

Vol. 4 No. 4 September/October 1998

# folklife

## NEWS

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

PPNo. 332646/00033

### INSIDE



*Simone and Daniel Guida with their daughter Jessica: part of 'Relatively Speaking', one of the exhibitions included in 'The Australian Family' (see page 6) Photo: Ponch Hawkes*

At the tram stop this morning a lady said to me, "Isn't it wonderful? Spring in the air!" Being the obliging sort, I sprang and when I landed I twisted my ankle. It was only then I realised what she meant. So here I sit at VFA offices with a sore foot, contemplating the cycle of the seasons and finishing the spring edition of Folklife News.

This time we keep you in touch with concerts, festivals and exhibitions in 'Around the State' and 'Interstate' as well as taking a brief look at children's folklore with Judy McKinty. We preview 'The Australian Family' exhibitions, and reviews include 'Barossa Journeys', a book by Noris Ioannou, and a CD by Melbourne's Ukrainian Bandurist Ensemble. We are also

proud to announce that the VFA presented a successful bid to bring the 13th Congress of the International Society for Folk Narrative Research to Melbourne in 2001.

In addition, spring is the time when the folk festival season begins anew and the folk-starved begin to emerge from hibernation. To celebrate, the VFA invites its members to attend the opening of 'Relatively Speaking: the family in words and pictures' by Australia's foremost documentary and social photographer, Ponch Hawkes, at the Centre For Contemporary Photography in Fitzroy. So much to do, so little time!

**Alan Musgrove ●**

# folklife

## VICTORIAN FOLKLIFE ASSOCIATION INC.

1st floor, 71 Gertrude Street, Fitzroy 3065  
PO Box 1765 Collingwood 3066  
Ph. or Fax (03) 9417 4684

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

June Factor • Sue Hammond • John McAuslan • Judy McKinty

**Folklife News** is published bi-monthly by Victorian Folklife Association Inc.

Editor: ALAN MUSGROVE

CONTRIBUTIONS: Letters, interviews, reviews plus comments and suggestions are welcome.

The Editor reserves the right to edit or reject material offered for publication. Please send material on disk (Macintosh) & hard copy.

PRINT RUN: 400

CIRCULATION: members, selected government departments and agencies, public libraries in Victoria.

ADVERTISING: The VFA welcomes display ads and inserts in Folklife News. However, carrying an advertisement does not imply endorsement by the VFA or its employees.

### RATES

- Inserts (single A4 or smaller)
- members 10c per page supplied
- non-members 15c per page supplied
- Copy Ads
- Full page \$ 50
- Half page \$ 30
- Quarter page \$ 20
- Members: 1/4 page ad free every year

DISCLAIMER: Views expressed in Folklife News are not necessarily those of either the editor or the VFA.



The Victorian Folklife Association Inc. is supported by the Victorian Government, through Arts Victoria, a division of the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Arts 21 is the Victorian Government's strategy for the Arts into the 21st century.

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## COPY DEADLINE

for next issue of  
Folklife News

### September 30

due out at the end of October

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

Please send submissions to:

*Victorian Folklife Association*  
P.O. Box 1765

### Disappearing Victoria

Until October 5

Queen's Hall, State Library Of Victoria

CONTACT: EWA NARKIEWICZ

PH: (03) 9669 9034

This exhibition features photographs by Warren Kirk, someone for whom photography is a preoccupation rather than an occupation. His work is both surprising and hauntingly familiar: old milk bars covered with advertising signs, traditional barbers' shops, country stores, industrial buildings and early cinemas. Many of the photographs depict buildings and ways of life that no longer exist and are therefore valuable records of Victoria's past. The exhibition can also be viewed on-line at [www.slv.vic.gov.au/slv/exhibitions/kirk](http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/slv/exhibitions/kirk)

### Vishwa Mohan Bhatt Concert

Sunday, September 27, 3pm

Lower Melbourne Town Hall

CONTACT: THE BOITE

PH: (03) 9417 1983

This performance by one of the great Indian musicians, famous for his collaborations with Ry Cooder and Taj Mahal, is presented by India Music Lovers in conjunction with The Boite and Melbourne Fringe Festival.

Vishwa Mohan Bhatt has been praised as one of the foremost disciples of Pandit Ravi Shankar and his CD collaboration with Ry Cooder won a Grammy Award in 1994.

Tickets are \$20 and \$15 concession or \$50 per family.

### Who Fears To Speak of '98

Friday, October 2, 8pm

Iwaki Auditorium, ABC Studios

Cnr Southbank Boulevard & Sturt Street, Melbourne

CONTACT: MARGARET COFFEY AT ABC

PH: (03) 9626 1640 (BH) OR

KEN MANSELL PH: (03) 5472 1351 (AH)

This concert of music and song of the 1798 Irish rebellion is sponsored by Victoria University of Technology and the Victorian Multicultural Commission. To mark the bicentenary of this important event with something appropriate and memorable the organisers will present a program oriented more to ballad singing than is usually the case with Irish concerts nowadays. Featured performers include Siona Loughlane, John Lynch, Lyn Muir, Ken Mansell and Daryl Emmerson. The admission cost for the evening is \$10 and \$5 concession.

### 25th Maldon Folk Festival

October 30 - November 2

CONTACT: LYNDA BULLEN (03) 5475 1167

The traditions of song, music, dance and spoken word from Australia, Ireland, Scotland, England, Northumbria and North America have always been well represented at Maldon and this year is no exception. In addition, indigenous culture will be represented by songwriter Richard Frankland and the local Djadja Aboriginal Association while a sizeable 'world music' component, featuring Nigerian drumming from Tunde Solanke, Georgian harmony singing from Golden Fleece and Latin American

### Jez Lowe In Concert

Sunday, September 13, 3:30pm

East Brunswick Club Hotel

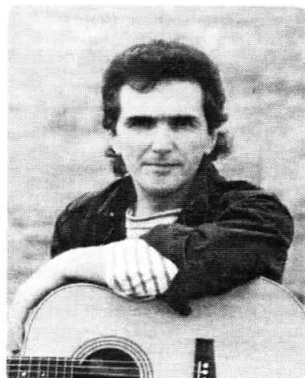
280 Lygon Street, East Brunswick

CONTACT: CORALIE COLLINS

PH: (03) 9480 1020

This concert, presented by Across the Borders and Folk Victoria, is part of Jez's third tour of Australia and is his only Melbourne appearance. During the last 15 years, he has travelled the world performing his unique songs of life in North East England accompanying himself on guitar, cittern dulcimer and harmonica. Jez Lowe has been described as "a warm-hearted communicator and a peerless chronicler of life in North East England" and "the best songwriter to come out of England in a very long time". Don't miss out - book now as seating is limited. Tickets are \$18 and \$12 concession.

Jez Lowe will also be appearing in Ballarat, Geelong, Sydney, Wollongong, Hobart, Victor Harbour Folk Festival and in Western Australia and New Zealand. For touring information contact Ray Downes Ph: (08) 9335 8741.



Jez Lowe - Touring Australia and New Zealand in September and October

music from Inka Marka will also be included. Other featured artists are Fay White, Boola Boola, Emu Creek Bush Band, Dave De Hugard, Bob Ballantyne, Fine Fettle, Margaret Wade, Mick Kennedy, Danny Spooner, Vince Brophy and the ubiquitous Campbell the Swaggie. There will be musical theatre presentations, instrument makers exhibitions, dances, market day, children's circus, informal sessions in the pubs and cafes and even a Sunday morning church service featuring some of the festival performers.

Weekend ticket prices are \$40 per adult, \$20 for children 12 - 16 with those under 12 free. Early bird discounts apply until September 30.

**VFA requires a bookkeeper**

**10hrs per month**

**must be proficient in MYOB  
for MacIntosh**

**Phone: Susan Faine (03) 9417 4684**

*Vasilikey Kapsalos  
presents her first solo exhibition*

## What Are Little Boys Made Of ?

**October 13 - 25  
M.G.V. Gallery**

**65 Wellington Street, Windsor**

*All artwork is made from biscuit dough*

**Further information contact  
Andrew**

**Phone: (03) 9533 0448**

*Part of Melbourne Fringe Festival*

## 5th Northern Rivers Folk Festival

**October 2 - 4**

**Lismore NSW**

**CONTACT: FESTIVAL OFFICE**

**PH: (02) 6621 7537**

Lismore is mid-way between Nimbin and Byron Bay on the NSW north coast. Festival headliners this year include blues legends the Backsliders, Psycho Zydeco, singer-songwriter Kavisha Mazzella as well as recent runners-up in Best Young World Music Band Contest in Finland, Tulipan.

This year the festival also incorporated the 1st Northern Rivers Comedy Festival with a line up of over 20 comedians from around Australia. There will be late night stand-up comedy at cabaret style stages and intimate cafe stages. In addition Melbourne band The Bluegrassy Knoll will supply live music for classic Buster Keaton films. The 'festival village' include markets, cafes, food stalls, street theatre, Guinness tent and wine bar. There will be workshops and master classes for the creatively inclined while The Closing Ceremony and Fire event will invite participation from all.

Information about ticket prices is available from the festival office or any Ticketek outlet.

## Victor Harbour Folk Festival

**October 2 - 5**

**Victor Harbour SA**

**CONTACT: FOLK FEDERATION OF SA**

**PH: (08) 8340 1069 FAX: (08) 8346 8506**

Victor Harbour, located at the mouth of the Murray, is an excellent setting for the state's premier folk festival. This year the program will feature the usual high standard of local, national and international performance.

Overseas guests include the Bisserov Sisters who have toured the world presenting the music of their local region, Bulgaria's Pirin Mountains; popular English performers Jez Lowe and Les Barker as well as legendary Breton duo Fanch Le Marrec and Jean Paul Ferrec who will perform maritime songs from their country in Breton and English.

National performers such as The Habbibis, Sirocco, Enda Kenny Band, Debbie Morrow, Andy Rigby, Anne Kirkpatrick and Ted Egan will be appearing along with local artists Rocky River Bush Band, Colcannon, South Australian Police Band and Coney Island Jug Band.

All venues have wheelchair access. Limited childcare is available, so booking before the festival is advised. The festival campground is located at the Encounter Bay Sports Oval, 1km from the festival site, for \$10 per night per person. There are hot showers, plenty of toilets and an hourly shuttlebus to the festival gate. Ticket prices are \$80 and \$70 concession for adults, \$35 for youths 12 - 17 years and \$5 for children 4 - 11 years. Early bird discounts apply until September 19.

## Music Under the Mountains

**Celtic Summer School**

**February 17 - 21 1999**

**Weindorfer's Gowrie Park, Tasmania**

**CONTACT: CELTIC SOUTHERN CROSS**

**PH: (0363) 973427 FAX: (0363) 973533**

This summer school in Irish and Scottish music is presented by Celtic Southern Cross and features master classes by some of Australia's top musicians in their field. Prices vary for each class and are as follows. Scottish fiddle with Chris Duncan \$140, Irish fiddle with Ken Maher \$140, Celtic harp with Andy Rigby \$170, tin whistle with Patrick Lyons \$140 and Uilleann pipes with John Deery \$175. These classes are not for rank beginners and some playing ability is required. Music Under The Mountains is held at Weindorfer's Restaurant 14kms from Sheffield in the Tasmanian highlands. The closest airport is Devonport where the 'Spirit Of Tasmania' also arrives. Transport from these depots can be arranged. The venue has clean backpacker accommodation (byo bedding) and all meals are catered by Weindorfers, who are famous for their home-cooked food.

Food and accommodation prices (separate to master class fees) are: from Wednesday night to Sunday lunch \$170, Friday night to Sunday lunch \$90 and Saturday lunch to Sunday lunch \$50 with children 7 - 15 years half price. Caravan sites are also available but the food costs remain the same. There is a limit of 100 places, taken in order of registration. Application should be made before October 31.

### WANTED

A traditional, non-copyright song about

**Jonah and the Whale.**

CONTACT: MARION

email: [ishams@ozemail.com.au](mailto:ishams@ozemail.com.au)

## ISFNR Congress for Victoria

On July 30 in Goettingen (Germany), the VFA presented a bid to bring to Melbourne in 2001 the 13th Congress of the International Society for Folk Narrative Research (ISFNR). Our presentation to the General Assembly of the Society was very well received, and of the 127 votes, we gleaned 74, to see us clearly victorious against Finland (42) and China (12).

We see this as a very significant 'first' - not only is this the first international congress to have been won for 2001, but in the 40 year history of the ISFNR this is the first time they will hold their Congress in the Southern Hemisphere. Why did people vote for Australia? From the comments and feedback I received, it was clearly because they were interested in the ideas I presented on behalf of all of us involved in folklore in Australia - the importance of 2001 in the Australian consciousness; our cultural and linguistic diversity and the opportunities for international scholarship and cultural and economic exchange this opens up; Australia's economic and political positioning in the South East Asia/Pacific region, and the reciprocal enrichment for all that will occur by holding the Congress here. I feel sure you all share our delight in having won this project for Victoria.

**Susan Faine ●**

Rhythm  
and Views

• Music & Books

FOLK,  
BLUES,  
and BEYOND...

**272 High Street, Northcote, 3070**  
**Phone: 9486 8877**

In association with the City of Marrickville, we are pleased to invite you to the opening of

## Relatively Speaking

the family in words and photographs  
by Ponch Hawkes

**Thursday October 1, 6 - 8pm**  
**Centre for Contemporary Photography**  
**205 Johnston Street, Fitzroy**

• RSVP (03) 9417 4684 by September 28

### The Australian Family

A Unique Collaboration

'The Australian Family' is a unique collaboration. Twenty museums and cultural organisations have come together to display the multiplicity of possibilities that lie at the heart of that most intimate of relationships, the family. Coinciding with the International Council Of Museums' Conference in Melbourne in October, 'The Australian Family' neatly dovetails with the conference's theme of 'Ancient Cultures, New Worlds'.

Fourteen metropolitan and six regional museums have each selected an aspect of the Australian family which fits within its charter or reflects their region. Whether recording the lives of Italian, Jewish or Chinese families, the remarkable persistence of Koori culture, or the legacies of the landed gentry, 'The Australian Family' promises to eloquently express our cultural pluralism. Regional venues include Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Ballarat Gold Museum, Hamilton Art Gallery, Ararat Gallery, Gippsland Art Gallery - Sale, while metropolitan venues will range from the VicHealth Access Gallery at the National Gallery of Victoria to National Trust properties, the Australian Racing Museum at Caulfield Racecourse and the Centre For Contemporary Photography. Some of the exhibitions such as 'Yakapna: the Koori family' (Melbourne Town Hall) will run only from October 9 - 16, while others like 'Solid Joys and Lasting Treasure' (Rippon Lea Estate) will be open until April 25 1999; 'A Victorian Family: the Armytages of Como' (Como House) is a permanent exhibition as is



From 'Relatively Speaking' Jeanette Crew (nee Ross) with her family: brother Greg and Jeanettes son Steven, daughter Laura and her son Marbie. Photo: Ponch Hawkes

Women Prisoners: Stories of Women Prisoners and their families' (Old Melbourne Gaol). Amongst the participating institutions is the Victorian Folklife Association presenting 'Relatively Speaking: the Family in Words and Photographs' by Ponch Hawkes. Running from October 2 - 31 at the Centre For Contemporary Photography, 205 Johnston Street, Fitzroy, this combination of dialogue, personal histories and photographs by Australia's foremost documentary and social photographer reveals many groups who think of themselves as families, although in the conventional sense they may not be. The project was originally commissioned by the City of Marrickville to celebrate the International Year of the Family. On Tuesday, October 13 at the Erwin Rado Theatrette, children's writer and illustrator Alison Lester will read from her work, talk about how she works and speak about her family, a source of inspiration. Bookings are essential for this event. Contact Susan Faine at VFA phone or fax (03) 9417 4684.

#### Alan Musgrove ●

Alison Lester's participation has been supported by Puffin Books, Allen & Unwin and Hodder Headline.

'The Australian Family' is presented in association with the Melbourne Festival and begins in October 1998. For more information and a complete listing of exhibitions contact Susan Faine at VFA, Phone or Fax: (03) 9417 4684



From 'Relatively Speaking': Talanoa and Lily Latu with daughters Karmel, Caroline and Johanne and sons Tanlela, Sunia, Sione and Sam. Photo: Ponch Hawkes

### Just Mucking Around

A Brief Look At Children's Folklore

Two boys in the playground:

1st boy: "Who was in the war?"

2nd boy: "I dunno."

1st boy: (waving hand quickly in front of 2nd boy's eyes) "Major Blink!"

Three girls with their toes together. One points to each toe in turn, chanting:

"Boy scout, you're out,  
Girl skin, you're in."

Everybody has been, or is a child. Most of us usually identify bits of our childhood as though they are scattered pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. We might remember parts of a game, a few words of a rhyme or song, a favourite toy, maybe even the names of some of our playmates. As we 'grow up', the play traditions of childhood merge into the background of our life experience and become somehow invisible. Yet they are all around us - in our playgrounds, streets, parks and backyards.



Playing 'Bar Tiggy' in Orbost, Vic. 1996  
Photo: Judy McKinty

In the introduction to her book 'Captain Cook Chased a Chook: Children's Folklore in Australia', June Factor writes, "Much of children's play is spontaneous, haphazard, individual and novel. Children's folklore, however, exists in that portion of children's play which is social, rule-governed and often traditional. It is part of the continuum of folklore, sometimes shared with adults, more often learnt from other children in the long, anonymous chain of the oral tradition, subject to the processes of decay, preservation, adaptation and innovation."

Children's folklore is all about the accumulated traditions of childhood. The Australian Children's



Marbles - a game rich in folklore  
Photo: Judy McKinty

Folklore Collection classifies it as either the folklore of children - play lore such as rhymes, games, taunts, jokes and riddles which are passed from child to child, or folklore for and about children - the traditional songs, games, finger-plays, stories, proverbs and sayings that are passed on informally by adults. It has a long tradition - games like marbles and knucklebones have been traced back thousands of years, and rhymes chanted in playgrounds today may have been heard in streets and playgrounds for hundreds of years, some surviving almost unchanged. Children's folklore is also cheeky and dynamic - a sub-culture reflecting and parodying the broader culture surrounding it. It allows us to gain glimpses of ourselves and our society through the eyes of our children:

Gough, Gough, had a bad cough,  
Went to the doctor's,  
Got three days off.  
People yelled, "The country's in ruin!"  
Gough called out, "It's all the doctor's doin'."

Ashes to ashes,  
Dust to dust,  
If Lillee don't get ya  
Then Thommo must.

Mary had a little lamb,  
And it began to sicken.  
She took it to Kentucky Fried  
And now it's finger-lickin'.

Children's own culture has survived and adapted, despite war, famine, television, electronic games, school holiday programs and mass advertising. As long as children have free time to 'just muck around', it will continue to thrive.

Judy McKinty ●

## Barossa Journeys by Noris Ioannou

Paringa Press

P.O. Box 139

Kent Town S.A. 5071

In 'Barossa Journeys', Noris Ioannou presents an overview of Barossa German (or more correctly Prussian) culture, examining some areas in detail and profiling certain individuals. The writing style is flowing and easy to understand, even in the technical passages, and the addition of section headings makes quick reference possible.

Ioannou looks at architecture, viticulture and wine making, folk arts and crafts, music, folklore, cuisine and the cultural landscape. We are taken on a journey into a culture with its own ways and its own language - Barossa Deutsche. However, the book stresses that although German culture has become denizen in the Barossa, the area was not settled on nationalistic lines but religious ones. The original Deutsche settlers to the area were Lutherans escaping persecution by King Frederick Wilhelm III of Prussia and his Reformed Church. Whole villages of 'Old Lutherans' migrated to this corner of South Australia.

When the Deutsche settlers began arriving in the late 1830s and 1840s, land speculation and social chaos were rampant among the British-dominated population, so the community leaders decided "that (their) people should not reside among the British settlers, but should establish their own communities where Lutheran faith and culture could be preserved." Ioannou depicts these communities as typically industrious and conservative even today, although there has been an increasing influence from mainstream Australian culture since the 1920s.

New Silesia, as the Barossa was originally known, has become home to South Australia's wine industry, traditional artisans, German music and festivals including the Barossa Classic Gourmet Weekend. The 'Cuisine, Food Traditions and Farming' chapter examines this festival and traces the development of cuisine in the area from its traditional beginnings to its contemporary hybridity, while 'Viticulture and Winemaking' explains that although some wine making methods have changed little over 150 years, most have. The grape varieties and the

wines produced have also altered with time. Ioannou explains, "Early wine makers produced wine that catered to the tastes of the times which favoured heavy, sweet or fortified wines, especially the Portuguese styles of vintage or tawny ports. The planting of varieties suited to the production of fortified wines was maintained well into this century, although the poorer quality cultivars had begun to make way for the high-yielding varieties of shiraz, cabernet and riesling from the 1890s. It was not until the 1970s that the trend for premium tablewines has seen a radical shift in the varieties planted."

In another chapter the author writes of the cabinet makers in the Barossa, focuses on some individuals and explores the interface between tradition and technology. The sections dealing with folklore cover legendary tales, wedding lore and funeral customs in some depth. It was only in the chapter dealing with music that I found 'Barossa Journeys' lacking. Ioannou examines the musical traditions of the valley in considerably less detail than other aspects of the culture. The antiquated German musical culture of the Barossa survives only in Australia (in the Barossa and the Lockyer Valley in southern Queensland) and I feel more space could have been given to this unique heritage. While religious music, brass bands, organ builders, Liedertafel and zither bands are discussed (if not at any great length), the prodigious accordion traditions of the area are all but ignored entirely. Furthermore Ioannou tends to speak of traditional music in the past tense yet it still exists, with considerable vitality. These criticisms aside, I found 'Barossa Journeys' a fascinating and relaxing 'read' and I do not hesitate in recommending it to you. It is a look into part of Australian culture that is little known to many people.

Alan Musgrove ●

*Our warmest congratulations to*

**Gwenda Beed Davey**

**who was recently awarded the**

**AOM**

**for her services to folklore in Australia**



### Ukrainian Bandurist Ensemble

MBR 0009

Mabuhay Records

P.O. Box 208 Newport 3015

The Ukrainian Bandurist Ensemble is the performing section of the Melbourne School of Bandura, founded in 1978 by Igor Jakubowicz. I believe this is their first recording and being a bandura fan from 'way back' this CD was a treat. It has the same qualities (although somewhat better recorded) as some 1950s 10" LPs from the Soviet Union that I bought some years ago. It is released on Mabuhay, a new Melbourne based world music label and is accompanied by a free sampler CD.

The bandura is a member of the zither family and evolved to its present form between the 15th and 18th centuries when it became the bardic instrument of the 'kobzars' or travelling minstrels of the Ukraine. It has up to 68 strings and produces a sound akin to both a harp and a harpsichord.

The material presented here ranges from traditional folk songs and dances to classical works and contemporary compositions for the bandura. Much of the music is arranged by Igor Jakubowicz while several pieces are arranged by bandurist and musicologist Victor Mishalow.

The Ukrainian Bandurist Ensemble is an amateur group but all of the tracks show a consistently high standard of musicianship with some members of the ensemble supplying vocals. Whether performing a love song such as 'Allow Me Mother', a or something martial such as the 'Poltavian March', Handel's 'Passacaglia' or the 'Ukrainian Rhapsody', a medley of folk songs showcasing a number of styles, the recording never fails to capture the expansive sound of bandura music. My only problem with this CD is not with the music but with the booklet lay-out where song titles are indistinguishable from the their descriptive notes. It's a real 'eye-strainer' and Mabuhay Recording should bear this in mind for future releases.

For those who are not familiar with bandura music, this CD, with its wide range of styles, is a good introduction while the experienced listener should consider it as a valuable addition to their collection. There are few, if any, recordings of this type of music available locally.

#### Alan Musgrove ●

*This recording was made available for review by Rhythm and Views 272 High Street Northcote 3070 and is available there.*

## China

### Dance and Performing Arts Tour

Kim Dunphy (dancer, writer, teacher and past president of Ausdance) will share her love of performing arts as you experience traditional Chinese music and dance and explore the diverse history and culture of this fascinating country.

**Tour cost \$3926 (per person, twin share)**  
Includes all flights, visas and local tour guides in all locations.

Register now with  
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or

**Kim Dunphy**

(03) 9555 0654

### The 3rd Annual **Dinki Di Old Time Ball**

featuring

**The Emu Creek Bush Band  
The Wedderburn Old Timers  
The Gay Charmers**

SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 1998  
7.30pm till late  
\$10, a plate appreciated  
EAGLEHAWK TOWN HALL

*Dress: formal, semi-formal or period*



**For further Information**

**phone:**

**(03) 5442 1153**



### Mary Ball Grassroots Folklife Supporter

Previous member profiles have focused on musicians, dance groups, songwriters, academics and artisans. This could give the mistaken impression that all VFA members are active in the pursuit of some personal goal or other. Many have joined VFA out of a desire to support the work of the organisation at a grassroots level. Such a valued member is Mary Ball. Over the last few years she has supported the work of VFA with membership and donations such as rare folk music recordings given for sale at the VFA Street Stall, part of Brunswick Music Festival last March. Mary says of her contribution, "It's a way of supporting collectors, performers and, just as importantly, those who do all the 'donkey' work".

Originally from the north of England, Mary was brought up on a diet of classical music and traditional cooking. Her family observed local rituals such as the eating of 'Parkin' (a type of ginger cake) on Guy Fawkes Night, a practice she brought with her to Australia and passed on to her children.

Mary's partially deaf father played classical music in the home at high volume. Although when young she did not warm to the genre, her father predicted "One of these days, lass, you'll like it." Her father's prognostication was correct for as she grew, so the classics grew on her. However, Mary still draws the line at opera. It was not until 1962 that Mary first heard folk music being performed. The venue was Little Reatta, in Melbourne, and the singer was Martyn Wyndham-Read. The songs she first heard that night appealed to her immediately for number of reasons.

"Some of the songs were a link with England, although I was not the least homesick, but I found another form of music that appealed to me and spoke to me. I loved nature, birds and animals and things, and that was in his songs, but he sang with feeling and that's very important to me. Many singers sing technically beautifully but with no feeling. I felt that I must hear more. I used to go every Friday night to Traynor's and I knew Martyn by the songs he sang and he knew me by the songs I requested. We knew each other by sight and later we got to know each other". Martyn, who she now counts among her friends, was then also performing regularly at the legendary Frank Traynor's Folk Club and Mary made sure to attend with neighbour's children, her own children and their school friends in tow. This experience of folk music had the desired effect, as some of those children grew to join performing bands.

Exposure to culture at a basic level is something that Mary believes has great bearing on whether the next generation continues to nurture customs, traditions and music. "I think children should be exposed to all sorts of culture because it can lead to personal involvement."

Grassroots support of the kind provided by Mary is one of VFA's most valued assets. We need more like you!

Alan Musgrove ●

### Parkin - A Traditional Treat

This time our member profilee Mary Ball has donated a traditional English ginger cake recipe and has this to say about customs surrounding its consumption.

"As a child in the 1930s in Cumberland, Guy Fawkes Night, November 5, was always a cold winter night and a time of great excitement. There were fireworks including Roman Candles, Catherine Wheels, Golden Showers and hand-held sparklers illuminating happy faces as rockets from neighbouring celebrations streaked their colour through the sky.

Fuelling these activities, and always welcome on those chilly Border nights, were Parkin and home-made treacle toffee, both a legacy from my Yorkshire-born parents. Parkin is a moist ginger cake, usually cut into squares, which originated in Yorkshire where oatmeal is always used in its preparation.

#### Ingredients:

- 4oz lard or margarine
- 4oz Golden Syrup
- 4oz black treacle
- 4oz sugar
- 8oz flour
- 8oz medium oatmeal\*
- 1 dsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 level tsp bi-carb soda
- 1 egg
- a pinch of salt

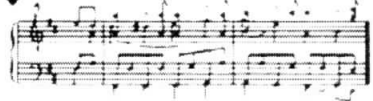
\* Sold in healthfood shops as 'Scotch Oats'

#### Method:

1. Melt the lard
2. Add Golden Syrup, treacle and sugar and warm over a very low flame until sugar starts to dissolve. Keep the pan warm rather than hot and avoid overheating.
3. Sieve the dry ingredients and place a well in the centre pan then gradually beat in the liquid, add a beaten egg and blend to a soft consistency adding a little milk if required.
4. Pour about one inch thick into a greased flat tin
5. Bake for 40 - 50 mins at 300deg (F)
6. Partly cool in the tin then turn out to finish cooling
7. Cut into squares and start letting off the fireworks!

Mary Ball ●

## MUSIC SWOP SHOP

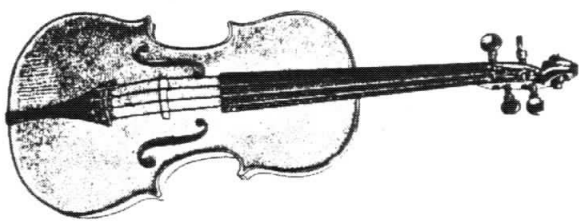


147 Elgin Street  
Carlton



*Used musical instruments sold on consignment*

*New strings and accessories at discount prices*



Monday - Friday 10:30am - 6pm  
Saturday 11:00am - 2:30pm

Telephone  
(03) 9347 1194

## MEMBERSHIP

### Individual

STATUS  new member  renewal

TYPE  individual  individual concession

.....

PLEASE CIRCLE MISS / MS / MRS / DR / MR / OTHER

.....

FULL NAME PLEASE UNDERLINE YOUR FAMILY NAME

.....

PREFERRED NAME FOR CORRESPONDENCE

.....

POSTAL ADDRESS STREET NO & NAME/PO BOX

.....

SUBURB/CITY COUNTRY POSTCODE

.....

TELEPHONE BH AH

.....

FACSIMILE BH AH

.....

EMAIL

Please indicate any skills, expertise, resources you could offer to the VFA.

.....

.....

As a member of the Victorian Folklife Association, I agree to abide by the rules and by-laws of the Association.

.....

SIGNED DATE

**FOR OFFICE USE**

.....

RECEIPT NO: MEMBERSHIP NO: DATE

### Corporate

STATUS  new member  renewal

TYPE  non-profit sector  govt, & private sector

.....

NAME OF ORGANISATION

.....

POSTAL ADDRESS OF ORG. STREET NO & NAME/PO BOX

.....

SUBURB/CITY COUNTRY POSTCODE

.....

REPRESENTED BY POSITION IN ORGANISATION

.....

PLEASE CIRCLE MISS / MS / MRS / DR / MR / OTHER

.....

FULL NAME PLEASE UNDERLINE YOUR FAMILY NAME

.....

TELEPHONE BH AH

.....

FACSIMILE BH AH

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EMAIL

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As a member of the Victorian Folklife Association, I agree to abide by the rules and by-laws of the Association.

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SIGNED DATE

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.....

RECEIPT NO: MEMBERSHIP NO: DATE

### Annual Membership Fees

	individual	<b>\$15</b>
	individual concession	<b>\$10</b>
	Corporate/ non-profit	<b>\$35</b>
	Corporate/ government & private sector	<b>\$50</b>

### Membership Benefits

- \* **Folklife News Victoria** (bi-monthly) to members 5 times a year \*
  - \* **Free listings** in Folklife News noticeboard \*
  - \* **1/3 page free display advertising** each year \*
  - \* **discount** on publications productions by the Victorian Folklife Association \*
  - \* use of **reference library** during office hours \*
  - \* **information and professional advice** on the development, management and marketing of folklife programs and events \*
  - \* **the right to stand for election** to the committee of management \*
  - \* **the right to vote** for the committee of management \*
  - \* **free use** of our office space for meetings \*
  - \* **Tax deductible donations welcome** \*
  - \* Please enquire phone & facsimile **(03) 9417 4684**
- Victorian Folklife Association** po box 1765 collingwood victoria 3066 australia