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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Hello, Folks

Oops. Yes, I know I said that last month's Folkvine was the last monthly one, Turns out we were a tad premature, so July will be the first of the VFA-incorporated newsletters. Definitely, Honest.

Headbelly Buzzard (cover your eyes, kiddies; I think it stands for 'Hillbilly Bastards') went down a treat at the Melbourne Folk Club. Good Old-Timey string band music is a joy to listen to and to watch; I hope we'll see a lot more of them. Neil Adam gave a typically enjoyable performance. It all added up to a really good evening. The simultaneous-and-afterwards session was going strong as I left - with the irrepressible Neil at the baby grand. Robin and Frances Wade are doing-a great job piloting the sessions, and your support is appreciated.

Nick Randall, our local friendly American, is, even as you read this, in the recording studio, slaving over a hot... whatever it is that people making a CD slave over. Release date to be announced - phone him (9370 8203) for details of a Big Pre-Sales Offer.

Uppards!

Brian Grayson

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The regular monthly President's Report was not quite what I thought I'd be writing for the June Folkvine, nor what you expected to be reading, so before you get too disappointed and consign this issue to that circular filing receptacle and complain, "This wasn't what we were promised" I'll explain.

Negotiations re the Society running a Folkvine supplement in the newsletter of the statewide Victorian JUNE 1995 Volume 20 No. 5

Folklife Association included discussion as to the frequency of their publication; viz. being quarterly or bi-monthly. Suffice to say we got not only our wires crossed but also the publication deadline! I'm disappointed too!

The next VFA newsletter will go to print on 26 June and, barring a catastrophe, will include the promised Folkvine supplement, and members will receive the combined package in lieu of the July Society magazine. There is a bonus in all this. Although this June issue of Folkvine is officially the last newsletter for those of you who have not renewed your membership for the 1995/96 year, you will receive a complimentary copy of the combined VFA & FSDSV July newsletter.

Remember that the membership year runs from 1 July to 30 June. We therefore look forward to receiving your annual subscription at your earliest convenience. Thanks to those who have already mailed theirs. The FSDSV will produce a regular August Folkvine, which will be designed to reach renewed financial members prior to the Society's AGM which will be held 6 August 1995. (See AGM information below)

When the date is set for the AGM there is always a tendency to think that things should be winding down; however for your Committee at this point in time, the inverse is probably more accurate. In Melbourne there are two big June folk club nights at MAC'S planned for the 9th and 23rd, which we hope will tempt members out of winter hibernation. Put your faith in the programming of Enda and his team of Chloe Hall and Louisa John-Krol and please give your support to the efforts to revitalise your club.

As well as sessions, weekly dances, dance practices and classes there's the Colonial Ball on Saturday 24 June, with music from The Wedderburn Oldtimers (sadly though without Lindsay Hogg, who earlier this month began playing with that larger

AF 784.49945 N 47 dance band up there 'on high'). This issue also lists a host of activities, of other organisations, both in Melbourne and out of town; enough to keep most, if not all of us happy, for most, if not all of the month.

For the past 24 years the FSDSV has presented its annual Graham Squance Memorial Award to persons deemed to have made outstanding contributions to the furtherance of the folk arts. The Award was initiated following the death of Graham Squance, a talented young performer who was killed in a road accident while on his way to take part in a folk festival on the Queen's birthday weekend in June 1970.

Graham was not only a fine performer but also involved himself in many aspects of presenting folk music and folklore to the general public, including participation in the organisation of the earliest national folk festivals, held in Melbourne.

Last year's award was presented to Peter Ellis in acknowledgment of his tremendous contribution to the study, presentation, documentation and hence continuity and preservation of Australian traditional dance and dance music.

A date for the 1995 Award celebration should be confirmed before the next newsletter goes to press, and over the next month or so the Committee will be considering a suitable recipient. We'd like to encourage members to recommend to us the names of anyone they believe has made long-term contributions to the promotion or furtherance of the folk arts.

In my National Festival round-up last month I forgot to report that Jim Moir from Melbourne was awarded the VFMC Beat Klippel Memorial Award for his dance, Jessie's Mountain, composed together with original music and entered in the 'general social dance category' of the TSDAV Dance Composers Competition. (Jim's dance and the music will be published in a future issue)

Three of the five dances shortlisted in this category came from Victoria; the other Victorian finalists were Society members Julie Elliot and Gary King. Gary also had another of his dances shortlisted in the category competing for the VFMC Perpetual Trophy. This year, for the first time, the judging of the finals of the competition was held at the National. Congratulations to all entrants, and to the VFMC for the fine trophies.

The March past was a quiet one compared to Society concert organisation, such as our Concert Series of past years. The Committee rationale behind this, apart from the Society not competing against an already over-full concert and festival agenda was the recess allowed for some very necessary planning time.

As of going to press it seems very unlikely that the Society will involve itself with this year's Melbourne A Cappella Festival. We are however, presently involved in the organisation of our Spring Concert Series, details of which will be announced as soon as final arrangements are known. For the present though, block out the second weekend in October on your calendar and pencil in names such as Jez

Lowe and Vin Garbutt and wait for further information!!!

Until then there's plenty to keep us all busy. Hope to see you at some of the variety of activities listed in these pages, and of course at the AGM. As mentioned last month, we're very short of willing hands to serve on the Committee and to assist with the business of the Society. How about putting your hand up for the coming year?

Sincerely,

Coralie Collins.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 6th. August 1995 at 2:00p.m.

THE OFFICES OF THE VICTORIAN FOLKLIFE
ASSOCIATION

THE BROOM FACTORY

144 GEORGE STREET, FITZROY

Members may put any matter of business before the general meeting for consideration or discussion. Should members require notice of the nature of this business to be circulated to members of the Society prior to the meeting it would be appreciated if such notice was given in writing to the President in time to meet the deadline (June 15th.) for inclusion in the July newsletter.

Items of General Business which members wish to have included on the AGM Agenda should be marked AGM and reach the Society (P.O. Box 1096) by Friday 14 July.

Nominations are called for all Committee positions. Completed nomination forms for all Committee positions must be in the hands of the President or Secretary prior to the commencement of the A.G.M.

Members are entitled to appoint another member as proxy at the A.G.M., by notice given to the President in the form set out, no later than 24 hours before the time of the meeting.

Forms for both purposes are available at the door of the Folk Club on Friday nights or can be obtained by phoning the President; Coralie (03) 480 1020 after 5:00pm. week days.



# FOLK IN VICTORIA

### JUNE

•MELBOURNE FOLK CLUB• Mac's Hotel, Franklin St. City.

Enquiries: Enda (03)9349 2417/Brian (03)9484 1855.

Friday 2

· Session in the Horseshoe Bar 8 till late.

Friday 9

Josephine Marsh, Patrick McPartland.
 Upstairs 8.30pm.

· Session in the Horseshoe Bar.

Friday 16

· Session in the Horseshoe Bar.

Friday 23

 Mediæval Night with Chloe Hall. Upstairs 8.30pm.

· Session in the Horseshoe Bar.

Friday 30

· Session in the Horseshoe Bar.

### OTHER

Sunday 4 June

Peninsula Folk Club, Seaford. Jenny Offer. Enquiries: Keith Rea (03)9776 9777.

Monday 5 June

Miriam Makeba. Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash University. Bookings (03)9905 1111.

Friday 9 June + (Queen's Birthday weekend)
Guildford Folk Weekend. See feature for details.
Enquiries: Duncan Brown (054)73 4201.

Sunday 18 June
Peninsula Folk Club. Multiples night.

Saturday 24 June

Winter Bush Ball, Northcote Town Hall. Enquiries: Barry (03)9484 4130/Margot (03)9481 7713.

Saturday 24 June

Celtiad, Augustine Centre, Hawthorn. Enquiries: Dave Rackham (03)9529 2947/Brian Grayson (03)9484 1855.

Saturday 24 June

Dya Singh. Drama Space, Monash University. Sunday 2 July

Peninsula Folk Club. Club night.

Thursday 13 July
The Fureys, Maria Forde. Concert Hall.
Bookings: BASS.

Saturday 30 July
Klezmer & Comedy, Alexander Theatre, Monash
University.

## TESTIVAL UPDATE

- 2 4 June Brucknell Annual Bush Music Camp
- 9 11 June
   25th Annual Top Half Festival, Mt Isa,
   Qld.
   Performer enquiries: Annette Gordon (0770)43
   8993
- 9 12 June National Celtic Folk Festival, Geelong. Enquiries: (052)21 7066.
- 10 12 June TSDAV Australian Social Dance and Music Weekend, East Bendigo. Enquiries: Lucy Stockdale (03)9380 4291.
- 23 25 June Brisbane Solstice Festival, Qld. Contact: (0074)76 0600.
- 7 8 July
   4th International Dance and Music Camp,
   Anglesey, Vic.
   Enquiries: Marie Feigl (03)9534 2860.
- 30 Sept 2 Oct Uranquinty Folk Festival, Wagga Wagga, NSW.
- 29 Sept 2 Oct 1995 State Folk & Music Festival, Victor Harbor, SA. Enquiries: Keith Preston (08)340 1069.

### PERFORMERS' ADVISORY

Applications are now being taken for the following festivals:

-WOODFORD MALENY, QLD 27 Dec 1995 - 1 Jan 1996 Deadline 31 July Forms available (074)76 0600

•TOODYAY FOLK ARTS FESTIVAL, WA 27 - 29 Oct Deadline 9 June Forms available (09)370 1145

## DVERSEAS FESTIVALS

I'D APPRECIATE INFORMATION FROM ALL AND SUNDRY ON UPCOMING EVENTS ANYWHERE OVERSEAS. IN PARTICULAR, IF ANYONE HAS INFO ABOUT FESTIVALS IN NEW ZEALAND, CANADA OR THE US, I'D APPRECIATE HEARING FROM YOU.

If you're planning a trip, let me know well in advance. Send me a stamped self-addressed A4 envelope with an extra 45-cent stamp enclosed (to pay for my photocopying costs - sue me, I'm poor) and I'll overwhelm you with choice. If you're leaving this month, phone me if you're desperate.

Brian Grayson 6/5 Smith Street THORNBURY VIC 3071 (03)9484 1855

## CELTIAD 1995

This one-day event is now in its third year. It's a combination of Alternative fair and festival, with daytime market stalls selling everything from Tweed hats to healing herbs, and a program of workshops in a variety of subjects, including Celtic music, which is where we come in. This year, the musical workshop element consists of Dave Rackham (bodhran), Randall Matthews (fiddle) and Brian Grayson (unaccompanied song). There's also an evening concert/dance. Food is available.

The setting is the Augustine Centre, a delightfully atmospheric building. MC of the day's festivities is Cassandra Carter. There's a small general admission fee, and the workshops are bookable through the CAE.

It's a low-key, user-friendly day. Come along and enjoy!



## & sessioning at mac's &

The FSDSV has been established at its new home, Mac's Hotel, for over a month now. The publicans, John and Sandra, have made us welcome and everyone I've spoken to loves the place. The performance venue is upstairs. It is small, intimate and away from the noise and smoke of the main bar. The acoustics are good, the acts are unamplified and it's a nice room.

The pub is at 37 Franklin Street in the city. It's the oldest hotel in Melbourne (established in 1853 or 1854), with a wide verandah in keeping with its origins in pre-boom, early gold-rush Melbourne (great potential for summer sessioning!). It's set back a bit from the main footpath, so that you feel as if you're really stepping back in time into a Central Victorian tourist brochure. It bravely holds its own amongst the bitumen, glass and concrete of modern Franklin Street, dwarfed between the Ansett air terminal and the interstate bus terminal (handy for interstate folkies).

### The weekly session.

We've needed one of these for a long time. This happens every Friday night in the Horseshoe Bar downstairs, and has the following essential ingredients:

- 1. Atmosphere.
- 2. Guinness on tap.
- 3. A baby grand, in tune.

- 4. A wind-up box player. Robin Wade will be there every Friday, playing relentlessly. The only way to stop him will be to bring your voices and instruments.
- 5. Great potential for the over-crowded conditions that so many sessions thrive on. We hope you will provide this over-crowding.

There is no fixed style. Sometimes it's more of a singing session; sometimes the instruments have their way. The type of music varies, depending on who turns up and who 'spills over' from the formightly concerts. Come in (any time from 8 o'clock) and make your own inimitable mark!

Frances Wade

## RECORD REVIEW

## MERMAIDS IN THE WELL Kavisha Mazzella

Too early in the year for 'album of the year' accolades... Too early in the decade for album of the decade! Perhaps. But when the century turns and all eyes are on Sydney 2000, "Mermaids in the Well" will be high on my list of favourite albums of the 90s. Favourite albums, full stop.

It came as no surprise to learn that this album was five years in the making; Kavisha has taken care to get things just right, and every arrangement enhances the overall feel of the CD - smooth, subtle and greater than the sum of its parts. Easy to get these things wrong, too. Try juggling this lot in a studio: harp, Uilleann pipes, cello, horn section, bass, accordion, oboe... that's about half the instruments used to back THAT voice, and yet it seems completely uncluttered. The songs - eight of them original - and the voice are where they should be, right up front.

Old Rich 'n Famous buddies (or should that be Buddles?) Les Buddle and John Reed share the music credits on a few tracks and Buddle's production shines throughout, whether the mood is midnight, carnival, reggae, whatever. The stand-out track for me is a glorious setting of John Masefield's poem Sea Fever, memorable for many reasons, not the least of which is Peter Grayling's seagull impersonations on the cello. Then there is a Sheila Chandra-ish version of She Moves Through the Fayre complete with tambura and Uilleann pipes, proving that Ireland and India don't meet just in the alphabetical listings. My one quibble is that the CD booklet misspells the names of both Masefield and Padraic Colum in an otherwise attractive layout and design.

Kavisha is setting new standards for contemporary Australian music, blurring the borders between folk and acoustic rock, tradition and innovation. This is folk, but it's good enough to be mainstream and it will get the airplay it deserves.

The album was part-funded by the WA Department of the Arts, and at its launch at the National Folk Festival at Easter it SOLD OUT! If it's not in your local record shop, tell 'em it should be, or order a signed copy (\$30 including postage) from Mermaid Productions. You'll listen to it for decades.

Mermaid Productions MPCD001 c/- Lot 1, San Angelo Road WARRANDYTE WA 3113

Reviewed by Enda Kenny

## 'GENTLE ANNIE' - A DISCOVERY?

I acquired a second-hand record of Stephen Foster songs the other day, and , blow me down, he wrote Gentle Annie! Not the "you'd better put a fence round them cabbage" parody we all know, but a typically Victorian lament for times lost. I'd never heard it before, and no-one I can find seems to mention the Foster song (written in 1856) when talking about the Australian version.

The words were by Jack Cousens, who wrote many poems which appeared in the "Rutherglen Star" in the 1890s. Dave Lumsden, who gave me the text that appears on this record, says that one tradition in his family has it that the words were written for his grandmother's sister; he believes it was probably written for her friend. Both girls were about fifteen at the time.

Danny Spooner: Liner notes to 'I Got This One From...'

Danny says he got the song from his cousin Mick, who got it from Martin Wyndham Read, who got it from the Lumsden family. *Gentle Annie* seems largely to be ignored by collectors: it appears in none of the collections by Meredith, Anderson, Ward, Manifold or Bill Scott that I have.

Have I made a discovery? All right - all you people out there who knew already, don't all yell at once...

Brian Grayson

## JAY TURNER DOWN UNDER

Edited from 'Folk on Tap' (UK)
PART TWO

We returned to Melbourne for a couple of days to catch up on sleep and chores before sailing on the 'Spirit of Tasmania' on Wednesday afternoon. Devonport at 8.30am looked very British - overcast, with a light drizzle, a little chilly compared to the 'northern island'. Our host and Tamar Valley Festival organiser, Di Phillips, met us in the lounge at the quayside and we were soon whisked away in her car towards the Tamar Valley where, on the mouth of the river, George Town crouches round a pretty crescent-shaped inlet.

The local ABC radio was supporting the festival by playing tracks from featured artists every morning, and the Launceston papers were eager to interview. The Pier Hotel was sponsoring the festival by supplying accommodation to the artists, and was

hosting the sessions, Morris dancing and, on the lawn leading down to the quay, a marquee for concerts.

All my appearances were to be at the Memorial Hall, and the first on the Friday evening followed a local act, 'Mother's Ruin', who left the audience happy and buzzing. I had another very enjoyable half hour and gave way to 'Cigano', a newly-formed Brisbane-based five-piece playing Eastern-influenced dance music and English-flavoured songs. I nipped over to the Marquee to catch Simpson, Gillespie and Wright, who, apart from engaging everyone at the festival with their harmonies, got the vote for sterling work, not only doing their own act, but singing back-up to me and Bruce Watson on our sets.

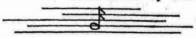
I was sharing a villa with this trio of lady singers and Penny Gough, who had accompanied me to Oz as my sound-engineer and merchandiser. Four females and one male in a small flatlet - a tough job; someone's gotta do it. Not so tough as the job poor Bruce Watson had next door, bunking with Danny Spooner. Danny could snore for the Olympics, and several times during the night I dreamt that someone was attempting to enter our villa through the wall, using a chainsaw. I don't know if Bruce slept at all, but the newly-crafted poem he read to his audience the next lunchtime bore hilarious witness to his situation!

Saturday morning workshops available were Harmony (more S, G & W), Pub Songs, Morris Dancing, Women at Work (with Judy Small), Tai Chi, the American Civil War and Scrumpy. The latter turned out not only to be a drink, but a six-foot giant with a Dorsetshire accent, celebrating in song and by example the existence of cider. Here was a man who definitely enjoyed his work. At the Saturday evening concert I preceded Judy Small, the festival headliner. Her songs have a very broad appeal, and I was amazed at just how many I recognised as having woven themselves into the fabric of 'folk' as witnessed in clubs and singarounds I've been to in the UK. A great writer, singer and performer, she drew us along a rutted road, pot-holed with images of peace, freedom, equality, nostalgia and satanic wit (I challenge even the toughest MCP not to sing along with The IPD).

On Sunday morning I bumped into Scrumpy at the corner of the High Street, by now a little ruddy and with cider-breath that could have stunned an ox. He demanded a tape exchange. I looked up into his eyes (a rare stance for me) and decided acquiescence was the sensible option.

The last concert was again an afternoon affair, with all the artists doing another set. Bruce closed his set with his roof-raising Folk Rap; Danny Spooner (a sort of Dave Burland of the Australian scene, in terms of statesmanship) followed me with his rousing chorus songs; and Judy again closed the concert, apart from the whole lot of us clambering onstage to sing The Wild Mountain Thyme, led by Danny, at the finish.

Contributed by Chris Garrity



#### FOLK ON RADIO

### IN MELBOURNE:

RADIO NATIONAL: AM 621

11.05pm-1.00am MON. - FRI: Nightly Planet - Robyn Johnston often

plays local and international folk music.

SATURDAY 7.10pm-9.00pm

Music Deli. - Steve Snelleman & Paul

Petran

SATURDAY 9.05pm-10.00pm

A Swag of Yarns - David Mulhallen

3LO: AM 774

SUNDAY 5.30am-10.00am

Australia All Over - Folk, country and chat -

Ian "Macca" MacNamara.

3CR: AM 855

MONDAY 10.30pm-Midnight

Traditionally Late. - Co-ordinated by Peter

Goodyear with various presenters.

TUESDAY 10.30pm-Midnight

Local and Live - Marion Cincotta and

local artists, both recorded friends play

and live.

FRIDAY Noon-2.00pm

The Boîte World Music Show.

SUNDAY

2.00pm-2.30pm

Careering Arts - Helen Millicer and

Vincent

O'Donnell. Arts industry

issues.

3ZZZ FM...92.3

TUESDAY Noon -1.00pm

Voices of Our World - World Music.

11.00am-Noon SATURDAY

Irish Programme.

SUNDAY 6.00pm-7.00pm

Irish Programme.

3INR FM... 96.5

5.00pm-6.00pm SUNDAY

That's All Folk. - Rhonda Cadman.

3RRR FM...102.7

TUESDAY 2.00pm-4.00pm

Old Folk Show - Rick E Vengeance

3PBS FM 106.7

WEDNESDAY 1.30pm-3.30pm

Multicultural Music - The Boîte.

SUNDAY 3.00pm-5.00pm

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contemporary music from around the world

10.30pm-Midnight

Continental Drift - World Music.



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At The Boîte World Music Cafe NºI MARK STREET, NORTH FITZROY SATURDAY 3RD JUNE, B. ISPM Entry \$10, \$ conc. Enquiries 4173550





### BRIGHTWATER

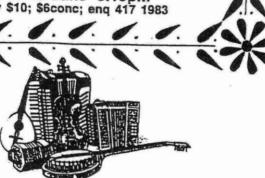
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### POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1096, CARLTON, VIC. 3053

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ADVERTISING RATES

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### FOLK SONG AND DANCE SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

THE SOCIETY, active since 1965, has as its aims the collection, preservation, presentation and promotion of all aspects of the folk arts. Trading as FOLK VICTORIA, the FSDSV. presents a variety of concerts and music and dance activities, and the regular Friday night Melbourne Folk Club. The Society strives to work with and assist other folk organisations, and supports a number of local and interstate festivals. MONTHLY MEETINGS are held (usually the second Tuesday of the month), where members' views and suggestions can be voiced. Members receive "Folkvine" magazine monthly, and can claim discounted entry fees to the Melbourne Folk Club and a number of other events run by the FSDSV and associated folk organisations. Discounts are also available on recordings sold at FSDSV events and on advertising in "Folkvine". The FSDSV is a member body of "The Victorian Folklife Association", which is the state's umbrella folkarts organisation. Director of the VFA is Susan Faine: Phone: (03) 417 4684 (VFA). Victoria's representative on the Australian Folk Trust is Mary Traynor: Phone: (03) 387 2506 (H)

GENERAL ENQUIRIES FOR THE FSDSV:

Coralie Collins

(03) 480 1020 (H)

Brian Grayson

(03) 484 1855 (H)

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