



Live and Local Working Group – meeting minutes

Date / time: Wednesday 15th December from 12pm to 1.15pm

Location: Grafton City Library

Attendees: 20 members of the wider working group + Sarah Nash (CVC Community Projects Officer) + Niño Haggith, Music NSW Regional Music Officer for Northern Rivers Region.

1. Acknowledgement of Bundjalung Country and Elders

2. **What's been happening in the wider music industry & regulatory environment that you need to know about?**
 - Musicians able to use Loading Zones
 - Dedicated live music and performance venues granted extra 60 mins trading
 - Removing high-risk terminology in reference to Music Festivals
 - 26 Nov 2021 - The Parliament of New South Wales has voted in favour of a bill that would ensure a minimum payment of \$250 for musicians performing at publicly-funded events.

3. **Professional Development workshops**

In response to the framing questions:

 - i) *What does a thriving local music scene look like?*
 - ii) *What things can realistically be changed/adapted/grown/supported to achieve that vision for the Clarence Valley?*

Group discussion (+ some written notes) raised many topics including:

- How to provide more avenues for young people to get involved in music, such as rehearsal space / access to equipment / informal hang outs where musicians can jam and make connections in the local industry.
- Educating venue owners / promoters about how gigs work (cheat sheet) and minimum award rates for musicians.
- Better knowledge of local opportunities – eg. Live Prawn Productions Inc. underwriting scheme for event promoters.
- Educating audiences about the importance of buying tickets in advance.
- Youth Week – high school battle of the bands with industry mentorship & venue buy-in leading to paid gigs.
- Youth Week / Plunge – industry conference with panel session followed by 1-2-1 sessions – access wider network, career advice, update local contacts.

- Developing the scene by widening the genres of original music presented – spoken word / rap etc
- Women in Music panel session – better representation
- How a connected and self-organised local music industry can have far-reaching positive reputational effects on a region also attractive to tourists.
- Using existing infrastructure (eg. musician-managed Facebook groups) to keep the conversation going.

Based on themes arising from the discussion, Niño will invite speakers to the PD Workshop(s) – number and locations budget dependent and ideally situated in Grafton and Yamba.

Timing is mid-Feb, either week before or week after Micro-festivals.

4. Micro-festivals

- A schedule will be published at <https://www.eventsdelivered.com.au/live-local> - acts to nominate for performance slots using form.
- Venues / dates:
GRAFTON - Friday 18th Feb
 Clocktower Hotel, Low Pressure Surf, Heart n Soul, Deosa Wholefoods, Yoohoo McPhee
YAMBA - Saturday 19th Feb
 Blanc Space, Wobbly Chook, Last Rites, Yamba Art Space, Sassafras
- Clarified performance fees: it's \$161.13 per musician for a maximum 3-hour shift – that means if you play for 45 min, each musician is paid \$161.13 (current minimum award rate for musicians).
- Currently no budget for PA rental / engineers, so venues will be asked to contribute.

5. Census

- scheduled for January – CVC will do PR
- data is powerful – please contribute by registering all your gigs or gigs you attend using the simple form at <https://www.eventsdelivered.com.au/live-local>

6. Next steps / Live Music Action Plan

- A local industry forum (musicians, venues, promoters, production professionals etc) will be convened in late Feb / early March to consider findings and recommendations arising from the PD workshops, Census and Micro-festivals.
- A Live Music Action Plan will be compiled with assistance from the live Music Office, with actions adopted by Council.