

## REPORT FROM MARY-JANE FIELD, NSW FOLK FEDERATION COMMITTEE MEMBER

I have been concentrating on two main areas, within the focus of Cornstalk and Jam. Others with this focus have been a bit busy lately, so I have kind of started on my own, but I expect to work more cooperatively in the future.

1.) Contributions that Coral could use for the Cornstalk, and some for Jam, as well.

My thought was that Coral could use “fillers” to take up spaces that would otherwise be used by longish articles that could be more interesting if cut down a bit. I have offered to do the cutting, guided by her final decisions on space. If Coral would like this kind of help, I think I will have a bit more time in the next few months and am at her disposal.

(She has also has asked me for some CD reviews, and I hope to have something for the next issue.)

I have sent four items to Cornstalk: A long and a short version of an article on Dame Mary Gilmore / a short blurb with two samples of the poetry of Jim Taylor, folk musician who recently died / a little recipe for a version of damper that can be whacked in anytime if needed / an article on singing music from cultures that are unfamiliar.

I sent Jam the one on Mary Gilmore – which he has already printed! – and the music one. Can send the others, too, if he would like, or even a longer version of Jim Taylor’s poems, as he has more space available, I believe.

I think there could be some very creative coordination between Jam and Cornstalk, such as different versions of similar items, or different artwork and/or photography to accompany things.

2.) Expanding the choir listing in Cornstalk.

The aim of this is to increase Cornstalk’s relevance to readers and potential members.

In the interest of space, I think it has been decided to simply list choirs, without lots of description. A general article would come in the first issue where we do this. I have already prepared this and am awaiting confirmation that the general tone is what we want.

I will be working on contacting choir directors, at least those whose details I have, in the next few days. I am not sure exactly what will be ready for the next deadline but I will be trying to at least get some updated information ready. But first I think we need to decide whether or not it would be better, because of space constraints, to refer people to a link, such as the *a cappella* web site, or maybe a spot in Jam.

In that case I would prepare little articles for use from time to time, such as on groupings of types of choirs, such as special purpose choirs, “ideology” groups, or by locality.

\*\* I’d like some direction on this . . .

3. Another area of interest: A social occasion. I would love to meet with Kate about this. I have some ideas, and feel it would be important to have something happening so people feel that membership is more than a magazine. One idea I had was to hire the Latin American hut and the Bush Music hut together for an informal barbecue/cum dance/cum session in the Addison Road Community Centre . . .

I’m looking forward to everyone else’s report, and some feedback on mine. Mary-Jane