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Over 6,500 descend on the Simpson Desert for the fifth Birdsville Big Red Bash

Over 6,500 festivalgoers camped out in a pop-up town in the dry lakebed on the edge of the Simpson Desert for the fifth annual Birdsville Big Red Bash, the most remote music festival in the world. Travellers from across Australia gathered to rock out at the Big Red Sand Dune with headline acts Missy Higgins, James Reyne, Mark Seymour and Lee Kernaghan celebrating his 25TH career anniversary.

Missy Higgins kicked off the three-day outback music festival with crowd favourites *The River*, *Scar* and *Oh Canada*. "We had an amazing time at the Birdsville Big Red Bash. It's by far the most remote place I've ever played, and such a stunning location. It's a powerful experience playing in the desert amongst the giant red sand dunes and the crowd were wonderful," Higgins said.

Russell Morris and Troy Cassar-Daley couldn't resist returning to the Birdsville Big Red Bash for a second year in a row with other performers who kept the crowd entertained over the three days including Ian Moss, Ray Ryder and Kate Ceberano.

Whilst taking in the breathtaking surroundings of the Australian outback festivalgoers put on their best *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* outfits for the *Bashville Drags* and *Fashions in the Desert*, which raised funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The event welcomed people of all ages and this year dogs were also invited to enjoy the festival with their owners in a popular pet camping area as part of the 8klms of surveyed area that was mapped into temporary streets with local iconic names like Burke and Wills Way and Nappanericia Pathway. Over 1,000 campfires warmed up the desert winter nights and warm sunny days, under huge outback skies were perfect for the event.

The Bashville village was built in three days with 30 truckloads of gear and supplies transported to the site and some 350 volunteers working alongside crew for some 8,000 hours to deliver the Festival. Over 120,000 ltrs of water had to be supplied to the site and a similar amount of waste plus five semi-trailers of garbage removed.

The final day of the festival was a 7-hour, one-of-a-kind celebration of country star Lee Kernaghan's career. 2017 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of Lee's ground breaking debut album *The Outback Club*, and to help him celebrate he was joined by Christie Lamb, James Blundell, The McClymonts, Tania Kernaghan, Troy Cassar-Daley and The Wolfe Brothers for an epic finale.





The journey to the festival was all part of the fun with many festivalgoers saying it added to their bucket list experience. Organisers estimate ticketholders from across Australia travelled a combined 26 million klms to the Bash.

Event Founder Greg Donovan was overwhelmed with the fantastic response to the event. “The atmosphere over the three days has been electric, the performances have been spectacular and put huge smiles on the faces of the audience. Next year will be bigger and better than ever – for those that want to tick off a bucket list experience add 3rd - 5th July 2018 to your diaries – we’ll see you there!”

For more information, head to the event website: www.bigredbash.com.au

2017 Event Images: [Here](#)

The Birdsville Big Red Bash is proudly supported by the Queensland Government through Tourism and Events Queensland’s *It’s Live! in Queensland* events calendar. The Birdsville Big Red Bash is also supported by the Diamantina Shire Council.

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