

Folk Federation of New South Wales Inc

Issue No 390

OCTOBER 2007 \$3.00

In this issue:

Dates for your diary

'From shower to showtime'

Folk news

Dance News

CD Reviews

Could Singing Help You Live Longer ?



• *Folk music* • *dance* • *festivals* • *reviews* • *profiles* • *diary dates*
• *sessions* • *teachers* • *opportunities*

The Folk Federation ONLINE - jam.org.au

The CORNSTALK Gazette OCTOBER 2007 1

**Deadline for November issue:
Adverts 5th October 2007
COPY 10th October (FIRM)**

Cornstalk is the official publication of the Folk Federation of NSW.

Contributions, news, reviews, poems, photograph most welcome. We can accept your contributions as attachments to an email using word or within an email. Pictures please send as jpegs. Please do not send pictures within a word document. All copy accepted by email or by disc. 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 or Dallas Baxter re inserts.

No part of Cornstalk may be reproduced without permission of the publishers.

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

Editor, Cornstalk

Coral Vorbach

Post Office Box 5195

Cobargo NSW 2550

Email: cornstalk@folkfednsw.org.au/Tel/Fax: 02 6493 6758

Wrap Co-ordinator

James Baxter 02 9810 4131 - baxjam@folkfednsw.org.au

FFNSW Folkmail (web)

Julie Bishop/02 9524 0247

Email: julie@folkfednsw.org.au

FFNSW Committee 2007

President, Christina Mimmocchi 0410 682061

Email: president@folkfednsw.org.au

Vice President: Kate Delaney

Secretary: Pam Davis 02 9955 3677

Email: secretary@folkfednsw.org.au

Treasurer: Bruce Cameron 02 6331 1129

Email: treasurer@folkfednsw.org.au

Committee: Carol Hirt, Mary-Jane Field, Wayne Richmond, Jim Baxter, Dallas Baxter, Peter Miller Robinson, Terry Clinton, Andy Busutti

Membership Secretary

Wayne Richmond Listserv/Jam/Membership 9939 8802 (not after 8.00pm)

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 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

In This Issue

Dates for your diary p3

Festivals, Workshops, Schools p6

From Shower to Showtime p10

Folk News p12

Dance News p13

CD Reviews p14

OCTOBER 2007

From The President

The festival season is off to a great start with fantastic festivals at Gundagai and Kangaroo Valley. If it has been a while since your last festival experience, check out this issue or www.jam.org.au to find out what great camping/music/community performances are coming up.

Remember that we are welcoming Folk Fed members CDs for review. And please do send your upcoming gigs to Cornstalk Editor Coral as early as possible. We've had great feedback on the new look gig guide and all thanks goes to Coral for maintaining it.

If you enjoyed our last folk picnic, or if you are annoyed that you missed it, please read on about the next folk gathering on 3 November in Lane Cove. And finally, a reminder that if you have received a "membership due" reminder, we'd greatly appreciate you continuing support. You can now renew your membership by credit card! That's right - the Folk Fed has gone hightech! Being a member has never been so easy! Happy spring

Christina Mimmocchi

Eastside Arts

What were you doing 12 years ago? A community arts worker called Carol Hirt was hired by the Paddington Uniting Church to develop their 'arts program' Eastside Arts, a program which eventually created two thriving folk and community music venues in the heart of Sydney.

Sadly, Carol and Christina Mimmocchi have recently been informed that Eastside Arts was being taken over by a new manager appointed by the church. This not only came as a complete surprise but made both Carol and Christina 'redundant'.

At the time of writing, we are expecting to be out of the place by the end of September. As well as expressing our profound regret and sadness for potential repercussions this has for the folk community, we also want to say a huge thank you to all the performers, volunteers, audiences and supporters who have made Eastside Arts the joy that it has been. Some of you will know the blood, sweat and tears gone into obtaining 'licenses' and the hours it has taken to establish these venues. Many of you have been there alongside of us all the way - for this we are extremely grateful and feel humbled by your friendship and support!

We truly hope that the venues will continue. The new manager believes that at this point they will run the program that we put together which goes until the end of the year.

If you would like to be updated or know more, please email christinapossam@bigpond.com

We plan to celebrate the incredible talent, energy and spirit that has been part of the place. Again, please keep in touch. And be assured that this might be goodbye for now, but it's not farewell!

Christina Mimmocchi and Carol Hirt

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)**

PUBLICITY OPTIONS to go in a box.

If your important item misses Cornstalk, please remember

Front cover - Sydney Women's Vocal Orchestra. courtesy Christinna Mimmocchi

The next NSW Folk Federation social is

Folk in the Plaza

10am-1pm

Saturday 3 November

at Lane Cove Plaza

Longueville Rd at Burns Bay Rd

Plenty of parking in the shopping centre

Performers to be confirmed

COME AND PROMOTE YOUR CLUB!

bring a picnic, bring your friends, bring your family!

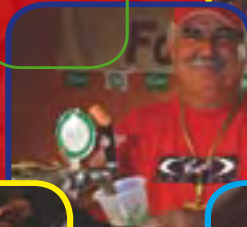
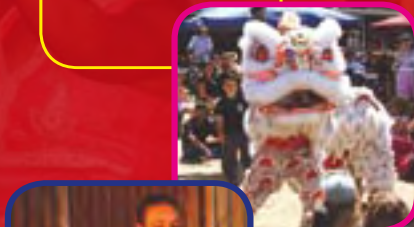
Enq : Christina Mimmocchi 0410 682 061

or Kate Delaney 9810 7625

illawarra folk festival

@ Bulli

The tradition continues - 100 artists, 500 performers
12 venues, 4 days, food, drink, camping




17 - 20 January 2008

Stage 1 Season Tickets to be released in September
ONLY 1000 AVAILABLE AT \$65, saving of \$30 ON FULL PRICE!!!
Buy online from: www.illawarrafolkclub.org.au

MAJOR ARTISTS SO FAR:

Grada (Ire), Eric Bogle & John Munro, Kavisha Mazzella & Irini Vela, Bruce Mathiske, Martin Pearson and many more

dates for your diary - october

DATE	EVENT	VENUE & TIME	CONTAQCT
Wednesday 3 rd	Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Folk Club. House Concert. Penny Davies and Roger Illott in a relaxed and intimate atmosphere.	Reservation essential - 7pm for 7.30pm \$15	For further details contact Barry Parks on 9807 9497 Email bpparks@tpg.com.au
Thursday 4 th	North By Northwest Poetry and Folk Club "Body Count" Session. Folk Music has somewhat of a reputation for being a source of songs about trials and tribulations, doom and gloom, and death and destruction, and we seem to delight in singing them. So the tradition of the "body count" - where we look for the song (or poem) which manages to kill off the greatest number of people - and have fun doing it. Well, some people do say we folkies are a strange lot! So bring along your best contenders, and let the body count roll! A hilarious night of entertainment is guaranteed! Entry just for tonight is \$8.	Cornucopia Café 8pm, 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 if travelling by 500/501 bus. Floorspots available and BYO's welcome.	Jenny 9559 3658 (h) / 0414 903 259 (m), email: jdcarter@inet.net.au Geoff 9816 0393 / 0421 582 975 (m)
Friday 5 th	Beer & Cheese Night – 'On the Land'. Bring something to eat and drink, and songs, yarns, poems: about everyone from the Squatter who grabbed the best slice of land and clung to it - to the meanest Selector trying to clear a block before he starved.	Bush Music Club, Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, 142 Addison Rd, Marrickville. 8-10pm. \$4, \$5.	9569 7244, bobbolton@netspace.net.au
	Penny Davies and Roger Illott. 'I could listen to them sing the telephone book', said the late Alan Scott. Millions hear their songs on Ian McNamara's 'Australia All Over': 'Where the Cane Fires Burn' was listeners' top song of 1999. From Stanthorpe, Qld (formerly Balmain), they have performed together since 1976. + Craig Dawson, with original songs and instrumentals in a range of folk styles. + Dinesh Moylan, singer/songwriter from the forests of S-E NSW.	Illawarra Folk Club Concert. City Diggers Wollongong, cnr Church & Burelli Sts. 7.30pm. \$12, \$15.	1300 887 034, www.illawarrafolkclub.org.au
	Sharon Shannon Band. (See Folk News.)	The Basement, Sydney	Bookings 02 9251 2797. www.thebasement.com.au
Saturday 6 th	Beecroft Bush Dance with Galimore. Caller Pam Merrigan.	Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft Rd. 8pm-midnight. \$17, \$14, \$12.	Helen 9626 7816, www.bushmusic.org.au
	Whealers and Dealers, award-winning Celtic Australian band with impeccable musical credentials. Experienced musicians with backgrounds from rock, country, world and traditional Irish music + Peter Miller-Robinson, great guitarist, riveting performer, incl. at The Basement and on Radio National - songs from the personal to a sardonic look at contemporary customs and contradictions. + Penny Davies and Roger Illott - for years, they have reinvigorated the bush ballad, kept alive the protest song, and celebrated being Australian with their own songs, popular on ABC's 'Australia All Over'.	The Shack Folk Club, Tramshed Community Arts Centre, 1395a Pittwater Rd, Narrabeen (between car park and Ambulance Station in the shopping centre). Contemporary and folk music, gently amplified, of high standard. Tables and chairs in smoke free, candle lit atmosphere. Free tea, coffee, biscuits. BYO drinks and nibbles. 7.30-11pm. \$15.	0413 635 856, info@shackfolk.com  Whealers & Dealers
Sunday 7 th	Sharon Shannon and Band (Ireland), plus Jigzag. 'Sharon Shannon ... plays accordion with carefree fluidity, virtuosic but not flashy, performing traditional Irish music with contemporary freshness.' - Boston Globe	Anita's Theatre, Thirroul. 7pm. \$34, \$39.	Bookings, Ticketek, 132 849, ticketek.com.au
Monday 8 th	Pennant Hills Dance Workshop – dance practice for Flannel Flower Ball.	Community Centre, Yarrara Rd. 7.30-9.30pm. \$7.	Felicity 9456 2860
Thursday 11 th	Sutherland Folk Club With a voice of natural beauty, this daughter of a country music artist is surprising audiences with her refreshing style of edgy, poetic and intelligent folk-pop music. Ami Williamson is one of those rare female singers. While her roots are firmly in the tradition of singer/songwriter, Ami's richly diverse upbringing saw her taking the stage not only in the opera and classical fields, but also touring with her father, country music artist John Williamson.:	Sutherland and District Trade Union Club, Kingsway, Gymea . Entry \$10.	Enquiries Maeve 9520 5628

Music At The Creek

The time for grooving at Music at the Creek is upon us!

Music at the Creek, one of the friendliest and intimate folk festivals, will be on the third week end of November, at the Majors Creek recreation ground near Braidwood.

On the 16, 17 and 18 November old favourites and new upcoming bands, musicians and dancers will gather for a week end of fun and music.

Welcoming back Malumba, Kate and Ruth, the Wheelers and Dealers, we will also have be enjoying the great music and lyrics of Collector, the Shiny Bums singers, Broomhall, Spillane and de Santi, and the O'Hooligans.

On the dancing side of things, be ready for colour and energy with Viji's Bollywood Xclusive and Gyongyosbokreta Hungarian Dance group. Combined with Tallaganda Dance troupe, Canberra Contra Club and the Black Joak Morris, there will be workshops and displays galore. So dancing shoes are definitely a must.

Join us for a weekend of sessions, workshops, children's activities, a great array of food and craft stalls, all in the one venue: Music at the Creek...

Early bird tickets are on sale now until 2nd November. Adult week end tickets start at \$55 and a family week end ticket for two adults and two youths start at \$165 Phone (02) 48422887 or go online at www.musicatthecreek.com for artist and ticket information.

Erika Mordek



Folk in the Foothills

TICKETS

Adults \$30 till, 19 October, \$35 after
Children U12 free , with paying parent.
Youth 12 to 16, \$5 with paying parent.

BOOKINGS 1300 887 034

or buy online from www.illawarrafolkclub.org.au

9am - 6pm Sunday 21 October 2007
JAMBEROO VALLEY LODGE



Double Entedre

Kvonn (from Faeroe Islands), Allan Johnston (Scotland), Double Entendre (WA), Enda Kenny (Vic), Brent Parlane (Vic), Jason & Chloe Roweth, The Song Catchers, Blue The Shearer, Nick Rheinberger, Replay, Vivienne Sawyer, No Such Thing, John Broomhall /Johnny Spillane / David De Santi, Alegras Andinas, Sin Fronteras and the Wollongong Welsh Choir



Kvonn

A relaxing one-day folk festival in the beautiful Illawarra Rainforest. 23 concerts, 16 artists, 70 performers, 5 venues. Food and drink available. Purchase tickets early for only \$30 and SAVE.
www.illawarrafolkclub.org.au/2007fitf.php



Illawarra Folk Club presents the 2007 Folk in the Foothills, one day folk festival 8.30am to 7pm, Sunday 21 October

The Faeroe Islands are Coming to Jamberoo



It will be a unique experience for music lovers on Sunday October 21st when musicians from some of the remotest islands in the Atlantic play at the Illawarra Folk Club's iconic Folk in the Foothills, one day festival.

The Rainforest ambience of the Jamberoo Valley Lodge will be a far cry from their remote and windswept homeland when the Faeroe Island Band, Kvonnn stop off from their world tour to perform to Foothills audiences.

The Faeroes are an island group (18) off the North West tip of Scotland about half way between Norway and Iceland. With a population of just 48,000 they largely go ignored by mainstream events. The band Kvonnn, a lively group of musicians, play traditional and contemporary folk music from Scandinavia, are helping to change that. KNONN's repertoire includes music composed by the band members, as well as traditional tunes and music from the 18th century notebook of Faroese musician and scholar Jens Chr. Svabo.

But Kvonnn are only one of fifteen groups or performers that will be part of the Festival. Other performers include Double Entendre from Western Australia, Enda Kenny from Melbourne, Allan Johnston (Scotland), Brent Parlane, John Broomhall Trio, Chloe & Jason Roweth, Nick Rheinberger, The Song Catchers, Replay, Vivienne Sawyer, Alegras Andinas, Sin Fronteras, Wollongong Welsh Choir and No Such Thing. The full program is available from the website: <http://www.illawarrafolkclub.org.au/2007programme.php>

The venue is the beautiful Jamberoo Valley Lodge which is nestled among the rainforest at the base of the Illawarra Escarpment. Turn at Jamberoo into Jamberoo Mountain Road. There are five all weather venues and with such a beautiful setting the capacity is limited so it is best to pre buy tickets..

The Festival will run from 9am-6pm and food and drink will be available.

Prices for the Festival are only \$35, Children under 16 (accompanied by parents \$5) and children under 12 free. However by purchasing their tickets early patrons can save \$5 off the price and pay only \$30, and more importantly ensure that they have one of the limited number of tickets. Pre-purchased tickets will cease on Friday 19th Oct.

To pre-purchase your ticket with a credit card go to www.illawarrafolkclub.org.au and follow the prompts or ph. 1300 887 034. Or if there are still tickets available you will be able to purchase them on the day.

The Jamberoo Valley Lodge is offering a special deal to stay on Sunday night. Call the Lodge to make a booking on 02 4236 0269.

For media Further information telephone David De Santi on 0409 571 788 or desanti@illawarrafolkclub.org.au



25th - 26th October

2007 sees this annual event continuing on a great tradition begun with the first festival six years ago. The Dorrigo Folk and Bluegrass Festival evolved when the Sommers family made the plateau their home. With support from the local Arts Council, the community and their friends, this Festival offers what is now a unique experience. Performers and audience alike mingle and take part in jam sessions around the campfire and participate in workshops with other musicians and music lovers. Bridget Sommers, the Festival Artistic Director, says that "visiting performers just love our friendly country town atmosphere and the intimate style of the Festival."

Highlights of the 2007 festival include something for all the family and for many tastes. Bridget is thrilled to have Juzzie Smith, whose music steps into blues, folk, and country presenting a concert performance in the high school. And this year to ensure that every one has a good chance to fully participate in the Saturday Night Bush dance, there will be an afternoon dance workshop.

Performers include, Jay **Turner**, an internationally-touring acoustic, original song writing duo from the UK

Coyote Serenade, a bluegrass/country act out of Hobart; **Fiddlesticks** originally from New Zealand, **Fellowship of the Strings, Backbeat**, dynamic performers who start with a bang, pick up pace and leave you craving and lots more.

There will be musical breakfasts on both days in the town cafes. A Saturday morning Bush Poet's Breakfast in the *Dorrigo Heritage Hotel* will be compered by Graeme Johnson – the well-known '**Rhymer from Ryde**'. Graeme will also be involved in the bush poetry workshop to follow.

For the first time this year, 'kids workshops' will be offered on both days. These will be aimed specifically at the younger child and the young at heart..and include music and poetry.

Early bird tickets @ \$55 for the entire festival are available until 1 October Festival Hotline 02 6657 1229; Website: www.dorrigo.com/festival or email festival@dorrigo.com

The Second Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival

Patchy drizzle and rain on Saturday, and mild sunny weather on Sunday, made for more amenable conditions for the second Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival over the weekend of 7-9 September than we had last year for the inaugural Kanga event.

Club President Peter Watson and the event organisers from the Shoalhaven Folk Club made up a full festival program which really did have something for everyone. Concert performances happened in the three marquees on the showground, at the Uniting Church nearby, and at several businesses in the township including the well-named Friendly Inn Hotel just up the road where some excellent sessioning took place to the immense delight of the large well behaved crowd of locals, festival patrons and tourists. Hard to tell if the crowd was bigger or smaller than last year's, because of the kinder weather let people linger out of doors.

The high point of this festival for me was the beautiful performance in the Uniting Church by John Warner, Margaret Waters, Kate Delaney, Sonia Bennet, Don Brian and Tom Hansen of the moving verse and song cycle "Yarri of Wiradjuri", written by John Warner in 1997 to celebrate the heroism of Yarri and other Wiradjuri people during the great flood at Gundagai in 1852

A recording is available of "Yarri of Wiradjuri" by a full cast which includes John Derum as narrator and Matthew Doyle on didgeridoo, Chris Wheeler flute and Tony Pyrzakowski fiddle and viola. An album well worth having in your collection! Order from www.margaretwalters.com or by 'phone (02) 9698 2206

Among the other acts which greatly impressed was the polished performance by Canberra's own Craig and Simone. One in the audience observed that the musicianship of this talented duo has reached new heights. The very entertaining performance which included some new songs, and selections from Craig Dawson's lovely new cd album "Tunes from the Rivers", had the audience spellbound.

Bill Bekric is one of our favourite contemporary folk singers, who gave us a gently engaging performance that captivated his audience, especially by his renditions of John Denver's Some Days Are Diamonds and Charlie Landsborough's What Colour Is the Wind? You could hear

a pin drop during Bill's original song My Valentine Deserves More Than Roses (My Valentine Deserves Better Than Me) which reminds us of what love should be -

Madrigala from Braidwood are a group of seven women who love singing madrigals. Merrilyn Simmons, Sue Irving, Peg, Natalie, Janine, Kate and Wendy gave a stirring performance that was well received.

Avalanche is a newly formed bluegrass outfit from the Illawarra, led by vocalist/ mandolin player Heather Mandich - and I gotta tell you, these boys and a girl are hot! One in the audience reckoned they played a bit too fast at times, the tempo erratic, and too loud according to another patron. But they gave us a lovely version of If Wishes Were Horses, and Emmylou herself would have been proud of their sensitive rendition of the Wayfaring Stranger. They gave the best version of Muleskinner Blues that I've heard since the Fendermen did it all those decades ago. I thought they demonstrated great musicianship, tight playing and good arrangements, an interesting playlist and a very well rehearsed act. All in all, Avalanche gave a most impressive and entertaining performance. Let's hope we see - and hear! - lot more of Avalanche, coming soon, I hope, to a venue nearby!

Still in the fields of bluegrass (yuk! yuk!) the Lawnmowers formed in 2003 were a big hit with Kanga festival-goers last year, and this year their performance surpassed our expectations. With the addition of ace harmonica player Tony Ayers, their musicianship has become good to the point of being relentlessly driving, fast and at least for me, somewhat exhausting - high voltage bluegrass, you might well say, since they play like greased lightning. After a while I found myself longing to hear them do a slow (or slower!) number. But the applause was loud and long, and richly deserved I'm sure. Besides Tony we had Dave Hellens on banjo (who has been three times national banjo champ!) and Robbie Long on guitar.

"Broomhall, De Santi and Spillane" are a trio of master musicians who presented vintage folk.. John Broomhall is a well known musical commentator about the Aussie landscape and condition, with many fine songs and recordings to his credit; Dave is the driving force behind Wongawilli and a musician for MFS

and other balls, and John is the highly regarded whistler of celtic folk band Madd Marianne, a festival favourite that sadly is no longer available for bookings.

These are only some of the many highlights of the packed and eclectic festival program at Kangaroo Valley 2007. Congratulations to the organisers for hosting an enjoyable and well run festival.

Pete West

Community Radio 2XX-98.3fm



Wheeze & Suck Band (photo courtesy Bill Quinn)



Enjoying the festival (photo courtesy Bill Quinn)



Avalanche (photo courtesy Pete West)

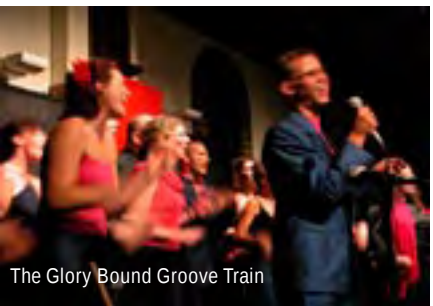


Ecobeat (photo courtesy Pete West)

From shower to showtime singing is cool again



Illawarra Union Singers



The Glory Bound Groove Train



Roaring Forties



Canberra Union Voices



Chorus singing led by Mary-Jane Field

EVEN their names have a melodious ring: the Sweet Adelines, the Bright Star Singers, A Choired Taste and, most fittingly in Sydney, the Leichhardt Espresso and the Circular Keys Chorus.

Community **choirs**, says the director of the Espressos, Michelle Leonard, have struck a perfect chord. Singing was “almost trendy”, she said.

“People used to look at you as though you had some sort of disease,” Ms Leonard said. “Now you can out yourself. The level of public awareness in the past 12 months has boomed.”

Community **choirs** bring people together, start social relationships and quickly demonstrate how people care for each other, said Ms Leonard, whose youngest choir member is 15 and her oldest in his 70s.

Australian Idol, ABC radio’s **choirs** competition and more lately the national broadcaster’s television hit Choir of Hard Knocks have all contributed to the growing delight that people feel when they sing in public.

At Glenbrook, in the lower Blue Mountains, Viv Llewellyn, a musical director renowned for his showmanship, said he had seen the steady growth of community **choirs** over the past 10 years.

“I am looking at the latest edition of the Cornstalk Gazette, the journal of the Folk Federation of NSW,” he said. “There used to be two or three **choirs** advertised. Now there is a column full of them: A Choired Taste in Glebe, the Bright Star Singers at Ashfield, the Glory Bound Groove Train at Petersham, the People’s Chorus at Newcastle, the Sydney Trade Union Choir, Voiceworks at Katoomba ...”

A new singing group had just started in the Blue Mountains, a youth choir that was yet to have its first rehearsal. “Virtually anybody can sing or be taught to sing,” he said. “But whether they want to, whether they are able to is another matter.”

In so many cases, exposure to school **choirs** had a strong influence, but community **choirs** have always been around.

They were the voice of the people, formed spontaneously during the great

protest movements of the 1960s (“We shall not be moved”) and have withstood the invasion of rock and electronic gadgetry.

“Maybe the formation of **choirs** is a reaction to all that,” Mr Llewellyn said.

The president of the Sydney Welsh Choir, Clive Woosnam, said that there had been a push several years ago in Walesto project a new image forthe region - art galleries and rock bands were on the up -and to muffle Wales’s legendary **choirs**.

“But the harder they tried to suppress them, the more popular they became,” he said. “**Choirs** are now back in, and the same thing is happening in Australia.”

Research in Scandinavia had shown that people who say in **choirs** live longer, Mr Woosnam said, quickly warming to his favourite subject.

“And there is no question of their appeal.” The Cremorne Orpheum had broken records with its screening of As It Is In Heaven, and it had beaten every film including the Titanic, he said.

“It is about a choir in Sweden. I watched it for the second time and some people there were watching it for the fifth time.

“The fastest ever selling classical music CD in Britain: Voices from the Valleys by the Froncysyllte Male Choir [The Fron], an amateur choir with an average age of 60-plus.”

At Castle Hill, members of the Circular Keys Chorus, part of the Australian Chapter of the Sweet Adelines, a women’s choral network, were practising this week. The chorus was formed 11 years ago and has up to 80 members. The 50 or so at practice were joined by 17 who were preparing for auditions.

A spokeswoman for the choir, Deborah Martin, said: “It is surprising how many people are doing it out there. There are so many a capella [singing without accompaniment] **choirs**.” The chorus had organised a membership drive last month and had attracted 50 hopefuls.

Heather Finch, tiring of always being a church organist and never a singer, joined the Circular Keys five years ago.

“I am fond of saying I joined for the singing and stayed for the friendship,” she said.

Malcolm Brown

[Reprinted with kind permission of the author from the Sydney Morning Herald, 28th July, 2007.]

folk news



A Tribute to Ted Egan

'Ted Egan, Your Honour, we all say "Good onyer!"', says The Top End Folk Club (in *The Broadside*, August 2007). The Club has been providing entertainment during Open Days at Government House in Darwin for a few years now, and has had the pleasure of backing the Administrator of the NT, His Honour Ted Egan AO, in a few of his songs on each occasion. As this is the final year of his term as Administrator, one of the club's senior members Mr Tony Suttor was inspired to write a tribute 'The Ballad of Ted Egan', sung to the tune of Ted's song, 'Matt Savage'. The words, as well as photographs taken at Government House, can be found at the Club's new website www.topendfolkclub.org

Deadly Awards

Dubbo mum Sharon 'Shaz' Lane has recently been nominated for Most Promising New Talent in The Deadly Awards – the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander awards, recognising Indigenous artists at the top of their profession. In November 2006 Shaz released a 3 track EP 'Left It All Behind' after deciding to take the next big step in her musical career. Earlier this year she performed at The Dreaming Festival in Woodford, Qld, backed by her two boys. She is currently working on her 12 track debut album due for release at the Woodford Folk Festival in December. (Other nominees for The Deadlys include Kev Carmody and Troy Cassar-Daley.) www.deadlys.vibe.com.au

FAA Awards 2007

The winners were announced at the FAA AGM Concert at Olims Hotel, Canberra on Saturday evening, 25th August.

Members' Choice Award - best live act voted by the general membership of FAA. Danny Spooner with the Australian Chamber Orchestra <http://www.dannyspooner.com> Prize: 2 days live or location recording/editing package from Jeeves Audio Services.

Presenters' Choice Award - best new CD in the past year based on voting by Folk radio presenters across Australia. 'Full House' by Wheelers & Dealers <http://www.wheelersanddealersmusic.com.au/about.html> Prize: 7 hours CD mastering package or recording/mixing/editing time to the same value from Blue Mountain Sound.

Patrons' Choice Award - best selling CD based on sales returns from major festivals. 'Stand Up' by Blue King Brown <http://www.bluekingbrown.com/biopress.html> Prize: a Cole Clarke guitar.

Community Choice Award - A person or organisation inspirational in the Australian Folk Community - open nomination. Nariel Folk Festival

Award for Carl Cleves

Carl Cleves, songwriter, singer and guitarist with The Hottentots was awarded the national prize for Best Lyrics 2007 at the Australian Songwriter's Association Awards night in Sydney on 30th August, for his song 'The Rose of Kordofan'. Carl's forthcoming CD 'All Alone', on which this song features, is an album of story songs - refugees, addicts, a child beggar, a drunk driver, the smell of money, the tears of broken hearts, the rage of obsession and the joys of solitude and travel. Song samples at www.carlcleves.com and www.myspace.com/carlcleves. The Hottentots' concert tour takes Carl and Parissa to Melbourne, Sydney and Katoomba in early October and on to Germany and Belgium after that. <http://thehottentots.bigpondhosting.com/>

Singing Leadership Skills

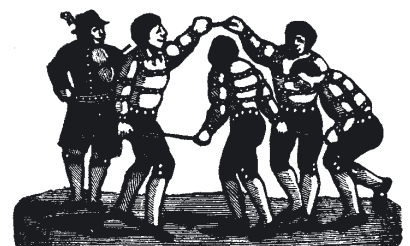
A subsidised workshop led by Jane Coker from Community Music Victoria will be aimed at two streams: introducing people with little or no singing leadership experience to basic teaching skills; and introducing people with singing leadership experience to leadership skills for the 'instant singing session' concept. The hope is to encourage people to spread the joy and healthy benefits of singing through their community. 15th September, 10am - 4.30pm at Wodonga Civic Centre. \$30/\$22. Karen Roben (02) 6021 5034, kroben@murrayarts.org.au

The Folkus Room, ACT

Bill Arnett is back. Since resigning as Director of The Merry Muse in May he has been persuaded to plan a new venue for music. The result is an incorporated, not-for-profit organisation called The Folkus Room Inc. (N.B. The Folkus Room is not connected with Monaro Folk Society or The Merry Muse.) The Folkus Room will operate out of rooms at the Serbian Cultural Centre and Club, 5 Heard St, Mawson, ACT. In time live music is envisaged on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with emphasis on folk music but with options open to blues, jazz and country styles as well: starting on Friday 19th October. The format will be similar to his operation of The Merry Muse, with doors opening from 6pm for dinner and floor spots, support act from 8pm and feature act from 9pm, with everything wrapping up by 11.30(ish). Admission will be on a \$15/\$12 up to \$30/\$25 formula with children welcome and free. "We are also looking at an annual subscription scheme and there will be capacity to take telephone bookings with credit card prepayment." Kevin Austin of Active Clear Sound will be provider and operator of "a very sweet sound system indeed. This is an exciting enterprise and promises to give some of the less commercially attractive music forms a quality platform to get out to their audiences." Bill Arnett (02) 6262 7265, 0407 434 469, www.thefolkus.org.au

Sharon Shannon Band

Sharon Shannon is a triple-platinum seller in Ireland and acclaimed worldwide performer. The Sharon Shannon Band is the Anglo-Irish collaboration of Sharon, Capercaille flute player Michael McGoldrick, Jim Murray (guitar) and Dezi Donnelly (fiddle) and they are touring Australia this month with 'Renegade', an exciting album featuring new original material from the quartet, traditional Irish with hip-hop beats, reggae, jazz and world inflections. See Dates For Your Diary, www.daisydiscs.com or www.sharonshannon.com



dance news

Wongawilli's 20th Anniversary

Danish Folk Dancers will be at Albion Park Centenary Hall, Saturday 20th October, to help celebrate the 20th anniversary for the band and dancers. You can join a big dance and social party with the Wongawilli Band, Wongawilli Colonial Dancers, Wongawilli Colonial Dance Club and special guest dance group and musicians from Denmark - Østjydske Folkedansere. The Wongawilli Band and Dancers are known for their party spirit and still have it after 20 years! The evening, nostalgic and entertaining, will include a selection of bush dances from 8pm to midnight intermingled with performances from the Danish dancers and musicians. Tickets for the dance are only \$6 for adults, youth \$3 (12 to 16), available at the door. A smorgasbord dinner is also being offered from 6.30pm for a total price of \$22 for adults, \$15 for youth, \$5 for children. Bookings for dinner are essential and need to be made by 17th October with

Pat Murray (02) 4236 0097 or David De Santi, desanti@bigpond.com. The band and some of the dancers will be away in New Zealand from until 14th October and Pat will be on the trip so be quick to book in. You can send an email booking to David and pay when Pat gets back on 17th October

BMC Dance Workshop

Our 10th Anniversary Reunion Dance Party was well attended (about 60, with 15 band members) and very enjoyable. We were pleased that many original members were present and thank the Concert Party and other musicians for the varied dance program. In the last 8 months we have taught 33 different dances written in Australia and many others which have become popular social dances in Australia. The live music provided by Richard, David, Helen and Tony is much appreciated. Anthony Simon has helped us to improve our listening skills by introducing unexpected calls in some dances. Enq, 9456 2860, 0434 437 522. *Felicity Hattingh.*



EARLY BIRD TICKETS AVAILABLE



JOIN US FOR 2 1/2 DAYS OF
DANCE, MUSIC AND POETRY IN

THE BEAUTIFUL HILLS OF MAJORS CREEK

www.musicatthecreek.com Ph:48422887



On listening to the long-awaited Tony Eardley CD, *Desire Lines*, I was both surprised and spell-bound. Surprised: mainly because, as a solo singer, I have sometimes found the words a little hard to understand due to Tony's rather soft voice. Spell-bound: because of the delicious balance in the production between instruments and voice, songs both gentle and powerful, and just generally because of the very poetry in the combination of the words and the music.

In both his own songs and those that he covers, Tony's interpretations are wonderfully complementary and sensitive. The CD's opening track, "When the City Wakes" is beautifully embellished by Gregg Tullion's soprano sax, which adds an eerie atmosphere to the description of a pre-dawn town and the life lead by people with nowhere else to live but on the street. This is in direct contrast to "Portugal Beach", which evokes a feeling of free-living carelessness in the reminiscences on bygone days.

There are some poignant songs such as "On an Empty Road" and "Elegy" that describe love and loss in their most tragic and powerful moments. The song "Blues Run the Game" is a special favourite of mine. The gentle, rhythmic and easy interpretation make the inherent sadness in the song seem sweet.

The final track, "Come Away With Me", stands out from the others in style and instrumentation. Though it is not perhaps as tuneful as some of the other songs, the similes and metaphors in the poetry are all that is needed to make this a fine piece of music. Other outstanding songs include "On Days Like This" and "Water From the Well".

The help of some other well-known and talented musicians such as Liz Frencham on double-bass and Christine Wheeler on low whistle, and the sensitive vocal backing of Rachel Hore and Helen Rowe, make this CD compulsive listening. This is a CD worthy to be counted as the next in your collection.

Dawn Davis

Railway's Coming Through

Sydney based singer songwriter John Hospodaryk has recently joined the growing numbers of songwriters and poets who turned to railways as a theme for their songs or poems. In doing so he is keeping alive an ongoing traditions of Australian artists and writers that can be traced back to the days of horse drawn and convict railways that existed in the days before steam.

Inspired by the National Rail Heritage conference that was held in Tamworth during the 150th Anniversary of Steam Railways

in NSW John as just released a CD of 15 railway related songs that capture some of life and the events of railways over that time.

All music arrangements on the CD are John's. These relate to the music scores of his own original songs, one or two traditional railway items and a version the "Indian Pacific" written by Joy Mc Kean or Slim Dusty in the 1970's that describes the magical trip by train from Sydney to Perth.

John's musical arrangements on the CD features and bring out many aspects of his fine folk guitar playing. In true railway music tradition that has been influenced every music styles in the book, he throws in a "delta blues" description of a NSW 36 Class in an original song "Pig on the line." The "pig" in this case refers to the "C36" class locomotives that railwaymen say looked like and acted like this animal.

What I particularly like about this CD was the fact that John explores some features of the Australian Railway Story that are often overlooked by those wanting to write about the folklore of Australian Railways.

Two songs on the CD that contribute to the interest of those who might like to have a closer look at Australian Railways Folklore at some stage as themes for their songs and poems are "Fifteen Tunnels" (Kuranda Rail) in North Queensland and the "Long Trestle Bridge" at Gundagai in NSW.

These songs were no doubt written after a trip on the still operating railway heritage trains that run up into the Great Dividing Range at the back of Cairns and down south through Gundagai.

"Fifteen Tunnels" joins several others songs that have been written about this mountain railway over the years. The reference to "Long Trestle Bridge" is a reminder that the "Navvies" or maybe the "Chippies" bridge carpenters with little more than an axe and wood saw built these bridges from the trees along the line as they went. Bradfield the railway engineer who built and designed Sydney Harbour Bridge learnt the trade of bridge building from such people. Also this bridge put an end to bullock drivers and their "bloody" dogs being bogged in the Gundagai area.

The final item on John's CD I wish to mention is "Coming with Me Dancing" a tribute to the contribution made railways to our dancing heritage. This song in Waltz tempo I feel will find it's way into a number of the Bush Dance Band's repertoires. Nothing like a good tune to sing along to as you swing your partner round the hall, check it out.

Keep an eye out for John over the next few months as he takes his songs around the Folk Clubs and Festivals. I'm sure he has a few more songs based on his railway experiences to present. Maybe you can suggest a few topics for him to consider as he spreads his song writing efforts.

See his website <http://www.freewebs.com/aradiglio/index.htm> for details of where you can catch up to John and get a copy of "Railway Coming Through

Brian Dunnett- "The Australian Railway Story" project.



OUT NOW!



In this issue

Comment Trails	P4
Score in two articles	
Folk History or Folk Tales	P9
The Meaning of Folk Tales	P10
The National Folk Festival	P13
John Meredith - a Tribute	P15
Grobbans Folk History Project	P20
An interview with...	P21
Ukulele Land	P22
New CDs, Books and DVDs	P26
Big Guide	P27
Festival News & Reviews	P27
WOMAD	P29
Festival Calendar	P30
Regular music events	P30
Graham Seal AM	P43
Menouche	P46
Gary Shearsen	P51
Australian Celtic Community News	P54
Puzzling Around	P55
The 5th String	P56
Bluegrass News	P57
Year	P58
Dance Calendar	P60
CD Reviews	P62
Poetry & the Spoken Word	P64
Regular Poetry Events	P65
Folk Music on the Wireless	P71
	P75
	P77
	P79

Available from your local newsagent
(distributed by Wrapaway) or online from
www.tradandnow.com.

See our extensive range of over 650 Australian traditional and contemporary folk, blues, roots, alternative and world music CDs, DVDs and books at ***www.tradandnow.com/shopping***

folk trax

A couple of weeks ago I had the pleasure of spending a weekend on a houseboat with friends. Not that it was the first time. I can recommend it to anyone if you need a relaxing weekend. It gave me the opportunity though to listen to some of the new CDs at Folk Trax. I am really impressed with the new CD from Tiffany Eckhardt. The title alone, in this case, matched my "perfect" weekend on the house boat, "perfect day". This is Tiffany's 6th CD and her best yet. It will appear shortly on the Folk Trax website. Here are a few more new ones you can expect to see at Folk Trax. Frank Povah "got the mornin' blues", after 50 years of blues this is his first CD. Another artist who has been threatening to record a CD for about 25 years and finally did it with 2 releases is South Australia's own "One Man Band" Dan Burt. He released 2 Multifarious Music-Hall CDs called "A Little Bit of Cucumber" and "The Hole In The Elephant's Bottom". These 2 CDs include some of the best Music-hall, Variety and Popular music, mainly from around a century ago. Watch out for them. Also new is a compilation CD with hard-hitting songs for a social change and a new Australia. Yes just in time for the Election Blues. It's called "Stand up & Shout" and released by Rouseabout. Finally the Ishbel MacAskill CD "Essentially Ishbel" also will appear at Folk Trax. TA

CD mainly in Scottish Gaelic. This is a beautifully crafted CD, well worth having a listen to. Then of course there are the new releases from Planet. Each month we see a variety of new CDs from new and established artists and labels. Well that is it for this month, but don't forget to claim your 10% discount if you are a member of a participating Folk Federation or a reader of The Folk Rag when ordering via www.folktrax.com. For those readers in and visitors to South Aussie we are now at 10 Byron Place, Adelaide.

Keep on Folking

focus on folk

2MBS-FM 102.5MHz 6PM Saturday



13 October - 6PM

John Milce - Love Songs through the years "Today's program is all about Love; Love won, Love Lost and everything in between.."

27 October - 6PM

Prepared and presented by Gerry Myerson

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.

Launch of
Colleen Z Burke's
new poetry book
'Fermenting'
by singer/songwriter John Dengate
Music by new Celtic group The Stellas
on Saturday 10th November, 2007
at 2 pm - Newtown Library
8-10 Brown Street,
(near the corner of King St)
Newtown 2042
Afternoon tea provided.

The Folk Federation of NSW - Membership Application Form

Name/s:	Eve ph:	Day ph:
Address:	Mob:	
	Email:	<input type="checkbox"/> Send 'Folkmails'
Membership Type (Tick one)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual - \$25		
<input type="checkbox"/> Family (more than one in same household) - \$30 Other name/s: _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate (organisation) - \$35 Contact Name: _____		
Please find enclosed \$ _____ being my subscription for _____ year/s.		
<input type="checkbox"/> I enclose my cheque/money order payable to: Folk Federation of NSW ; or		
<input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my credit card: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> (Tick one)		
Card number: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____		Expiry Date: ____ / ____
Name on card: _____		
Signature: _____		

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