

THE CORNSTALK GAZETTE

THE UMINA BEACH FOLK FESTIVAL



Authentic Andes with Inka Marka



Elena



Mad Cow Theatre Performers

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From The Editor

Dear Readers

I do hope you have a fine Christmas and a fun filled New Year.

There will be no Cornstalk next month but my computer and I will be waiting for your contributions for the next issue out in February.

Take care on the roads if you are travelling this holiday. Thank you for your help and support during the past twelve months.

Thanks to Bob Bolton for supplying me with some great photographs. Bob is the artist who created the wonderful drawings and etchings which are such fun as fillers.

Thanks to Julie Bishop too for all her help.

Thanks to Wayne Richmond for looking after our website.

Cheers

Coral Vorbach

December

How to contribute

Cornstalk is a vehicle for expression of news and views from the folk community in New South Wales and welcomes contributions of news, reviews and other relevant items.

Contributions via email are most welcome. Please forward in plain text or email us in plain text as part of the email. Cornstalk also accepts copy on floppy disk or on paper.

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Folk Federation of NSW Inc.

Any person, organisation or event herein published is not necessarily connected with the Folk Federation.

All copy is required by the deadline date and cannot be accepted after Critical items may be referred to the person or persons concerned and a reply solicited.

The Cornstalk Gazette is printed 11 times annually. Every membership includes a free subscription. Cornstalk is also available at selected outlets.

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

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
Adverts 4th January 2005
Editorial 11th January 2005 (FIRM)

Photographs from Umina Beach Festival courtesy Cec Bucello

Photograph of Arch & Leesa's wedding courtesy Bob Bolton

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Full page	180x250	\$60	\$85
1/2 page	180x125	\$30	\$55
1/4	90x60	\$20	\$45
1/8	45x39	\$15	\$35

Back cover - \$100 first month, \$170 for 2 months, \$220 for 3 months.

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The number of inserts per issue is limited, so please ring first. Contact Julie Bishop, 95240247

Single-sheet DL size or A5 inserts. Mem bers: \$70 Non Members: \$130

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Offers of help for the wrap are regarded kindly by the small team of volunteers.

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

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Next Committee Meeting
FFNSW
Please check with
Secretary
9564 0763

**"OH SUSANNAH"
FARM STAY, TARALGA**



**Relax in the peace of the Australian bush,
amongst the gum trees, with lovely views**

All the comforts of home, and more!

Self-catering kitchen (incl. microwave)

Barbecue area on balcony

Log fire, and generous woodpile

Ideal for family, or groups, and for music-making

**Great for children - and they will love the miniature horses
(but no riding, please)**

Sleeps 8 - own linen required

Complimentary bottle of red or white on arrival

All this for flat rate of \$100 per night!



**Contact Susan Hopwood,
02 9526 2994 (mobile) 0417 669 059
[Taralga is in the Southern Tablelands of NSW:
north of Goulburn, east of Crookwell.]**

Dates For Your Diary

Sydney, Central Coast,
Wollongong, Newcastle and Blue
Mountains

THURSDAY 2ND DECEMBER

North By Northwest Poetry and Folk Club - John Warner - "The Millennium of the Child" and Christmas Get Together,

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. and first turn left up towards Victoria Rd, then left again at the top. Pedestrian access from Victoria Rd if travelling by 500/501 bus. \$12/\$10. Jenny 9559 3658 (h)/0414 903 259 (m), Email: jdcarter@iinet.net.au Tony 9858 7882 (w), 0409 784 689 (m).

FRIDAY 3RD DECEMBER

□ **Dang-Lyn-Moon Acoustic Music Club** – Christmas Party Under the Stars (weather permitting). The Best of Bush and Country from the Inland Navigators Mooney Mooney Workers - Bowling Pavilion Mooney Mooney 8pm Details: Ph Jackie (02) 9985-8309 www.easy.com.au/dulce

□ **The Harp Hotel** – Kristina Olsen (USA) 8PM 900 Princes Hwy, Tempe. 9559 6300

□ Folk Club Christmas Blackboard and Ssion night, Wongawilli Community Hall.

SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER

Beecroft Bush Dance, with **Ryebuck**, 8pm-midnight, Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft Rd. Anthony 9417 4210. www.bushmusic.org.au

SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER

The Harp Hotel – Penelope Swales - 8PM 900 Princes Hwy, Tempe. 9559 6300

TUESDAY 7TH DECEMBER

□ **Sutherland Folk Club Session Night**. Sutherland District Trade Union Club Gynea.. Contact: Linda 9527 1563 or Betty 9528 2193.

□ **The Harp Hotel** – Jodi Martin and Heather Frahn 8PM 900 Princes Hwy, Tempe. 9559 6300

THURSDAY 9TH DECEMBER

□ **Sutherland Folk Club** The Handsome Strangers – 7.30 pm. Sutherland District Trade Union Club Gynea. Contact: Linda 9527 1563 or Betty 9528 2193

□ **The Bisserov Sisters** (Bulgaria) in concert, with Martenitsa Choir, Macedonian Dance Ensemble Ilinden, Kim Sanders. Footbridge Theatre, 2pm. Ticketek 9266 4800

FRIDAY 10TH DECEMBER

□ **Illawarra Folk Club** Christmas Blackboard and Session Night, BYO nibbles, drinks. Wongawilli Community Hall.

□ **Bulgarian singing workshop**, with Bisserov Sisters and Martenitsa Choir. 6.30-9pm, \$35, Ultimo. Experienced singers welcome. Info, bookings, Penny 9997 2556, Janet 9810 4924

SATURDAY 11TH DECEMBER

□ A Royal Kind Of Christmas Loosely Woven's Christmas concert 7pm, Saturday 11th December 2004 Avalon Baptist Peace Church 2 George Street Avalon Enquiries: Wayne Richmond (9913 7788)

□ Almost Acoustic - Jigzag. Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre, 665A Darling St, Rozelle. Enquiries: Margaret (02) 9698 2206 or Gary 0414 240 014 Concerts start at 8pm; byog. Coffee and cake available; staff from the Sea Breeze café serve meals; parking available round the block at the back <http://freewebs.com/almostacoustic>

SUNDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2004

A Royal Kind Of Christmas Loosely Woven's Christmas concert 2pm, St Davids Church St Davids Avenue, Dee Why (next to the police station) Enquiries: Wayne Richmond (9913 7788)

TUESDAY 14TH DECEMBER

Sutherland Folk Club Session Night - "Christmas Night." 7.30pm. Sutherland District Trade Union Club Gynea.. Contact: Linda 9527 1563 or Betty 9528 2193.

SATURDAY 18TH DECEMBER

□ Mummers Play, Wheeze and Suck Band and George Papavgeris (UK) (\$20/\$15) Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre, 665A Darling St, Rozelle. Enquiries: Margaret (02) 9698 2206 or Gary 0414 240 014 Concerts start at 8pm; byog. Coffee and cake available; staff from the Sea Breeze café serve meals; parking available round the block at the back <http://freewebs.com/almostacoustic>

□ **Balmain Bush Dance**, with **Southern Cross**, 8pm-midnight, Balmain High School, 25 Terry St, Rozelle. Dot 9876 6166. www.bushmusic.org.au

□ **Irish Christmas Ceili**, Harp Irish Pub, Princes Hwy, Tempe, 8pm-1am, with The Cooks River Ceili Band. All welcome, dances will be called. Alarna 0401 167 910, Trish 9580 4865

Christmas with Wongawilli, dancing and dinner, Albion Park Centenary Hall. Bookings (by 15 Dec), Pat Murray 4236 0097

FRIDAY 7TH JANUARY

Harp Hotel – Dick Gaughan (Scotland) - 900 Princes Hwy, Tempe. 9559 6300

SATURDAY 8TH JANUARY

SUMMER BBQ AND SESSION, at the home of Jenny O'Reilly and John Warner, **29 Earlwood Ave, Earlwood** - corner of Fricourt Ave and Earlwood Ave - enter by large gate in Fricourt Ave. 412 bus stops at door. BYOE. Contact Jenny/John 9559 3658, Jenny (mob) 0414 903 259 or email jdcarter@iinet.net.au for details.

SUNDAY 9TH JANUARY

Kris Demeanor and His Crack Band (CAN) 900 Princes Hwy, Tempe. 9559 6300

THURSDAY 13TH JANUARY

Kris Demeanor (Canada), and band, at Wongawilli Community Hall. 4226 1933

SATURDAY 15TH JANUARY

The Harp Kris Demeanor and His Crack Band (CAN) 900 Princes Hwy, Tempe. 9559 6300

SUNDAY 16TH JANUARY 2005

House Concert at Margaret and Allan's place at Engadine, Sydney featuring **Draiocht (Michael Rooney and June McCormack)** who play traditional Irish music on flute and harp. Contact Margaret 9520 6180 for further information

FRIDAY 21ST JANUARY

Gambian Dinner and Concert, with **Jali Buba Kuyateh**, world class kora player. Illawarra Folk Club, 4226 1933

THURSDAY 27TH JANUARY

The Harp, Peggy White (CAN) 900 Princes Hwy, Tempe. 9559 6300

SATURDAY 29TH JANUARY

Peggy White and Luke O'Neill, Illawarra Folk Club, 4226 1933

FRIDAY 4TH FEBRUARY

The Hottentots, Illawarra Folk Club, 4226 1933

Regional NSW and ACT

FRIDAY 3RD DECEMBER

"Settlers Night" Traditional Australian Music and Dance

SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER

The Hottentots, Heather Frahn

FRIDAY 10TH DECEMBER

The Spooky Men's Choral

FRIDAY 17TH DECEMBER

The Muse Christmas Party - Pattersons Curse, George Papavgiris

The Polish Australian White Eagle Club. www.travelty.com.au, 8pm. **Bill Arnett Ph/ Fax 6262 7265**

Yuin Folk Club

5TH DECEMBER

Our Annual Classical Concert. SOA Hall
2.00 pm. Bega Valley String Orchestra,
Heartsong, Montague Choristers. Fund-
raiser. All welcome Enq. Coral Vorbach
6493 6758

12th December - Christmas Party BYO
picnic lunch Enq. Lynn Handran Smith
64938119



Festivals, Workshops, Schools

27th December to 1st January.

Woodford Folk Festival, Qld. Early Bird
discounts. 07 5496 1066, fax 07 5496
3196, www.woodfordfolkfestival.com

31 December 2004 - 3 January 2005

Gulgong Folk Festival. <http://home.winsoft.net.au/worobil>

6th - 9th January 2005

Fleadh Nua, Jindabyne NSW
Traditional Irish Music. Enq. Kevin 02
9181 3365

25th, 26th January 2005

Numerella Folk Festival, Numerella NSW.
Enq. Bill Warren 0264533229 or Fiona
Wharton 0264533254

26th, 27th, 28th February

Cobargo Folk Festival (Special 10th
Anniversary). www.cobargofolkfestival.com
Enq. Graeme Fryer 02 6493 6758

4th - 6th March

☐ **Womadelaide.** World Music Festival
botanic Park Adelaide. www.womadelaide.com.au

☐ **Port Fairy Folk Festival.** Enq. pff@portfairfolkfestival.com

18th, 19th, 20th March 2005

☐ **Blue Mountains Folk Festival** <http://www.bmff.org.au/>

☐ **Yackendandah Folk Festival** folkfestival@yackendandah.com

24th - 28th March 2005

☐ The National Folk Festival - Easter 2005
Check out the website at www.folkfestival.asn.au
for ticket details or call 02 6249
7755 or e-mail info@folkfestival.asn.au.

Folk News

Folk Rag

Our best wishes to longtime *Folk Rag* (Qld) editor June Nichols, who says that "because of ongoing health problems", she has handed over the reins to Julie Dendle, Julie McGonigal, and Mary Brettell (internet edition) "for the foreseeable future". She thanks them, and Debbie Budd, Roger Holmes and others "for stepping in with both feet. Also I would very much like to thank Don, my husband, for all his support over the years."

Contacts are now: JulieD@FolkRag.org,
07 3397 1154; JulieMc@FolkRag.org,
Deb@FolkRag.org, and (internet)
Mary@FolkRag.org

Return of Cloudstreet

[From *Folk Rag*, Nov 2004.]

Popular duo Cloudstreet (Nicole Murray and John Thompson) are back from their 18-month tour of the UK. After playing

most of the major festivals in Australia since 2000, with two successful recordings, they left sunny Queensland in May 2003; but they were an unknown act in England. A massive mailout of CDs and bios in late 2002 led to bookings at 12 folk clubs and festivals, over 6 months, all for very little in the way of fees.

An early setback was having their campervan stolen after only three weeks. But they managed to overcome this and continued to explore the hundreds of clubs across England. They scoured the many small folk magazines published in the UK. The usual pattern was to find a club, contact the organiser to arrange a floor spot (usually 2 or 3 songs), and to see what the committee made of how Australians do trad. This proved to be an extremely successful strategy, with all but one turning into gigs later in the tour. They got to as many festivals as possible, and sang at ballad sessions and singarounds up and down the country. It turned out to be a huge advantage to be able to stay in England for so long, as many of the clubs book in excess of 12 months in advance.

cloudstreet

hot harmonies and beautiful ballads

www.cloudstreet.org

Tuesday 7 December 8pm
Cafe Church



37 St John's Road (cnr Colbourne Ave), Glebe
Admission: \$15/12 : Group
discounts available
Enquiries: Margaret Walters (02) 9698 2206
mwalters@mail.usyd.edu.au

Cloudstreet are back! Brisbane-based duo, Nicole Murray and John Thompson return to Australia after an 18-month tour of the United Kingdom during which they shook the English folk scene to its foundations. Their trademark

innovative and exciting vocal harmonies bring new life to the great songs of the English and Australian traditions. Cloudstreet's sense of fun, fabulous arrangements and well-matched, gorgeous voices add up to a great night's entertainment and put an indelible smile on the faces of their audiences.

Also appearing: The Rosewood Project - Maree Robertson & Friends

An adventurous performer and organiser, Maree Robertson is a profound lyricist; her impressive vocal skills and choice of songs are sure to get you thinking and feeling with passion. Maree is accompanied by Tony Eardley - a sensitive guitarist and also a singer and songwriter with a growing reputation for his poetic song writing and soulful interpretation of both traditional and contemporary folk music.

Continued from p 5)

The work slowed down over winter, and the two holed up in Walsall at a friendly folkie's house. November and December were used to chase bookings for 2004, with John constantly on the web and on the phone. Sufficient bookings were put together to live off music from January onwards.

The tour involved five trips to Scotland, two to Ireland and one to Wales, with dozens of performances at folk clubs and festivals across the UK. In May, they recorded a third CD, *The Fiddleship*, which has been selling well and receiving rave reviews. A further tour of the UK is planned for August-October in 2005. Cloudstreet will be performing at the Woodford Folk Festival. www.cloudstreet.org.

Folk Research

[From *Folk Rag*, Nov 2004.] Phil Thomas from Penarth, South Wales in the UK has begun a Masters degree in World Music Studies at Sheffield University. His topic is unaccompanied folksinging, particularly songs of protest and political activism. As a way of gaining information from those who sing (and protest) in the traditional way, he has set up a discussion forum at folkingaround.blogspot.com so interested people can read his views and air their own. Phil would be pleased if as many people as possible take the time to visit the site and contribute to the discussion.

Acoustic Fusion Music Sessions

We are launching the "Acoustic Fusion Music Sessions" and open mike night starting this evening at the Woy Woy Bowling Club. This will be held on the **first and third Tuesday** night of each night from 6.30pm till around 10.30pm. Our idea is to give singer/song writers an opportunity to perform their original material, to an audience also encouraging other local musicians of all styles to come and perform. It is absolutely free.

We are seeking an Adult Contemporary feel with all categories of music from rock/pop, blues & roots, country, folk, Jazz, World, Bush even spoken word would be welcomed. Only the cover band and karaoke performers which are already well catered for in many pubs and clubs around the Coast not fitting the criteria.

An "**Acoustic Fusion Showcase**" will be held the last Friday of the month with performers largely being chosen from those participating in the Tuesday sessions.

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Congratulations

Tilli Kirsten Affley was born on the 9th October 2004 in Melbourne to the delight of Paddy and Zola Affley brother Declan and 'grandmother' Colleen Burke.

Congratulations to proud grandmother Amalina Wallace and new mother Shunanda on the birth of Rose Marie (Rosie) born 11th October 2004. Welcome Rosie!

Vale

Ben Shabalala of Ladysmith Black Mambazo Killed in Durban South Africa - According to the US record label for Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Ben Shabalala, brother of Ladysmith Black Mambazo founder and leader Joseph Shabalala, was killed in unknown circumstances on June 16 in a suburb of Durban, South Africa.

Ben first joined Ladysmith Black Mambazo in 1979 and was part of the group during Paul Simon's Graceland recording and subsequent tour. He retired from the group in 1993 to spend more time at home with his family. His voice was an integral part of the Ladysmith Black Mambazo sound that captivated audiences worldwide through the popularity of the Graceland album -- which won the Grammy Award for album of the year in 1986. Ladysmith Black Mambazo also won a Grammy in 1987 for their recording Shaka Zulu, of which Ben was also a part.

New Irish Music Venue for Sydney's North

The Shamrock Inn, an Irish Pub in Asquith Leagues Club, Alexander Parade Waitara is to be the new home of traditional and Irish folk music in Sydney's north. From November the Club will host Irish Sundays every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month from mid-day through to 3pm. The "Shamrock" is a great venue and the afternoon will feature songs and tunes from the resident Irish duo, Gael M^or, sing-a-longs and Irish dancing. If you're interested in performing you'll need to contact .

Irish Sundays are free and you're welcome to come along and enjoy the music, sing-a-long in the chorus songs or just sit and enjoy a pint. Asquith Leagues Club is easily accessible by public transport. Take the north shore line and alight at Waitara Station. Exit left into Alexandra Parade and the Club and Shamrock Inn are 100yards on the left and you don't need to be a member to come along. There are also BBQ facilities on offer or hearty meals from the Bistro.

Traditional Irish Music Session:

The Shamrock Inn will also be the venue for an Irish Session every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7.30 - 10.30pm. It's an open session and all session musicians are welcome with the focus on tunes rather than songs.

Arch and Leesa Bishop's Wedding



The most memorable celebration at the last Illawarra Folk Festival was the beautiful ceremony conducted by Rev Jane Faulkner for the wedding of Leesa and Arch Bishop. It involved a number of well known folkies who bedecked themselves in wonderful attire for official positions as well as the assembled throngs of well wishers, who sat upon the ground around the Grove.

Since the joyous announcement of their engagement at Gulgong NewYear, I have noticed them working together providing good, wholesome tucker for folkies; often working in primitive condition. They always have a cheery word and have kept their smiles in the heat, rain and cold. Any couple who can give as generously as they have deserve to stay as happy as they appeared on that Saturday afternoon. Towards the end of the ceremony, a number of us apprehensively watched black clouds gather, but even these could not threaten the good spirits of the lovely wedding.

Along with those who were present many other folkies will be extending the warmest of wishes for the future of Leesa and Arch together.

Dale Dengate.

Bringing It Back To The Folk

The award of a national folk fellowship will enable folklorist Graham Dodsworth to rejuvenate and repopularise many of Australia's forgotten folk songs.

The joint National Library of Australia / National Folk Festival Fellowship, now in its second year, is awarded annually for a project that will revitalise the collected folk songs gathered over decades into the NLA's archives. The decision to award the Fellowship to Graham was announced in October at the National Convention of Folk Alliance Australia.

Graham, who has a Masters Degree in Australian Folklore, submitted a plan for a project that will entail selecting little-known songs from the collections of such people as the late John Meredith, arranging them in a way that reinvigorates them without corrupting their traditional essence, then making them available to the public via recordings and public performances at the National Folk Festival.

It is envisaged that songs will be compiled for inclusion on a CD and songbook, as well as making bytes of the music from the National Library available online, to encourage people to make

their own journeys of discovery into the archives.

"My main concern one that John Meredith shared is that Australian people should be listening to these songs that are reflections of our cultural heritage," says Graham.

"What we have in these collections isn't an invented heritage but the real, raw material, a cross-section of the genuine thoughts of the *people in the street* through the ages. To make these songs available to the people of Australia today will give back to them the thoughts and attitudes of those who have gone before, concepts with which they can identify. Having online access to the songs will hopefully encourage some people to go to the archives, find the old material and arrange it for themselves."

Mark Cranfield, head of the Oral History and Folklore Branch at the NLA, says that traditional songs are a crystallisation of the country's oral history. "We wanted to grant the Fellowship to someone we felt could translate the traditional into a form that resonates in today's society," he says. "It is important to see traditional material as an inspiration, that will generate a new, unique tradition."

Program Manager of the National Folk Festival, Graham McDonald, is also one of the selection panel.

"The Festival is very pleased with

this decision," he says. "We're sure that Graham Dodsworth will continue the excellent standards set by the previous Fellowship recipients, Jane Brownlee and David De Santi."



Updating Contacts for Cornstalk and The Folk Federation Website

We are currently updating the listing of sessions in Cornstalk and on the Folk Fed web site.

Please contact Ben Stephenson with details - what when who where why etc.

Contact Ben on 0408 935 877 or email: mailto:ben@troubleinthekitchen.com

Festival of Irish Music



Fleadh Nua

Jindabyne NSW

6th - 9th January 2005 (inclusive)



- Traditional Irish Music
- Old Time Dancing
- Song and Dance
- Concerts & Workshops
- Ceili
- Accordion, Banjo, Concertina & Dancing
- Set & Step

Featuring: All Ireland Champions June McCormack and Michael Rooney flute and harp, Mossie Martin fiddle, accordion player Caroline Frawley all from Ireland, NSW Irish Pipe Band and local Irish singers and musicians from all over Australia.

Teaching: flute, harp, violin and accordion (pupils must register by phone or fax)

Kevin: Phone/Fax: (0299991813365 or 0401 827 460

irishmusiciansssydney@hotmail.com www.irishmusiciansssydney.com

Supporting Fr Chris Riley's Youth Off The Street" and the Jindabyne Bush Fire Brigade

Report to Folk Federation NSW of the 5th National Folk Convention, Adelaide, 15-17 Oct 2004

The 5th Convention of our national folk arts organisation, Folk Alliance Australia, was once again hosted by the South Australian Folk Federation. The South Australian Folk Centre is a dedicated performance space, shop and resource centre acquired by the SA Folk Fed a few years ago. It's ideal for the purpose of a meeting like this one. The formal program offered a mixture of talks and discussions about promotion of folk music and dance in Australia, and showcase concerts providing snapshots from performers who are not yet household names in the festival scene. Informally, the convention provided an excellent opportunity for networking, with participants basically on site for the duration. Food was provided at the Folk Centre and the relaxed timetable was planned to facilitate these opportunities.

The program covered many issues of interest to folk performers, ranging from amateur through to professionals or would-be professionals. Workshop topics tended to favour the professional or semi-professional end of the music spectrum, which was no doubt of interest to the showcase performers, who numbered approximately half of total convention goers.

The most significant issues for Folk Federation NSW that I was able to listen in on or participate in were:

- Public liability insurance, forum and subsequent discussion;
- Looking after the health of folk clubs; and
- Opportunities and responsibilities for folk federations like our own.

Public Liability Insurance

My impression is that musicians and organisers are quite deeply divided on their opinions of how to deal with current industry requirements. At one end are the folk who are looking out for the most economical and safest ways to take out insurance, and will accept that it becomes a requirement of future festival participation for all performers to have their own cover. At the other end are those who believe we should unite in refusing to go down that road, taking instead a pathway back to 'personal responsibility for one's actions' and educating the public away from its recently learned litigious mentality. As a performer, I tend to favour the latter point of view. As a member of the Folk Federation's executive I can only advise folk musicians, dancers and event organisers to keep talking about the problem. Many of us may have little choice about taking out PL insurance cover, but we need to keep reminding each other that demands for ever more insurance cover seem to grow at an inverse rate to thriving community and not-for-profit activity.

To give an idea of the range of discussion around this issue, following are some of the comments made to me. A prominent festival director suggested that as an industry we should reject the demands for each performer to have separate cover, especially for festivals. Several artists supported that call, and a nascent discussion about organising performers began. Another major festival organiser was very nervous about that. Someone who acts as an agent believes that any artist who doesn't have PL insurance cover will be unable to work in the near future. A performer in one of Australia's most successful bands working internationally on a regular basis, told me privately that they have made the decision to take out travel insurance but not PL insurance, on the grounds that 'what they do is not inherently dangerous and we believe in taking responsibility for our own actions'.

Folk clubs – I was not able to attend either of two

workshops convened by Bill Arnett from Merry Muse Folk Club, but understand that some very useful concepts emerged from discussion there. Contact Bill directly if you'd like to know more about those two workshops. From a Sydney perspective, I've become aware that young performers who impress me at festivals often come to Sydney to play, but don't use our existing folk networks at all. They play at commercial pubs and clubs and have their own email lists. I believe they see us as irrelevant, if they even know of our existence. Folk festivals seem to be straddling the generational divide much more successfully than our folk clubs and state based folk federations.

State folk federations – this was not a workshop topic but something which greatly interests me in my current role. I had discussions with a number of people from SA, Vic, ACT and NSW about our opportunities, responsibilities and limitations. I have come to see the issue of longevity within the committee as the biggest obstacle to our continued relevance, simply because it is impossible for one group of people, however dedicated or talented, to know and reflect the concerns of folk performers around the state. I suggest that the Folk Federation consider seriously the proposition of setting a time limit on the holding of committee positions including executive positions, as I believe it is the only way we can ensure renewal on the committee and the continued relevance of the Federation.

Showcase concerts - Doing a once-only 15-minute concert spot under the beady eye of festival directors from the National, Port Fairy, Woodford, Fairbridge and the Hawkesbury National Fiddle Festival is no easy feat but most of the performers carried it off very well indeed. This year there seemed to be an emphasis on singer-songwriter soloists and groups, and not so much at the traditional end of the folk spectrum. As part of the audience, I'd recommend the showcase concerts as a wonderful appetizer for what's out there.

For a full list of workshop topics and keynote talks, visit the FAA website <http://www.folkalliance.org.au/>

Thanks to the Folk Federation of NSW for partially funding my participation, and congratulations to FAA for a stimulating convention.

Christine Wheeler

Dance News

Gulgong Folk Festival

There will be a full weekend of dancing at Gulgong at New Year (31 December to 3 January). Besides the New Year's Eve Mayne Street dance, and other evening dances, there'll be lots of fun, and learning, in the dance workshops. They will include Irish, English, Colonial, and American contra dance, with well-known callers. Enq, Margaret Winnett 9150 6765 - wnntt@tpg.com.au.



From The Folk Clubs

Almost Acoustic

Jigzag 13th December - Joyous, delicious, vivacious, fresh, dynamic, high-spirited, energetic, heartfelt, uplifting, illuminating, inspiring, captivating, engaging, irresistible: an exuberant blend of acoustic folk/pop with a jazzed up, funky heart. The music of JIGZAG is filled with hope and passion and drive, illuminating lyrics and dynamic instrumentation, lush harmonies and joyous energy.

Since 1998, Liz Frencham (double bass, SASE bass, vocals), Caroline Trengove (violin, viola, percussion, vocals), and Greg Bryce (acoustic guitar, vocals) have been following the path of independent music-making together from their base in Sydney, Australia appearing at every major folk festival in Australia, and everywhere else from tropical resorts to corporate conferences topping CD sales, and inspiring rapturous audience responses wherever they go. You really do have to see it to believe it - audiences ranging in age from 3-73 bopping along with their gorgeous lilting melodies, and being touched by the clarity of their musical integrity. These are folk who are not afraid to be silly, sincere, sad and slinky sometimes all at once!

Mummers Play, Wheeze and Suck Band and George Papavgeris (UK) (\$20/\$15) 18th December.

George Papavgeris is another writer who sings the praises of ordinary people. He was born in Salonika, Greece but has been a folkie in England for over thirty years. Relatively recently he took up writing songs which have had people like Andy Irvine, Robb Johnson, Roy Bailey, Martyn Wyndham-Read and Vin Garbutt seeking to perform them. His well-crafted songs have that instant "trad" feel about them, choruses you just fall into and insightful commentaries on the lives of ordinary people. And like the best songwriters - there's a range of emotions and no shortage of humour.

There's a few Australian connections - his song "Empty handed" for one. Contributors to his newest album "Ordinary Heroes" include Queensland's "Cloudstreet" who incidentally have made quite a name for themselves in their sojourn in the UK. George is visiting family in Australia in December and you can catch him at Almost Acoustic in Sydney 18th December.

Wheeze and Suck re as ethnic as John Bull, rarer than goals scored by the English soccer squad and more entertaining than a theatre full of Riverdancers.

To add to an already spectacular evening, members of the Wheeze and Suck band along with members of the Sydney Morris Men will present a Mummers Play - a traditional piece of theatre symbolising the death of the old year and the birth of the new. Not to be missed. Mayhem aplenty.

Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre 665A Darling St, Rozelle
Enquiries: Margaret (02) 9698 2206 or Gary 0414 240 014 <http://freewebs.com/almostacoustic>
Concerts start at 8pm; \$15/\$12 byog. Coffee and cake available; staff from the Sea Breeze café serve meals; parking available round the block at the back

Almost Acoustic is organised by a sub group of the Folk Federation of NSW.

North By Northwest Folk Club

What a fabulous night it was in November, as we celebrated **North By Northwest's** 7th birthday with the **Wheeze and Suck Band**, a fine collection of floor spots and a super singing audience which was in top form! There were noteworthy performances by poets **Robert and Lois Lennard**, **Penelope Grace** (*The Tragedy of the Lost Sporan!*), **Pip Griffin**, and **Aitch** (*in bush poet mode*), and fine music from **John Warner**, **David Spira** and **Tony Pyrzakowski**, and **Margaret Walters**.

One of the things which makes a night with **The Wheeze and Suck Band** special, is the way they make us - the audience - a part of the joyful music-making process. They had us singing right from the beginning with "*Here we come A'wassailing*" and "*Turpin Hero*" There were beautiful harmonies from Lol, Nigel, Ian and Tony - there was Nigel on the "cricket bat" for "*Yeller Girls*" - another singalong. But the standout song of the night for me was their arrangement of "*Johnny's gone for a soldier*" - haunting, beautiful and moving. There were plenty of the old English tunes they are well known for, like "*Biker Hill and Elsie Marley*" and "*The Derby Ram*". Ian leapt around with the melodeon, John boomed on the drums and Tony played his amazing fiddle. The evening culminated in all of us singing "*Down in the River*". Add to that a lovely birthday cake and a warm glow which came not only from the candles, but from the joy of singing with friends - it had to be one of our best nights ever!

Our final folk club night for the year will be on 2nd **December** **John Warner** will be presenting his new work, "**Millenium of the Child**". John, a member of the Roaring Forties, is a talented songwriter and singer, already well known for his moving and sensitively written songs which have been recorded and sung here and overseas, and for his riotous chorus songs for children. Floorspots with a Christmas flavour will be especially welcome as well on this night. There will be some festive goodies to enjoy too, so come along and share the yuletide spirit!

In **January**, there will be no regular folk club on Thursday night, but as we have done in previous years, on **Saturday night 8th January**, we will be having our **Summer BBQ and Session** at the home of Jenny O'Reilly and John Warner, **29 Earlwood Ave, Earlwood**. Arrive from **6pm** and bring grog, meat, salad, chair, voices and instruments for an enjoyable evening under the big tree. We will supply nibbles, bread rolls, hot potatoes and of course, the BBQ to cook on. We are on the corner of Earlwood Ave and Fricourt Ave. Enter via the large gate in Fricourt Ave. The **412** bus stops right at the door.

The Cornucopia is one of the best acoustic venues in Sydney. Entry is \$12/\$10. There will be hot and cold drinks and yummy food for sale. BYO's are welcome and floor spots are available. We meet at 8pm on the first Thursday of the month in the Cornucopia Cafe, in the grounds of the Old Gladsville Hospital, corner of Victoria Rd and Punt Rd Gladsville. See **Dates for your Diary, or Folk Contacts** for directions.

Enquiries - Jenny / John 9559 3658 (h) / 0414 903 259 (m) / jdcarter@iinet.net.au, or Tony 9858 7882 (w) / 0409 784 689 (m).

See you there! Jenny O'Reilly

Dang-Lyn-Moon Acoustic Music Club

Duos were the order of the evening at the November DLM with two superb acts - **Craig Kelly** (Guitar) and **Fiona McVicar** (Fiddle) and vocal harmonies from **Sarah Fogarty** and **Margie Salem**. It was a night crammed with good music with some newcomers to the club deserving a mention. Pam and Norm Merrigan got the night off to a flying start with some great Irish music, and were soon joined by Jackie and Greg to make up the Dang-Lyn-Moon Band. Visiting from Queensland was Roy Harbour who gave us a few fiddle tunes to get us in the mood for the Inland Navigators 25th Reunion which was held out at St Albans in the weekend. (A great time was had by all...but that's another story).

Also new to the club were Greg and Nina (Guitar/Accordian), both very fine players with an interesting range of material. Earlwood Greg was in fine form with some great acoustic blues numbers, and Vic gave us a couple of topical poems.

And all of this was before the main acts took the stage, both of whom had appeared at the club as floor spots earlier in the year. Sarah and Margie largely sing contemporary material with thoughtful arrangements and beautiful harmonies. Their strong voices and great choice of songs were enthusiastically received. Special note should also be made of the appearance of the next generation joining them on fiddle. The perfect compliment to this duos vocal excellence was the notable instrumental duo Craig and Fiona. These two musicians deliver Celtic music with a great

deal of musicality - it is great to see Fiona's fine interpretation of fiddle repertoire accompanied so expertly by Craig on guitar. This is instrumental music at its very best - imaginative arrangements expertly played.

If you didn't make it to the **Inland Navigators** reunion then don't despair. They are our guests again this year for the **Christmas party** on 3rd December. We're hoping to have it under the stars so come prepared with and we'll hope the weather stays dry.

Next year Dang-Lyn Moon is likely to change format - stay tuned for planned concerts early next year. Jackie 9985-8309 - <http://www.easy.com.au/dulce>

Sutherland Folk Club

The Handsome Strangers are our guests. Back by popular demand they delighted us with their talents when they appeared to do a floor spot earlier this year.

"The Handsome Young Strangers" are a group of musicians from the Shire who met whilst playing in various rock bands. Constantly meeting at shared gigs, friendships were struck and it soon became apparent that they shared a passion for Australian Folk music. Whilst still playing the rock circuit they decided it was time their contemporaries got a taste of the beauty and tradition that is Bush music and for the past year that has been their mission, playing to inner city audiences at Enmore and Surry Hills in Sydney along with more traditional gigs in towns such as Grenfell and Narromine.

The group swapped drum kits for lagerphones and les pauls for banjos and haven't looked back. Playing a mixture of traditional songs and original material, the Handsome Young Strangers bring the intensity of their years in rock bands to deliver powerful tales of bushrangers and other historic icons from Australia's past. The Handsome Young Strangers are: Dion Dickinson (vocals, banjo and mandolin), Andrew "Fredo" Donkin (vocals, lagerphone and blues harp), Damian Carroll (vocals and 12 string), Jason Mills (bass) and Mark Lewis (drums)

9th December Sutherland Folk Club 7.30pm at Sutherland District Trade Union Club, Manchester Rd, Gympie. Contact Linda 9527 1563 or Betty 9528 2193.

Yuin Folk Club

Nick Charles describes himself as a "travelling fingerpicker".

Nick is fond of Cobargo and revisited the School of Arts Hall for the October Club night.

A virtuoso of acoustic roots guitar, Nick attracted local guitar buffs along to swell the audience. They were rewarded with a diverse range of solo pieces revealing influences from Big Bill Broonzy, Django Reinhardt and even Lennon/McCartney. The latter being represented by a delicate interpretation of "Norwegian Wood" (from his latest CD "Travelling Experiences".)

Nick Charles is not only a fine guitarist but a complete entertainer.

The Yuin Folk Club proudly presents for its December concert "Our Annual Classical Night". This is a popular annual event and we are very fortunate to have Sir William Hawkey to conduct the Montague Choristers; Geoffrey Badger to conduct the Heartsong Choir. The highly acclaimed Bega Valley String Orchestra are to play "Brandenburg Concerto No 3" Johann Sebastian Bach. Conductor Nicholas Hazanoff.

This is a fundraiser for the club and all visitors are most welcome. - 5th December, 2004 2.00 pm. SOA Hall Cobargo. Enq. Graeme Fryer 02 6493 6758

10th Annual COBARGO Folk FESTIVAL

25th, 26th, 27th February 2005

Now established as the "best little festival in the country" - the Cobargo Folk Festival held in the picturesque village on the south coast of NSW is celebrating its 10th birthday.

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Market Stalls: 02 6493 6572

Volunteers: 02 6493 7374

cobargofolkfestival@bigpond.com

Weekendonsitecampingavailable(hotandcold showers)andavarietyofaccommodationnearby)

website:www.cobargofolkfestival.com



The Loaded Dog - Saturday 23rd October 2004

The Loaded Dog was something to look forward to for relief from the depression of the election result and it proved a real antidote. The program was a double bill of John Warner and Touchwood - the usual floor spot entrees contributed into more time for the excellent main courses, and a fine repast it was. John Warner started the night with the premiere of his new collection of songs (plus a couple of poems) "Millennium of the Child".

Other than "Pack O' Pirates" and the well-known "Llewelyn Walking", which I reckon is close to being the perfect folk song, there are eight new songs on the broad theme of children and childcare.

Drawing on his experience as a childcare worker, John covers the expected areas of learning and play, and the joy of small triumphs through to the big picture issues of market fundamentalism, the pay and conditions of childcare workers, paedophilia and even the burden that children bear in war and its aftermath.

John's great songwriting talent shone through on every song. His "Children of War" is a scari-fying account of the effect of war on children with an impassioned plea for a new and better millennium of the child. He followed that with a companion piece to Llewelyn called "Emily Jumping" where a toddler finds the courage to jump for the first time.

The next three songs touched on the workplace, "Leaving" tells of the reasons so many carers give up with "only their comrades know what is lost" when they go. "Paedophilia Panic" asks if the pendulum of concern has swung too far to the detriment of male carers and kids, while "More Blokes" is a call to arms for more men in the job. By using the universal form of a work song John linked the childcare burden to the hard and menial work of sailors and prisoners made easier by a song. Then he linked the work and play themes with consummate skill with "Dignity of Play". The chorus line says it all - "play is childrens' working day" - and yet another great chorus to sing. After a quieter interlude on separation with the delightful "Mum's Got To Go" he gave a rousing and tub-thumping John

Warner finish with "Sandpit Picket". If he had led the way the Dog audience would have been off down Johnston St "waving our bears and our buckets and our spades until this battle's won"! The volume of the chorus was a sure sign that John has a deservedly special place in the hearts of the Dog audience.

Then it was Touchwood's turn with a superbly warmed up crowd. Christina, Kate and Terry were just back from a European excursion still all fired up and with a brace of new songs. If you've never experienced Touchwood, it would be hard to explain just what an unusual assortment of material they can assemble into a performance. With 18 songs, introductions, asides and explanations we had a real treat. The harmonies were, as always, brilliant and worked well with an audience happy to join in when they could. Cellist Louise Watson also added her magic to several songs.

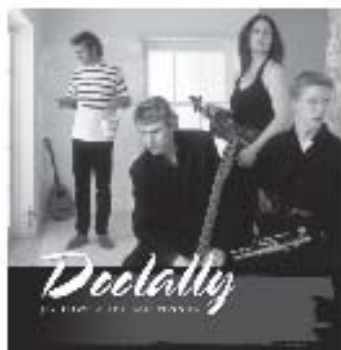
The first set ranged from "Flow My Tears" of 1601 to Kate's 2003 song "Cold" - performed in Leeds on the coldest summer day on record. The stand out item from the set was Christina's new arrangement of "Weevils in the Flour" with excellent use of vocal colour and with strong backing from the audience in the choruses. Apparently she put this one together as a song to trade at UK festivals, but they liked it so much they decided to keep it for themselves.

The second set ranged between Italy, England the USA and Australia over almost as broad a set of years and emotions. Besides the innovation of bluegrass cello on "Old Blevins" (yes, really), the other new item was the first performance of Christina's arrangement of Judith Wright's "Eroded Hills" which laments the destruction of her family's land.

The encore finale was Sandra's request of "Waltzing With Bears" with Touchwood accompanied by John Warner on bouzouki, a real highpoint of the evening to end on.

Chris Maltby

PS There were also two fine floor spots - Bill Scott played a fine little concertina polka between John Warner and Touchwood's first set, and John kicked off the second Touchwood set with the great choice of "Bring Out the Banners".



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Troubadour Folk Club Review

Our Troubadour Folk Club had a welcome return to the Woy Woy CWA hall in November, after several months in the Masonic hall. Featured guests this month were members of the Dang-Lyn-Moon Folk Club, a talented bunch of musicians.

The Dang-Lyn-Moon house band comprised members of Springtide and Gael Mor, Jackie Luke, Greg Wilson, Pam and Norm Merrigan. They kicked off with some fast Irish polka tunes. They sounded to me to be perfect dancing music to the balleyjourney jig set, a fast and popular Irish dance.

Then three-fifths of Fellowship of the Strings played and sang, Talia on guitar and vocals joining Jackie on vocals and hammer dulcimer, and Greg alternately on harp and accordion. The lovely sad song about the lily is still going around in my head this following morning.

Gael Mor played a mix of traditional Irish and Australian tunes, Pam singing and playing guitar, and Norm singing and playing accordion.

The other Dang-Lyn-Moon guest of the night was Andrew Browne, singing blues and playing guitar. He was joined later by Greg on concertina and mouth organ, and Norm on accordion.

Musical floor spots were from regulars Billy Rea and The Usual Suspects, with me being the only poet. And Bill Bekric sang, including his favourite and mine, Hallelujah. Marilyn Russell provided accompaniment for this one. Bill seemed worried that he sings it too often, but I don't think that's possible.

The audience did a lot of singing along, with performers choosing songs that enabled them to join in. I particularly liked the accordions, as I have a soft spot for them and don't often hear them. Also Jackie on the hammer dulcimer, and Greg on the concertina and mouth organ were great.

I was again struck by how much musical talent and skill we have available to us. So thanks to performers for all their hard work, and to the organisers for enabling us to hear it. And of course, to the women who always provide an excellent supper, with someone saying last night "This is the best supper of any of the folk clubs."

Featured guests on 10th December are the Hottentots, with Leon Rabin appearing on 14th January.

Operating A "Folk Club"

Hello Everyone

A big thanks to Cornstalk for providing this opportunity for me to reflect and report on my experiences at the recent FAA Conference.

I was invited by the conference organisers to conduct workshops where we could address the business of operating the ubiquitous "Folk Club". I seem to have achieved some notoriety around the place so that many people across the country see the Merry Muse in Canberra as a yardstick when it comes to such operations, hence the invitation.

To say I was flattered is an understatement as I have never believed that I have done anything much different from what I imagined others did in running other venues around the country. What I have done over time though is come to believe that I must have been doing "something" right to have achieved this notoriety. Therefore I formed the opinion that the FAA people wanted me to spread the gospel according to Bill, explaining the way I operate The Muse, as that MUST be the way all folk clubs should aspire to being..... HOW WRONG WAS I ???

The opportunity to catch up with other venue organisers in Adelaide, to hear Eric Bogle's keynote address and then to speak with him afterwards, PLUS the opportunity to reflect on various "attitudes" I have been exposed to over the three and a half years I have been running The Muse has left me with one message....

**KEEP DOING WHAT YOU'RE DOING IN WHATEVER STYLE YOU CHOOSE!
..... YOU ARE ALL AS RELEVANT AND AS IMPORTANT AS THE NEXT PERSON/
VENUE.....**

What's right for me personally and the folk scene in Canberra is not necessarily right for any other operator or any other place.

Whether a venue is good, bad or indifferent is purely subjective and can never, EVER be properly defined. Each one will ALWAYS be each of those descriptives to any number of individuals who visit them. The way that venues operate is as diverse and as colourful and as "correct" as is the breadth of material that informs our "genre" (whatever THAT is). The Folk scene suffers to a great degree from being so many things to so many people. Attempts to revitalise and renew our church have traditionally failed simply due to the size of that diversity. **DARE TO BE DIFFERENT AND DARE TO HAVE CONTINUING FAITH IN YOUR OWN INTERPRETATION.** Do not try to put people/venues/clubs into boxes. All you achieve is being like so many dollar-driven cloned enterprises designed by market researchers which only serve to line the pockets of those running them.

THAT IS NOT what Folk Music is all about!

Having said that, we are always interested in bringing new people into our midst (especially young people) so here are some little operational principles that might help in running whatever style of venue you choose to have.

- Be Consistent! Work hard to maintain the style and level of service your venue provides. Don't fall back for obvious reasons but also don't upgrade if that's not what your clientele wants. You will only leave a gap and disappoint your core patrons.

- Be Welcoming! Work hard each event to welcome new people and to encourage your regulars to spread the word. Use the Muse Rule. It's not copyrighted. I don't own it! The rule says: "Before you leave this place tonight/today you should say 'Hello!' to someone you did not know when you walked in here"

- Be professional in every way when it comes to presenting your product. Have a competent sound engineer (if you operate with PA). Have competent door people who can make reasonable decisions about letting people in without constantly referring to "the boss". Be lenient.

- Get into EVERY freebie advertising slot/opportunity in your neighbourhood. The levels of talent in our genre (especially at "main act" levels) is second to none. ABC radio is usually delighted to have live music of any genre in their studios. Most community radio stations also like folkie stuff. **USE EMAIL LISTS.**

Have faith in yourselves and ignore the naysayers
Bill Arnett

Letter To The Editor

I represent musician Davide Sanna. I am always looking for venues, festivals, and events for Davide's 2005 tour and beyond. I would appreciate your consideration for him playing at the Backroom Sessions.

Davide Sanna is an exemplary guitarist and performer from Sardinia. He combines styles that echo traditional folk roots mixed with his innovative approach to playing the guitar and composing. So far, 2004 has seen Davide touring around the world to such places as Australia, New Zealand, America, and Europe, promoting his album 'Beyond...'. It included some very intimate performances to some huge festivals. There were performances at amphitheatres in the rainforest, to some in the middle of the Red Centre (Australia), The Edinburgh Festival, and mud, mud, and more mud at Glastonbury, plus TV and radio appearances along the way, and it's not over yet!

Naturally enough the subject matter of Davide's songs is far from conventional. His country's sea faring history, its myths and its beauty often contend with affairs of the heart and a person's need to reach out beyond the limits of his environment and self as themes. Beautifully sung and vigorously performed, such songs are not quickly forgotten. However, Davide is not simply known for the quality of his song writing, but enjoys the respect and admiration of all those who have ever witnessed one of his performances. A virtuoso player, who accompanies his words with a musical authority born of brilliance, Davide Sanna is the complete artist.

We are looking to return to Oz and NZ in March/April 2005. Would you be interested in having Davide play at your venue? If you need any further info, or wish to discuss matters further, please do not hesitate to contact me. You may also wish to visit his official website for more of an insight into Davide and his music – www.davidesanna.com (Please visit the website in the first instance, wherever possible, to help us do our bit for the environment by saving on sending out unnecessary promo packs, thanks) Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon.
Best Wishes
Laura Blake

Umina Beach Folk Festival

The Umina Beach Folk Festival commenced with a school concert at Umina Public School. The concert was a thank you to the school for having the festival based there and it was very well received by the attentive, well behaved and well informed students.

Vic Jeffries, Lost'nFound, Us Not Them and the **Chris Fraser Duo** kept the full hall entranced.

Unfortunately, while the organisers did their best to have everything under control, the one thing they couldn't control was the weather as the drought broke on the day before the festival started and rain continued on the Friday.

This and other factors caused an extremely serious road accident on the F3 and closed the freeway, Australia's major Northern link from its largest city, for 15 hours.

The majority of the festival's Friday evening's performers were unable to get through.

The Mothers of Intention persisted and after 5 hours in the queue managed to arrive at 10pm for a 10.30pm concert.

Many festival visitors were also caught up in the traffic jam, turned back and decided to do something else on the weekend.

Nevertheless, festival numbers were up as was the income.

However, in view of the increased number of performers, concerts and venues, there was room for twice as many people at nearly all venues.

The quality of the the performers reached a new high this year with many new and well known acts coming together to create a wonderful festival.

The dance stream and the poets' breakfasts were well attended with top class presenters making both genres as good as you would get at any festival, anywhere.

Locals have been slow to embrace the festival with only a small proportion of people there being from the Central Coast.

However, those that did support it were very impressed and will be great ambassadors for future festivals as organisers see it as an education process.

The addition of stalls was a popular move and one that will grow in the future.

Gosford City Council also approved camping on public reserves two weeks before the event commenced.

With earlier notice in the future this may attract more visitors because of the

cheaper accommodation.

Dance displays also attracted a new audience and will need to be built upon for the future.

Sound and lighting quality was excellent and as all venues were undercover, the poor weather was not a problem.

The weather was perfect on the Saturday and not too bad on the Sunday until the last performer finished and then the Heavens opened up again.

The friendship made and atmosphere created at festivals have both been well documented and Umina was no exception.

Performers met other performers, guests met other guests and some met everyone in an atmosphere of peace and harmony that only folk festivals seem to be able to create.

There were far too many excellent performers, poets and presenters to single anyone out.

Those that were lucky enough to be three will have their favourites.

Simply put, the Umina Beach Folk festival is yet another highly recommended festival put on by a small number of committee members and volunteers for the enjoyment of anyone that is willing to support it simply by being there.

By the way, the \$1300 Cole Clarke guitar being raffled was won by Bill Bekric.

Thank you to all the hard working organisers and volunteers for yet another wonderful festival.
Cec Bucello



cd reviews

Bob McGowan – Finger Pickin’ Good

Distributed by Whalebone Music - Bob McGowan has been playing music since he was knee high to a grasshopper. Growing up in a musical family, (both his parents, his uncles and grandparents all played a variety of different instruments) it was natural that Bob would follow that tradition. He recalls playing at family functions when he was a youngster, playing what he says could only be described as “Old Timey Music”...(that’s folk music to you & me) and whilst he was still a young man, (he’ll tell you he’s STILL a young man) he fell in love with the music of folks like Doc Watson and Chet Atkins and then he heard the blues of Skip James, Son House and Robert Johnson and it was all over bar the shouting so to speak. He was lucky enough to meet a young American draft dodger who was hiding out in Melbourne who could really play this style of music. Needless to say, Bob hung out with him and learnt the intricacies of mountain music and delta style finger picking. That draft dodger was none other than Country Joe McDonald and Bob was able to learn first hand from a man who had learned 1st hand from the original masters.

During the ‘70’s he fronted ‘Uncle Bob’s Band’ who were extremely popular on the Melbourne music scene (they recently got back together to record an anniversary album, but that’s another story) and then he moved up country (as folks did in them days) and joined up with mandolin and fiddle player Ray Gardaya as The Front Porch Pickers, playing a mix of bluegrass and blues tunes. He was also a founding member of the Killers of Eden, whose CD of original tunes, “Under Eden Skies” still sells well today (most notably in Eden!!)

“Finger Pickin’ Good” is Bob’s 1st solo effort and was recorded in Melbourne (where Bob once again resides) with fellow ex-Killer Nick Timms engineering and producing. There are eight songs on this CD, a couple of Bob’s originals, ‘Ella Song’ and ‘Fishin’ From the Bar’ some old classic blues tunes, Earl Hines’ “Diddy Wah Diddy”, Blind Blakes’ “Make Me A Pallet On Your Floor” and the old standard, “Nobody Knows You When You’re Down & Out” (here called “Millionaire”) all arranged by Bob, plus a couple of fairly recent songs Bob said he’d heard on the radio or on RAGE and of course, there’s a Doc Watson medley.

This is a well played and well recorded CD which, whilst it doesn’t break any new ground, makes for very pleasant listening and would please any fans of this genre of music and it is a good primer into Bob’s musical roots. It is also an excellent starting point for newcomers who may then wish to delve back into the archives and seek out the pioneers. Bob is a fine finger picker, with whom I’ve had the pleasure of playing in the past and I look forward hopefully, to a CD of the Front Porch Pickers in the not too distant future. contact Bob on (03) 9531 8160

Janvier Musson



The Spelman Project Wind, Water and Metal

Andy Copeman

Although born in Brisbane Andy Copeman has had a 25-year professional music career in Western Australia playing in a variety of folk, world or rock ensembles. He’s a virtuoso multi-instrumentalist, composer, writer, singer, recording engineer and arranger.

On this highly creative second solo album he plays guitars, cittern, bass, oud, fiddle, kora, bodhran, didgeridoo, overtone flute, water bottle, Tibetan and Nepalese chimes, keyboards and sequenced percussion. He’s also added a touch of exotica by way of field recordings including wind chimes at the markets in Denmark WA, coastal sounds near Albany WA and church bells in Belgium. This passion for soundscapes forms the basis for what he calls “The Spelman Project”, a musical journey that conjures up the “dark recesses of the soul” with evocative songs and tunes mixed with natural sounds and poetry. Andy has taken the project on stage as well, and this is just Volume 1 – there are two more to come.

“Spelman” is a Swedish word for a player of folk music, but it also conveys a weaver of spells through music and sounds. The sounds are there for embellishment though - the heart of the album lies in tuneful traditional and original music, deftly played and beautifully arranged, the album sinuously winding its way through a variety of moods and textures. Andy plays traditional Irish, Macedonian and Norwegian tunes, a song by Bert Jansch and draws his own musical ideas from the Celts, Europe, his home in Western Australia and many other places. In a sense he’s Australia’s answer to UK bass player Jah Wobble – like Jah he has fused many elements into an amazing and imaginative musical adventure. www.andycopeman.com

Julius Timmerman

Tumbleweeds and Cocktails

Sam Lemann and Co

Trailblazer TZ004CD

(Thru Trailblazer Records Melbourne Ph: 9510 1453)

With a stunningly rich sound from a band which obviously delights in playing Country Jazz, this album is a gem in its own way. Remarkably, the two sessions here are virtually spontaneous outpourings from musicians jamming in a studio, yet the amazing tightness and single-mindedness on display would equal any good band that has been playing together for years. The members simply taught each other their favourite tunes and recorded them direct to two track analogue tape. The result is an alluring, warm and highly professional album of country swing.

Sam Lemann and Andy Baylor play electric and acoustic guitars, Peter Howell plays fretless bass, Rob Souter plays drums and Michael Rose plays pedal steel and dobro. The quality of their instruments shines through, as does their enthusiasm for the music.

Tracks include Johnny Mercer’s I’m An Old Cowhand, Bob Nolan’s Tumbling Tumbleweeds, Leon McAuliffe’s Panhandle Rag, Charlie Parker’s Bluebird, Erroll Garner’s Misty, Mexicali Rose, How High The Moon and others in an hour of sweet, sassy enjoyment.

Julius Timmerman

focus on folk

*The Program of the Folk Federation of NSW 2MBS
102.5 FM 7.00 PM*

Saturday 4th December, 2004

WATERSON/CARTHY - prepared and presented by John Milce

The various members of the Waterson / Carthy family have been stalwarts of the English Folk Music scene for over 40 years. To-day's program will feature them in their various guises, including Steeleye Span, Blue Murder, The Watsons, and solo performances.

Saturday 11th December, 2004

SCOTS, HOME AND AWAY - prepared and presented by Roger Fyfe
In the season of goodwill, people of all nations will be thinking of families around the globe. This program selects (and connects) traditional and contemporary folk music from Scotland, Canada and Australia on a spicy Christmas theme.

Saturday 18th December, 2004

THE FAGAN SINGING FAMILY - prepared and presented by Paul Jackson

The Fagans are a Sydney singing family long heard in Australia and abroad. Individual and group songs will be heard

Saturday 25th December, 2004

CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS - prepared and presented by John Penhallow

Carols from the Folk tradition or presented by folk performers.

Saturday 1st January, 2005

FOLK FOR A NEW YEAR - prepared and presented by Kate Delaney
Folk suitable for new year's day.

Saturday 8th January, 2005

HOLIDAY MUSIC ROUNDUP - prepared and presented by Greg Bull
The Christmas break saw a number of festivals and other folk events take place. Today we will sample some of the music that was on offer.

Saturday 15th January, 2005

A DROP OF THE "CREATUR" - prepared and presented by Patricia Early

The drinking habits of the Irish have brought out some good songs both humorous and serious not to mention some toe tapping rhythms.

Saturday 22nd January, 2005

Waterson/Carthy Part 2 - prepared and presented by John Milce
The various members of the Waterson / Carthy family have been stalwarts of the English Folk Music scene for over 40 years. To-day's program will feature them in their various guises, including Steeleye Span, Blue Murder, The Watsons, and solo performances

Saturday 29th January, 2005

MUSIC FOR A SUMMER'S EVENING - prepared and presented by Carole Garland
Australian folk music's gentler side.



Folk Trax

Christmas is on the doorstep and 2005 is knocking. Another year gone and did it not go by fast. Of course at Folk Trax we do not sit still. After the convention in October John has been very busy putting new CDs on the website. We are also proud to have James Keelagan on the site. Coming soon are four CDs by Les Barker, including his new one "The War On The Terrier".

Another new one is by David LaMotte called "Spin". During December Australia Post gets very busy and we urge you to order early so that we can get your order to you on time. The Folk Trax Website will not close down during the festive season, however the shop in Adelaide will be closed from 19/12 to 16/1. However if you are coming to Adelaide and want to have a browse you can arrange a time by calling me on 0418 852 173.

Don't forget the 10% discount to members of the NSWFF, it makes the presents just a little cheaper. In themeantime have a look at our website www.folktrax.com for all the new CDs still to come.

On behalf of the partners of Folk Trax may I wish you all a pleasant and safe and happy Festive Season and may 2005 bring you prosperity and happiness.

Henk de Weerd
Folk Trax

Sixth Annual Summersong Music Camp

15th -21th January, 2005.

Lennox Head. Spend a week at Australia's premier adult music holiday oceanside/lakeside camp. Classes for all levels in songwriting, a cappella singing, guitar, performance skills, improvisation, vocal technique, body/breath Work, didgeridoo, jams, performances, song circles, and celebration. The teachers include Kristina Olsen (USA), Tony Backhouse, Richard Lawton, Slim Pickens, Polly Christie, Kathryn Riding and Russell Guy. Lake Ainsworth Sport & Rec Centre. email: apearl@millum.com.au website: www.summersongmusiccamp.com

The Folk Federation of NSW membership application form 2004

Name	
Address	
Town	P/C
Tel: (h)	Tel: (other)
Email (optional)	
do you want to be placed on our members email list? <input type="checkbox"/>	
Family (list family members if joining as a family)	
Affiliate member: Group Name	
Contact person	
Membership: new/renewal only: \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 <input type="checkbox"/> (includes subscription to Cornstalk)	
New Membership: <input type="checkbox"/>	Renewal Membership No <input type="checkbox"/>
The FFNSW membership years runs from 1 May to 30 April, or from 1 November to 31 October (allowances are made in your favour for people joining at other times - contact Membership Secretary) PO Box A182 Sydney South 1235	