THE CORNSTALK GAZETTE

Dates For Your Diary
Folk News
Dance News
CD Reviews

Folk Federation of New South Wales Inc
Issue 440 June, 2012 $3.00

Ricketty Bridge

ST ALBANS FOLK FESTIVAL 2012

folk music dance festivals reviews profiles diary dates sessions opportunities

THE CORNSTALK GAZETTE

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.

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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.
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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

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.

COMMITTEE 2010-2011
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Membership: Wayne Richmond Listserv/ Jam/Membership 9939 8802 (not after 8.00pm please.)

JUNE 2012

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Front cover photos from St Albans Folk Festival courtesy John Uren

Deadline for July 2012
12th June 2012 (firm)

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: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard *(Tick one)*

Card number: ___ ___ ___ ___ / ___ ___ ___ ___ / ___ ___ ___ ___ / ___ ___ ___ ___ Expiry Date: ____ / ____

Name on card: _____

Signature:

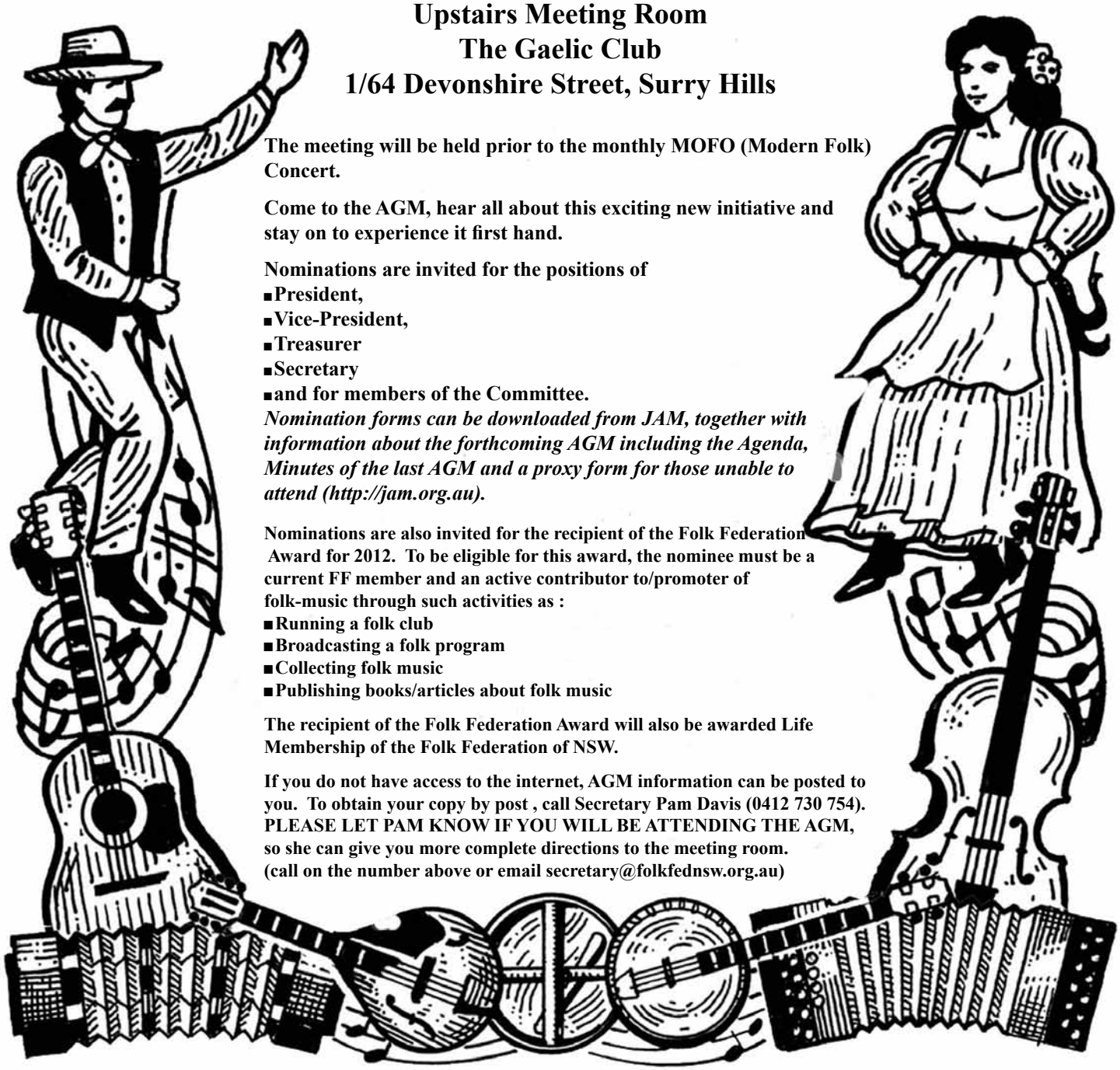
The membership year runs from 1st May to 30th April or from 1st November to 31st October. Allowances are made in your favour for people joining at other times. Send to: PO Box A182, Sydney South NSW 1235.

Folk Federation of New South Wales

Annual General Meeting

6.30pm, Friday 13th July 2012

Upstairs Meeting Room
The Gaelic Club
1/64 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills



The meeting will be held prior to the monthly MOFO (Modern Folk) Concert.

Come to the AGM, hear all about this exciting new initiative and stay on to experience it first hand.

Nominations are invited for the positions of
- **President,**
- **Vice-President,**
- **Treasurer**
- **Secretary**
- **and for members of the Committee.**

Nomination forms can be downloaded from JAM, together with information about the forthcoming AGM including the Agenda, Minutes of the last AGM and a proxy form for those unable to attend (http://jam.org.au).

Nominations are also invited for the recipient of the Folk Federation Award for 2012. To be eligible for this award, the nominee must be a current FF member and an active contributor to/promoter of folk-music through such activities as :
- **Running a folk club**
- **Broadcasting a folk program**
- **Collecting folk music**
- **Publishing books/articles about folk music**

The recipient of the Folk Federation Award will also be awarded Life Membership of the Folk Federation of NSW.

If you do not have access to the internet, AGM information can be posted to you. To obtain your copy by post , call Secretary Pam Davis (0412 730 754). PLEASE LET PAM KNOW IF YOU WILL BE ATTENDING THE AGM, so she can give you more complete directions to the meeting room. (call on the number above or email secretary@folkfednsw.org.au)

Applications for 2013 Cobargo Folk Festival

Applications for the 2013 Cobargo Folk Festival are now available online at:

cobargofolkfestival.com

Dates for the festival are Friday 22nd, Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th February 2013

Closing date for performer applications is 31st August 2012. Enquiries: (02) 6493 6758

dates for your diary - June 2012

METROPOLITAN

Friday 1st

◆***BOOK LAUNCH, 'WALTZING MATILDA*** - The Secret History of Australia's favourite song' by Dennis O'Keeffe. Singer songwriter and author ***DENNIS O'KEEFFE*** in conversation with TOM KENEALLY reveals the secret history of Waltzing Matilda. Lunchtime reading and performance. Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt St (near Bathurst St), Sydney. 12.30-3pm. Free - Bookings essential. Melanie 9262 7300, marketing@sydneymsa.com.au

◆**Illawarra Folk Club. *JAN PRESTON*** presents the film 'Kid's Stakes'. + ***RAPUNZEL'S PARTY***. City Diggers Wollongong, cnr Church & Burelli Sts. 7.30pm. 1300 887 034, info@illawarrafolkclub.org.au

Saturday 2nd

◆**Beecroft Bush Dance**, with ***CURRAWONG***. Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft Rd (opp. Fire Station). 8pm-12. All dances taught. $17, $14, $12, incl. supper. Sigrid 9980 7077, Wilma 9489 5594

◆**The Shack. *JENNY BIDDLE***. Captivating, mastery of guitar and piano, fruitful ear for melody, humble, straight-to-the-core lyrics, infectious, soulful voice. 'Beautiful no-nonsense folk', blues grooves, rockin' piano riffs, intimate reflection. + ***JASMINE BETH***. Tells a convincing story through her songs. Gritty blues or poetic ballad, fresh sound, sharp, original lyrics. In 2011, toured the U.K. and Germany, and has since released debut EP. + ***FRANKLIN*** - Mordy and Gibs. Their rhythms, songs and high energy keep them in demand. After years of gigs on the Northern Beaches they have a growing following in Brisbane. Tramshed Community Arts Centre, 1395a Pittwater Rd, Narrabeen (betw. carpark & Ambulance in Narrabeen shops). 7.30-11pm. $20. 0413 635 856, info@shackfolk.com www.hackfolk.com

◆**The Red Rattler. *'Ships In The Night': BLACK VAT TRIO*** www.blackvattrio.bandcamp.com ***THE LURKERS, RUTHIE MA TOOTHIE, BLAST & HAYFEVER***. 6 Faversham St, Marrickville. Doors 8pm. $10. www.redrattler.org/sydney/whats+on

◆Gaelic Club. Irish Céilí, Set Dance, with COAST CEILI BAND. Light supper. Upstairs, 64 Devonshire St, Surry Hills. 7.30pm. $15, $10. irishgaelicclub@gmail.com

Sunday 3rd

◆**Humph Hall. *LOOSELY WOVEN*** Fundraiser for Heart/Lung Transplants Association. 24 instrumentalists and singers. Instruments include: violins, cello, harp, clarinets, saxophones, flutes, guitars, mandolin, accordion, concertina, keyboard, percussion. Opens with Kev Carmody's thrilling song 'Freedom' (which will knock your socks off, so don't be late!) and will include a couple of original songs as well as the usual eclectic Loosely Woven mix ranging from Ted Egan's powerful 'A Bunch of Damned Whores' to 'Summertime' to 'Big Spender' to the rock 'n roll classic hit 'At the Hop', the moving gospel song 'Jacob's Ladder' and many more! 85 Allambie Rd, Allambie Heights. 2pm. Minimum Donation: $15 (All proceeds to Heart/Lung Ass.) 9939 8802, wayne@humph.org. humphhall.org

◆**Engadine house concert. *EARLWOOD GREG*** and ***JIM JARVIS*** (from the band "Three Left Feet") - blues/jazz. "Masters of blues music ... Greg's self-deprecating humour and easy manner wins the audience over as much as his handling of the material. Fascinating and compelling listening." Home-made afternoon tea. Suggested donation $15/$20. Booking essential: Margaret 9520 6180, 0403 936 785, mbradford@sydney.net

◆**Gaelic Club. Irish Céilí**, Set Dance, with ***COAST CEILI BAND***. Light supper. Upstairs, 64 Devonshire St, Surry Hills. 7.30pm $15, $10 irishgaelicclub@gmail.com

Monday 4th

BMC Dance Workshop. Preview of dances for Bundanoon. Leader John Short, teaching some of his own compositions. Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd. 7.30-9.30pm. $7. Felicity 9456 2860

Friday 8th

Camelot Lounge. *MUSICA LINDA.* 19 Marrickville Rd, Marrickville (cnr Railway Pde). Plenty of parking. 7.30pm. 9550 3777, info@qirkz.com www.camelotlounge.com

Saturday 9th

Humph Hall. *PAT DRUMMOND & KAREN LYNNE.* Pat's decades of travelling Australia's backroads and living with its people; often sleeping out under the stars and sharing the campfires of stockman and travellers, have produced over a dozen albums of songs and stories that many critics have claimed sum up Australia and her characters more fully than possibly any other writer. + The beautiful voice of Karen Lynne Karen, who has been showcased on The ABC's Saturday Night Country as Australia's premier bluegrass vocalist, has

recorded two albums with Pat in the last 10 years & brings a touch of gentleness and grace. patdrummond.net, karenlynne.com, 85 Allambie Rd, Allambie Heights. 7pm. Due to newly imposed Council restrictions, audience numbers in Humph Hall are now limited to 50 so book early! Wayne Richmond 9939 8802, wayne@humph.org. www.humphhall.org

Tuesday 12th

Notes. *HARRY MANX* (Canada). + YESHE. 75 Enmore Rd, Newtown. Doors 7pm. $51, $75.50 (incl. booking fee). 9557 5111, www.noteslive.net.au

Thursday 14th

Sutherland Acoustic. *LEON RABIN*, great singer and fine rhythm guitarist. + ***CHRISTINA MIMMOCCHI***, with her acclaimed new CD, 'Rumours of Summer' www.christina8arms.com Floor spots. Raffles, balloons. Tradies Club, Kingsway, Gymea. 7.30pm. $15, FF $12, $10. Jenny 9576 2301

Friday 15th

Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Folk Club. *O'NEILL & ROGERS* - two Canberra veterans of acoustic and roots music: Bob Rogers with one of those wonderfully powerful high range voices , and a history of lead vocals in rock 'n' roll and country rock bands, and Dave O'Neill, a jazz trained virtuoso of all stringed instruments who has played with numerous bands including a long international stint with Eric Bogle. He is also Artistic Director of the National Folk Festival. Beatrice Taylor Hall, rear Willow Park Community Centre, Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby. 8pm (doors 7.30). $15. BYO drinks, nibbles. Tea, coffee provided. Candle lit, tables can be booked, Barry Parks 9807 9497, bpparks@tpg.com.au

Saturday 16th

◆**Balmain Bush Dance**, with ***SOUTHERN CROSS***. Sydney Secondary College, Balmain Campus, 25 Terry St, Rozelle. 8pm-12. All dances taught. $17, $14, $12, incl. supper. Don 9642 7950

◆**Macquarie Towns Music Club. *FRED SMITH***. Great acoustic venue with candle lit tables. St Peters Educational Centre, 384 Windsor St, Richmond. 7pm till late. $12, $10, includes supper and cuppa. BYO snacks, drinks. Lydia 4576 0521, doozi-do-z@hotmail.com

Sunday 17th

Folk Dance Australia. French Dance workshop with ***LAUREL DE VIETR***I. Green Square Community Hall, Joynton Ave, Zetland. 10am - 4pm. $20 full day ($18 FDA), $12 half day ($10 FDA). Sandra 6552 5142, Kaye 9528 4813, okaye@optusnet.com.au

Monday 18th & 25th

BMC Dance Workshop. Contras and more. Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd. 7.30-9.30pm. $7. Felicity 9456 2860

Friday 22nd

Humph Hall. *MARTIN PEARSON'S BOLKIEN SHOW.* If you are a 'Lord of the Rings' fan and/or Martin Pearson fan and haven't yet caught his famous 'Bolkien Show' then here is your chance! He is a very funny satirical performer. www.martinpearson.com.au. 85 Allambie Rd, Allambie Heights. 7pm. ($25/$15) Due to newly imposed Council restrictions, audience numbers limited to 50 so book early! 9939 8802, wayne@humph.org. humphhall.org

Saturday 23rd

Loaded Dog. *MARTIN PEARSON*. Comedian with keen eye for making everyday events so mundane they are laughable. Parody writer of renown and singer of some notes. As a folk singer, he longs for serious recognition in much the same way as a flatworm longs for reeboks. + ***CHRIS MALTBY***. He went to concerts, festivals etc for years, never putting himself forward except to help. Then, one day, out he comes with a traditional song, and knows it thoroughly. Courted by Ecopella Choir and Roaring Forties, he amazes them with the songs he knows and can learn. Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, upstairs, 79 Johnston St. 8pm. $15, $13. BYO, supper available. Sandra 9358 4886, www.theloadeddog.org.au

Friday 29th

Camelot Lounge. KIM SANDERS Gypsy Party! 19 Marrickville Rd, Marrickville (cnr Railway Pde). Plenty of parking. 7.30pm. 9550 3777, info@qirkz.com camelotlounge.com

Saturday 30th

◆**RFDS Contra Dance** with ***PASTRAMI ON RYEBUCK***, caller Julie Bishop. Note NEW venue and times. Ermington Community Centre, 10 River Rd. 7-11pm. $17, $14 conc., under-18 (with an adult) free. John 9623 7551, Leila 9896 8992

◆**Illawarra Folk Club. *THE POPES*** (Ireland). City Diggers Wollongong, cnr Church & Burelli Sts. 7.30pm. 1300 887 034,info@illawarrafolkclub.org.au

Regional and ACT

Saturday 2nd

Newcastle & Hunter Valley Folk Club. *RAPT* - folk, Celtic, bluegrass, blues, jazz, originals. + Trad/Blues man ***CHRIS CADY***. Wesley Centre Hall, 150 Beaumont St, Hamilton. 7.30pm. $15, $12, $10, under-16 free. Carole 4929 3912, Ron 4926 1313, Folk Club 0421 412 358

Lawson 'Live'. Mediterranean Music & Dance night with ***SKORBA*** + ***OUD VIBRATIONS***. Mid Mountains Community Centre (in new Lawson town centre). Delicious food available for purchase. BYOG permitted; glasses provided. 6-10pm. $15, $12, under-12 free. 4759 2592, www.lawsonfestival.org

ArtsSpace, Wodonga. CD Launch Concert of the ***RECYCLED STRING BAND***. Luke R. Davies' ingenious creations of instruments made out of quirky recycled bits and pieces - including old hub caps, cigar boxes, tea tins, suitcases, hat boxes and other items. Limited tickets. Bookings, 0458 454 050, karenroben@bigpond.com

◆**Maitland Winter Seasonal Session, at new venue, Shenanigans Pub, High St. (Held on the first Saturday of each season.) 1-4pm. Gary Roberts 4930 5544**

Friday June 9th

Cafe Evolve. *THE BLUE RUINS*. 7.30pm. Cafe Evolve, 210 Carp St Bega, NSW 2550

The Merry Muse

Friday 15th June

Ruby's Rebellion, Ernie Van Veen

Friday 29th June

Peter Woodley "Flute Tunes CD Launch (presented by the Monaro Folk Society) Canberra Southern Cross Club. McCaughey St, Turner (The Bowlo), Cnr Condamine St. Enq, Eileen 0412 127 882. *merrymuse.org.au*

festivals and events

4th - 6th June
Kilmore Celtic Festival Vic
Email: kilmorecelticfestival@yahoo.com

8th - 11th June
Bundanoon DanceFest 2012. Ray 6247 4725, Dave 4884 4214. www.bushtraditions.org

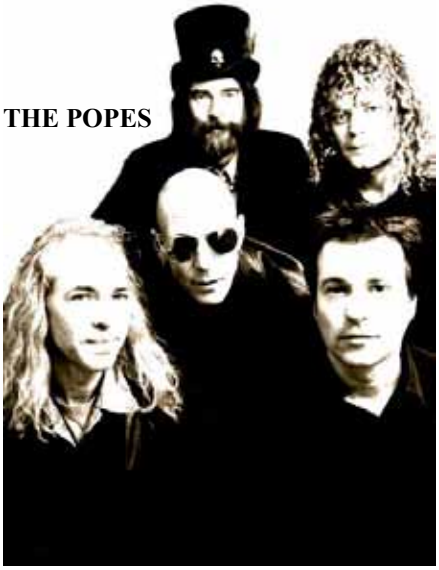
8th - 11th June
Sessionfest at Bargoed reserve, Swansea. Lainey 0421 412 358, 02 4954 34 55, Bilbo 0410 584 533. www.newcastlehuntervalleyfolkclub.org.au/sessionfest

8th - 11th June
Illawarra Folk Club tour to 4th Perisher Snowy Mountains of Music. www.illawarrafolkclub.org.au/page/SnowyMountainsofMusicPackageTour

8th - 11th June
National Celtic Festival
Port Arlington, Vic General Enquiries Mobile Phone Number: 0409 017 130

24th - 26th August
Songs for Social Justice, central Sydney
http:songweekend.wordpress.com
email: songweekend@gmail.com

THE POPES



The Popes are a six piece, high energy Celtic folk/rock'n'roll band with the soul of a fiddler at the crossroads. They play a nostalgic selection from The Pogues but concentrate on their originals from 'HOLLOWAY BOULEVARD': and 'OUTLAW HEAVEN'. The band members are Paul McGuinness (guitar/vocals), Will Morrison (drums/backing vocals), Charlie Hoskyns (guitar/backing vocals), Jim McAllister (bass/backing vocals), Dave Allen (fiddle/mandolin/backing vocals). Whiskey Mick Rowan (mandolin/guitar/backing vocals) with guest Annie Parsell singing one song. www.thepopesofficialsite.com

10th National Celtic Festival

Portarlington on 8th – 11th June 2012.

What's On The Program?

We're letting the cat out of the bag.....pipes!

Sing! Sing! Sing!

This year we are expanding our singing program, adding more diversity, more workshops, more participation and more fantastic concerts.
Ticket-holders are welcome to participate in a wide range of vocal workshops offering expert mentorship from many of the vocal stars of the festival.
Diverse workshops will explore different singing styles, harmonising, songs in Gaelic languages, singing for children and young people, and much more.
Then workshop participants will join with their tutors to become the festival choir which will sing in the annual 'Hush For The Singers' concert – always a highly anticipated event at the festival.

There once was a man from Kilkenny...

Go on, finish it – you know you want to! Budding poets and those who love a laugh will get a kick out of entering the National Celtic Festival's Limerick Competition.
This year's theme is "10 Years" in celebration of our 10th anniversary at Portarlington, so get writing and your Limerick could be read out by one of our headlining artists over the weekend.
And while we always encourage family-friendly entertainment, we will save the reading of any "naughty" entries to later in the evenings!
Just see the friendly festival folk at the Ticket & Info Marquee over the weekend for your Limerick form and get writing.

Drag Queen marches to this drum beat

The National Celtic Festival Drum Salute returns to Portarlington after its introduction last year. This is a group of Grade 1 pipe band drummers, all with world pipe band championship experience, playing at the very highest level. They will be performing a much-heralded drum salute "The Drag Queen" for your entertainment. This salute has been performed both here and overseas to great applause. The drum corp. will display all the very best in pipe band drumming and style. Be prepared to be blown away by their power and skill. Great fun and a must see act

Spectaculars! Spectaculars!

A series of special gatherings and spectaculars on this year's program will keep you spoilt for choice including the Celtic Martial Arts National Competition from the Glen Lachlann Estate College of Arms; Celtic rockers Claymore's concert spectacular; massed pipe bands, the always-popular festival Ceili featuring the Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club and friends; and the Festival Fiddles Concert in the Parks Hall. Phew!

Cirque de Celtique

Will-o'-the-Wisp are an Australian cast of graduates from the School of New Circus, who will be performing breathtaking acts of fire arts, juggling, hula hoops, acrobatics on stilts and ladder balancing. The troupe is based out of Canberra and Brisbane but spend most of the year touring Australia with a traditional circus big top. The new show "Flame Eccentric" invites the stellar cast of fire performers to the stage with a show that follows the theme of the phoenix, new beginnings and upcoming journeys. They will perform a ceremony to welcome change and the release of the past. Very appropriate for our 10th anniversary celebrations.
Hopefully you have secured your tickets, but if not, get onto our website www.nationalcelticfestival.com to book today.

folk news

Blue Mountains Folk, New Venue

After the Paper and String CD launch in March we announced that Blue Mountain Folk would be stopping the Folk Club in the Blue Mountain Hotel. Since then a lot of people have expressed how much they enjoyed the Sunday afternoon events and could we keep them going.

The problem with the pub was setting up the sound system in the bistro between the lunch and dinner times. We were always in a rush and the staff were never very happy about it either.

The Community Centre is proving to be such a good venue for Lawson 'Live' that we have decided to recommence the Folk Club in the Joy Anderson Room at the Mid Mountains Community Centre, 7 New St, Lawson, on the usual 3rd Sunday of the month from 3.30 to 6pm. There will be a cover charge of $7 and $5 concession. Children under 12 will be free. The proceeds will be split between the musicians and Blue Mountains Folk. Tea and coffee will be provided and you can bring your own alcohol. It is a particularly family friendly place with a play area for children adjoining the room and the fenced courtyard as well.

'Coaldust' Back Issues

Newcastle and Hunter Valley Folk Club are missing issues of their Coaldust Newsletters from their records, for the following periods: Prior to May/June 1979; July/Aug 1979 to April 1980; May 1980 to Feb 1983; April 1983 to April 1984; June 1984 to Sept 1984; Nov 1984; March 1985; June 1985; Sept 1987 to Nov 1987; Jan to April 1988; June 1988; Jan 1989; April 1989; July 1989; Aug 1990; Oct 1990 to Jan 1991; July 1994 - Pages 1 & 2; Jan 1995; Jan 1996 to Dec 1996; Jan1997 to Aug 1997; Oct 1997 to March/April 2002. If you have any copies of Coaldust Newsletters covering these periods and can donate them, or allow them to be scanned, please advise the President, Ron Brown, 4926 1313, 0427 261 313, rbrown@ntpe.com.au

Songs for Social Justice: singing together for change is a gathering to share our rich treasury of songs, to meet other music-lovers and to encourage the use of music in movements for change. There will be an opening concert on the Friday night 24 August at the Gaelic Club in Sydney showcasing some of our most passionate performers. Throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday 25-26 August at Teachers Federation House in Surry Hills there will a series of workshops teaching skills and sharing songs on various themes under the banner of social justice. There will be plenty of opportunity for discussion, spontaneous contributions and social singing.
The weekend was first held in November 2011 under the name Songs of Meaning and Power; it was a great success at short notice, with over 50 people attending. We are hoping to attract many more this year and hope it will develop into an annual event.
The weekend is organised in a spirit of participation that you're heartily encouraged to take part in. Find out more at the website http://songweekend.wordprss.com and send us your contact details to receive updates songweekend@gmail.com . People you may know on the organising committee include Paul Spencer, Anne O'Brien, Margaret Walters, Cath Blakey, Mary-Jane Field, Maggie Huang.

New Sydney Folk Club Bush Bash at The Imperial

The historic Imperial Hotel on the corner of Oxford and Underwood Streets, Paddington, will be home to a new folk club every Wednesday evening. The upstairs lounge with its club feel is spacious, has great sight-lines and has an inbuilt sound system. Best of all it will be free admission. The house band will be members of The Larrikins and 'Chief larrikin' Warren Fahey will host the evening with yarns, bush poems and some cracking music. Performers from the floor will be very welcome as long as they sing or recite Australian folk material - traditional and original. Warren Fahey says "I have been looking for a suitable venue for a regular night and the Imperial was more than welcoming as they also manage the Stockman's Hall of Fame and several other leading historic hotels. The evenings will also feature a 'bar stool yarn' every week by a local historian, poet or storyteller and I think that casual approach will produce some real characters." Performers visiting from interstate will be most welcome and will be guaranteed a good feed and ale if they contact Warren on wfahey@bigpond.net.au

The night will be called 'Bush Bash' and will run from 8pm with the music starting around 8.30. Bar food will be available.

dance news

Bundanoon Dance Fest 2012

This is the fourth Bundanoon DanceFest, held at Bundanoon in the Southern Highlands of NSW, on the June long weekend, since 2009. This popular event has a unique distinctly Australian focus with dances in the bush tradition as well as recently composed dances. The programme also includes a wide variety of other dance styles: British, Irish, Scottish, European and American which have all influenced dancing here. Always lots of fun, it's an intensive three days of dancing in many traditional styles, with two evening dances – the second one a Ball. Accommodation fills fast – but there may still be some. www.bushtraditions.org

RFDS Contra

The annual Contra for the Royal Flying Doctor Service will be held on Saturday 30th June, 7-11pm – NOT at Granville Town Hall this year (we will miss those Lebanese pastries afterwards!), but still with lots of fun and good dancing at Ermington Community Centre, 10 River Road., with resident band Pastrami on Ryebuck and caller Julie Bishop. The dance programme will include some of the contras enjoyed at the 2012 National Folk Festival. Admission is $17, $14 (students, pensioners, Folk Federation, Bush Music Club, and affiliated groups), under 18 (accompanied by an adult) free; good supper included. The Royal Flying Doctor Service is celebrating 84 years of service. Enq, John 02 9623 7551, Leila 02 9896 8992.

Krakow Festival

In August last year Gina Langley enjoyed ten days of folk singing and dancing of a very good standard despite very wet weather and some intense heat in the beautiful and famous mediaeval market square in her home town, Krakow, Poland. She was impressed by the splendid folk costumes, many sewn and hand embroidered by the female dancers themselves, who practise weekly despite their daily working life, trying to maintain their dialects and traditional rural customs. There were dances from 120 different Polish regions, as well as Slovak, Balkan, Turkish, Romanian, Roma, and Swedish dances, and others. Traditional crafts were displayed. Gina is going again this year to the 36th International Folk Art Fair (www.cepelia.krakow.pl). Her dream is to see the Australian Heritage Dancers perform there and at the 12th Festival of Court Dances (last week of July), at the Royal Wawel Castle in Krakow (www.cracoviadanza.pl/en,festiwal).

THE IRISH ARE NOT CELTS

According to Bob Quinn

Bob Quinn is a maverick. He is a Gaelic speaking documentary film maker and journalist, a former director of RTE (The Irish public broadcaster) and a long time resident of Connemara in the West of Ireland. He rejects conventional wisdom that the Irish are part of the Celts, a culture that links the people of Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Isle of Man and Brittany.

Instead, he argues, the Irish are an energetic mixture of many peoples and cultures inhabiting what for thousands of has essentially been an island trading post. In their traditional music and art they are a lot closer to Mediterranean peoples – including Arabs and Berbers – than to the jaded fictions of 'Celts' or 'Aryans'.

Could the music, art and dance of traditional Ireland have their roots in North Africa, Spain and the Mediterranean?

Today as largely urbanised we forget that the sea does not divide peoples, it has united all countries and all races. So it was that Ireland was a lucrative trading post and a desirable residence as the global powers of the past (The Vikings, the Spanish and traders from across the Mediterranean) traded with and married into those who lived in ancient Ireland.

"We are not Celts," says Quinn. "We are a mongrel people—a bit like Australia. People who have come from all over the world are Australians. And the Irish are such a mixture because we are an island. From the North, South East and West, all religions, all kinds of civilisations have left their imprint on Ireland."

Speaking on the ABC Radio National program Books and Arts Daily on St Patrick's Day this year in his typical forthright way he said "The word Celt to me is a lie. It's a lie that was invented by the Greeks 2000 years ago. The Greeks meant those "paddies", those "wogs" beyond the Alps and Herodotus the historian referred to them as well. It was a ratbag of a word into which you could throw all barbarians."

It was the struggle for independence from the colonial domination of the English which led to the creation of the myth of the Celtic revival. About 300 years ago a Welshman called Edward Lhuyd (pronounced Lloyd) a Welsh naturalist, botanist, linguist, geographer and antiquary was a librarian in the Ashmolean Library in Oxford. He revived the phase because he was a very nationalistic man and he wanted to distinguish between the Welsh and the English. He said the Welsh, Irish, Scottish languages were all related and he used the word Celt to describe these people on the fringes of Europe.

This Celtic twilight or Celtic revival was re-animated in Ireland at the end of the 19th century by Patrick Henry Pearse (1879 – 1916) and Douglas de Hyde. It was a negative way of distinguishing the Irish from the English and suggested that the Irish were the last remnants of wonderful Celtic civilisation of Europe.

"You have to invent these lies if you are trying to get independence," adds Quinn. "You have to invent a fiction or narrative which will make people feel proud of themselves. So they were not bad people. Like all mongrels, they are much more bright, intelligent and active than any aristocratic thoroughbreds."

So what is the evidence that Quinn gives in his four documentary films and book The Atlantean Irish?

He noticed that Ireland's golden age of art was the 6th to the 10th century—the same period as the Islamic golden age of art in Spain which was then the centre of Islamic civilisation. The swirls on Irish rocks mirror precisely swirls on rocks in the East.

The sail boats of Connemara (the bookon) have the same kind of sail as found in the Mediterranean—dipping lug invented by the Arabs in the 13th century. It allows you to tack. Before that you could not tack with a square sail.

One summer in the 16th century there was 600 Spanish boats moored in Galway Bay. There were strong trading links between Cadiz and Galway. Just across the water from Spain is North Africa. In his films he shows that the Berber (North African) form of foot tap dancing is possibly related to flamenco and the similar dance of his native Connemara.

Language is another clue. The Irish say, " I'm after being at home." That is "have I been at home." The verb comes first in the sentence in Irish. That is one of the peculiarities of Irish. It exists nowhere else in Europe. However it does exist in Berber, Arabic and Hebrew—the verb coming first. According to Quinn, it shows that the language was brought by traders up the Atlantic coast and has its roots in the Hamito-Semitic languages of the Middle East and North Africa.

A more recent example involves the sean-nós songs in Irish the Libyans loved it. When Joseph heard their singing on the Libyan radio he said it was as if he was listening to his neighbours in Connemara.

In 2010 in a bog in County Tipperary a man discovered a perfectly preserved 8th century Psalter, or book of psalms. Archaeologists discovered that the binding consisted of papyrus and had to conclude that it came directly from Egypt.

In 30 years Quinn has collected a large amount of circumstantial evidence and remains convinced that the Irish owe much to Islamic civilisation, the Middle East and North Africa. "We should be down on our knees thanking Allah," he said.

The latest mitochondrial DNA researchers from Trinity, Cambridge and Oxford Universities support the basis of the Atlantean argument. Finally, the Irish Heritage Council has given its imprimatur to the Atlantean thesis in his book (with an introduction by Barry Cunliffe). Its title is The Atlantean Irish: Ireland's Oriental and Maritime Heritage (Lilliput Press, Dublin 2005).

The response to the original films and book was intriguing. Pioneers of the Irish maritime heritage — people such as the late John de Courcy Ireland and the intrepid Tim Severin – were delighted as were traditional Irish musicians. They loved the idea and felt it endorsed their natural instinct to explore rhythms and harmonies hitherto considered un-irish.

Conservative academics, particularly 'Celtic' scholars, maintained a public silence while privately attacking the thesis.

However, prominent and open-minded scholars (such as Barry Cunliffe, Oxford professor of European Archaeology) were pleased that a hitherto-repressed perspective on Ireland had seen the light of day. His 2001 book 'Facing the Ocean' precisely confirmed Quinn's 1984 imaginative speculations.

Alan Raby

(Reprinted with permission from the editor Drumbeat, magazine of the Folk Federation of Tasmania.)

Resources:

Hear Bob Quinn's interview of ABC Radio National: http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/booksandartsdaily/irish-writer-bob-quinn/3892134

St Albans Folk Festival 2012

In the week leading up to the festival, from a Sydney and coastal perspective, it appeared that the heavens had conspired against us and opened with a fury that surpassed all of the inclemency of the previous couple of years. But somehow the little St Albans oasis absorbed what was thrown at it and the sun came out on Thursday to smile on another delightful festival.

The Beez, from Germany, topped the bill with their zany songs, mangled covers and brilliant harmonies. Victoria supplied Martin Pearson, Chloe & Silas, Graham Dodsworth and Ricketty Bridge; the ACT gave us O'Neill & Rodgers, Fred Smith, Craig & Simone & Franklyn B Paverty who ran the best bush dance that the festival has seen for years, and the furthest travelled were Dingo's breakfast from WA. NSW were not to be outdone with Chaika starring, Bob & Margaret Fagan providing their incomparable traditional harmonies, the unrelated Mike & Lindsay Martin, the Lurkers with their brand of bluegrass and the Famous Wheeze & Suck Band appearing for the umpteenth time to close out Saturday night.

Bush Poetry was run by Tamworth winner Peter Mace and ably assisted by Roger Montgomery.

Many thanks to all that ensured it was a magic weekend from the organisers, volunteers, musicians and patrons to our sponsors and the local population who have taken our invasion to heart.

The 2013 festival will be at least 4 days, running from 25th to 28th April. See the website for more details and hope to see you all again next year, with additional friends!

Sing Dubbo

Forty-four eager singers gathered in Dubbo, a stone's throw from Western Plains Zoo. We came together to sing songs inspired by Dubbo's natural features, history and culture. Oh, and a few zoo animals snuck in there too. People came from all around Western NSW and as far as Sydney, Canberra and Newcastle. We had no shortage of songs – our repertoire, which we got to perform at the Holy Trinity Church on the Sunday, included John Warner's beautiful *Newell Highway,* a version of *Mbube* (the original incarnation, by Solomon Linda, of *The Lion Sleeps Tonight*), a fabulous find from the 1920s: a vaudeville song entitled *When I Get Back to Dubbo Town*, and some original songs and arrangements by Kate Swadling, Rowen Fox and Christina Mimmocchi. Other songs focused on Jacky Underwood, the drought, the Macquarie River in flood, and the work of Henry Lawson. What a great opportunity to find out more about a place through song, and what a great time can be had lending your voice to a large choir and sing with joyful, supportive community. Thanks for having us, Dubbo! Hope to sing you again!

Ego Lemos

Ego Lemos, respected as one of East Timor's leading musicians, is involved in a renewal of indigenous music and language in the world's newest nation. His music has also taken him on successful tours to the UK (supported by Oxfam), Japan, India, Brazil, New Zealand and Australia. Ego is also head of Permatil, East Timor's main permaculture organisation, working to reintroduce traditional agricultural techniques to support long-term independence and sustainable development. In November 2009, Ego Lemos won **Best Original Song Composed for Screen** at the **2009 APRA-AMCOS Screen Awards for '*Balibo*'**. In front of Australia's film and music industry, a wide-smiling Ego accepted this honour, his first major music award, presented by the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, Minister for the Environment, Heritage & the Arts. It has been over ten years that his voice as a songwriter, permaculturalist, and community development worker has been charming audiences around the world with his inspiring enthusiasm for environmental and social revitalisation in his home country, East Timor, and abroad. Due to his diplomatic manner, fairness, and political eloquence Ego's voice travels far to many sectors and people.

Ego will be performing at Candelo Town Hall on Friday 15th June, at the second " Instruments for Timor Leste concert". He will be supported by the Kade Brown Trio and others. Also on the night, a raffle with the prize of a Cole Clark guitar, donated to the project by Daniel Champagne will be drawn. Cost for the night is $20 /$10 students ,conc. Music starts at 7 pm .

folk contacts

CHOIRS

Monday

■A Choired Taste, Glebe, led by David Westmore, 9716 7016

■Bright Star Singers 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 Rachelle 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, ledby 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 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 chriswheelersanddealers.com.au

■NoteTonight, Josephine. Glebe, led by David Westmore, 9716 7016

■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 Clive 9997 2019.

Thursday

■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. 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@lisp.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 Grooup - 15 yrs to adult. Cost involved.Vas Aligiannis, 0407 081 875, greekdancer@aapt.net.au. www.greekdancing.com.au

■Hungarian Dance Class
Ultimo, 8-10pm. Gary Dawson 9559 4485. garydawson@ozemail.com.au

■English Country Dancing, Sydney
Playford Dance Group. Occasionally at Lidcombe. TBA. Patricia 9649 6978 or Mike or Ros on 9929 8193

■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
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. American Contra + Beginners English, 11.30am - 1pm. Advanced English 2-4pm. School for Seniors, Wesley Mission, 220 Pitt St. Sydney. (Opposite back of Hilton Hotel.) Roslyn 9263 5416

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

Sutherland Shire Folk Dance Group

■International dancing. Scout Hall, June Place, Gymea 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: wnntt@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-llpm, $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

■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 Dance2nd Sat, 7.30 - 11.30pm, East Gosford Progress Hall, Henry Parry Dr and Wells St, $15/$12. Beate 4323 3356. 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 DancingOrkney 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 DancersLearners night (for learners and experienced), 7.30- 9.30pm. Pensioners Welfare Club Hall, 76 Pitt Street, Mortdale. Pam Jehan 9580 8564.

■Linnéa Swedish FolkdancersEstonian 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, email: DermottRyder@bigpond.com, website: www.folkclub.com/folkodyssey/

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.

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 eternitynow@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

■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,

■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.theloadeddog.org.au

■Macquarie Towns Music Club3rd Sat,7.30pm Alternates between concert and round robin jam session format with concerts featuring a guest artist supported by a 'blackboard concert'. St Peters Educational Centre, 384 Windsor St, Richmond. Contact Lydia Bowen-Clare 4576 0521 doozi-do-z@hotmail.com

■ 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 nibblies. Contact Rhonda on 0416 635 856 or email Kathleen at swadling@bigpond.net.au.

■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. Marilyn or Frank 4341 4060 or 0419 231 319

■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/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, 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

■**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

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

■Blackheath Folk Club

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

■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

Friday

■Sutherland Acoustic

4th Thursday of each. month from 7.30pm Gymea Tradies Club, Kingsway, Gymea. Friendly jam. Enq. Jenny 95762301

■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

■Open Mic Dalor Cafe. 7.30pm 1st & 3rd Friday. 237 Wardell Rd Dulwich Hill. Enq. Roger Fyfe 0425 261 953 Free

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 - Dicey 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

■Sydney Scottish Fiddlers1st and 3rd Sun, 2-5pm, New Church, 4 Shirley Rd Roseville. All ages welcome. Trish 9416 2402.

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

In June, Focus on Folk is still on at 6PM on 2MBS-FM, 102.5

BUT

Focus on Folk is permanently changing its time slot on 2MBS-FM from 1 July 2012.

Saturday 9th June Kate Delaney

Saturday 23rd June Paul Jackson

Sunday 1st July John Milce,

AT 4PM on just this one Sunday,

It will now be on 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at 1PM, with Whirled Wide in same time slot on 2nd and 4th Sundays.

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.

2MBS·FM 102·5
Sydney's Fine Music Station

BLUE MOUNTAIN SOUND
www.bluemountainsound.com.au

REGIONAL EVENTS

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

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 Commuinity 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.

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

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 Folk Nights. Enq. Richard Depledge 6493 6199. 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, 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 FOLK CLUB, 3rd Friday, Waratah Hotel, Mudgee 5pm. PO Box 340, Gulgong NSW 2852, Bob Campbell 02 6373 4600, gulgongfolkfestival.com

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.

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 Propert 02 4946 5602 email propert@netspace.net.au

■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. Morissett 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-llam. Margaret 4861 2294

■Southern Highlands Scottish Country Dance Group, Moss Vale Uniting Church, Cnr Argyll & 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 Neighbouhood 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, 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. 0409 817 623 dance@mfs.org.au http://mfs.org.au/wiki/index.php/Calendar.

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 2493The 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

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

Humph Hall

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85 Allambie Road, Allambie Heights

House concerts coming up in 2012:

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Pat Drummond & Karen Lynne - 7pm Saturday 9th June

Martin Pearson 'Bolkein Show' - 7pm Friday 22nd June

Penny Davies & Roger Ilott - 7pm Friday 27th July

Bruce Watson 'Unsung Heroes' - 7pm Friday 26th August

Nick Rheinberger & friends - 7pm Friday 7th September

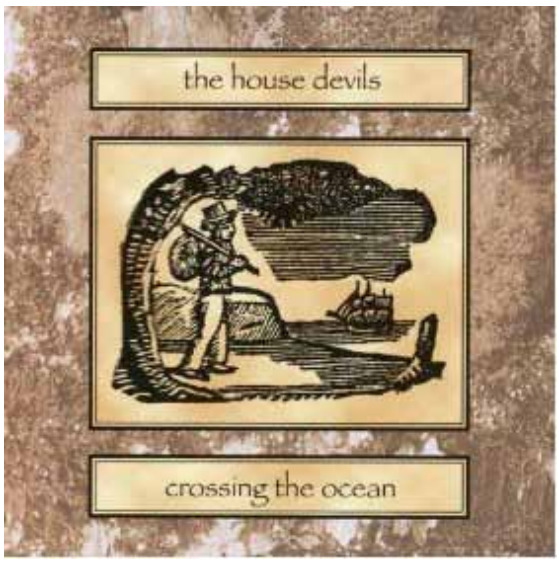
Vov Dylan Viennese Salon Orchestra - 2pm Sun 29th Oct

SNEZ - 7pm Saturday 10th November

Fuego Blanco Tango Orch & Nadia Piave - 2pm Sun 25th Nov

Formerly the Allambie Heights Uniting Church, Humph Hall is now the private home of Gial and Wayne. Bookings call 9939 8802 or wayne@humph.org - humphhall.org

cd review



The House Devils
Crossing the Ocean
[The Living Tradition (2012)]

The title of the most recent album by Ireland's The House Devils, Crossing the Ocean, clearly references that chestnut of Irish music, emigration. However, a closer listen to the music shows that the group has subtly twisted expectations by incorporating American folk back into the traditions of Irish music. In many places, it's a return trip. No where is this more obvious than on their countrified take of "Awake Awake," an Appalachian song with its roots firmly planted in English ballad tradition. Singer and guitarist Matt Fahey does his best southern American accent (not perfect, but then again Americans have foisted plenty of fake Irish accents on the world), and does perfect country vocal slides to a tune that is still recognizably British. Other songs, "Castleroe Mill," "Wearing the Britches," "Tied My Toes to the Bed," and "My Bonny Boy is Young" are firmly Irish. But the gorgeous "There With You" again hops the Atlantic for source material.

The mostly slower songs are interspersed with upbeat (but not insanely fast) jigs and reels, and the playing is very good. I'm pleased to note that nothing here is standard fare. Most of the songs here will be unfamiliar to the average listener of Irish music will know, and there's nothing as played out as the Kesh Jig here. (Of the jigs, "The Ace and Deuce of Pipering" was the only one I recognized, and I consider myself above average in the Irish-music-listening-to department.) Even more unusually, one of the primary melody instruments, beyond Andrew Dinan's outstanding fiddling, is harmonica provided by Mat Walklate. One of the best sets is "Dinan's Duo," a pair of reels with no names. The obligatory balls-to-the-wall (can you use that term with trad music?) ending set, "The Blackberry Blossom/The Sailor's Bonnet/The Crooked Road to Dublin" shows that the band is able and willing to pull out all the stops on tempo but has the good sense to keep it in control the rest of the time.

Although it's fun to play "guess the source" on the materials, the two Mat(t)s involved have been so good as to provide liner notes that tell you where the songs came from.

Crossing the Ocean is sure to please anyone looking for an album of Irish music that sounds a little different but is still firmly rooted in the pub playing tradition.

Don Patton (reprinted from Driftwood Magazine online)

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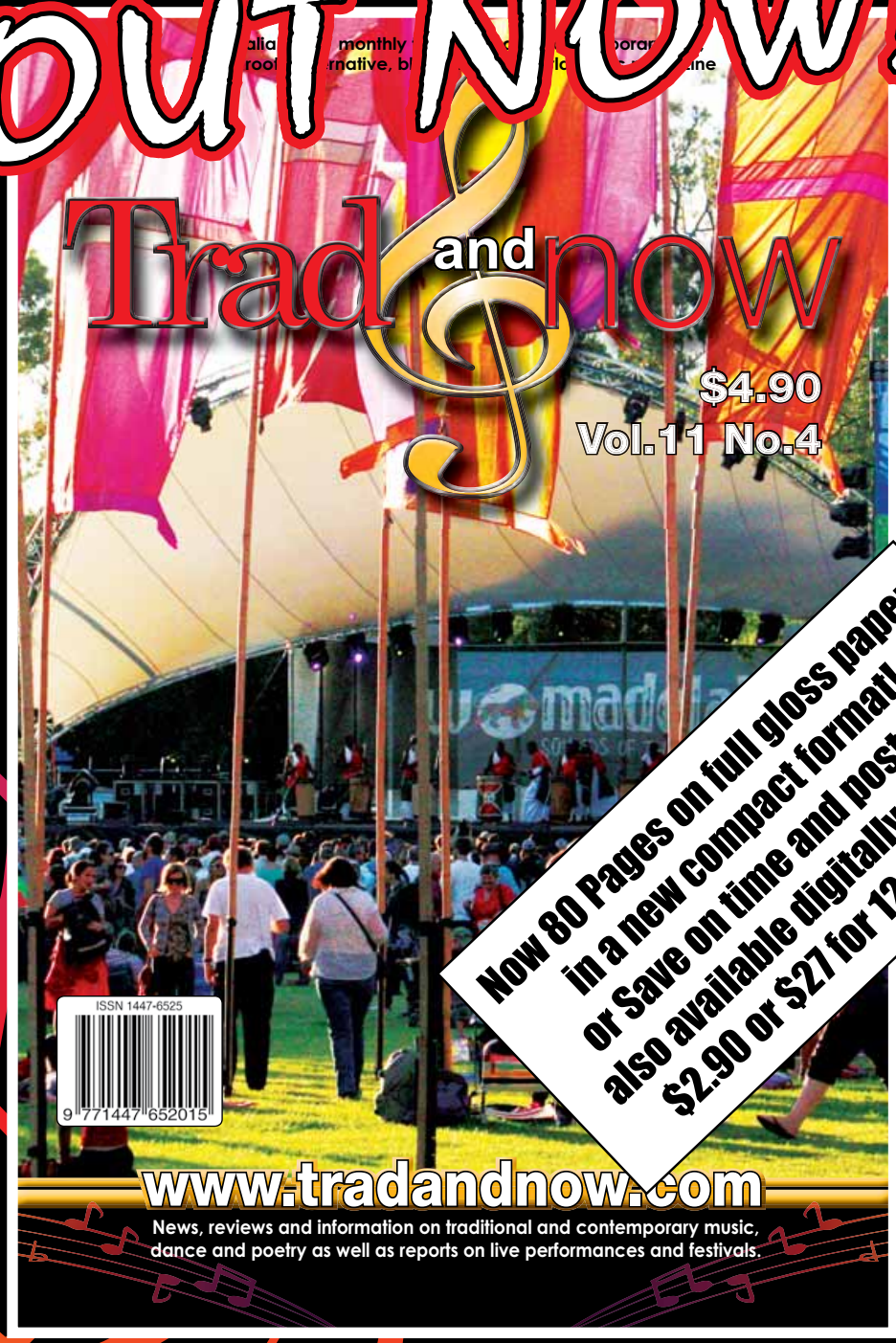

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