

# THE CORNSTALK GAZETTE

Dates For Your Diary  
Folk News  
Dance News

Folk Federation of New South Wales Inc  
Issue 470 March, 2015 \$3.00

**Edwina Hayes (UK) on  
her first Australian tour**

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

Folk Federation of New South Wales Inc  
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[jam.org.au](http://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 & 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, photos welcome!

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## MARCH 2015

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If your event misses Cornstalk, Julie Bishop 02 9524 0247, [julie@folkfednsw.org.au](mailto: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](http://jam.org.au), where helpful tutorials will guide you.

**Deadline for April/May 2015**  
**15th March 2015**



Edwina Hayes (UK)

If you don't catch her at Port Fairy or in the Blue Mountains then come to see the much heralded Edwina Hayes at Humph Hall at 3pm on Sunday 29th March.

## 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: <b>Folk Federation of NSW;</b> or <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my credit card: <input type="checkbox"/>  <input type="checkbox"/>  (Tick one)		
Card number: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____	Expiry Date: ____ / ____	
Name on card: _____		
Signature: _____		

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

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

Dear Folk Fed Members,

At the time of writing this column (at the 11th hour, yet again) the Illawarra Folk Festival was just one month ago, the Cobargo Folk Festival is 2 weeks away, the Blue Mountains Music Festival is 2 weeks after that, the National is in 7 weeks, and then we're on the home stretch to St Albans. Yes, we're in the middle of Festival season, and talk about being spoilt for choice!

As a relatively new Festival goer (what can I say? I'm a late developer), I can still remember the excitement of my first Festival. As I told anyone who would listen, "It's like the Easter Show set to music!" And "quite a few" years later, I continue to be as excited as a kid at Christmas at the prospect of the next Festival. I'm totally gobsmacked when I think of the talent, dedication and sheer hard work that goes into each one. A huge thank you to everyone who is crazy enough to put their life on hold for as long as it takes to pull together the next Festival ... and the next ... and the next.



As no doubt you all know, this year NSW is the National's Featured State. Christina Mimmocchi, with the assistance of a small committee of Folk Fed stalwarts, is currently finalising the lineup for the Folk Fed's gig on Friday night from 9pm to 11.30pm on the Carnival Stage. Put it in your diary NOW. A sneak preview is featured elsewhere in this issue of Cornstalk. Also on the National's program is a MoFo (Modern Folkie) concert, presented by new faces on the NSW folk scene. Please come along and support the best of NSW folk talent. We'd love to see you there.

In our last issue, we advised members of the decision to make Cornstalk a bi-monthly publication, reducing the number of issues to 6 per annum. I invited members to let us know if they feel they will be inconvenienced by this decision. To date, we've had no response. Hopefully this means that "all is well and all is well and all manner of things shall be well". Am I right? Are you happy? Is anyone out there?

We have plans to convene a gathering at the National for representatives of our sister organisations in other States. There is much that we can learn from each other. I would welcome members' suggestions for issues you would like us to explore at that meeting, & I'll report back on the outcome in future months.

Until then, see you in Cobargo, Katoomba, Canberra and St Albans.

Happy Festivalling!

Pam Davis

February 2015

### Cornstalk moving to bi-monthly publication

Please note that Cornstalk will be published bi-monthly from the April 2015 issue. There will be 7 issues in 2015 - February, March, April, June, August, October & December. There will be 6 issues annually thereafter.

**N.B. From April, information for the Diary Dates pages will need to include events for the current & following month!**

Deadline dates for 2015 are:

Issue	Period covered	Deadline for contributions
April	April & May	15th March
June	June & July	15th May
August	August & September	15th July
October	October & November	15th September
December	December & January	15th November
February 2016	February & March 2016	15th January 2016

Information about upcoming events will continue to be promoted via Folkmail, the website ([jam.org.au](http://jam.org.au)) and the Federation's Facebook page.

Members who are concerned about these changes should contact the President, Pam Davis ([pam.davis@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pam.davis@optusnet.com.au); 9955 3677).

# Dates for your diary March 2015

## Metropolitan

### Sunday 1st

**WAVE. LOOSELYWOVEN** - 22 instrumentalists & singers incl. Sonia Bennett present a free, folky, light-hearted, acoustic concert/cabaret. St David's Uniting Church, St David Ave, DY. 1pm. 9939 8802, looselywoven.org

### Monday 2nd

**Bush Music Club Dance Workshop. 'TIMING & TEMPO.'** Easy, and more complicated, bush dances. A great social evening for beginners and experienced. Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd. 7.30-9.30pm. \$7. Felicity 9456 2860, bushmusic.org.au

### Friday 6th

**Petersham Bowling Club. NEIL MURRAY** - CD Launch, 'Bring Thunder and Rain'. Neil is the 'whitefella' in the Warumpi Band. Regarded as one of our most respected singer songwriters, Neil was awarded 1995 APRA Song of the Year for 'My Island Home', which he wrote for the Warumpi Band in 1985, and which was a hit for Christine Anu in the early '90s. It has become something of an unofficial anthem for Australia, featured in many official ceremonies incl. the closing ceremony of the Sydney Olympics, and was included in APRA's Top 30 Best Australian Songs Of All Time. neilmurray.com.au. 77 Brighton St, Petersham. 8pm. \$25. All tickets at the door. 9569 4639, thepbc.org.au

**WAVE. LOOSELYWOVEN** - 22 instrumentalists & singers including Sonia Bennett present a free, folky, light-hearted, acoustic concert/cabaret. St Andrew's Uniting Church, Chisholm St, Sth Turrumurra. 7pm. 9939 8802, looselywoven.org



**Illawarra Folk Club. KEN NICOL (UK)** in concert. Former member of the Albion Band & Steeleye Span. Guitarist, singer, songwriter, producer from Preston. From blues to rock, taking in folk, jazz, ragtime, ballads & more. City Diggers Wollongong, 50 Burelli St. 7.30pm. 1300 887 034, illawarrafolkclub.org.au

### Saturday 7th

**Beecroft Bush Dance**, with **SOUTHERN CROSS**. All dances taught and called. Supper provided. Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft Rd, Beecroft (opp. Fire Station). 7.30-11.30pm. \$19, \$17, \$14 BMC members.

Sigrid 9980 7077, Wilma 9489 5594

**The Shack. THE APRIL MAZE** - Australian troubadour couple combining stand-up cello and guitar. Song writing coupled with distinctive '70s vintage imagery and a lack of pretence, their music touches a range of emotions. + Sam Buckingham - back from her travels through Central America. In her unique alt country style, playing some oldies, and quite a few newies. All solo, acoustic, intimate. + Peter Miller-Robinson - award winning, Sydney based songwriter, singer, guitarist. Storyteller with a keen eye for the foibles of human interaction, he draws on various traditions and styles to create sometimes wry, sometimes poignant musical vignettes. + Chuck Euston - playing music for as long as he can remember and with a long history of festivals and collaborations along folk-roots and blues lines A distinctly Australian good-times music vibe. Tramshed Community Arts Centre, 1395a Pittwater Rd, Narrabeen (betw. car park & Ambulance Station in the shopping centre). 7-11pm. \$25, \$20 Shack members. 0413 635 856. shackfolk.com

**WAVE. LOOSELYWOVEN** - 22 instrumentalists & singers incl. Sonia Bennett present a free, folky, light-hearted, acoustic concert/cabaret. Avalon Bap. Peace Church, 2 George St. 4pm. 9939 8802, looselywoven.org



### Sunday 8th

**Humph Hall. DON'T MENTION THE WALL! (BERLIN)**. 'Beez' type fun! Songs and stories from the fall of the Berlin Wall and beyond, with Deta and Rob Rayner from The Beez playing classics and originals from Bowie to The Beatles, from Polka to Punk and Klezmer to Cabaret. The unadulterated truth about the dramatic post-Wall banana shortage, East German Country and Western harmonica production and Stasi-assisted sound checks, all from a uniquely German/Australian perspective. Anecdotes and photos, a funny and moving account from two musicians unwittingly caught up in that most significant event. 85 Allambie Rd, Allambie Heights. 3pm. Wayne 9939 8802, humphhall.org

### Monday 9th

**Bush Music Club Dance Workshop. 'TIMING & TEMPO.'** Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd. 7.30-9.30pm. \$7. Felicity 9456 2860

### Wednesday 11th

**Scandinavian Folk Dance**, with international touring band **HIMMERLAND (DEN-MARK)**: Eskil Romme (sax), Ditte Fromseier (violin, vocal), Morten Alfred Høirup (guitar, vocal), Andrzej Krejniuk (electric bass), Ayi Solomon (percussion). Wongawilli Hall. 8-9.30pm. \$10, \$5, incl. light supper. 0409 57 1788. wongawillicolonialdance.org.au

### Thursday 12th

**Sutherland Acoustic. THE TINKERS.** Gynea Tradies, cnr Kingsway & Manchester 7.30pm. \$15, \$10; raffles. Jenny 9576 2301

### Friday 13th

**Duke's Place.** Australian Songs in Concert and Session, with **SOUTHERN CROSS TRAWLERS** (southerncrosstrawlers.com) - singers Margaret Walters and Don Brian. The two share an interest in Australian traditional songs, especially those with a maritime content. They have pooled their talents for unaccompanied singing and for trawling through song books and elsewhere for unusual material. Tritton Hall (Hut 44), Addison Road Community Centre, 142 Addison Rd, Marrickville. Concert 8-10.30pm (doors 7.30), followed by singing session. (Gates close midnight.) \$10. Bring a plate; and songs. Sandra 9358 4886, bmcm11954@gmail.com

### Saturday 14th

**Central Coast. JANE AUSTEN STYLE THEME NIGHT**, incl. dances from 'Pride and Prejudice', with (Ryebuck, playing as) 'Regency Ryebuck' and caller Julie Bishop. Attire: Casual, but feel free to dress up as much or as little as you like. East Gosford Progress Hall, cnr Wells St & Henry Parry Drive, East Gosford. 7.30-11.30pm. \$18, Folk Fed. Affil. & Pensioners with ID \$15, Students 13-16 \$8; under-12s \$5. Includes supper. Central Coast Bush Dance and Music Assoc Inc., ccbdma.org. Robyn 4344 6484; Richard 0407 897 221

**INA St Patricks Day Ceili**, with the **COAST CEILI BAND**. Uniting Church Hall, 289A Kingsgrove Rd, Kingsgrove. 7.30pm. \$15, incl. light supper. Liz 0404 062 742

### Sunday 15th

**Bush Music Club.** Saplings workshop for musicians 8-16 years, a fun afternoon playing music. Session suitable for musicians of all levels, between ages 8-16, who play acoustic instruments. The Sapling sessions introduce young musicians to Australian collected music with expert bush musicians as tutors. Tritton Hall, Hut 44, Addison Road Centre, 142 Addison Rd Marrickville. 1-4pm. Bookings not essential, but expression of interest would

be helpful. Kerry 0409 600 949, Helen 4297 5128, bushmusicclubsaplings@gmail.com

**Illawarra Folk Club. 'DON'T MENTION THE WALL'**, with Rob and Deta from The Beez, presenting a special show about the stories and demise of the Berlin Wall. Wongawilli Hall. 4-9pm. \$20, members \$15, plus \$10 for German flavoured barbecue. 1300 887 034, illawarrafolkclub.org.au

#### Monday 16th

**Bush Music Club Dance Workshop.** 'Practice for Central Coast April Dance.' Pen-nant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd. 7.30-9.30pm. \$7. Felicity 9456 2860

#### Friday 20th

**Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Folk Club.** Sydney-based band the **NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY** (John Flanagan, Warren Boyd, Isabelle Fogarty) have been delighting audiences for over 30 years with their hard driving bluegrass rhythms, closely blended 3-part harmony and spontaneous madcap humour. Although they use traditional bluegrass instruments (5-string banjo, mandolin, guitars, string bass) they don't limit themselves to one music genre, switching happily from bluegrass to folk, to contemporary country to the inspired lunacy of a Samba that went very, very wrong .and a hilarious updated version of their signature tune 'The Windsors', a scurrilous anthem of disloyalty to the Royal Family. Beatrice Taylor Hall, Willow Park Community Centre, Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby. Candle lit coffee house setting. Tea & coffee provided, BYO drinks & nibbles. 8pm (doors 7.30). \$15. Tables can be booked: Barry Parks 9807 9497, bpparks@tpg.com.au

**Macquarie Towns Music Club. LUCIANO MESITI**, singer songwriter guitarist based in Sydney. He began playing and singing at ten. During the last 15 years he has performed around Australia and in 1980 sang solo at the Concert Hall of Sydney Opera House. Musical influences include: James Taylor, Cat Stevens, The Beatles, Eva Cassidy, The Eagles, Joni Mitchell. + Burnt Creek Creek Deviation Bluegrass Band, traditional to present day bluegrass, bluegrass interpretations of non bluegrass songs, songs and tunes by band members. Burnt Creek strives to 'deviate' slightly from true bluegrass to put dance in your feet. + Floor-spots from club members. Richmond Neighbourhood Centre, 20 West Market St. 7.30-10.30pm. \$15, \$10 members. Incl. light supper. 4567 7990

**Petersham Bowling Club. WHITE-TOP MOUNTAINEERS (USA).** Authentic old-time American mountain music from the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. For its fans, this is the 'real deal'. Martha Spencer and Jackson Cunningham return to Australia by popular demand, for the 7th time in the past 8 years. They have just recorded a new album, 'Fees Ridge'. whitetopmountaineers.

com. 77 Brighton St, Petersham. 8pm. \$30 pre-sale and on the door. Bookings: trybooking.com/121115. 9569 4639, thepbc.org.au



**Illawarra Folk Club. THE BOMBADILS (CANADA).** Celtic and bluegrass traditions. Classically and jazz trained; high spirits; an array of instruments, incl. flute, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, upright bass; harmonised singing. City Diggers Wollongong, 50 Burelli St. 7.30pm. \$15, \$10. 1300 887 034, illawarrafolkclub.org.au

#### Saturday 21st

**Petersham Bowling Club. NUALA KENNEDY BAND (IRELAND).** nualakennedy.com. 77 Brighton St, Petersham. 9569 4639, thepbc.org.au

#### Sunday 22nd

**Humph Hall. 'Wave':** the first **LOOSELY WOVEN** concert for 2015 with 20 instrumentalists and singers and special guest Sonia Bennett. Instruments will include violins, flutes, harps, glockenspiel, guitars, mandolin, concertina, accordions, keyboard and percussion. Note: Only one performance this time so get your booking in quickly for this free concert! Seating is limited. 85 Allambie Rd, Allambie Heights. 1pm. Wayne 9939 8802



**Camelot Lounge. THE LONDON KLEZMER QUARTET (UK)** takes you on a musical odyssey with the whirling, irresistible energy of klezmer at its most beguiling and seductive. The subtleties of the original tradition combined with a kick-the-chairs-over ability to party, played on clarinet, fiddle, accordion and double bass. Celebration and soul in a musical fusion that sparkles with life. Cnr 103 Railway Pde & 19

Marrickville Rd, Marrickville. 7.30pm (doors 6.30). \$30, \$25. Bookings, camelotlounge.wordpress.com.

#### Monday 23rd

**Bush Music Club Dance Workshop.** 'Practice for Central Coast April Dance.' Pen-nant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd. 7.30-9.30pm. \$7. Felicity 9456 2860

#### Wednesday 25th

**The Brass Monkey. DANIEL CHAMPAGNE.** 115a Cronulla St, Cronulla. Bookings brassmonkey.com.au, 9544 3844

#### Friday 27th

**Petersham Bowling Club. THE LONDON KLEZMER QUARTET** is a dynamic group of performers whose deep understanding of klezmer, the celebratory and soulful music of Eastern European Jews, is reflected in exuberant, passionate and accomplished performances that captivate audiences of all ages and backgrounds. 77 Brighton St, Petersham. 8pm. \$30 pre-sale and on the door. Bookings: trybooking.com/121119. 9569 4639, thepbc.org.au



#### Saturday 28th

**Loaded Dog. BOB FOX (UK)** has a gloriously rich singing voice, deep & resonant, honed by decades of performance + Support Christina Mimmocchi. Back hall, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, 79 Johnston St. 7.40 for 8pm. \$20, \$18. BYO, supper available. Sandra 9358 4886, theloadeddog.org.au



**Petersham Bowling Club. ALASDAIR FRASER & NATALIE HAAS (SCOTLAND / USA).** alasdairfraser.com. 77 Brighton St, Petersham. 9569 4639, thepbc.org.au

## Sunday 29th



**Humph Hall. EDWINA HAYES (UK).** Michael Parkinson & Nanci Griffith (who calls her 'the sweetest voice in England') are among her fans. Beautifully written songs, charming stage presence and voice of an angel - a true natural talent of gentle folk-americanism. Her cover of Randy Newman song Feels Like Home was featured in the Cameron Diaz film My Sister's Keeper & has since had over six million plays on YouTube. Dividing her time between the UK and America, her second home is Nashville where she is much loved as songwriter and artist. 85 Allambie Rd, Allambie Hts. 3pm. Wayne 9939 8802

**Shellharbour House Concert with BOB FOX (UK).** One of Britain's most respected and internationally acclaimed performers. Ralph McTell said of Bob Fox: "As soon as I heard Bob Fox sing I realised that he must have one of the best voices in England." [myspace.com/bobfoxmusic/music/songs](http://myspace.com/bobfoxmusic/music/songs). \$20, IFC members \$15, incl. afternoon tea. Bookings please: 4296 2339, 0488 971 777

## Monday 30th

**Bush Music Club Dance Workshop.** 'Practice for Central Coast April Dance.' Penrith Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd. 7.30-9.30pm. \$7. Felicity 9456 2860

## Regional and ACT

### Sunday 1st

**Newcastle Hunter Valley Folk Club** performance stage at Hamilton Fair, Beaumont St. Incl. Derek Dowding, Jeff Brown and the Ukastle Ukestra. Special Guests - African Fusion Band Bakoomba. 10am-12. [hamilton-festival.com.au](http://hamilton-festival.com.au)

### Saturday 7th

**Newcastle Hunter Valley Folk Club.** **DEREK DOWDING**, local singing sensation. He has starred in several major local musical and opera stage productions. + Mark Jackson and Jane Jelbart - new duo (no ukuleles in this one). Wesley Fellowship Hall, 150 Beaumont St, Hamilton (opp. Exchange Hotel). 7.30pm. \$15, \$12, under-16 free. Ron 4926 1313, [newcastlehuntervalleyfolkclub.org.au](http://newcastlehuntervalleyfolkclub.org.au)

## Sunday 8th

**THE LONDON KLEZMER QUARTET**, holding a **Klezmer Workshop** at Newcastle Synagogue. 3-5.30pm. Ilana Cravitz, [icravitz@hotmail.com](mailto:icravitz@hotmail.com)

### Saturday 14th

**St. Patrick's Day celebrations.** Step dancing with **MARIECLAIRE DE WIT-BEEKMANS**, plus Susie O'Brien, and their students, Irish Ceili Dancing with Maureen Houston, local performers incl. Bill Wiseman (Irish whistle), + Trad music session. Lake Macquarie Hotel, opp. Morisset station. 1-6pm. Gabriele 0418 146 555, [gcalcagno2008@hotmail.com](mailto:gcalcagno2008@hotmail.com) or Sharyn 0418 146 554

**WAVE. LOOSELY WOVEN** - 22 instrumentalists & singers including Sonia Bennett present a free, folky, light-hearted, acoustic concert/cabaret. Tuggeranong Uniting Church, Comrie St, Wanniasa (Canberra). 3pm. 6231 0488, [looselywoven.org](http://looselywoven.org)

### Sunday 15th

**WAVE. LOOSELY WOVEN** - 22 instrumentalists & singers including Sonia Bennett present a free, folky, light-hearted, acoustic concert/cabaret. Wingello Hall, Railway Pde, Wingello. 1pm. 4884 4170, [looselywoven.org](http://looselywoven.org)

### Saturday 21st

**THE LONDON KLEZMER QUARTET.** **Klezmer Dance Workshop** 3-4.15pm; **Klezmer Concert** 6pm. Maitland Regional Art Gallery, 230 High St. Tickets: [artgallery@maitland.nsw.gov.au](mailto:artgallery@maitland.nsw.gov.au), 4934 9859

**Welcome Ball.** Any dress. Supper contribution welcome. All Saints Church Hall, cnr Booney & Cowper Sts, Ainslie, ACT. 7-11pm. \$25 at door; discounts online, [eventbrite.com.au](http://eventbrite.com.au). Aylwen Gardiner-Garden [aylweng@gmail.com](mailto:aylweng@gmail.com), 6281 1908, 0409 817 623

### Thursday 26th

**Tradewinds Folk.** **BOB FOX (UK)**, twice nominated as Folk Singer of the Year at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards. The Dungeon, Adamstown Arts, Adamstown Uniting Ch, 228 Brunner Rd. 8pm (doors 7.30). \$20, \$18. Tickets [ticketebo/tradewinds](http://ticketebo/tradewinds) from about 28th Feb. Carole 4929 3912, [tradewindsfolk.com](http://tradewindsfolk.com)

### Saturday 28th

**Newcastle Hunter Valley Folk Club.** Bush Dance, with bush band. Wesley Fellowship Hall, 150 Beaumont St, Hamilton. 7.30pm. \$15, \$12, under-16 free. Ron 4926 1313, [newcastlehuntervalleyfolkclub.org.au](http://newcastlehuntervalleyfolkclub.org.au)



## festivals & events

6th - 9th March,  
**Port Fairy Folk Festival**  
[www.portfairyfolkfestival.com](http://www.portfairyfolkfestival.com)

13th - 15th March,  
**20th Blue Mountains Music Festival**  
[info@bmff.org.au](mailto:info@bmff.org.au)

20th - 22nd March,  
**Yackandandah Folk Festival (Vic.)**  
[yackfolkfestival.com](http://yackfolkfestival.com)

28th - 29th March,  
**Bluegrass & Old Timey Music Camp Out**  
(find on Facebook)

2nd - 6th April  
**National Folk Festival**  
[info@folkfestival.org.au](mailto:info@folkfestival.org.au)

10th - 12th April  
**Jane Austen Festival Australia**  
[janeaustenfestival.com](http://janeaustenfestival.com)

13th - 17th April  
**Yarrangobilly 19th Century Dance & Costume Retreat**  
[earthlydelights.com.au/dance-events/upcoming](http://earthlydelights.com.au/dance-events/upcoming)

24th - 26th April  
**St Albans Folk Festival**  
[stalbansfolkfestival.com.au](http://stalbansfolkfestival.com.au)



Deta & Rob Rayner from The Beez perform songs and stories from the fall of the Berlin Wall and beyond at Humph Hall (Sun 8th) & Illawarra Folk Club (Sunday 15th).

# Australian Wooden Boat Festival

The Australian Wooden Boat Festival took place in Hobart over the weekend 7-8th February, 2015. The city was blessed with glorious weather drawing crowds estimated at 50,000. Added attractions were the Salamanca Markets adjacent to the dock area, and on the Monday - a public holiday in southern Tasmania - the Royal Hobart Regatta. There was talk of 250,000 visitors in all.



Photo courtesy Judy Pinder

The main attraction of course was the colourful display of over 500 craft in all shapes and sizes, moored alongside the wharves. Sadly bad weather prevented the Endeavour and the James Craig from completing their trip down from Sydney; but there were other tall ships including the Enterprise (based in Melbourne) and the Windeward Bound.

There were frequent aeronautical displays from the Roulettes - the RAAF's elite formation team - as they performed breathtaking feats, using only hand-eye coordination to fly at speeds of up to 590 kilometres per hour.

And of course - there was plenty of musical entertainment with folk music, along with jazz, swing, rock and light opera. There was also dance, poetry, acrobatics and mime with the scheduled performances complemented with loads of buskers. I especially enjoyed the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Tasmania performing excerpts from The Pirates of Penzance.



Poet and performer Irish Joe Lynch was there from Maleny; a wallowing of seafaring songs and tunes from The Mainbrace Splicers (Chris von der Burgh and Cate Foley), the Southern Cross Trawlers (Don Brian and Margaret Walters) and The Boater's Choir. And it's always great to hear Peter Hicks in whatever band formation he has going, in this case The Devil's Own with Annie Parnell, Matt Woolley, and Ross Smithard. And of course, heaps more.

Hobart is a great destination - with the glorious food that's available, the markets, the museums and galleries, the history, the friendly people - and wooden boat festival makes it complete! - Margaret Walters.



Sonia Bennett (of Blue Goose fame) is the guest artist with Loosely Woven in the group's first concert for 2015, 'Wave'.

'There will be a number of performances at various venues in Sydney as well as in Tuggeranong (Canberra) and Wingello.

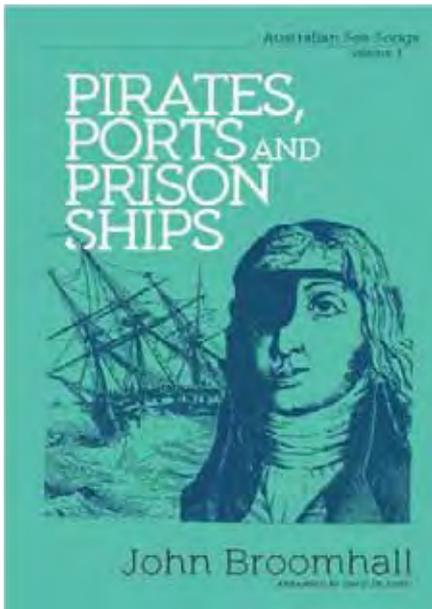
## Focus on Folk 6-7pm 1st Saturday



7 March Carole Garland with British and Australian folk. Special emphasis this month on our overseas visitor Bob Fox, who is here for The National & a handful of smaller gigs

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

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



### 'Australian Sea Songs'

This first volume, 'Pirates, Port and Prison Ships', of 'Australian Sea Songs' contains 30 songs which span two centuries of Australian history. The traditional tunes and transportation ballads which accompanied the arrival of the first fleet of prison ships soon gave rise to homegrown songs which reflected the momentous events occurring on Australia's shorelines during the first century of European settlement: piracy, shipwrecks, voyages of discovery, immigration.

By the second century maritime workers were writing songs which expressed their occupational identity while the poets and songwriters were increasingly looking towards the ocean for inspiration and fresh directions.

John Broomhall began gathering the songs which make up this current collection in the 1980s. John was born in Broken Hill and his early albums reflect on the working life and landscape of Australia's outback. He was the shanty singer on the Bounty replica for the best part of a decade.

David De Santi, who arranged the songs, is a folk music activist and festival organiser, and has a keen interest in promoting, performing and publishing Australian folk music.

The E-Book version is only \$20: [payhip.com/b/GiDu](http://payhip.com/b/GiDu)

Hard copies can be purchased for \$30 + postage from the Illawarra Folk Club store: [illawarrafolkclub.org.au/page/Store](http://illawarrafolkclub.org.au/page/Store)

## Live Music Opportunities

Sydney APRA AMCOS has been working closely with the City of Sydney Council to make some great new initiatives happen to support live music in Sydney.

1. Gig Buddies launched in February. It provides support to people with learning disabilities and autism by helping them become part of Australia's live music and festival culture. Gig Buddies matches people with volunteers to attend gigs, theatre and other events. It means people who might often miss out on enjoying live music don't have to. Check out their website, [gigbuddiessydney.org](http://gigbuddiessydney.org), if you're interested in volunteering as a Gig Buddy.



2. We're excited to announce The City of Sydney's new and improved Cultural Grants and Sponsorship program. We've worked closely with the Council so this funding can better support the proliferation of live music. Previously, this funding was only available to not-for-profit organisations. Now, venues,

**CITY OF SYDNEY**



event promoters, record stores, labels, as well as artists and songwriters that want to put on live

music events, can now apply for funding, provided the project benefits the community. The deadline for applications is Monday 2nd March, with the second round opening in August.

3. Students and school groups can now access free rehearsal space as part of the Live Music and Performance Action Plan. There are 17 free rehearsal spaces available in Alexandria, Camperdown, Erskineville, Glebe, Millers Point, Potts Point, St Peters, Redfern and Zetland.
4. We've also helped the City of Sydney respond to issues associated with live music, such as noise complaints. Now they are offering up to \$5000 in matching grants to venues for acoustic auditing. This is a great benefit to businesses that host live music. Businesses thinking about starting up live music and performances are also eligible.

See the City of Sydney website [cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](http://cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au) for more details on the last three items.

### Note

Founded in 1926, the Australasian Performing Right Association (APRA), is the oldest copyright society in Australia. APRA represents over 47,000 composers, lyricists and music publishers in Australia and New Zealand and licenses the public performance and communication rights on their behalf.

The Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners Society (AMCOS) represents both composers and music publishers for the mechanical right – ie the right to license the reproduction of musical works (in audio format) and the limited right to license the reproduction of musical works in print form (ie the AMCOS schools' photocopying licence – only available to primary and secondary schools in Australia).



## Dead Men Talking



Veterans Max Cullen and Warren Fahey have co-written a new play which finds Australia's two literary bards, Henry Lawson (Max) and Banjo Paterson (Warren), seated in the Leviticus Bar & Grill, Heaven's Gate, where they are discussing their legacies, their famed War of Words in The Bulletin - and generally bantering about life.

They sing, recite and take their audience on a wild and rollicking ride. Max Cullen has an illustrious career as an actor - everything from 'The Flying Doctor' to the recent 'Gatsby'. He is the ideal Lawson to Warren's Banjo.

More info at [warrenfahey.com](http://warrenfahey.com)



### March performances:

Mon. 9th. Taree Library. 6.00pm (Booking essential – ph: 6592 5290. Tickets \$15 includes light refreshments.)

Tues 10th Port Macquarie Library. 6.30. Free event – book at library.

Wed 11th Harry Bailey Memorial Library, Coffs Harbour. 6pm \$10. Bookings 6648900 (Special conc - Diggers Songs, Stories & Humour)

Thurs 12th Sawtell (dinner show at the Sawtell Golf Club)

Frid 13th Memorial Hall, Bellingen. 7.30

Sat 14th Bandbox Theatre. Kempsey. (2pm Matinee plus 7.30pm evening)

Sun. 15th Bowraville Theatre (2pm matinee. Tickets \$25, \$20, + conc. holderrs. outlets + tickethost.com.au)

Mon. 16th Forster Library. 6:30pm

Forster Library. Tickets \$15:00 – book at the library. Light supper included.

Tues 17th Tea Gardens Hotel.

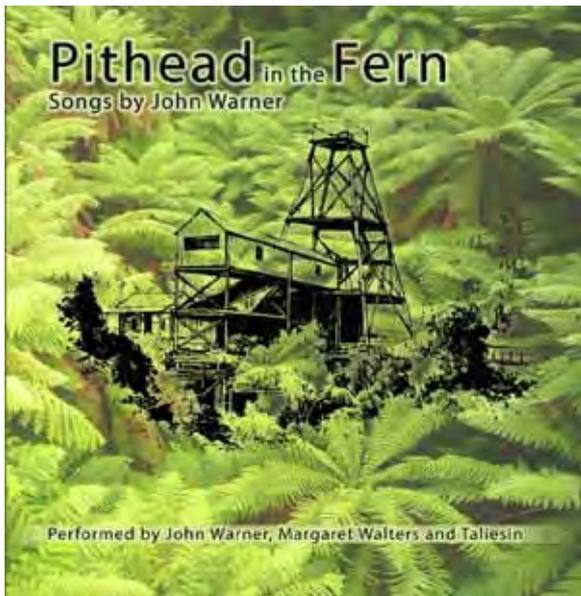
More info. contact Warren [wfahey@bigpond.net.au](mailto:wfahey@bigpond.net.au) or 0418 423050

# DEAD MEN TALKING

## Henry Lawson & Banjo Paterson

### A two-man show of verse, yarns & song





## Songs of South Gippsland

Songwriter John Warner grew up in Leongatha in the 1960s but in those days you learned more about English Kings and Queens than you did of Australian history and there was certainly no local history in the mix. When he returned home from a break between jobs he found that the site of an eroded gully had been transformed into the historical village now known as Coal Creek Community Park and Museum - and John worked there as a volunteer in the early 1990s.

The recreated physical environment with the damp, misty mornings around the blacksmith shop as the forge was being lit, the snort and tramp of horses, the carolling of magpies, the searing sound of timber being ripped at the sawmill, the whistle and chuff of a steam locomotive - these provided a stimulating background for a songwriter and lover of social and industrial history. John listened to talks given by local historians and other volunteers about the early settlers, about workers in the coal mines and the turbulent days of the thirties and forties; he explored the narrow horizontal mine adit and saw for himself the conditions the miners worked in.

Such was the inspiration that led to the writing of the songs on the CD 'Pithead in the Fern' which John produced with the help of Margaret Walters and the group Taliesin in 1993. The album has been out of print for many years, but an opportunity to perform the songs in South Gippsland, 14th -15th February 2015, seemed like a good opportunity to reprint it. The occasion also marks a temporary revival of the duo Walters & Warner. It is a tribute to John's craftsmanship that the songs still retain all their colour, vigour and universal appeal even though John and Margaret haven't sung them together for over ten years.

You might have heard of Anderson's Coast - sung by James Fagan and Nancy Kerr, or Danny Spooner, or Gordon Bok; or Miners Washin' sung by Cloudstreet. These are just two of the timeless songs on the album. The new release is accompanied by a booklet with notes and lyrics to the songs, and an additional five songs about South Gippsland. Just \$20 for the package.

Enquiries: [margaretwalters2@gmail.com](mailto:margaretwalters2@gmail.com)

### **Pithead in the Fern** (lyrics & tune John Warner)

Kardella's fencelined ranges

Suspend the clouds on rakes of Mountain Ash.  
The chilly damp is sharp with sounds,  
Among the rocks, swift waters fret and splash.  
The smells of bark and fungus  
Rise from the ground that crunches where you tread,  
And, woven with that tapestry,  
The tang of burning coal and baking bread.

Beside a stable doorway

A magpie pours its gifts of silver song,  
Two sleepy Clydesdales snort and stamp,  
Don't worry lads, your breakfast won't be long.  
McConnell's forge is roaring,  
A haze of smoke is drifting from the flue,  
The anvil's distant ringing tells  
Of work beginning while the day is new.

And the steam saws whine,

And hobnailed boots go crunching down the mine,  
Iron souls and sweating backs all battling to earn  
A living from that Pithead in the fern.

Among the rails and weatherboards

Blows a biting spray of drizzle rain.  
A whistle from Jumbunna  
Warns of the coming of the Outtrim train.  
A pair of mighty Baldwins  
Have fought the ranges' grades a hard ten mile,  
Another hundred tons of coal,  
Korumburra bound, with power and style.



**Margaret Walters & John Warner**

The Mountain Ash and fern tree  
Retreat before the flooding human tide,  
There's farmland and there's industry  
Where lyrebird and wombat used to hide.  
We've gained and we have lost  
In clawing out our living from the Earth,  
But Coal Creek tells the story  
For you and I to judge its final worth.

And the steamsaws whine,  
And hobnailed boots go crunching down the mine,  
Though the roaring days are over, there's a future we can learn  
From the stories of that Pithead in the fern.

## dance news

### St Patrick's Day Ceili

The Irish National Association of Australasia Inc. presents a St Patrick's Day Ceili, on Saturday 14th March, starting at 7.30pm, at the Uniting Church Hall, 289A Kingsgrove Rd (cnr Moreton Ave), Kingsgrove; entry \$15.

(Note that the venue for this particular Ceili has been changed to Kingsgrove. Other INA Ceilis for the year will be held at the normal venue.)

The Coast Ceili Band will play for called dances: South Galway Set, Antrim Square Set, Sneem Set, Merchant Set, Cashel Set, Mazurka Set, Borlin Set, Clare Lancers Set, BallinacCarthy Half Set.

A light supper will be provided. Grab your shoes and bring your friends! Enq, Liz Carter 0404 062 742, mad\_to\_dance@hotmail.com

### 'Jane Austen' Dance

This month the Central Coast dance will have a 'Jane Austen' theme, on Saturday 14th March. As last year, Ryebuck Bush Band will play as Regency Ryebuck, with Julie Bishop calling, for dances ranging from well before Jane Austen's time, to dances that she may have known. There will certainly be a few of the dances used in the BBC-TV series of 'Pride and Prejudice' – including Mr Beveridge's Maggot. That was the dance where Elizabeth Bennet and Mr Darcy carried on their cool conversation as they progressed along the longways set. There might also be Shrewsbury Lassies ('The other way, Mr Collins!'); and many relatively simple dances will also be on the program. The 'dancers' dance' will be Queen of Sheba. You are encouraged to dress to the theme – but it is not essential. See Dates for Your Diary for more details.

### The Shearer's Shuffle

Reviving Australian step-dance.

Step-dance was once a dynamic part of Australia's music and dance tradition. Most shearers and bullockies knew a step dance or two & every bush muso would have the tunes for 'stepping it out'.

There are stories of shearers who would clip a few sheep then have a break by dancing a few steps and still do a hundred and twenty a day; bullockies dancing hornpipes on barrels, dancing in pubs to knock down the cheque,



dancing on fence posts to drive them in. Women also were accomplished steppers with accounts of an overly-energetic girl kicking off a shoe, to a woman of ninety who could step it out and outlast the muso. Highland Flings, Irish Jigs, and English clog dances all belonged and contributed to a vibrant Australian style.

"Folk Songs Of Australia" by Meredith, Covell and Brown testifies to the significance of this dance form with a profusion of diverting step-dance yarns:

Teddy Creighton, he was a blacksmith in here (Crookwell), and he worked in the town, and he would go to the dances and he would dance the Sailor's Hornpipe ... and he was good too. He was the best I have ever seen - he would have been about thirty-five, if he was still alive he would be about ninety. He was a little dark thin feller, and he wore dancing clogs with plates on them, and when I would hit a note, he would hit it too!



Years of collecting have revealed a rich heritage of step dances and tunes which were once a very prominent aspect of our tradition. Recently we have identified several clog dances which appear to be uniquely Australian: the Milkmaid's Waltz (Sydney), Brisbane Clog Waltz (beginners and advanced versions) and the Melbourne Clog Dance (beginners and advanced versions - taken to New Zealand around 1900 and still danced there).

This year at the National Folk Festival we will be presenting a series of workshops and displays to present these vibrant tunes and dances. This is the

launch of a new project, in collaboration with Peter Ellis and Rob Willis, to promote Australian step-dance.

Stepdance Tunes Workshop Acoustic Lounge Sat 4/04/15 13:30

The Shearers Shuffle - Dance Workshop Coorong Sat 4/04/15 17:40

Mind Your Step - Dance Displays

Piazza Fri 3/04/15 11:30 and

Piazza Mon 6/04/15 14:00

Contact: Heather Clarke earlycolonialdance.1788@yahoo.com

### BMC Subscription Ball

This year the Ball, usually held at Maitland Town Hall, will have a change of venue.

It will be held on Saturday 29th August, at the Therry Centre, King St, East Maitland. This is because Maitland Town Hall is undergoing renovations.

The new venue has a large hall with a good wooden floor for dancing, a stage, and large carpeted foyer for supper. It is next to St Joseph's Church, East Maitland, with the entrance to the combined site on King St.

Music will again be provided by the Coalbrook Band - the entire Strutt family (Helen and Greg, Jennifer and Catherine) plus the great fiddle expertise of Chris Duncan and Bob McInnes. As usual, the programme will include Colonial, Scottish, English, Irish and Welsh dances. There will undoubtedly be a Hambo too.

The recovery Picnic / BBQ / Dance on Sunday 30th August also has a good new venue, at Marmong Point Community Hall, in Marmong Park, 31B George St, Marmong Point. It is on the western side of beautiful Lake Macquarie, north of Toronto.

Ticket prices will be similar to those in 2014. Several dance practices will be run in August at Newcastle, Sydney and the Central Coast; those booked so far are Sunday 2nd August in East Gosford, Sunday 9th August in Teralba and Saturday 22nd August at Hamilton (10am-5pm).

Further details at the Ball website, users.tpg.com.au/juliasm/BMC-Ball and, in due course, the Bush Music Club website, bushmusic.org.au.

## NSW is the Featured State

Is it that time already? NSW was the featured state at the National Folk Festival in 2008 and didn't we put on a great series of gigs at the Flute n Fiddle!

This year we have one long gig on Friday night to show the rest of the country what we've been up to. 9pm to 11.30pm on the Carnival Stage. And just what have we been up to? Here's a sample of the acts you'll see and hear.

Senor Cabrales: Western NSW-based Felpeyu-inspired high-energy ensemble of fine players. BYO crackers.



Chris O'Connor

Chris O'Connor: Moruya-based fingerpickin' blues singer

The Hexhamshire Lass who has travelled far and wide and plays Northumbrian small pipes and sings ancient and new songs.

The Squeezebox Trio: 1930s high-energy gypsy swing. There was something in their blurb about Django's missing fingers but I ignored that bit.

The Transylvaniacs featuring Florin Codoba, master violinist from Romania.

Lime and Steel who describe themselves as: "Sweet harmonies pour out convict murder ballads and footstomping bogan bluegrass lovesongs, cut with equal parts of charm and cheap wine."

Chloe and Jason Roweth with Bill Browne and special guest Dave de Santi, who collectively believe there are too many bloody songs about shearers by far and will be launching their new album by that very name at the festival.

Bluegrass will be well represented by The 3 Marketeers and the Button Collective.

Chris Wheeler and Leigh Birkett who might play some Greek songs, might play some Victor Jara songs or might play some Archie Roach songs. Ballot is now open.

Bob and Margaret Fagan - much loved festival faves.

Looking forward to great music from all over the place. Or as English magazine Folkroots sums it up so well: "local music from out there."

The list of performers for this gig keeps growing so there will be plenty of surprises on the night. Come along to the Carnival Stage to celebrate our local music.



Chloë & Jason Roweth + Bill Browne



The Transylvaniacs



Brodie Buttons



Lime & Steel



Senor Cabrales



Margaret & Bob Fagan



The Squeezebox Trio

©justin tapp

# The Shack - 50 years on

## The Shack 50th Birthday Celebrations



Finale 'jam'

The Shack had an amazing night on the 7th February when it celebrated 50 years since the original Shack began in the Narrabeen Camping Area.

It was a full night of entertainment including some who performed at the original Shack; namely Myd Lyfe Crisis, consisting of Andy George, Graham Vick and Rhonda Mawer, (Shack president,) Orlando Agostino, who played with Greg Quill in Country Radio, Jim Jarvis and The New York public Library, who have been playing continuously since the early Shack days. Joining the line up of artists were loyal supporters of the new Shack, Dave Calandra and the

local band Grimick. It was a brilliant night, with artists playing to a packed house and all of them playing for no payment as this was a fundraiser for the Northern Beaches Music Festival, now in its 5th year and run by The Shack, Humph Hall and Fairlight Folk.



Dave Calandra



Grimick



New York Public Library



Paul Robertson



Orlando Agostino



Michael Driscoll

### History of The Shack

The Shack began with a few folk music enthusiasts in the early 1960's and began in private homes until it found more a regular venue in cafes at Collaroy and in Dee Why, finally to find a permanent home in a rented shop in Waterloo Street Narrabeen. It ran Friday and Saturday evenings and later also opened on Sunday nights. Many a well known artist performed at the Shack, including Margaret Roadnight, Marian Henderson, Jeanie Lewis and many others. That tiny shop could sometimes squash in 100 people, all sitting on cushions on the floor and listening intently to the wonderful music. The atmosphere was uplifting and unique and anyone who was involved in it will probably say that it was a great influence in their lives.

The Shack today, tries to create some of that atmosphere and keep acoustic music alive by presenting varied and talented acts to a listening audience. It is produced by Rhonda Mawer & Paul Robertson and takes place on the 1st Saturday of each month. For more info contact Rhonda (0413) 635 856 or shackfolk.com



The original 'Shack'

# St Albans Folk Festival 2015

Anthony Woolcott (Festival Director)

We couldn't be more excited about this year's festival. A wonderful selection of acts from near and far, with a wide variety of material that we are confident will provide something for everyone.

The headlining acts of Buhku, Catgut, Chloe & Jason Roweth, Dingoes Breakfast, Irish Joe Lynch, Kate & Ruth, Mandy Connell, Martin Pearson, The Morrison's, Senor Cabrales and of course The Wheeze and Suck Band combined with a wealth of talent both local and interstate, means there is plenty to see and enjoy for all ages.



There is a great Kids Festival, the infamous Black Joak Morris, Maypole with Molly and even the odd marauding Viking.

We have a new acoustic venue with the inclusion of the old Methodist church and the ever growing in popularity Tantric Turtle back for another year. There is a special comedy concert on the Saturday together with a themed "bush dance"- Feel free to dress up as your favourite Harry Potter character or come in your most elegant Steam Punk/ Renaissance outfit and dance the night away with the energetic playing of Franklyn B Paverty.

There are market stalls, the poets breakfast –so polish up your best turn of phrase & verse- the riotous Chorus Cup, workshops, sessions round the fire, a local Camel & good times a plenty to be had & shared.

The very generous people of St Albans continue to open up their beautiful town to us all and we thank them for sharing the gem that is their lovely township.

Again we ask that people leave their dogs at home and appreciate your help with the taking away and recycling of your rubbish.

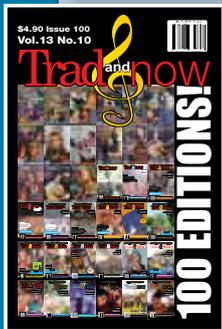
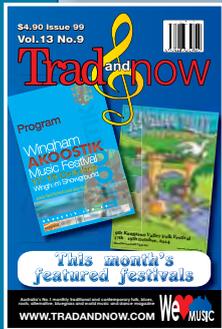
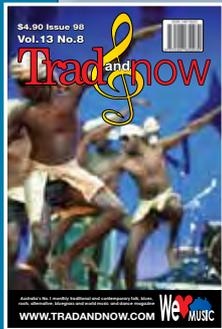
Volunteer applications are still open via the website: [stalbanfolkfestival.com.au](http://stalbanfolkfestival.com.au)

And here you will also find useful information, which is definitely worth a read, especially if this is to be your first St Albans Folk Festival. You can also like us on Facebook at St Albans Folk Festival, for updates & info.

We look forward to seeing you and wish you a wonderful weekend.



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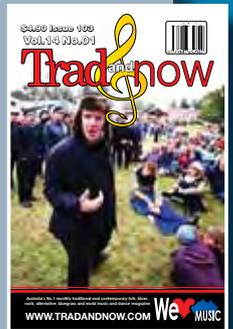
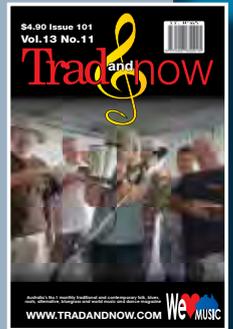
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