

November meeting Presidentss Report

October 2006 Report to committee via email

Almost Acoustic

Carol, Christina and I met recently to complete the planning for next year's monthly Saturday night concerts at Eastside Arts. Christina is currently contacting the various artists concerned. A priority for us all is improving audience numbers at every concert.

Currently the arrangement between the Folk Fed and Eastside Arts is to dedicate one Saturday night per month as an Almost Acoustic concert. A few times this year there has been more than one per month. We talked about increasing AA concert frequency more often in future. Details are still under discussion.

FOG (Folk Operators Group)

Nothing has happened since last meeting. Kathleen and I have arranged to meet next week to plan a final get-together of FOG participants before the end of this year.

Folk Alliance Australia

I was asked to consider taking a place on the FAA committee (for the third year in a row) and this time I said yes. Haven't done anything yet except read emails, my first face to face meeting will be in December. Ulterior motive – it seemed a useful way to achieve de facto state organisation representation on the national group.

Chris Kempster project next stage

The CK cd was brought to fruition by Alison Jones, Mark Gregory, Margaret Walters, Margaret Fagan and me. We had planned since the outset to reprint Chris' song book, 'The Songs of Chris Kempster', if we had the resources. Well it looks like we might have. Wayne has introduced a new member to the team, Ian Hamilton, who brings a lifetime of broadcasting and publishing skills along with an enthusiasm for the original book as well as a few settings of his own to some of Lawson's poems. Margaret Fagan has asked to withdraw from this stage, because of pressure from work and other activities. The new group comprising the original four of us plus Wayne and Ian will meet next week to discuss the parameters.

I've been in touch with the Henry Lawson festival conveners who are currently planning next year's program, which happens to be the 50th anniversary of the festival. (That makes it considerably older than any of our folk festivals!) We're negotiating about having a Chris Kempster concert and cd promotion at the festival in June next year.

We're also assured of a similar concert to take place at next March's Blue Mountains Folk Festival.

General news

Have written a short piece for Trad and Now (Oct-Dec) on the new Folk Fed committee and our rough plans for the year. More or less the same piece will appear in Cornstalk in November.

I hope that some of you heard Julie on Radio National program Life Matters during September expounding the virtues of contra dance in preventing dementia. It's obvious really! Good on you Julie.

And I hope you've all taken in the news about the Australian Chamber Orchestra doing a folkie thing with Danny Spooner and Mike Kerin next year, and about Marcus Holden's similar little coup with the Queensland Symphony performing one of his own compositions later this month. Great news.