



HOKONUI MOONSHINERS' 2011 Festival

FESTIVAL REPORT



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2011 HOKONUI MOONSHINERS' FEST

TOP BLUEGRASS-COUNTRY MUSIC · MONTEITHS BEER & CIDER · CENTRAL OTAGO WINES · HOKONUI

The Hokonui Moonshiners' Festival Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the many sponsors and volunteers who supported the 2011 festival. We recognize the significance of your continued support and vision, without it the festival wouldn't be able to achieve its success. This year was no exception and I am sure you will agree that the Hokonui Moonshiners' Festival has firmly established itself as a key destinational event for not only Gore but for Southland. That was no more evident than this year with a large number of patrons coming from outside the district and region – they came from far and wide to become part of the legend!

Gone are the days where the festival was a simple country fair - the partnership we have established with our sponsors has provided the opportunity for us to create New Zealand's Original Boutique Whiskey Festival which has kept our heritage and in particular our Moonshining history alive and at the forefront of the festivities.

This year – can only be regarded as a success, especially given that the Festival took place three days out from the devastating Christchurch Earthquake with most of the

country still in a state of shock and disbelief. The precinct was filled with patrons, eager to have an enjoyable day out in the sun and time out from the tragedy which was unfolding in Christchurch, they came albeit a little quieter this year to celebrate our Moonshining history – in style.

The musical line-up was again a resounding success, with some very talented musicians taking centre stage this year. Anyone who was fortunate enough to be at the "Moonshiners" enjoyed a musical feast, it was certainly humbling for the Lyttleton bands who had made a mammoth effort to be there, in fact they were so impressed with Gore and the Moonshiners they really wanted to continue playing into the night saying, *"We could play for another two hours – this is such a great audience"*. Well Done Gore!

The deliciously rustic food on this year's menu was first class! The chefs and their respective establishments did an outstanding job to create an array of the very best southern fare; you would be hard pressed to find better food at any other festival throughout the country. Corina Mitchell from "Casa Bella" could not have anticipated how



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popular her hare ragu and risotto balls were going to be with food lovers. "Heartland Croydon Hotel" satisfied patrons with their Paua Pattie Kebabs and Venison Salad Pita Kebabs and for many stallholders their cuisine was a 'sell-out' success. This meant that the 1000 or so patrons were well fed and suitably prepared to enjoy some liquid refreshments....

The MLT facilities were well stocked with a great selection of exquisite Central Otago wines and Monteiths ales for the thirsty crowds, and festival goers were eager to sit back and soak up the sun - while enjoying 'a glass or two'. Staff at both tents were kept busy with the wine and beer flowing and like a well oiled machine Glen and his team ensured that there was plenty of chilled beer available throughout the day.

When we look back and reflect on where we have come with this event, and where to in the future we are pleased with the level of success the Moonshiners' Festival has had especially given the tough economic times that we are currently faced with. The committee is excited about the future of the event, we can see there are still opportunities we need to develop to further enhance and grow this event for Gore.

The Hokonui Moonshiners' Festival is an event that brings our community together to celebrate a unique heritage. This festival along with the Precinct's world class facilities provides a platform to showcase Gore as a destination, while at the same time establishing a viable brand for the town.

Congratulations and thank you once again to our sponsors. Your essential support has provided the committee with the means to develop the Hokonui Moonshiners' Festival into a professional, high quality event for Gore.

We believe this partnership to be worthwhile and hope we can continue to develop this relationship and achieve even greater success with this event. Together we can work to refine and improve our current formula for the benefit of our event, our sponsors, and our community.

Melissa King
Festival Chairperson





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Congratulations to everyone who helped achieve *another legendary day!*