

THE CORNSTALK GAZETTE

Dates For Your Diary
Folk News
Dance News

Folk Federation of New South Wales Inc
Issue 463 July, 2014 \$3.00



**Ann & Charlie Heymann (US) come to Australia
to attend the World Harp Congress in Sydney**

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

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

Committee

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JULY 2014

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Chloë & Jason Roweth present a WW1 concert & afternoon workshop at The Troubadour, Saturday 26th July.

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.

Deadline for August 2014
10th July 2014 (firm)

The Folk Federation of NSW - Membership Application Form

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

Dear Folk Fed Friends,

A couple of months ago in this column, I announced plans for our own concert to honour the memory of the great Pete Seeger. I'm now pleased to advise that the Folk Federation's Pete Seeger Memorial Concert will be held at 4.30 pm on the 27th July 2014 at the Friend in Hand Pub, 58 Cowper Street, Glebe ... a most appropriate date, as it's the 6 month anniversary of his death. Please bring your friends and neighbours, and let's make this an event to remember. Tickets are FREE for current NSW Folk Fed members. And please give me a call if you'd like to take part (see the notice elsewhere in this issue).

The Concert will be preceded at 3.00pm by our Annual General Meeting. I know this is not the high spot on most people's social calendar, but I do encourage you to attend and to think seriously about taking a more active role in your Folk Federation. We are thirsty for blood; new blood, that is, to revitalize the committee and to bring new ideas and enthusiasm. And don't forget that next year, NSW is the National Folk Festival's featured State. We need to start planning now to make a spectacular NSW presence at the 2015 National. Please join us to make it happen.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Folk Fed Committee and most particularly the volunteers who bring you Cornstalk (Coral, Wayne, Julie and wrap team Dallas and Jim), Folkmail (Julie) and JAM (Wayne). Their efforts are largely unsung. They deserve a choral symphony.

As we come to the end of another Folk Fed year I urge you to ask not what the Folk Federation can do for you, but to ask what you can do for the Folk Federation (with apologies to JFK).

Until next time,

Pam Davis



Folk Federation of New South Wales

Annual General Meeting

3pm, Sunday 27th July

Friend in Hand Pub (upstairs Function Room)

58 Cowper Street, Glebe

The meeting will be held prior to our Pete Seeger concert (4.30pm)

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

Nomination forms can be downloaded from JAM (jam.org.au), together with information about the AGM including agenda, minutes of last year's AGM and a proxy form for those unable to attend.

If you have any items that you wish to discuss at the AGM, please let Folk Fed Secretary Dallas Baxter know in advance of the meeting (9810 4131 or secretary@folkfednsw.org.au).

If you do not have access to the Internet, please ring Dallas and she will post AGM info to you.



Dates for your diary

July 2014

Metropolitan

Wednesday 2nd

Bush Dance with music by **NO SUCH THING**. Yvonne and Monty lead the group, with sheet music provided. Novice dancers and musicians are invited to participate. Wongawilli Community Hall, Lot 422 Wongawilli Road. 8-9.45pm. Light supper provided, with tea and coffee. \$3, children free. David De Santi, info@wongawillicolonialdance.org.au, wongawillicolonialdance.org.au

Friday 4th

Illawarra Folk Club. 4 PACK CONCERT. - Three Sixty, Illawarra Flame Three, The Humphreys + one more TBA. Owen Room, City Diggers Wollongong, cnr Church & Burelli Sts. 7.30-10.30pm. \$15, \$10. Tickets at the door from 7pm. 1300 887 034, illawarrafolkclub.org.au

Watoto Children's Choir Beautiful Africa - vibrant, original music; dance routines; stories of transformation; exciting audio-visual effects; and music videos. Chapel by the Sea, 1st Floor, 95 Roscoe St, Bondi Beach. 7pm. Entry by donation.

Saturday 5th

Beecroft Bush Dance with **CURRAWONG BUSH BAND**. All dances taught. Community Centre, Beecroft Rd, opp. Fire Station. 7.30-11.30pm. \$19, \$17, \$14 BMC Members, \$39 Family. Sigrid 9980 7077, Wilma 9489 5594

The Shack - KEVIN BENNETT from Sydney roots band The Flood, writes relevant, contemporary music with elements of blues, rock and country. He sings his life. His song 'Paul Kelly's Blues' was nominated for APRA Song of the Year. + **GLENN CARDIER**. In the '70s the singer songwriter guitarist produced 3 albums, worked with Frank Zappa, Spike Milligan, Fairport Convention, wrote for Olivia Newton-John and broke into the UK folk circuit. Now a songwriter/ performer of real distinction. + **CHRISTIAN MARSH**, one of Australia's finest players on diatonic and chromatic harmonicas, has featured in many stage musicals and performed Sven Libaek's Harmonica Concerto with various symphony orchestras. A winner at ABC Newcastle Music Awards. + **RAPT** - folk, Celtic, bluegrass, blues, jazz, originals; great harmonies. Paul Laszlo (double bass, banjo), classically trained but with jazz/ improv bent; rich baritone voice. Ann Palumbo (acoustic and classical guitar, mandolin, double bass), jazz chanteuse with a penchant for tango, classical, folk and improvised. Rosie McDonald (acoustic guitar, bouzouki, percussion), MusicOz award winning songwriter: strong rhythmic drive, rich alto voice. New venue: Mona Vale Bowling Club, 1598 Pittwater Rd, Mona Vale - with its own bar. BYO snacks, nibbles if you wish. Open fire. 7.30-11pm.

\$20, \$15. 0413 635 856. www.shackfolk.com

Songwriting Society of Australia:

KENNY JOE BLAKE, multi-nominated Grammy and award winning songwriter and musician, using contemporary and traditional genres. While in Sydney, he's doing more recording, and visiting The State Library's unique collection of early Australian poetic writing to explore ideas and new material. Limited spaces. Mars Hill Cafe, 331 Church St, Parramatta. Workshop, 9am-12 noon, \$20 at door, \$15+bf. Concert, 7-11pm, \$25 at door / \$20+bf. Workshop + concert, \$25+bf. Bookings, 9893 9888

Monday 7th

Bush Music Club Dance Workshop. 'Winners and favourites'. Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd. 7.30-9.30pm. \$7. Felicity 9456 2860, bushmusic.org.au/bmc_danceworkshop.html

Wednesday 9th

Oatley Folk. With feature artist; + open mic and group playing. Downstairs bar, Oatley RSL Club, 23 Letitia St. 7.30pm. \$7. Mark 0409 701 249. oatleyfolk.com.au

American Independence Day Contra Dance, with caller **JULIE BISHOP**. American folk tunes and dancing. Sheet music provided for acoustic musicians. All dances called and walked through. Wongawilli Hall. 8pm. \$3. David De Santi 0409 57 1788, desanti@bigpond.com

Friday 11th

Duke's Place. Australian songs in concert and session with guest performers **HELEN AND TONY ROMEO**. Helen and Tony have a strong passion and affinity for Australian bush songs, music, dance and poetry and performing as a duo gives them the opportunity to present some of the favourite material they have gathered over the past 30 years. Bush Music Club, Tritton Hall, Hut 44, Addison Road Centre, 142 Addison Rd, Marrickville. 7.30 for 8pm. \$10, bring supper. Sandra 9358 4886. bushmusic.org.au



Saturday 12th

Central Coast Dance. JANE AUSTEN THEME NIGHT, with (Ryebuck Bush Band, playing as) Regency Ryebuck, caller Julie

Bishop. Dances taught and called, incl. some from 'Pride and Prejudice'. Costume encouraged. East Gosford Progress Hall, cnr Henry Parry Drive & Wells St. 7.30-11.30pm. \$18, \$12. Supper provided. Robyn 4344 6484. ccbdma.org/schedule.htm

Irish Ceili and Set Dancing. Live music by the **COAST CEILI BAND**, and all sets called. Gaelic Club, upstairs, 64 Devonshire St, Surry Hills. 7.30 pm. \$15, \$10 Club members. Children free accompanied by an adult. 0434 115 191

Monday 14th

Bush Music Club Dance Workshop. 'Winners and favourites'. Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd. 7.30-9.30pm. \$7. Felicity 9456 2860, bushmusic.org.au/bmc_danceworkshop.html

Wednesday 16th

Bastille Day French Folk Dance. French folk tunes and dancing. Sheet music provided for acoustic musicians. Dancers welcome. Wongawilli Hall. 8pm. \$3. David De Santi 0409 57 1788, desanti@bigpond.com

Friday 18th

Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Folk Club. Performers TBA. Beatrice Taylor Hall, rear Willow Park Community Centre, Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby. Doors open 7.30pm. \$15. BYO drinks & nibbles - tea & coffee provided. Candle lit venue, tables can be booked. Barry Parks 9807 9497, bpparks@tpg.com.au

Macquarie Towns Music Club. THE BUTTON COLLECTIVE - an energetic folk band from the Northern Rivers. Their music borrows from traditional Irish, fast-paced bluegrass, with a very personal and intimate delivery incl. accordion, mandolin, fiddle, banjo, harmonica, double bass and rich, multi-layered vocal harmonies. + Floor-spots from club members. 20 West Market St, Richmond. 7.30-10.30pm. \$15, \$10, incl. light supper. 4567 7990

Saturday 19th

Illawarra Folk Club. Performers TBA. City Diggers Wollongong, cnr Church & Burelli Sts. 7.30-10.30pm. \$25, \$20, Youth (12-16) \$5, under-12 free. 1300 887 034, illawarrafolkclub.org.au

Humph Hall reopens! - ANN & CHARLIE HEYMANN (US) get Humph Hall off to a great start after the private venue was forced to close back in March. Ann is the world's foremost performer on the wire-strung traditional Irish/Scottish harp that disappeared 200 years ago. Charlie sings lilting songs in Gaelic & English and plays traditional instruments including the cittern, bodhran, button accordion & bones. Ann & Charlie are in Australia as part of the International Harp Congress. Humph Hall, 85 Allambie Rd,

Allambie Heights. Workshop: 3pm, Concert: 7pm. Enq. bookings: Wayne Richmond 9939 8802, wayne@humphall.org humphall.org

Sunday 20th

Contra - A Feast. Dance workshop with caller **KEITH WOOD**. Anyone is welcome. Dances are walked through and called. Join us afterwards for a meal at nearby Pennant Hills Bowling Club. Pennant Hills Community Centre, Main Hall, 70 Yarrara Rd. 2-5pm. \$5. Tea, coffee available. Keith 0420 913 934

Monday 21st

Bush Music Club Dance Workshop. Practice for Gosford. Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd. 7.30-9.30pm. \$7. Felicity 9456 2860

Wednesday 23rd

Wongawilli Bush Dance. Sheet music is provided for acoustic musicians. Dancers are welcome, and pay only \$3. Wongawilli Community Hall, West Dapto Road, Wongawilli. 8-10.30pm. David De Santi 0409 57 1788, desanti@bigpond.com. wongawillicolonial-dance.org.au



Saturday 26th

The Loaded Dog. PETER HICKS (TAS) is a folk singer and singer songwriter very much in the tradition of the likes of Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger. www.peterhicks.com.au. + Support, Chippo Days is the magic that happens when three former flatmates are brought together through the irrepressible charms of a folk singer and sometime rocker from New York. Back Hall, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, 79 Johnston St. 7.40 for 8pm. \$20, \$18. BYO, supper available. Sandra 9358 4886. theloadeddog.org.au

The Troubadour. THE RIDERLESS HORSE. WW1 Concert and afternoon workshop with **JASON AND CHLOE ROWETH**. Performing and recording for over 18 years, they share a passion for Australian folklore

and bush music. Rousing songs of nationalistic fervour, the soldiers' morale boosters composed on the spot in the trenches and sung by many voices, the ballads of those left behind to watch and wait – a rare insight into Australia at the time of the war to end all wars. This presentation is arranged chronologically, with a potted folk history of Australia's involvement. CWA Hall, The Boulevard, Woy Woy (opp. Fisherman's Wharf). 7pm. \$12, \$10, incl. light supper. Children free with paying adult. 4341 4060, 0419 231 319. troubadour.org.au

Monday 28th

Bush Music Club Dance Workshop. Practice for Gosford. Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd. 7.30-9.30pm. \$7. Felicity 9456 2860

Regional and ACT

Saturday 5th

Nowra Bush Dance. School of Arts Annex, Collins Way, Nowra. 8-10pm. Tune practice session 6.30pm. Dancers \$5. Bring a plate of supper to share if you like. Andrew or Alison 4447 5663. Musos contact Stuart 0412 288 923. kangaroovalleyfolkfestival.com.au



Newcastle Hunter Valley Folk Club. SPRINGTIDE - Jackie Luke (hammered dulcimer), Greg Wilson (Celtic harp) Rita Woolhouse (cello). + D.O.U.G, the enthusiastic ukulele group led by Dianne Pope. Last year the group travelled to Cook Islands, playing with locals, extending repertoire. Wesley Centre, 150 Beaumont St, Hamilton. Doors open 7.30pm. \$15, \$13, under-17s free. Carole 4929 3912, Ron 4926 1313. newcastlehuntervalleyfolkclub.org.au

Sunday 6th

Lithgow Folk Club. Acoustic music and folk session, with singer songwriters **MARTIN AND LYN DOHERTY**. All welcome. Court House Hotel, 1 Main St, Lithgow (6351 3234). 4pm. Allan Murray 6352 2042)

Saturday 12th

Canberra Contra Club Birthday Bash Dance. Corroboree Park Hall, Paterson St,

Ainslie. dgilks@grapevine.net.au

Sunday 27th

Hamilton House Concert (Newcastle), with **VINCENT CROSS**, touring songster: a roots-oriented songwriter, musician, and composer born in Dublin, raised in Australia and now based in New York City. His first full-length debut album 'Home Away from Home' received strong support from bluegrass, country and Americana communities. 2pm. Peter and Nicki 0417 461 030



1st-3rd August

Folk Alliance Australia Conference, Melbourne.

19th - 21st September, 2014

Turning Wave Festival
info@turningwave.org.au

26th -28th September 2014

Folk By The Sea
www.folkbythesea.com.au

3rd - 6th October 2014

Uranquinty Folk Festival
uranquinty@hotmail.com

17th - 19th October, 2014

Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival
info@kangaroovalleyfolkfestival.org.au

24th, 25th, 26th October, 2014

Dorrigo Folk & Bluegrass Festival
www.dorrigofolkblues.com.au

21-23 November. 2014

Majors Creek Festival
Update to come

27th - December, 2014 - 1st January 2015

Woodford Folk Festival
ticketing@woodfordfolkfestival.com

9th - 11th January, 2015

1st HONK! OZ. Free 3-day street music festival in Wollongong. www.honkfest.org.au

15th - 18th January, 2015

30th Illawarra Folk Festival
info@illawarrafolkclub.org.au

27th February - 1st March, 2015

Cobargo Folk Festival 2015
PLEASE NOTE: Due to unforeseen circumstances the dates for Cobargo Folk Festival dates have changed to 27th Feb - 1st March. Applications close 31st August, 2014.
info@cobargofolkfestival.com.au

Toongabbie Music Club



Blacktown City Festival parade on Saturday, 31st May was big, vibrant and multicultural! Allen Davis said, "It was a lovely day and there were more than 50 floats and organisations in the parade. The Toongabbie Music Club had 14 people on stage (our Concert Party). A good time was had by all."

The Parade was the culmination of Blacktown City Festival. More than 50,000 people were there either in the parade or as spectators.

BMC 60th Anniversary Update



The Bush Music Club has a series of events planned to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the club.

On Saturday 10th August there will be a one day Saplings workshop teaching Bush Music to children. The Saplings Sessions were a success at the National Folk Festival this year. Pass the word around to the young musicians you

know. It will be a full day Master Class devoted to giving young musicians an experience and enjoyment of playing Australian collected music in a relaxed atmosphere with expert bush musicians as tutors. This session is suitable for musicians of all levels, including those who do not play (yet), from 8-16 years. Bookings are essential. Guaranteed fun ... and pizza! For a prospectus, price information or general enquiries please contact: Helen 4297 5128, Kerry 0409 600 949, or email bushmusicclubsaplings@gmail.com

Friday 12th September will see the launch of Keith McKenry's biography of our founder John Meredith: 'More Than a Life: John Meredith and the Fight for Australian Tradition' (book and DVD) by Keith McKenry, with music from Wongawilli

John Meredith (1920–2001) was for decades the leading warrior in the fight to preserve and celebrate Australia's unique folk heritage. Between 1953 and 1994 he recorded from

ordinary Australians thousands of songs, tunes, recitations, folk medicines, superstitions, sayings and yarns, documenting a rich canon of traditional lore which at the time few believed - and many denied - existed. He was also a key pioneer in folk song performance, establishing in 1952 the original Bushwhackers Band and performing in the landmark Australian musical Reedy River. A political radical throughout the Cold War years, he fought all his life against poverty, cultural toadyism and official indifference. Writing or co-authoring many books on Australian tradition and history including the classic 'Folk Songs of Australia and the Men and Women Who Sang Them', still easily the most important single volume in the field, he achieved official recognition late in life, his original field recordings becoming an acknowledged national treasure. Unlike however the great song collectors in other English-speaking countries he did not have the benefit of a good education let alone formal musical training for he was forced by poverty to leave school at age fourteen at the height of the Great Depression.

In 1944, having neither qualifications nor prospects, he mounted his pushbike and left the NSW township of Holbrook where he was born and rode into the sunrise, determined to make his fortune. This is his story.

Then on Saturday 6th (and 27th) September there will be a Songwriting Workshop with Phyl Lobl, with new songs brought back on 27th for feedback. The venue is Tritton Hall, Hut 44, Addison Road Centre, 142 Addison Rd, Marrickville, and the cost is \$50.

Phyl Lobl is a singer songwriter teacher who has been active as a performer at folk festivals, mainly in Australia, since just before the first National Folk Festival 1967. She thinks of herself as a Cultural Maintenance Worker who documents the Australian Experience through folklore. As is said in the folklore world, some of her songs have 'entered the tradition', some have been recorded here and overseas, some have been used by authors to illustrate their work which makes them useful. phyllobl.net



Mark Saturday 15th November on your calendars for a Concert, Dance and Reunion: a 2 hour concert and a 2 hour dance in the Big Hall in the Addison Road Centre, followed by a session in the Hut. There will be a sausage sizzle. BYO drinks and nibbles, shoes, songs, tunes, and memories.

The Bush Music Club will also be appearing at Turning Wave and Kangaroo Valley Folk Festivals and the Bush Traditions Goulburn Gathering on the October Long Weekend.

Further information will be available at bushmusic.org.au, bushmusicclub.blogspot.com.au and jam.org.au

dance news

RFDS Contra

No firm date yet, but there is a chance that it might be on at the end of September. Watch this space!

Wongawilli Dances

The weekly Wednesday dance at Wongawilli Hall has a different theme for each week, this month.

On 2nd July, South Coast band No Such Thing will play for a Bush Dance. On the 9th, Julie Bishop will be calling dances for an American Independence Day Contra Dance.

The 16th will be a Bastille Day French Folk Dance, with French folk tunes and dancing. (Back in June, there were Scandinavian and French Canadian dance nights.)

And on 23rd July there will be the usual bush dance.

Sheet music is provided for acoustic musicians. Dancers are welcome, and pay only \$3. The dances are held at Wongawilli Community Hall, West Dapto Road, Wongawilli from 8pm to 10.30pm. David De Santi 0409 57 1788, desanti@bigpond.com. www.wongawillicolonialdance.org.au

Irish Set Dancing Weekend, Canberra

Book online by 31st August for 10% discount on the 10th Annual Irish Set Dancing Weekend in Canberra, 10th-12th October 2014: www.mabula.net/setdancing/workshop.html. Please complete a separate booking for each person attending. You can book for the full weekend or for selected sessions. If you book and pay, and subsequently can't make it, you will be fully refunded.

Prices, program and other details are on the website. Some billeting may be available.

The venue will be Cook Neighbourhood Hall, 41 Templeton St, Cook, ACT – opening with a Welcome Ceili with live music on the Friday night. On Saturday and Sunday there will be workshops with Margaret and Bill Winnett (NSW), Nora Stewart and Martin Largey (NSW), and Marie Brouder (Vic.). A ceili with live music on Saturday evening will celebrate the '10th birthday'; and the weekend will finish with a Sunday afternoon ceili, again with live music, and then, for those who can make it, a gathering at King O'Malley's Pub.

Reclaim Your Voice

Reclaim Your Voice: Stopping the Punishment of Asylum Seekers (www.facebook.com/events/248455278645208/?source=1) is the name of a CD launched in Petersham on Saturday 14th June. Blue Mountains musician and sound engineer, Andy Busuttill, has brought together contributions from writers and singers from NSW, Vic, and Qld. They include Blindman's Holiday, Kavisha Mazzella, and many others. The CD can be obtained from andy@blue-mountainsound.com.au. Proceeds from the sale of the CD go to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, asrc.org.au.



2015 Performer Applications NOW OPEN!

Expressions of interest for performers wanting to be part of the 2015 National Folk Festival open Sunday June 1 until midnight Tuesday July 1 2014. The Festival is looking for a broad mix of all things 'folk' from the traditional to contemporary and quirkier interpretations of the genre.

We're looking for acts that can offer concerts, themed presentations, workshops, spoken & written word, children's and youth performances, circus and theatre including puppetry, structured/programmed sessions, dance displays, dances (bands and callers), dance workshops, street entertainment - musicians, roving acts, circus and choirs.

If there's something we haven't mentioned that you can offer we want to hear about it!

There are a few changes to the application process so please ensure you read all the relevant information for your Act Type before starting your application.

For more information and to access the online Application Form visit <http://folkfestival.org.au/apply/performer-info/>



Focus on Folk

6-7pm 1st & 3rd Saturdays



5 July Kate Delaney

19 July Carole Garland

A little over a month Scots head to the Ballot Box to decide their course in this historic referendum, devolution or complete Independence?

We won't weigh into the arguments, but wish to celebrate the magnificent heritage of Scottish music. We wish them well whichever way it goes.

Music tonight, ranges from Border Ballads, Bothy Ballads, songs of the fishing and rural fraternities, and the sweet lilt of the Gaelic tongue.

Music from the pubs and gathering places, and the great bands of the Scottish Diaspora.

Grab yourself a whisky and join us.

History of Contra in NSW

Last month there was some online discussion about when contra dance was first taught in NSW – with some evidence that it may have been taught in a general folk dance program in schools in the 1950s. On the other hand, apparently it is possible that some of these mentions of contra or contre dance actually meant English dances.

I can't comment on any of that, except to observe that if it was American contra it does not appear to have gained a following at that time.



When Alex and I returned at the end of 1989 from two years living in Palo Alto, California, where we regularly attended the fortnightly Palo Alto Contra Dance, there was no contra dance in Sydney, and no one seemed to have heard of it.

I started teaching some contras to the Sutherland Shire Bush Dance Group (which I had established a few years earlier). It was a small group, and they enjoyed the dances. But by July I was still despairing of building widespread enthusiasm, without access to the exciting atmosphere of the San Francisco Bay Area dances.

"Contra's excitement," I wrote in my diary, "comes from the constant flow of movement, the elasticity in meetings and partings, the compact sets and close interaction with other dancers – and ultimately, of course, the release of coiled energy in the swing ('New England's greatest gift to mankind' – Larry Jennings)".

I wanted to share all that with dancers here. (My other, more selfish, goal was for contra to become so popular that eventually I would be able to dance, instead of teach.)

At the end of that year, I ran a contra workshop at Gulgong Folk Festival – thanks to Patricia Early, who for some years organised the festival's dance program. And that was the beginning of many years of teaching contra all over the place: at Wongawilli dances, a workshop for Folk Dance Australia, Bush Music Club dances, workshops, Sutherland Shire Folk Dance Group; and many festivals – not forgetting the Sydney Wesley Centre's School for Seniors class.

In November 1990 we met Peter Vohralik, who was teaching a few contras at the Australian Colonial and Folk Dancers' social nights. He was keen to see contra become more popular; but of course it was not the main focus of that group.

On a Friday night a year later, Alex and I ran the first "big" contra dance, at Parramatta Town Hall, with taped music. Chris Green, of honoured memory, shared the calling.

Meantime, Alex was introducing contra tunes to Ryebuck Bush Band. Offered a choice of name between "Star Spangled Ryebuck" and "Pastrami on Ryebuck", when playing for

contras, they chose the latter: "We've always been an eating band." The guitarist at that time said he'd known some drinking bands, but Ryebuck was the eatingest band he'd known.

And the series of four contra dances a year began, with live music, under the auspices of the Folk Federation of NSW – in Parramatta Town Hall, and Dundas Community Centre (including a memorable Halloween Contra on 31st October in '92!); finally settling in Granville Town Hall – and continued for the next four years, until I ran out of steam. Besides the calling, I had booked the halls, done all the publicity, and organised the supper. And at every other dance I went to in the early years, I went around to each person there, telling them of the delights of contra!

At the National Folk Festival held at ANU in 1992, Dave Rackham ran a wonderful beginner's contra dance workshop, with music by the incomparable Rodney Miller: who also played for John Garden's contra workshop. (John had also taught contras at the 1991 NFF; and did again in '93.) A week after the festival, a special contra dance was organised at Yarralumla Woolshed with brilliant music by Rodney Miller, Ian Blake, Bob McInnes and Fred Pribac, and a few others. I was privileged to be one of the callers, with Markus Zellner, Colin Towns, and John Garden.

And so on. Contra became an established part of the NFF program. Lance Green did contra workshops, so did Markus, and Gary King from Melbourne, and so did I; and in due course so did Rob Mahony's Contratemp band, and Canberra Contra Club (which began in 2005) – but that's a whole other story, which I'd like them to tell.

Meantime, I continued with festival workshops at Gulgong, and (by invitation) at Jamberoo. By the 1998 NFF the enthusiasm was really building, with all 40 sheets of my dance instructions snapped up, and a list made of people who had missed out and wanted them.

And from then on, there was contra in Sydney again: the annual Contra Dance organised by John Short and Leila Flower, in aid of the Royal Flying Doctor Service – always with Pastrami on Ryebuck. (Actually, the first RFDS Contra was held in September 1997: with Lance Green calling, and the band Far Fetched - Leo Dent, Greg Wilson, Jackie Luke.)

In 2000 we began playing for an annual Contra at Gosford, which evolved into a "Christmas Contra", for the Central Coast Bush Dance and Music Association. And a decade later, for two or three years, we played for an annual Newcastle Contra as well.

Over the years we had workshops at other NSW festivals: CoastFest, Illawarra, Cobargo, and Kangaroo Valley; and I had invitations to the TSDAV Dance Weekend in Portarlington (including this year, 7-9 November). Contra has featured in Bundanoon DanceFest since its inception.

Other callers have included contra in a program of bush or mixed dances. But for over 20 years I was Sydney's only dedicated contra caller.

There are now a lot of contra callers in Canberra, Melbourne has a regular contra dance, and we have at last another contra caller in Sydney, Keith Wood. And contra dance in Australia has evolved to the point where these callers now write dances of their own.

Julie Bishop

Peak Festival Rocked! 2015 Performer Applications now open!



The Opening Weekend of the Australian Snow Season rocked last weekend at Perisher with Peak Festival whipping up a snow-storm of music with over 140 concerts across 10 on-snow venues from Perisher to Smiggins to Guthega.

Over the course of the weekend over 5,000 festival-goers converged on Perisher Peak Festival to catch over 40 bands across 4 days at the only music festival in snow in the country. Over 60 incredible volunteers assisted the Festival to run like clock-work, and festival-goers hailed from Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, regional NSW and coastal areas.

There was a spellbinding feast of sounds at Peak Festival across the June Long Weekend from Friday 6th through till Monday 9th June's closing finale. Sunday was the biggest day of the Festival with a surprise snowfall and hip-hop headliners The Herd drawing the biggest crowd that evening. There was something for everyone at Peak with extraordinary performer Lachy Doley stealing the show on the Hammond, and divine Indigenous singer-songwriter Shellie Morris wooing the crowd with her songs and stories. Saturday hit peak with an unforgettable concert with 12 piece big band afro beats sound of The Public Opinion Afro Orchestra in the evening, and other highlights across the weekend were the middle-eastern grooves of Azadoota, the talented crooning swing of Jordan C Thomas Band and Festival Favourites The Hussy Hicks, The Little Stevies, Claude Hay, Jorga Carroll and The Double Shadows.

The Festival's music industry development competition 'Peak Upload' was won hands-down by singer-songwriter Timothy James Bowen who lives near a river in Bulli on the south coast of NSW. Fresh off the plane from Nashville, Timothy transported the audience with his powerful songs of love, loss and hope and goes home with a prize which includes 2 delegate passes to AWME (Australasian World Music Expo) in Melbourne, a music management meeting with Troubadour Music, a photo shoot with Mandy Lamont, a publicity intensive with Miss Bettina Media and had a mentorship meeting with The Herd at the Festival.

The Spoken Word Program was also popular once again with Carol Heuchan, Laurie McDonald, Zondrae King and Russell Hannah entertaining the crowds. The Broken Ski Competition for an original poem was won by Tom McIlveen (Open Section), Hannah Nugent (Secondary) and 7 year old Jarrah Carlisle won the Junior Section. The Snowy Mountains Cup for a live performance was won by Gail Copley for a recitation of CJ Dennis's poem 'I Dips Me Lid' with the Snowy Slam taken out by Denise Burton.

There was lots on for the young and young at heart, with a delightful kids and youth program at the South East Arts Youth Stage with stories, sublime songs, face painting, magic shows and the Youth Open Mic Stage attracting many emerging young talent from the region to step into the limelight.

Perisher was again the first resort in Australia to open for skiing and snowboarding on the long weekend. With snow in the forecast over the coming days and more lifts and terrain opening in Perisher very soon, it looks like the snow dancing at Peak Festival is starting to work its magic.

The success of this year's festival was thanks to the hard work, sweat and tears from the festival core team led by Festival Director Belinda Shore and Artistic Director David De Santi, and couldn't have been possible without the enthusiastic support of over 60 volunteers who came from all over Australia to be part of the Perisher Peak Festival.

The 2015 Festival will take place from 5-8 June 2015. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and our website for all the news of the 2015 festival or join up to our festival e:newsletter. Artist Applications for 2015 open 1 November 2014. peakfestival.com.au



Remembering Pete Seeger

4.30-7pm, Sunday 27th July

Friend in Hand Pub

58 Cowper Street, Glebe

The Folk Federation of NSW presents a Memorial Concert to be held on the 6 month anniversary of Pete's death. With special guest artists and a singing session featuring Pete's well-loved songs.

Tickets \$10 (free to members of the Folk Fed. of NSW)

Enquiries: Pam Davis (0412) 730 754

Celebrating Cicely

Margaret Walters

Cicely Fox Smith (1.2.1882 – 8.4.1954) was an English writer and poet – and her life and work is being celebrated at an event in Devonshire, England on 21st June. And why does this person who died 60 years ago warrant a mini festival with a line-up of prominent English folkies?

"An' it's Haul away, girls, steady an' true / Polly an' Dolly an' Sally and' Sue,"

Mothers an' sisters an' sweethearts an' all / Haul away, all the way, haul away, haul!"

Sounds like a traditional shanty or at least one by a regular Old Salt.

And indeed, the writer, known as C. Fox Smith, captures the idiom of the sailors so perfectly that it comes as a surprise that the author was a woman - the "C" stands for Cicely (pronounced as in precisely). She was born in 1882 and published her first book of poems at 16. She was writing around the time of Rudyard Kipling and shares many qualities with that author – a vast quantity of songs and short stories that paint vivid pictures of real working folk, particularly sea folk and World War I soldiers.

No drawing-room Victoriana here!

Cicely spent nine years in Victoria, British Columbia and was an intimate observer of life in the lumber mill and shipping ports on the North West Pacific coast, as well as the London docks. While her writing was predominantly of the sea, she wrote about the war, travel books, children's books with her sister Madge, and published pieces in Punch and other literary magazines. Her brother Phil illustrated many of her publications.

There's a racy quality to Cicely's poems and an empathy for humanity that the more lofty-minded poets of the Victorian era do not show. So it's natural that folk singers would be drawn to her work, putting tunes to the poems, and authors include Alan Fitzsimmons, Tom Lewis, Sarah Morgan, Charlie Ipcar and others. The Roaring Forties too, have made some settings of Cicely's poems and include five songs on their CD, "Life of Brine".



Margaret Walters along with the rest of the Roaring Forties presented a workshop on Cicely at Cobargo and the National Folk Festivals in 2007 under the title: Shellback Sheila: Cicely Fox Smith's verse and song of the working lives of sailors.

There are plenty of resources on the web about Cicely. The Old Poetry Website includes Cicely's works thanks to Charlie Ipcar and Jim Saville. Charlie (who has visited Australia on a couple of occasions) has compiled a couple of books of her work: <http://www.charlieipcar.com/> There's also a Facebook page and a Mudcat thread:

<http://mudcat.org/thread.cfm?threadid=152061>

The celebration of Cicely's life will take place in Bow on 21st June 2014 will include the blessing of the new memorial stone at Nymet Tracey, a guided walk, afternoon tea, a discussion forum and an early evening concert of songs and readings in the village. There will also be a raffle, a sealed-bid auction, a licensed bar and limited catering. The day will run from 2pm – 10pm and there will be the opportunity for an informal singaround afterwards. Martyn Wyndham-Read, Tom Lewis are among the many performers. Details at <http://www.cicelyfoxsmith.org.uk/>

People who have read or heard some of Cicely's work may pick up the references in this Song for Cicely written by John Warner. English singer, Sylvia Watts is going to sing the song as the first item in the concert.

Song for Cicely

John Warner ©2008

The ship referred to in verse 4 is the James Craig www.shf.org.au, an 1874 barque moored in Darling Harbour, Sydney, where members of the Roaring Forties and others gather every month to sing shanties and other maritime songs. The Roaring Forties have five settings of Cicely's songs on their album, 'Life of Brine'. One of the Forties, John Warner, wrote 'Song for Cicely' for fellow-member, Margaret Walters, on her birthday, in recognition of her enthusiasm for Cicely's works.

A lawyer's daughter and properly bred
To be taught deportment and be well-read,
With a parloured future as mother and wife,
What joy had you in that mapped-out life?
Your chart showed oceans, reefs and rocks,
Cold, foggy nights on lamp-lit docks;
With a pier-head jump before the dawn,
Your soul took passage around Cape Horn.

So, here's to you, Cicely oh,
With your tales of Mike and Dan and Joe,
Heave on the brace and it's blow, boys, blow,
And thanks for your verses, Cicely oh.

You went where women were not seen dead,
Where the bullies met by the old pier-head;
In a world of rigging, of rope and rust,
You learned their lingo and earned their trust.
They spun their yarns and they shared their grief
Of the savage ice, and the murderous reef,
Of a comrade flung from the rolling yard,
Of brutal work, wet, cold and hard.

So, here's to you, Cicely oh,
With your tales of Mike and Dan and Joe,
Heave on the brace and it's blow, boys, blow,
And thanks for your verses, Cicely oh.

And so you took us to 'Frisco Town
In the furtive steps of Shanghai Brown;
We've hauled on the lee-fore brace with Dan,
And roared our response to the shanty-man,
And when the future changed once more,
You heaved your hook for the seas of war
In hulls that groaned to each rising wave,
Whose leaking seams were a sailor's grave.

So, here's to you, Cicely oh,
With your tales of Mike and Dan and Joe,
Heave on the brace and it's blow, boys, blow,
And thanks for your verses, Cicely oh.

Tonight we're singing a world away
From wild Cape Horn in the month of May;
Snug below in a well-found craft,
Tight-set rivets run fore and aft,
But if you heard us, it's sure as hell
There's twenty shanties you'd know right well,
And while we're singing, another ten -
The crackling verses of your own pen.

So, here's to you, Cicely oh,
With your tales of Mike and Dan and Joe,
Heave on the brace and it's blow, boys, blow,
And thanks for your verses, Cicely oh.

Thanks for the lads of the Hampshire farms
Torn from their homes by war's alarms,
And the plodding horses, proud and slow,
Gone where the jingling gun-teams go.
You gave us wonder, you gave us tears,
Gave us the life of the vanished years,
If you could hear us, we'd have you know
Our joy in your verses, Cicely oh.

So, here's to you, Cicely oh,
With your tales of Mike and Dan and Joe,
Heave on the brace and it's blow, boys, blow,
And thanks for your verses, Cicely oh.



World Harp Congress

20th-26th July

The 12th World Harp Congress is in Sydney this year featuring all kinds of harp styles and genres from many different countries. There are more than 600 people coming.

You need to register for day time programme but night time concerts are open to the public.

Public Concerts include –

Opening Concert at the Town Hall Sunday 20th July 7.30pm (book on the City Recital Hall website.)

- the Seven Harp Ensemble and William Barton playing didgeridoo – a world premier by Australian composer Ross Edwards
- Ann Heymann USA playing Ancient Irish Harp
- Albert Ssempeke from Uganda playing African harp
- Rudiger Opperman and the Global players from Germany/ Blues harp
- Dan Yu from China
- Leonard Jacome Venezuela with Christine mantilla, saxophone and Yilmer Vivas on drums

Recital Hall Concerts – (see City Recital Hall website for bookings)

Monday 21st 7.30pm - Contemporary Harp and Dance

Tuesday 22nd 7.30pm - Harp Extravaganza - Catriona McKay harp and Chris Stout fiddle (Scotland) and multiple performers

Thursday 24th 7.30pm - Early Harp

Opera House Concert – Fri 25th Multiple harps with Simone Young and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. (Bookings through SSO website.)

Daily youth performers at the Garrison Church in the Rocks 11.30am – 1pm. (Open to the public)

Harp Lounge – FREE - located in the Sydney dance Cafe 8am -10pm - blackboard performers (open to the public) including Claire Patti – Celtic harp and voice, Emily Rosner and Zikora, Elisi “Handcraft”. Joris Beets and his Delta harp, Jake Meadows Rock harp, Andy Rigby and Cliona Molins, “Ariadne Redevia”- Atlantic Duo Harp, “The Ultimate harp battle” Cabaret – Catherine Ashley/ Michelle Smith. “A score to settle” Rita Costanzi- harpist comedienne.



Ann & Charlie Heymann



The Congress will have workshops, presentations and recitals during the day from 21st -25th July and will be held at the Four Seasons Hotel in George Street in the city.

There will be many folk harpists performing and giving workshops as well as classical harpists – see website for programme.

This should be a one off extravaganza! There is something for everyone. It won't happen again.

For a taste of ancient Irish Harp and other ancient instruments come to a workshop at Humph Hall 3-5pm on 19th July followed by a concert 7pm with Ann and Charlie Heymann from USA. Bookings wayne@humphhall.org or 99398802.

Noni Dickson



You are invited to a workshop and concert presented by

Ann & Charlie Heymann

[from the US]

Ann is the world's foremost performer on the wire-strung trad. Irish/Scottish harp that disappeared 200 yrs ago. Charlie sings lilting songs in Gaelic & English & plays trad. instruments incl. cittern, bodhran, button accordion & bones.

W/shop: 3pm, Conc: 7pm, Sat 19th July, '14

Humph Hall

85 Allambie Road, Allambie Heights

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

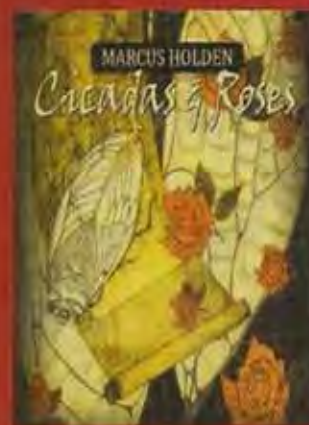
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CICADAS & ROSES MARCUS HOLDEN ROUSABOUT RECORDS

Marcus Holden's best known in country circles as a fiddle player, having been involved in numerous projects, including the Fiddlers Feast and the Golden Fiddle Awards. But Marcus is also an accomplished classical violinist, and his new album draws on that as much as his folk and country sensibility. This is an exquisite album, which takes some of the great musical classics and brings them back to their roots, with a simpler, more folk sensibility that works beautifully. This album is stripped back and organic, but at the same time it conveys the subtleties of these timeless tunes in a warm, accessible way. My favourites included *Bach's Brandenburg Concerto in G Major*, the ethereal *Winter* from Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, the gentle *Salut D'Amor* and Marcus's own wonderful composition, *To Say Goodbye*. Other standouts are *Sicilienne* and *Song Of India*. Marcus's playing is superb, as is that of fellow musicians Raimondo Fioravanti, Garry Steel, Andrew Toner and Elsen Price. This album is a gorgeous, rich musical tapestry that is a sheer joy to listen to.

ROUSABOUT RECORDS/UNDERCOVER MUSIC. RRR62

SUSAN JARVIS



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)	\$15	\$10		
The Songs of Henry Lawson (new songbook edition with 375 settings)	\$30	\$25		
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.

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



Sing you at the Big Sing

A desert singing retreat east of Alice Springs in the East MacDonnell Ranges, for around a hundred voices, may sound compelling enough – but the Big Sing in the Desert is so much more.

Brainchild of choir leader and songwriter Rachel Hore, the Big Sing in the Desert is about the sheer joy of singing, and the power of song to open awareness of cultural difference and bridge social and language boundaries.

In early June, paying guests from around Australia, and sponsored Indigenous singers from a number of outback communities, as far away as Docker River in Western Australia, converged at the Ross River homestead for four days of song and friendship.

The group learned and sang songs collected from Rachel's visits to Fiji, her own songs, songs from South Africa – taught by the Big Sing's co-choir leader, Morris Stuart – and a translation of Bob Dylan's I shall be released in Pitjantjatjarra language.

The highlight? It was the long farewell on the Sunday afternoon. On the lawn in front of the Ross River homestead, in the shade of a couple of large gums, a huddle of Indigenous women, in nasal tones characteristic of their native languages, delivered back to Rachel her moving self-penned anthem, Sing you, from last year's Big Sing.

The gift of those words was lost on few – and if eyes weren't wet, there's no doubt throats were tight, and gratitude filled hearts for the opportunity to be present at this unforgettable event. 'I will sing you up my country' – that's what the Big Sing will do for you. Watch a video of the Big Sing at : <http://youtu.be/tJEtwn7wTvs>

Rachel Hore received a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2014 for her service to the community through choral music. More information about the Big Sing and Rachel's other singing events can be found at www.rachelhore.com.

Black Arm Band is taking "Dirtson" to China

In August this year Black Arm Band will tour to China and present 'dirtsong' in cities across the country.

'dirtsong' features many of Australia's most talented musicians performing in 11 different Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

'dirtsong' has been presented across Australia and toured to the USA last February.

The August tour to China will be the company's first venture in Asia and is an exciting opportunity to present this major work to new audiences.

The Playing Foundation has generously provided support to take our music, stories and culture to China.

OUT NOW!



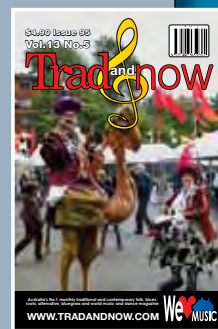
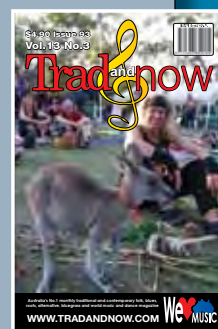
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