

THE CORNSTALK GAZETTE

Dates For Your Diary
Folk News
Dance News
CD Reviews

Folk Federation of New South Wales Inc
Issue 496 June - July 2019



Chloë & Jason Roweth

*folk music dance festivals reviews profiles diary dates
sessions opportunities*

Folk Federation of New South Wales Inc
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The Folk Federation of NSW Inc, formed in 1970, is a Statewide body which aims to present, support, encourage and collect folk music, folk dance, folklore and folk activities as they exist in Australia in all their forms. It provides a link for people interested in the folk arts through its affiliations with folk clubs throughout NSW and its counterparts in other States. It bridges all styles and interests to present the folk arts to the widest possible audience.

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If your event misses Cornstalk, Julie Bishop 02 9524 0247, julie@folkfednsw.org.au can include it in Folkmail, the weekly email to members. And don't forget that as a member you can put information - and photos - up on folkfednsw.org.au.

**deadline date for
 AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2019
 14th July, 2019**

CONTRIBUTIONS PLEASE

THE next edition of the Folk Federation's member magazine, Cornstalk, is the August-September, 2019 edition due out in July. Please send in your contributions (articles, reviews, event announcements, photos, tunes, opinions, questions etc.), to cornstalk@folkfednsw.org.au

The Folk Federation of NSW - Membership Application Form

Name/s:	Eve phone:	Day phone:
Address:	Mobile:	
	Email:	
Membership Type (Tick one) <input type="checkbox"/> Individual - \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> Family (more than one in same household) - \$30 Other name/s: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate (organisation) - \$35 Contact Name: _____		
Please find enclosed \$ ____ being my subscription for ____ years. <input type="checkbox"/> I enclose my cheque/money order payable to: Folk Federation of NSW; or <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my credit card: <input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/>  (Tick one)		
Card number: ____ / ____ / ____ / ____		Expiry Date: ____ / ____
Name on card: _____		
Signature: _____		

The membership year runs from 1st May to 30th April or from 1st November to 31st October. Allowances are made in your favour for people joining at other times. Send to: PO Box A182, Sydney South NSW 1235.

From the President

I woke up this morning, Mother's Day, and realised it was 'that day', the deadline for submitting the President's report to Cornstalk, the one you're reading right now. At least I assume you are reading it or that some anyway, do read it.

I'm told Cornstalk is much loved by our members & friends. I do hope so because the work of so many hands and hearts are needed to produce and distribute it on paper and online. Indeed we recently have had to find a new print shop to produce the paper version at quite an extra cost to previously. So it would be good to have reader's comments as to whether Cornstalk in its current form is indeed popular, interesting or useful. Do we continue to present it as is, or at all, and what if anything would you like us to change?

Should readers respond it will also answer an important other question of mine. Do you, precious members, simply skip past this boring old President's letter or not? I've been dutifully writing these reports for over a year and a half now and I have to say no one has ever written, nor uttered in person, one word of comment on anything I've said. Which leads me to think that either no one in fact reads what I write, or alternatively what I say is utterly boring or worse still so lame that no one wants to offend by commenting.

So spam us with your comments please and help improve your Cornstalk. It'll kill another bird too, to let this old bod know whether or not he's wasting his sweetness, this fair Mother's Day morn, on the harsh Aussie desert air.

You can post your comments on our Facebook page, if they're not too damning for public scrutiny ([facebook.com/FolkFedNSW/](https://www.facebook.com/FolkFedNSW/)) or via email direct to me, president@folkfednsw.org.au.

Irrespective of the above, I do know one thing for sure. Sydney Folk Festival is shaping up to be awesome, so jump in and purchase your tickets now. To see a promotional video of the festival produced courtesy of Ricky Pann, from bluegrass band The Willing Ponies, go to sydneyfolkfestival.com.au

I am also pleased to announce that applications for our 'Young Folk Music Artist Awards 2020' are now open. Please tell any aspiring young folk musos you may know to take a look at the guidelines for artists on our website.

Also readers please go to folkfednsw.org.au to download a publicity poster advertising the awards. You are encouraged to print these out to post in local schools, community centres, cafes, music shops etc.

The awards will be presented in 2020 when FFNSW will celebrate its 50th anniversary, about which you will be hearing a lot more soon, so it'd be great to have droves of young musicians sourced from award entrants contributing to the celebrations.

That's all for now folks, I'm away out to celebrate Mother's Day with my family. I look forward to hearing your comments about Cornstalk, and if perchance the next edition appears much changed, or indeed sans President's letter, well at least guess you'll know it was by popular demand.

Warm Regards,
Brian Jonathon



SYDNEY Folk Festival

SYDNEY FOLK FESTIVAL
16/17/18 AUGUST 2019

THE NEXT GENERATION OF FOLK MUSIC

SYDNEY CITY CENTRAL CELEBRATES ITS FIRST FOLK FESTIVAL

**CONCERTS - WORKSHOPS -
CONVERSATIONS - SESSIONS -
DANCE RHYTHMS**

Come on down and help make history

A truly urban event, to be held in Pitt St near Town Hall, celebrating the best contemporary voices on offer and some old maestros too.



PRESENTED BY THE FOLK FEDERATION OF NSW

FOR INFO & EARLYBIRD TICKETS VISIT SYDNEYFOLKFESTIVAL.COM

Dates for your diary June - July 2019

JUNE

Saturday 1st June

► **Beecroft Bush Dance**, with **SHORT DENTED POTTS BUSH BAND**. All dances taught & called. Supper provided. Community Ctr, Beecroft Rd (opp. Fire Station). 7.30-11.30pm. \$19, \$17, BMC members \$14. Sigrid 9980 7077

► **Seymour Centre. THE SPOOKY MEN'S CHORALE**. A vast, rumbling, steam-powered and black-clad behemoth who seek to commentate on the absurdity and grandeur of the modern male armed only with their voices, a sly collection of hats and facial hair, and a twinkle in the eye. The Spooks have attracted audiences throughout Australia and internationally with a judicious blend of Georgian table songs, pindrop beautiful ballads, and immaculate man anthems like "Don't stand between a man and his tool". For more tour dates, spookymen.com/gigs. Cnr City Rd and Cleveland St, Chippendale. 7.30-10pm. Tickets at seymourcentre.com.



► **Petersham Bowling Club. CLAYTON DOLEY** (keyboard-master, from The Mighty Reapers), and his Bayou Billabong Band! Glorious soul harmonies, exciting virtuosic performances. Funk, Blues and Soul Extravaganza! Clayton Doley (keyboards, vocals), Dave Symes (bass), Franco Raggatt (guitar), Jamie Cameron (drums), Shauna and daughter Bek Jensen (vocals). thepbc.org.au, 77 Brighton St. 8pm. \$26. Bookings, trybooking.com/500570. 9569 4639

► **Newcastle & Hunter Valley Folk Club. ANOUSHA VICTOIRE** and **ROBBIE LONG**. + Sweet Songs & Soft Guitar. Wesley Hall, Hamilton.

7.30 to 10.30pm. \$20, \$15, \$10 members. Ron 0427 261 313, Brent 0410 584 533, contact@newcastlehuntervalleyfolkclub.org.au



► **Tradewinds Folk Events** presents a House Concert with **ENDA KENNY & DAVE O'NEILL**. Refreshments avail. Bar Beach, Newcastle. 7pm for 7.30pm. \$25. Bookings, info: Carole 4929 3912, 0431 616 867. tradewindsfolk.com.

Sunday 2nd June

Shopfront Theatre. ENDA KENNY with **DAVE O'NEILL** - back touring together again. A true Irish storyteller, Kenny's well-crafted lyrics are backed by tunes that enrich his narratives. He can shift from the deeply poignant to the craic, & entertain with quirky, witty lyrics. 'Kitchen Ballads' has seen them play to packed houses throughout the Aussie festival summer. Songs instantly engaging, sometimes quirky, sometimes hilarious, always moving and eloquent. You'll find yourself singing along & humming them all the way home. "Witty & insightful - a brilliant night's entertainment" - Eleanor McEvoy. Southern Sydney Folk Club, 88 Carlton Pde, Carlton. 2pm. Tickets at the door or Southern Sydney Folk Club Facebook.

Thursday 6th June

Blackheath Folk Club. MARGARET AND BOB FAGAN. Ivanhoe Hotel, Blackheath. 7.30pm. Enq, Christine Davies 0408 689 486

Saturday 8th June

Worldwide Folk' on VOX FM 106.9, 2-4pm, Illawarra Folk Club's Saturday Folk Radio program, presented this week by Jan Brown; also streamed: tunein.com/radio/Vox-FM-1069-s48867.

Sunday 9th June

Humph Hall. SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY. Vov Dylan (Australia's Andre Rieu) and Glenn Amer (voice of Mario Lanza & fingers of Liberace) join, to take you on a musical journey

- through over 100 years of songs from 'light classical delights' to standards of 'the American songbook' through to Musical Theatre hits of recent years. Violinist Vov Dylan has performed throughout the world on concert stages, cabaret stages & theatres - and on radio & TV, and in movies. vovdylan.com. Glenn Amer is the only artist to have made acoustically recorded cylinders, pianola rolls & compact discs; the youngest pianist ever to record pianola rolls, at 17. glennamer.com. 85 Allambie Rd, Allambie Hts. 2pm. Bookings strongly advised: Wayne Richmond 9939 8802, wayne@humphhall.org

Thursday 13th June

No. 5. DANIEL CHAMPAGNE.

Young Nashville based virtuoso recently described as 'the finest guitar player of this generation' brings his world tour back home to Australia. 5 Church St, Bellingen. 7pm.

Friday 14th June

Duke's Place. Australian Songs in Concert and Session with NERDS AND MUSIC - two cyborgs (Clark Gormley and Wayne Thompson) assembled by some deranged mechanic in his back shed in Newcastle. The Nerds, whose repertoire extends from sea shanties about the National Broadband Network to country rock anthems about lawn-mowing, are renowned for their wordy witty songs. They will be featuring all the hits from their newest and soon to be critically acclaimed album You Can't Polish a Nerd. Audiences have been rendered dumbstruck by their weirdness, witticisms, wordplay, and alliteration. clarkgormley.com. Bush Music Club, Tritton Hall, Hut 44, Community Centre, 142 Addison Rd, Marrickville. 7.30 for 8pm. \$10, bring contribution for supper. Sandra 9358 4886

Saturday 15th June

► **Newtown Neighbourhood Centre. 'Sing Welcome' with THE SOLIDARITY CHOIR**. facebook.com/events/391907521399539. Everyone is warmly invited to a free singing workshop & pop-up choir (opp. Newtown station). Songs in English and community languages to help foster respect, inclusion & welcome to all peoples. You don't need to sing well or read music. Learning the songs 1-5pm, before going onto the streets 5-6pm to sing our hearts out in a pop-up choir. Please

come along; bring your friends - and your own mug, if possible. No cost, but please register at eventbrite.com.au/e/sing-welcome-tickets-61213231423, as afternoon tea is provided. Enq, Chantal, cgywynter@gmail.com.



► **Troubadour Folk Club. THE TRIPPY HIPPIY BAND** - celebrating 50 years since Woodstock. Special Event at the Everglades Club, Dunban Rd, Woy Woy. \$20. troubadour.org.au.

► **Canberra Baptist Church Hall.** Winter/Summer Solstice Ball. Lots of new interesting and fun repertoire. John's making a feature of dances he will take from winter in Canberra to summer in Europe, when two days after the ball John and Aylwen fly off to some costume and/or dance events in Switzerland, France, Latvia, Finland. Currie St, Kingston. 7-11pm. John Gardiner-Garden 6281 1098, john@earthlydelights.com.au

Sunday 16th June

► **Pennant Hills Community Centre.** Afternoon Dance Workshop. Contra, Rerun - with caller Keith Wood. Main Hall, Yarrara Rd. 2.15 to 5.15pm. \$5. Join us afterwards for dinner at Hotel Pennant Hills. Keith 0420 913 934, keith-wood.name/danceworkshops.html

► **Petersham Bowling Club. THE BALKANICS** - linseypollak.com/current-projects/_trashed. High-energy music from the Balkans, esp. Macedonia - energetic, infectious, very danceable! As well as traditional tunes, many of them Gypsy or Roma in origin, original compositions inspired by many years of studying, playing and living these most vibrant of musical cultures. Five accomplished musicians who have been playing together in different combinations for some decades: Linsey Pollak (sax, gaida, clarini), Anthony Pizzica (rezouki, tambura), Philip Griffin (electric bass, tambura), Ric Halstead (sax, flute) & Tunji Beier (drums). 77 Brighton St. NB - 3pm Start! \$26. Bookings, trybooking.com/497908. 9569 4639. theperc.org.au

Saturday 22nd June



► **Loaded Dog. The Convict Voice ReCollected (DON AND SUE BRIAN WITH PETE MCMAHON). + CAP IN HAND** (equal billing). Norfolk Island has a colourful history – Polynesians, two Convict settlements, Pitcairn Islander arrivals, American and British Pacific whaling. Don and Sue's research showed that the historical story of brutality has overshadowed much social history and the voice of convicts - stories and six previously unrecorded songs and poems written by N.I. convicts during colonial settlements (1788-1856). + Cap in Hand. Dave plays exquisite finger style acoustic guitar in a range of open tunings; Nigel is an accomplished vocalist and multi-instrumentalist (cello mandolin, guitar, dulcimer, harmonica, piano, spoons, more). With influences incl. Nic Jones, Martin Simpson, Richard Thompson, Joni Mitchell, David Francey, their music ranges from traditional to contemporary. Back Hall, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, 79 Johnston St. 7pm for 7.30. \$20, \$18. BYO, supper available. Sandra 9358 4886, theloadeddog.org.au.

► **Troubadour Folk Club. The Water Runners.** Truly original historical Aust Bluegrass. troubadour.org.au, St Luke's Hall, 147-149 Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy. 7pm (tickets from 6.30). 4342 6716

► **Hardys Bay Club. BLUESANGELS.** hardysbayclub.com.au, 14 Heath Rd, Hardys Bay (Cent Cst). 8pm. 4360 1072

Friday 28th June

Wollongong Town Hall. CHAIKA, 'Arrow' CD Launch. Ethereal harmonies (in several languages), a myriad of instruments, a dynamic ability for discovery. Chaika re-imagine & create their own exuberant music with jazz-like dexterity. Music Lounge, cnr Crown & Kembla Sts. 8-10.30pm. Tickets merrigong.com.au/shows/chaika-arrow-launch-tour: \$35, \$30, \$20, \$15 Stud. \$6.95 trans fee for phone & online. Tickets at door (subject to availability).

Saturday 29th June

► **Rhythm Hut. CHAIKA** (chaikaband.com). "To say that these guys are talented would be an understatement. Mesmerising... Extraordinary." - Michael Morton-Evans, Fine Music 102.5FM. + Twin Willows (support) - the musical sensibilities of Rohan Parry and Folk/Jazz musician Jen Hankin. Guitar, flute, ukulele, vocal harmonies. 135 Faunce St, Gosford. 6.30pm. \$21.93 at moshtix.com.au/v2/event/chaika-w-support-twin-willows/112466; under-12s free.

► **Yarra Bay Sailing Club. Táncház** on the Bay. Welcome Marci back to Australia with an energetic evening of dance and music from Transylvania, Hungary and Slovakia. Dances led by Marci Kovács, Bandi Kocsis and Michelle Turcsányi. Live music by The Transylvaniacs. Dance, sing, eat, drink and soak up the relaxed party atmosphere. Family friendly. All welcome. yarrabaysailingclub.com.au, Yarra Rd, Phillip Bay. 7pm till midnight. Tickets at the door. \$20, \$15, Family \$45, under-15s \$5, under-5s Free.

Sunday 30th June

The Newsagency. CHAIKA (chaikaband.com). Part of the 'Arrow' tour. Described as "spine-tingling" (Rhythms) & "extraordinary" (Fine Music FM), Chaika create cinematic genre blending music inspired by Balkan vibrancy, Turkish markets, Celtic stories, Australia's own stunning landscapes. 74-76 Pyrmont Bridge Rd, Annandale - a licensed venue. 8pm (doors 7pm). Booking rec: thenewsagencyvenue.com.

JULY

Friday 5th July

Bush Traditions Sessions. Music & words avail; & refreshments. Songs & poems, mainly on this month's theme, 'Shanties'. Goulburn Club, 19 Market St, Goulburn. 7.30-10.30pm. \$5 per session, or annual Club membership of \$40. Dinner avail - best to pre-order: ring Club after 2pm on the day, 4821 2043. Licensed bar. Enq, Dave Johnson 4884 4214, dave@bushtraditions.org

Saturday 6th July

► **Beecroft Bush Dance, with BARAN-GAROO BUSH BAND.** All dances taught & called. Supper prov. Community Ctr, Beecroft Rd (opp. Fire Station). 7.30-11.30 (note start time). \$19, \$17, BMC mem \$14. Sigrid 9980 7077

► **Newcastle & Hunter Valley Folk Club.** **LARRY HUGHES** and **ROB JOHNSON.** + **IAN MILROY.** Wesley Hall, Hamilton. 7.30-10.30pm. \$20. newcastlehuntervalleyfolkclub.org.au.

► **Django Bar.** **ANNA SALLEH AND GUY STRAZZ.** They share a passion for Brazilian music - from bossa nova to Afro-samba. Also virtuosic instrumentals & lovingly crafted originals, such as APRA-awarded *Mandela*. Anna woos with her vocal artistry and natural feel, while Guy's guitar sings with deep expression. Anna performs nationally and internationally. Guy, award-winning guitarist, composer and recording artist, is well known for his albums and collaborations with artists such as Slava Grigoryan, Ashok Roy, Matt McMahon, Vince Jones. sallehandstrazz.com. Delicious food (incl. pizza!) available. Fully licensed – NO BYO. Under-18s must be with an adult. 19 Marrickville Rd, Marrickville. 8pm (doors 7pm). Tickets, stickytickets.com.au/59014, 27.90.

Sunday 7th July

Shopfront Theatre. THE MAES.

Multi-award-winning Melbourne cont. folk outfit, The Maes (formerly The Mae Trio) is the brainchild of sisters Maggie & Elsie Rigby. Born into the arms of the Folk community in Australia, both sisters were side of stage at their first folk festival when they were four weeks old & have been absorbing & exploring folk music ever since. Their latest, self-titled album, released in May, is a return to their folk music roots. Gentle, intimate & conversational, it is an unadorned showcase of their superb songwriting as well as honest, relaxed & stunning vocal & instrumental performances. Southern Sydney Folk Club, 88 Carlton Pde, Carlton. 2pm. Tickets at door or on Southern Sydney Folk Club page or Facebook.

Friday 12th July

Duke's Place. Australian Songs in Concert & Session with **DEREK DOWDING** - Singer, songwriter, agitator. A songwriter with a difference, Derek excels as a quirky wordsmith possessing an acute wit & an eye for the overtly absurd & unjust. Irreverent. Ironic. Sardonic. With 180+ original songs, Derek presents a novel selection ranging from satirical pieces crammed with cutting social commentary & off-beat humour as well as lilting tunes accompanying thoughtful, illustrative poetry. Bush

Music Club, Tritton Hall, Hut 44, Com. Centre, 142 Addison Rd, Marrickville. 8pm. \$10, bring contribution for supper. Sandra 9358 4886, bushmusic.org.au

Saturday 13th July

► **Redfern Town Hall.** Sedenka International Folk Dancers 50th Anniversary. Welcome - any dancers who would like to do Balkan folk dances. Program: 10am-1pm, Celebration workshop. 1-2pm, Shared lunch. 2-3.45pm, Dancing. 73 Pitt St, Redfern. 10am-3.45pm. \$15 donation & plate to share for lunch. Chris Wild 0425 200 031, wildchris111@gmail.com

► **East Gosford Progress Hall.**

Saturday Night Social Dance with John Short. All dances taught, walked through & called. Cnr Wells St & Henry Parry Dve. 7.30-11pm. \$15, Mem. \$12. Robyn 4344 6484, Mike 0428 223 033

► **Diggers@The Entrance. BLUE-SANGELS** at all day blues event. BluesAngels will be on at 8pm. 315 The Entrance Rd, Long Jetty. (Council has an all day thing on two stages on Sun 14th at Memorial Park, The Entrance.)

Humph Hall. LINES OF FLIGHT

- Bolts of pent-up energy, surging, breaking, exploding - 'lines of flight' describes the creative potential of not just breaking away from the norm but shooting in an unexpected and refreshing direction. This is the approach taken by Brent Keogh and Katie Anderson to their music. 85 Allambie Rd, Allambie Hts. 7pm. Bookings advised. Wayne 9939 8802, wayne@humphhall.org.

Saturday 20th July



Humph Hall. BRUCE WATSON - an icon and longtime favourite of the

Australian folk scene. His performances are joyful & thoroughly engaging, with witty lyrics & energetic presentation. A masterful craftsman of songs, be they evocative, heart wrenching, or side-splittingly funny. He has appeared at over 170 folk festivals, and more, across Australia & NZ. A stack of prestigious songwriting awards; with his songs covered by Eric Bogle, Joe Dolce, Greg Champion, many other Australian & international performers. Seven albums of original songs. Eric Bogle has described him as "the best songwriter I have seen in a long time." 85 Allambie Rd, Allambie Hts.. 7pm. Bookings strongly advised. Wayne 9939 8802, wayne@humphhall.org.

Sunday 21st July

Pennant Hills Community Centre.

Afternoon Dance Workshop - Contra, Zesty - with caller Keith Wood. Main Hall, Yarrara Rd. 2.15 to 5.15pm. \$5. Join us afterwards for dinner at Hotel Pennant Hills. Keith 0420 913 934, keith-wood.name/danceworkshops.html

Saturday 27th July

► **Loaded Dog. CHLOË AND JASON**

ROWETH (vocals, guitar, mandolin) - researching and presenting the living tradition of Australian music for over 20 years. Songs and poems of the kitchen, verandah, shearers' huts, local pub - and the yarns that go with them. Vibrant arrangements of new and old traditional ballads and work songs, early country music, dance tunes; and the work of John Dengate. + **BUCK AND DEANNE** - drawing on the roots of country, rockabilly, folk and blues. Songs of hope, hurt and yearning, joy and sorrow walking hand in hand. Originals as well as their own quirky arrangements on some classic covers. Back Hall, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, 79 Johnston St. 7pm for 7.30. \$20, \$18. BYO, supper available. Sandra 9358 4886, theloadeddog.org.au

► **Troubadour Folk Club. WITCHES**

LEAP (Aust.). Great Celtic music. + Lisa Richards (USA/Aust.), singer songwriter with a fresh original voice. troubadour.org.au, St Luke's Hall, 147-149 Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy. 7pm (tickets from 6.30). 4342 6716



Sydney Folk Festival

You may already know that in mid August this year the Folk Federation of NSW is presenting a fabulous new urban festival - the inaugural Sydney Folk Festival, in Sydney's CBD.

Here are some links and info to whet your appetite to buy tickets, and to share with your friends.

Check out our festival taster video on YouTube youtu.be/fspOFHvHZpg.

For further info, bios of artists appearing and link for tickets, go to

sydneyfolkfestival.com.au.

Also you can follow us on Facebook - facebook.com/SydneyFolkFest.

Sydney Folk Festival, 'The Next Generation of Folk', features the many musical genres that sit under the big colourful umbrella that is modern-day folk. It will be staged over 3 days at several indoor venues along a strip of Pitt St, Sydney, near Town Hall.

Though showcasing 'the next generation', it also features legends like Eric Bogle, The Seeker's Keith Potger and the internationally renowned Mara! World Music Ensemble. Contemporary artists include folk-jazz fusion band Luke Plumb and The Circuit and classically-trained world-music ensemble Chaika.



A weekend (season) ticket or day ticket

makes you part of the whole festival with a choice of more-or-less continuous concerts across multiple venues featuring Indie Singer-Songwriters, Bluegrass, Afro-Funk, World Beats, Western Swing, Celtic, Cajun, Anglo-Balladry, Blues, Aussie Trad-Punk Fusion, Shanties, and more. You can hear expert musicians discussing their craft, enjoy impromptu music sessions, poetry or storytellers; or maybe just lounge and listen and indulge in the dedicated Festival Bars and Eateries.



We celebrate Sydney's multicultural diversity with the likes of our own Riley Lee, first ever Western shakuhachi grand master, in concert with harpist Cliona Molins, or The Sydney Chinese Traditional

Music Ensemble; and our diverse Celtic roots with innovative young band The Last Aurochs, the Scottish Kejafi, the legendary Señor Cabrales and more.

We also celebrate one of Sydney's revered sons with a Henry Lawson Tribute Concert performed by the fabulous rocky new Roweth Band.

7th 10th June

Peak Festival

peakfestival.com.au

7th - 10th June

SessionFest

newcastlehintervalleyfolkclub.org.au

7th - 10 June

Bundanoon DanceFest

bushtraditions.org/dancefest/bunders.htm

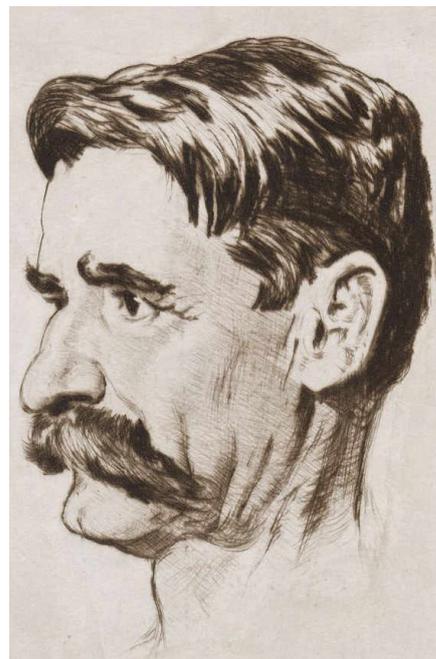
7th - 10th June

National Celtic Festival

nationalcelticfestival.com

For the more adventurous, as night rolls on, irresistible rhythms will ring out in the Dance Venues until late, featuring the likes of internationally renowned guitarist Moussa Diakite and his Afro dance band Wassado, or driving young Aussie punk folk-fusion bands like The Bottlers and wild and wonderful The Button Collective.

Tickets grant access to several venues with simultaneous programming, including Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, Pitt St Uniting Church, The Edinburgh Castle Hotel, the historic City Tattersall's Club, and more. One major advantage of the Club is it will allow us to include a dance component, and a very comfortable large area for late-night sessions.



The Saga of the on-again/off-again Northern Beaches Music Festival

With just three weeks to go, on 11th April the organisers of Sydney's Northern Beaches Music Festival had no choice but to announce that the festival was being cancelled due to enforcement of the new licensing laws now imposed in NSW.

Despite the festival operating for nine years without any incident or complaint it was now being asked to have one security guard for every 100 people. With a maximum capacity at any one time of 500, this meant that five guards would be required! On top of this, the bar operator (a major sponsor) would have to have a specialist, highly paid inspector patrol the festival at all times to 'ensure the health & safety of all patrons'. The cost of fulfilling this requirement would have meant they'd be struggling to make any profit at all. Not surprisingly, they withdrew their \$3,000 sponsorship.

On top of all this, we were told that we had to:

- have a security guard at each gate to do bag searches
- take security responsibility for a 50 metre perimeter outside the festival fence
- monitor under-aged people to ensure they are with a parent or guardian at all times (This means a 17 year old would not be able to be at one stage if their parents are at another!)

- hire and install a water fountain (even though all of the rooms in the Tramshed complex have filtered water on tap and the bar has a licence requirement to also provide water)
- require proof of identity at the ticket office and provide colour coded wrist bands to indicate those who are under-age.

All of this added \$6,500 to the festival's upfront costs which left us with no choice but to cancel the festival.

However, news of the festival's cancellation sparked a huge rally of support from a large number of people. James Griffin, the Member for Manly, spoke with Superintendent of Police Dave Darcy who arranged for the local Liquor Accord to fund three of the five required guards. Furthermore, the Narrabeen RSL Club offered to host the festival and pay for another of the guards. So, just four days after being cancelled, the festival was back on again!

The partnership with Narrabeen RSL Club was so successful we intend to hold next year's festival there as well!

A HUGE thanks to everyone who rallied to overcome these obstacles to create a wonderful community event!

Paul Robertson (Executive Producer)



dance news

Bundanoon DanceFest

As usual, there will be an intensive weekend of dancing on the June long weekend, Friday 7th to Monday 10th June.

There will be workshops and dances with live music - traditional and contemporary Australian, plus Irish, Scottish, Contra, Old Time Dance, European and more. Callers and musicians will come from Sydney, Canberra, Illawarra and interstate.

You will need to have already sorted out accommodation!

Full weekend ticket is \$95, \$85 for members of BMC, etc. Day ticket \$15, Friday night dance \$15, Saturday night dance \$20, Sunday night Bush Ball \$35, Saturday day and night \$30, Sunday day and night \$45.

Details of workshops and callers should now be on the website, bushtraditions.org.

General enquiries, 6247 4725, bundanoon@bushtraditions.org.

folk news

Toongabbie Music Club

Bush Music Club members & other music lovers joined Toongabbie members for a very enjoyable session & picnic in Parramatta Park, on Sun 7th April. Allen Davis wrote: "It was a delightful day with musicians, singers & poets all enjoying the mild weather & jam sessions." See photos at bushmusicclub.blogspot.com

Steeleye Span 50th Anniversary

'Space Oddity'. 'Suspicious Minds'. 'Pinball Wizard'. 'Whole Lotta Love'. 'Come Together' - 1969 could easily be said to be a vintage year for music, the end of a decade that changed the world and the introduction to one that would prove equally inspirational. It would also see the birth of a band that would start as an idea to electrify traditional music and would go on to become one of the most enduring stories in the folk world and beyond. Fifty years on and Steeleye Span marked this incredible milestone with new album 'EST'D 1969' and a tour of the UK, in March and April, celebrating a band that are as creative and vital now as ever. Led by the iconic Maddy Prior, the seven-piece line-up drew on the group's incredible history to provide favourites and surprises from down the decades. steeleyespan.org.uk/tour.

Richard Grainger On Tour September/October 2019

I had just returned home to Whitby, North Yorkshire from San Francisco, where I had played at SF Maritime Festival at the Hyde Street Pier Maritime Museum, via a first time performance at England's legendary Lancaster Maritime Festival. I felt in one way fulfilled at the events, but also frustrated that, despite my adopted home town's fame as a maritime heritage centre, we had nothing like that to offer the world. So, fully motivated by recent exploits, I arranged a meeting with the Local Director of Entertainment Services to air my views.

To my surprise (well shock really), I left her office with a small budget to organise some musical events as part of Whitby's Captain Cook Festival. There followed a steep learning curve... This was 1995 and the following year there were rumours of a major event coming to town – the arrival of the Australian built replica of HM Bark Endeavour.

Cook's famed vessel was 'coming home'. This was big – James Cook was a local legend, although not many knew the full story of his skills and achievements. I consumed everything I could possibly read on the subject and became, temporarily at least, acquainted (nay obsessed) with the young Yorkshire farmer's boy that was to become 'The Last of the great navigators and the first great scientific explorer'.

So, in 1997, I was given the job of organising all the music events for the 'Endeavour Homecoming Festival'. As well as these events I had decided to celebrate the vessel's arrival by writing a musical play (or Folk Opera) telling the story of Cook and his voyage on Endeavour.

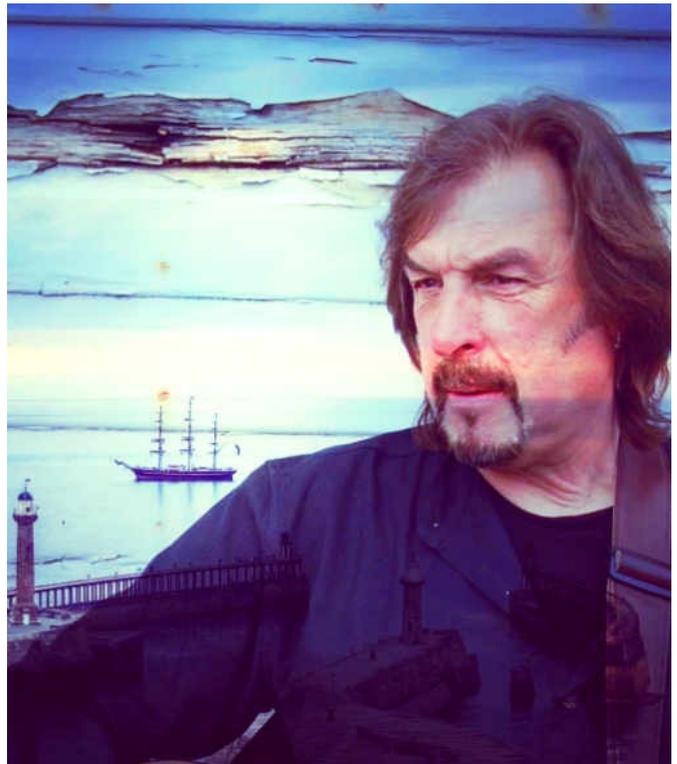
On this first performance of the play we had many of the festival guests taking part. Mike Waterson of the famous Waterson Family sang Brave Wolfe and the great Liverpool Shanty Group, 'Stormalong John' were also a big part. My singing contribution included the title song, 'Eye Of The Wind', backed by a hoard of singers and shanty-men, bringing the evening to a rip roaring conclusion.

Since then the play has been performed in venues all around this region, most notably in the town of my birth, Middlesbrough, with 300 local students supplementing the cast and an audience of some 900 people. A great tribute to a local hero.

In 2003, I was approached by the BBC, who wanted to do something special to celebrate the imminent arrival of the Bark Endeavour when she once again, visited from Australia, to sail up the River Tees to Middlesbrough, close to Cook's Birthplace in Marton in Cleveland. It was decided that I would re-write the 2 hour play to produce a programme of 55 mins for radio, & to put some icing on the cake we enlisted a famous contributor; one of Cook's biggest fans - Sir David Attenborough. That CD, 'Eye of the Wind', was released shortly after the vessel's visit to the area & is still available.

The play has since been re-written and performed again to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the beginning of that first great voyage of discovery aboard 'Endeavour'. 'Eye Of The Wind' with a new cast, played to a capacity crowd at Whitby Pavilion Theatre in 2018.

Since 2000 I have undertaken several more theatre projects including 'Trafalgar – In Praise of Nelson' (2000), 'Journey Home', based on Homer's 'Odyssey' (2003), 'The Moorland Whalers' (2006), 'Stormbound' (2014) and 'Ghosts Of Heroes' (2015).



Although I had visited New Zealand several times, it was my first visit to Australia last year that opened my eyes to the possibilities of performing material from the folk-opera and even offering Concerts of the songs of my world - 'Cook Country'. It's a place of contrast: a post-industrial Middlesbrough, the surrounding Cleveland Hills, dramatic coastline and the mysterious North York Moors.

Middlesbrough, and the surrounding Cleveland area, share Australia's pioneering spirit. It's a land of migrants, from all over the UK and abroad (my ancestors alone are from France, Yorkshire, Norfolk and Cornwall), and many of my songs tell of the lives of these working people who were the Ironstone Miners, Steel-workers, Fishermen, Whaler-men and Farmers. I hope to catch up with some of you on my next visit in September and it would be great to have the opportunity to sing you a few of these songs.

Richard Grainger - richard-grainger.com



'Introductory offer of 10% discount to all Folk Federation NSW members

Enda Kenny - Kitchen Ballads

Order the CD: endakenny.com.au

The Forest Prayed



Poems of MARY GILMORE. Music by Maggie Somerville.
 Website : <http://maggiesomerville.com.au>
 Avail. as download card & CD \$20 maggies88@bigpond.com

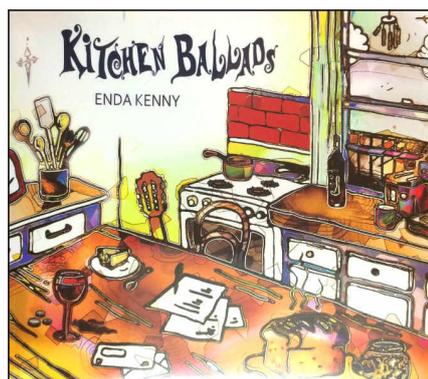
The Forest Prayed is a truly delightful CD of Maggie Somerville's settings for the poems of Mary Gilmore. The music is totally appropriate & such pleasant listening one wonders why it hasn't been done before, in the way Henry Lawson's poems 'walked off the pages into songs'. Maggie has written tunes, which are so evocative of the bush melodies that you can almost smell the gum leaves burning beneath the billy tea. The backings are varied but over all seem to include every instrument found in a bush band & more. These musicians play sensitive accompaniments to Gilmore's words that are sung with great clarity enabling every word to be heard

Dame Mary Gilmore led a distinguished & romantic life as a humanist, political activist and social reformer and supporter of other artists. She was an acclaimed writer in her own day and I well recall the portrait of her in the Fellowship of Australian Writers rooms where the Bush Music Club met. On her death, the Bush Music Club put out a special Singabout magazine with a pen sketch of Mary and an obituary by John Meredith. The most famous portrait of Gilmore was Dobell's painting commissioned for her 90th birthday; it aroused controversy as it depicted an old woman with slim face & wispy white hair that Dobell painted so delicately but dressed in formal old fashioned lace and satin brocade quite different from the younger portrait once on the ten dollar note. Dobell's portrait has been included on the attractively presented CD cover & booklet. This booklet is very comprehensive with dates of publication of the poems. The historical context of the poems is significant to the varying sentiments expressed.

There are 16 tracks that cover Gilmore's poems set to Somerville's music. The topics include many Australian themes including the environment and a love of nature as well as a concern for the plight of the indigenous peoples, women's experience and World war 11 fears with the threatened invasion of the Japanese forces, and tributes to contemporary poets, Henry Lawson and Shaw Neilson.

Maggie Somerville has taken on a well over due task and created beautiful and thoughtful songs that I hope many will learn to sing or they will continue to enjoy listening to the poems of Mary Gilmore.

by R.Dale DengateEnda



This is probably about Enda's 10th self release CD with his appearance on probably a dozen or so compilations from 'Macca All Over', the NFF, Illawarra & other more thematic releases.

As usual he has surrounded himself with exceptional musicians as backing on each track. Dave O'Neill has been performing with him since Feb. 2016. Liz Frencham on double bass needs no introduction. Kristina Mizzi, Nicholas Lyon, Jen Hawley & Silas Palmer are thrown into the salad bowl.

The stand out songs to me include 'Catch Me a Cloud' which got me into an argument with a rival Irish Melbourne clan of Doubting Toms in the camping ground at the Illawarra Festival. Anyway the song is sub-titled 'True story. Virgin flight'.

The other highlight is 'Vigil'. The first verse says the message and place:

*It was half an hour of silence on a Melbourne winter's night
 No telephone, No 'How's it going?' in a sea of candlelight
 On a darkened muddy soccer field
 Down the road from Prinny Hill
 We came for women everywhere and for Eurydice and Jill."*

Where is ABC radio when you need them? The Melbourne on-line library holds only a few of Enda's novelty songs. The censor pen has deleted his important environmental, indigenous rights, anti-war and refugee songs from the catalogue. Let's mount a national campaign for this brilliant plea for men to stand up against violence against women on air. Ring your local ABC and demand it enter their playlist now?

Other tracks on Kitchen Ballads include a dedication to the late Victorian folkie Michael Kennedy. A London busking song called 'Green Park' (between Piccadilly and Victoria lines). 'Long Mile Road' is a song about friendship or love that Enda has put off recording for some two decades. The requests grew too loud, so he relented.

'The Cheesecake Song' is about the one who got away. A chance meeting over coffee & Enda is there every week downing cheesecake, wishing & hoping for a rematch. Alas, she is elusive.

'Penestanan' was penned from the Ubud Writers Festival in Bali. (juicecreative.com). "Wealthy Europeans buying stone/ Beggar in a doorway all alone/ Million for a hundred hand-to-hand/ Penestanan." People who know Enda's keen eye will understand. From the same trip came 'Simple Words'.

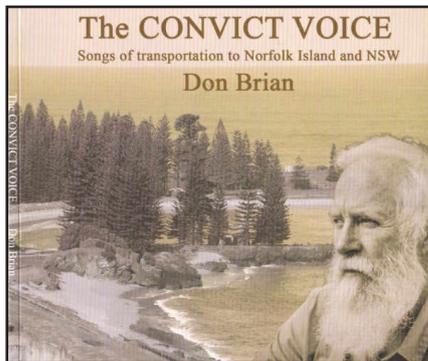
'Stumbled into Love' is on fate. 'Gandhi's Words' is about being surprised about what confronts you when you're travelling? Finally, 'Music in My Mother's House' is the recurring theme of Enda's Irish heritage. Twenty-five years ago it was 'John the Master's Son' about migration & leaving a father behind never to see again on Enda's first CD '12 Songs'. Then the mid-career 6th

solo award-winning 'Here & There' released in 2003 with the title track "I was born in Dublin" with the follow up lines "Now I live in Melbourne" implying Ireland is the heritage of this Australian folkie. Full circle. Tribute.

Jefferson Lee

Don Brian - The Convict Voice

Songs of Transportation to Norfolk Island & NSW



Transportation to the eastern states ceased around 1850 but continued later in Western Australia. Having some ten convicts in my ancestry I am inclined to regard Don Brian's 2018 CD as the tunes of Australian Royalty. These songs describe experiences my forebears might have shared. Whether or not you feel a personal connection with these songs, however, they evoke an important feature of Australia's social growth. As Mary Gilmore put it in her poem Old Botany Bay 'the nation was, because of me'. Nor is the convict era so distant. The Address-in-Reply in the new Australian Parliament in 1901 was moved in the House of Reps by a transportee, WH Groom from Toowoomba!

These songs are mainly laments as the convicts cursed their luck & their appalling conditions. Norfolk Island was a place of secondary punishment. The desperation of convicts can be found in the legendary death pacts some entered into, wherein one would find release when a second killed him. The second invited execution as a way to end his misery. Don Brian avoids exaggerating the horrors of Norfolk but gives a balanced account of convict experiences. The CD & accompanying booklet are not designed as a comprehensive history but as an evocation of convict song.

Don Brian has a powerful voice, honed singing sea shanties with Forty Degrees South (formerly the Roaring Forties). Don & Sue Brian conduct tours of Norfolk Island. Don also volunteers as a researcher at the Maritime Museum in Sydney so listeners to this CD can be assured that the material is accurate & will not mislead or create myths about the wretched settlers in chains. The songs are as much by the convicts as about them & so are primarily sympathetic.

There are 18 tracks and the arrangements are nicely balanced. Don Brian provides instrumental interludes on whistle. Sue McMahon supplies concertina, musical saw and keyboards. Jennifer Brian adds vocals. Production is by Pete McMahon, who also plays fretboards and supplies vocal support.

There is a rich variety of arrangements. For example 'The Norfolk Island exile' and 'Currency lasses' are rendered unaccompanied while in 'Adieu to judges and juries' and 'Piracy of the Wellington' the evocative saw joins in. This unaccompanied singing establishes the importance of clear diction and ensures that the voice conveying the words is always paramount. This clarity is one of Don Brian's great strengths. Both 'Barrow's tour of Hell' and 'Macquarie Harbour' are simply spoken. The accompanying booklet provides the lyrics of the songs, while dustcover notes succinctly acknowledge the provenance of each song.

The ironic 'Assisted passage' has tasteful guitar accompaniment. There is tuneful whistle on 'Moreton Bay', 'Jim Jones', 'Currency lasses' and the 'Liverpool judies'. There is the rollicking 'The Catalpa', while Jennifer Brian sings the dance tune 'Street hearts of the Female Factory', with its happily defiant chorus. Where Brian needed to set the words to tunes, his choice is always appropriate as, for example, the traditional tune for 'The Cooking pot riot'.

'The Convict Voice' ensures that a period of history and song is evoked skilfully and sympathetically. Don Brian and his collaborators have created a CD of power and musicality.

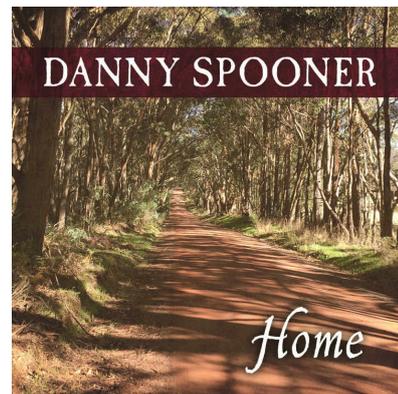
Tony Smith

Tony Smith is a former academic and now folklorist and folk singer, who has written for Eureka Street, Pearls & Irritations, & other publications. He has previously contributed to Honest History on the 'Peace Angel', Maggie Thorp, & the use of music in the peace movement during the Great War.

Thanks to Tony Smith and to Honest History (honesthistory.net.au) for permission to reprint.

Danny Spooner - Home

Danny's final album



In January 1956 when the 15-month old Bush Music Club released the first issue of Singabout, the Journal of Australian Folksong, the editorial included BMC's aims "... to popularise Australian folk song, and to encourage the composition of a new kind of song - one that is traditional in style but contemporary in theme".

The 14 songs on this CD are a perfect illustration of this aim - a swag of traditional songs, including 5 collected by John Meredith - The Backblocks Shearer/Widgegoera Joe, Union Boy, Another Fall of Rain, Shearers Dream and Sally Sloane's Wee One and songs from modern master songwriters Eric Bogle (Home after which the CD is named, and The Gift of Years), John Warner (Miner's Washing), Hugh MacDonald (Diamantina Drover), NZ's Peter Cape (The Cullers Lament) and others. Danny learnt One of the Has Beens from Jim Buchanan, a member of the Victorian Folk Music Club (founded in 1959 as Bush Music Club of Melbourne) and a frequent visitor to BMC in Sydney. It was also a song Duke Tritton used to sing!

The whole album is a treat and I can't say what is my favourite track, they are all excellent.

Copies are available from Gael Shannon - Deposit \$30 in CBA BSB 063-674 Acc# 1020 3039, Ref your surname, then send an email with your postal address to Gael Shannon <admin@danny Spooner.com>, and she will send it to you.

Sandra Nixon (bushmusicclub.blogspot.com.au/2018/04/review-of-danny-spooners-final-album.html)

Sculpting a Landscape

By Colleen Z Burke

Available at Gleebooks
or from Colleen: colleenzburke@gmail.com
Price \$25 including postage

This is Colleen's twelfth collection of her poems and photographs. Her last three years have been particularly busy with a publication every year of her books. Actually these represent six years of intense work selecting from a lifetime of ideas and action. In her Memoirs, Colleen said the writing brought both delight and pain with memories of struggles as well as reminders of all the changes she had witnessed. She had been part of the inaugural activities in the folk music scene as well as communities within inner city living.



I found 'Sculpting a Landscape' was lighter as grandchildren skipped in and out of pages and photographs. This reflection of the joys of grandparenting contrasts with the earlier books of poetry with the anxieties of raising one's own children, ensuring there is always something for them to eat, wear or be entertained by.

With grandchildren, Colleen's insights take a more leisurely observation of their views and comments on surroundings. Although children can be exhausting by the end of the day, their darting across the landscape leaves sweet, lingering memories as material for Col-

leen's ever ready word and visual images.

Colleen has included John Dengate in her dedication as they often shared their love of songs and stories of Ireland and more recently shared the sad sagas of their dental problems. They also shared a love of words that captured a special mood or meaning and Colleen's poems show that thoughtfulness.

Over the years Colleen has helped and encouraged others to write and tell their stories as well as writing biographies about other writers. So it is good to see evidence of her own writing in her book of poems and have included two to share their reflections...

R. Dale Dengate

Focus on Folk 6-7pm 1st Saturday



Focus on Folk can now be heard on 2MBS-FM 102.5, DAB radio and both real time and up to one week later on finemusicFM.com.

Care, time may be changing to 5PM from July and on.

6pm, 2 June Carole Garland presents music with a UK bias

5pm, 6 July Roger Fyfe presents music with a Celtic bias

Anyone with a CD they would like to add to the library collection for consideration for airplay please forward to:

Focus on Folk, Post Office Box A182, Sydney South 1235.

Sculpting a landscape



Colleen Z Burke

Reflections

Coming home from the library
laden down with books,
I'm definitely a book addict,
but as the older woman said
when we browsed
the library's free discards,
it's a fairly harmless addiction.
Too true, I replied,
but I don't need any more books,
my shelves are already chockers.
And luckily
I didn't find any to tempt me.

In the gutter beside the park,
I pass a noisy miner, a pest,
not usually my favourite bird,
diving in and out
of a muddy pool
relishing the scoop,
splash of water,
saturation of feathers.
And although unstable
world leaders are posturing
and provoking each other
towards and annihilating war
I smile as I wend
my way homewards.

Sculpting a landscape

In a small clearing
amidst a huddle
of skeletal
gumtrees
a rusted
burnt out ute
fuses into the
eroded earth
sculpting a
definitive
Aussie landscape.

Loosely Woven brings 'Trial by Jury' to the NFF



Who would have thought that a community group of Loosely Woven singers and musicians could put on such a brilliant performance of this Gilbert and Sullivan operetta?

Of course, by the time of their two final shows, at the National Folk Festival, they had already performed it in several northern Sydney suburbs, including Humph Hall, and in actual old courthouses in Carcoar, Murrumburrah, Boorowa and Gunning. So they had really honed it.

They were fortunate to have an expert director in Christine Logan, from Endangered Productions – who really helped the performers add an entertaining sparkle to the show. As she wrote, "Trial by Jury is a theatrical gem – short, witty and musically wonderful."

Lesley Braithwaite was a delightful Angelina, totally in character as a self-absorbed young woman determined to get her due for breach of promise of marriage. And Greg Thompson, as the 'rock star' defendant, made a good job of playing an unconcerned philanderer.

The rest of the cast rose to the challenge – Judge and Jury, Usher and Counsel, Women's Chorus – and the seven-person Band. As for seeing our Wayne Richmond as a dodderly old Judge!

And that's not forgetting the nine named people behind the scenes, who all contributed to the success of the show – Assistant Director, and people responsible for the poster, photography, make-up, sewing, and props; and the three rehearsal pianists.

Clever advertising around the Festival – "Jilted Fiancee Sues Rock Star" – brought many to the shows, packing out The Terrace. There was a steady procession of chairs being brought up from the Session Bar, as more people kept arriving. (I confess to arriving early, for a front row seat – not only once, but twice, selfishly.)



At the end of the second show, I felt quite sad that it was the last presentation ever. It was so good, I wanted it to keep going! But I know that all the people involved do have other lives to live.

Julie Bishop

The Balkanics



The Balkanics play high-energy music from the Balkans (especially Macedonia). The music is energetic, infectious and very danceable. As well as traditional tunes, many of them Gypsy or Roma in origin, their original compositions are inspired by many years of studying, playing and living these most vibrant of musical cultures. Featuring five accomplished musicians who have been playing together in different combinations for several decades, The Balkanics will intoxicate you, the hypnotic energy of their improvisations dragging you onto the dance floor. Cast away your worldly woes and be transported to a universe inhabited by extravagant rhythmic variation and catchy melodic invention.

The Balkanics are appearing at the Petersham Bowling Club at 3pm on Sunday 16th June. Bookings, trybooking.com/497908. 9569 4639. thepbc.org.au

Profile: Roger Holmes*



I was born at Sherwood, in Brisbane. Our home was on three and a bit acres at Richlands, we had a cow and some chooks, and enough scrub around to have adventures in without getting lost.

My first memory of folk music was my mother singing around the house, and the first folk song that I can remember is "I Know Where I'm Going".

I started school during the boom in Australian folk music engendered by the visit of Burl Ives, who discovered and promoted Australian songs more effectively than any Australians had been able to before. Classically trained singers were also singing these songs, and, best of all, the musical "Reedy River" was produced in Sydney. At school some Australian songs began to be taught - in expurgated forms in many cases! I never learned the last two verses of "Click Go The Shears" from the Sisters of Mercy. Much to my regret now, I never learned any music at school - that was a girls' subject.

We had a strong admixture of Irish to the Australian - every Catholic school had a Saint Patrick's Night concert, with little goodies like "Molly Malone" and "Danny Boy" getting a flogging, though 80% of my class at school were Polish kids whose parents had emigrated. The Irish influence continued into high school with the Christian Brothers, but I never appreciated this influence in Australian Catholic education until I saw the Irish program "Faith of Our Fathers". I knew pretty well every hymn they sang.

I left school just as the great folk revival of the '60s was taking off, and in 1964 fell into very bad company and started going to The Folk Centre in Brisbane. There I met notables such as Stan Arthur, Bill Scott, Bob Michell, Dave de Hugard, Harry Robertson, Bill Berry, Michael O'Rourke, Anne Infante, and Evan Mathieson. Think of The Wayfarers then as a cross between The Weavers and The Clancy Brothers, with a very strong Australian accent. Much of the material invited audience participation in choruses and I developed a facility for learning the words. It's a shame I didn't develop a better facility for singing them!

As the '60s went on there was a leaning towards other material, such as the work of people like Ewan MacColl, who had just finished his Radio Ballads. The particular exponent of his work in Brisbane as far as I remember was Michael O'Rourke.

In 1968 I went to Papua New Guinea followed by two years based in London, where, much to my retrospective regret, I was more involved in Rugby than folk clubs and festivals. I don't regret the Rugby, but I could have organised the off-seasons better!

I returned to Brisbane and The Folk Centre at Christmas/New Year 1972. By then the folk scene had been augmented by the presence of Don and June Nichols, Ken Evans, Lid Thompson, Mike Clarke, Mary Brettell, Dave Alexander and Jan Davies. Eric Bogle moved to Brisbane around then and Tony Miles also turned up. I learned more songs from all of them. At the time, Anne Infante was also running The Barley Mow Folk Club at the Cecil Hotel in George St.

In 1974 I attended my first National Folk Festival (the Eighth) in Brisbane, and met people I would later be better acquainted with such as Declan Affley, Derrick Chetwyn, Tony Suttor, and Lyn Stone. I learned more songs from them, too. I haven't missed a National since.

At the beginning of 1975 I was transferred to Sydney in time for the 1975 National. I started going to The Liz & The Edinburgh Castle Folk Clubs, run by Eric Davies and Len Neary respectively. Regular performers were Bernard Bolan, John Dengate, Declan Affley, Gerry Hallom, Derrick Chetwyn, Gordon McIntyre, Robin Connaughton & Maureen Cummskey. Other singers to appear over the next few years were Cilla Kinross, Jennifer Horne (now Jennifer Lees) & Judy Small. I kept learning more songs.

I also attended festivals such as Numeralla, Wagga, and Nariel, and later, Hill End and Carcoar, and The Celtic music competitions at Kapunda.

Bush dances were becoming very popular, largely as a result of the efforts of The Bushwackers Band, and I started going to dances around Sydney and Canberra. Canberra boasted the best callers around in Mick Fogarty and Beryl Pedvin, and musos like Bob McInnes and the late, much-lamented Mick Heaney.

After the 1975 National in Sydney I became involved in folkie politics for the first time, as Secretary of The NSW Folk Federation which was suffering from the reaction and burnout common at the time in places that had hosted a National, and membership was down to about fifty. Over the next few years we built it up to nearly 600, mostly thanks to the work of people like Margaret Walters, Len Neary, and John Ramshaw. I took over as Chairman and Treasurer from 1976 to 1979, and had the distinction of getting the first unqualified auditors' report up to that time.

The Australian Folk Trust was born in the late 1970s, and I became the NSW delegate to the meetings that thrashed out its constitution, and later, was one of the NSW trustees. I remember missing most of the 1978 National Folk Festival in Fremantle while attending the first formal meeting of the AFT. One decision of that meeting was a grant to Chris Buch for a project that resulted in his writing "Johnny Stewart, Drover". I still think that was the best \$200 the AFT ever spent.

I returned to Brisbane at the end of 1979, by which time The Folk Centre had closed, and the main centres of folk music were The Red Brick Hotel and The Barley Mow Folk Club, which was operating out of Saint Paul's church hall in East Brisbane.

From the mid-1980s the focus was on preparations for the 1981 National, the 15th, which was to be held in Brisbane. There were raffles, dances (the notorious Moreton Bay Band had its origin in this activity), and Gawd, were there meetings! I don't remember much about the festival itself, except that I presented a workshop on "Cockies" with Russell Mackay, Helen Brett (Rowe), Heather Sharpe, and the late Phil Brown. I learned a lot about doing workshops from that experience, which was why I didn't try to do another one for a decade.

Around that time Rantan were running well attended dances every Sunday at The Hub Club at Herston, with the excellent calling of Robyn Craig, and several of the people who went to them are still involved in The Queensland Colonial Dancers.

After the 1981 National I became President of the Queensland Folk Federation, once again faced with the problem of people having been used up by organising the National. I also became one of the Queensland delegates to the AFT.

This led to my running The Barley Mow Folk Club, which had been taken over by the QFF. After I had been running it for only a few weeks, we had the stress of having to find new premises, and after a few weeks we moved to the old Australian Pensioners' League hall at Red Hill.

Though we didn't realise it at the time, the folk club scene was dying, and the only notable times at the new venue were two concerts we had within two weeks of each other. The first one starred Eric Bogle, who did the gig at a very concessional rate

to help us to get out of debt. The hall was designed to seat about 120-150 people, and we had 250 in there on the night. There was standing room only, and that was on top of other people. It was certainly the best concert I ever ran, and probably the best I ever attended. The second concert was part of Vin Garbutt's 1982 tour, and it was nearly as good as the Bogle one, with only slightly fewer people and a magnificent atmosphere.

After two years as president of the QFF I stood down, and the organisation died down for a couple of years, to be reconstituted in 1986 under Bill Hauritz and a large group of workers who built it, via the Maleny and Woodford folk festivals, into the organisation it is now. At the same time I was heavily involved in playing, coaching, and managing rugby, as well as fund-raising activities, on top of doing a degree (twenty years too late!) at QUT. However, I kept in touch with the songs through the sessions at The Stock Exchange, The Jubilee and The New Chum Folk Club which led a peripatetic existence around the pubs of Brisbane, moving every time a pub changed its marketing strategy (or was pulled down).

There were also The Morningside Bush Dances, with Kitchener's Privates. This led to my involvement with The Queensland Colonial Dancers and I danced with them up to 1998, when other pressures interfered.

Through the nineties I have followed Stan Arthur's efforts to keep folk songs going through The Folk Centre, which has settled at The Kookaburra Café in Paddington for the last 5 years.

The things I have most enjoyed in the last few years have been The National Folk Festival workshops I have been involved in, starting with "Songs of the American Civil War" in 1992. We had a really good group of singers and musicians - Ann Bermingham, Joyce Simpson, Dale Riddle, Ian Drynan, Terry Jacob, Julie McGonigal, and Phil Wilson - whose complementary talents made it a wonderful occasion. The thing I particularly remember from that one is that it opened my eyes to the ability of Terry Jacob as a guitarist and Julie McGonigal as a singer. We repeated it at Maleny at the end of the year, but somehow it wasn't as good.

In 1994, with many of the same personnel, we did "Songs of the American Cowboys" which was better in some ways, but did not get the same audience reaction.

Since 1995, I have also been running a hymn singing session on Easter Sunday at the National. It is especially enjoyable because one of the ground rules is that everybody has to sing. It has been increasingly noticeable over the last few years that people are going to folk festivals to be entertained, not to take part, and this, in my opinion, is a BAD THING. So, roll on the hymns. Some people do seem to take the religious side of it a little bit seriously, which is a worry.

In 1998 Marina Hurley put together a group to sing some contemporary songs which they felt were being adopted into the singing tradition. The group was "Living Tradition" - gee, we had fun. I will regret to my dying day not being able to obtain a tape of any of our gigs, especially the one on the Sunday when "Rosa's Lovely Daughters" took on a life of its own so that we sang the chorus five times in a row at the end.

Most of the same people got together again for the 1999 National to do a workshop/theme concert on the songs of Ewan MacColl, which was also a lot of fun, even though all up it cost me about six bottles of Jameson's. Having to do a gig at 9.30 in the morning at a National is not everybody's idea of prime time, but the punters loved it, at least.

Roger Holmes

Editor's Note: Unfortunately (or fortunately) Roger's profile has been edited to half its original size - mainly by culling many witty comments (for which Roger is famous). I should add that for many years Roger's house was always available for collating the "Rag" and for numerous singing sessions. Thanks a lot Roger!!! (June Nichols) - Editor of Folk Rag, at that time. June passed away in early 2006.

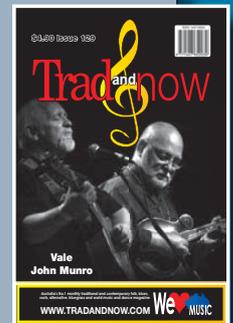
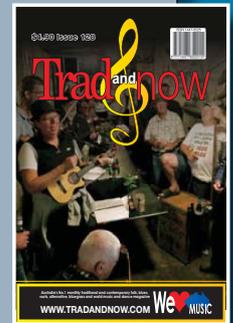
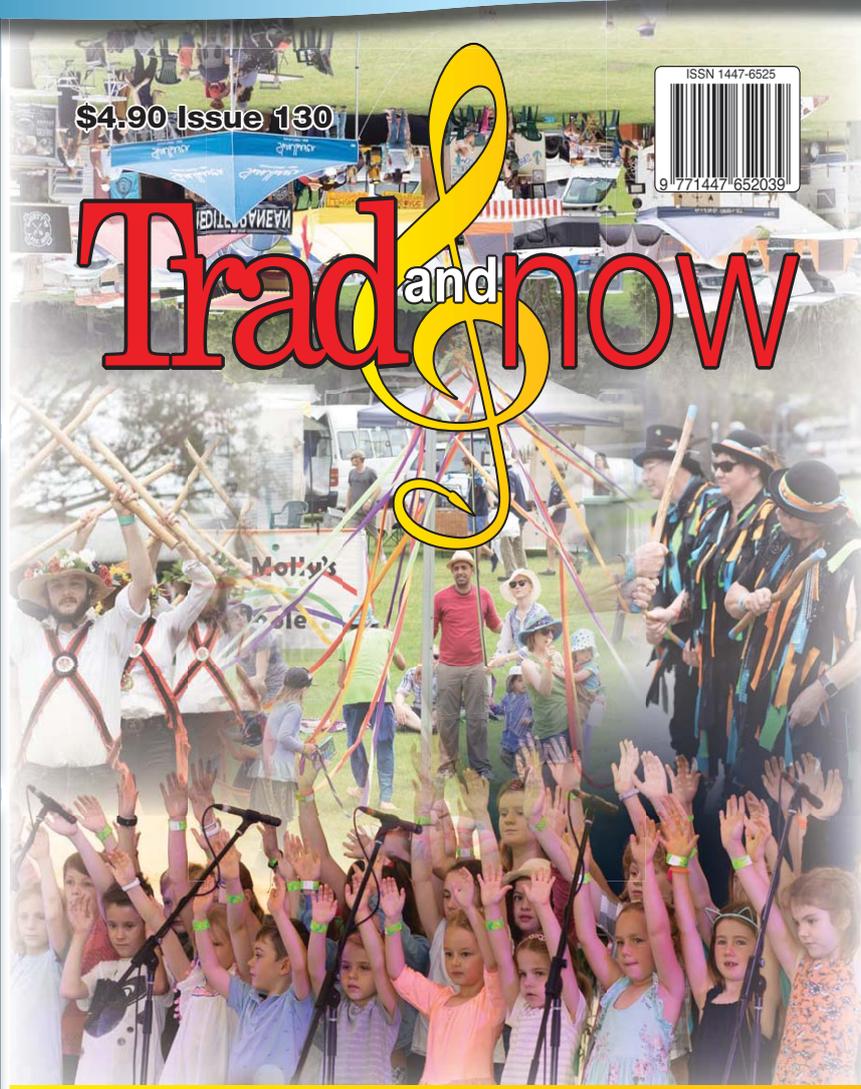
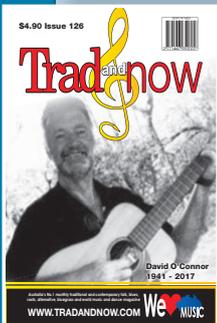
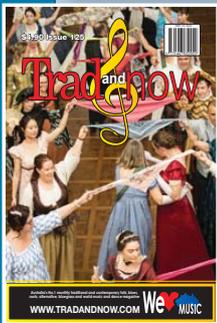
**Reprinted from folkrag.org/profiles/index.html, by kind permission of Roger, and current editor of Queensland's 'Folk Rag', Michael Bourne. It was first published in Folk Rag in July 1999. Many thanks to Sandra Nixon, for suggesting it.*

Chaika



Described as "spine-tingling" & "extraordinary", Chaika create worldly rhythmic textures inspired by Balkan vibrancy, Celtic stories, and Australia's own stunning landscapes. Their genre-blending sounds have been branded by fans as 'Nomadic Folk-Jazz'. Employing ethereal harmonies (in several languages), a myriad of instruments & a dynamic ability for discovery, Chaika re-imagine & create their own exuberant music traversing incredible landscapes with jazz-like dexterity. Chaika are appearing in Wollongong Town Hall, Fri 28th, Rhythm Hut Sat 29th & The Newsagency, Sun 30th June.

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folk contacts

CHOIRS

Monday

■ AshCappella Ashfield, led by Mary-Jane Field, 9090 2362

■ Ecopella. Blue Mountains, contact Miguel Heatwole, 9810 4601 mheatwole@bigpond.com

■ Glory Bound Groove Train. Petersham, led by Linda Calgaro, 9518 4135

■ Inner West Chamber Choir, Leichhardt, led by Rachele Elliott. 9797 1917. info@innerwestchoir.com

■ Intonations. Manly, led by Karen Smith, 0415 221 113, karensmith@artsconnect.com.au

■ Martenitsa. Ultimo, led by Mara & Llew Kiek, 47514910

■ People's Chorus. Newcastle, led by Rod Noble, 49 623432

■ Unaccompanied Baggage. North Sydney, led by Stuart Davis, singup@optusnet.com.au

■ Voiceworks, Katoomba, led by Rachel Hore 4759 2456, rachelhore@ozemail.com

Tuesday

■ Ecopella. Illawarra area (alternate Tuesdays), led by Miguel Heatwole 9810 4601, mheatwole@bigpond.com

■ Roc Lawson, led by Rachel Hore, 47592456, rachelhore@ozemail.com

■ The Honeybees. East Sydney, led by Dynes Austin. Contact Jenny Jackson, 9816 4577 lindsayandjenny@hotmail.com

■ Sydney Trade Union Choir Sydney City, contact Nola Cooper 9587 1165 - Nola.Cooper3@three.com.au

■ Songs Next Door, Seaview Street, Dulwich Hill, meets weekly at Sea View Hall, Seaview St, Dulwich Hill. 12.30pm. (Seniors mostly) Contact Allan 9520 6180

Wednesday

■ Choralation. Abbotsford (school terms), contact Margaret Grove mggrove@optusnet.com.au

■ Ecopella. Erskineville, led by Miguel Heatwole, 9810 4601 mheatwole@bigpond.com

■ The Heathens. Blackheath, day time 2pm-4pm. Led by Chris Wheeler 4787 5725 chriswheeler55@gmail.com

■ The Spots. Christina Mimmocchi, Randwick 0410 682 061

■ The Sydney Welsh Choir, men and women. Meet on Wednesday evenings at Concord Baptist Church hall. 7pm - 9pm. 20 plus performances per year. Contact MD Viv 4739 0384, taffy@pnc.com.au. President Rob Horlin 9617 0401.

Thursday

■ Boudi Voice. Kincumber (school terms), led by C & C Sainsbury, contact 43 683270

■ Chorella Community Choir. Richmond, contact Ellen 4578 2975

■ Cleftomaniacs. Waterloo, led by Gary Smith, garys7@optushome.com.au

■ Solidarity Choir. Erskineville, contact Cathy Rytmeister, 0438 683 867, crytmeister@bigpond.com

Friday

■ The Sydney Street Choir. CBD, led by Peter Lehner 0425 268 771

■ Mudlarks, women's a cappella choir. Woodford. Led by Alison Jones 4759 2880

■ Pacopezants. - Balkan Choir. Meets Fridays 4pm, Katoomba. Enquiries: June (02) 4782 1554. junerose12@gmail.com

Sunday

■ Blue Mountains Trade Union Choir. Upper Mts., contact Kate 47 82 5529

DANCE

Monday

■ Bush Music Club Dance Workshop
Beginners, experienced, 7.30pm, Pennant Hills Community Centre, downstairs. Except Jan. and public holidays. Felicity 9456 2860

■ International Folk Dancing
School term, Earlwood Senior Citizens Centre, 362 Homer St 10am-noon. Debbie 4294 1363. 0427 315 245
Scottish Country Dancing for beginners, with 'Scots on the Rocks', Fort St Public School, Observatory Hill, Sydney, 6.30-7.30pm. Nea 9994 7110, Lynn 9268 1246, SC Dancers@netspace.net.au, http://www.rscds.org.au
Belly Dance, basic/beginners 7pm, choreography 8pm, Girraween Hall, 17 Tungarra Rd. Vera Myronenko 9665 9713

Tuesday

■ Blue Mountains Scottish Country Dancers
Catholic Church Hall, 7-9pm, Wentworth St, \$3 Verley Kelliher, 4787 5968, kelliher@isp.com.au
Carol Gardner 4751 6073/a.c.gardner@bigpond.com

■ Greek Folk Dance
Pontian House, 15 Riverview Rd, Earlwood. Adult class 7.30pm - 9.00pm (Senior Diogenes Group - 15 yrs to adult. Cost involved. Vas Alijannis, 0407 081 875, greekdancer@aapt.net.au. www.greekdancing.com.au

■ Hungarian Dance Class
St Peters Public School, 8-10pm. Gary Dawson 0425 268 505. gazad49@hotmail.com

■ Scottish Country Dancing
St John's Uniting Church Hall, Coonanbarra Rd, Wahroonga, 7.30-10.30pm. All welcome. Catherine Bonner 9489 5027

■ Scottish Country Dancing - Scots on The Rocks.
Fort Street Public School, Upper Fort St, The Rocks, Sydney. 6.30-8.30pm. Robert Davidson 0435 154 433

■ Sutherland Shire Folk Dance Group
International Dancing, Gynea Bay Scout Hall, June Place, 7.30-9pm. Kaye Laurendet 9528 4813

■ Sydney Playford Dance Group (English country dancing from 1650 onwards). 1st Tuesday (except January), Bush Music Club, Hut 4, Addison Rd Centre, 142 Addison Road, Marrickville. 7.30pm - 9.30pm. \$5, Julie 9524 0247.

■ Turkish Dance Class
Lidcombe Community Centre, 8-10pm. Yusuf Nidai 9646 1166

■ Ukrainian (Cossack) Dancing Class
for fit and energetic young people (16-23yrs), 7.30 pm to 10.00 pm. Ukrainian Hall 59 Joseph Street, Lidcombe. Jaros Iwanec 9817 7991, jarosiwane@optusnet.com.au /www.veselka.com.au

■ International Folk Dance class - Open Door, Georges Hall Senior Citizens, Birdwood Rd, 11.30am-12.30pm. Gabrielle 9728 7466, gabybaby@optusnet.com.au
"The Dance Buffet", wide variety taught, Liverpool City Pipe Band Hall, Woodward Park (next to Whitlam Centre), Memorial Ave, 7.30-9.30pm. \$8 (\$5 conc). Nikolai 9822 7524, mob 0407 178 228

■ International Folk Dance for older women. School terms only. 11.45am - 12.45. Bankstown Older Women's Wellness Centre, Police and Community Youth Club, cnr Meredith st and French Ave, Wendy Walsh 0432 399 056.

Wednesday

■ Albion Fair, North-West Morris Dancing
Lilyfield Community Centre, Cecily and O'Neill Sts, 7.45pm. Angie Milce 9817 3529

■ Balmoral Scottish Country Dance Group
7.00-9.15pm, Seniors' Centre, Mosman Square, Mosman. Nell Morgan 9981 4769.

■ Epping Scottish Country Dance Club
St Aidan's Church Hall, Downing St, 7.30-10pm. All levels welcome. Clare Haack 9484 5947 clare_kirton@hotmail.com

■ Gosford Scottish Country Dance Society
7-10pm, Church of Christ, Henry Parry Drive, Wyoming.

Cecily Cork 4384 3527, Jan McCudden 4329 5537
Greek Folk Dance. Pan Macedonian Assoc Building, Railway Pde, Sydenham from 7pm onwards. Adult classes from 7.15 pm, Vasilius Alijannis, tel/fax 9708 1875 greekdancer@excite.com

■ Irish Set Dance class, Irish Gaelic Club, 64 Devonshire St, Surry Hills. 8-9.30pm. Alama 0401 167 910.

■ Sutherland Shire Bush Dance Group. 131 Gynea Bay Road, Gynea 7.30 - 10pm. \$6 (short walk from Gynea Railway Station, near President Ave). Until mid-December. For bush dancing, a yarn and a cuppa. All dances are taught, walked through and called. Beginners, singles, partners and groups most welcome. Mike 9520 2859, Leila 9545 1576.

■ Sutherland Shire Folk Dance Group
International dancing, Como Guides Hall, cnr Warraba & Mulyan Sts, Como West 9.30a, - 11am & 11.30am - 12.30pm. Kaye 9528 4813, okaye@optusnet.com.au

Thursday

■ English Country Dancing for the over 55's. Playford (old English dances) 11.30am-1pm. English Country, beginners 1-2pm, intermediate 2-4pm. Wesley School for Seniors, Level 3, 220 Pitt Street, Sydney. \$55 for 5 subjects per term. 9263 5416, schoolforseniors@wesleymission.org.au

■ English Country Dancing. 1st & 3rd Thurs. Church by the Bridge hall (St John's Anglican), Broughton St (cnr Bligh St), Kirribilli. Enter courtyard gate - hall is on right. 7.15-9.15pm. Donations (optional), for the church or expenses. Please email Margaret Swait, so that you can be advised of schedule changes: MargaretTalbot@me.com

■ Blue Labyrinth International Folk Dance from 7pm, Baptist Church Hall, King St Glenbrook. Jo Barrett 4739 6498

■ Greek Folk Dance
Mytelian House. 225 Canterbury Rd, Canterbury. Adult classes from 7.30pm - 9.00pm (Clio Group - 21 years and up Greek dances). Cost involved. Vasilius Alijannis, tel/fax 9708 1875 greekdancer@excite.com

■ Sutherland Shire Folk Dance Group
International dancing. Scout Hall, June Place, Gynea Bay. 10am. Kaye 9528 4813 okaye@optusnet.com.au

■ Sydney Irish Ceili Dancers
Kingsgrove Uniting Church Hall, 289A Kingsgrove Rd (cnr Moreton Avenue, Kingsgrove. Beginners to intermediate step dancing 6pm, advanced step dancing 7pm Set and ceili dancing 8-10.30pm. Margaret and Bill Winnett 9150 6765. email: wnnti@optusnet.com.au

Friday

■ Australian Colonial and Folk Dancers Every Friday, Scouts/Guides Hall, Plympton Road, Carlingford, (opposite Nth Carlingford shops). Anthony and Lisa 9873 4805.

■ Greek Dancing. St Therapon Greek Orthodox Parish (Church Hall) 323 Cumberland Highway, Thornleigh. Time: Juniors 6.30pm - 7.30pm (Callipe Group)
Pontian House. 15 Riverview Rd, Earlwood. Junior Class - 6.30pm - 7.30pm (Thalia junior group - 3yrs to 12 yrs. Class is free, Pontian only)

■ International Dancing. Sedenka Folk Dancers, Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre, 665A Darling St Rozelle. 8-11pm, \$3. Chris Wild 9560 2910.

Scottish Country Dancing
Adult classes, beginners welcome, children 6.30 - 7.30pm, adults 8-10.30pm, Beecroft Primary School, \$2. Sheena Caswell 9868 2075, Heather Dryburgh 9980 7978

Scottish Country Dancing
■ Caringbah Seniors Hall, 386 Port Hacking Rd, Caringbah (rear Library), 8pm. Beginners/other levels. G. Milton 9524 4943, Erica Nimmo 9520 4781

Saturday

- Bush Music Club Bush Dances
Beecroft Dance, 1st Sat (except Jan), Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft Road, 7.30 - 11.30pm. Sigrid 9980 7077, Wilma 9489 5594. Ermington Dance, June and Dec, Ermington Community Centre, 10 River Road, 7-11pm. Don 9642 7949. \$19, \$17, members \$14. bushmusic.org.au
- Central Coast Bush Dance 2nd Sat, 7.30 - 11.30pm, East Gosford Progress Hall, Henry Parry Dr and Wells St, \$15/\$12. Robyn 4344 6484.
- Scottish and Old Time Dance
■ 2nd Sat, 8pm, Uniting Church, 9-11 Bay St, Rockdale. \$3 incl. supper. Chris Thom 9587 9966
- Scottish and Old Time Dancing Orkney and Shetland Assoc. 3rd Sat, 8-11 pm. St David's Hall, Dalhousie St, Haberfield. \$3 inc. supper. Visitors most welcome. Jean Cooney 9874 5570.
- Macedonian Dance Class Rockdale. 6.30-8.30pm, \$5. Y Kaporis 0412861 187
- Mortdale Scottish Dancers Learners night (for learners and experienced), 7.30- 9.30pm. Pensioners Welfare Club Hall, 76 Pitt Street, Mortdale. Pam Jehan 9580 8564.
- Linnéa Swedish Folkdancers Estonian House, 141 Campbell St, Surry Hills. New members welcome. For times contact Graeme Traves 9874 4194, linneafolk@hotmail.com
- Medieval Miscellany (Medieval Dancing). All Saints Parish House, cnr Oxford and Cromwell Sts, New Lambton. Saturdays, 3.30-5.30pm. \$10. Dianne 4936 6220

MUSIC IN CONCERT

Tuesday

- The Screw Soapers Guild - Writers Presenters & Listeners Group 4th Tues, 7.30pm, stories, poems, songs and conversation. Albert 9600 7153, website: www.folkclub.com/folkodysey/

Wednesday

- Wisefolk Club Last Wed in month, 11am-2.30pm, Toongabbie Bowling Club, 12 Station Rd, lunch at club bistro. Sonia 9621 2394 Allen 9639 7494,

Thursday

- Sutherland Folk Club
2nd Thurs concert night. All ages. Members are welcome to join us at any of our concerts, do a floor spot. Enjoy a friendly, sociable night's entertainment, support local talent. Contact Jenny 9576 2301.
- Blackheath Folk At The Ivanhoe
1st Thurs, 7.30pm. Ivanhoe Hotel Blackheath. Free entry, all ages. Floor spots available on first come, first served basis. Enjoy a meal at the Ivanhoe and friendly, sociable entertainment. Christine davica@bigpond.net.au 02 4787 7246

Friday

- Hornsby Kuring-Gai Folk Club
- 3rd Fri, 8pm, Each month Beatrice Taylor Hall, rear Willow Park Community Centre, Edgeworth David Ave, Guest artist and floor spots, light supper provided BYO grog. Barry Parks 9807 9497 bpparks@tpg.com.au Illawarra Folk Club
- Irregular Fridays, Wollongong City Diggers Club, cnr Burelli & Church Streets, 1300 887 034 www.illawarrafolkclub.org.au
- Springwood Acoustic Music Club, or SNC Acoustic Club. www.sncc.org.au/events/springwood-acoustic-club. Phone 02 4751 3033
- Toongabbie Music Club
2nd and 4th Fri 8pm, Northmead Scout Hall, Whitehaven Road, Northmead. A session always happens so bring instruments. Allen Davis 9639 7494 allendavis@iprimus.com.au. or Ray Pulis 9899 2102.

Saturday

- Bluegrass & Traditional Country Music Society of Aust. 1st Sat, March-December Sydney get-together. Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, 79 Johnston St, Annandale. Band workshop 7pm, concert 8.15pm, jamming all night. All welcome: \$5/7. (02) 9456 1090 www.bluegrass.org.au

Illawarra Folk Club,

- Irregular Saturdays, Wollongong City Diggers Club, cnr Burelli & Church Streets, 1300 887 034 www.illawarrafolkclub.org.au
- Loaded Dog Folk Club
- 4th Sat, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, 79 Johnston St, 8pm. Sandra Nixon, 9358 4886, kxbears@ozemail.com.au. www.theloadeddog.org.au
- The Shack. 1st Sat, presents 21st century original, contemporary and traditional folk music at the Tramshed, 1395a Pittwater Rd, Narrabeen at 7:30. BYO drinks and nibbles. Rhonda 0416 635 856 . www.theshacknarrabeen.com
- Troubadour Folk Club
Central Coast, 4th Sat. in month 7pm CWA Hall, Woy Woy. (opposite Fisherman's Wharf), The Boulevard, Woy Woy. Admission: \$11/\$9/\$8. Floor spots available.. includes light supper. 4342 6716 www.troubadour.org.au
- Fairlight Folk Acoustic Lounge
Held four times a year, Feb, May, Aug. Nov (usually 1st Sat) 7.30pm. Comfortable, relaxed environment for quality live acoustic music. After show - jam. BYO drinks and nibbles. Light refreshments available. William St Studios, Fairlight (The Baptist Church down from Sydney Rd. Contact Rosie 9948 7993. www.fairlightfolk.com

SESSIONS & WORKSHOPS

Monday

- Bush Music Club
Community Centre, 44/142 Addison Rd, Marrickville, 7.30pm. Music workshop. All singers and musicians welcome. Allen 9639 7494
- 3rd Mondays 7.30pm. Figgy Sessions, Figtree Pub (Illawarra). Blackboard, poets, yarnspinners, singers, musos welcome. 1300 887 034, info@illawarrafolkclub.org.au

Tuesday

- Irish Music Session: Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 7.30 - 10.30pm @ The Shamrock Inn, Asquith Leagues Club, Alexandra Pd. Waitara (short walk from station). It's an open session and all musicians are welcome with focus on tunes rather than songs. Phone Norm 9489 5786/normanmerrigan@optusnet.com.au
- Irish music lessons, beginners and advanced, instruments including fiddle, flue, whistle, guitar, banjo. Gaelic Club, 64 Devonshire St. Surry Hills, 9212 1587 info@gaelicclub.com.au

Wednesday

- Jolly Frog Hotel. Jam Night. Cnr Bridge & Macquarie Sts. Windsor. 7.30pm to late. Mark 0419 466 004
- Gosford Bush Poets
Last Wednesday night of every month 7pm. The Gosford Hotel, cnr of Mann & Erina Sts Gosford. Everyone welcome to share in night of fun, friendship and great poetry. Contact Vic Jefferies, 02 96394911 or jeffries@tech2u.com.au
- The Cronulla Music Club 1st Wednesday. Cronulla RSL 2pm - 5pm. Contact Brian Dunnett 02 9668 9051/Jenny 02 9576 2301
- Bush Bash. Weekly gathering celebrating Australian bush songs, ballads, city ditties, yarns, recitations, bush dance tunes. Imperial Hotel, 252 Oxford St, Paddington. 830pm-1030pm. (Lounge opens 7.30pm). Free. Warren Fahey wfahey@bigpond.net.au
- 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, Irish session, with 'Tripping Up The Stairs' + Alison Boyd. The Fiddler, Rouse Hill. 7-10ish.
- Southern Sydney Folk Club. The Dungeon Sessions. Play original or traditional songs in front of supportive people; join in, play & sing along with new & well known folk songs. Meet other enthusiasts in the Folk Tradition. Third Wednesdays. The Shopfront Arts Co-op, 88 Carlton Pde, Carlton. 7-9.30pm. Gold coin donation. Wally 0421 017 975, Mark 0409 701 249

Thursday

- Sutherland Acoustic
4th Thursday of each. month from 7.30pm Gymea Tradies Club, Kingsway, Gymea. Friendly jam. All welcome to sing, play an instrument, recite poetry or just listen. Enq. Jenny 95762301
- Gaelic Club. Irish music session, 8pm. Plus Irish music lessons, instruments including fiddle, flute, whistle, guitar, banjo. Gaelic Club, Surry Hills 9212 1587 info@gaelicclub.com.au
- Every Thursday evening, Folk/Irish session. Appin Hotel.

Friday

- Duke's Place. 2nd Friday (Feb-Dec), 7.30-11.30pm. Addison Road Centre, 142 Addison Road, Marrickville. \$10, bring a plate. Sandra 9358 4886.
- Singing Session - formerly held at the Gaelic Club, 1st Fri, 7-11pm. Hut 44, Addison Road Centre 142 Addison Rd, Marrickville. Cost - gold coin, BYO, plus a contribution to supper if wanted. Glenys 4758 7851, geddy_by@internode.on.net
- Eastern Suburbs Poetry Group
1st Friday, Church in the Market Place, Bondi Junction. 6.30-8.30pm. Gina 9349 6958
- Macquarie Towns Music Club. 3rd Friday every month, from 7.30pm. Bring along instruments, songs, poems etc. for fun, friendly night. Richmond Neighbourhood Centre, 20 West Market St, Richmond. \$5, guests \$7. Taia 4567 7990
- Springwood Neighbourhood Centre Acoustic Club. 4th Fri, (Feb - Nov) 8pm, \$7/\$5, Springwood Neighbourhood Centre, Macquarie Rd (next to library and Oriental Hotel.) Visitors and floor performers welcome, Theresa 47518157, Jeannette 4754 4893

Saturday

- 1st Saturdays, Irish/folk session, Balmoral Village hall (between Thirlmere and Hilltop). Gold coin for hall upkeep.

Sunday

- Hotel Illawarra Wollongong, 3rd Sunday, 3pm, spoken word, 5pm acoustic music
- Irish Music Session ellys, King Street, Newtown, 6pm. Enq. 9559 6300
- Irish Music Session. 3rd Sunday. Bennet Hotel, Hamilton, 4-7.30pm Roz and Shane Kerr 44967 3167
- Irish Music Sessions - Dacey Riley's, Wollongong 2pm.
- Music lessons for kids. 12 noon - 3pm. Focus on tin whistle. Gaelic Club. Surry Hills 9212 1587.
- Music Session Hero of Waterloo, cnr Lower Fort St and Windmill Street, The Rocks. 6-10pm. Brendan 9818 4864
- Traditional Irish Music 'Slow Session' for beginners/intermediate players of Irish Traditional Music (melody instruments only). 6-30pm. Tritton Hall, Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, 142 Addison Rd, Marrickville. \$10, conc. \$5, includes tea & bikkies. Brian 0414 565 805

REGIONAL EVENTS

BATEMANS BAY: Scottish Country Dancing, Batemans Bay Caledonian Society - Tuesday 7.30pm at Batemans Bay Bowling Club - visitors welcome. Warren 4457 2065.

BATHURST:

Irish Ceili. Mon. 7.30 - 8.30pm. Irish Step dancing, 6.30 - 7.30pm. Bathurst CWA Hall, Russell Street.

BELLINGEN: Celtic Australian Session. Saturday from about 1pm. Northern end of Church Street cafe strip. John 6655 5898 Carole 6655 1225

BLUE MOUNTAINS: Blue Mountains Heritage Dancers, Wednesday in term time, 730pm-930pm. Wentworth Falls SOA. 217 Great Westn Hwy. Caroline 0439 314 948, dba23266@bigpond.net.au or Patrick 0412 786 988

Blue Mountains Folk. Mid Mountains Community Centre. Joy Anderson Room, 7 New St, Lawson. 3rd Sunday, 3.30pm - 6pm. \$7, \$5, under 12 free. Nick Szentkuti 4758 7953, szentkuti@exemail.com.au

Irish Session at the Carrington, Katoomba. 4th Sunday, 3pm.

BOWRAL: Bowral Folk Club. 4th Thursdays, evening. In a room provided by Mittagong RSL. Coordinator, Brian Haydon, briFan@haydons.com, 0406 939 309

BRAIDWOOD:

Braidwood Folk Music Club meets every 3rd Thursday now at the Anglican Church Hall, BYO everything. Info Sue 4842 8142

Tallaganda Dance Troupe. Folk dance, Mon. 9.30am (Noela 4842 8004) 35 Coronation Ave, Braidwood.

BROKEN HILL: Occasional acoustic jam nights at Bell's Milk Bar. Contact Broken Hill Art Exchange, (08) 8008 83171

CANOWINDRA

Canowindra Folk Club. 4th Sun, 4pm. Feature act plus open mic. Taste Canowindra.

CENTRAL COAST, Troubadour 4th Sat. in month 7pm CWA Hall, Woy Woy. (opposite Fisherman's Wharf), The Boulevard, Woy Woy. Admission: \$11/\$9/\$8. Floor spots available.. includes light supper. Marilyn or Frank 4341 4060 or 0419 231 319

COBARGO: Yuin Folk Club, Occasional concerts. Enq. Coral Vorbach 6493 6758. coral.vorbach@bigpond.com, website: www.cobargofolkfestival.com

COOMA, International Folk Dancing, Uniting Church Hall, Soho St, Thurs, 6pm. Fran 6453 3282 (h)

DUBBO FOLK CLUB, Usually 2nd Sunday, 2.30pm, Western Star Hotel All welcome. Di Clifford 6882 0498 0458 032 150

GOSFORD BUSH POETS - last Wednesday night of every month 7pm. The Gosford Hotel, cnr of Mann & Erina Sts Gosford. Everyone welcome to share in night of fun, friendship and great poetry. Contact Vic Jefferies, 02 96394911 or jeffries@tech2u.com.au

GOULBURN.

■ Bush traditions sessions at the Old Goulburn Brewery. 1st Fri (except Jan & April), 7.30pm. Bradley Grange, Bungonia Rd, Goulburn. David Johnson 4884 4214 bushtraditions.org/sessions/goulburnsession.htm

■ Irish and Celtic music sessions at the Old Goulburn Brewery. 3rd Fri. Bradley Grange, Bungonia Rd. 4821 6071.

GULGONG

■ **Gulgong Folk Club,** 3rd Friday, Waratah Hotel, Mudgee 5pm. PO Box 340, Gulgong NSW 2852, Bob Campbell 02 6373 4600, gulgongfolkfestival.com

■ Gulgong Music Session. 2nd & 4th Thurs, 5-8pm. Centennial Hotel. 6374 1241

KIAMA "No Such Thing". Yvonne O'Grady hosts an Australian tune session suitable for beginners every Monday in Kiama. Yvonne 02 4233 1073, iffaj@shoal.net.au.

LITHGOW - Folk Club session. 1st Sun, from 3.30pm. Lithgow Workies. 6372 2068

MUDGE

Music Session. 1st & 3rd Thurs, 5-8pm. Courthouse Hotel. 63722068

NEWCASTLE:

■ **Acoustic Folk Lounge,** 1st Wednesdays, 7-10pm. Downstairs, Grand Hotel, cnr Church and Bolton Sts, Newcastle. Circle session. All welcome. 4967 3146, catherine.laudine@uon.edu.au, Tracy 0402 761 520

■ Bush and Colonial Dancing, 3rd Sund each month 2-4pm. Beginners and visitors always welcome. All Saints Anglican Hall, New Lambton. Enq. Margaret Kenning 02 4952 1327 email: westwick@wix.com.au or Bill Probert 02 4946 5602 email probert@netspace.net.au

■ Greek Folk Dance Lessons. Fridays, 6-8pm. Hippocrates Hall, 30 Crebert St, Mayfield. Irini Kassas 0411 795 766, hippocrates_trust@hotmail.com

■ Newcastle and Hunter Valley Folk Club, 1st Sat. 7.30pm (not Jan) Wesley Centre, Beaumont St, Hamilton. (Dances held 4 times a year, March, June, Sept, Nov) Lainey 4943 4552, 0421 412 358 laineyv@bigpond.com. www.newcastlehuntervalleyfolkclub.org.au

■ Traditional Irish/Folk Session, 1st Sunday, 3-6pm. Lake Macquarie Hotel, opp. Morisset Railway Station. Gabriele 0418 146 555, Sharyn 0418 146 554, gcalcagno2008@hotmail.com

■ Lakeside Folk Circle, 4th Sunday, every month. Teralba Community Hall, Anzac Pade, Lake Macquarie. 4-7pm. \$2.50. Paul 4959 6030. nager99@hotmail.com

■ People's Chorus Practice, 6pm, Trades Hall Council Meeting Rooms (opp. Panthers' Club, main entrance), Newcastle. Rod Noble 4962 3432 email: Frances.Munt@newcastle.edu.au

■ Newcastle Irish Set Dancers, Tuesdays, 7.30-9.00pm, Scots Kirk, Hamilton, Newcastle. Julia or Arthur, 4955 5701 juliasmith@tpg.com.au, or <http://users.tpg.com.au/juliasm/irish-dance/

■ Hunter Bush Poets, 2nd Tuesday 7pm, Tarro Hotel; Ron Brown 4951 6186.

■ Hunter Folk Dancers, Enquiries: Julia or Arthur on 02 4955 5701,

■ Irish Music Session, Bennett Hotel, Hamilton, 3rd Sun, 4pm. Roz and Shane Kerr 4967 3167

■ Newcastle Poetry in the Pub, 3rd Monday, 7.30pm, Northern Star Hotel, Hamilton. Glenn 4967 1460.

■ Newcastle Strath Hunter Dancers, Mondays Adults 7.30pm, Wallsend Uniting Church. Thursdays Juniors 4.15pm, Youth 5.30pm. All Saints Hall, New Lambton. Elma: 4943 3436.

■ Welsh & Cornish Folk Dancing, Mon, 7.30-9.30pm, All Saints Anglican Hall, Cromwell St, New Lambton. Beginners and visitors always welcome. Enq. Margaret Kenning 4952 1327. Email: westwick@wix.com.au

■ The Beehive, as requested. 8 Lewis St, Islington. Neville Cunningham 4969 4246.

NOWRA:

■ Balkan and International Folk Dance, Mon, 7.30pm, Cambewarra Hall. Suzi Krawczyk 4446 0569, plotki@shoal.net.au

■ International Folk Dance, Progress Hall, Boorawine Tce, Callala Bay. Tuesday (school term), 7.15-9pm. Maureen 446 6550, mep@pnc.com.au

■ Celtic Craic - 9 piece acoustic traditional band. Tuesday 7.30 John's place. Chris Langdon 4446 1185, chrislangdon@optusnet.com.au or Mark Nangle 4454 5028, nangle@shoalhaven.net.au.

■ Scottish Country Dance Group, Presbyterian Church Hall, Kinghome St (next to Woollies), Wed, 8pm, all welcome. Jill 4421 3570

■ Shoalhaven Bush and Folk Dancing Club, Friday (school term, 8-10pm, Cambewarra Hall. Margaret 4421 0557.

■ Shoalhaven Acoustic Music Assoc, Bomaderry Bowling Club, formal concerts, not always folk, approx quarterly. George Royter 4421 3470.

ORANGE

■ Orange Dirt Music (new club) meets 3rd Saturday of the month from 3pm. These are jam sessions of acoustic folk, jazz, blues etc. rotating around each others' houses and all are welcome. For more information and registration contact Cilla Kinross ckinross@csu.edu.au tel 02 6365 8221 (ah) or Nick King 6362.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

■ Bowral Folk Club. 3rd Thurs, 8-10.30pm. Fentons Cocktail Bar, upstairs at the Grand Bar, 295 Bong Bong St, Bowral. Traditional music from around the world. Brian Hayden 4861 6076.

■ Burrawang Folk, 4887 7271

■ Southern Highlands Recreational International Folk Dance Group, Bowral Presb Church Hall, Bendooley

St, Thurs (school term), 9-11am. Margaret 4861 2294

■ Southern Highlands Scottish Country Dance Group, Moss Vale Uniting Church, Cnr Argyll and Spring Streets, Wednesday, 7.30pm. All welcome. Enq. 4861 6471.

TAREE

Lazarka International Folk Dance Group, Manning River Steiner School Hall, Wed. 5.30-8.30pm, Thurs 9am - 11am. Sandra 6552 5142.

WAGGA WAGGA

■ Downside Bush Dance & Open Mic, Tin Shed Rattlers, 1st Sat, Noel Raynes 6928 5541.

WAUCHOPE, 1st Saturday Concert with invited artists 7.30 pm 3rd Saturday Open performance session 7.30 at Café Blue Frog, High St.

Enq, John 6585 1488 email Uniting@tsn.cc

WOLLONGONG

■ Bluegrass Jam Session, 3rd Sat each month. 7.30-11pm. Thirroul Neighbourhood Centre next to post office.

■ Illawarra Folk Club, 1st Friday and 3rd Saturday, Wollongong City Diggers Club, cnr Burelli & Church Streets, 1300 887 034 www.illawarrafolkclub.org.au

■ Jamberoo: Session, Jamberoo Pub, Thurs, 7.30pm. claire@kissevents.com.au

■ Poet's Breakfast, Wed. 7.15am. Wollongong Writers' Centre, Town Hall, Corrimal St. Tony Stoddart, immune@exemail.com.au

■ UOW Folk Club, 12.30pm, Mondays, Fridays. Old timey, bluegrass, Celtic session. Duck Pond (in front of library), University of Wollongong. David Harman, dharman@uow.edu.au

■ Wollongong White Heather Scottish Country Dance Group, Mon, 7.30 - 10pm, St Andrew's Church Hall, Kembla St. All welcome. Arnold Thurling 4228 1986 or Grace Halliday 4229 3480

■ Wongawilli Colonial Dance Club, Bush Dance,

ACROSS THE BORDER

ACT

■ Monaro Folk Society Inc, Post Office Box 482 Civic Square, ACT 2608. 0409 817 623 dance@mfs.org.au http://mfs.org.au/wiki/index.php/Calendar

■ Jammalong at Up-Opping. 1st Sat, 10am-2pm. Church of Christ, 82-88 Limestone Ave, Ainslie. Free parking. Refreshments for sale.

■ Shape Note Singing. 1st & 3rd Weds, 7-9pm. The Friends Meeting House, cnr Bent & Condamine Sts, Turner. Books provided; a desire to sing is all you need.

■ Jammalong in Canberra. 2nd Sat, 12 noon till we have had enough. Under pergola beside Enid Lyons St, lake side of Questacon Building. Bring a song to share and a portable chair.

■ Murrumbateman Acoustic Music Club. Last Sun of month, 6-9.15pm. Blackboard concert: 3 songs or 15 minutes per set. Country Inn, Barton Hwy. Eric 6254 4305

NORTHERN TERRITORY:

■ Top End Folk Club, PO Box 41551, Casuarina, NT 0811. :Di Howard, 08 8945 0436 (ah), www.members.ozemail.com.au/

QUEENSLAND

■ Brisbane Folk Club, Larrie Cook 07 3345 1718.

■ Cairns Folk Club, Ray Elias 07 4039 2493 The Folk Rag (Mag), PO Box 517, Everton Park 4053, Tel. 0437 736 799 or 07 3855 1091, nimda@FolkRag.org; www.FolkRag.org

■ Qld Colonial and Heritage Dancers. PO Box 3011, Yeronga 4104. Jan Orloff ph/fax 07 3848 7706, colonialdance@optusnet.com.au

■ Woodford Folk Festival. PO Box 1134, Woodford 4514. qff@woodfordfolkfestival.com; www.woodfordfolkfestival.com.

TASMANIA

■ Celtic Southern Cross Folk Music Catalogue. Beth Sowter, music@celt.com.au; www.celt.com.au; PO Box 100, Legana, as 7277.

■ Folk Federation of Tasmania Inc. PO Box 1638 Hobart 7001. Peter Hicks 0409 216 752

Wed, 8pm, musos and dancers all welcome, Community Hall, West Dapto Rd, Wongawilli. David 0409 57 1788. www.wongawillicolonialdance.org.au:

VICTORIA

■ Ballarat Folk Club, John Ruyg 03 5332 7872

■ Boite World Music Cafe, Fitzroy, 03 9417 3550 (w), <http://www.boite.asn.au>

■ Geelong Folk Club, 2nd. Fri - Coffee House Folk- singing and session - at Cafe Go! Bellerine St. Geelong, from 7.30pm. Last Fri - Upstairs at The Pancake Kitchen, Moorabool St. for songs and session. Contact: Marie Goldsworthy 03 5221 1813 or Jamie McKinnon 03 5261 3443

■ *Traditional Social Dance Assoc. of Victoria.* Marion Stabb (03) 9439 7100

■ *Victorian Folk Music Club Inc.* GPO Box 2025S, Melbourne 3001. Brian Venten 03 9884 9476, gillespie.jeanette.f@edumail.vic.gov.au Bill Butler 03 9876 4366, billb@bigpond.net.au

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

■ WA Folk Federation. PO Box 328, Inglewood, WA, 6932. Rob Oats 08 9375 9958. www.wafolk.iinet.net.au Email: all@wafolk.iinet.net.au

If you change your details PLEASE advise the editor on 02 6493 6758 or email cornstalk@folkfednsw.org.au. You may also wish to have your details online (free) - jam.org.au