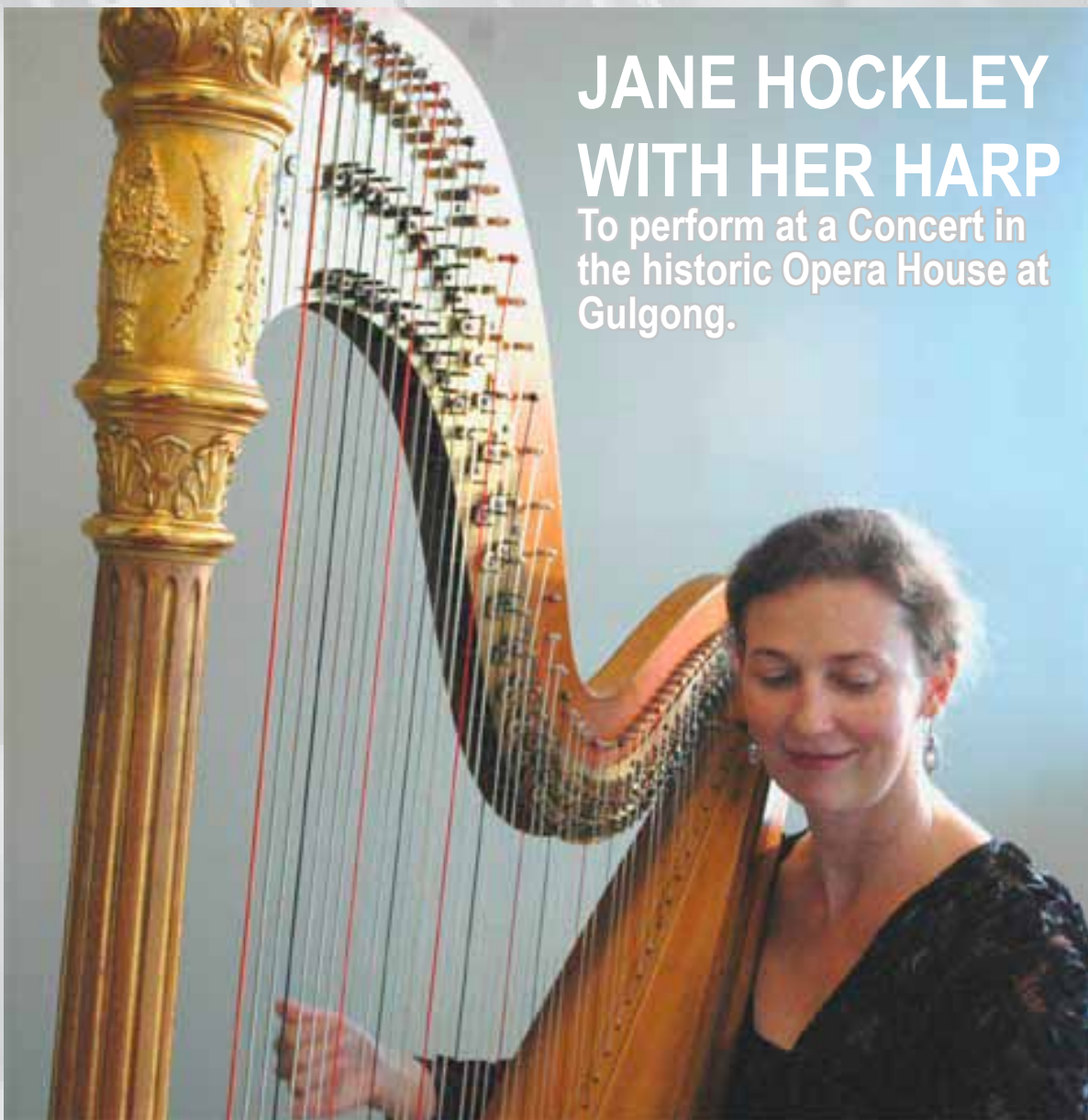


THE CORNSTALK GAZETTE

Dates For Your Diary
Folk News
Dance News
CD Reviews

Folk Federation of New South Wales Inc
Issue 415
March 2010 \$3.00



JANE HOCKLEY WITH HER HARP

To perform at a Concert in
the historic Opera House at
Gulgong.

1970 - 2010 40 YEARS

Folk Federation of New South Wales Inc
Post Office Box A182
Sydney South NSW 1235
ISSN 0818 7339 ABN9411575922
jam.org.au

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.

Cornstalk Editor - Coral Vorbach
Post Office Box 5195, Cobargo NSW 2550
Tel/Fax: 02 6493 6758

Email: cornstalk@folkfednsw.org.au

Cornstalk is the official publication of the Folk Federation of NSW. Contributions, news, reviews, poems, photographs most welcome.

Photographs and Artwork

Photographs - high resolution JPG or TIFF files.

300 dpi images cropped at correct size.

We use Adobe In-Design, Photoshop 6, Microsoft Word.

PLEASE do not send photographs as part of a Word Document.

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Wrap Co-ordinator James Baxter 02 9810 4131
- baxjam@folkfednsw.org.au

NEW ADVERTISING SIZES

Size mm	Members	Not Mem
Full page	210 x 297	\$80 \$120
1/2 page	210 x 146 or 102 x 146	\$40 \$70
1/4 page	102 x 146	\$25 \$50
1/8 page	102 x 70	\$15 \$35

Advertising artwork required by 5th of each month. Advertisements can be produced by Cornstalk if required. Please contact the editor for enquiries about advertising Tel: 6493 6758

All cheques for advertisements and inserts to be made payable to the Folk Federation of NSW Inc

Editor's Note

Cornstalk is to go 'digital' - newer technology, a more cost effective way of printing, and thanks to the many members receiving their newsletter electronically we don't have to print so many copies.

The format will be A4 and the new advert sizes are listed above.

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 on jam.org.au, where helpful tutorials will guide you.

FEBRUARY 2010

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Festivals, workshops, schools p6
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Deadline for April Issue
ADVERTS 6th March
COPY 12th March

Welcome New Members

Mike Malherbe - New Farm
Bronwyn and Stephen McKinnon - Gulgong
Ros Hales and Mal Bennett - Narrabundah

Southerly Gaels - North Parramatta

COMMITTEE 2009-2010

President, Anthony Woolcott
Email: president@folkfednsw.org.au
Vice President: Christine Wheeler
Secretary: Pam Davis 02 9955 3677
Email: secretary@folkfednsw.org.au
Treasurer: Bruce Cameron 02 6331 1129
Email: treasurer@folkfednsw.org.au
Committee: Dallas Baxter, James Baxter, Terry Clinton, Kate Delaney, Mary-Jane Field, Sandra Nixon, Peter Miller Robinson, Margaret Walters
Membership: Wayne Richmond Listserv/Jam/Membership 9939 8802 (not after 8.00pm please.)

The Folk Federation of NSW - Membership Application Form

Name/s:	Eve phone:	Day phone:
Address:	Mobile:	
	Email:	

Membership Type (Tick one) Individual - \$25
 Family (more than one in same household) - \$30 Other name/s: _____
 Affiliate (organisation) - \$35 Contact Name: _____

Please find enclosed \$ _____ being my subscription for _____ years.

I enclose my cheque/money order payable to: **Folk Federation of NSW**; or

Please charge my credit card:   (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.

A vocal workshop & concert with . . .

Frankie Armstrong

From the UK,
one of
the world's
most renowned
& respected
folk singers &
teachers
+
Three's
Company



Entry by donation

Workshop: \$20/\$15
Concert: \$20/\$15
W/S + Conc: \$30/\$20
(incl. refreshments)

Bookings:
9939 8802

"You'd be hard-pressed to find a singer on the British folk scene with a voice as powerful, versatile and expressive ... she has the remarkable ability to vividly convey the imagery of a song, capture and project its every nuance, its every dramatic detail, and perfectly exploit the natural tensions of lyric and melody, always giving the words the space to breathe." (Keith Hudson - Wales)

Workshop: 2-5pm (all welcome - bookings essential)

Concert: 7.30pm, Sat. 20th March, 2010

Humph Hall

85 Allambie Road, Allambie Heights

Singing Out At The Gaelic Club

Friday 12th March

from 8.00pm (follows Politics in the Pub)

The Gaelic Club has agreed to a monthly singing session on the 2nd Friday of the month.

All welcome - free admission.

The singing session aims to keep alive traditional folk songs and unaccompanied singing. It doesn't have to be Irish! But there is no apology for the strong folk content we wish to foster at SINGING OUT! – there are many openings around Sydney for singers in other genres; but that's not to say that we don't welcome the odd contribution of something out of left field – say, Music Hall, so long as the main emphasis remains the maintenance of our cultural heritage.

Contact Margaret Walters on mwalters@mail.usyd.edu.au if you are interested in being on the mailing list. There's more information at www.jam.org.au

Convenors will be Margaret, Miguel and Amalina month about. Upstairs, Sydney Gaelic Club, Level 1, 64 Devonshire St, Surry Hills - a block from Central Station.

METROPOLITAN

Monday 1st

BMC Dance Workshop

'Combining Sequences for Couples'. Leader Richard Shaw TBC. Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd. 7.30-9.30pm. \$7. Felicity 9456 2860

Wednesday 3rd

The Basement.

UNCLE EARL (USA), unique all-girl old-time stringband (www.myspace.com/uncleearl). 29 Reiby Place, Circular Quay. 9pm. 9251 2797. www.thebasement.com.au/

Thursday 4th

505 Club. **SKORBA** - the full quintet - with Llew Kiek (Mara!) and Paul Jarman (Sirocco) joining Bertie McMahon, John Robinson and founder Andy Busuttill. Original compositions inspired by music from around the Mediterranean basin and the Romance countries of Europe (Portugal, Spain, France, Italy) as well as some Celtic influences. Expert musicianship, improvisation and passion. Plus glorious images of the Maltese Archipelago on the big screen. Café Carnivale 505 Club, one of Sydney's hottest new venues. 280 Cleveland St, Surry Hills. 9pm. \$12-\$18. andy@bluemountainsound.com.au

Friday 5th

► Notes. **CHRIS SMITHER**, one of America's foremost blues/ roots singer songwriter guitarists (smither.com/). +Jan Preston. 7pm. 75 Enmore Rd, Newtown. 9557 5111. noteslive.net.au/

Friday 5th

► Beer & Cheese Night 'THE ROMANTICS.' Time for the singers who saw the good things about the bush - or fancied a good sort there! Bring songs on the theme - & a supper contribution. Bush Music Club, Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, 142 Addison Rd, Marrickville. 8-10pm. \$5, \$4. 9569 7244, bobbolton@netspace.net.au

► **PAT DRUMMOND AND KAREN LYNNE**. Wyong RSL. 7.30pm. www.karenlynne.com

Saturday 6th

Beecroft Bush Dance with Ryebuck, caller Margaret Bolliger. All dances taught. Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft Rd. 8pm-12. \$17, \$14, \$12. Helen 9626 7816, www.bushmusic.org.au

► The Shack.

KEVIN BENNETT, singer songwriter with Sydney roots band The Flood, CMAA Gold Guitar winner, Aria Nominee 2006. Music with elements of blues, rock, country. He sings his life, in an unpredictable musical ride. Has penned songs with Troy Cassar-Daley and others. +Gateway 23 - incl. Dez & Karen Williams and Selina Rowe. Original songs, poetic, wise observations about life and its foibles. Melodic vocals, contemporary styles. +Leon & Toni, 10 years singing together (incl. at Woodford) - contemporary folk and country, warm, relaxed harmonies, acoustic guitars, whistles, keyboards, contagious enjoyment. Tramshed Community Arts Centre, 1395a Pittwater Rd, Narrabeen (betw. car park & Ambulance Station in shopping centre). Free tea, coffee. BYO drinks, nibbles. 7.30-11pm. \$15. 0413 635 856, info@shackfolk.com

Monday 8th

BMC Dance Workshop

'Combining Sequences for Couples'. Leader Richard Shaw TBC. Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd. 7.30-9.30pm. \$7. Felicity 9456 2860

Wednesday 10th

Notes. **SPOOKY MEN'S CHORALE + VOICES FROM THE VACANT LOT**. Vibrant a cappella music, supporting the humanitarian work of the Asylum Seekers Centre NSW. 75 Enmore Rd, Newtown. 7pm. 9557 5111. noteslive.net.au

Friday 12th

Gaelic Club. Start of regular monthly (2nd Friday of the month) singing sessions. Follows Politics in the Pub. Upstairs, 64 Devonshire St, Surry Hills near Central Station. 8pm approx. All welcome. Free. mwalters@mail.usyd.edu.au

Saturday 13th

Central Coast Bush Dance, Guest Callers' Night, with Sydney Coves. See website, and contact organisers, if you are a novice caller interested in this rare chance to call with live music, in a friendly setting. East Gosford Progress Hall, cnr Wells St and Henry Parry Drive. 7.30-11.30pm. Supper provided. \$17, \$14, \$8; under-12 \$5. Robyn or Richard, 4344 6484, www.ccbdma.org/

Saturday 13th

Irish Musicians Sydney. Irish Variety Concert, Club Ashfield. Special guests from Ireland are John Kelly, fiddle and his daughter Aoife, on concertina. Supported by Sydney musicians, singers & dancers. Club Ashfield, 1 Charlotte St Ashfield. Enq. Kevin Doyle 9181 3365, Margaret Winnett 9150 6765. 7.30pm \$20/conc. \$15.

Monday 15th

BMC Dance Workshop

'Old and New Versions'. Leader John Short. Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd. 7.30-9.30pm. \$7. Felicity 9456 2860

Friday 19th

Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Folk Club The Lurkers (www.lurkers.com.au/). Floor spots. Candle-lit venue, tea and coffee provided. BYOG and nibbles. Beatrice Taylor Hall, rear Willow Park Community Centre, Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby. 8pm (doors 7.30pm). \$15. Enq, table bookings, Barry Parks 9807 9497, bpparks@tpg.com.au

Saturday 20th

► Humph Hall

VOCAL WORKSHOP WITH

FRANKIE ARMSTRONG (UK).

2-5pm. \$20. All welcome - bookings essential. 85 Allambie Rd, Allambie Heights. Wayne Richmond 9939 8802, 0400 803 804, humph.org

► CONCERT WITH FRANKIE

ARMSTRONG (UK) & Three's

Company. 7.30pm. Entry by donation (\$20, \$15). Venue etc as above.

► **BALMAIN BUSH DANCE** with Heritage Band, caller Don Richmond. All dances taught. Rozelle Campus, Sydney College, 25 Terry St. 8pm-12. \$17, \$14, \$12.





Don 9642 7250, www.bushmusic.org.au

Monday 22nd

BMC Dance Workshop
'Old and New Versions.' Leader John Short. Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd. 7.30-9.30pm. \$7. Felicity 9456 2860

Thursday 25th

Shanty Session
With International visitor, Ross Campbell. On board the James Craig, Wharf 7, Darling Harbour. From city, walk over Pyrmont Bridge, turn right into Murray St, past National Maritime Museum. Public transport - Pyrmont Bay Light Rail. Parking, if available, at northern end of main Museum building: press Intercom, give name & mention Shanty Session. 7.30pm. \$7 (incl. supper). Mike Richter 0419 992 119, 9476 3861, John Warner 9580 0525, 0432 483 086. www.shf.org.au/

Thursday 25th

Around the World in Five Dances, Seniors Week FDA event. School of Arts Annex, Berry St, Nowra. Free

Friday 26th

Martenitsa Fundraiser
4th in the 6-pack of free Italian film & music nights, raising funds for the choir's 2010 trip taking music to Italy. "Viva Zapatero!", comedy, details at [maramusic.com.au/Martenitsapages/Film festival flyer.htm](http://maramusic.com.au/Martenitsapages/Film%20festival%20flyer.htm) Food 6.30pm, concert 7pm, film 7.30pm. Tables available. Raffles, prizes, guest choir & bands. Five Dock RSL, upstairs, 66 Great North Rd. Donations at the door. Come early or book at stickytickets.com.au

Saturday 27th

The Troubadour
KATE ROWE AND RYAN MORRISON. Sweet and charming, or dark and thoughtful, Kate's folk-country songs have powerful narratives and quirky subjects. Perth songwriter Ryan, arguably the sweetest member of the Spooky Men's Chorale, has been touring Australia with Kate since January 2009, accompanying her and performing his own beautiful, thoughtful, cheeky and romantic songs. Floor spots available, supper provided. CWA Hall (opp Fisherman's Wharf), The Boulevard,

Woy Woy. 7pm. \$10, \$8, \$7, children free with paying adult. 4341 4060 (AH), 0417 159 540. www.troubadour.org.au/

► **IRISH/HUNGARIAN TÁNCHÁZ/CEILI**

Transylvaniacs and Irish Musos. The Gaelic Club, upstairs, 64 Devonshire St, Surry Hills. 7.30pm. \$15, \$12. Info, bookings, 0413 941 459, info@gaelicclub.com.au www.gaelicclub.com.au

Saturday 27th

The Loaded Dog.
John Broomhall Trio. In the '80s and '90s, John recorded 100 original songs and musical settings of poetry by eminent Australian writers. David De Santi and Johnny Spillane join him in a retrospective of these, and a showcase of some of John's 70 recent compositions. +Kate Delaney and Denis Tracey. Well-known for many years, they have performed solo and together (and in other combinations) at all the major festivals, on TV and radio, and with famous international artists; Kate (an original Larrikin) also with her late husband Gordon McIntyre. Great songs, beautiful harmonies. Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, upstairs, 79 Johnston St. 8pm. \$14, \$12, BYO, supper available. Sandra 9358 4886, www.theloadeddog.org.au

Monday 29th

BMC Dance Workshop
'Ball Practice'. Leader Don Richmond TBC. Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd. 7.30-9.30pm. \$7. Felicity 9456 2860

Friday 12th

The Merry Muse.
SAM BUCKINGHAM AND FRIENDS. Canberra Southern Cross

ACT

Club, 54 McCaughey St, Turner, ACT. 7.30pm. \$17, \$14, \$12. www.merry-muse.org.au

Friday 19th

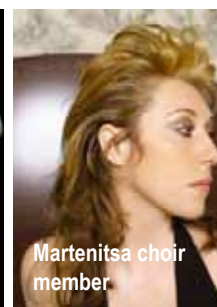
A TRIBUTE NIGHT
Woody Guthrie Tribute - The Silver Strings; Alistair Hulett tribute. + Grace Notes.



Uncle Earl USA



Pat Drummond & Karen Lynn



Martenitsa choir member



Kate Rowe



The Silver Strings

Any items/photos from club activities in the last 40 years?
We would love to hear from you. Please send to - cornstalk@folkfednsw.org.au

National Folk Festival 2010



Easter. Eggs. Overgrown Rabbits with fixed grins. "Dad, I'm bored". The grist to the mill of those that do not make the trip to 'the National'.

There are some who call these folk 'Muggles'. I wish they wouldn't. And this is for a large number of reasons that can only be fully ventilated over at least 4 pints of Guinness and a Kransky.

Unlike wizardry, no-one is born to be a folkie. It is an awakening thing; an epiphany perhaps. But let us leave this "folk pedigree" thang in the garbage bin, where it belongs. We all, to a greater or lesser degree, *discover* or indeed, *rediscover* folk.

And this Easter, there is so much more to rediscover at the 2010 National Folk Festival.

Having said that the Nash does tend to shape shift a wee bit. The biggest change for 2010 is a new Director! Yes, you read it right – Sebastian Flynn, former director of the Queensland Multicultural Festival, Celtic fiddler and much-travelled Scouser, is the new Managing Director – and he is very, very welcome.

"I've been made to feel welcome even before I've hit Canberra," said Sebastian, "and I am very excited about this Festival,"

"Its reputation precedes it with a fanfare. The program has an outstanding reputation for vibrancy, spontaneity and variety, and Artistic Director Dave O'Neill has put together yet another brilliant array. But for having to hit the ground running, I hope to see a goodly proportion of it".

Sebastian is also raring to go with all other aspects of the Festival program.

"I am keenly aware of the professionalism and dedication of the fulltime and volunteer staff of the Festival Office," he said.

"Such people are indispensable to the effective and efficient management of such an important event. It has a community basis and a community focus. I want to

help to strengthen and enhance that as well as help to develop some new avenues".

There are some other changes in 2010 – visit the front page of the website www.folkfestival.asn.au to see a summary.

The most important bits are for those that live the Festival and camp: and the changes have been made for the benefit of the community, not to make lives difficult.

☐ Phone number for the National Folk Festival Ticketing Hotline: **1300**

235 849

☐ There will be **NO CAMPING TICKETS SOLD AT THE GATE** at the 2010 Festival; they must be pre-purchased BEFORE 5 MARCH. Please pass this on to anyone you know who may be planning to camp on site;

An additional fee of \$11 will be charged for a Camping Vehicle Pass for Season Camping ticket buyers who wish to bring a vehicle into campgrounds.

The Festival is unable to guarantee powered sites;

Day tickets have been on sale since 1 February;

The second round of early bird tickets closes on 6 March;

Please read the ticket conditions and camping and section on this website for further information; and

Having fun is compulsory or you will be reported to the management.

Otherwise, check out: www.folkfestival.asn.au

And after you're done with that, get out to EPIC over Easter to sit back and enjoy, sit forward and jam with, or get up on your hind legs and dance to (amongst a whole mess of others):

The Davidson Brothers, Apodimi Compania - Greece, FAERD - Denmark, GENTICORUM - Canada, The Whitetop Mountaineers - USA, Charlie Walden - USA, James Keelaghan - Canada, Kristina Olsen - USA, Blue Mountain Rain Bluegrass Band, Abbie Cardwell, Andrew Cronshaw - England, Bernard Carney and David Hyams, Beppe Gambetta - Italy, David Arden, Keith Potger, Felicity Urquhart Contratemps

And don't forget if you need feeding and watering, clothing and tooling up, the National provides a standout village of

nosheries, watering holes, haberdashers and craftsfolk.

You need never leave the site until very late on Monday, or Tuesday, anyway.

John Taylor



5th - 8th March 2010

Port Fairy Folk Festival
www.portfairyfolkfestival.com

12th - 14th March 2010

Blue Mountains Festival of Folk Roots & Blues www.bmff.org.au

11th - 21st March 2010

Brunswick Music Festival
www.brunswickmusicfestival.com

19th - 21st March 2010

Yackandandah Folk Festival
www.folkfestival.yackandandah.com

9th - 11th April

Fairbridge Festival WA
www.fairbridgefestival.com

1st - 5th April 2010

National Folk Festival
www.folkfestival.asn.au

2nd - 3rd April 2010

Four Winds Festival
www.fourwinds.com

9th - 11th April, 2010

Fairbridge Festival WA
www.fairbridgefestival.com

23rd - 26th April

St Albans Folk Festival
www.stalbansfolkfestival.com

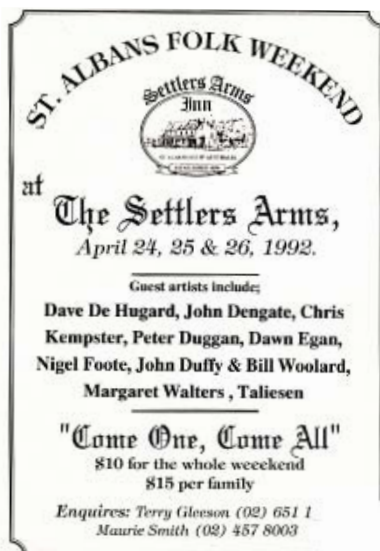
11th - 14th June 2010

Snowy Mountains of Music
Enq. 1300 811 324 belinda@snowymountainsofmusic.com.au



Blue Mountains Festival
12th - 14th March

St Albans Folk Festival History



This year's festival will be held from Friday, 23rd April to Monday, 26th April. It was suggested to me that an article on the festivals history would be appropriate because it was thought that this was the 30th year that it had been held. However, in researching what has transpired I have discovered that some sort of event occurred in 1979 and therefore we have missed the third decimal anniversary and may be celebrating a binary age of 2 to the fifth?

There is little evidence of what occurred in 1979 and I would welcome dialog or written word with anyone that was present. The history is further confused because the first printed flyers we possess are from 1983 which claimed to be the fourth festival. The 1979 file contains only a photo of the Settlers Arms at the time and a few names. A letter written later implies that it was organised by a combination of the Newcastle Folk Club and Macquarie towns in the local hall and went well until it was disrupted when everyone adjourned to the pub.

In 1980, the event was definitely a folk festival and was reported as such in the May edition of 'Coaldust'. The number of attendees were given as 200. Significant quotes from this article are:

'Water was in short supply due to the drought. However the beer supply was such that no-one seemed to notice'

'The festival ran smoothly with just enough organised events to give the weekend some structure'

'The heart and soul of the weekend was 'The Session' which began Thursday pm and seemed to continue for the duration with few pauses for food or sleep'

There is also a list of names and among them the recently late great Alistair Hullett.

By 1983, the event was clearly developing and was held principally in the grounds of the Settlers Arms. It is known

that there was a net profit of \$456 and the organisation generated a \$300 grant for artists from the Australian Folk Trust for the following year.

We have flyers for 1984 and 1985 which imply featured bands, no record of 1986, and for 1987 it was organised by the NSW Folk Federation and funded by passing the hat. These festivals were held in early May.

In 1988 the festival was held over the now traditional Anzac weekend and was a fine weather weekend. Quotes from that years report:

'This was designed to be a relaxing, unorganised weekend and such was the pattern throughout'

The 1989 Festival report quotes: 'Thanks to Tony for getting the fire going and capturing the brown snake a la Harry Butler. Thanks to the banisters for the use of their annex and frequent cups of tea. No thanks to the drunken woman who sat on Johnny's accordion and king hit the gentle lady who tried to ease her away from fighting everyone in reach.

By 1992, it is clear that there was some more formal organisation when the luminaries of the time were Terry Gleeson and Maurie Smith.

In 1994 a marquee was hired for the first time and so began the inexorable expansion. It is clear from things written that the way the festival was financed would have to change mainly because there was no way of telling who had paid.

In 1995 David Alexander took on the directorship and secured additional sponsorship from the pub. In addition admission to venues was by a wooden token, a pre-cursor to the armbands now used.

In 1996 Terry Gleeson again seems to have had the reigns and some of the later organisers begin to appear on the program. John Grenenger, Bill Bekric and Brent 'Bilbo' Rodgers all appeared in the 'Barn'. Somebody going by the name of Scrumphy held a cider making workshop in the pub.

In 1997 John Grenenger and partner Betty Benson ran the festival with assistance from Terry and Tess Gleason. The Council and Fickle Wombat are added to the list of sponsors and the list of performers increased in length and standard.

By 1998 a weekend pass had risen to \$35 and the festival gradually expanded until Eric Bogle graced us with his presence in 2002 when he played to the biggest audience that the festival had ever seen up to that point. (That was the first St. Albans I personally attended).

Subsequent to the 2006 festival, John Grenenger resigned and I took on the directorship with Alison Boyd and John Dickenson.

2007 saw a big change for the event, not because of a change of management, but because the 'Barn' had been sold 2 years earlier and the new owners wished us away. This caused the council to take a higher interest in our activities and we were required to submit Development Applications for both the festival and our 40ft container. We also had to move the aforesaid container across the village to our new main venue on Gordon McDonalds land. The organisations finances were considerably depleted and we are indebted to those performers who played for considerably reduced money that year to allow the festival to survive.

In 2008 we had recovered enough to double the performer budget. This was a partially wet year but we still made a small profit.

2009 saw the first international act at the festival in the form of the 'Beez' from Germany plus a number of interstate artists. It was also the first time the main marquee graduated from a large pole and rope to a free standing structure. From a compliance perspective the council approved the Development Application for a number of years with certain provisions and Apra became involved and required us to buy a performance license.

It is fascinating to see how the festival has grown and it will be interesting to see where we go from here. We are very conscious that we are holding this event in the middle of a historical village, close to people's homes and realistically cannot get much bigger in that environment. However it must be said that this proximity has ensured the event remains a folk festival because we cannot field loud pop type acts. Strictly speaking the weekend is now really 2 events, where in one, the public buy tickets to see professional and semi-professional acts and the other where folks session at the pub.

Hope to see you all there keeping up the tradition and look for another article when we turn 40!

John Uren

HARPERS OF THE OPERA

Another inspirational weekend for all harpists - come to a workshop and concert in the historic **Opera House at Gulgong**. Get another taste of belonging to a special group of people.

Sessions with Jane Hockley, Cliona Molins, Gwenda Davies, Jan Couchman and Shannon Bacall.

Cost: \$100 (early bird **\$95** by 12th April)

There will be a public concert on the Saturday Night 8pm and Sunday at 1pm.

Two day public tickets are available now from Bronwyn McKinnon on 02 6374 2016 or email as above. Family (three or more people)

VALE: ALISTAIR HULETT 1953-28/01/2010



Alistair Hulett died at the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow on Thursday evening, January 28, 2010.

Alistair Hulett was born in Glasgow and discovered traditional music in his early teens. In 1968 he and his family moved to New Zealand where he established a reputation on the folk circuit with his large repertoire of songs and his interpretation of the big narrative ballads.

In 1971, at the age of eighteen, Alistair moved over to Australia. For a couple of years he sang his way around Australia's festivals and clubs before "going bush" for several years. During this time he began to write his own songs and, following a two-year stint on the "hippy trail" in India, he returned to Australia in 1979 to find the punk movement in full swing. He joined in with the garage ethos in a band called The Furious Chrome Dolls.

In the early 1980s Alistair was again performing folk material around Sydney and was a founding member of a five-piece punk folk outfit called Roaring Jack which specialised rocking Celtic reels and radical and revolutionary lyrics. Alistair was an active revolutionary socialist, with the International Socialist Organisation, and he and Roaring Jack offered their talents for many benefits, rallies and demonstrations, in support of the antiwar movement and solidarity with workers in struggle.

For the next five years the Jacks made a startling impression on the Australian music scene. Their first album, *Street Celtability*, was released in 1986 and reached No. 1 on the local indie charts. By the time the second album, *The Cat Among The Pigeons* was released in 1988 the band was headlining in major Australian rock venues, as well as opening for overseas acts including Billy Bragg, the Pogues, and The Men They Couldn't Hang. The *The Cat Among The Pigeons* was nominated for an Australian

Music Industry Association (ARIA) award and was released in Europe by the German label Intercord.

Alistair's solo work was always a part of the Jacks' live shows and offers to appear at festivals and clubs in his own right drew him further back into the folk orbit. By 1989 his songs were being extensively covered by several stalwarts of the Australian folk establishment. The demise of Roaring Jack coincided with this period and after the release of their third album, *Through The Smoke of Innocence*, the band decided to call it a day despite another ARIA nomination.

Alistair's first solo CD, *Dance of the Underclass*, was recorded in 1991. Completely acoustic, with contributions from other members of Roaring Jack, the album was instantly hailed as a folk classic and proved to be the turning point in Alistair's return to the folk fold. His position as one of the most influential musicians on the Australian scene was now beyond dispute. In the UK his song, "He Fades Away", was picked up by Roy Bailey and by June Tabor and later by Andy Irvine. All three performers recorded uniquely different but thoroughly compelling interpretations of the song.

Rather than follow with more of the same Alistair recorded his solo CD with a return to the punk fuelled energy of the days with Roaring Jack. *In the Backstreets of Paradise* was a collection of songs originally intended as the next Jacks' release and rather than let the songs go to waste Alistair formed an acoustic outfit called The Hooligans to complete the cycle. The album caught some of Alistair's new found admirers among the purists unawares but during the next two years The Hooligans won them over with blistering live performances at every major folk festival in Australia. In the meantime Alistair continued his solo gigs with an ever growing reliance on the traditional songs that have always formed the backbone of his writing.

In 1995 Alistair compiled a collection of songs that owed little to punk and everything to the folk revival that inspired him in the sixties. *Saturday Johnny and Jimmy The Rat* was originally intended as a solo affair in homage to the likes of Ewan MacColl, Jeannie Robertson and Davie Stewart, as well as an acknowledgment of the time when the folk movement was a vital political and musical force.

At the time Dave Swarbrick was living in Australia and Alistair toyed with the idea of inviting Swarb to join him in the studio. Nothing more would have come of the notion had it not been for a phone call from a friend saying that Swarb wouldn't mind working with the bloke who had

written "The Swaggies Have All Waltzed Matilda Away". Thus was forged a musical partnership that has won acclaim from audiences and critics alike.

Following a hugely successful Australian tour the duo returned to the UK. A triumphant performance at Sidmouth in 1996 was broadcast by the BBC and was followed by a live in studio session a few weeks later. Since then Alistair and Dave have toured extensively in the UK, returned to Australia for another successful tour and recorded their second album together. *The Cold Grey Light of Dawn* was enthusiastically received and gathered some impressive reviews

Alistair, having returned to live in Scotland, continued to work solo and with Swarb. He wrote and performed three workshop presentations. "From Blackheath To Trafalgar Square" looked at "insurrection and resistance in the Disunited Kingdom" from the Peasants' Revolt to the poll tax riots. "The Fire Last Time" was a study of the protest song movement of the 1960s and "Red Clydeside" examined the working class unrest on the Clyde between 1915 and 1920.

Alistair, based once again in Glasgow, toured Australia in a double bill with US singer/songwriter David Rovics in December 2008 - January 2009. Playing benefits for Australia's leading radical newspaper. Two more solo albums, *In Sleepy Scotland* and more recently *Riches And Rags*, confirmed Alistair Hulett's position as one of the most consistent songwriters, musicians and interpreters of the tradition in Scotland. *Folk On Tap* called him "One of the defining voices of Scottish music" and a reviewer in the influential music magazine *fROOTS* wrote: "Hulett is at once an intense singer, radiating conviction, and a genuinely imaginative lyricist."

In partnership with 1960s veteran Scots folksinger Jimmy Ross, Alistair Hulett presented word and song presentations with powerpoint visual images at various events and festivals around the UK. Alistair and Jimmy shared a common political perspective, with both being deeply involved in socialist politics, and this bond was evident in the scripts they prepared together for these presentations. Most recently, Alistair Hulett joined with several Yorkshire based musicians to form a five-piece, semi-electric band called The Malkies. This was Hulett's first return to working with a full-time band since Roaring Jack called it a day in 1992. Their debut album was *Suited And Booted* (2008)

*Reprinted from the web Links
"Socialism of the 21st Century".*

Folk Fellowship Choir

If you are planning to take part in the Folk Fellowship choir at this year's National Folk Festival, sheet music and sound files are now on the National's website:

<http://www.folkfestival.asn.au/program/2010-folk-fellowship-choir/>

Please print and bring your music to the festival. Booklets will be available for purchase, but you can download everything you need right now and for free!

Rehearsals are Friday, Saturday and Sunday 2.30-4pm in the Singing Room. The performance/recording is in the Budawang on Monday at 10.20am. Bring your music, bring your voice, tell your friends!

See you at the National
Christina
(0410) 682 061



I Viaggiatori play lively, old time Italian folk music from the 19th century and beyond. It's romantic, poignant, frenzied, sweet and earthy. It's a place where memory sits down with imagination to share a good coffee and a glass of grappa then have a good yarn.

www.viaggiatori.com.au



folk news

Jamberoo Session

A new weekly session has been started at the Jamberoo Pub (www.jamberoopub.com) by Illawarra Folk Club member Claire Roberts, on Thursdays, starting at 7.30pm. Just bring your instrument and plug into the provided PA. Each week there will be a featured artist, doing a set of about five songs. (If interested in applying, contact Claire.) During the last half hour of the jam Claire wants to encourage an unplugged group session. If you would like to have one of your songs featured (cover or original), please email words and chords beforehand, claire@kissevents.com.au, so that copies can be made to hand out.

Wheezers to the Rescue

Russell Hannah (Illawarra Folk Club) writes: 'One of our loyal members Kath O'Grady has been in hospital since October last year. She is now in a Sydney hospital and was bitterly disappointed that she missed the [Illawarra Folk] Festival. ... But then it happened: a little bit of the Festival came to her. That great band (and great fellows) The "Wheeze and Suckers" who have many admirers here in the Illawarra and had been one of the big hits at Bulli came to visit. Not only that but Kath got her own private concert. Needless to say she was mightily pleased about the whole affair and so are we all here at the Folk Club.'

Vale John French

Many NSW folkies will remember John French. From *The Folk Rag* (Feb 2010): 'John (from Toowoomba) passed away on Dec 26th after a battle with cancer. A fine concertina player, he also played the tin whistle and bodhran. He sang in Gaelic with a fine repertoire of songs. He will be sadly missed in the folk scene. Condolences to his wife Wendy.'

Sydney Sessions

From Margaret Walters: The trial run held at the Gaelic Club on 5th February was a resounding success. There would have been over 50 people there, including a group called Southerly Gaels (who I hadn't heard of before) singing Scottish songs; a singer from Maleny celebrating her father's 80th birthday with her brother and sister - there were

separate contributions from all four of them; and there were people who'd stayed on after Politics in the Pub who enjoyed the experience and added their names to the mailing list. About half the people there sang - and I'm sure once the sessions become a regular thing, more will feel emboldened. I totted up 43 titles and there were many highlights, the most poignant being the half dozen songs written by Alistair Hulett who had died in Glasgow just the week before.

The other big session that occurred in February (I counted just under 70 people) was the Request night on the James Craig on Thursday 11th. Sandra Nixon and John Warner were celebrating birthdays and, as stalwarts of the James Craig Shanty Sessions, were given the choice of asking for songs they wanted to hear. The 40 odd songs sung included some originals - highlights being Robin Connaughton's ballad to the tune of Long Lankin; Cathy Rystmeister's response to Tony Abbott's injunction to girls about their Precious Gift; Amalina's dig at Lord Monckton and his lies; and Jennifer Lees singing a song John Warner wrote for her birthday some years ago - Whose Hands Held This Clay. And a stranger hearing the range of songs that night could not but be impressed with the high standard of writing and of the singing. And the supper wasn't half bad!!

LIVE MUSIC
at 'the room'

Karifi
- a vibrant pan African
performance ensemble -
plus

The Northern Beaches Youth
Orchestra

6PM SUNDAY 28 MARCH

Barrenjoey Music Room,
Tasman Rd, Avalon
Adults \$15, Under 18's \$5,
Family \$30
Refreshments and pre-concert
music from 5.45pm

folk contacts

CHOIRS

◆Monday

A Chaired Taste, Glebe, led by David Westmore, 9716 7016

◆**Bright Star Singers** Ashfield, led by Mary-Jane Field, 9797-6126

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

◆**Fledgling Choir**. All voices welcome. Randwick 7.15 - 9.15pm. christinapossum@bigpond.com.au

◆**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, 0405 221 113

◆**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

◆**Voceworks**, Katoomba, led by Rachel Hore 4759 2456, rachelhore@ozemail.com

Tuesday

◆**Cantorion**, Neutral Bay, led by David Westmore, 9716 7016

◆**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 pbloch@bigpond.net.au

Wednesday

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

◆**Ecopella**. Upper Mts., contact Kate 47 825529

◆**The Heathens**. Blackheath, day time 12-pm. Led by Chris Wheeler 4787 5725 chris@wheelersanddealers.com.au

◆**NoteTonight, Josephine**. Glebe, led by David Westmore, 9716 7016

◆**Stampadowns**. Camperdown, led by Peter Lehner, contact Kim/John 0419 164 212

Thursday

◆**Australian Gaelic Singers**, Ryde. Bran MacEachaidh, 9633 1162. www.gaelicsingers.org.au

◆**Bouddi 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**. Newtown, led by Miguel Heatwole, 9810 4601, mheatwole@bigpond.com

Friday

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

◆**The Sydney Welsh Choir** (Men and Women) meet on Wednesday Evenings at Concord Baptist Church Hall. Reh. 7pm to 9pm. 20 to 30 performances a year. Viv 47 39 0384, Warwick 9451 7806, taffy@pnc.com.au

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

Saturdays

◆**The Shire Quire**. Gymea, led by Mary-Jane Field. contact Jenny, 9576 2301

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. Gwynne 9558 4753

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@lisp.com.au Carol Gardner 4751 6073/a.c.gardner@bigpond.com

Greek Folk Dance

Bankstown RSL Club - 32 Kitchener Pde - Bankstown 6pm onwards. Vasilios Aligiannis, tel/fax: 97081875

greekdancer@bigpond.com

Hungarian Dance Class

Ultimo, 8-10pm. Gary Dawson 9559 4485.

garydawson@ozemail.com.au

English Country Dancing, Sydney

Playford Dance Group 3rd Tues, 7.30-10.00pm, Uniting Church Hall, The Cres, Berala. Ring Patricia 9649 6978 or Mike or Ros on 9929 8193 for further details.

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

Fort Street School, Observatory Hill, City. 6pm to 8pm Nea MacCulloch 9904 1358(a/h) or Lynn 8244 9618(w)

Sutherland Shire Folk Dance Group

International Dancing, Gymea Bay Scout Hall, June Place, 7.30-9pm. Kaye Laurendet 9528 4813

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,

jarosiwanec@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).

Nicholai 9822 7524, mob 0407 178 228

Wednesday

Albion Fair, North-West Morris Dancing

Lilyfield Community Centre, Cecily and O'Neill Sts, 7.45pm. Angie Milce 9817 3529

Australian Heritage Dancers

Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, 79 Johnston St, 8-10pm. Jim Young 9412 3721 jayoung3@bigpond.net.au - australianheritagedancers.org.au

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, Vasilios Aligiannis, tel/fax 9708 1875 greekdancer@excite.com

International Folk Dancing for older women

School terms only, 9-10am beginners, 10-11am advanced. Bankstown Older Women's Wellness Centre, Police and Community Youth Club, cnr Meredith St and French Ave. Gabrielle 9728 7466, Alita 9798 9269

Irish Set Dance class, Irish Gaelic Club, 64

Devonshire St, Surry Hills. 8-9.30pm. Alarna 0401 167 910.

Sutherland Shire Bush Dance Group Uniting Church, 4 Gosport St, Cronulla, 7.30-10pm. \$3. Beginners most welcome. Partners not necessary. Mike 9520 2859

Sutherland Shire Folk Dance Group

Gynea Bay Scout Hall, June Place, 10am. Kaye Laurendet - 9528 4813

Thursday

English Country Dancing (Advanced) for the over 50's 2-4pm. School for Seniors, Wesley Mission, Pitt St. Sydney. (Opposite back of Hilton Hotel.)

Blue Labyrinth International Folk Dance

from 7pm, Baptist Church Hall, King St Glenbrook. Jo Barrett 4739 6498

Greek Folk Dance

St Gerassimos Church Hall, 21 Henry St Leichhardt. 6 pm onwards. Adult classes from 7.15 Vasilios Aligiannis, tel/fax 9708 1875 greekdancer@excite.com

Sydney Irish Ceili Dancers

Kingsgrove Uniting Church Hall, 289A Kingsgrove Rd (cnr Moreton Avenue, Children's step dancing 6pm, adults step dancing 7pm. Set and ceili dancing 8-10.30pm. Margaret and Bill Winnett 9150 6765. email: wnnntt@optusnet.com.au

Sydney Irish Ceili Dancers

Kingsgrove Uniting Church Hall, 289A Kingsgrove Rd (cnr Moreton Avenue, Children's step dancing 6pm, adults step dancing 7pm. Set and ceili dancing 8-10.30pm. Margaret and Bill Winnett 9150 6765. email: wnnntt@optusnet.com.au

Sydney Irish Ceili Dancers

Kingsgrove Uniting Church Hall, 289A Kingsgrove Rd (cnr Moreton Avenue, Children's step dancing 6pm, adults step dancing 7pm. Set and ceili dancing 8-10.30pm. Margaret and Bill Winnett 9150 6765. email: wnnntt@optusnet.com.au

Friday

Australian Colonial and Folk Dancers Every Friday, St Andrews Ch Hall, cnr Trelawney/Rutledge Sts, Eastwood (next to BBC), Colonials' Dance each 5th Friday evening. Anthony and Lisa 9873 4805.

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

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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 Folk Dances, by Bush Dance Assoc.

2nd Sat. Feb-Dec 6.30 - 10pm. New Year's Eve 8pm-midnight. \$20/\$15/\$10. \$5 disc for early bookings.

Pennant Hills Community Centre, 60 Yarrara Rd. John 9873 3138/ 0416 212 136, bushdance2000@yahoo.com.au

Bush Music Club Bush Dances

Feb-Dec (not Easter), 8-12pm, \$17/\$14/\$12 incl. supper, children to 12 free. **Beecroft** Community Ctr 1st Sat, Helen 9626 7816; **Balmain** High School hall, Terry St, Rozelle, 3rd Sat, Don 9642 7949

Central Coast Bush Dance

4th Sat. 8-12pm, East Gosford Progress Hall, Henry Parry Dr and Wells St, \$15/\$12. Beate 4323 3356. Robyn 4344 6484.

International Folk Dance

Children's classes, 6-18 years, Pennant Hills Com. Centre, morning. Carol Maddocks, 9905 1563

Irish Ceili Dances, live Ceili bands, 4th Sats, 7.30 - 11.30pm. Irish Gaelic Club, 64 Devonshire St, Surry Hills. \$10. Aisling 0413 941 459, irishgaelicclub@gmail.com

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 0412 861 187

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.

Sutherland Shire Folk Dance Group

International Dancing Como Girl Guides Hall, 10-11.30am. Kaye Laurendet 9528 4813

Linnéa Swedish Folkdancers

Estonian House, 141 Campbell St, Surry Hills. New members welcome. For times contact Graeme Traves 9874 4194, linneafolk@hotmail.co



MUSIC IN CONCERT

Tuesday

The Screw Soapers Guild - Writers Presenters & Listeners Group 4th Tues, 7.30pm, stories, poems, songs and conversation. Albert 9600 7153, email: DermottRyder@bigpond.com, 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

◆ **'Posers & Composers'** performance session, every Thursday, Newtown RSL (1st floor), 52 Enmore Rd, 7.30pm - 11pm. Free. To book a spot & enq Dennis Aubrey 0408 452 464 dennisaubrey@hotmail.com

◆ 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. These artists are all superb musicians!! Contact Jenny 9576 2301.

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,

1st Friday, Wollongong City Diggers Club, cnr Burelli & Church Streets, 1300 887 034 www.illawarrafolkclub.org.au

◆ Springwood Neighbourhood Centre Acoustic Club, or SNC Acoustic Club.

Regular folk nights on the 4th Friday of each month (Feb - Nov), 8pm \$7/\$5 Springwood Neighbourhood Centre, Macquarie Rd, Springwood. (next to Civic Centre). Visitors and floor performers welcome. Enquiries, Mark Hand 02 4721 4230 or eternynow@tadaust.org.au

◆ 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

◆ Illawarra Folk Club,

3rd Saturday, 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.theloadeddogg.org.au

◆ Macquarie Towns Music Club

3rd Sat, 7.30pm Alternates between concert and round robin jam session format with concerts featuring a guest artist supported by a 'blackboard concert' Richmond Neighbourhood Centre, West Market St, .Contact Dez Williams at 4578 5215 dwilliams@tpg.com.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. Contact Rhonda on 0416 635 856 or email Kathleen at swadling@bigpond.net.au.

◆ 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

Sunday

◆ Troubadour Folk Club

Central Coast, 4th Sat. in month 7pm CWA Hall, Woy Woy. (opposite Fisherman's Wharf), The Boulevard, Woy Woy. Admission: \$7 members/\$8 conc. & other folk club mems/\$10 non members. Everyone welcome Tel. Frank or Marilyn 4342 9099, Fax 4325 7362. Email: mail.info@troubadour.org.au www.troubadour.org.au/folk/index.htm..

SESSIONS & FREE WORKSHOPS

Monday

Bush Music Club

Community Centre, 44/142 Addison Rd, Marrickville, 7.30pm. Music workshop. All singers and musicians welcome. Bob 9569 7244, bobbolton@netspace.net.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, flute, fiddle, whistle, guitar, concertina. Irish Gaelic Club, Surry Hills, 0413 941 459, irishgaelicclub@gmail.com

Singing Out at The Gaelic Club

(2nd Friday of the month) singing sessions. Follows Politics in the Pub. Upstairs, 64 Devonshire St, Surry Hills near Central Station. 8pm approx. All welcome. Free. mwalters@mail.usyd.edu.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

Thursday

Sutherland Folk Club

Session night 4th Thursday. 7.00pm, Sutherland District Trade Union Club, Gympie. All welcome. 9520 6180.

Blackheath Folk Club,

1st Thurs, 7.30pm, Ivanhoe Hotel, cnr Gt Wstn Hwy and Govetts Leap Rd. Christine Davies, Peter Duggan 4787 7246

Irish Music Sessions

Gaelic Club Surry Hills, 7pm.

Irish music lessons, beginners and advanced, flute, fiddle, whistle, guitar, concertina. Irish Gaelic Club, Surry Hills, 0413 941 459, irishgaelicclub@gmail.com

Friday

BMC Beer & Cheese Night

Themed music nights, 1st Fri (except holidays), 8-10pm. Bring something to sing, eat, drink. Bush Music Club, Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, 142 Addison Rd, Marrickville. 9569 7244, bobbolton@netspace.net.au

Eastern Suburbs Poetry Group

1st Friday, Church in the Market Place, Bondi Junction. 6.30-8.30pm. Gina 9349 6958

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

Fairlight Folk Acoustic Lounge

Held 4 times a year, Feb, May, Aug. Nov (usually 1st Sat) 7.45pm. A comfortably enticing, relaxed environment in which to see quality live acoustic music. Ajjfter show - jam. BYO drinks and nibbles. Light refreshments available. William St Studios, Fairlight (The Baptist Church down from Sydney Rd. Contact Rosie 9948 7993. ffolk@bigpond.net.au

Sunday

◆ Sydney Scottish Fiddlers

1st and 3rd Sun, 2-5pm, New Church, 4 Shirley Rd Roseville. All ages welcome. Trish 9416 2402.


◆ Irish Music Session

Kellys, King Street, Newtown, 6pm. Enq. 9559 6300

◆ **Music Session** Hero of Waterloo, cnr Lower Fort St and Windmill Street, The Rocks. 6-10pm. Brendan 9818 4864

Irish Music Session. 3rd Sunday. Bennet Hotel, Hamilton, 4-7.30pm Roz and Shane Kerr 44967 3167
Irish Music Sessions - Dicey Riley's, Wollongong 2pm.
Hotel Illawarra Wollongong, 3rd Sunday, 3pm, spoken word, 5pm acoustic music

focus on folk
2MBS-FM 102.5MHz 6PM Saturday


2MBS-FM 102.5
Sydney's Fine Music Station

In co-operation with 2MBS-FM, Sydney's first FM community radio station operating on 102.5 MHz, Folk Federation brings you an hour of folk music at 6PM on 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month.

13 March, Paul Jackson will bring us a show commemorating the music of Alistair Hulett
27 March Carole Garland will entertain you with an eclectic mix based on local festivals and her recent travels to the UK

*Anyone with a CD that you would like to add to the library collection for consideration for airway please forward to
Focus on Folk, Post Office Box A182,
Sydney South 1235.*



REGIONAL EVENTS

BATEMANS BAY: Scottish Country Dancing, Batemans Bay Caledonian Society - Tuesday 7.30pm at Batemans Bay Bowling Club - visitors welcome. Warren 4457 2065, Max 4472 5184

BATHURST: Bathurst Folk Club, occasional concerts, touring and local artists. Different venues. Bruce Cameron 02 6331 1129, www.bathurstfolkclub.org.au

BELLINGEN: Celtic Australian Session.. Saturday from midday, Church Street tables. John 66555898, Carole 66551225

BLUE MOUNTAINS: Blue Mountains Heritage Dancers, Wednesday in term time, 7-9pm. Wentworth Falls SOA. 217 Great Westn Hwy. Caroline 0439 314 948, dba23266@bigpond.net.au or Patrick 0412 786 988

BRAIDWOOD:

Braidwood Folk Music Club meets every 3rd Thursday now at the Anglican Church Hall, BYO everything. Info Erika 4842 2505; performers Sue 4842 8142

Tallaganda Dance Troupe. Folk dance, Mon. 9.30am (Noela 4842 8004. Belly dance. 11.30am. (Erika 4842 2505) 35 Coronation Ave, Braidwood.

BROKEN HILL: Occasional acoustic jam nights at Bell's Milk Bar. Contact Broken Hill Art Exchange, (08) 80088 3171

CENTRAL COAST: Troubadour Folk Club

Central Coast, 2nd Sun, 1.30pm, CWA Hall, Woy Woy. (opposite Fisherman's Wharf), The Boulevard, Woy Woy. Admission: \$7 members/\$8 conc. & other folk club mems/\$10 non members. Includes afternoon tea. Tel. Frank or Marilyn 4342 9099, Fax 4325 7362. Email: mail.info@troubadour.org.au www.troubadour.org.au/folk/index.htm..

COBARGO: Yuin Folk Club, Occasional Folk Nights. Enq. Coral Vorbach or Graeme Fryer 6493 6758. yuinfolkclub@bigpond.com, website: www.cobargofolkfestival.com

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

DUBBO FOLK CLUB, 2nd Sun, 2.30pm, Castlereagh Hotel. All welcome. Di Clifford 6882 0498

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 jefferies@tech2u.com.au

GULGONG FOLK CLUB, PO Box 340, Gulgong NSW 2852, Bob Campbell 02 6373 4600, gulgongfolkfestival.com

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

LISMORE BUSH DANCE, Wed nights, Ray Flynn Hall. Glenys Ritchie 6622 4258

NEWCASTLE:

■ **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

■ **Newcastle and Hunter Valley Folk Club,** 1st Sat. 7.30pm (not Jan) Wesley Fellowship House, Beaumont St, Hamilton. or Elaine Velt (H) 4943 1552. Ron Brown (W) 4926 1313 folknews@bigpond.com, www.newcastlehuntervalleyfolkclub.org.au

■ **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

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

■ **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.

■ **Tradewinds Acoustic/Folk Session,** 2nd Sunday (Feb-Nov). 25 Queen St, Cooks Hill. 4-7pm. Carole Garland 4929 3912, carolegarland@aapt.net.au

■ **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 7.30-10 pm, 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

■ **OBERON Music Club,** fortnightly, Thurs, 8pm, Oberon Leagues Club. Neil Higgins 6337 5707.

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

■ **Bowral Folk, Blues and Beyond,** 3rd Thursday 8pm. The Celtic Room at The Scottish Arms, 69 Boardman Rd, East Bowral. \$8. John Hall 4661 4900, jhall@optusnet.com.au

■ **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, Tues. 5.30-8.30pm, 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

■ **WHITTON** (near Griffith) Bidgee Folk Club 3rd Sun. Whitton Hotel, Whitton 1pm - 5pm. 02 6954 4019

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

■ **Poet's Breakfast,** Wed. 7., 15am. Wollongong Writers' Centre, Town Hall, Corramal 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, Wed, 8pm, musos and dancers all welcome, Community Hall, West Dapto Rd, Wongawilli. David 0409 57 1788. www.wongawillicolonialdance.org.au:



ACROSS THE BORDER

ACT

■ **Monaro Folk Society Inc,** Post Office Box 482 Civic Square, ACT 2608. Lance Court (02) 6161 2426 www.monarofolk.org.au - *The Merry Muse* www.merrymuse.org.au

■ **The Folkus Room,** Bill Amett (02) 6262 9265 www.thefolkus.org.au

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 108, Kingston Q4114, ph/fax 07 3208 4923, Admin@FolkRag.org. www.FolkRag.org

■ **Qld Colonial and Heritage Dancers.** PO Box 3011, Yeronga 4104. Jan Orloff ph/fax 07 3848 7706, colonialdance@quicknet.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 72, Bracknell Tas 7302.

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

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

National Australian Folklore Conference 2010

An annual conference facilitated by the Australian Folklore Network, the National Library of Australia, the National Folk Festival and the Centre for Advanced Studies in Australia, Asia and the Pacific, Curtin University.

National Library of Australia 9-5pm Thursday 1st April

Building on the success of the previous five Australian National Folklore Conferences, the Australian Folklore Network, the National Library of Australia and the National Folk Festival will again host a one-day conference immediately before the National Folk Festival.

This year's topics and speakers are:

- **Manganiar and Langa; desert musicians of Rajasthan - Kevin Bradley**
- **Mr Vasilis's Taksim - Peter Parkhill**
- **Pianos in the Bush: The historical role of regional music-making in developing Australia's cultural identity - Jennifer Gall**
- **'A Dear Lover of Songs.' (Sabine Baring-Gould) - Martin Graebe**
- **My Spirit – My Darwin – the musical heritage of the Mills family - Jeff Corfield and Allyson Ajibuk Mills**
- **That Face on the Barroom Floor: Kenny Goldstein & Collecting Recitations in Australia - Hugh Anderson**
- **Whoever Laughs Last, Loses: Classroom Humour as Folk Culture - Robert James Smith**
- **Damned Souls and Turning Wheels - Warren Fahey**

The conference also features a lunchtime concert on session music produced by Rob and Olya Willis, as well as the availability of new publications and recordings.

As in previous years the National Library of Australia will host the event, from **9am-4.30pm Thursday 1st April**.

The conference is free to attend (there will be a small charge for a brown bag lunch) but it is important to **pre-register by email to g.seal@curtin.edu.au**



TWO VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED SHOWS COMING SOON AT TWO DIFFERENT VENUES

UNCLE EARL USA

The unique U.S. all-girl old-time stringband, *Uncle Earl*, play The Basement on the first show of their very first Australian tour! Their music has been called "old-time for our times" - with their infectious energy, undeniable charisma, sharp musicianship, and unique repertoire of original and traditional songs, Uncle Earl are bringing the stringband legacy proudly into the modern era. The vitality and honesty of their performances make Uncle Earl one of the most exciting and promising new bands to emerge in any genre.

"The most exciting of the new string bands gleefully kicking old time music into the 21st century. Its sound is enticingly raw, urban-edgy, and irresistibly high-stepping." - The Boston Globe.

"They're a cross between old-time music and bluegrass... It's unusual, but I tell you they're doing it right." Del McCoury in Rolling Stone

For this tour, long-time Uncle Earl members, KC Groves(guitar, mandolin, vocals) and Kristin Andreassen(guitar, fiddle, harmonica, clog-dancing, vocals) are joined by other leading lights of the American old-time/bluegrass scene: Stephanie Coleman(fiddle, vocals), Cassandra Jenkins(banjo, vocals), and Sharon Gilchrist(bass, mandolin, vocals).

Old-time(formerly known as old-timey music is the traditional Appalachian mountain music (as heard in O Brother, Where Art Thou?, which has its roots in the celtic music of Ireland & Scotland. Bluegrass has evolved from old-time music. **Not to be missed!**

WEDNESDAY 3 MARCH: UNCLE EARL (USA). 9PM. THE BASEMENT, 29 Reiby Place, Circular Quay. Ph. 9251 2797. <http://www.thebasement.com.au/> Bookings now open.

CHRIS SMITHERS

One of America's foremost Blues/Roots Singer/Songwriter/ Guitarists, Chris Smither, has chosen Notes in Newtown to



launch his fifth Australian tour, promoting his critically-acclaimed new album, "Time Stands Still". New Orleans-born Smither is known for his brilliant, yet understated, fingerpicking blues guitar, his intelligent, wry lyrics, and his 'equal parts gravel and molasses' voice. Bonnie Raitt has made his song 'Love Me Like a Man' her signature tune, and is so impressed with Chris that she has referred to him as "my Eric Clapton".

"Bathed in the flickering glow of passing headlights and neon bar signs, Smither's roots are as blue as they come. There is plenty of misty Louisiana and Lightnin' Hopkins in Smither's weathered singing and unhurried picking. So fine." Rolling Stone.

"His ability to take the emotion at the heart of a song, make it transparent and pass it on to the listener is unmatched. Smither's rich, deep, emotion-charged voice and his exquisite guitar playing imbue these simple thoughts with a profundity forged out of genuine passion." Bruce Elder - SMH. **Another concert not to be missed!**

<http://noteslive.net.au/> Bookings now open.

cd reviews



Ami Williamson CD 'Close to Home'

This is a CD that should be in every home and car. Certainly every one who has seen Ami at her live performances will want a copy. I have been fortunate enough to see Ami's live shows at last years National, at a great concert in Narrabri and then at the official CD launch at this years Tamworth Country Music Festival.

Ami has crafted ten delightful little stories and set them to beautiful melodies. She has a wonderful singing voice and a stage presence that combines all the influences from her diverse musical background, growing up with a father who is one of the giants of the Australian country music scene, High school was at Sydney's McDonald College school of performing arts followed by a Bachelor of Music at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and then to round everything of studying opera in Germany.

Ami accompanies her songs that are all great little folk songs on a piano keyboard often with the support of a mouth organ. She also plays an Appellation Mountain dulcimer and plays a neat drum. Ami's music to my ear is great contemporary folk music but she could be equally at home in just about any setting including entertaining Australian Soldiers in Afghanistan.

I present a Folk Music program on 2MAX FM Narrabri every Monday evening and I have played every song on Ami's CD many times. My favourite song is 'The soldiers Wife' closely followed by a happy song about her sister 'My sister and I'

I am very sure that you will love this CD. I recommend that you check out Ami's website www.amiwilliamson.com and 'Close to Home' can easily be purchased from her online shop.

Danny Watson.

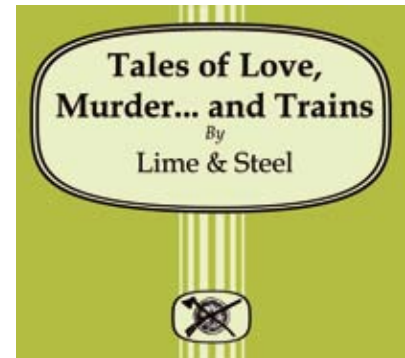


Jane M Harding's CD 'Songs From The Road'

This is Jane's first CD and I am sure that there will be more. Jane lives in the beautiful regional centre of Coonabarabran nestled against the majestic Warrumbungle Mountains. She is a comparatively recent convert to the beauty of folk song and she has embraced the whole folk scene regularly attending the Dubbo Folk club and crafting her songs while travelling the eastern states to attend and often perform at clubs and folk festivals.

This is a well crafted CD of 11 songs with words and music by Jane, she has composed a very nice tune for Banjo Paterson's poem 'The Artesian Water' and the 13th track is a great little set of tunes. Jane has a very good ear for music and the ability to write very pleasant melodic tunes that suit her interesting stories. Her songs tell stories of every day life, bushrangers and the places and people that she has met on her travels. Jane accompanies herself on her Jack Spira Australian guitar and Mitch Smith Australian low F whistle. Col Bernau joins her with Mandolin and Amanda Broberg plays Irish bouzouki. This array of very well played instruments certainly complement Jane's very pleasant voice and good songs. Probably my favourite song is Coolaburragundy the songs talks about the lovely town of Coolah and its very pretty setting.

I would recommend this CD and it would I am sure receive plenty of spins in any folkies home or car. I present a Folk Radio show 8pm to 11pm on 2MAX FM Narrabri every Monday evening (streamed to the web on www.2maxfm.com.au and I have over the past weeks played just about all the tracks. jane.m.harding@gmail.com
Danny Watson



Lime & Steel Tales of Love, Murder...and Trains (Ind)

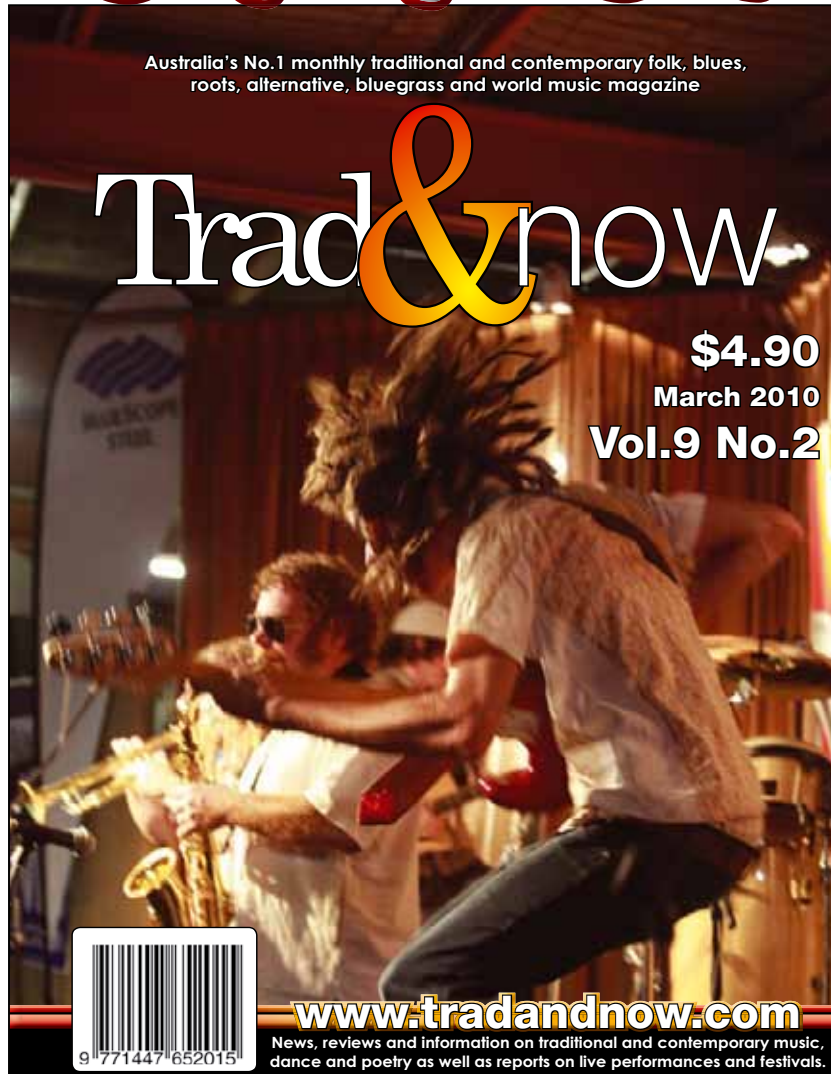
From the misty hills of 'County Katoomba', comes this collection of chilled out dirt music. The tracks meander in easy fashion - welcoming, earthy, poignant and fun. The mix of colonial and Celtic-style folk includes a couple of traditional tunes such as 'The Banshee' and 'Whiskey Before Breakfast'. Originals cover history (convicts, opium dens, anti-Chinese riots of the Gold Rush) and universal 21st century themes. Both new parenthood ('Sleep On, My Precious Time Bomb') and love of the latté ('The Juice of the Bean') are blamed for sleep deprivation. There's a full swag of humour and heart - what got 'em through in the old days. Tender love stories are told on 'Scatter the Ashes' and a fine cover of Gary Shearston's 'Bonnie Jess'. On 'Patyegorang', guest vocalist Kate Bain sings the part of an Eora woman (in language) in gentle harmony with her white lieutenant.

Lime & Steel are: Ben Scott (also a member of the Spooky Men's Chorale) on vocals, low whistle, guitar and mandolin; Paddy Connor (vocals, banjo, penny whistles, uilleann pipes, guitar) and Ian Morrison (drums) with guests Tinker Duffy (accordion) and Chris Gillespie (bass). Economic delivery - without fear or flashiness - understates some very fine musicianship. You'll feel like cradling a pint among friends as you gaze into a crackling fire, be it in a cosy country pub or on red dirt under the stars. Good for the soul.

(Available through 'Trad & Now')



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Folk Trax

WomAdelaide, The Fringe, Adelaide Festival Of Arts, The Clipsal 500 (a car race), Adelaide Cup(a horse race), Port Fairy Folk Festival and whatever else is on this month makes it a hectic one in SA, I hear what you say but Port Fairy is only around the corner. Yes there is some Folk too, of course. You know it is all great to go to, great atmosphere, great food, great people and at the end of it an empty wallet. I wouldn't wanna miss it though. Adelaide really comes alive in March.

It is possible that you cannot make it to SA. Well maybe some great CDs from Folk Trax is could be the answer. The WildGoose label continues to amaze me with beautifully crafted CDs of a more regional feel. The Askew Sisters used the music collected by George Gardiner in 1904 from the village of Axford and with the help of the Craig Morgan Robson released "The Axford Five". Another compilation released by Wildgoose records is called "Generosity". On it you'll find artists such as Jez Lowe, Tanglefoot, Roy Bailey and John Kirkpatrick amongst others. All donated songs for this CD to help raise funds for MS.

Solas, Grada, Karan Casey & John Doyle are some wellknown names with new releases on Compass Records. And then of course , as mentioned last month, the new James Keelaghan CD "House Of Cards" ,his first release for Borealis, is now also available.

i Viaggiatori (The Voyagers) with Kavisha Mazella, Dave de Santi, Irine Vela and Mark Holder-Keeping released "Suitcase Serenata" with 17 tracks, it is the music performed during the showing of the film Dall' Italia All' Australia. "Suitcase Serenata" is now also available through Folk Trax.

Now , if you do make it to Adelaide come and visit us at the EBI shop, which includes Folk Trax. You'll find us at 10 Byron Place in the beautiful city of Adelaide. We are open weekdays 9 to 5 but our websites is open 24 hours a day at www.folktrax.com.

Don't forget the 10% discount for members of the various participating Folk Federations, The Folk Rag and Folk Alliance members.

A final word this month for artists who would like to place CD/DVDs at EBI just let us know if you are interested and we'll send you our Consignment details..

Keep on Folking, Henk and Jan de Weerd

I Viaggiatori play lively, old time Italian folk music from the 19th century and beyond. It's romantic, poignant, frenzied, sweet and earthy. It's a place where memory sits down with imagination to share a good coffee and a glass of grappa then have a good yarn.

www.viaggiatori.com.au



NSW - state of play



Songs of Henry Lawson



Songs of Chris Kempster

Item	Reg	Mem*	Qty	Total
NSW - State of Play (double CD snapshot of the 2008 NSW folk scene)	\$25	\$20		
The Songs of Henry Lawson (new songbook edition with 375 settings)	\$49	\$35		
The Songs of Chris Kempster (double CD)	\$25	\$20		
Postage & Packaging: (\$10 for book + up to 2 CD sets) (\$3 for 1 CD set, \$5 for 2 CD sets)				

* Join the Folk Fed now and receive member's discount. See jam.org.au for membership form.

Total:

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Please charge my credit card:



Card number: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ (Expiry date: ____ / ____)

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____

Send form with remittance & return address to: Folk Federation of NSW, PO Box A182, Sydney South NSW 1235