

ECHUCA-MOAMA
WINTER BLUES

MEDIA RELEASE RE 2020 WINTER BLUES FESTIVAL

Peter Williams, Chair of the Winter Blues Festival today said, "We are sad to advise today that the July 2020 Echuca Moama Winter Blues Festival will not go ahead this year.

"As you know Covid-19 has turned our world on its head. The Committee has consulted with stakeholders and closely followed the directions and expectations of the State and Federal Government about the easing of lockdown rules.

The Committee left the decision to cancel as late as possible with the hope that the Covid-19 situation and provisions may have eased sufficiently by the end of July, but, it became clear that significant restrictions are likely to still be in place come Festival time."

The Winter Blues Festival has been operating on the last weekend in July for 21 years and brings more than 20,000 people to the town. Mr Williams said, "The Committee recognises that planning such a large gathering at this time is would not be wise. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to planning for the 2020 Festival. We hope that our communities continue to stay safe and well. We plan to

be back with a great line up of Blues music on 22 - 25 July 2021.”

The Winter Blues Festival is taking a financial hit of around \$30,000 as most of the planning for this year’s event had been completed prior to lockdown. We are looking at ways that we may recover some of this loss to ensure that we can plan for 2021.

Please stay in touch with developments through our website: winterblues.com.au.

Contact Person:

Peter Williams

Chair

Winter Blues Festival

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At these meetings we explored all the possible options and this week the WBF Committee made the only responsible decision left, which was to cancel the 2020 WBF.

You will know that nearly all of the preparatory work for the Festival was completed before the Covid-19 lockdown

restrictions were imposed. The Committee will therefore incur a loss of between \$25,000 - \$30,000. The Committee resolved to seek support from our supporters and sponsors this year with the aim of offsetting this debt and to allow the Committee to proceed with planning for 2021.

We would like to offer you three options:

1. You could donate all or part of your paid fees
2. Your dues could be held by the Committee towards next year's dues
3. You can provide your business's bank details to our treasurer and he will arrange to refund your dues.

In relation to the program, Revolution Print will return any pre-payments for advertisements that they have received. We are writing separately to accommodation supporters and performers. We are also approaching our sponsors to seek their ongoing support.

We thank you for your support for the Festival and wish you all the best with a healthy, safe return to trading as the Covid-19 restrictions are slowly eased.

Yours sincerely

Peter Williams

Chair

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