

Proposed presentation of ABC Archive videos to members of the Victorian Folk Music Club by Stephen Whiteside

Introduction: Stephen talks about Joy Durst, Alan Mashall, and the early days of the Billabong Band (approx. 10 - 15 minutes)

(Joy's daughters Janey Alcorn-Durst and Jo Durst and her son Christopher may be present, and may also contribute information and/or memories)

Video 1 (approx. 30 minutes duration)

The Billabong Band presents Songs of the Bush

Introduced by Alan Marshall, author of 'I Can Jump Puddles'

Produced by Christopher Muir

From the Melbourne Television Studios of the ABC

Contents of video:

Clem (surname unknown) introduces the instruments - lagerphone and tea chest bass

Song 1: 10,000 Miles Away (Old Palmer Song)

Song 2: Andy's Gone with Cattle

Song 3: The Broken-Down Squatter (sung by Joy's husband, Claude Durst)

Song 4: Ta-ra-ra Boom-de-ay (sung by Joy and another woman)

Song 5: Shining Moon

Song 6: The Bullockies Ball

Song 7: The Sparrow and the Emu's Egg (sung by Joy)

Song 8: Waltzing Matilda (Queensland version)

Closing refrain: Botany Bay

Video 2 (approx. 6 minutes duration)

"In Melbourne, ABC reporter Peter Basta reports on a song boom"

Contents of video:

Song by the Billabong Band: Bullocky Oh

Interview with "Mrs Joy Durst of Surrey Hills" - talks about her belief that Australia is overcoming its "cultural cringe" attitude through its folk music

Interview with professional folk singer Dennis Gibbons, talking about the relative popularity of folk songs in various age groups

Interview with folk song collector and restorer, Dr Percy Jones: "A nation without folk song is a nation that hasn't yet arrived at any definite individuality or personality."

Peter Basta: "Students of folk songs don't look only to the past for material. They are writing them today. Love songs. Songs of national aspiration. Social criticism on all subjects."

Finishes with a fragment of song by Clem Parkinson

Questions and discussion

Approximate total duration: 1 hour

Songs and tunes by VFMC members and others could possibly follow.