

BLUESFEST SAFE DRIVING SURVEY REPORT

The survey was conducted in April 2018 by
the BUDDI Community Drug Action Team
& the STEER Project
as part of

PROJECT TURN AROUND

which aims to create safer celebrations and reduce
DUI rates by encouraging better choices from drivers
at festivals and community events in Byron Shire.

Project Turn Around has been funded under a
'CDAT Partnership Grant' from
The Alcohol & Drug Foundation

Byron Bay ranked number one in all of NSW for DUI
in 2017. In fact, Byron Bay has held this dubious rank
for more years than not for more than 20 years.

It's time we changed this!

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PREVENTING HARM IN AUSTRALIA

Survey Summary

A 25 hour online survey was conducted over the last two days of the BluesFest to determine safe driving behaviours of patrons attending the BluesFest during Easter 2018.

Since 2010 a dedicated breath testing service has been provided at BluesFest. In 2018, the breath testing service comprised of a stand-alone breath testing machine placed in the corner of a phone charging facility.

Of the 42 respondents to the Survey...

- 100% drove
- 83% had been drinking alcohol
- 71% could not find the breath testing service at BluesFest
- 91% were not given personal support associated with safe celebrating and safe driving and 72% did not wait and retest having tested over their legal limit
- over 95% of all respondents think free voluntary breath testing should be provided at festivals and community events and would use such a service

Some comments received from respondents:

- *"... I did find it not until Sat nite tho and it seemed like an afterthought and strange to be in phone charging place. only saw it because I had to wait to get my phone charged. went back at end of nite closed."*
- *"I wanted to use the machine but it was inside the stall and it was not user-friendly. The one man on the stall had a line-up of people with mobiles down the other end and I was ignored."*
- *"Ha, this would have come in handy if I had found the bloody machine. Where was it?"*
- *"I am an event coordinator from Sydney and would really like to say that I have just spent half an hour going over the whole bluesfest website searching for where this breathaliser was... I do a lot of events at vineyards and always make sure that those who drive to these events have this service. It is a must do in my industry these days for drive-yourself events."*
- *"... didn't see any where to get this test. I reckon I was over the limit probly last couple nites. Wish I did no. I'd do it even if it was cops just so I'd no."*
- *"Very annoyed that we couldn't find a breath test this year, but all we saw where it used to be was a phone charging place. And we did ask around with festival people and no one could tell us anything. My brother went DUI leaving this year. We won't be coming back again."*

Overview

An online survey was conducted during the Easter long weekend to determine safe driving behaviours associated with BluesFest patrons. The survey was hosted on SurveyMonkey and was open from 8.30am April 2nd to 9.30am April 3rd 2018. The survey was posted onto the 'Byron Bay Community News' Facebook page and then shared into seven 'local community' group Facebook pages and numerous private 'personal' Facebook pages.

The survey asked 10 questions requiring a Yes/No response, with 2 boxes for comments.

Survey Questions

Q 1. Did you drive to the Bluesfest? (if you didn't drive then please don't do the survey, this is for drivers only).

Q 2. Did you drink any alcohol at the Bluesfest?

Q 3. Did you find the free breathaliser at the Bluesfest?

Q 4. If you answered yes, did you use the free breathaliser machine?

Q 5. Were you given a disclaimer to let you know that this free breathaliser test is not necessarily 100% accurate and is to be used simply as an indicator and the information could not be used in court?

COMMENT BOX: *Were you given any educational information, such as that your alcohol levels can continue to rise for a number of hours after your last drink; or that if you tested within 10 mins of consuming your last drink, that this would give you a false reading? If you were given information, could you answer YES and if possible briefly describe what that was, or if you weren't, please write NO.*

Q 6. If your breathalyser test showed that you were over the legal BAC level to drive, was it suggested to you that you return into the festival to consume some food and non-alcohol drinks and return to re-test, before getting into your car to leave?

Q 7. If you tested over the driving limit, did you wait and re-test again making sure you were under the legal limit to drive before leaving?

Q 8. Do you think that a free breathaliser stall should be mandatory at all festivals?

Q 9. Would you use a free breathaliser service if it was available at all festivals?

Q 10. Would you feel safer driving to and from festivals if you had the ability to test your alcohol levels by using a free breathaliser service?

COMMENT BOX: *Are there any comments you would like to leave? Please write here.*

Breath Testing at BluesFest

Breath testing at the BluesFest in 2018 was run by Byron Youth Service 'BYS'. The service involved a stand alone breath testing machine set up in an area promoted and operated as a mobile phone charging facility. The entire stall was organised by the Blues Festival.



2018 BluesFest: breath testing machine location - inside phone charge station.



The service in 2018 was somewhat different to previous years, during which BYS (originally in partnership with BUDDI 2010-2014) provided a dedicated breath testing service, only initially introducing phone charging on a small scale, as a fundraiser for BYS. This former dedicated breath testing stall is now 'sponsored' by a phone charge company.



2010-14 BluesFest: breath testing stall included information on driver safety, disclaimer clearly attached to the machine, posters regarding alcohol misuse and clear signage. *NOTE: there was phone charging from 2014, but it was not the whole stall, just a small-scale value added service*



In 2016, BYS partnered with STEER Project to conduct breath testing offering:

- dedicated person-to-person support and encouragement for patrons from trained breath testing volunteers
- safe celebrating and safe driving information and resources
- pre-event email to over 1400 subscribers
- extensive during-event Survey of patrons
- post-event reporting

A copy of the STEER BluesFest 2016 Breath Testing Report is available at:

http://steerproject.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/26Apr16_BFest-2016-Report.pdf

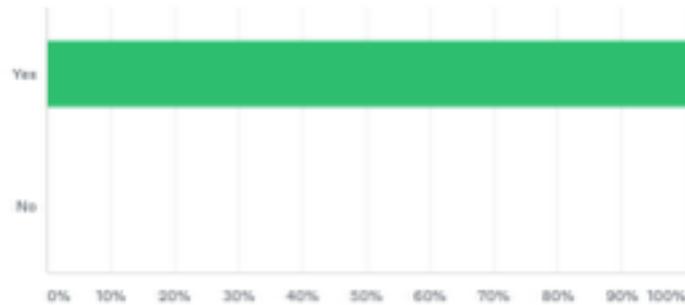
Results from 2018 BluesFest Safe Driving Survey

42 responses were received to the Survey during the 25 hour period it was online.

Q 1. Did you drive to the Bluesfest? (if you didn't drive then please don't do the survey, this is for drivers only).

Did you drive to the Bluesfest? (if you didn't drive then please don't do the survey, this is for drivers only)

Answered: 42 Skipped: 0

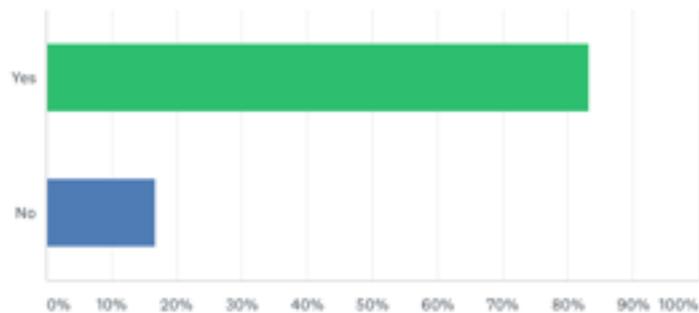


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Yes	100.00% 42
▼ No	0.00% 0
Total Respondents: 42	

Q 2. Did you drink any alcohol at the Bluesfest?

Did you drink any alcohol at the Bluesfest?

Answered: 42 Skipped: 0

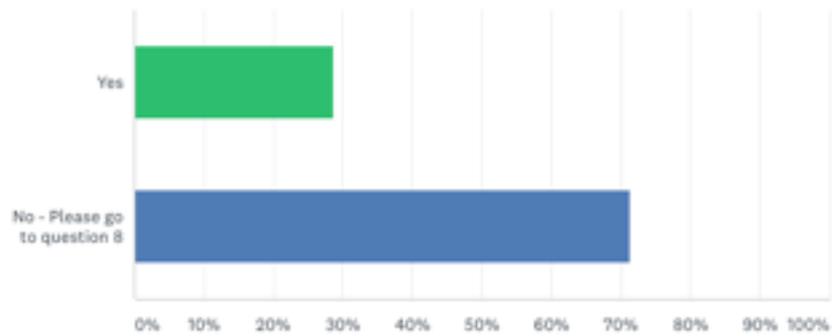


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Yes	83.33% 35
▼ No	16.67% 7
TOTAL	42

Q 3. Did you find the free breathaliser at the Bluesfest?

Did you find the free breathaliser at the Bluesfest?

Answered: 42 Skipped: 0

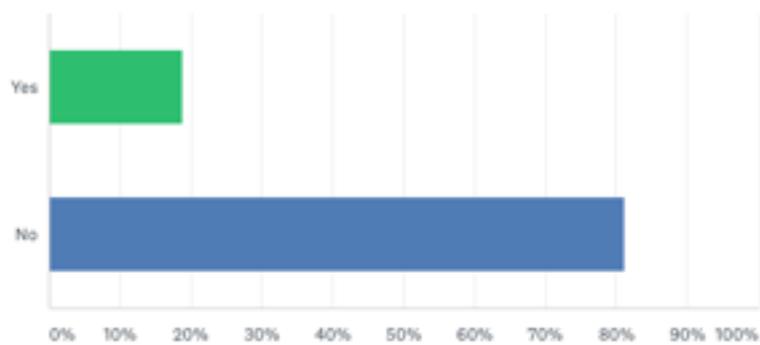


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	28.57% 12
No - Please go to question 8	71.43% 30
TOTAL	42

Q 4. If you answered yes, did you use the free breathaliser machine?

If you answered yes, did you use the free breathaliser machine?

Answered: 16 Skipped: 26

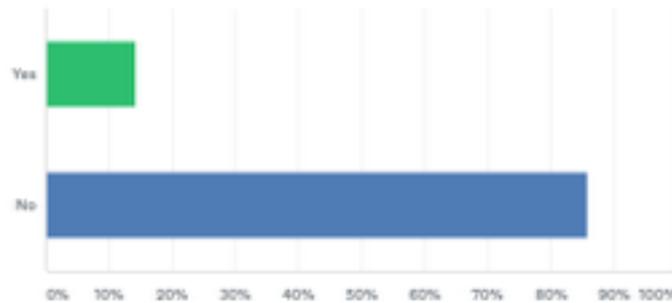


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	18.75% 3
No	81.25% 13
TOTAL	16

Q 5. Were you given a disclaimer to let you know that this free breathaliser test is not necessarily 100% accurate and is to be used simply as an indicator and the information could not be used in court?

Were you given a disclaimer to let you know that this free breathaliser test is not necessarily 100% accurate and is to be used simply as an indicator and the information could not be used in court?

Answered: 14 Skipped: 28



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	14.29%	2
No	85.71%	12
TOTAL		14

[Comments \(9\)](#)

Q 5. COMMENT BOX:

Were you given any educational information, such as that your alcohol levels can continue to rise for a number of hours after your last drink; or that if you tested within 10 mins of consuming your last drink, that this would give you a false reading? If you were given information, could you answer YES and if possible briefly describe what that was, or if you weren't, please write NO.

NO. I did find it not until Sat nite tho and it seemed like an afterthought and strange to be in phone charging place. only saw it because I had to wait to get my phone charged. went back at end of nite closed.

4/3/2018 8:28 AM

Ha, this would have come in handy if I had found the bloody machine. Where was it?

4/2/2018 12:17 PM

I waited and waited for these rude people to deal with phone after phone and none of them paid me any attention. In the end, after waiting for more than 10 minutes I realised that they did not care about whether I was going to leave over the limit or not and all it was about was money. I am a local and I have always used the previous stall that actually was a breath-testing stall, as have many of my friends but obviously the Blues Festival no longer care about us locals or anyone else, and this is all just about how much money they can make now.

4/2/2018 4:42 PM

my mate has a key chain thingy I don't reckon it worked though. was bit worried about all the cop cars

4/2/2018 12:45 PM

NO. I wanted to use the machine but it was inside the stall and it was not user-friendly. The one man on the stall had a line-up of people with mobiles down the other end and I was ignored. I remembered in years gone by that this stall near the carpark was where the machine was and this year there was nothing to tell me that it was even there, until I went close to ask them where it had gone and saw the lonely machine sitting inside the stall. What happened to the group that used to do this, I remember having a conversation with that Nicki lady from the Yak a few years ago who was so interesting, she told me all sorts of facts about alcohol that I never knew. Why aren't the yak doing it any more? I think it was called Project Sign Post or something. Anyway, this was not a good look this year and such a bad thing now.

4/2/2018 11:46 AM

Are you talking about cops? Saw plenty of them.

4/2/2018 12:41 PM

I wasn't given any information and was made to feel that I was wasting their time by even asking to use the machine. I was also asked for a donation for byron youth house, but felt like telling them to shove it where the sun don't shine.

4/2/2018 9:41 AM

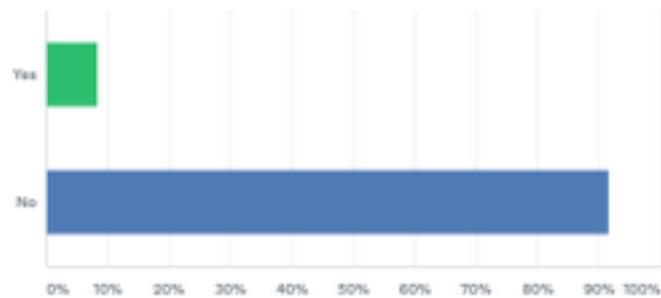
I was given nothing including a test. Byron youth service has sold its soul to the grubby greed of the Bluesfest. Someone is making money hand over fist. I'd like to think this money will get to the kids but I'd also like to say I was very disappointed that they were too busy playing with phones and money to be bothered with me and my friends.

4/2/2018 1:36 PM

Q 6. If your breathalyser test showed that you were over the legal BAC level to drive, was it suggested to you that you return into the festival to consume some food and non-alcohol drinks and return to re-test, before getting into your car to leave?

If your breathalyser test showed that you were over the legal BAC level to drive, was it suggested to you that you return into the festival to consume some food and non-alcohol drinks and return to re-test, before getting into your car to leave?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 30

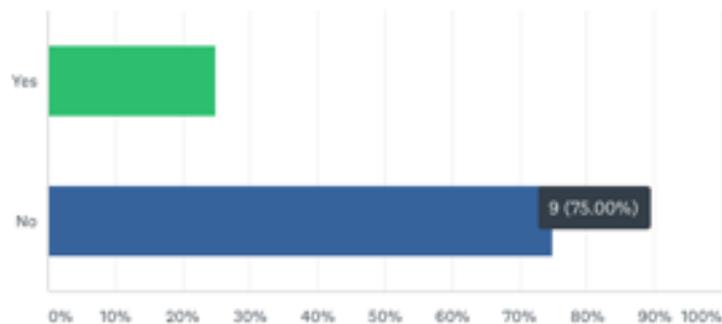


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Yes	8.33%	1
▼ No	91.67%	11
TOTAL		12

Q 7. If you tested over the driving limit, did you wait and re-test again making sure you were under the legal limit to drive before leaving?

If you tested over the driving limit, did you wait and re-test again making sure you were under the legal limit to drive before leaving?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 30

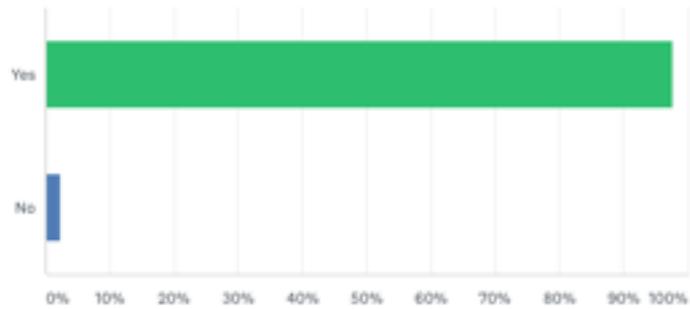


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Yes	25.00%	3
▼ No	75.00%	9
TOTAL		12

Q 8. Do you think that a free breathaliser stall should be mandatory at all festivals?

Do you think that a free breathaliser stall should be mandatory at festivals?

Answered: 42 Skipped: 0

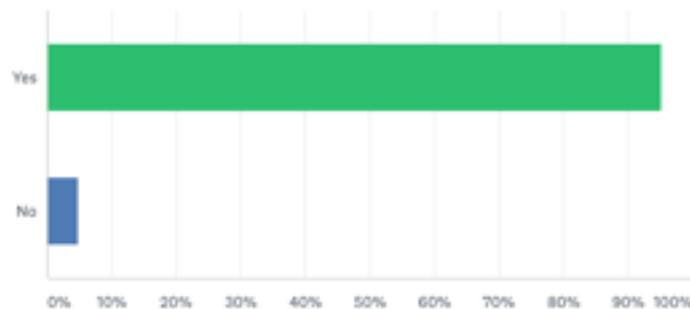


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	97.62%	41
No	2.38%	1
TOTAL		42

Q 9. Would you use a free breathaliser service if it was available at all festivals?

Would you use a free breathaliser service if it was available at all festivals?

Answered: 42 Skipped: 0

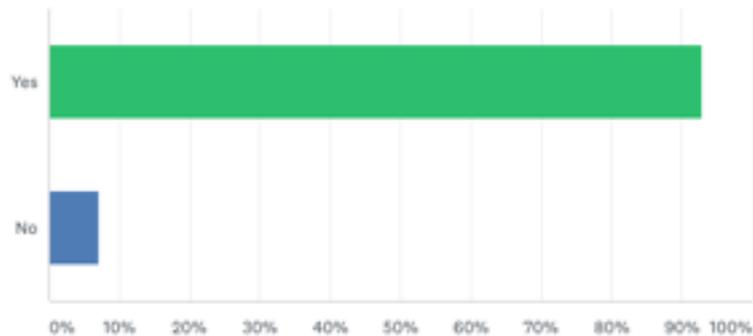


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	95.24%	40
No	4.76%	2
TOTAL		42

Q 10. Would you feel safer driving to and from festivals if you had the ability to test your alcohol levels by using a free breathaliser service?

Would you feel safer driving to and from festivals if you had the ability to test your alcohol levels by using a free breathaliser service?

Answered: 42 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	92.86% 39
No	7.14% 3
TOTAL	42

[Comments \(22\)](#)

Q 10. COMMENT BOX

Are there any comments you would like to leave? Please write here.

I am an event coordinator from Sydney and would really like to say that I have just spent half an hour going over the whole bluesfest website searching for where this breathaliser was. I can tell you that there is not one mention of this anywhere on their site, other than on the second map where I did find the symbol for where this was meant to be, beside the crossroads food hall, and it was definitely not there, as I would have seen it, as I sat on that side of the foodhall a number of times a day. But I also found a heading on the 'about' section of the website 'Social Responsibility' and thought there should be something in there about this, but not. Then looked under 'Services & Facilities' not there either. I use a professional breathalising service in Sydney for large events, not as large as the bluesfest though, but it is about social responsibility and also about providing services and facilities to those attending my events and I feel it is a crime, if, as an event coordinator or organiser, that you don't take this into consideration and supply these kinds of services. I do a lot of events at vineyards and always make sure that those who drive to these events have this service. It is a must do in my industry these days for drive-yourself events.

4/3/2018 9:08 AM

Why isn't this already happening?
Grog everywhere at blues, not a breathalizer anywhere.

4/3/2018 6:08 AM

No brainer hey. No breathaliser that I could find other than police who were willing to do everyone for free. Five days looking for one. All the other festivals have them why not Blues Festival one has to ask.

4/2/2018 4:31 PM

Long term stall holder here and I have a gripe over this year's breathaliser. What the fuck was it doing in a phone stall. My crew always have a knock-off drink at the end of the night but I always suggest they use the breathaliser before they drive home. Well that was pointless this year. Second day they told me no breathaliser so I went to look myself. There was one but it was not manned and the people at that stall seemed to be only doing mobiles. Going to get my crew little ones from the servo for next year. Have to be responsible if you are going to drink and drive. Bluesfest need to up their game on this. Been doing this festival for more than a dozen years and the alcohol just gets worse every year. All festivals are sponsored by alcohol brands now.

4/3/2018 8:38 AM

I didn't answer most questions as I only had one drink and finished it a couple of hours before leaving so I knew I was well under the limit.

4/2/2018 9:02 PM

I want to know why this has become a phone charging business. Aren't people's lives important to the Blues Festival any more. You should be ashamed of yourselves. Local festivals have forgotten about local people. I hope that no one dies leaving the Blues Festival this year at the hands of a drink driver! Byron Council should make you make this mandatory. The police have enough to deal with, with all the drugs at the Blues Festival now. Not to mention how drunk most people are all day and all night. It is disgraceful that the Blues Festival has become just like any pub in Byron any night of the year, drunken yobbos and drugged up people everywhere. It is NOT the festival it used to be when it was at Red Devils that's for sure.

4/2/2018 4:42 PM

I am wondering if this is a trick survey. I did look for the breatho, But nothing there that I could see. I'm going back today so will look again see if I missed it. I can't see how I could have missed it I walked that festival site 1000 times over the last four days. Falls Festival has got it going on I used every day at the last one did a survey too. What the fuck is wrong with the blues fest. I wonder if I lose my license can I sue the blues?

4/2/2018 12:28 PM

not very well advertised no sign and not helpful if it's not open

4/3/2018 8:28 AM

My sister just sent me this survey asking me did I see an alcohol breath machine anywhere. No, nothing at all. We came down from Brisbane every day and drove back each night. We took turns but we all had alcohol each day but just tried to stop in time to be under to leave to head back to Brissy. Couldn't afford to stay anywhere local petrol was much cheaper but pissed at the idea that there might have been an alcohol test we could have done. We did same for Falls this year too, turns in driving down from home but they had good set up for tAking test and asked questions too. Should do this everywhere maybe pubs too. Great idea.

4/3/2018 8:48 AM

I live out the back of Mullum and have always used the breathalisers at the Blues for years now. They weren't there this year and I was so peeved about it. I had to leave my car there on Fri night and walked out of the place and hitched home. I then went back on Saturday to find someone had tried to break into my car and had broken the lock with some kind of other key broken off and stuck in there now. It's going to cost me hundreds of dollars to fix. I feel like sending the bill to the blues. I probably wasn't over the driving limit, but I was not prepared to take a chance when I realised there was no way to know and there are police everywhere. I only had three wines all night, but know from previous years that they told me I could be still over the limit for hours later. Why is there not a breathaliser there this year? Surely you can't think that people are becoming more responsible drivers? It seems that the blues is the irresponsible ones. Not happy at all. I sold the rest of my tickets for the rest of the festival because of my car and how much it is now going to cost to fix. I am utterly peeved and I want answers. I am going to put in a complaint, as I think it is wrong to not have something for drivers. And no safety in the car parks either. My car doors will not unlock now either, as only the drivers door has a key hole and I had to unlock and open the boot and climb through the car to drive it out of there.

4/2/2018 2:05 PM

Husband and I been taking turns driving all weekend from Tweed Heads. Not fair that we can't both have a drink and check alcohol breath tests. But with no brethalizer no choice either. Carpark is a nitemare at finish time too. Would have been easier to sleep in the car. How can they have a festival that so many need to drive to but not supply this easy solution. Should be one in every booze tent. All pubs have them where we come from.

4/2/2018 4:37 PM

I read the questions I didn't answer and all I can say is that this would be a good addition to any festival. I would use it. Can you test for drugs too?

4/3/2018 5:53 AM

Blues = Booze. So where is the bloody machine? If you had seen the numbers of pissheads staggering to their cars late at night you'd bloody have one of these machines.

4/2/2018 12:17 PM

I was unaware there was a breathalyser available so I left the car there & got a lift.

4/2/2018 1:23 PM

WTF is this? Do you mean cops? Lots of cops, but didn't see any where to get this test. I reckon I was over the limit probly last couple nites. Wish I did no. I'd do it even if it was cops just so I'd no.

4/2/2018 12:41 PM

I think you should ban mobiles from the festival. They have obviously taken over and are more important to you than providing safety to your festival goers. I also think it is horrendous trying to leave there at night. Why can't you get this simple thing right? I am not even going today, it is not worth the long waits to leave. I spent more time in my car in the carpark than actually watching any of the acts. Plus why is it no longer a Blues and Roots Festival? If I wanted to watch hip hop I would go to Splendour. Gone to the dogs is all I can say.

4/2/2018 11:46 AM

key chain blow thing is not real good when all you're mates are using it. other festivals have big machines, done it at splendour and falls before, blues probably think all the oldies don't drink much like bullshit they donen't pissed as most of them

4/2/2018 12:45 PM

Survey is confusing. I didn't do the breath test but I wanted to and tried to. I didn't go back there though after first try, no one wanted to know about us or help us if we didn't have phones to charge. Why is Byron youth service doing this? At least the uncle project had some kind of message with their presence. Nothing for the teens though and they were very out of it on alcohol and drugs. I can't understand how teens can even go to this festival now it seems very dangerous for them at night and no one to care for them. Blues should be an over 18's festival and Byron youth service should stick to looking after teens. Shambles is all it was.

4/2/2018 1:36 PM

To be honest if I was driving I would limit my drinks to maybe 2, 3 tops so I would really feel the need to use the breathalizer.

4/2/2018 10:03 AM

If there is a testing machine there, why is it not prominently visible? I go to festivals all across the world and the Bluesfest left me cold in so many ways, but reading this survey, it makes it even worse, because this is a festival that is away from any town and you have no real choice but to drive if you are not staying in a place that is on the bus routes. If I had found a machine then I would have felt I could enjoy a wine, and still be able to find out that I was ok to drive. Bad form Bluesfest for not making this a priority for your new out of town venue. I was also surprised at the extreme change of this festival since my last visit. So expensive now and so lacking in real services. Yes, all festivals should have a free alcohol testing regime and actual information.

4/2/2018 11:04 AM

Very annoyed that we couldn't find a breath test this year, but all we saw where it used to be was a phone charging place. And we did ask around with festival people and no one could tell us anything. My brother went DUI leaving this year. We won't be coming back again. Too expensive and nothing for us as patrons, just more and more expense. The Blues and Byron can go to hell.

4/2/2018 9:55 AM

Contact

This survey was conducted as an initiative of **PROJECT TURN AROUND** ~ a partnership between the BUDDI Community Drug Action Team and the STEER Project. Project Turn Around is proudly funded by the Alcohol & Drug Foundation and aims to create safer celebrations and reduce the incidence of DUI rates in Byron Shire by providing a professional free breathalisher service to community events and festivals.

For further information regarding Project Turn Around please contact...

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