



Event:	Festival of Small Halls
Presenting Line:	Woodfordia Ltd presents Festival of Small Halls Spring Tour 2026: Regional, Remote and Coastal Queensland featuring Old Man Luedecke (CAN) and Nicole Murray
Artists:	Old Man Luedecke (CAN) Nicole Murray (AUS)
Regional Partners:	See locations
Tour Announce Date:	4 September 2026
Tickets On Sale:	4 September 2026 www.festivalofsmallhalls.com Prices vary by location
Web:	Website - festivalofsmallhalls.com @smallhallsaus @festivalofsmallhalls



[Facebook - @festivalofsmallhalls](#)

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Publicity:

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NICOLE MURRAY



SHORT BIO:

Singer and multi-instrumentalist Nicole Murray has spent 20 years touring internationally with Cloudstreet and nurturing community through music. A choir director and teacher, Nicole invites audiences to sing and play together, learning and connecting through harmony, traditional tunes and joyful participation.

EXTENDED BIO:

Nicole Murray is a singer, multi-instrumentalist and songwriter working in folk and traditional music. In her varied twenty-five year career she has toured in ten countries and made nine albums with her celebrated band Cloudstreet, simultaneously running two community choirs, a small festival, and annual music summer school classes. She has played more than 300 international shows and many more than that in Australia.



She writes songs with strong narratives, poetic lyrics and catchy choruses, and is a gifted melody writer. She is acclaimed for instrumental and vocal-harmony arrangements for her bands and her choirs. Respected as a vocal workshop leader and instrumental teacher, she loves to empower adult learners to make music and become musically literate.

Nicole created two online choirs during the lock-downs of 2020, and for her excellent work won an Australian Folk Music Award in 2021 for Best Community/Cultural Project. She also won the inaugural Australian Folk Music Award for Best Traditional Album with Cloudstreet and the Little Cloud Orchestra, the final album before the untimely end of the band with the death of her primary collaborator of 22 years, her husband John Thompson.

In 2023 she produced concerts to commemorate John at major festivals, programming an array of national and international performers including Eric Bogle, Chris While & Julie Matthews, and Billy Bragg.

Her other projects have included Scottish dance band The Ceilidh Clan, and The Secret History of Queensland, a show where she created live lightbox drawings and performed songs with fiddle-singing band The Wish List. She co-founded and ran traditional music festival The Maleny Celtic Winter School (2009-14), and for over a decade directed Morningsong Community Choir and The Folk Choir in Brisbane. She has recently presented singing and walking tours in Kosciuszko and France.

Nicole has emerged as a solo performer accompanying her voice with fiddle, guitar and concertina. She loves to sing Australian stories and mysterious old songs about witches.

QUOTES ABOUT NICOLE MURRAY:

- "That's not clapping you hear, but the collective sound of jaws dropping [...] You go to a Cloudstreet gig and it feels as though the clouds have lifted and the sun's shining again" - Mick Tems, Cefyddydau Mari Arts, Wales.
- "Impeccable musicianship, first class professionalism and a lot of fun to hang out with" - James Keelaghan
- "Not afraid to twist convention, to take on different vocal styles and to use a range of interesting tempos and harmonic ideas all the while remaining true to the genre" - Helena Reynolds, English Dance and Song (EDS)

[Website](#)



QUOTE FROM NICOLE MURRAY:

"I'm so excited, and I feel so privileged, to be heading out into country Queensland with my fistful of instruments to share this musical experience. I've worked on the Small Halls shows in my local area and they are always a huge buzz in our community!"

OLD MAN LUEDECKE (CAN)



SHORT BIO

Old Man Luedecke is one of Canada's best loved roots musicians and few banjo troubadours. Known for his high energy banjo stompers and touching guitar ballads on subjects from nature to spirit and family to food, Luedecke charms his audiences by elevating the mundane to the wonderful. An award- winning musician, Luedecke is also dryly funny in his presentations.

EXTENDED BIO

Old Man Luedecke is the recording name of two time JUNO award winning and Polaris prize nominated singer songwriter Chris Luedecke. A multiple East Coast Music Award-winner



known for his high energy banjo driven stompers, touching guitar ballads and dry humorous stories, Luedecke has been making a soundtrack to an authentic life for nearly twenty years.

Born in Toronto and long time resident of the country near Chester Nova Scotia, Luedecke began recording in the early 2000's DIY folk scene of Halifax. He made his two JUNO winning albums for Black Hen Music in the late 00s with Steve Dawson as producer at Vancouver's famed Factory studio. While on a tour of England in 2009, he met and supported folk roots legend Tim O'Brien who produced Luedecke's next two albums. Tender is the Night was recorded at John's Prine's Butcher Shoppe Studio in Nashville in 2012 and 2015's Domestic Eccentric was recorded in a cabin Luedecke built himself at his home in NS. 2019 saw Luedecke recording Easy Money at both the Banff Centre in Alberta and at Hotel2Tango in Montreal.

Songs like "I Quit My Job" at the beginning of his career and "The Early Days" at the beginning of his family and dozens of other fan favourites trace a warm line of effort, sadness and joy and provide a soundtrack to many peoples' own progress through adulthood, touching a rare place of truth and charm in the holiness of the mundane. His performing style with his easy going humour and storytelling creates a rare space of hopeful and intimate magic.

Luedecke has kept up many worldwide concert appearances, playing in Europe and around Canada and the USA and six trips to Australia, including a memorable tour where his whole young family travelled with him around rural Queensland for the Festival of Small Halls.

In May 2022 Luedecke was awarded an honorary doctorate from King's University in Halifax for his cultural contributions.

QUOTES ABOUT OLD MAN LUEDECKE:

- "A musical singularity to be savoured and Shared" Vancouver Folk Festival
- "Old Man Luedecke, better known as Canadian singer-songwriter Chris Luedecke, serves up a lovely line in quirky, jaunty songs and storytelling and is a perfect example of the sheer variety at Purbeck." Bournemouth Echo
- "Think of him as a banjo playing life coach" The Globe and Mail

QUOTE FROM OLD MAN LUEDECKE:

"This will be my third tour with Small Halls. The production makes a great show for wonderful audiences in hard to reach places! I can't wait to see the country and meet the



Small Halls people again, it's truly heartwarming and much needed community in troubled times. Lock up your lamingtons!"

[Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

FROM WOODFORDIA:

"This tour is shaping up to be something really special, bringing a brilliant Canadian artist and an exceptional Australian artist and educator together on the road, sharing music, stories and connection with 12 regional, remote and coastal communities. We're especially excited to be offering more workshops than ever on this tour, creating opportunities for people of all ages to learn, participate and make music together. We're incredibly grateful to the communities who open their doors to us and make these tours possible, and we can't wait to bring a little more music, inspiration and Festival spirit to towns across the country."

– Chloe Goodyear, Producer, Woodfordia

FUN FACTS ABOUT OUR TOWNS:

Known as Australia's Dinosaur Capital, **Winton** is also famous for opals, cattle and its legendary dunno derby. It's where *Waltzing Matilda* was first performed in 1895 and where QANTAS was originally established before moving to Longreach.

When **Monto** was established in 1924, it became the first town in Queensland built using a formal, pre-arranged town plan. Today, the town is also known for its spectacular silo art.

Eungella's Indigenous name means 'land of the clouds', as the mountain peaks often catch low-lying mist. Eungella National Park protects Australia's longest continuous stretch of subtropical rainforest and is an important habitat for some of our most unique frogs.

A small village in Queensland's Granite Belt, **Glen Aplin** is home to some of Australia's highest-altitude vineyards. Winter can even bring freezing temperatures, making it one of the only places in Queensland that can have the occasional dusting of snow.

Woodfordia Ltd presents



FESTIVAL OF SMALL HALLS QUEENSLAND SPRING TOUR 2026:

Regional, Remote and Coastal Queensland

Old Man Luedecke (Canada) and Nicole Murray

MON 05 October	Cameby QLD, Barunggam Country	Cameby Hall	Workshop
WED 07 October	Aramac QLD, Iningai Country	Aramac State School*	Workshop *open to students only
THU 08 October	Winton QLD, Koa Country	Winton Shire Hall	Show
SAT 10 October	Glenden QLD, Jangga Country	Glenden Recreation Centre	Show
SUN 11 October	Eungella QLD, Wiri and Biria Country	Eungella Hall	Show
TUE 13 October	Thangool QLD, Gangulu Country	Thangool Recreation Reserve	Workshop
THU 15 October	Emu Creek QLD, Jarowai', Garumga, and Dalla Country	Emu Creek Hall	Workshop
FRI 16 October	Glen Aplin QLD, Kambuwal Country	Glen Aplin Memorial Hall	Show
TUE 20 October	Monto QLD Gureng Gureng Country	Monto Landcare Hall	Workshop
WED 21 October	Monto QLD Gureng Gureng Country	Monto Landcare Hall	Show
FRI 23 October	Austinville QLD Yugambeh Country	Mt Nimmel Hall	Show
SAT 24 October	Cooroy QLD Kabi Kabi Country	Cooroy Memorial Hall	Show
SUN 25 October	Macleay Island QLD Quandamooka Country	Macleay Island Community Hall	Show

