

Media Statement



February 2021

Festival of the Hills – a celebration of resilience, joy and positivity

“Our first Festival of the Hills was warmly embraced by locals and visitors alike.

‘It has shone a light on the value of free community events as an essential part of the wellbeing and recovery process from the pain and disruption of recent bushfire and pandemic events.

‘The Friday Night Opening Party at Stirling attracted families and people of all ages with over 700 attendees. There was a tremendous atmosphere of enjoyment, full of music, light, colour, and entertainment washed down with local food and drinks. It was a great way to embrace the spirit of the Fringe under Covid restrictions and Bamboozled Productions did a terrific job working with Council, performers and local businesses.

‘The Strum and Stroll event centred on Lobethal and music could be heard along the Main Street all Saturday afternoon and into the evening. Locals couldn’t get enough of the entertainment and started their own impromptu performances along the footpaths. All venues were full and over 450 people enjoyed the free concert on the lawn with wonderful artists including Various Nefarious and Runebilly Rattle getting the crowd up and dancing!

‘Feedback from locals and visitors was so good hearted and positive. What a tremendous partnership with the Adelaide Guitar Festival organisers. This could be the beginning of a beautiful relationship!

‘Discover, Play, Bikeway was a celebration of the joy of bike riding by activating the Amy Gillet Bike trail with market stalls, entertainment and bikes for hire or bring your own, but with a focus on cycling safety too. It’s a fabulous way to connect the communities of Oakbank, Woodside, Charleston and Mt Torrens and show off the natural beauty of the landscape.

‘Over three days the Festival of the Hills provided opportunities for thousands of locals and visitors to relax, recover and raise the spirits of the wider Adelaide Hills community. Resilience, joy and positivity were to be seen and heard everywhere demonstrating that those who play together in the good times will stay together in the difficult times.

‘The Festival of the Hills reinforced what a safe and connected community the Adelaide Hills is to live in, how proud locals are to share their community spaces, and how ambitious they are to do it all again sometime soon!’”

Mayor Jan-Claire Wisdom

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