

Presidents Report AGM:  
August 2013

It's election time and I don't just mean for the Folk Federation of NSW. Thankfully there are no coups or blood letting this year unlike our struggling counterparts in federal politics. I look forward to seeing the results of both elections, though I have to say, I feel a whole lot more confident in what we will get with the Folk Fed than I do with the other "Fed"

This will be my last President report and though I am happy to be stepping aside and taking on a new role with St Albans Folk Festival, at the same time I want to thank, whole heartedly, the committee, Coral, Julie, Wayne and the membership in general for making the last four years or so some of the most rewarding time of my life. People have been more than generous and I feel privileged to have been able to give my all to the role. I hope to stay involved and continue on the committee in a lesser role.

I often peruse the last couple of reports when compiling the new report for the AGM. Normally I wouldn't cut and paste whole slabs from one to the other but this time I am happy too as the people involved are still doing the wonderful job on their volunteer basis and I think what I have said previously captures the amazing effort they put in to keep the Folk Fed running.

'We are all volunteers who give what we can, when we can, but perhaps the ones that give the most on an ongoing basis are the people who keep us all up to date via Cornstalk and Folkmail and look after membership and the Jam website.

Wayne your work with the website and membership is more than generous and we quite simply would struggle to function as an organization without your continued support. Julie spends an average of at least one full day a week keeping us all up to date via Folkmail and we all appreciate your good nature, humour and eye for detail that makes Folkmail such a wonderful resource. The third spoke in this particular wheel is the Cornstalk Gazette, Coral spends many hours compiling and editing to get the "papers out on time" every month, as do Dallas and Jim with the wrapping and mailing and we thank you - very much. I guess we can all take some things for granted, particularly when they continue to run smoothly and are always there, it is often only when things change and all of a sudden they are not there or not there in the same way that we remember and realise their inherent value. I wish to say thankyou now and acknowledge the wonderful job you all do while things are still running smoothly."

On a similar note, a big thankyou to the Committee for all you has given over the past year/s. To Bruce, Dallas, Jim, Margaret, Pam, Patrick, Sandra and Terry, your good company and many skills have made for another enjoyable and productive year.

We have still been able to support various projects by auspicing on behalf of our members and now that we have tax deductible status, hope to be able to do more for our members. I had hoped that we would have a new website up and running by now but am happy to say we are still pursuing such and I'm sure the new committee will be able to deliver something wonderful in the coming year.

The Mofo – Modern Folkie team have gone from strength to strength over the last twelve months. Congratulations to Alice, Bec, Charlotte, Delphina, Joel, Mikaela, Peter and all the rest of the helpers. We had our first fundraising event and recreated the speakeasy feel of the 1920's and 30's. The music was great, the Gaelic Club looked amazing and everyone did their part in getting "frocked up" in style for the night. I believe they kicked on into the wee hours and we managed to raise over \$600.00, which goes towards running future events and supporting our amazing young talent. We will be having another themed night with the Bearded Gypsy Band and The Tiger And Me, in December, so be sure to join us as we celebrate another excellent year in Mofo style. A big thankyou to the performers who have been a part of Mofo, we love being able to provide a space to celebrate your talents and look forward to the next years events. Also huge thanks to Aisling, Dylan, Alex and all at the Gaelic Club. We are very lucky to have such a wonderful venue and people supporting us in running our monthly gigs .

It was a pleasure to present Dave DeSanti with life time achievement award and Mark Gregory and Brian Dunnett their Highly Commended Award as contributors to the Trains of Treasure project, at this years National. All have given greatly to the folk world and was a wonderful to see a good turnout for the presentation and the generous applause for the recipients. Thanks also to Pam Merrigan and the National Folk Festival for providing the venue and note in the programme.

Well I suppose that's all for now, at least in my current role, again it has been a privilege and a pleasure and I would never have guessed when Christina Mimmocchi approached me a number of years ago to ask if I might be interested in putting up my hand for the position of President, that the 30 second conversation would have led to such a wonderful couple of years, spent in the company of people who have become in many ways my second family.

Thankyou and here's to the next 12 months and beyond, whatever they may bring.

Cheers and kind regards,  
Anthony – President Folk Federation Of NSW.