

Vol. 4 No. 3 July/August 1998

# folklife

## NEWS

Folklife News is the newsletter of the Victorian Folklife Association Inc.

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AUSTRALIAN FOLK FESTIVAL AT KIAMA

FOLK ARTIST RECEIVES FELLOWSHIP

GEOFF LE BLANC - THE CAJUN ROO

CD REVIEWS

AROUND THE STATE

MAKE YOUR OWN ARAKA

WHAT'S ON

Welcome to the mid-winter edition of Folklife News. There's not a lot of action on the festival front but we still have lots of other important information for you, such as conferences, exhibitions and all the usual features. Marion Stabb reports on the Australian Folk Festival at Kiama NSW and we profile the work folk artist Diana Brandt. There are reviews two CDs by Kathryn Clements and Zydeco Jump as well as a book and CD package by Dr Barry York. The old faithful Foodways section won't fail to please either with a hearty Greek soup for those mid-winter meals. Finally, we are happy to announce the launch of new, low-cost advertising rates for Folklife News. This will enable you to reach your target market a price you can really afford. So get into your dressing gown and moccasins, settle back with Folklife News and drive the cold winter away.

Alan Musgrove ●

## VICTORIAN FOLKLIFE ASSOCIATION INC.

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The Victorian Folklife Association (VFA) is dedicated to the protection and promotion of the cultural heritage of Victoria, in particular, to those unofficial aspects of our heritage which are folklife.

Our mission is taken from the 1989 UNESCO recommendation on Safeguarding Traditional Culture and Folklore which requires action by signatory nations to identify, preserve and conserve, protect and disseminate traditional culture and folklife.

### THE VFA COMMITTEE 1996-98

President HUGH MACEWAN • Vice President STEVE BULLOCK  
• Secretary JILL CAMPBELL

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- Full page \$ 50
- Half page \$ 30
- Quarter page \$ 20

Members: 1/3 page (single column) ad free every year

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## COPY DEADLINE

for next issue of  
Folklife News

### August 10

due out at the end of August

all articles should be submitted with  
both disc (Macintosh preferred) and  
hard copy.

promptness with submissions is  
appreciated as it makes an editor's life  
much easier

### Indigenous Dream

July 2 - 26

Gabriel Gallery

Footscray Community Arts Centre

45 Moreland Street, Footscray

CONTACT: THE DIRECTOR PH: (03) 9689 5677

This exhibition comes to the Gabriel Gallery following a six month tour of Northern Italy and was officially launched on National Aboriginal and Islander Day, July 5. It showcases the art of Brian McKinnon and his daughter Crystal McKinnon. Brian, one of the 'stolen generation', was born into the Wongai nation in Western Australia. Through contact with Wongai elders he has learnt many of the stories that he tells in his paintings. Crystal is of the Wathaurong group and was born in Geelong. She has travelled extensively throughout Australia learning the Dreamtime stories depicted in her art.

### Welsh Triple Harp Concerts with Robin Huw Bowen

Friday July 10, 8pm & Sunday July 12, 2pm

MLC Music Auditorium, 207 Barkers Road, Kew

CONTACT: CYRIL JONES PH: (03) 9870 0318

Robin Huw Bowen has devoted the last twenty years to researching traditional Welsh music. During that time has achieved virtuoso status on the Welsh triple harp and is recognised as the only musician in the world who specialises in that instrument. His performances are laced with humour and contain a wealth of information. These concerts are Robin's only Victorian appearances.

### Folk Alliance Australia 2nd National Convention

July 17 - 19

Cato Conference Centre

YWCA Hotel 489 Elizabeth Street Melbourne

CONTACT: DIETER BAJECK PH: (03) 9459 8128

FAA will present over 20 workshops, forums and interest group meetings relating to promoting and marketing the folk arts for organisers and performers. Topics include funding, legal issues, self management, copyright, event planning, internet secrets, women in folk and many more.

There will also be three showcase concerts featuring a diversity of music, song, dance and spoken word as well as trade fair exhibits open

to any company, organisation or individual involved in the folk arts.

The weekend cost for non members is \$130 and \$95 for members. Single day tickets are also available.

### Secrets of Ottoman Art Alive In Contemporary Marbled Painting

July 19 - August 3

Chapel Off Chapel, 12 Little Chapel Street, Prahran

CONTACT: INTERNATIONAL SPECIALISED SKILLS

PH: (03) 9349 4554

This exhibition of marbled painting, by Turkish artist Nimet Ozata, will present wearable art such as scarves or blouses and household items like wall hangings. All items exhibited are for sale.

Marbled painting is the folk art of painting on water and is known in Australia simply as 'marbling'. It has its beginnings in 12th century Japan and was later picked up by the Persians and Turks who distinguished themselves by producing spectacular marbled fabrics.

Although over the centuries techniques have changed, Nimet Ozata, considered to be one of the leading experts in her field prefers to practice the traditional methods.

She works principally in textiles with a focus on fine quality fabrics such as silks. Nimet is a graduate in Fine Arts and also has a great understanding of the chemistry of marbling, holding a degree in pharmacy from Istanbul University.

On July 19, Nimet will also conduct 'Creating Marbled Paintings: Demonstration and Floortalk' for those who want to learn how the paintings are made.

### Festival and Events Conference

July 24 and 25

CUB Malthouse, 113 Sturt Street Southbank

CONTACT: MAGGIE MAGUIRE AND ASSOCIATES

PH: (03) 9690 7133 FAX: (03) 9690 7076

This conference will be packed with clever, useful and sensible ideas for event and festival organisers.

All of the speakers are experts in their fields and will offer case studies, hints and thoughts and give an opportunity for questions at the end of each session.

The sessions are relevant to artistic directors, administrators, production staff, board and committee members and anyone else associated with the festival and events industry.

sleep between four and ten people. The camp is run on a self-catered basis with kitchen, dining room and barbecue facilities available. As the camp is situated in a national park, no pets are allowed.

## Day Of Russian Culture, Grand Concert

**Sunday August 30, 1:30pm**  
**Renaissance Theatre, Kew High School**  
**826a High Street, Kew**  
 CONTACT: LYDIA CHARLAMOW PH: (03) 9363 1697

This concert, organised by the Russian Ethnic Representative Council, will feature Sadko Orchestra Of National Instruments, Russian dancing displays, male and female choirs and poetry recitals as well as special solo musical performances and a short lecture. The admission prices are \$12 or \$8 concession and free return transport by bus from the Collingwood Russian Orthodox Cathedral to the theatre is available.

## Festival Of The Harp

**Sunday, August 30, 2pm**  
**Northcote Uniting Church**  
**251 High Street, Northcote**  
 CONTACT: ROBERT HOSKIN PH: (03) 9482 2884

This event, organised by the Northcote Uniting Church, will feature Jane Belfrage and other local artists. A wide range of musical styles which use the harp extensively will be represented including Medieval, Celtic, jazz, classical and folk. The cost is \$8 and \$5 concession.

This camp has arisen as a consequence of the

## Rose's Gap Folk Music Camp

**September 25 - 28**  
**Grampians/Gariwerd National Park**  
 CONTACT: HELEN MEGEACHEN PH: (03) 5472 3990

Turrumurra camp which has been running for 15 years. Turrumurra has been regularly booked out so it is hoped that this similarly sized camp will cater for the overflow, providing another opportunity for music making and learning in a relaxed atmosphere. There is a wide choice of workshops, concerts and Saturday night dance as well as wildflower walks led by experienced guides.

Springtime is magical in the Grampians and the camp offers good facilities. There are plenty of unpowered campsites and bunkhouses that

## Why is this space vacant?

**Your advertisement could fill this spot**

*If you have a business or are selling a product related to the folk arts, Folklife News is a great opportunity to reach your target market. Why waste money hoping the right people are seeing your ad! **Be Sure!***

### Folklife News advertising Rates

#### PRINTED ADVERTISEMENTS

<b>Full Page</b>	<b>\$50</b>
<b>Half Page</b>	<b>\$30</b>
<b>Quarter page</b>	<b>\$20</b>

*Any logos, photos or artwork you want to include should be sent on disk and saved as a TIFF file (must be Macintosh format). If artwork is supplied in hard copy only, an additional \$10 scanning fee will be charged.*

#### A4 INSERTS - FLYERS SUPPLIED BY YOU

<b>Members</b>	<b>\$40</b> (run of 400 @ 10c ea)
<b>Non-members</b>	<b>\$60</b> (run of 400 @ 15c ea)

*This is a price for distribution only. The VFA does not lay-out or print flyers.*

**Don't hesitate! Call VFA today!**

PHONE OR FAX

**(03) 9417 4684**

## Arts Centre Seeks New Presenters

Multicultural groups can benefit from a \$400,000 subsidisation scheme established by The Pratt Foundation to encourage new presenters to use the Victorian Arts Centre venues. The main focus of the scheme will be the Melbourne Concert Hall, however requests for subsidies for all venues, including the Sidney Myer Music Bowl, will be considered. The scheme's foremost objectives are to expand the audiences and foster the awareness of the Victorian Arts Centre as a venue for hire by regional and multicultural community organisations and events. The scheme will give preference to first time users of the Centre, including those who commit to multi-year hirings. It will also encourage producers of programs of particular community merit, innovation, commercial potential, quality and appeal to establish an audience base in Melbourne. The Venue Assistance Scheme will be managed by The Pratt Foundation. Applications will be representatives of the Victorian Arts Centre Trust.

*Inquiries regarding the scheme should be directed to either Ian Allen, The Pratt Foundation, Level 39, 55 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000, Ph: (03) 9921 7138, Fax: (03) 9921 7144 or Graham Jasper, Victorian Arts Centre, Venue Sales and Service, Ph: (03) 9281 8314, Fax: (03) 9281 8080.*

## Folklife News

**is looking for volunteers to help with occasional typing, soliciting of advertising, writing of articles and general dogsbody work. If this sounds like you, contact the editor, Alan Musgrove at VFA (03) 9417 4684 or at home (03) 9489 0568.**

## Australian Folk Festival at Kiama

This festival, with its beautiful seaside location, is becoming one of my favourites. I had several beach walks, a visit to Kiama's famous Blow Hole and fish and chips by the sea. The theme for this year was 'The Southern Cross Is Calling', introduced to highlight the impact of immigration on Australian music and culture as it exists today. The theme was presented in music, song, poetry and dance.

The festival, running from June 5 - 8, commenced on Wednesday evening with a bush dance and on Thursday a Welcome Concert was held for the enjoyment of early festival goers. On Friday night the Opening Concert featured many festival performers entertaining us with two items each - a taste of what was on the weekend's program. The standard of performance was high and I found it helpful in deciding which performers I would miss my dancing to see.

There were three dance workshops - the first consisted of dances from Queensland with a large German influence. This workshop was conducted by Mark and Maria Schuster who also presented workshops and concerts of Queensland German music and song. In the second dance workshop Shirley Andrews presented early styles of Schottische and 19th Century quadrilles while the final one featured dances from northern NSW with the band Marooan.

Dance enthusiasts (like myself) were lucky enough to have three great dances over the weekend with music by the Gay Charmers from Victoria and the Festival Orchestra which consisted of Wongawilli plus extras. Other highlights included the 'Fiddlers Frolic' featuring collected tunes from Bob McInnes, Maria Schuster and Alan Musgrove accompanied by Ali Barber on guitar, Denis Kevans's presentation of 'From Wicklow to Wollombi' and Peter Ellis' 'Italian Music From Central Victoria'.

The penultimate event on the Monday was the Band Mix-Up. All the performers names were put in a hat and new combinations hit the stage with items ranging from the bizarre to the hysterical. This was followed by the Finale Concert and a farewell session at the Grand Hotel on the corner of Bong Bong Street. It was a most enjoyable weekend.

**Marion Stabb ●**



## Kathryn Clements - From Ireland To Here

KCCD 001

This recent album by Kathryn Clements should justify and enhance her growing reputation as a performer of Irish ballads and song. Clements and her collaborators deserve praise for placing the ballad and the song at the forefront, unlike so much of contemporary Irish folk performance which tends to emphasise the instrumental streams of the tradition.

There is some very fine musicianship on the thirteen tracks but none of this musical backing, however, is allowed to obscure or overwhelm the graceful leading voice which is still the album's most attractive feature. The clarity and precision of Kathryn's diction and phrasing are outstanding. It probably takes some courage to record three Gaelic songs but, with the vocal harmony support of Lynnelle and Elizabeth Moran, this risky venture has turned out to be a triumph, particularly on 'Mo Ghile Mear'.

There is a balanced mixture of traditional and contemporary songs on the album and a wide variety of moods, from the light-hearted to the sombre. Love is the dominant theme and Clements seems to revel in bringing out the emotional intensity of songs such as Phil Cunningham's beautiful tear jerker ballad 'Eilidh'. In some ways, however, the choice of material has been conservative. A number of the songs will be very familiar to fans of Irish folk because they are often covered by other artists - 'Tinkerman's Daughter' (The Red-Headed Anne), 'Magdalen Laundry', 'John O'Dreams', 'Raglan Road' and 'Danny Boy'.

In 'Danny Boy', Clements breaks free of her accompanists and displays her ability at unaccompanied solo singing. She may profit from doing this more often. The unaccompanied, and often elaborately ornamented 'big' songs (sean-nos) of the traditional Gaelic singer's repertoire, constitute the essential core of the Irish musical tradition. For me perhaps the most stunning track (not far in front of 'The Tinkerman's Daughter' and 'Raglan Road') is Kathryn's version of 'Sliabh Gallion Braes' which also features the sensitive and haunting backing of Francis O'Mara's accordion. I first heard this gentle rural protest lament in the early '60s on a 'Topic' record of the McPeake family of Belfast and it is curious that it has been sung so little over the years. It is also the closest we get to a rebel ballad on this album, an unfortunate omission given this year is the bicentenary of the most noble of all Irish historical events, the 'Rising' of 1798.

One thing on the CD cover grated with me - it uses the now fashionable 'Celtic' label to describe Irish songs composed in the English language that have nothing to do with the greater part of the Celtic universe (Brittany, Galician, Wales etc).

Ken Mansell ●

## Zydeco Jump, Dig It Up

ZJ 002

This latest CD from Melbourne's Zydeco Jump consists of eight originals in the zydeco style by accordionist George Butrumlis and bassist Alan Wright, with one song from zydeco legend Clifton Chenier. It was recorded at George's home studio in Yarraville and the production is crisp, full and present.

Zydeco is the music of the French-speaking black population of Louisiana. Its roots are in 19th century popular quadrille music and the Afro-American folkmusic of Louisiana and east Texas, but zydeco as we know it today is a post WWII phenomenon. Zydeco's natural habitat is in the bars and dance halls of Louisiana's bayou country where it has developed the kind of exuberance needed to survive in such a hostile environment. On 'Dig It Up', Zydeco Jump has captured the dance hall feel. The vocals are clear and present in the mix, which is a blessing nowadays.

Whether performing a fast rocker or a bluesy, slow dance number, the rhythm section (Alan Wright bass, Gary Samolin drums, Ken Farmer rubboard) is tight and persistent. Over this persistent rhythm, carefully placed and expertly played solos from George Butrumlis on accordion, and Karl Hird on saxophone complete neat, punchy renditions. The CD's overall sound is like zydeco recordings made in the 1960s and 70s, if somewhat tighter and cleaner.

The themes of the original compositions are in keeping with the good time function of the music, although they are entirely in English. The lyrics mainly concern dancing, drinking and sex and are sprinkled with occasional witticisms. Even the titles themselves could read like the story of someone's night at the pub. For example, 'New King In Town', 'Already Gone', 'Twistin' the Zydeco', 'I Want to Dance With You', 'The Clock Struck Midnight', 'Beguiled', 'Goin' Home', 'Ride 'em Cowboy!'. I predict this CD will be a favourite at all the right parties this year.

Alan Musgrove ●

## Rhythm and Views • Music & Books

FOLK,  
BLUES,  
and BEYOND...

### FREE LIVE IN-STORE MUSIC - JULY/AUGUST

**Sat. July 4, 1:30pm**

ALFIRIO CRISTALDO - This man is a master of the Paraguayan Harp. Joyous, celebratory & romantic music from Paraguay.

**Sat. July 11, 1:30pm**

LOS ROMANCTICOS - Mexican Mariachi band. A 'Soundtrack of Passion'. 'Songs to fall in love beside.' Don't miss it all you romantics!

**Sat. July 18, 1:30pm**

VALANGA KHOZA - Harmonies from South Africa. Songs which reflect the struggle, power and passions of the people - performed with enthusiasm and style!

**Sat. July 25, 1:30pm**

SFORZANDO - 7 piece 'Celtic/Pirate' band leaning heavily on peasant folk sounds, but with a strong sense of urban grunge and inner-city madness.

**Sat. Aug 1, 1:30pm**

MESH - A 4 piece band playing original music with a bluesy, jazzy, rock, soul, acoustic vibe!

**Sat. Aug 8, 1:30pm**

HARVEST MOON BAND - Traditional Australian music with a dash of hillbilly. Bring your dancing shoes.

**Sat. Aug 15 1:30pm**

PETRUNKA - Melbourne Women's Bulgarian choir - music from the rich and enormously varied folk traditions of Bulgaria.

**Sat. Aug 22, 1:30pm**

VINCE BROPHY - Contemporary Irish/Australian singer/songwriter from Adelaide. Passionate and perceptive songs.

**Sat. Sept 5, 1:30pm**

WILD HONEY - Local contemporary acoustic band playing original material about life, love and politics.

**FOR MORE INFO:** Watch the EG, call in, phone or get on the mailing list - just ask!

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## Folk Artist Receives Fellowship

Diana Brandt is a folk artist whose style of painting has developed over the last eight years from the traditional Bauernmaleri. She became seduced by the naive painting of Spanschachtlen (plywood boxes) of Germany and Austria which she has since developed into her present rustic style. The medieval figures and images from illuminated manuscripts, the ceramics of Italy and Holland, the vivid textiles of India and the peasant paintings of Europe have all influenced her, leading to her highly individual style, based on a reverence for the decorative arts of many cultures.

In association with last year's San Marco and Venice Exhibition, held at the National Gallery of Victoria, Diana Brandt was awarded a fellowship by International Specialised Skills (ISS). ISS see the fellowships they offer both as a way helping artists and craftspersons, and as a way of forming closer bonds with regions of Italy.

ISS is an enterprise of the Australian Multicultural Foundation, RMIT University and the Paladio Foundation. They identify and attempt to remedy skills gaps in Australia in the areas of art and design, conservation and restoration, textile, clothing and footwear and building construction. Caroline Bourne of ISS said that both traditional and leading edge skills were required to make Australian products desirable, competitive and exportable. She went on to outline how her organisation was addressing these problems.

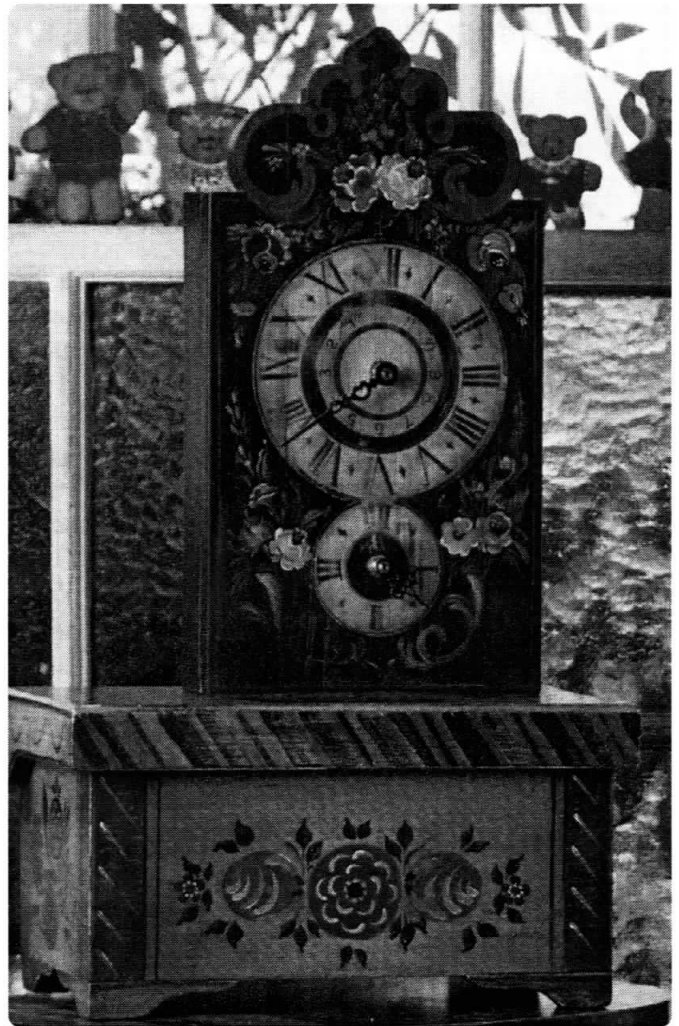
"We award fellowships to bring expert skills to Australia or we bring the experts themselves to Australia and run conferences, workshops or whatever is required so as many people as possible can learn from the person who has been awarded the fellowship."

Diana Brandt will study at the European Centre Of Training Craftsmen In The Architectural Heritage in Venice, where she will undertake an intensive course in lacquering. This school has been set up by the European Parliament and the European Foundation to preserve traditional skills in the fields of building and architecture. Because of its use in panel work, lacquering is taught at the centre by experts from around the globe.

For Diana to be able to attend this prestigious school is testament to her talent. It is ISS' intention that Diana further develop her skills, build on them and bring new levels of expertise back to Australia to then be passed on to others. In Australia at the moment the use of lacquering is not wide-

spread outside the folk art field, but Caroline Bourne explained what Diana Brandt and others could gain from her Venetian experience.

"Diana will be studying lacquering which is, of course a 'folk' art, derived from oriental lacquering. She'll be learning about the materials, the tools, techniques, equipment and processes, but what we're (ISS) interested in is for her to learn to use the skills she already has as a folk artist in different ways



*A sample of Diana Brandt's exquisite work*

- for new Australian products, not just in the traditional ways they have been used in the past. We have found thinking of one's self as being in a certain field constricts the range of abilities one sees available, and limits the market that goods can be sold in. We like to look at the skills a person has rather than at the label people put on themselves. The medium (lacquering) lends itself to a lot of different contexts. We hope to develop niche areas. When Diana comes back that's going to be part of the challenge she faces. Not only will she be



teaching others through our (ISS) seminars, she will be working with us to develop new markets for those techniques to be used in."

What Diana absorbs in the canal city will be not only applicable in her area but also in other fields such as contemporary furniture making, interior design and architecture. Through these applications it will be possible to put traditional skills into new contexts. ISS would like to break down the demarcations that differentiate say, a visual artist from a folk artist from a designer, or a stone mason from a sculptor, allowing artists more creative as well as economic freedom. ISS believes such classification has restricted the development of broad skills bases and contributed to limited opportunities, for although Diana has been awarded her fellowship and is sponsored by the Paladio Foundation, other sponsorship has not been forthcoming. The feeling is that this is due to popular perceptions of folk art. Diana and ISS believe that the necessary level of sponsorship would have been met if people could understand that her skills can be applied to a range of disciplines. This then would lead to new opportunities for Australian art and industry.

**Alan Musgrove ●**

## **Maltese In Australia**

by Barry York

Victoria University, 1998 (Book)

## **Maltese Voices Down Under**

Victoria University (Double CD)

Barry York's latest book 'Maltese In Australia - Wanderings through the Maltese-Australian story from convict times to the present' follows on from two previous works he has published in this field: 'The Maltese In Australia' and 'Empire and Race: the Maltese in Australia 1881-1949'.

This latest volume takes us through the main phases of Maltese settlement in Australia and focuses on important Maltese-Australian individuals of the 19th Century. It also reveals the difficulties faced by Maltese migrants during the 20th Century, relates their attempts to overcome them, and looks at post W.W.II Maltese migration to Australia and the communities that grew in the suburbs of our capital and regional cities. The book is in both English and Maltese and is accompanied by a double CD which features edited oral history interviews, fragments of Maltese music and two entire songs as well as a 24 page booklet.

The Maltese people are largely descendants of Iron Age Phoenicians who settled the islands around

800BC. Malta has been influenced by many cultures at different times including Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines and Arabs before being granted to Britain by France under the Treaty Of Paris in 1814. Britain established a naval base there and with the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, Malta's importance to Britain grew.

In the late 19th Century, British experts decided Malta was over populated and that a large number of locals would have to leave. During the first half of the 20th Century, emigration was seen by the British rulers as a 'safety valve' for Malta. Barry York says, "The idea was that large scale emigration, assisted by governments, would relieve Malta of those among its working-class who might otherwise be unemployed."

Specious though this reasoning was, it created mass Maltese migration to Australia and other parts of the world which didn't abate until about 1970. One significant cause of its decline given by Dr York is that by the 1970s, the standard of living in Malta had risen to more tolerable levels, even though the population was greater than ever before.

'Maltese In Australia' takes us on a journey alongside some of the people who migrated. At each stage contemporaneous politics and events have been incorporated so that we see individuals experiences in perspective. We hear about the sanitary conditions on immigrant ships, of the social and economic difficulties faced by Maltese immigrants on arrival and of the religious ties and prejudices between Australia and Malta. Many earlier publications have dealt admirably with these and other subjects, but this book also tackles some of the more difficult areas of the Maltese story such as the abuse of Maltese orphans at the hands of the Christian Brothers, particularly in Western Australia.

Sometimes when reading history, one can become distanced from people and events but 'Maltese Voices Down Under' brings individuals voices into your living room and gives the story immediacy. Through a combination of historical writing, documentary extracts, poems, interview transcriptions and recorded sound the author has communicated some of the pathos of the Maltese story. For someone like myself, not raised in the Maltese culture, the book is a closer look at something previously seen from a distance. This package works well together and the musical excerpts make me hungry to hear more.

**Alan Musgrove ●**



### Geoff Le Blanc - The Cajun 'Roo

Melbourne musician Geoff Le Blanc is interested in Cajun music and all aspects of French culture, particularly the music and customs of the French-speaking Arcadians. Geoff joined the VFA as a way of keeping informed about other people and groups with similar interests in folklife. He describes the VFA as "a very sensible organisation." He added, "I rely heavily on the 'What's Ons' and 'Around the State' to keep in touch with what others are doing."

Geoff has been involved with the folk scene since 1974 and is well known as an accordionist and leader of the now defunct Le Blanc Brothers Cajun Aces. Before the hey day of the Cajun Aces, he was better known as a player of Irish music, although his associations with French music go back to childhood. Geoff explained, "I used to play Irish music because everybody (on the folk scene) was into it and I liked it, but I began to realise that there was an avenue for my own family story. I still play Irish music but the Cajun music is my own family story and I don't feel I really have that connection with Irish culture. We were raised with French stories of magic and princes, we ate snails and stuff like that and we knew we were different from other kids but weren't quite sure how. It wasn't usual to have a French name."

Geoff's Arcadian French ancestors migrated to Australia from eastern Canada some three generations ago and although no one in his immediate family was a native French speaker, family members, particularly his father, sang in French and played French music. At the age of five, Geoff's father began to teach him harmonica and he grew up with stories of his relatives in Louisiana who played 'wild French hillbilly music on accordions and fiddles'. Finally his curiosity became too much and he travelled

to Louisiana where he found a wealth of music, delicious food and Cajun accordions. Geoff is very proud of his Cajun accordion so I asked him what makes the Cajun instrument different to any other accordion.

"It's the same shape as a ten key melodeon. In fact, it is a ten key melodeon of very high quality. The reeds in it are very sensitive and have a large dynamic range so they can play very softly or very loudly. You can do a lot with the instrument rhythmically and texturally because of that. If reeds are not sensitive enough they can only be played loudly. They were designed specifically for the requirements of Cajun music. You can play any music at all on a Cajun accordion but they are particularly well adapted for Cajun music."

Some time ago Geoff toyed with the idea of a French cultural group that would meet occasionally to enjoy French music, food, wine and literature. The activities of this group were not to be restricted to Cajun or Arcadian French but include all French influenced culture be it from Africa, North America or France itself. Unfortunately, time has not allowed Geoff to pursue this dream but it remains in the pipeline for the future. Geoff remarked, "It was a nice idea but I just got too busy."

Lately, most of his creative efforts have gone into his band Cajun Roux which features Geoff on accordion, Janet Dear on guitar and Nick Dear on fiddle. Cajun Roux plays for dances, in pubs and at festivals supplying high quality acoustic Cajun music to the public. The music gives Geoff a sense of his family and personal identity that has proved very satisfying for this 'Cajun Roo'.

Alan Musgrove ●

### Araka - Winter Food From Greece

### Publications

This month's recipe, contributed by Melbourne poet Thalia, is just the thing for those mid-winter evening meals. Araka (Greek potato, pea, meat and tomato soup) is eaten all over Greece and in all parts of the world where Greeks have settled. Depending on the cook's preference, it can vary in consistency from a soup to a thick stew.

Araka is served as a main meal and is traditionally preceded by 'misesethes' (hors d'oeuvres) consisting of cubed feta cheese, crusty white bread, black olives and, of course, a nip of ouzo.

#### Ingredients: for four people:

- 2 large onions
- 2 medium carrots
- 4 medium potatoes
- 2 tomatoes
- 500 gms shelled peas
- 250 gms rump steak
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 bay leaf
- olive oil
- pepper and salt to taste

#### Method:

1. Peel and dice onions, carrots and tomatoes
2. Peel potatoes and cut into four
3. Cut meat into bite-sized cubes
4. Cover the base of a soup pot with olive oil
5. Fry meat until cooked through
6. Add onions and fry lightly
7. Add carrots and tomatoes and fry
8. Add salt, pepper and bay leaf
9. Half fill the pot with water and bring to the boil
10. Add potatoes
11. Bring water to boil again and add peas
12. Bring water to boil again and add tomato paste

Cook until potatoes are soft, about 30 - 40 minutes.

Serve with crusty white bread.

#### Victorian Folk Music Club Publications

*from VFMC GPO. Box 20555 Melbourne 3001*

*COLLECTORS CHOICE VOL 1* by Peter Ellis \$20  
*(180 TUNES FOR QUADRILLES & BUSH DANCES)*

*COLLECTORS CHOICE VOL 2* by Peter Ellis \$25  
*(250 tunes for bush dances & old time sets)*

*COLLECTORS CHOICE VOL 3* by Peter Ellis \$30  
*(300 tunes inc music for special occasions)*

*TAKE YOUR PARTNERS* by Shirley Andrews \$10

#### By Noris Ioannou

*BAROSSA JOURNEYS* \$29.95  
*from*

*Paringa Press*  
*P.O. Box 139*  
*Kent Town S.A. 5071*

*THE BAROSSA FOLK* \$140.00  
*published by Craftsman House (Sydney)*  
*available from*

*the author*  
*P.O. Box 139*  
*Kent Town S.A. 5071*

#### The Community Music Handbook

*A fantastic resource for anyone involved in music projects large or small*

**\$25**

*PUBLISHED BY CURRENCY PRESS*

*available from*

*MUSIC COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA*  
*P.O. BOX 1432*  
*NEUTRAL BAY, NSW*  
*2089*



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# folklife

## what's on

Folklife News is the newsletter of the Victorian Folklife Association Inc.

MUSIC

DANCE

CONFERENCES

FESTIVALS

INTERSTATE

RADIO

## MUSIC

### Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club

St John's Anglican Church  
Burgundy Street Heidelberg  
2nd Sun of month  
2pm beginners, 3pm others

CONTACT: JILLIAN NICHOLSON  
(03) 9486 7616

### Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eirann

Irish Music & Dance sessions  
St Phillips Hall  
Hoddle St Abbotsford  
Every Wed 8pm

CONTACT: PADDY O'NIELL  
(03) 9312 6058

### Upper Yarra Acoustic Group

2nd Fri of month 8pm  
Yarra Junction Prim School  
Main Rd Yarra Junction

CONTACT: SHANE  
(03) 5966 2568

### Fiddlers Workshops

Community Hall  
Knaith Rd East Ringwood  
3rd Wed of month

CONTACT: HARRY GARDNER  
(03) 9870 8998

### Peninsula Folk Club

Frankston East Community Centre  
cnr Beach St & Cranbourne Rd Frankston  
1st & 3rd Sun of month

CONTACT: LORRAINE SLY  
(03) 5974 2214



### Irish Night

Elephant and Castle  
McKillop St Geelong  
Every Thur 8-12 midnight  
**CONTACT: IVAN**  
(03) 5266 1230

### Geelong Beginners Music Classes

3YR Offices  
Every Thur 8pm  
**CONTACT: IVAN**  
(03) 5266 1230

### Pancakes on Tuesday Jam Session

Pancake Parlour  
Moorabool St Geelong  
Every Tue 8pm  
**CONTACT: IVAN**  
(03) 5266 1230

### Blackboard Concert Wintergarden Restaurant

McKillop St Geelong  
Every Fri 8pm  
**CONTACT: IVAN**  
(03) 5266 1230

### Ringwood Folk Club

Community Hall  
Knaith Rd East Ringwood  
Every Tue 8pm  
**CONTACT: ALLAN GARDNER**  
(03) 9497 1628

### Maldon Folk Club

Cumquat Tree Tea Rooms  
Main St Maldon  
Every Tue 7:30pm  
**CONTACT: GRAHAM**  
(03) 5475 2209

### Picken' at the Piggery

Footscray Community House  
Moreland St Footscray  
3rd Fri of month  
**CONTACT: JANET OR NICK DEAR**  
(03) 5368 6888

### Boite World Music Cafe

Mark St Nth Fitzroy  
Every Fri & Sat  
**CONTACT: ROGER KING**  
(03) 9417 3550

### Four Ports Folk Club

Warrnambool area  
1st Fri of month  
**CONTACT: DOUG MALONEY**  
(03) 5562 2693

### Selby Folk Club

Selby Community House  
Minak Reserve Selby  
1st Fri of month  
**CONTACT: BOB FARROW**  
(03) 9894 4372

### Irish Music/Singing Sessions

Old Colonial Inn  
127 Brunswick St Fitzroy  
1st Sun of month 2pm  
**CONTACT: KATHRYN CLEMENTS**  
(03) 9497 3227

### Open Stage

Uniting Church Hall  
Forest St Bendigo  
Every Fri 8pm  
**CONTACT: BRIEN BLACKSHAW**  
(03) 5447 7690

### The Deakin Concerts

Union Building Deakin Uni  
Last Fri of month  
\$10  
**CONTACT: DOMINIC MCALINDEN**  
(03) 5251 2694

### Aerostato

329 Elizabeth St Melb  
Every Sunday  
**CONTACT: COSTAS ATHANASSIOU**  
(03) 9419 9085

### Fathers in the chapel

St John's Anglican Church  
Childers St Cranbourne  
2nd Fri of month  
**CONTACT: GREG JONES**  
(03) 5996 8461

### Folk Victoria Music Nights

East Brunswick Club Hotel  
280 Lygon St, East Brunswick  
4th Fri of month  
**JEANETTE GILLESPIE**  
(03) 9481 6051

### Welsh Triple Harp Concerts

with Robin Huw Bowen  
MLC Auditorium  
207 Barker Rd Kew  
Fri July 10, 8pm &  
Sun July 12, 2pm  
**CONTACT: CYRIL JONES**  
(03) 9870 0318

### Festival Of The Harp

Northcote Uniting Church  
251 High st Northcote  
Sun Aug 30, 2pm  
**CONTACT: ROBERT HOSKIN**  
(03) 9482 2884

### Day Of Russian Culture

Renaissance Theatre  
Kew High School  
826a High St Kew  
Sun Aug 30 1:30pm  
**CONTACT : LYDIA CHARLAMOW**  
(03) 9363 1697

## DANCE

### Victorian Dance Assembly

Teaching Quadrilles  
Frank Tate Hall  
Melbourne Uni  
2nd & 4th Mon 8pm  
**CONTACT: SHIRLEY ANDREWS**  
(03) 9328 1176

### Bendigo Bush Dance & Music Club

Emu Creek Bush Band  
3rd Fri of month  
**CONTACT: MARY**  
(03) 5442 1153

### Sedgwick Old Time Dance

Black Billy Band  
Sedgwick Hall  
1st Sat of month  
**CONTACT: JULIE**  
(03) 5439 6317

### Kalinka Dance Company

Russian House  
Cnr Gore & Greeves St  
Fitzroy  
Every Mon & Wed 7pm  
**CONTACT: JAYNE ROBINSON**  
(03) 9803 6076 OR 9898 7330

### Dawnsweyr Cumreig Melbourne

60 Ivanhoe Pde Ivanhoe  
Every 2nd Mon 8pm  
**CONTACT: ROGER**  
(03) 9499 6566

### Irish Set Dancing

Newtown Club Skene Street  
Geelong  
Every Monday  
7:30-10:30pm  
**CONTACT: FAY MCALINDEN**  
(03) 5243 7679

### Modern American Square Dance Workshops

Community Centre  
Dunkley Ave Highett  
Every Fri 7-10:30pm  
\$3

**CONTACT: CLEM PARKINSON**  
(03) 9553 4603

### Colonial Dancers Classes

St Michael's Hall  
McPherson St Nth Carlton  
Every Wed 8pm  
**CONTACT: BRIAN OR MARGOT**  
(03) 9481 7713

### Geelong Colonial Dancers Beginners Classes

Uniting Church Hall  
Noble St Geelong  
Every Thur 7:45pm  
**CONTACT: ANDREW MORRIS**  
(03) 5224 1428

### Ringwood Bush Dance

Elderly Citizens' Hall  
Laurence Grove, Ringwood East  
1st Sat of month  
**CONTACT: JANE BULLOCK**  
(03) 9762 1389

### Lockwood Old Time Dance

Lockwood South Hall  
3rd Sat of month  
**CONTACT: THE ORGANISERS**  
(03) 5446 3100

### Cajun Dance

with Cajun Roux (dance instruction included)  
Palais Theatre, Hepburn Springs  
Sat July 11 9pm,  
meals from 7pm  
**CONTACT: GEOFF LE BLANC**  
0418 366 164

### Old Time Tea Dance

with The Gay Charmers  
St Ambrose's Hall  
Dawson St, Brunswick  
Sat Aug 29, 4:30 - 9:30pm  
\$15 or \$10 pre-booked  
**CONTACT: CORALIE COLLINS**  
(03) 9480 1020

### VFMC Woolshed Ball

with Harvest Moon  
Central Hall  
20 Brunswick St, Fitzroy  
Sat Oct 10 8pm  
\$15 & \$12  
**CONTACT: ALLAN GARDNER**  
(03) 9497 1628

## EXHIBITIONS

### Indigenous Dream

Gabriel Gallery  
Footscray Comm. Arts Centre  
45 Moreland St Footscray  
July 2 - 26  
**CONTACT: THE DIRECTOR**  
(03) 9689 5677

## FESTIVALS

*UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED  
FESTIVALS ARE IN VICTORIA*

### Mena Creek Folk Festival

Mena Creek, Qld  
Aug 14 - 16  
**CONTACT: JOHN GOWARD**  
(070) 65 3181

### 6th Victorian A Capella Festival

Fitzroy Town Hall  
August 22 & 23  
**CONTACT: ROGER KING**  
(03) 9417 3550

### Machol Pacifica

Havelock North High School  
Hastings, New Zealand  
Oct 8 - 11  
**CONTACT: ELAINE PRAKASH**  
0011 64 (06) 877 277

### Rose's Gap Music Camp

Grampians National Park  
Sept 25 - 28  
**CONTACT: HELEN MCGEACHEN**  
(03) 5472 3990

### Gulgong Folk Festival

Gulgong, NSW  
Dec 30 - Jan 4  
contact: Virginia Nicholas  
(02) 6372 3865

## CONFERENCES

### Folk Alliance Australia 2nd National Convention

CATO Conference Centre  
YWCA Hotel 489 Elizabeth St  
Melbourne  
July 17 - 19  
**CONTACT: DIETER BAJECK**  
(03) 9459 8128

### Festival & Events Conference

CUB Malthouse  
113 Sturt St Southbank  
July 24 & 25  
**CONTACT: MAGGIE MAGUIRE & ASSOCIATES**  
(03) 9690 7133

### Ireland & Australia 1798 1998

La Trobe University, Bundoora  
Sept 28 - Oct 2  
**CONTACT: DR PHILLIP BULL**  
(03) 9479 1942

## REGULAR INTERSTATE

## N.S.W.

### Illawarra Folk Club

Wollongong City Tennis Club  
1st & 3rd Fri of month 8pm  
**CONTACT: RUSSELL HANNAH**  
(02) 4297 1777

### Wongawilli Colonial Dance Club

Wongawilli Hall  
Every Wed 7:30pm  
**CONTACT: DAVID DE SANTI**  
(02) 4257 1788

### Border & District Folk Club

Sodens Hotel Wilson St  
Albury  
1st Wed of month  
**CONTACT: ANNA BUTLER**  
(02) 6021 3892

### Loaded Dog Folk Club

Annandale Neighbourhood Cntr  
2nd Sun & 4th Sat of Month  
**CONTACT: RICHARD MILLS**  
(02) 9564 5780

### A.C.T.

#### Merry Muse Folk Club

Lithuanian Club, Wattle St  
Lyneham  
2nd & 4th Fri of month  
**CONTACT: COL WRIGHT**  
(06) 238 2324

### STH AUST

#### Celtic Learners' Evening

Flagstaff Hotel  
Franklin St Adelaide  
Every Mon 7.30pm  
**CONTACT: JOHN STEWART**  
(08) 8296 1354

#### Barossa Folk & Blues Club

The Vine Inn Hotel  
Nuriootpa  
Last Fri of month 8pm  
**CONTACT: BRIAN DORRIDGE**  
(08) 8566 3545

#### Sth Aust Bluegrass Assn

Governor Hindmarsh Hotel  
Adelaide  
Last Wed of month 8pm  
**CONTACT: SABA**  
(08) 8323 9187

#### Sth Coast Folk Club

Port Noarlunga RSL  
The Esplanade Port Noarlunga  
Every Thur 8-12pm  
**CONTACT: PETER THORNTON**  
(08) 8382 4195

#### Cumberland Songsters

Cumberland Arms Hotel  
Waymouth St Adelaide  
Every Fri 8:30pm  
**CONTACT:**  
*S.A. FOLK FEDERATION*  
(08) 8340 1069

#### McLaren Vale Folk Club

The Singing Gallery  
133 Main Rd  
Fortnightly  
**CONTACT: THE ORGANISERS**  
(08) 8323 8089

#### Gawler Folk Club

Family Hotel Gawler  
Last Sat of month  
**CONTACT:**  
*S.A. FOLK FEDERATION*  
(08) 8340 1069

### TASMANIA

#### Instrumental Session

Batman Fawkner Hotel  
Launceston  
1st Fri of month  
**CONTACT: BETH SOWTER**  
(03) 6397 3427

#### Old Novitiate Folk Club

Behind Church of Apostles  
Margaret St Launceston  
2nd Fri of month  
**CONTACT: PETER LYALL**  
(03) 6391 8634

#### Liffey Music Gathering

Old School House Liffey  
3rd Fri of month  
**CONTACT: GARY STANNUS**  
(03) 6397 3163

#### Singing Session

Batman Fawkner Hotel  
Launceston  
Last Fri of month  
**CONTACT: FRANK BYRNE**  
(03) 6326 3237

#### Instrumental Session

Irish Murphy's  
Cnr Bathurst & Brisbane Sts  
Launceston  
Every Sun 4-6pm  
**CONTACT: BETH SOWTER**  
(03) 6397 3427

#### Bush Dances

Various venues  
Hobart  
Last Sat of month  
**CONTACT: DAVID WANLESS**  
(03) 6273 6730

*THE AUSTRALIAN FOLK  
DIRECTORY GIVES A  
COMPREHENSIVE LISTING OF  
FOLK VENUES AND  
ORGANISATIONS THROUGHOUT  
AUSTRALIA. - \$7.50 FROM VFA*

### RADIO

**3RN 621 AM**  
*NIGHTLY PLANET*  
Lucky Oceans plays  
local and international folk music  
Mon-Frid  
11:05pm-1am

*MUSIC DELI*  
with Paul Petran  
Sat 8pm

**3CR 855 AM**  
*LOCAL AND LIVE*  
Local artists recorded and live  
Fri Noon-2pm

*EAR TO AIR*  
Community Music Victoria  
Tues 12-1pm

*CELTIC FOLK SHOW*  
Tues 1 - 2pm

*SONGLINES*  
Koori music  
Thur 2-3pm

*YUGOSLAV NEWS AND MUSIC*  
Thur 7:30-8pm

*WORLD WOMEN'S BEAT*  
Women's World Music  
Mon 12-2pm

**3ZZZ 92.3 FM**  
*VOICES OF OUR WORLD*  
Tue Noon-1pm

*IRISH PROGRAMS*  
Sat 11am-Noon  
Sun 6-7pm

**3INR 96.5 FM**  
*THAT'S ALL FOLK*  
Rhonda Cadman  
Sun 5-6pm

**3RRR 102.7 FM**  
*OLD FOLK SHOW*  
Rick E Vengeance  
Tue 2-4 pm

**3PBS 106.7 FM**  
*THE BOÎTE*  
Multicultural Music  
Thu 9am-11am

*GLOBAL VILLAGE*  
Acoustic music from around the  
world  
Sun 3-5pm

**3BBB 97.5 FM**  
*TRAVELLERS' TAPESTRY*  
with David Haines  
Mon 7pm

*BALLADS & BLARNEY*  
with John Ruyg  
Mon 8:30pm