



FESTIVALE TO MISS 2022

On behalf of the Festival organising committee, I wish to advise that Festivale 2022 will not proceed as originally hoped.

This decision has been made having regard to our concerns around the risk of COVID cases potentially being identified in the State given the planned opening of our borders during December. Given the planning lead in time required for Tasmania's premium food, beverage and entertainment event, the committee have made the decision to cease planning for Festivale 2022.

As a not-for-profit committee, we cannot take the financial risk of planning an event for early in 2022 where there is a significant risk of us having to cancel or make significant changes close to the event. One of the main focus points for the committee is to keep Festivale as affordable as possible and as all profits from each event are used to fund future events, we cannot risk our future financially by seeking to stage an event that could result in a loss far more than our current reserve, or worse still, end up putting the health of our community and patrons at risk at a critical time.

Festivale has grown and matured into an event that is well known and loved by many. From our beginnings at the Australian Italian club in 1988, to the streets of Launceston and then to the iconic city park, Festivale is now regarded as one of the top food, beverage and entertainment events in the country. Festivale has paved the way for other events to be created, developed and prosper through our success and moving forward from what started as a multi-cultural food event. Moving to City Park allowed the introduction of alcohol to the event and a chance for vineyards, distillers and brewers to showcase their products and compliment the food and entertainment offerings. The committee are focussed on continuing to grow and develop Festivale and look forward to 2023 being the event that no one will want to miss and which is true to the current Festivale experience.

As you could imagine, this decision has not been made lightly as the committee have already spent months in the initial planning stages, including securing an entertainment line-up that would have been the talk of the town.

It is unfortunate that being a summer event, the timing will not be right for 2022. We hope that we are being overly cautious, but we want to see the borders re-open and things get back to normal as soon as possible, even if the price we pay is to not have Festivale 2022.

The committee is down but not out and am I pleased to announce that in order to support stallholders, our incredible sponsors, entertainers, and our suppliers – without which Festivale would not exist – we are looking at options to present another event later in 2022 as well as Festivale in 2023.

The Festivale committee will meet over the coming weeks and months to plan any future event and as further details become available, announcements will be made.

We would also like to acknowledge the support Festivale has and continues to receive through the State Government via Events Tasmania. Clearly we have factored the Premiers recent messaging about the risk of COVID in Tasmania over summer into our decision and we believe it is our social responsibility to ensure we do not present such a large scale, free roaming event, at a time of potentially increased risk.

Please put the dates for Festivale 2023 in your diary now – 3-5 February and stay tuned for updates on our events.