



Media Release

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Wang Jazz and Blues Festival to Enter New Era

The Board of the Wangaratta Festival of Jazz and Blues today announced a decision which heralds a new era in the Artistic Direction of the Festival.

Board Chairman Paul Squires indicated that Adrian Jackson's contract had not been renewed upon its completion in December 2016 and that discussions were currently being held with prospective candidates for the 2017 Festival.

"Adrian has been with the Wangaratta Festival of Jazz since its inception and his contribution to its growth and development is unrivalled. He leaves the Festival with a strong legacy of having developed one of the great Jazz Festivals in Australia and establishing international acclaim," Mr Squires said.

"However, as part of the board's ongoing process of review of all aspect of service delivery in this vital role, it was felt that the time was right to explore other options.

"In doing so, we can assure the wider jazz and blues community that our artistic principles, as enshrined in our strategic plan, will remain unchanged in 2017. This remains critical to our ongoing success," Mr Squires said.

"We aim to present a program where Australian and International Jazz and Blues artists, who maintain the highest standards of their art form, can engage and inspire each other and our audience through the international language of music.

"As well as celebrating the tradition of jazz and blues, we showcase those artists who are keeping the music fresh and vibrant by playing creative, contemporary repertoire that challenges and excites.

"Over the past 26 years we have achieved this objective and in 2017 we will be continuing to aim to exceed the expectations of those that have supported us in the past, creating new audiences for Jazz patrons and importantly providing a platform for the broad church of Jazz in Australia.

"We thank Adrian for his great contribution to our festival, and certainly wish him well in his future endeavours," Mr Squires said.

An announcement on the Artistic Director will be made by the end of February.

For further comment, please contact the Chair Mr Paul Squires on 0407 916 188.