

THE CORNSTALK GAZETTE

New Folk Fed President

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EASTSIDE ARTS IN AUGUST



Folk Federation of New South Wales Inc
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Contributions, news, reviews, poems, photograph most welcome.

All care but no responsibility taken for omissions or errors. Advertisements - artwork required by 1st Friday of the month. Payment required in advance. Please contact the editor.

Contact Jim and Dallas Baxte re inserts.

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For a comprehensive listing of regularly occurring folk music and dance events in Sydney and other parts of NSW please check the Folk Federation of NSW website, www.jam.org.au

Contributions accepted as attachments to an email using word. Pictures please send jpegs. Please do not send pictures within a word document. Send pictures as attachments. All copy accepted by email or by disc.

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Membership Secretary
Wayne Richmond Listserv/Jam/Membership 9913 7788 (not after 8.00pm)

Volunteers, Coral Vorbach, Julie Bishop, Patricia Early,

**Next Committee Meeting FFNSW
Please check with Secretary 9955 3677**

If your important item misses Cornstalk, please remember there are also: **folkmail** (members' email list) contact Julie Bishop (02 9524 0247) folkmail@folkfednsw.org.au **jam.org.au** -Folk Fed website, here members can post info, articles, etc.

Christine Wheeler 'Retires' as President of Folk Federation of NSW



The recent AGM saw several changes to the composition of your Folk Federation Committee. The most significant change was the 'retirement' of Christine Wheeler as President after three years in the position. Chris was elected President not long after editing the Cornstalk Gazette, an experience which brought her in touch with a wide cross section of the membership and equipped her well to lead the Folk Federation with her typical enthusiasm and energy, to the great benefit of the organisation. Chris will still be involved with the Folk Federation, although now she has a little more time to focus on other musical adventures. Christina Mimmocchi and the incoming Committee look forward to the challenges ahead and

thank Chris Wheeler for all her hard work over the past three years.

Bruce Cameron.

Greetings, lovers of folk.



This Cornstalk brings news of some new faces on the Folk Federation Committee.

Welcome Jim and Dallas Baxter (the Cornstalk Wrap-Dragons have finally stepped up to join the committee and they are very welcome!), Peter Miller Robinson (songwriter and performer with a particular interest in protest songs), Terry Clinton (musician and Vivaldi impersonator) and my good self who has cheerily taken on the role of president.

We have also said goodbye to outgoing committee members Sandra Nixon, Pam Merrigan and Christine Wheeler. We thank them

for their huge contribution, and in particular to Christine who besides being president for three years served on the committee as an ordinary member for five years before that.

While the new committee groups, this is a good time to communicate your ideas, thoughts, inspirations and grievances to us. This is YOUR Federation, so let's hear what you want out of it.

And on a parting note, there are a feast of concerts and events on offer this month. Why not take the risk and go and see or hear someone you have never heard of before? There is every possibility it will change your week, if not your life!

Christina Mimmocchi

Incoming President

(front cover photograph - courtesy Christina Mimmocchi.)

Sutherland Folk Club Community Choir

Sutherland Folk Club is in the early stages of starting a social conscience/green community choir in the south ie in the Sutherland area. We have an amazing choir leader in Mary Jane Field who currently runs the Bright Star singers but is keen to come on board to lead the Sutherland fledging group.

We hope to meet bimonthly either Sat/Sun at the Tradies Club Gynea just a short stroll from the station.

What we need is choir members so if anyone is reading this and would like to be involved, please email me jg.watson@hotmail.com or ph Jenny 95762301.



WHAT'S ON AT EASTSIDE ARTS IN AUGUST

ONGOING ... Every Friday night is Café Carnivale.
Doors open 7.45pm. See www.cafecarnivale.com.au for details.

Ticketing news: from now on all our pre-sales will be through www.moshtix.com.au (booking charges apply). Tickets will still be for sale at the door subject to availability. To get the cheapest possible tickets at Eastside Arts, become a member for only \$10 to receive \$12 tickets to Eastside Arts concerts for a year. Members will also receive vip offers during the year. Email us for a form!

8pm, Saturday 4 \$20 (no free list)

Eastside Music Cafe

Country music legend **James Blundell + Nicki Gillis**

8pm Saturday 11 (pre-sales \$12/\$15 door \$14/\$17)

Eastside Music Cafe

Party with us to the ancient music of Malta with **Skorba**, featuring the talent and wit of Andy Busuttill. Fundraiser for Eastside Arts!

Sunday 12

Stone Gallery on Oxford

Winter Harp Workshop presented by **Cliona Molins** and **Sandra Real** (Qld)

Warm-up session: 12.30 to 2.30 (arrive at 12.00 for 12.30 start). Advanced Session: 3 to 5pm

\$40 per session or \$60 for both. \$10 for observers

info/bookings: Noni 9653 3691 / nonidickson@netspace.net.au

8pm Saturday 18 (pre-sales \$12/\$15 door \$14/\$17)

Eastside Music Cafe

Mal Webb - a night of vocal gymnastics + **Mr Percival**

8pm, Saturday 25 (\$20/\$15)

Stone Gallery on Oxford

Ensemble Offspring: Crippled Symmetry — the music of Morton Feldman

Eastside Music Café (licensed) and Stone Gallery on oxford (Paddington Uniting Church)

are on the site of the Paddington Markets - 395 Oxford St Paddington

Wheelchair access. info@eastsidearts.org.au

Free car parking: 24-28 Gordon Street Church car park. Buses from Sydney CBD.

Map and more information on

www.eastsidearts.org.au

The Turning Wave

Festival of Irish & Australian Music and the Related Arts
HISTORIC TOWN OF GUNDAGAI NSW

12 - 16 September 2007

Ruth Boylan (Ireland) Trouble in the Kitchen Jigzag Mike Jackson

Women in Docs Geoffrey W Graham Chris Duncan & Catherine Strutt

The Wheeze & Suck Band Chloe & Jason Roweth The O Hooligans

Not the Wolf Maria Forde Urban eXcentrics Corner House Ceili Band

with a brilliant showcase of performers from around Australia

Earlybird discount: Weekend Ticket \$60 ADULT \$20 YOUTH(12-18YRS)

on sale NOW until COB 31st August from bookings@turningwave.org.au or Ph: 02 6944 2200

www.turningwave.org.au

music song dance spoken word literature celtic fringe

The Turning Wave comes from a poem by Colleen Z Burke and an anthology of the same name compiled and edited by Colleen and Vincem Woods and is used with the kind permission of the authors.

dates for your diary metropolitan

DATE	EVENT	VENUE AND TIME	CONTACT
Thursday, 2nd August	Southern Cross Trawlers. Margaret Walters and Don Brian share an interest in Australian traditional songs, especially maritime. Members of The Roaring Forties, they have a talent for unaccompanied singing and for trawling through songbooks etc for unusual material, building an astounding repertoire. Margaret is renowned for the quality of her voice and her sensitive interpretations, and wide-ranging store of songs about convicts, colonial women, feisty damsels, workers etc – many with choruses. Don, the Australian folk scene's best kept secret, has been collecting and absorbing songs, verse, history and folklore from the field. His sonorous bass voice is perfect for bush songs.	North By Northwest Poetry and Folk Club. 8pm. Cornucopia Cafe, Old Gladesville Hospital, cnr Victoria and Punt Rd, Gladesville. Cars enter by bottom gates in Punt Rd, take first turn left towards Victoria Rd, then left fork and left at the top. Pedestrian access from Victoria Rd, from 500/501 bus. Floorspots available. BYOs welcome. \$12, \$10.	Jenny 9559 3658 (h), 0414 903 259, jdcarter@iinet.net.au or Geoff 9816 0393, 0421 582 975
	Blackheath Folk Club. Wheelers and Dealers	Ivanhoe Hotel, Great Western Highway Blackheath.	Enq. Christine Davies davica@bigpond.net.au, (02) 4787-7246
Friday 3rd August	Beer and Cheese Night – 'Gold!' Bring something to eat and drink, and songs, yarns, poems: about gold, goldmining, etc.	Bush Music Club, Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, 142 Addison Rd, Marrickville. 8-10pm. \$4, \$5.	Bob 9569 7244, bob-bolton@netspace.net.au
	Illawarra Folk Club Concert with Mothers of Intention (tbc) and more to come.	City Diggers Wollongong, cnr Church & Burelli Sts. 7.30pm. \$8, \$12.	1300 887 034, www.illawarrafolkclub.org.au
Saturday 4th August	Beecroft Bush Dance with Ryebuck Bush Band. Caller Margaret Bolliger.	Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft Rd. 8pm-midnight. \$17, \$14, \$12.	Helen 9626 7816, www.bushmusic.org.au
	James Blundell + Nick Gillis	Eastside Music 8pm \$20 (no free list)	Contact www.eastside-arts.org.au
	The Shack Folk Club. Urban eXcentrics, with material drawn from backgrounds in Irish, Hungarian, classical, jazz and original/contemporary. Tantalising double basses, mandolin, banjo and cittern with driving rhythm guitar, and inspired vocals. Green Mohair Suits – 3-piece band, "mournful country blue grass", inspired by quiet desperation songs of Hank Williams. Strong vocals and harmonies with backing guitars, banjo, mandolin. Spasm Band – The Shack's resident good time band: accomplished singers and musicians, who have played in various well known bands, doing jug, blues, folk...	Tramshed Community Arts Centre, 7.30pm - 11pm 1395a Pittwater Rd, Narrabeen (between car park and Ambulance Station in the shopping centre). Presents contemporary and folk music, gently amplified and of a high standard. Tables and chairs in smoke free, candle lit atmosphere. Free tea, coffee, biscuits. BYO drinks and nibbles. \$15. 7.30-11pm.	0413 635 856, info@shackfolk.com
	Jenolan Caves Concerts - with The Mudlarks (14 voice a capella choir) and Loosely Woven (20 singers and instrumentalists).	Cathedral Chamber, 4pm Lucas Cave (book for 4pm Lucas Cave tour), 8pm full concert in the Caves House.	Enq. Charles Degotari (6359 3924) Web: humph.org/lw
Sunday 5th August	Workshop for Enthusiastic Musicians, run by George Washingmachine. Topics include some basic fiddle styles & some jazz, blues and swing styles.	Tritton Hall, Hut 44 (Bush Music Club), Addison Rd Community Centre, 142 Addison Rd, Marrickville. 11am-1.30pm. \$20, child or student \$10.	Dawn 0408 496 887
	Illawarra Folk Club. Folk Marmalada (aka the big jam) with Big Snore Hammers and Friends (Pettibone, Obrobini). Music from Ireland, Spain, Italy, French Canada, USA, Australia.	Scarborough-Wombarra Bowling Club, 578-584 Lawrence Hargrave Drive (2.5km south of Sea Cliff Bridge). 4-7pm. Free. www.bowlo.com.au	1300 887 034, www.illawarrafolkclub.org.au
Monday 6th August	Pennant Hills Dance Workshop – Australian/Colonial - revision for ball. Caller Don Richmond.	Community Centre (air-conditioned), Yarrara Rd. \$7. 7.30-9.30pm.	Felicity 9456 2860
Thursday 9th August	Sutherland Folk Club. Geoffrey W Graham - fair"dinkum Oz entertainment"! He has a unique style which includes comedy, bush poetry, music, whip-cracking and all things genuinely Australian. Audience participation is encouraged so beware! Support Act-Aitch and Jane-to round off the night nicely these two modern swag people sing Aussie bush songs with Jane on the bodhran and Aitch wonderful recitations of bush poetry. Sure to be a bonza night, don't miss out. Floor spots welcome.	Sutherland and District Trade Union Club, 7.30pm Cnr Manchester Road Nth and Kingsway Gynea (short walk from station), cost \$10 children under 12 free	Enquiries Jenny Watson 95762301, Maeve 95205628.



DATE	EVENT	VENUE AND TIME	CONTACT
Saturday 11th August	'KIDS CLUB' - live theatre experience for children approx. 4-10 years old including plays, music and magic. Special fuss made of Leo kids!	New Theatre, Newtown 11AM (542 King St - between Newtown & St Peters stations)	Tickets. \$12 (9519 3403 or at the door) Web: humph.org/lw
	Eastside Music Café Party 8pm. Ancient music of Malta with Skorba, featuring the talent and wit of Andy Busuttill.	Fundraiser for Eastside Arts! (pre-sales \$12/\$15 door \$14/\$17)	Contact www.eastside-arts.org.au
t	Central Coast Bush Dance with Galimore. Scottish Theme. Caller Pam Merrigan. All dances taught.	East Gosford Progress Hall, cnr Henry Parry Drive & Wells St. 7.30-11.30pm. \$15, \$12, \$8 (12-18), \$5 (under 12).	Barry and Janice 4388 2253, Diana and Eddie 4324 6180, www.ccbdma.org/dance/index.htm
	Illawarra Folk Club. Family Charity Bush Dance. Bulli Festival Bush Dance Orchestra. (Rehearsal from 3.30pm – musicians register with David, desanti@illawarrafolkclub.org.au)	Anita's Theatre, Thirroul. 7-10pm. \$7, family \$14.	1300 887 034, www.illawarrafolkclub.org.au
	Concert With Three Harps - Mexico, Columbia and Ireland	Film Australia 8pm Lindfield	Enq. www.molins.net.au/arpas
Sunday 12th August	Hat Trick with Michael Fix.	The Harp Hotel, 2.30pm 900 Princes Hwy, Tempe. 2.30pm. \$15, \$12 conc., kids free	Tel: 02 9559 6300 harpirishpub@bigpond.com
	Penelope Swales (CD Launch). \$12, \$10 conc.	The Harp Hotel, 8pm 900 Princes Hwy, Tempe	Tel: 02 9559 6300 harpirishpub@bigpond.com
	Winter Harp Workshop presented by Cliona Molins and Sandra Real (Qld.) Warm-up session: 12.30 to 2.30 (arrive at 12.00 for 12.30 start). Advanced Session:)	Stone Gallery on Oxford 3 to 5pm \$40 per session or \$60 for both. \$10 for observers	info/bookings: Noni 9653 3691 / nonidickson@netspace.net.au
Monday 13th August	Pennant Hills Dance Workshop – Australian/Colonial – revision for Ball. Caller Don Richmond.	Community Centre (air-conditioned), Yarrara Rd. \$7. 7.30-9.30pm.	Felicity 9456 2860
Friday 17th August	Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Folk Club presents John Dengate. An evening at Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Folk Club is full of fun and variety. Coffee shop seating	Beatrice Taylor Hall 8pm, rear Willow Park Community Centre, Edgeworth David Ave, Hornsby. \$12	For further details contact Barry Parks on 9807 9497 Email bpparks@tpg.com.au
Saturday 18th August	Fourth Sydney Irish Set Dance Weekend	The Harp Hotel, 900 Princes Hwy, Tempe	Enq. Trish 02 9580 4865
	Balmain Bush Dance with String Fiddle. Caller Anthony Simon.	Rozelle Campus, Sydney College, 25 Terry St. 8pm-midnight. \$17, \$14, \$12.	Don or Wendy 9642 7950, www.bushmusic.org.au
	Illawarra Folk Club Concert with John Baker Duo and more to come.	City Diggers Wollongong, cnr Church & Burelli Sts. 7.30pm. \$8, \$12.	1300 887 034, www.illawarrafolkclub.org.au
	Irish Ceili.	The Bald Faced Stag, 8pm Leichhardt (345 Parramatta Rd, Leichhardt (cnr Balmain Rd). \$10	Ph. 9560 7188)t
	Mal Webb - a night of vocal gymnastics + Mr Percival	Eastside Music Café 8pm (pre-sales \$12/\$15 door \$14/\$17)	Contact www.eastside-arts.org.au
Sunday 19th August	The original HuldreFolk trio with Victor Mishalow! In the dying decades of last century, the shadowy and iconoclastic HuldreFolk ('hidden people') appeared, with their unique stories and songs - then disappeared. For the rare and regrettably short visit to Australia of long-time folk stalwart Victor Mishalow, the original trio of Paul Hemphill, Yuri the Storyteller and Victor Mishalow reunite for ONE CONCERT ONLY! Unusual songs and stories, and an adventurous approach to music and lyric, drawing inspiration from all over the modern, and not so modern world – the sad and the serious, the pleasant and the delightful. Info, rare audio, www.folkclub.com/huldrefolk/	North By Northwest Poetry and Folk Club. 2pm. Cornucopia Cafe, Old Gladesville Hospital, cnr Victoria and Punt Rd, Gladesville. Cars enter by bottom gates in Punt Rd, take first turn left towards Victoria Rd, then left fork and left at the top. Pedestrian access from Victoria Rd, from 500/501 bus. Floorspots available. BYOs welcome. This event will be very popular, so booking is recommended! \$12, \$10.	Jenny 9559 3658 (h), 0414 903 259, jdcarter@iinet.net.au or Geoff 9816 0393, 0421 582 975
Sunday 19th August	Fourth Sydney Irish Set Dance Weekend	The Harp Hotel, 900 Princes Hwy, Tempe	Enq. Trish 02 9580 4865



	Mic Conway's National Junk Band + "Magic Mic".	The Harp Hotel, 2pm 900 Princes Hwy, Tempe \$15, \$12 conc., kids free.	Tel: 02 9559 6300 harpirishpub@bigpond.com
Monday 20th August	Pennant Hills Dance Workshop – Australian/Colonial - revision for ball. Caller Don Richmond.	Community Centre (air-conditioned), Yarrara Rd. \$7. 7.30-9.30pm.	Felicity 9456 2860
Thursday 23rd August	Albert Lee with Wheelers and Dealers	The Basement Sydney, 9.30pm	Enq. www.basement.com.au/
	Sutherland Folk Club. Session night. Fun jam night where everyone who wants to perform is welcome and encouraged. Anything goes sing a song, play a instrument or say a poem, you can listen too. No cost.	Sutherland and District Trade Union Club, 7.30pm. Cnr Manchester Road Nth and Kingsway, Gymea - \$10 children under 12 free	Enquiries Jenny Watson 95762301, Maeve 95205628.
Saturday 25th August	Troubadour Central Coast. Chris Gillespie and The Wandering Hands. "A unique Australian voice painting local landscapes with mirth and melancholy. His gentle vocals overlay fine fingerpicking textures that draw you into the stories." - Fred Smith. "Stories of everyday Australian experiences, unrequited love, dogs and the cockatoo that owns the M2, all delivered with a bit of a country storytelling feel ... Nice mandolin, slide guitar, harmonica and sparse backing vocals". - Glen Mcvey ('The Stix' magazine). www.myspace.com/chrisgillespiemusic	CWA Hall, The Boulevard, on Brisbane Waters just as you drive into Woy Woy. Opposite Fisherman's Wharf. Floor spots available for talented local musicians. Light tea and lots of lovely people. \$10, \$8, \$7. 7pm.	Enq. 4341 4060 (AH), 0417 456 929, www.troubadour.org.au/
	Traditional Music Session, led by David De Santi. Sheet music provided. Any good folk tune! Musicians welcome to bring along traditional tunes.	Bulli Heritage Hotel, Concert Room, 240 Princes Hwy, Bulli. 1-4pm.	Dave 0409 57 1788, www.illawarrafolkclub.org.au
	Anne Ridgway and Mothers of Intention + Bright Star Choir, under the direction of Mary-Jane Field. Anne is a contemporary singer-songwriter playing 6 and 12 string guitars. A soaring voice, flowing lyrics and ambient, intricate guitar work best describe her soulful music. Mothers of intention are a spirited four piece band playing a vibrant mix of Celtic, Folk, Original and folk inspired covers. Featuring rhythm guitar, fiddle, mandolin, recorder, bodhran and vocals.	Loaded Dog, upstairs Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, 79 Johnston St. 8pm. \$14, 12, BYO, supper available.	Sandra (02) 9358 4886, www.theloadeddog.org.au
	Ensemble Offspring. Crippled Symmetry — the music of Morton Feldman	Stone Gallery on Oxford 8pm	Enq. www.eastsidearts.org.au
Monday 27th August	Pennant Hills Dance Workshop – Combining Figures. Caller John Short.	Community Centre, Yarrara Rd. \$7. 7.30-9.30pm.	Felicity 9456 2860
Friday 31st August	'Serendipity' - free acoustic concert with Loosely Woven (20 singers and instrumentalists). St Andrews Uniting Church 7pm, Chisholm and Vernon Streets, South Turramurra.	St Andrews Uniting Church 7pm, Chisholm and Vernon Streets, South Turramurra.	Enq. Margaret Booth (9949 3746) Web: humph.org/lw
Saturday 1st September	Australian Gaelic Singers' 25th Birthday Ceilidh. Traditional ceilidh dance, taught and called by Anthony Simon. Music by Chris Duncan and Catherine Strutt, Robert Pearce and Celtic Knot, the Ceilidh Collective, Sydney Scottish Fiddlers, etc.	Thornleigh Community Centre, cnr Phyllis and Central Avenues. Parking on site. 7.30pm. (Doors open 7pm.) \$15; 15 or under, free. Book a table of 8 or join others. BYOG and supper baskets.	Booking is essential. Judy Scott 9498 8209 0411 123 668

ACT

Friday, 10th August	Just a Tad & Moz (A Singing Session) (special guests - The Cashews)	Merry Muse	
Friday, 17th August	Alex Legg. + John Baker Duo –	Merry Muse	
Friday, 24th August	Zot, The Zone of Tone.	Merry Muse	
Friday, 31st August	Alan Musgrove and his Watsaname Band	Merry Muse	

The Merry Muse is the Monaro Folk Society venue. It happens in the White Eagle Club at 38 David Street, Turner, ACT

Regional NSW

Saturday 4th August

Mothers of Intention, CD Launch "Watersong". Newcastle and Hunter Valley Folk Club. Wesley Fellowship House, Beaumont St, Hamilton. 7.30pm. 4943 1552, folkclubcontacts@gmail.com, www.newcastlehuntervalleyfolkclub.org.au

Saturday 11th August

Yuin Folk Club Mandolin Jam with Luchiano Bassegio
CWA Hall, Cobargo. Enq. Graeme 6493 6758. No charge. Bring your mandolin plus a plate of food to share for lunch.

Saturday 25th August

BMC Subscription Ball, with Coalbrook Ceilidh. Maitland Town Hall. 7pm. (See Dance News for practice dates.) www.bushmusic.org.au

Applications for the 2008 National Folk Festival

Performer applications are open for the 2008 National Folk Festival. The themes are *Australians at Play - now there's one to get your imagination going!* -and *Music of the Celtic Nations. New South Wales is the 2008 featured State.* **Applications close on 31 August.**

To apply; go to the website at www.folkfestival.asn.au; click "Performing" in the blue menu on the left hand side of the screen; scroll down until you come to "Click to open the Online Performer Application Form". Click as instructed and you're into the system.

Applications for the 2008 Cobargo Folk Festival

Applications are invited for the 13th Annual Cobargo Folk Festival and will close on the 31st August, 2007/

Some elements of traditional, blues, bluegrass, country, acapella, theatre, bush poetry and the spoken word, cabaret and jazz will be included in the Festival program.

Performers should bear in mind this year's theme - "The Year Of The Laugh" - Australian and world humour in music?

Forms can be downloaded from www/cobargofolkfestival.com or ring Graeme 02 6493 6758.

Festivals, Workshops, Schools

17th - 19th August

Troubadour 29 Concert & Party Weekend. (The Troubadour, Melbourne's famous music venue, 1978-1990). Campaspe Downs, Kyneton, Vic. \$195. Bookings, (03) 5425 5400, wineandmusic@bigpond.com www.wineandmusic.net/

7th-9th September

Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival. kvfolk@bigpond.com, www.kvfolk.shoalhaven.info/

12th-14th September

Turning Wave Festival, Master Classes will be offered in fiddle (Adrian Barker) and concertina (Ruth Boylan). Email bookings@turningwave.org.au or phone 02 6944 2200

12th-16th September 2007

Turning Wave Festival

Join us as for a brilliant celebration of music, song, dance, spoken word, theatre and a Celtic fringe. Earlybird tickets now on sale till COB 31st August. Email bookings@turningwave.org.au or phone 02 6944 2200 www.turningwave.org.au.

25th - 28th October

26th Yungaburra Folk Festival, Atherton Tablelands, North Qld. 2006 was a sell-out. 0448 017 877, www.yungaburrafolkfestival.org

26th - 28th October 2007

Dorrigo Folk and Bluegrass Festival

Festival Hotline 66571229
email: festival@dorrigo.com

27th October 2007

Folk In The Foothills. Jamberoo Lodge. Enq. bigruss@1earth.net or 1300 887 034

2nd - 5th November, 2007

Maldon Folk Festival

www.maldonfolkfestival.com

16th - 18th November 2007

Music At The Creek

Enq. Alison 02 4842 2889. www.musicat-thecreek.com

27th December - 1 January 07/08

The Woodford Folk Festival. Held over six days and six nights it presents more than 2000 performers and 400 events with concerts, dances, workshops, forums, street theatre, writers' panels, film festival, comedy sessions, acoustic jams, social dialogue and debate, an entire children's festival, art and craft workshops, late night cabarets and special events including a spectacular fire event. www.woodfordfolkfestival.com

17th - 20th January

23rd Illawarra Folk Festival

www.illawarrafolkfestival.org.au

22nd - 24th February, 2008

Cobargo Folk Festival.

Applications close 31st August, 2007. Enq. www.cobargofolkfestival.com.

14th, 15th, 16th March, 2008

Blue Mountains Folk Festival www.bmff.org.au

20th - 24th March 2008

National Folk Festival www.folkfestival.asn.au

The Sixth Annual Dorrigo Folk & Blue Grass Festival



Mundy - Turner

This year's Festival promises to continue on with the great traditions established in previous years. There will be performances and workshops featuring interstate and local talent from a variety of traditional and contemporary folk and bluegrass genres. Visiting performers just love the friendly country town atmosphere and taking part in shared sessions around the campfire with other musicians and music lovers.

Highlights of this year's festival include the Saturday Night Bush dance and an integrated creative youth project.

Performers confirmed so far include:

Juzzie Smith whose music steps into blues, folk, and country and embraces the slide guitar, yidaki (didgeridoo), foot percussion, along side his harmonica and vocal performance

Mundy-Turner are Catherine Mundy and Jay Turner, an internationally-touring acoustic, original songwriting duo now based in Derbyshire, UK

Coyote Serenade are a bluegrass/country act out of Hobart who use steel guitar, banjo, mandolin, ukelele, and double bass to create a self described mix of "cowboy swing, country blues, hillbilly and lonesome ballads

The Pirate Brides skilfully combine four-part vocals with tasty guitar, accordion, mandolin, claw hammer banjo and double bass. Playing roots-Country, Bluegrass, Old Time and Contemporary originals

The **Sheepdogs** pursue a mutual enjoyment of string band music from the 1930's through to the present day and have evolved a sound that is all their own. Drawing on inspiration from bluegrass, western swing, early jazz and honky tonk artists, this band seeks to have fun and communicate that fun to the audience.

Sunburnt Celts produce a distinctive sound that brings together the unique flavour of the Irish with pure Australiana. The driving beat of the banjo, fiddle, tin whistle, acoustic guitar and the rare and haunting chant of the Uillien pipes simply overflow with traditional realism.

Website: www.dorrigo.com/festival or email festival@dorrigo.com



Kvonn from Faeroe Islands for Folk In The Foothills

Folk In The Foothills 2007

Organisation is well underway for the Illawarra Folk Club's Folk in the Foothills to be held on Sunday 21st October

Nestled in the foothills of the Illawarra Escarpment is the beautiful Jamberoo Valley Lodge. It will again be the venue for Folk enthusiasts when they gather in the wonderful ambience of its rainforest setting, to hear music and verse performed by a great array of renowned international and local performers.

There will be 20 concerts with 16 acts from 9am in the morning till 7pm in the evening with a number of venues to choose from - a large concert room, an intimate acoustic concert room, the restaurant, outdoor terrace and grove area all set in the picturesque and tranquil surrounds of the Lodge.

Already confirmed are Allen Johnson on tour from Scotland, The Song Catchers, Enda Kenny, Brent Parlane, touring band from Denmark, Hvonn, local ABC front man Nick Rheinberger, Australia's best Bush Poet, The Evergreen Blue the Shearer, Wongawilli, Replay and Jason and Chloe (And Megan)

Check the website for further details. illawarrafolkclub.org.au

8 The CORNSTALK Gazette - - AUGUST 2007

folk news

Poetry Anthology

The Wollombi Poetry Anthology is inviting contributions. There are four categories: bush poetry; narrative; contemporary; and youth (9-15 years). For details and entry requirements visit www.wollombi.org and click on poetry. The anthology will be launched in October, with performance poetry at the Wollombi Cultural Centre. Cost \$10, which covers the cost of up to a total of three poems from each entrant (includes membership of Wollombi Valley Arts Council for 12 months). Deadline for entries, 1st September 2007. artscouncil@wollombi.org

Mishalow in Town

Celebrated and well-remembered bandurist Victor Mishalow is on a rare visit to Australia in August (between 4th and 27th). This is a grand opportunity to see this great musician. He will be based in Sydney, appearing at Cafe Carnivale on 25th, and with HuldreFolk at North by North West Folk Club on 19th. Academic, author, teacher, performer, and "Merited Artist of Ukraine", Victor is an internationally acclaimed exponent of the ancient 65 stringed Bandura, the voice and soul of Ukraine. His reputation extends far beyond Australia to the USA, Canada, and the countries of the former Soviet Union. He has played at venues as far apart as Carnegie Hall and Sydney Opera House, the Los Angeles Olympics, and a Royal Command Performance in the Netherlands. Currently living in Toronto, Canada, he is founder and leader of the Canadian Bandurist Capella. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victor_Mishalow

You can hear Victor on www.infoukes.com/culture/music/samples/mishalow/ and www.folkclub.com/huldrefolk/ Click on Audio Stream. If you would like him for a house concert or other appearance, contact victor.mishalow@yahoo.com or Paul. Hemphill@harpercollins.com.au



dance news

RFDS Contra

There were 70-80 dancers the Contra Dance on 30th June, which raised a total of over \$1000, including donations, for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Organiser John said, "Most of them spoke favourably about the Ermington Hall, although some missed the old time grandeur of Granville. The dancers at Pennant Hills on [the following] Monday were unanimous about having a great time, many suggested we should do it more often." To mark the 10th annual RFDS Contra organised by John Short and Leila Flower, dancers Alison and Colin Cole made a surprise presentation to each of them of a hand painted commemorative plate. There were dancers from Canberra, Newcastle, Nowra, Wollongong - and a globetrotting young lady, Ona (pronounced Ahna) Lindauer, from Maine, USA, who was complimentary about the standard of our dancing. She was then carried off by the Canberra people for their Tuesday night contra workshop. It would be nice to have a network of people willing to billet visiting dancers. Many thanks to everyone who came, from near or far.

Bush Music Club Subscription Ball

Practices for the Bush Music Club's 27th Subscription Ball, with Coalbrook Ceilidh (Maitland Town Hall, Saturday 25th August), will be held in Sydney: Concord Scout Hall, Park Ave, on 19th August - ring Don to confirm, 9642 7950. On Central Coast: East Gosford Progress Hall, cnr Wells St and Henry Parry Dve, on 12th August. In Newcastle: All Saints Parish House, Cromwell St, New Lambton, on 5th and 19th August. Practices start at 10am and finish at 4 pm, cost \$7. Please bring your lunch and a mug, tea and coffee provided. www.bushmusic.org.au

Fourth Sydney Irish Set Dance Weekend

During August 2007, Trish McGrath and her troupe, the Harp Irish Set Dancers, will be proud to present the 4th Sydney Irish Set Dance Weekend featuring Gerard Butler as our international guest teacher. This event is held approximately every two years and is organised in co-operation with

the Victorian Irish Set Dancers.

Gerard is a widely acclaimed and highly sought after Set and Sean n6s dance teacher from Carrick on Shannon, Co. Roscommon, Ireland. Ger was raised in a home filled with traditional music and dance, and commenced teaching at age 17. Ger currently teaches classes in Roscommon, Leitrim and Mayo. In his 15 years of teaching experience he has taught classes all over Ireland, Europe, Asia and America – and now Australia for the first time!

As a teacher and member of the Elphin Set Dancers, Ger has won 9 All Ireland set dance titles and 3 English championships, dancing the Roscommon set – their local set. Ger also completed a world tour with the dance company Rhythm of the Dance in which he performed Sean n6s and played percussion.

Over two days Ger will teach you steps, sets, sean n6s and 2-hand dances with ‘wit and grace’ and a flair for entertainment. Saturday 18 August 07 join Ger and kick up your heels with a live music c6il6 at the Harp Pub.

If you’ve ever enjoyed Colonial, Bush, Contra or Scottish dancing – then get a taste of something different. If you’ve never danced before – here’s your chance to experience one of the living traditions of modern Ireland. Fellow dancers - we look forward to seeing you all there!

Henry Lawson Heritage Festival 2007 Report



the

One of Australia’s premier literary events, The Henry Lawson Heritage Festival was held over the recent June Long Weekend in the Central West town of Gulgong NSW. (Yes, the town on old ten dollar notes remember them?)

Though the heavens had well and truly opened in the local area (weather wise) Bush Poets from all over Australia still managed to make their way to the historic centre for the big event.

The rain managed to dissipate long enough for the regular activities to still take place. These included Busking and Pavement Art Competitions, Street Parades-including vintage vehicles and hot-rods, Market Stalls and much much more. Indoors local vigneron displayed and offered their products for tasting, Henry Lawson’s birthday cake was cut in

a ceremony attended by town officialdom and locals and visitors alike kicked up their heels at the Bush Dance.

As evening descended on the Saturday, Gulgong’s “Opera House” became the centre of attention for the annual Literary awards sponsored by Country Energy and The Land newspaper. Up for grabs those beautifully crafted “Henry” figurines and a substantial amounts of prizemoney.

Sunday saw the Hunter Bush Poets officiate a Poets Breakfast and “Just Henry” session where only the masters work was allowed to be recited and the night time concert, “Tales of the Swag” saw Des Kelly and friends present the song, verse and humour of the Australian bush as seen in Lawson’s times.

The Festival was also visited by Melbourne school teacher and thespian James Howard who had taken on the persona of Henry Lawson for the weekend and performed in costume on many occasions. It truly took one back in time to see the new “Henry” slouched on a bench in the main street or leaning from the door of a public house enticing fellow poets to join him. Most did.

Organised by the Henry Lawson Society of NSW and run by Secretary Cheryl Peters (and her committee and volunteers) the event is indeed a drawcard for the best writers and performers in the country.

Graeme was indeed thrilled and honoured to win the **Adult Literary Award** (with his poem entitled “Poles and Wires”- Competition Results

Adult Written:

First: Graeme Johnson, Second: Arthur Green, Third: David Campbell
HC: Melanie Hall, Ellis Campbell,

Jacqueline Winn

Country Energy Leonard Teale Memorial Performance Poetry:

First: Lisa Quast, Second: Terry Regan
Third: Ellis Campbell

HC: Graeme Johnson, Ron Stevens, Tony Price.

(Photograph courtesy of Graeme Johnson.)



WORKSHOP With George Washingmachine

A workshop for enthusiastic musicians, run by George Washingmachine, is being held on Sunday 5th August, 2007, starting at 11am- 1-30pm.

Topics will include some basic fiddle styles, some jazz, blues, and some swing styles.....however the workshop is not limited to fiddles only!!!!

The cost is \$20 per adult, and \$10 per child or student.

The venue is “Tritton Hall”, hut 44 Bush Music Club headquarters Marrickville Community Centre, 142 Addison Road, Marrickville. Enquiries.....Dawn 0408496887



Albert Lee, Wheelers & Dealers Sydney Concert

Albert Lee, regarded by his peers as the greatest country rock guitarist in the world, is touring in Australia briefly in August with Sydney folk band Wheelers and Dealers, which includes in its line-up former members of The Flying Emus, who toured with Albert nearly two decades ago.

Albert Lee’s playing covers many genres of music, including folk, and he was featured in the wonderful documentary on Irish music ‘Bringing It All Back Home’, playing with piper Davy Spillane. In the rock and country worlds he is famous for his many years with Eric Clapton, Emmylou Harris and The Everly Brothers, as well as his own solo albums featuring him on vocals and piano as well as electric and acoustic guitars.

The Albert Lee and Wheelers & Dealers Sydney concert will be at The Basement on Thursday 23rd August.



The Great Folk Revival: Part 5

Continuing some Issues, Debates and Controversies

by Malcolm J Turnbull

Of course, no amount of sincerity or genuineness could make up for musical ineptitude. Some ideologically blameless singers were just “not up to the mark” technically. The late Denis Gibbons argued that too much has been made of the essential simplicity of folk music and that, far too often, mediocrity or downright ineptitude has hidden under the veil of authenticity. Gibbons was adamant that vocal training had its place: “any singer benefits from greater range, flexibility and placement of voice”. Nor was amplification necessarily a bad thing: “some songs are so exquisite that they must be barely whispered” [*Folksay*, 1, 1966, p.30]. Inevitably, the emphasis on natural, unstudied singing resulted in the evolution of alternative stylisations. Perhaps unconsciously, performers would lower their voices when singing blues, toughen up their accents for Australian material, or acquire traces of “Americanese” for Appalachian ballads.

In the same way that the singer-songwriter vogue would unleash scores of Dylan imitators, so the Anglo-Celtic sub-genre attracted a rash of performers who slavishly modelled their sledgehammer vocal style after Ewan MacColl (sometimes to the point of singing a capella with one hand cupped over an ear). “There was a sense of frozen antiquity”, argues Mike McClellan. “Simply doing no more than repeating styles and methods of singing that emerged in the past ... [in some cases] repeating the technical inadequacies of very simple, primitive performers ... To ignore [all that had come since] was to stick your head in the sand”. Glen Tomasetti, whose whole performing career had been predicated on lack of pretension, once conceded that listening to tapes of impromptu group performances of the era could be mildly harrowing, so starkly was musicianship often sacrificed to sincerity. She recalled her own discomfiture when her young daughter announced that she intended to become a singer - a natural singer, however, “not like you”.

Another battlefront (albeit a relatively minor one) was the question of appropriate

accompaniment. Some purists, like John Manifold, insisted that folksinging was legitimate only when done a capella. The guitar was an agent of commercialisation. For others, simple guitar accompaniment might be acceptable, but they firmly resisted the employment of backing instruments. (They had a particular aversion to anything electrified. Bernard Bolan remembers the “ripple of horror” that passed through the audience when Mike O'Rourke walked onstage carrying an electric guitar at one of the early festivals). While the overly-orchestrated arrangements favoured by Lionel Long and (on occasion) Denis Gibbons were generally deplored, more liberal souls acknowledged that, tastefully employed, back-up players could add significantly to the quality of a performance, live or recorded. One point of contention among the early coffee lounge performers centred on the merits of the nylon vs steel-string guitar.

Don Henderson



Songwriter and guitar-maker Don Henderson once observed that Australian folkies seemed to have a “strange aversion” to steel strings. Garry Kinnane, who had studied under Carl Ogden, remembers that Tomasetti, Wyndham-Read and Mooney all believed firmly that the Spanish or classical guitar was the more fitting instrument to accompany folksongs. Steel strung guitars were associated with hillbilly or C&W music - and, by implication, with American commercialism. More prosaically, nylon strings were easier to play and learn on. Many singers had turned to the Spanish guitar with relief having endured “aching hands and blistered fingers” trying to

manipulate cheap, high-actioned “fruit boxes”. In Henderson’s view, however, a top quality Maton, Martin or Gibson was potentially “easier to play than a nylon-string guitar” and offered infinitely more scope to the instrumentalist. He cited the “harplike effect” achieved by Paul Marks or Marian Henderson’s ability, “on a good night”, to make “those little wires sound like an organ”. “Imagine Chris Daw or Les Miller playing some of their slick sliding stuff on anything else but steel; it would sound like Segovia plaiting spaghetti” [*Music Maker*, July 1964].

Increasingly attracted to American and contemporary music himself, Kinnane quickly made the transition to a Dylan-style Gibson and found it the perfect complement to David Lumsden’s 5 string banjo. Lumsden & Kinnane performed regularly as a bluegrass duo at Traynors in its first year: during the same period Trevor Lucas went a step further and became one of the few Australian 12 string guitar specialists. Within a short time (and as the artists’ playing improved with years of practice), steel-string guitars became more and more common (indeed, the norm) and nylon-string guitars became increasingly associated with novices or the stereotyped “lady folksinger” (Date, Lawton, Biscoe). The 12 string guitar also caught on, with Doug Ashdown, Greg Ferris, Keith Potger, Phil Cunneen, Lenore Somerset and Robyn Smith (Archer) among its more conspicuous exponents. The fact that, for many years, Martyn Wyndham-Read has opted to play a steel-strung instrument indicates that this particular aspect of the debate was never more than a passing diversion.

Occasionally the purists found themselves victims of their own pedantry. Denis Gibbons once received a blistering letter from the Bush Music Club in Sydney, demanding to know the provenance of a song he had recorded, and accusing him darkly of “interfering with the text”. Gibbons confounded his critics by maintaining that he had learned the version in question from his father-in-law, an itinerant bushman in South Australia. (In fact, Gibbons confesses, the source was a Burl Ives record). Kath Lumsden,

whose traditionalist credentials were impeccable, once deliberately “sent up” the more inflexible members of the folk establishment by launching into the Eartha Kitt standard ‘I’m Just an Old-fashioned Girl’. On another occasion (despite husband Arthur’s misgivings), she sang the American country song ‘Spanish is the Loving Tongue’ at the Bush Music Club and was gratified by the response. As she had correctly anticipated, most listeners were much more concerned with the beauty of the song (which she had learned from tenor Joe Sibella) than with its orthodoxy.

Well-entrenched intercity rivalry sometimes coloured the debate. A solid section of the Melbourne fraternity was dismissive of the Sydney scene. “Melbourne always had a better live scene than Sydney”, claims Mick Counihan. “It was a key centre for music from the late 19th century. ‘Marvellous Melbourne’”. Counihan remembers flubbing his verse during a full-cast singalong of ‘The Overlander’ at the Songs of Peace and Love Concert at the Myer Music Bowl, and feeling deeply embarrassed because he had let down the Melbourne side in front of Sydneysiders. In the eyes of Melbourne folkies, Sydney represented folkmusic as popular entertainment: it was the home of Bandstand, Just Folk, Dave’s Place, and the big Newport hootenanny. Sydney had stars. Lionel Long was the major butt of criticism, but at other times Gary Shearston and Tina Date were accused of adopting unfolk-like airs and graces, and the dire label of entertainer was applied to Sean and Sonja, Leonard Teale, clone ensembles like The Liberty Singers, The Green Hill Singers or The Kinsfolk, or interstate acts who “hit the big time” in the harbour city, notably Doug Ashdown and The Twiliters. The Adelaide scene was also mildly suspect. The Wesley Three were disdained as far too slick and preoccupied with musicianship. Even the highly-regarded Tina Lawton became something of a tall poppy thanks to regular appearances on national television.

Melbourne, by contrast, claimed to have a monopoly on the “real folksingers” – the Tomasettis, the Mooneys, the Spooners, the Wyndham-Reads, the Lumsdens, etc. In reality, Melbourne had more than its fair share of folksinger-entertainers at different levels on the commercial spectrum. Denis Gibbons, Lenore Somerset, Shirley Jacobs, The Idlers Five, The John Gordon and Helen Driessen Trios, or (of course) The Seekers, were far too well known or widely-exposed, by virtue of the

media and entertainment networks, ever to be considered kosher. Kingston Trio or PP&M imitators might get short shrift at places like Traynors (although they might well be found at less high-minded venues like the Heavenly Crumpet, Capers, Cafe Edouard or the Colonial Inn), yet even more acceptable figures like Lynne St John often had to counter accusations of commerciality, partly because of their concerns with appearance and presentation. Notwithstanding acknowledgment by Jim Carter, Frank Traynor, Don Carless, etc., that the performer had a duty to his audience, dressing up to play was widely viewed as a concession to “showbiz”. So too was attempting to cater for the mood of the crowd. John Graham was regarded, by some, as “a bit of a charlatan” because of his determination to polish his performances and reach a wider public than was likely with the “take it or leave it” approach adopted by other folksingers. “There was a strong delineation between ‘the faith’ and those seen as ‘exploiting’ it”, remembers Jim Kenny. Squance & White who specialised in American music, and were outspoken in their enthusiasm for rock groups like The Beatles, sometimes found themselves blacklisted by the more rigid concert organisers.

No matter how strongly the dedicated folk-archaeologist might stress the importance of the song over the singer, some artists (including some of the most committed and ideologically sound performers) could not fail to become drawcards in their own right. Definite hierarchies of performers existed at Traynors and elsewhere within the national coffee lounge circuit, and inevitably some artists started to take themselves too seriously. There were occasional prima donnas. Grumbles by performers about “having to go on first” were an occupational hazard for concert organisers. Some of the latter-day singer-songwriters who played at Traynors could be unnecessarily precious in this regard. (I recall an ugly scene at a Tasmanian concert a few years after the period under review: a number of respected local artists found their sets drastically shortened because the leader of a popular mainland Celtic ensemble was demanding extra stage-time and threatening to “punch up” m.c. Richard Leitch if it was not forthcoming.) Denis Gibbons, who was frequently called upon to compere concerts, remembers one instance when a singer proved particularly objectionable about opening the program. Gibbons finally conceded and agreed to go on first instead. He “got his own back”, however,

by leading off with his own rendition of one of the man’s big hits. Another popular male folksinger, who harangued Gibbons about his place on the bill at the Lord Mayor’s Variety show in Brisbane, also found himself outmanoeuvred. Gibbons reluctantly agreed to allocate him a more prominent spot on the program, and then slotted the belligerent singer in directly after an exotic dance specialist. (The man’s bracket was punctuated by repeated calls to “bring back the bellydancer”).

Preoccupied as it was/is with the realities of people’s lives, folkmusic demanded to be taken seriously. That seriousness, and the tendency of the coffee lounge patrons towards earnest intellectualism and idealistic humourlessness, were quickly pounced on by critics and satirists: “Folk song has become a solemn cult with some of its afficianados”, observed Edgar Waters in late 1964: Charles Higham went further:

Sullen college boys in regulation sweater, jeans and suede boots, eyes dead under cowlick hair, huddle in groups, reverently. They stare, whisper between sips of coffee, and never smile. Austerely removed from them, pale girls with waist-length hair occasionally exchange a blind, meaningless glance. The way they look, you’d think the sun had never shone ... The atmosphere in these places is usually joyless and naive. Customers sit there hour after hour in conditions of total discomfort, almost mute, glum, and fixedly staring into space [Higham, ‘The Folk People’, *Bulletin*, 14 Nov 1964].

The description is obviously exaggerated. At the time, it was hotly contested by Gary Shearston who assured Higham: “I don’t spend an entire evening’s performance ‘protesting’ myself and all the other unwashed. In fact, we have a pretty good time singing songs from the four corners of the earth” [*Australian*, 4 Nov 1964; *Bulletin*, 14 & 28 Nov 1964 ...*To be continued* ...

[Reprinted, with kind permission of the author and the editor, from *Drumbeat (Folk Federation of Tasmania, May 2007.)*

Part 4 appeared in the July 2007 issue of *Cornstalk*.



Folk Federation of NSW Inc		
Balance Sheet as at 30th April 2007		
	2007	2006
	\$	\$
MEMBER FUNDS		
Accumulated Funds Brought Forward	7,043	7,787
Surplus/(Deficit) This Year	1,088	(744)
TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS	8,131	7,043
Represented By:		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank - Operating Account	17,274	15,272
	17,274	15,272
Total Current Assets	17,274	15,272
TOTAL ASSETS	17,274	15,272
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Funds Held - Kempster Project	6,976	6,082
Funds Held - Affley Project	900	880
Funds Held - Alexander Project	1267	1267
	9,143	8,229
Total Current Liabilities	9143	8,229
TOTAL LIABILITIES	9,143	8,229
TOTAL ASSETS	8,131	7,043

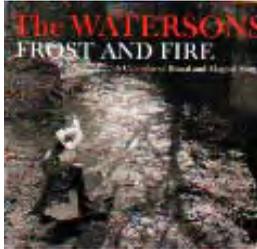
Folk Federation of NSW Inc			
Income and Expenditure Statement for year ended 30th April 2007			
	2007	2006	
	\$	\$	\$
INCOME			
CD Sales			30
Cornstalk advertisements	1,170		1,289
Donations Received	111		135
Interest Received	548		652
Membership Fees	8,615		7,790
		10,444	9,896
GROSS INCOME		10,444	9,896
EXPENDITURE			
Accountancy Fees	385		385
Advertising & Promotion	300		-
Bank Fees & Charges	11		3
Cornstalk Printing	4,897		5,372
Filing Fees	-		105
Folk Alliance Aust Inc	-		95
Insurance	430		360
Permits, Licences & Fees	43		-
Postage	2,770		2,446
PO Rental	-		166
Printing & Stationery	130		1,003
Telephone	290		125
Travelling Expenses	100		250
Venue Hire - Almost Acoustic	-		330
TOTAL EXPENSES		9,356	10,640
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		1,088	(744)

cd reviews

Frost and Fire

The Watsonsons

TOPIC TSCD563 (PLANET DIST.)



Frost And Fire, subtitled A Calendar of Ritual and Magic Songs, was the Watsonsons' first album, recorded in 1965 after their discovery by Bill Leader. It had a huge impact on the British folk scene, and even influenced the eclectic rock and folk-rock scenes as well.

It's a concept album with songs that follow the passage of the year - accompaniments to seasonal ceremonies and rituals. It begins

and ends with wassail songs "Here We Come A-Wassailing" and "Wassail Song" and in between includes "Jolly Old Hawk", "Seven Virgins", "The Holly Bears A Berry", "John Barleycorn", "Harvest Song", "Souling Song", "Christmas Is Now Drawing Near At Hand" and others, 14 in all.

Norma, Lal and Mike Waterson are joined by their second cousin John Harrison (this is the only recording he made with them, being replaced later by Martin Carthy) to form a gutsy a cappella group singing in neat 4-part harmony with a totally authentic ring.

Excellent remastered and repackaged, the booklet has extensive notes and historic photos and there's a slipcase as well. Not long in duration, but an important landmark re-release for the serious folk music collector and lovers of unaccompanied singing.

Sound, Sound Your Instruments of Joy



The Watsonsons

TOPIC TSCD564 (PLANET DIST.)

Recorded in 1977, this album appears for the first time on CD. It contains a collection of sacred songs including wassail songs, carols, hymns, camp meeting pieces and folk songs. These include "God Bless The Master", "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks", "Heavenly Aeroplane",

"Come All Ye Faithful Christians", "Morning Trumpet" and others, 14 in all.

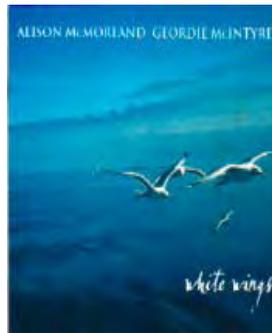
In 4-part harmony a cappella Lal, Mike and Norma Waterson and Martin Carthy provide a bold distinctive rough-edged sound. Compared to the Watsonsons' neater debut Frost and Fire of 1966, there's less restraint here so the singing is characterised by spontaneous exuberance. The authority however is just the same in these historically important performances.

Nicely remastered and repackaged, this is an album for serious folk music collectors.

White Wings

Alison McMorland and Geordie McIntyre

Greentrax CDTRAX306 (Planet Distribution.)



A fine single-minded album of fourteen Scottish ballads sung a cappella or with sparse sensitive accompaniment on fiddle, concertina, whistle, guitar, banjo, jaw harp and mouth organ.

Alison McMorland hails from Renfrewshire and has been singing and recording for many years, having worked closely with traditional singers such as Willie Scott and Lucy Stewart. Geordie MacIntyre is a Glaswegian of Highland and Irish descent who

likewise is steeped in ballad singing and poetry, having recorded his first album in 1973 for Topic, and having performed for many years at clubs and festivals far and wide.

There's a high level of dedication apparent in these recordings that have an effectively simple homespun feel. The picturesque ballads, like The Virginia Maid, The Shoreheid Boat, Here's A Health To All True Lovers, John Barleycorn, MacCrimmon's Lament and Farewell To The Bens not only evoke bold images of the Scottish environment - beautifully bleak vistas, winding roads, bustling ports, roaring seas, tilled fields and homely fires - but also convey the delights and poignant aches of love, labour and travel.

Alison's daughter Kirsty Potts adds vocals to three tracks, suggesting that this important vocal tradition, presented here with such strength and geniality, is happily being passed on to the next generation.

Lyrics and interesting notes on the origins of the songs, which come from both oral and printed traditions, are provided.

The straightforward presentation belies the depth of this album and it's well worth giving it a few spins to really soak it up properly..

CD Reviews by Julius Timmerman.

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folk trax

I don't know about your neck of the woods but here in South Australia we have winter. The wind howls outside and the rain is coming down, at the time of writing that is. I suppose just what we need. Inside it's nice and warm with the fire giving a warm orange glow. Turn on the CD player and put on some of the great new CDs available from Folk Trax. Enjoy the fabulous double Anthology CD from Gary Shearston called 'Here and There', 'Now and Then'. On the horizon is the new CD from Mark Davidson, 'Laughter in the Clay'. Also available now are these new releases, From Scotland there are CDs by Wolfstone, 'Terra Firma' and the 'Tannahill Weavers', 'Live and in Session' as well as an instrumental CD from The Finlay McDonald Band called 'Re Echo'. We also see the release of a new CD by Steve Ashley (remember him?) called 'Time and Tide'. Another new one is from the Irish band Beoga.

That one is called 'Mischief'. We are slowly putting all the back catalogue of Greentrax on the website. Keep checking because there are many of them and it will take some time. While you're at it look at all the other new CDs that are now online.

Don't forget to claim your 10% discount if you are a reader of the Folk Rag or a member of the Folk Federations on the list, it just about gives you free postage!

The latest news is that Folk Trax has moved into the city of Adelaide. It is now located at 10 Byron Place, Adelaide within the EBI Shop.

I can now also be contacted on 08 8211 7635. Just ask for Henk.

Back to the warmth of the lounge, good music and a nice hot chocolate!

That'll do me for now.

Keep on Folking

Henk de Weerd

Advertising Rates			
Size mm		Members	Non-Members
Full page	180x250	\$80	\$120
1/2 page	180x125	\$40	\$70
1/4 page	90x60	\$25	\$50
1/8 page	45 x 30	\$15	\$35
Back cover	180x250	\$100	\$150
2 + issues	per month	\$90	\$130

Please contact the editor for enquiries about advertising - artwork needs to be with the editor by first Friday of month. Tel: 02 6493 6758

Insert Rates:

Single-sheet DL size or A5. Members \$70 Non-Members \$130

A4, folded to DL size or A5. Members \$90 Non-Members \$160

A4 should be folded. The number of inserts per issue is limited.

Please contact Dallas and Jim Baxter, 9810 4131. baxjam@folkfednsw.org.au Offers of help for the wrap are appreciated.

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

focus on folk



The Program of the Folk Federation of NSW 2MBS 102.5

Sat. 11 August - 6PM

Paul Jackson - Songs from Australian Performers

"All music will be written or sung by Australian performers, including Gary Shearston, Dennis Gibbons, Ted Egan and Walters and Warner with many others."

Sat. 25 August - 6PM

John Milce - War and Peace

"To-days program features songs concerning War, from stirring traditional songs celebrating famous victories to more recent songs about the futility of war, and the heartbreak and sorrow it causes."

Anyone with a CD that you would like to add to the library collection for consideration for airway please forward to

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

Sunday 9-10am 2HHH 100.1 FM

Northside Folk members produce a program of folk music. (Details Barry Parks 9807 9497 or bpparks@tpg.com.au)

Welcome To New Members

Lesley Orchiston - Willoughby, Sue Alvarez - Manly
 Martin Boyman - Ermington, Dawn Chalker - Caringbah
 Terry Clinton - Camperdown, Immanuel Creagh - Dapto
 Marcus McLennan - Centennial Park, Peter Miller-Robinson
 - Centennial Park, Christina Mimmocchi - St Pauls, Mary Naylor
 - Berowra, Bill Quinn - Civic Square ACT, Solidarity Choir - Anandale, Graeme and Philamena South - Wahroonga

The Folk Federation of NSW Membership Application Form

Name/s:

Address:

Eve Ph:

Day Ph:

Mobile:

Email:

Include me on 'Folkmail', the members email listserv.

Membership Type (Tick one)

Individual - \$25

Family (more than one in same household) - \$30

Other name/s:

Affiliate (organisation) - \$35

Contact Name:

Total enclosed:

(for ____ year/s)

The membership year runs from 1st May to 30th April or from 1st Nov to 31st Oct. Allowances are made in your favour for people joining at other times. Send to Folk Fed (address & contact details for Membership Secretary on inside cover).

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ISSUE #22

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News, reviews and information on traditional and contemporary music, dance and poetry as well as reports on live performances and festivals.

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**4TH SYDNEY
IRISH·SET·DANCE
WEEKEND**

featuring

Gerard Butler

Gerard is a widely acclaimed and highly sought after Set and Sean nós dance teacher from Co. Roscommon, Ireland. He has taught all over Ireland, Europe, Asia and America – and now Australia!

He taught and performed with the Elphin Set Dancers winning 9-All Ireland Set Dance titles and 3-English championships, dancing the Roscommon set – their local set. Ger also completed a world tour with *Rhythm of the Dance* in which he performed Sean nós and played percussion.

Over two days Ger will teach you steps, sets, sean nós and 2-hand dances with 'wit and grace' and a flair for entertainment. Follow the Saturday workshop by kicking up your heels with a live music céilí.

Saturday 18th - Sunday 19th August

@ The Harp Hotel, 900 Princes Hwy, Tempe

Saturday Workshop (10:30am - 4:30pm) Saturday Night Céilí (from 8pm)

Sunday Workshop (1pm - 4pm)

Contact: Trish (02) 9580 4865

www.harpirishsetdancers.com