: 6000 patrons and 500 guests

Type: Ticketed over 18's event. Licensed.

The Strawberry Fields Music Festival has come a long way from its humble beginnings in 2009 and is proud to now well and truly call the Berrigan Shire its home.

This annual event now attracts visitors from all over the world and injects over a million dollars into the local and surrounding economies whilst showcasing live music from Australia and overseas alongside multiple art installations and a thriving market place, along the banks of the iconic Murray River.

Primary features Include:

- Three different entertainment stages showcasing live music and DJ's
- Café's, food and retail precinct
- Guest Speakers and workshops throughout the day
- Art Installations from all over the world
- Small boutique Bar featuring Craft Beer and Cider
- 100% of patrons camping on site

Organisers Details

Company Name: Strawberry Music Group Pty Ltd / ABN 50 139 653 348

Company Address: 671/585 Little Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Website: www.strawberry-fields.com.au

Contact:

Name	Role	Email	Ph.#
Tara Benney	Event Director	tara@strawberry-fields.com.au	0400913956
Bill Staughton	Event Director	billnugget@gmail.com	0431469971
Jeff Moss	Site/Operations Manager	jeff@soundeventgroup.com	0413030007

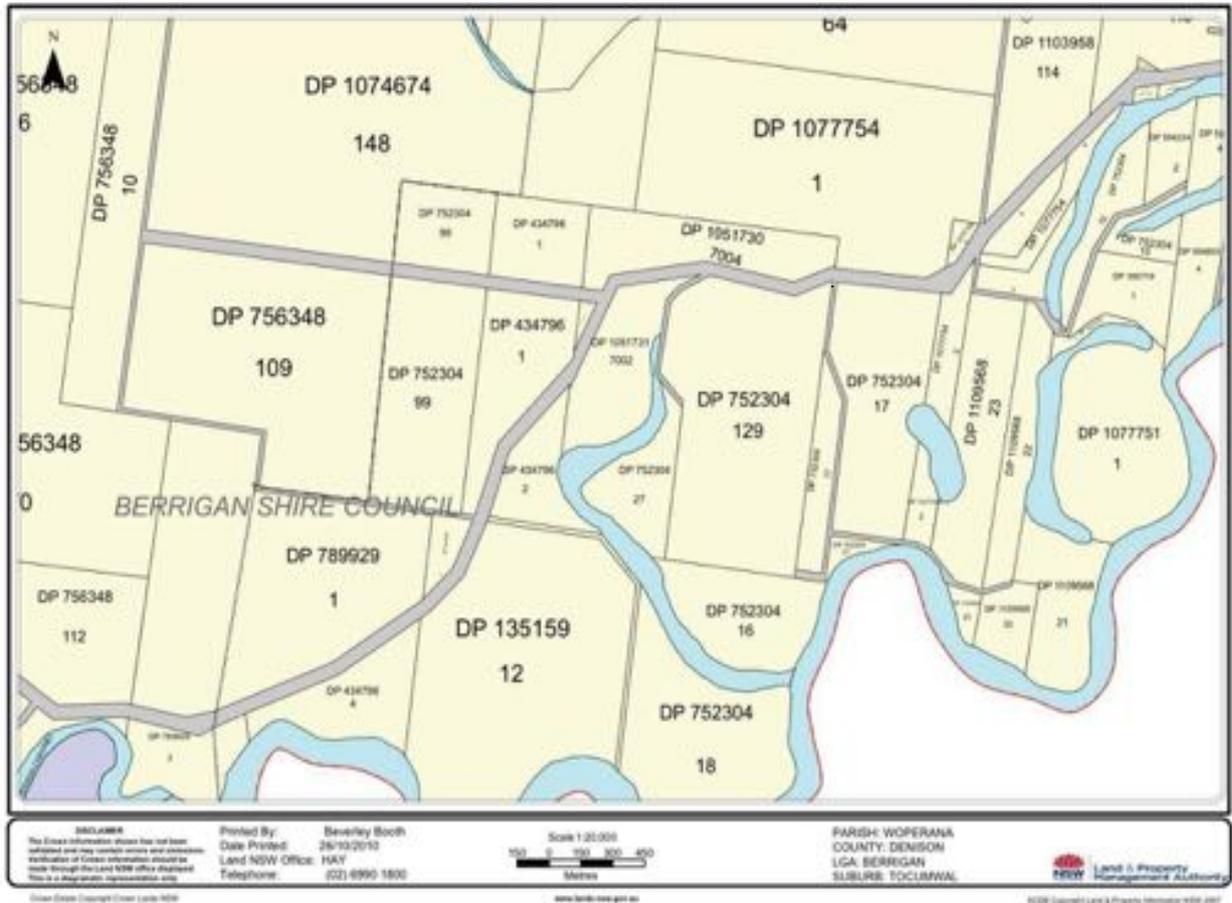
Location

Lot 17, No. DP752304, Lower River Road, Tocumwal NSW 2714 – Festival Area & Camping

Lot 2, No. DP1077754, Lower River Road, Tocumwal NSW 2714 – Additional Camping

Lot 23, No. DP1109568, Lower River Road, Tocumwal NSW 2714 – Swimming Access

Lot 22, No. DP1109568, Lower River Road, Tocumwal NSW 2714 – Additional Area



A detailed site map is also contained in Annexure. All members of the public and their vehicles will be contained within this property.

To encourage minimal traffic issues on Lower River Road and ensure site security, day tickets will not be available and pass-outs between the hours of 1:00am and 9:00am will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.

Event Concept and Ethos

The 2017 event will be the 9th instalment and has maintained three simple goals:

1. Provide a platform for young, local and upcoming Talent

“Over 150 local and international musicians and artists display their work at Strawberry Fields. We continue to be amazed at the wealth of local musical and creative talent in Australia and believe the focus should be as much on the headliners as the unknowns. From the hundreds of anonymous submissions, we receive each year, our panel carefully selects a series of up and coming artists to expose their work to thousands of their peers. There is nothing we value more highly than the opportunity to act as a springboard for Australia's young and talented”

2. Create a unique environment for showcasing art and music

“A big part of Strawberry Fields is creating a space that emphasizes the unique and exceptional qualities of the art and music displayed at the event. We aim to transport all of you to a paradise you could never have imagined would be waiting in the bush – whether it's a secret beach, a sunken tea lounge, a suspended gallery or the stages themselves, every structure and space is dreamed and designed for you to explore.”

3. Celebrate and introduce the Wild Australian Bush

“The end of November marks the beginning of summer, and with it comes an undeniable urge to indulge in a great Australian past time – camping out and enjoying the beauty of the bush. This is an experience that all who attend Strawberry Fields truly value –, a huge part of the appeal of the event is the idea of leaving the rigmarole of the everyday for a weekend in nature.”

Scheduling

Event construction & pack down

Staff and contractors will attend the site intermittently from 30 October 2017 to 1 December 2017 to complete activities including but not limited to:

- Site evaluation & planning
- Delivery of machinery and infrastructure
- Completion of site preparation works
- Construction of temporary event structures
- Pack down and removal of temporary event structures
- Removal of machinery and infrastructure
- Clean up and restoration of venue

Public Access

Gates to the venue will open to limited public on Thursday 16 November 2017 at 2:00pm. This is for 500 Cars only who have pre-purchased a Vehicle Pass, and is part of an initiative designed to reduce traffic on Lower River Road. All patrons must have vacated the property by 2:00pm Monday 20 November, after which time only Event Staff will remain in attendance to complete site clean-up and pack down.

During the event, entrance gates will close from 1:00am - 9:00am except for the movements of Event Staff, emergency services and other special circumstances.

Entertainment Program

The main entertainment schedule consisting of live music and performance will operate during the following times. Stage closures will be in effect during the late hours of the night on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights to reduce potential noise impact and encourage rest.

Area	Thurs 16 th	Friday 17 th	Sat 18 th	Sun 19 th
Stage 1	Closed	1800 – 0230	0900 – 0330	0900 – 2000
Stage 2	Closed	1800 – 0230	0900 – 0330	0900 - 1900
Tea Lounge	Light music	1800 – 0230	1200 – 0330	1200 - 0000
Markets	Open	Open	Open	Open

Crowd Expectancy

Capacity

Ticket sales for the 2017 event will be capped at 6,000 with approximately 500 additional staff and volunteers. These figures are the same as 2016 with the Event choosing not to increase capacity numbers and focus on working with Stakeholders to make the experience greater within this manageable crowd figure. A reconciliation of ticket sales and staff/volunteer numbers will be available three days prior to the event if required.

In 2016 the Event experienced intense flooding a month out from the Gates opening. Due to this the site had large parts of unusable land. This is not likely to occur in 2017 and campers should enjoy a much more spacious festival area. This extra space should ensure the following:

- Efficient crowd control;
- Adequate personal space per patron;
- Adequate monitoring of patron behaviour;
- Effective implementation of evacuation, emergency and fire risk management procedures.

Audience

The event attracts a multicultural and diverse audience and intends to not only entertain its patrons but to encourage an appreciation of the environment, providing opportunities for youth to engage with environmental organisations such as the Wilderness Society, TreeCredits, and community charitable initiatives.

A survey of attendees in 2015 and again in 2016 showed that around 80% of the audience is aged 18-35 and travel to the event from Melbourne, regional Victoria and regional NSW. The audience is equal parts male and female, and 90% of patrons purchase their tickets more than one month prior to the event.

This year's event is aimed at the same audience as prior years, with a similar music policy. The audience is non-aggressive and the event itself is very relaxed. The Event recognises certain social problems that enter the Festival and those problems are treated accordingly. Anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated including gender based violence, religious and sexual discrimination and or the use of illegal substances.



“An ethereal wonderland of sight and sound greeted people from all over Australia... attendees were treated to large scale installations built by Australian and international artists.”

- Southern Riverina News, “Festival Wonderland”, Wednesday 23 November

Summary of Major Improvements after 2016 Event

Roads & Emergency Access

Extensive flood damage occurred to the venue as a result of the October 2016 floods throughout the Murray region. Since the conclusion of the 2016 festival, the Event has invested heavily in the upgrade of all key internal roads within the venue. Access and road integrity were both identified as issues at the February 2017 debrief by Stakeholders and as a result internal tracks, walkways, crossovers and Emergency Services Routes have all been upgraded, including widening, addition of wider diameter concrete culverts, addition of road base, and re-surfacing.

A dedicated separate Emergency Services Gate/Road has been identified and will be for the sole purpose only of those vehicles. This gate will be manned 24/7 by Security services to ensure that access to the Emergency Services is not impeded at any time during the event.

***Please refer to the Site Map & SFF Emergency Management Plan for further information.**

Medical

At the February 2017 Stakeholder debrief and in subsequent direct consultations, the Event received feedback from representatives NSW Health on opportunities to improve the medical services provided in relation to the Event to alleviate reliance on local NSW Health services. After taking on this feedback the Event has invested in a number of key strategic upgrades to our medical services and patron transport strategy.

In 2017 the Event will introduce a 24-hour MAT in the Medical Centre. Having this coverage will allow better treatment of presentations outside of the entertainment hours and ensure that local resources are not used, including hospitals.

The Event will also for the first time engage the services of NSW Ambulance and will have coverage on site with a dedicated Ambulance for 12 hours a day during expected peak periods, Friday through to Sunday, greatly reducing the requirement for call outs to NSW paramedics.

Non Urgent Medical Transfers will also be introduced in 2017 providing an option for injured people that require further treatment but do not require to be transported in an Ambulance. This again lessens the resource demand on local resources. Patients from the Event will also be transported back to the event by Event Staff once they are cleared to do so, and a direct line of contact to the Event will be provided to NSW Health services to call this service.

Should an agitated patient require urgent transport to local NSW Health services, the Event has also committed to ensuring that a qualified Security Guard travel with the patient to ensure minimal disturbance upon arrival at local health services.

***Please refer to the SFF Medical Management Plan for further information.**

Traffic

After consultation with local residents, in 2017 the Event will introduce a Traffic Control Plan serviced by Riverina Traffic Services with provisions included to further increase road safety. Riverina Traffic Services has been a qualified provider since 2010 and specialises in event management for large sporting events and public celebrations in the Riverina area.

The plan incorporates several new initiatives including:

- “Stop and Go” at critical points on Lower River Road
- Speed Reduction on Lower River Road
- VMS directional signage
- Egress Management

During the time of the year that the festival is operating it is traditionally harvest time for the local community. Lower River Road is 100 km/h on most days of the year and the Harvest Trucks are used to operating at that speed and without traffic. To increase safety and avoid frustration all Stop and Go staff will be requested to make the trucks a priority for clearance.

***Please refer to the SFF Traffic Control Plan for further information.**

Patron Education/Responsibility

As a condition of entry to the event in 2017, the driver of each vehicle will be required to purchase a Vehicle Pass. This Vehicle Pass funds a number of components supporting community and environment initiatives, e.g. as Carbon Offset of emissions generated by travel to and from the event, as well as a donation to the Strawberry Fields Community Fund.

Another element which is funded by the Vehicle Pass is a Drug & Alcohol test for every driver. At the conclusion of the event, every driver will be able to visit the professionally trained BMF harm minimisation service to complete a complementary Drug & Alcohol test and receive guidance on the results. This easy to use kit allows patrons to see if they have drugs or alcohol present in their system and make an informed decision as to whether driving a vehicle is a responsible decision or not.

While Drug & Alcohol testing services have been offered at the Event for 4 years, this will be the first time that undergoing the testing is fully subsidised for every driver and thus encourages 100% uptake in responsible driving practices by all patrons. This initiative has been adopted taking into account feedback from the February 2017 Stakeholder meeting and continual focus on our goal of increasing both road safety and responsible patron behaviour.

***Please refer to the Road Safety Initiatives section of the Event Plan for further information.**

Fire Management Assessment & Modelling

In 2016 there were no minor or major incidents or threats at the Event in relation to fire. The fire management services and operational planning provided by Firetac were of a high standard, and leveraged the deep expertise that Firetac has gained over 4 years operating at the Event. The fire risk profile of the event in 2016 was also very low due to the extent of October 2016 flooding.

Despite these factors, and the fact that the event is not seeking an increase to patron capacity in 2017, the Event has decided to take a proactive approach to fire management and conduct an intensive review of all site conditions, risks, and opportunities to improve through a rigorously upgraded Fire Management Plan.

The new Fire Management Plan has again been completed by Firetac Australia, and will take into account the specific "site related" information (vegetation growth/type and distribution) and fire behavioural forecasting (relevant to the region). This review has been adopted taking into account feedback from the February 2017 Stakeholder meeting and our goal of ensuring ongoing positive working relationships with the Rural Fire Service.

***Please refer to the SFF Fire Management Plan for further information.**

Economic Benefits Modelling

In 2017 Lawrence Consulting was commissioned by the Event to undertake an assessment of the economic impact of Strawberry Fields 2016, together with the associated visitor impact, on the Berrigan Shire, and beyond. Lawrence Consulting has significant consultancy experience in undertaking economic and statistical research and analysis and the production of marketable economic reports and has produced similar work for Byron Bay Bluesfest, and large scale TripleJ music events.

This modelling identified a total impact of \$1.2million in the Berrigan Shire and \$2.5million in the Greater Region as a result of the Event, and we only expect these figures to increase as the event grows in patronage in future years.

***Please refer to the SFF Economic Impact Assessment for further information.**

Increase in Community Funding

The Festival does more than just host an event, it also provides a platform for small local not for profit & community groups to pitch their ideas and wishes in the form of a Community Grants Program.

In 2016 the Event proudly donated over \$15,000 worth of grants to local causes. In 2017, the Event is excited to increase the level of funding to over \$25,000 after raising additional funds through an onsite Community BBQ and merchandise sales. In 2018 the Event will pledge a minimum of \$35,000 towards the Community Grants Fund.

***Please refer to the Community Grants section of the Event Plan for further information.**

Operational Management

Event Directors

The Event Directors have overall responsibility for the design and operation of the event, and overall responsibility to monitor the festival's contracted suppliers and service providers. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Making operational decisions and authorizing expenditure
- Ensuring sufficient resources to achieve compliance with legislative and Berrigan Council conditions
- Attending all necessary consultations and leading the dialogue with the key Stakeholders including the Berrigan Shire Council, the New South Wales Police, Fire Authority and local residents
- Chairing Strawberry Fields management meetings and creating an open and supportive working environment to maximize the abilities and efforts of the key management team

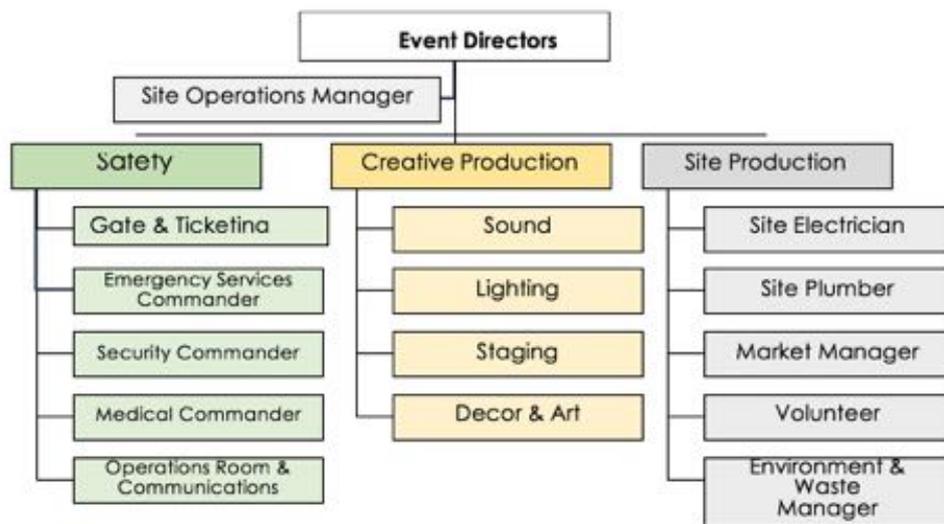
Key Management Team

Over the past 3-4 years the Strawberry Fields Management Team has remained consistent and this has led to successful management systems being implemented and refined.

This stability is key to ensuring that the event is operated in a safe and planned manner and with strong relationships with all Stakeholders the Strawberry Fields Management Team once again come together in 2017.

Role	Name/Company
Event Directors	Tara Benney, Bill Staughton, Elliot Rothfield
Site Operations & Event Manager	Jeff Moss
Emergency Response Coordinator	Matthew Wood – Ranwood Solutions
Production Manager	Thad Robertson - Bareawe
Fire Commander	Bob Barks – Firetac Australia
Medical Commander	Colbrow Medical – Contact TBC
Water Safety Manager	Stan Wall – Lifeguarding Australia
Environment and Waste Manager	Di Hartung – Greenfest Solutions
Bar Manager/Licensee	Barcraft Events – Contact TBC
Traffic (Internal) Manager	Alex Arnold
Vendors Manager	Zoe Rabb
Front Gate Processing Manager	Eventbrite – Contact TBC

Organisational Structure



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Organisational Infrastructure

Event Operations Centre (EOC)

The Event Operations Room manages the everyday running of the Event.

All communications regarding the running of the event will come in and out through the Operations room. The room will be staffed 18 hours a day/night during the running of the event, where it will manage an Operations Log, 2-way radio distribution and maintenance, issue weather reports and answer general questions relating to the event.

All Key Managers will seek the advice of the Operations Room to help manage their own affairs in relation to general Site specifics.

Emergency Co-ordination Center (ECC)

For detailed information please refer SFF Emergency (Firetac Australia) Management Plan.

The ECC will be staffed 24 hours a day from the commencement of the event until the end of the event. All Security, Safety, Policing, Fire and Medical response matters will be coordinated through this room, where each incident will be logged and each job deployed accordingly. The Event Emergency Response Co-ordinator will be positioned in the ECC where he/she will have access to uninterrupted internal and external forms of communications.

The Emergency Co-ordination Centre and the Event Emergency Response Coordinator will manage the Event and its responses in the event of an Emergency.

Medical Centre, Fire Station, Water Safety & Security

Medical

For detailed information please refer SFF Medical (Colbrow Medical) Management Plan.

The Event will have a fully equipped Medical Centre operational throughout the entire duration of the event. Consisting of a range of Medical Professionals, this Centre will respond, retrieve and give patients the treatment they require and will have a 24 hour MAT. Ambulance Victoria have also been engaged to provide dedicated service and will be onsite at peak times.

Fire

For detailed information please refer SFF Fire (Firetac Australia) Management Plan.

The Events Fire Station will also be fully functioning throughout the entire duration of the event. Constant patrolling of the campgrounds and event area will ensure the safety of all persons and enforcement of total fire ban throughout the festival. The Fire team also ensure Emergency access routes are kept clear at all times.

Water Safety

For detailed information please refer SFF Water Activities (Firetac Australia) Plan.

In 2017, we will be continuing our relationship with Lifeguard Services Australia as the key provider of water management facilities at the festival. The scale of facilities will be increased to adequately address the site requirements and increased capacity.

The borders of the proposed venue include a section of direct frontage onto the Murray River. Swimming will be available to patrons during daylight hours from a dedicated safe swimming point. This swimming point will be setup to provide the safest possible access for patron swimming based on the natural attributes of the area. It will be attended at all daylight hours by multiple lifeguards with Senior First Aid and a minimum Cert III in Aquatic Search & Rescue, supported by Quick Response Boats. At night time the area will be closed off, lit, and patrolled by security guards to prevent patron swimming.

Security

For detailed information please refer: SFF Security Plan: Author: NSA Security

NSA Security managed the Event for the first time in 2015 and was a great addition to the Event as a whole. Crowd understanding and great mobility ensured a safe and incident free event.

At any one time a minimum of 25 professional security officers will be on duty, patrolling the perimeter, gate entry, primary traffic intersections, and festival area. Security personnel will be in constant 2-way radio contact with the venue's site office and ECC, first-aid officer and event supervisors and will be advised to act at their own discretion.

Areas within the scope of security responsibility include but are not limited to:

- Patron admission
- Summoning of emergency services
- Handling of patrons displaying anti-social or disruptive behavior
- Effective and efficient entry-exit management
- Physical placement of security personnel

Professional security officials will determine an underage patron's admissibility based on these criteria. Under no circumstances will Event Staff influence employed security services' discretion of a patron's eligibility for entry or discretion of a patron's ejection from the venue.

The Event has worked hard in the past five years to cultivate a culture of respect, honesty and cooperation amongst our patrons, and believe the audiences we attract are distinct from those who attend single day commercial urban festivals. As a result, the security issues we experience are equally distinct from such events, and are insignificant by comparison.

Trespassing onto property

In 2016 there were minimal trespassing incidents at the Event, mostly due to the highly mobile Security Guards who independently patrolled the perimeters with Quad bikes. If caught Trespassing the person is advised to turn around and go back the way you came. They are instructed that if they return they will be handed over the NSW Police.

Information Centre and Helper Huts

The Information Centre is often the first place of call for many patrons either seeking general information regarding the Event itself or to inform the Event Staff of a “situation”.

The Information Centre can be the focal point of the event and is so positioned accordingly. From a leaking water tap to a Medical Emergency, the function of this Centre is to be a liaison between the Event Management and Staff and its Patrons. Helper Huts are positioned in the Camp Areas and serve as satellite Information Centres as such, however have a larger part to play in the Emergency Response Coordination of the Event.

Some of the general information that is provided at the centre includes:

- Event Maps indicating stages, Amenities and Camping roads
- Event Programming Schedules
- Bus and Train Timetables
- Waste Management Ethos
- Weather updates and warnings
- Information regarding the general Shire
- Notice board for the Public to communicate with other people at the event

Communications

Event Organisers will prepare an internal communications report after a site visit identifying the need for proposed improved signal quality and to determine the type of communications equipment required.

2-Way Digital Radio

Internal Event Communications will operate through 2 way Digital Radios. The radios are programmed with private frequencies through a private 2 way radio company, thus not allowing any external interference with Operations.

The internal 2 way Radio system will have UHF and Digital Duplex Repeaters ensuring the entire site received coverage. This is critical in any efficient running of both the Event and any Emergency Response.

Example of proposed Radio Channels:

Radio Channel	Department	Purpose
1	ECC	The Emergency coordination Centre filters calls for Safety, Security, Fire and Medical
2	Operations	Main event channel used for information feeding to all other channels

3	Site	For the building and running of logistics and infrastructure
4	Production	For use of PA, Lighting and staging crews
5	Security	Internal Security comms for Security contractor
6	Waste	Isolated channel for all items related to waste and cleaning
7	Traffic/Campgrounds	Internal traffic and Campground marshals
8	Arts Creative	For Artistic build
9	Info Centre/Artist Services	Both low use channels for low level discussion internally.
10	Spare	For discussion that may take up air space
11	Private	For off line discussion

Internet

Internet will be provided on a limited basis for Event Staff only. A boosted signal will allow coverage in the EOC and the ECC only. Providing live weather, potential warnings and risks, supplier information and internal communications between offices will also help with a smoother running of the event.

External Communications

Both the EOC and the ECC will be provided with mobile phones and a boosted signal. These phones and their corresponding phone numbers will be given to all Stakeholders and nearby Landowners in case they require speaking to Event Management. These phones will be manned at all times of operation. **Phone Number to be provided closer to the Event date.*

A satellite phone will also be available in the ECC, Medical Centre and Fire Station. Again, this ensures complete coverage in the event of an Emergency.

Public Address System

There will be several PA Systems with the capability of “Hot Mics” available to the Event Commander. If a clear and direct message needs to be quickly spread to the Event Public, then doing so through the Public Address System is the most effective way. All entertainment will be stopped once the “Hot Mic” is engaged.

Megaphones will also be present at the event to ensure the far campgrounds are receiving the same messaging as the Main Event Area. However, it is envisaged that the PA system will effectively reach all areas of the event.



“Police were happy with the majority of festival revellers who behaved well, enjoyed the festival safely and respected other attendees,” Inspector John Aichinger said.

- Cobram Courier, “Revellers Praised”, Wednesday 23 November

Event Infrastructure

Toilets

A number of individual Event Toilets, including wheelchair accessible toilets will be brought to the venue and serviced by a supplier. Each toilet will have hand basin washing facilities, paper towel and lighting. The Toilets will be situated within the Event Area, the Camping areas and all Back of House Areas for Staff.

The Building code and Environmental Health Officer will offer advice to toilet numbers however the Event will be using these figures as a minimum.

- 1 single toilet unit for every 50 female patrons
- 1 single toilet or Urinal for every 100 male patrons
- 2 unisex Accessible Toilets and washbasin

Regular maintenance and cleaning will be done by dedicated Event Staff; ensuring toilets are at a high standard at all times.

Drinking Water

There will be a number of free potable drinking water stations situated around the Event, both within the Event entertainment area and the Camping Area. This water will be delivered by a local supplier, stored in holding tanks and then distributed throughout the site via a temporary plumbing system.

The supply of water will be uninterrupted to ensure there is supply of water at all times. Clear messaging through signage will promote the idea of water consumption and also water preservation, in terms of making sure taps are not left running.

Electricity

The Event will utilise stand-alone electrical Generators that distribute power effectively across the site. Each Gen Set is bundled, self-contained and run on Diesel. Back-up Gen sets will also be available in the unlikely event of generator breaking down. A team of qualified Electricians will be managing the entire Electrical department of the Event ensuring the following:

- All electrical equipment will be installed, tagged, tested and maintained in accordance with industry standards.
- That adequate lighting is safely provided during the hours of darkness to facilitate the safe entry and egress and working environment for all Staff before and after the Event.
- All equipment that is exposed to the elements will be suitable constructed and protected.
- All generators will be in an area inaccessible to patrons and a safe distance from patron space. The respective area will be secured with Temporary Fencing and monitored by Security.
- The Event Electrical Team will be on site 24 hours for the duration of the event.

Waste Management

For detail please refer to the SFF Waste Management Plan.

The Events feels very strongly about the Environment and the waste that the Event has the potential to create. The “leave no trace” policy will be adapted and an education process for both Staff and Patrons of Environmental Harm reduction policies will be done.

Camping

As with any multi day Event, Camping is a big area in which to focus on and all patrons will camp on the premise. Patrons spend approximately 50% of their Event time at their Campsite or other people’s campsite. Thus, the Campgrounds will be marked out allowing patrons ample space, a place to park their car and allowing easy access to all Amenities. Internal Traffic Marshalls will assist in this.

There will be several Amenity blocks within the campgrounds that will have surrounding clearances to allow ease of sight and access. There will also be several waste stations within the Campgrounds were Patrons are encouraged to deposit their waste accordingly. These blocks will be lit with Lighting Towers at night time.

There will be a total ban on portable Generators and gas stoves, Lanterns and Candles.

All internal Roads will be clearly marked out in a grid formation (pending on lay of the land) in consideration for Emergency Vehicle access and patron safety. All roads will be patrolled to keep them free of any parking or stopping.

Accessibility

The Event will feature a camping area suitable for wheelchair access. A designated Unisex Disabled Access toilet will be available within a camping area and within the Entertainment area. All paths, walkways, egress points and entry points will allow for wheelchair access.

Should any further assistance be required the Event will do everything it possibly can to assist, including answering questions through the website and social media.

Signage

The Event will feature sufficient signage to educate and encourage Patrons on certain types of behaviour, including respect for each other and respect for the environment. Also signage indicating the “do’s and don’ts” including “No Glass” Etc. will be highly visible.

There will be sufficient signage for all amenities, stage and entertainment areas, drinking water and also for Campgrounds. Traffic signage will also be highly visible to those entering the property along with the conditions of entry.

Emergency Assembly Areas will have signage indicating patrons of where to go in the case of an emergency and there will be consultation with all Emergency Stakeholders as to sufficient signage for a range of positive messaging throughout the event.

Food and Non-Food Vendors

As with all multi day, camping Events there must be Food and Drink available to the Public. To ensure that this managed appropriately there are some strict guidelines and regulations in which to trade within.

All successful Food applicants must have a current registration under the relevant Food Act and the relevant NSW Fire Total Fire Ban exemption for trade. It is the responsibility of each individual Trader to comply with all safety regulations, including the correct washing up requirements, Gas Storage requirements, Food storage requirements and food hygiene requirements.

All Food traders will be checked by our Fire team which will have a checklist of requirements and compliance. Each Vendor will have a Dry Chemical Fire Extinguisher and a fire Blanket (AS 2444). Any Trader that does not comply and or is not at a standard for safe practice will not be granted approval for opening. Some Checklist requirements include:

- Gas Storage (LPG) compliant
- Approval from Council to sell Food
- Current Food registration
- Correct Storage facilities
- NSW Fire Permits
- Waste Management

There will be a dedicated Markets manager ensuring entry, positioning and trading times are all managed correctly. The Event Welcomes applications from Local food vendors.

Marquees and Temporary Structures

Any Temporary structure over 100m² will be within the Development Application. All Marquees will be pegged or weighted in accordance to the Engineers specifications which will be available to Council.

Infrastructure and Facilities List

Infrastructure and Facilities List				
Product	Type/Style	Quantity	Dimensions	Notes
Fencing	Temporary		1.8m x 2.4m	Back of House fencing
Fencing	Bike Rack		2.1m x .9m	Queuing
Toilets	Portaloos	120	1m x 1m	
Toilet	Disabled	2	2m x2m	
Marquee	White Framed	4	6m x3m	Misc
Marquee	White Framed	2	12m x 6m	Waste Tent/Dancewise

Marquee	White Framed	3	9m x6m	Front Gate/Medical Tent
Taps	Spring Loaded	20		Drinking Water
Vendors	Food Trucks + Vans	10	5m x 2m	Contained
Staging	Scaff/Truss	3	6m x 4m	Performers Area
Audio	Ground Stacked	8 boxes per stage	n/a	PA System
Lighting	LED moving Lights	12	n/a	Stage Lighting
Portable Building	Site Shed	3 (TBC)	3m x 6m	Office/Comms
Bins	Mini Skips, 240l	tbc	3m x3m	Rubbish/waste
Signage	Corflute	40	.6m x .4m	Directional/Information
Generators	Silenced	11	1m x2m	Diesel Silenced

Noise Control

By implementing techniques successfully used in prior years and after consultation with sound design professionals, staff will continuously seek to minimize and contain any noise produced from the event. We believe that over four years the sound containment strategies that we have developed have significantly reduced noise levels.

Through discrete placement of stages to take advantage of natural amphitheatres and audio barriers, sound should not interfere with the beneficial use of those neighbouring properties which are residential. Outputs will be monitored always for compliance with reasonable standards. We have also restructured and rescheduled late-night entertainment to include periods of complete silence and cut back on overall hours of operation.

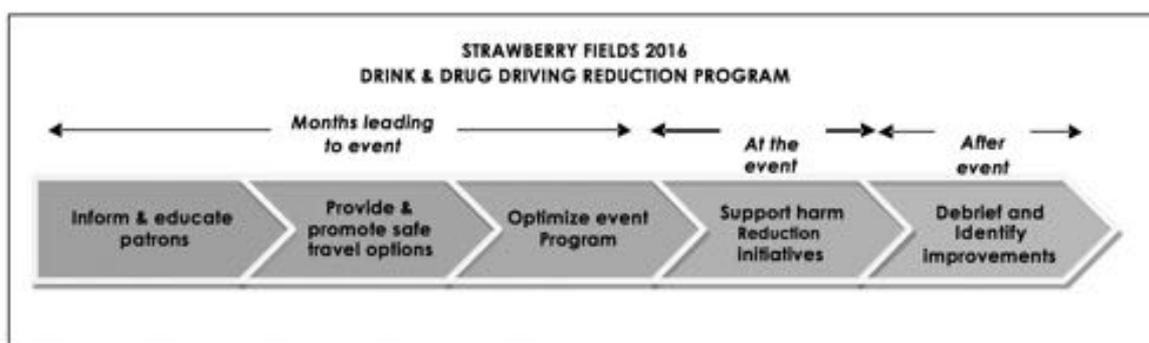
A letter drop will be performed in the week prior to the event notifying all residents within 3km of the event program and a direct contact number for 24-hour access to the Operations Room who can convey any message to the Site Operations Manager and Event Directors. Wherever possible, measures will be made to compensate for the inconvenience.

Road Safety Initiatives

In 2015 and again in 2016 the Festival implemented several initiatives to ensure Patrons left the event safely and with an educated understanding of what may have been in their System. Some people however were charged with Drug and Drink driving offences by Police.

While those testing positive represent only a marginal segment (less than 1%) of the attendee base, the event fully supports the activities of the Victorian and NSW Police and will do everything within its power to prevent patrons from engaging in any illegal activity whatsoever.

The Event plans to continue to ramp up all possible efforts on this front in the interests of the safety of both its patrons and the broader community. This following outlines Strawberry Music Group's approach to addressing drink and drug driving at the 2017 edition of Strawberry Fields. The Event has identified a robust chain of initiatives which will be implemented in the lead up the event, at the event itself, and after the event.



Inform and Educate Patrons

The Event will once again work closely with NSW Police to identify the best approach and wording with messaging. The Event will continue to broadcast loud and clear via all available channels that Strawberry Fields completely prohibits and strongly discourages the use or possession of any illegal substance, as well as unsafe driving practices.

The Event recognizes the power of social media in communicating this message. With over 45,000 Facebook fans and thousands interacting with its Facebook posts each day, these channels provide a huge opportunity for the event to advertise a tough stance on responsible driving practices to its patrons and beyond.

In addition to Facebook and the website, strict responsible driving messaging is included on all ticket terms and conditions of sale, entrance gate signage, and in any media articles or interviews where representatives of Strawberry Music Group Pty Ltd are asked for comment.

Provide and Promote Safe Travel Options

As both an environmental and safe driving initiative, Strawberry Fields will once again charter multiple shuttle buses from the Melbourne CBD to the festival venue and back. These buses have proven incredibly successful and only increase in popularity each year. In 2017 it is hoped nearly 33% of patrons will arrive by Bus.

Year	Patrons using Charter Bus
2014	0
2015	600
2016	1500
2017 (Projected Target)	2200

Optimise Event Programming

In 2015 the musical programs continued throughout Sunday night with a range of live and chill out music for patrons able to remain on site. In 2016, in the interests of encouraging rest and safe driving practices, main music programming throughout the venue ceased by 8pm, with only small, low level relaxing music from 8pm through to 11:59pm. This proved to be successful in managing fatigue. However it will be discussed further with VICPOL ways in which to further reduce driver fatigue. Ideas at this stage include a Driver Reviver stop within an hour of leaving the event.

Bar operating times will again be optimised to discourage unsafe driving practices. In 2017 the proposed bar operating times are as follows: (TBC)

Friday 17 November: Open 12:00pm / Close 12am

Saturday 18 November: Open 10:00am / Close 12am

Sunday 19 November: Open 10:00am / Close 7pm

Support Harm Reduction Concepts

DanceWize

DanceWize is a harm reduction-focused, peer education program that provides information about safer partying and safer drug use, and hosts a chill space at 12–15 dance events every year. DanceWize attends a range of indoor and outdoor events, which are categorised as club, commercial or community events and which differ in size from 500 to 45,000 attendees and in duration from a single day or night, to five days/four nights.

The DanceWize team—comprising staff employed by Harm Reduction Victoria (HRV), voluntary Key Peer Educators (KPEs) and voluntary Roving Crew members (Rovers)—provides a unique service at events. Their chill space serves as a center-point for Festival goers to access up to date

and relevant information about safer drug use and related issues, general health supplies (e.g. condoms, lube, sunscreen and earplugs) and individual support and assistance.

DanceWize will be operating a harm reduction space at Strawberry Fields 2017, and distributing valuable information to attendees concerning their rights and responsibilities, health and safety, in particular the importance of responsible driving practices.

BMF

“BMF” is an alcohol education and testing service aimed at empowering young people to make safe and responsible decisions about their drinking. At the core of this service is providing and encouraging voluntary breath testing in a positive social context.

BMF will be in place at the Strawberry Fields gate to provide drug and alcohol tests to all departing patrons to ensure that they are not driving under the influence, a threat to themselves, their passengers or any other person on the roads. The breathalyser units used are of the highest quality and provided by Dreger, commonly used by law enforcement globally. They are calibrated regularly to ensure accurate readings. BMF staff is trained by Alcocups.com drug and alcohol education kits. This ensures that anyone facilitating breath testing out in the field has the knowledge and expertise to help educate and inform patrons with valuable facts and information relating to the test being conducted.

BMF will be based out of the Information Tent at Strawberry Fields throughout the event, distributing both responsible driving information and selling alcohol and drug self-testing kits.

On the Sunday of the event where patron egress commences, BMF will be stationed at the gates of the festival to:

- Display prominent responsible driving signage
- Promote the uptake of alcohol and drug self-testing kits
- Brief each departing driving on the importance of responsible and sober driving

Strawberry Fields is committed to harm reduction, and accordingly will pay for the first 500 drivers leaving the event to receive a complimentary breathalyser test prior to departure.

Stakeholder Consultation

The Event is always working with VICPOL and NSW Police in its approach to safer roads and a wider safer community. All of the above initiatives are in consultation with all Stakeholders and one single initiative on its own would invariably fail. A collaborative approach is needed to ensure targets are met in relation to road safety.

Community Grants

The Event is proud to have been held in the Berrigan Shire since 2011, and is incredibly grateful to the residents who have welcomed the festival and its attendees' year after year.

To continue to drive positive lasting impact in the Shire, the Event proudly introduced the Strawberry Fields Community Grants program in 2015. By setting aside a portion of every ticket sale to the festival and fundraising through activities on-site such as the Wildlands Community BBQ, a total grant pool of just over \$25,000 will be distributed to the following causes to fund projects in 2017.

Biralee Pre School - \$4,000

Biralee Pre School is a not for profit volunteer committee run early childhood learning centre and after school/ vacation care provider (OOSH). It provides quality preschool education for over 60 families in and around Finley.

In 2016 Biralee received a grant to run a sustainability program, which was hailed as a great success. It was such a positive purpose within the Berrigan Shire, as it brought people together for something that everyone is very passionate about, but may not have been quite aware of what to do about it. Set them up for a future, and to then teach others.

The 2017 Strawberry Fields grant will allow Biralee to run several community based workshops on sustainable living (i.e. composting, worm farms, fruit fly control, keeping poultry, vegetable growing and building/landscaping with recycled and reclaimed materials) and to construct a bush tucker garden, purchase plants, plant garden beds, and involve others from the community in the development of these projects.

Tocumwal Public School - \$4,000

Tocumwal Public School is a primary school with approximately 160 students located in Tocumwal NSW.

The grant funds will allow the school to continue to run a program delivered by the Bluearth Foundation – a national not-for-profit organisation whose focus is to create and maintain student well-being through physical activity. The Blue Earth approach utilises movement, motivation and learning to support, encourage, enable and challenge active living. It not only teaches children the enjoyment and fun of being physically active in a non-competitive environment, it draws on their feelings, reactions and thoughts and draws key developmental learning back into the classroom settings and into their lives.

All teachers at Tocumwal Public School will be involved in the program and will be trained in the Bluearth approach ensuring the long term sustainability of the program.

As well as running the program within the school, information and practical sessions will be run for families, community members and community groups within the Berrigan Shire. This will assist with ensuring that the Bluearth philosophies are heard throughout the community and Berrigan Shire.

Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce - \$4,000

The Chamber of Commerce are representative body of the local businesses in Tocumwal, formed to forward projects for the betterment of Tocumwal and district and to develop civic pride.

The grant funds will be used to promote the various events and activities that occur in Tocumwal by installing flagpoles and flag holders around the town entrances to display flags which currently cannot be displayed.

Tocumwal Pre-School - \$4,000

Tocumwal Pre-School provides a valuable local service and has been a long time supporter of the festival. The grant funds will be used to establish a permaculture garden at the school and educate students on sustainability practices.

Tocumwal Optimists - \$3,000

Tocumwal Optimists, formerly Tocumwal Soroptimists, raises funds to support projects in our local community (e.g. primary schools for awards and other activities, friends of Tocumwal Library, family pool memberships, interstate drought assistant, Angel Flight). In accordance with our ideals, we are seeking funds to continue our supportive economic role to the pool and sustain what we feel is an important social and economic resource for families.

The grant funds will be used to provide funds for disadvantaged families to purchase season tickets to the Tocumwal pool.

Tocumwal Foreshore Committee - \$2,750

Tocumwal foreshore committee is a non-profit organisation consisting of a small enthusiastic group who are responsible for the area from the town beach to the bridge. They are responsible for maintenance, refurbishment & replacement of all improvements throughout the area. We also run free entertainment & outdoor movies in the park during the summer months.

Last winter Tocumwal experienced devastating floods along with the rest of the Riverina area. A 54 metre section of fencing which secured the foreshore beach from straying stock was washed away. This area is typically visited by tourists as well as local families for swimming, picnicking or walking.

The grant funds will be used to repair and rebuild the damaged section, restoring it to its former glory and vastly improving the amenity of this public space.

St Joseph's Finley - \$2,400

St Joseph's Primary school provides education for students from Kindergarten to Year 6. Students come from a variety of backgrounds and religions.

The grant funds will allow the school to run a luncheon to improve the well-being of many of the members of our wider community. The luncheon will bring together community service clubs (Lions, Rotary, Men's Shed, Apex) community volunteers, elderly, the disadvantaged and disabled

(Yallambee) from the Berrigan Shire. Food will be prepared by students using produce from our school garden and cooked in the canteen kitchen. This luncheon would be a perfect opportunity to give thanks to those organisations who support our school and the wider community. It would assist in encouraging interaction from various sectors of our community potentially breaking down barriers and providing the opportunity for future relationships between key players.

Berrigan Country Women's Association - \$1,500

Berrigan CWA Branch in the Sturt Group & has 22 members meeting twice a month to plan monthly activities in a common place e.g. craft days, sourcing guest speakers, morning tea for cancer research.

The grant funds will allow Berrigan CWA to replace chairs at the facility which have not been updated since 1964. This will allow more people to attend CWA functions and engage in the activities that CWA provides for the community.

DRAFT

Local Media Coverage of Event

1.1 Southern Riverina News – 23 November 2016

PAGE 8—'Cobram Courier', Wednesday, November 30, 2016

Festival wonderland

An ethereal wonderland of sight and sound greeted people from all over Australia at the eighth annual Strawberry Fields Festival, held in Tocumwal recently.

Despite concerns the festival's Lower River Rd site wouldn't be ready in time due to recent flood damage, the popular music and arts event attracted a record crowd of 6000 people.

An expanded program saw gates open on Thursday, November 17 (a day earlier than usual) with live music, interactive art pieces, workshops and market stalls running through to Sunday evening.

With a focus on creating a unique atmosphere, incorporating art structures and décor with the musical program, attendees were treated to large-scale installations built by Australian and international artists.

World-renowned collective The Pier Group, based in Nevada in the United States and led by Matthew Schultz, created a stunning, large-scale bamboo and timber kokoborra.

This year also saw the introduction of the Wildland Gallery, a creative hub featuring performances, live painting and artist talks from some of Australia's best up-and-coming and established artists.

There was even a skate park.

Organisers said the event far exceeded expectations.

"We almost had to cancel



In the spirit: Thousands flocked to the music stages at Strawberry Fields festival.

the show due to major floods only weeks earlier, so to see 6000 people dancing, swimming and laughing together on this land is a blessing in itself," festival director Tara Benney said.

Despite a heatwave and severe thunderstorms, Ms Benney said incidents were minimal and quickly addressed.

"It was a fantastic vibe, and we are so grateful to the small army of hardworking staff and volunteers who make it happen," she said.

Held in Berrigan Shire since 2011, Ms Benney said Strawberry Fields organisers were "exceedingly grateful" to the residents and authorities who wel-

comed the festival and its attendees year after year.

"We are thankful for the efforts of NSW and Victorian police in enforcing road safety entering and exiting the event," she said.

Ms Benney said the future of the festival was all about community.

In 2015, the group behind the Strawberry Fields Community Grants program.

By setting aside a portion of every festival ticket sold, grants of up to \$5000 are made available to support initiatives to enhance community economic development and "improve the quality of everyday life in the region."

"This year, we managed to fundraise over \$2000 for our local community fund through showers and a barbecue stall, which were all staffed by volunteers from Tocumwal and surrounding area," Ms Benney said.

"A festival of this size is the same as a regional town — there are always going to be operational challenges servicing it, but there are thousands of learnings, lasting memories and relationships being forged at the same time.

"Our job is to cultivate that in a positive direction."

—Sophie Burge



Cooling off: A lifeguard-patrolled beach on the Murrumbidgee River was the perfect way for festival-goers to cool off.



New feature: One of the highlights this year was a specially-built skateboard ramp.



Sight to see: Colourful structures once again featured at the festival.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It's time to acknowledge this is an excellent event

On Thursday evening (November 17) Col Jones, Mark Baldwin, Sergio Rodopoli and Ross Bodey were invited to tour the Strawberry Fields Festival site as representatives of the Tocumwal Community Development Committee, which received a \$5000 grant from Strawberry Music Group for the drawing of working plans for the top floor restaurant of the Tocumwal Information Centre.

It was an eye opener! Ross returned on Saturday evening to hear the music and get a feeling of the festival.

The music was 'doof doof' music and not quite to my taste but many happy people were dancing and listening to it for the 3.5 hours I was there.

In that time of walking around the entire site I did not see one person that was noticeably under the influence of any drug or alcohol. Everyone seemed to be very happy to enjoy the moment, as you do when one is among a group of young people.

The light and laser technology

was amazing and really made the night enjoyable.

Many patrons were dressed up in costumes and had LED lights strung around their body and added to the atmosphere.

A staff of 20 were responsible for rubbish collection and recycling. This rubbish was constantly collected and sorted in a designated recycling area on the site.

I inspected the recycling centre in action which was continuous through the time I was present and took some photos of the team.

Walking through the food court area I noticed a 20-year-old girl with a bag and mechanical hand picking up rubbish while a site and trailer constantly picked up full bags from the rubbish bins and replaced them with clean bags. This girl was still at it when I saw her an hour later.

Many people volunteer, about 350, to do eight hours work in various areas and this qualifies them for a free ticket. Not free, of course, but the value is there.

Toilets are a constant usage story when there are 6000 present and the recycle team also had the

toilets while Crawford's of Tocumwal was refilling the toilets with fresh water on a constant basis.

Viking, the toilet supplier, had a truck constantly draining the toilets around the site.

I am not sure how many toilets there were, but at least 100, I think.

Gerard Mannix of GM Fuels was constantly filling the 15 generators with diesel to keep the power going.

Many local businesses benefit from this festival to the tune of \$200 000 to \$300 000, plus some.

More than 20 St John's Ambulance staff manned a field hospital and emergency stations and said that most of their work was foot injuries owing to the fact that many patrons walked in bare feet.

The hospital was in constant use but the head paramedic said they had not needed to have anyone evacuated from the site last year with one exception.

They do have drug and alcohol patients, but a small percentage overall.

We were surprised and very impressed with the massive or-

ganisation and planning that is required for such an event.

Security is a most important component of the organisation.

This was most evident on entering the site with security controlling traffic, parking and crowd control.

A designated swimming area in the river was manned by lifeguards on the bank and in boats.

Food and drink stalls were prominent with a huge range of cuisine available at reasonable prices.

Five main sound stages were constructed using local and recycled timber.

Many other art pieces were scattered around the site and some of the structures were magnificent.

Camping areas and a tent village were designed to accommodate a sellout crowd of more than 6000 festival attendees. Tents for 6000 cover a huge area.

When one understands that most of the site was under water about a month ago this was an amazing task.

Col, Mark and Ross were both heavily involved in running the

Tuppall Food and Fibre Festival in 2014 and had a great appreciation of the effort, infrastructure and planning involved in this event — not to mention the cost!

This Strawberry Fields Festival was little different to Woodstock or Hanging Rock and others that were run in the 1960 and '70s and instead of many people criticising they should open their memory and see that they likely did similar things for a good time when they were in their teens and 20s.

When you look closely at this festival and think clearly one comes to the conclusion that it is much better to have an organised festival with good entertainment and almost perfect facilities to handle any mishaps, misjudgments or experiments by the young people present than to have people experimenting with drugs or alcohol down the river or in the back streets of our local towns.

Because, if you are a realist and you do not put your head in the sand, unfortunately you can find drugs anywhere and in any town locally.

—Col Jones and Ross Bodey
Berrigan Shire councillors

STRAWBERRY FIELDS FESTIVAL 2016

BIG EVENT

'Eye opener' tour

A colourful wonderland of sight and sound greeted people from all over Australia at the eighth annual Strawberry Fields Festival, held in Tocumwal at the weekend.

The popular music and arts event attracted a record crowd of 6000 patrons.

An expanded program saw gates open on Thursday — a day earlier than usual — with live music, interactive art pieces, workshops and market stalls running through to Sunday evening.

This year saw the introduction of the Wildlands Gallery — a creative hub featuring performances, live painting and artist talks from some of Australia's best up-and-coming and established artists.

A skate park was also built specifically for the event, which organisers said far exceeded their expectations.

Despite a heatwave and severe thunderstorms, incidents were minimal and quickly addressed.

"We almost had to cancel the show due to major floods only weeks earlier, so to see 6000 people dancing, swimming and laughing together on this land is a blessing in itself," festival director Tara Benney said.

"It was a fantastic vibe, and we are so grateful to the small army of hardworking staff and volunteers who make it happen."

Ms Benney said the record crowd assisted in providing



■ Echo Drama was a hit on Thursday night.

a healthy boost to the Strawberry Fields Community Grants program, which was established last year.

In 2015 grants of up to \$5000 were made available to support initiatives aimed to enhance community economic development and "improve the quality of everyday life in the region".

"This year, we managed to raise over \$25,000 for our local community fund through showers and a barbecue stall, which were all staffed by volunteers from Tocumwal and surrounding area," Ms Benney said.

— Sophie Burge

As beneficiaries of the Strawberry Field Festival in Tocumwal, members of the Tocumwal Community Development Committee decided to experience the event first hand this year.

Col Jones and Ross Bodey, who are also Berrigan Shire councillors, and Mark Baldwin and Sergio Redegalli were invited to tour the site on Thursday night, and some chose to return to see the event in full swing on Saturday.

The group received a \$5500 grant from the event's community fund last year, to assist with concept planning of a top floor restaurant at the Tocumwal Information Centre.

Cr Bodey said the event was an "eye opener" and while the music was not to his taste, the event and its operation was a credit to the organisers.

"Everyone seemed to be very happy to enjoy the moment, as you do when one is amongst a group of young people," Cr Bodey said.

Cr Bodey said he was impressed by the efforts put in to

waste collection, and recycling, by both organisers and patrons of the festival.

He also commended the operation of difficult aspects like toilet facilities, providing power through generators, medical services, catering and safety including the provision of lifeguards for those swimming in the river.

Cr Jones said they were also impressed with the temporary infrastructure utilised at the site.

"Five main sound stages were constructed using local and recycled timber," he said.

"Many other art pieces were scattered around the site and some of the structures were magnificent."

"Camping areas and a tent village were designed to accommodate a self-set crowd of over 6000 festival attendees."

"When one understands that most of the site was under water about a month ago this was an amazing task."

Police happy with behaviour

Police have commended revellers and organisers following a four-day police operation at the Strawberry Fields Festival at the weekend.

Officers from the Deniliquin command and the NSW Police Dog Unit conducted a high-visibility operation targeting anti-social behaviour, alcohol-related crime and drug offences.

During the operation, officers conducted 750 random drug and alcohol tests around the Tocumwal area, with preliminary results showing 31 positive indications by drivers to illicit substances.

Police issued 23 cannabis cautions to attendees, and charged 27 people with possess prohibited drug offences and five people with supply prohibited drug offences.

Deniliquin Police Local Area Command Inspector John Aichinger said the first ever provision of on-site user pays police was a positive direction for the event this year.

He said while the charge statistics are still

too high, overall police were happy with the behaviour of festival goers.

"However, the 27 drug charges, 23 cannabis cautions issued and five charges of supplying drugs shows there are still some who think they can get away with possessing, transporting and trading illicit drugs."

Insp Aichinger said drugs seized throughout the weekend included cannabis, ketamine, LSD, methylamphetamine (ice), MDMA (ecstasy) and cocaine.

He said among those charged with supply were a 17 year-old girl and 21 year-old man, who were stopped by police on the festival site about 10.25pm Saturday.

Police allege when they searched the pair they found 122 'star' shaped-ecstasy tablets, ice, cannabis, cash and small plastic bags.

Each was charged with two counts of supply prohibited drug (indictable quantity), possess prohibited drug, and deal with property proceeds of crime. The man is expected to appear in Finley court and the

girl in children's court, both in February.

Other incidents of note:

● Drug detection dogs indicated illicit drugs in a bag on a bus stopped by police on the Lower River Rd, Tocumwal on Thursday evening. Police subsequently allege to have found cannabis, MDMA, cocaine, and Xanax. A 25-year-old man was arrested and charged with three counts of possess prohibited drug, and two counts of supply prohibited drug (indictable quantity). He was granted conditional bail to appear in Finley court on February 2, 2017.

● A 20 year-old man was charged with two counts of supply prohibited drug and three counts of possess prohibited drug about 1pm Friday. During a search of a South Australian registered vehicle police allegedly found cannabis, a grinder, a hose and a 'cone' containing cannabis, prescription medication, ketamine, and 189 MDMA capsules. He is expected to appear in Finley court in February.

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Fundraising for a special cause

Team Moira World Challenge's Simon Kelly, Ned Hocking, Randall Jones, Ellie Jones, Teagan Peterson and Haley Knight will host an open garden in Barooga this weekend to fundraise for their trip to Sri Lanka. See page 7.



Revellers praised

By Lachlan Sharp

Police have commended revellers and organisers following a four-day police operation at the Strawberry Fields Music Festival.

Operation Strawberry Fields saw officers conducting a high-visibility operation targeting anti-social behaviour, alcohol-related crime and drug offences.

During the police operation, officers conducted 750 random drug and alcohol tests around the Tocumwal area, with preliminary results showing 31 positive indications by drivers to illicit substances.

Police issued 23 cannabis

Police say festival goers well-behaved

cautions to festival attendees, and charged 27 people with possess prohibited drug offences and five people with supply prohibited drug offences.

Deniliquin Police Local Area Command Inspector John Aichinger said overall police were happy with the behaviour of festival goers.

"Police were happy with the majority of festival revellers who behaved well, enjoyed the festival safely and respected other attendees," Insp Aichinger said.

"However, the 27 drug charges, 23 cannabis cautions issued and five charges of supplying drugs shows there are still some who think they can get away with

possessing, transporting and trading illicit drugs.

"The event organisers were very co-operative with police on the site, which was well-received by organisers, other emergency services present, and the majority of attendees.

"We will continue to work with the festival organisers who assisted with the streamlined police operation, and will target drugs, alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour at future festivals.

"Our aim is to ensure music-lovers can attend festivals and enjoy themselves in a safe, drug-free environment and ultimately,

make it back home to their loved ones safely," he said.

Strawberry Fields Festival director Tara Benney said the event, which was the eighth in its history, was a great success.

"We almost had to cancel the show due to major floods only weeks earlier, so to see 6000 people dancing, swimming and laughing together on this land is a blessing in itself," Ms Benney said.

"We also managed to fundraise over \$20 000 for our local community fund through showers and a barbecue stall, which were all

Continued on page 6.

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Crime stats drop

Police commend record Strawberry Fields crowd

Drug and drink driving offences associated with the annual Tocumwal Strawberry Fields Festival are reducing but still need some work, according to police.

Deniliquin Police Local Area Command Inspector John Aichinger said overall police were happy with the event and the behaviour of the record 6000 patrons.

But he said arrest and charge statistics show more collaborative work is needed to ensure the event is safe for everyone.

Strawberry Fields is an arts and music festival held on private property off Tocumwal's Lower River Rd.

The festival was held over four days from Thursday to Sunday.

Police operations were held in the areas surrounding the festival, on both the NSW and Victorian sides of the border.

Event organisers also provided, for the first time, on site police for the entire festival.

Insp Aichinger said the combined results saw 31 people charged with drug driving, 23 issued cannabis cautions, 27 charged with possess prohibited drug offences and five people with supply prohibited drug offences. Three people were charged with drink driving.

In comparison, there were 82 drug detection and possession charges combined over three days in 2015, as well as 34 drink driving charges issued by NSW Police.

"The event organisers were very co-operative with police on the site, which was well received by other emergency services present, and the majority of attendees," Insp Aichinger said.

"We will continue to work with the festival organisers who assisted with the streamlined police operation, and will target drugs, alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour at future festivals.

"Our aim is to ensure music lovers can attend festivals and enjoy themselves in a safe, drug free environment and ultimately, make it back home to their loved ones safely."

This increased focus on security was also noticed by Berrigan Shire Councillor Ross Bodey, who was one of four members of the Tocumwal Community Development Committee to tour the festival at the weekend.

"We were surprised and very impressed with the massive organisation and planning that is required for such an event," Cr Bodey said.

"When you look closely at this festival and think clearly, one comes to the conclusion that it is much better to have an organised festival with good entertainment and almost perfect facilities to handle any mishaps, misjudgements or experiments by the young people present than to have people experimenting with drugs or alcohol down the river or in the back streets of our local towns."

Festival director Tara Beesley said she welcomed the chance to work with police, Berrigan Shire Council and the community to put on a fantastic festival this year.

"It was great to see them (NSW Police) smiling in the crowd and interacting with patrons to promote health and safety."

■ More stories page 3