

SYDNEY FOLK FESTIVAL NEWSLETTER #2



The clock is ticking and our website is counting down the days. It's all very exciting and our planning is in overdrive.

There has been some major changes to our festival venues. Club Ed, the upstairs area of the Edinburgh Castle, has been relocated to City Tatt's to the Nangamay Room and the programming in the Carmichael Room of the SMSA has also been relocated to City Tatts to Legends.

Both are far better venues in every respect. Our four destinations are literally minutes away from each other.

On site ticket purchases and pre-booked tickets wristband collection will now take place at City Tatt's Club as follows:

Friday August 16 from 6pm

Saturday 17 from 9am

Sunday 18 from 9am



Ticket collection. When you check in you might also consider picking up a free three-year membership form for City Tatt's - it's a great place for Sydneysiders. You will also be able to collect membership forms for the Folk Federation of NSW.

Publicity for the festival is being coordinated by Geoff Sirmai Arts Publicity and festival news has been popping up all over the place on radio, free and online. Thank you to the artists who have cooperated in interviews and live performances - and there's more to come.

The festival dance program aims to keep you on your feet.

There is a wide variety of dance styles from different countries to enjoy.

- **Margaret Bolliger** will teach good old Aussie bush dances and maybe a surprise or two to the music of **Ryebuck Bush Band**.
- **David Potter** is an established teacher of English Country Dances and will get you moving like Mr Darcy and Elizabeth Bennet with music provided by **Short Dented Potts**.
- **Yorgo Kaporis** is Sydney's best-known teacher of International Dance and together with the music of **Balkanski Bus** will transport you to the wilds of Eastern Europe. The dance group **Dusha Balkana** will start with a 10 minute demonstration of how it is done.

SYDNEY FOLK FESTIVAL NEWSLETTER #2

- **Margaret and Bill Winnett** have spent over half a century immersing themselves in traditional Irish dancing and their vast repertoire of dances ensures that newcomers can fit in easily. **Ann O'Donovan & The Ceili Playboys** will provide the music.
- The evening dance features the authentic Australian repertoire of **Claire Stoneman** and **FolkLines** who have a large selection of collected Australian dances and the music to accompany them.
- Sunday morning starts with Sydney's Queen of Contra, **Julie Bishop**, getting the blood circulating with some lively contra dances from North America with **Pastrami on Ryebuck** playing.
- Next is **David Potter** again, showing his knowledge of a wide range of dance styles that he will mix and match for you, accompanied by the quirky music of **Short Dented Potts**.
- The social dance component of the Festival concludes with **Don Richmond** calling Scottish dances. Don has long experience with a wide range of dance styles and is joined by **James Gastineau-Hills** and friends who will delight with their wonderful playing of Scottish reels, jigs and strathspeys.
- The program finishes with some freeform dancing to the upbeat playing of legendary Sydney band **Sirocco**.

World Beat. How good is it to see Sirocco return to the stage after so many years! The original four members of the group have reunited especially for the festival and will perform their highly original music in our opening concert and also at a 'world dance party'. Sirocco was a landmark in Australian world music and released several best-selling albums, toured extensively here and overseas, and were often heard at festivals and on radio. We also welcome **Chaika**, a world band almost beyond description is as much as their music is steeped in world music yet travels even further into fusion. **Balkanski Bus** is another exciting addition to our program. Many will remember Linda Marr's voice from Blindman's Holiday and other groups - she is now the lead vocalist for the eight-piece Balkanski Bus... this is one musical ride you will definitely want to join.



**DROVER'S DOG'S
BUSH POET'S
BREAKFAST**

Join Australia's best
yarners and bush
poets at the Sydney
Folk Festival
10am Sunday
18th August
Edinburgh Castle
Hotel, Pitt St. Sydney



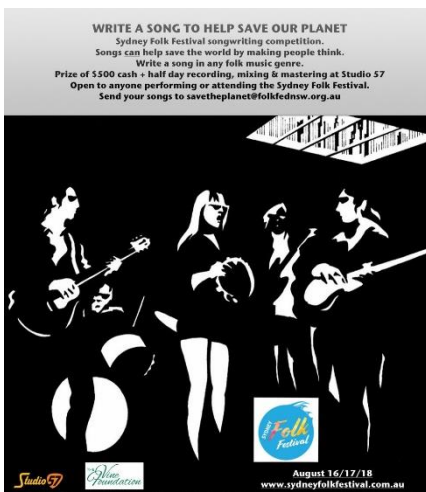
Tickets on sale now

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The festival's workshop program is fascinating with everything from illustrated talks to musical explorations. **Michael Alexandratos** is a recorded music producer specialising in unusual and rare aspects of our sound tradition. His recent releases for Rouseabout Records have included rare Hawaiian music recordings from Australia. At the festival he previews an upcoming recording in 'My Boomerang Did Come Back' - exploring musical misappropriation of indigenous story and song. It's a fascinating and contentious subject. Sea songs group **40 Degrees South** will offer up a themed workshop on sailors and their sometime wretched lives and endings. **Kate Burke** will offer tuition on open tuning for guitar - a must attend for all guitarists. Australia's top leading mandolin players, **Nigel Lever** and **Luke Plumb** will turn the mandolin inside out talking and demonstrating their instrument of choice. Marcus Holden will talk about and play tunes from the late Ray Shoeffel's songbook. In a session dubbed 'Guitar Stylists' we've invited some of the festival's leading guitar players to talk about and play some guitar tunes - and maybe even offer a few secrets. In 'Songs of the Battlers', festival favourites, **Margaret and Bob Fagan** will sing songs from the lean and mean times. Don't miss **Skorba's** themed workshop in the SMSA's Keneally Room when they sing songs related to the history and invasion (by the Ottoman Empire) of Malta. **Dave Johnson**, well-known for his work with Bush Traditions will offer a session on Australian railway songs. Another 'not to be missed' session, 'Convict Voice', explores convict ballads, especially little-known songs from Norfolk Island.



Songwriters find their voice. The term 'folk music' has come to mean many things to many people. It certainly celebrates the singer songwriter and we have some of Australia's best at our festival. Original ideas packaged in music - stories to play on your emotions - that's what these artists do so well. Welcome to every songwriter at the festival - your voice is an important part of the continuing folk tradition. You will be able to hear some recently written songs in our Save The Planet concert featuring some of the entrants in our festival songwriting competition. Open to everyone attending the festival the theme is the environment. That's something worth singing about.



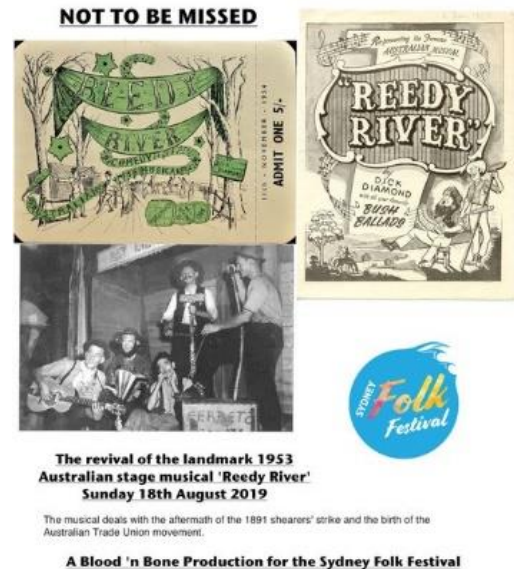
Food at the festival. Both our licensed venues, The Edinburgh Castle and City Tatts, offer a variety of food - The Eddy has bistro meals and City Tatts has a variety of options. You will also find our festival area, particularly near Chinatown, has hundreds of cheap eateries.

SYDNEY FOLK FESTIVAL NEWSLETTER #2

Transport. Goulburn Street Secure Car Park offers all day parking for \$12. Town Hall train station is one block from the festival venues.

We welcome our international artists Elijah Wald and Victor Mishalow. Elijah is a Grammy-award winning writer and guitarist/singer who specialises in the blues. Check out his many books including books on The Beatles, Robert Johnson, Josh White, Dave Van Ronk and Dylan Goes Electric. Victor is actually an old friend, having grown up in Sydney before moving to Canada. He is one of the world's leading players of the Ukrainian Bandura.

Great Australian theatre. Yes folks, there will be two theatre works at the festival. '**Reedy River**' the wonderful 1953 musical that brought the bush to the city in its evocative story about the Great Shearer's Strike - lots of memorable songs in this two hour play. Tony Guyot's company of actors and musicians have done a remarkable job in keeping this important play alive. Over at the Mitchell on Sunday you can catch what will probably be the very last Sydney show of **Dead Men Talking**, the musical play featuring Max Cullen as Henry Lawson and Warren Fahey as Banjo Paterson. This play has been packing them in for the past 4 years and audiences love it.



Eric Bogle Band's last farewell to Sydney? Frankly, we don't believe him, but Eric has said this might possibly be his last Sydney concert... he then reminded us of Johnny Farnham and Dame Nellie Melba. Whatever the case we do know that Eric's concerts are always very special. He will sing his celebrated songs and, as usual, have us tearing up and hysterically laughing. It's a great combo of emotions all in one concert. Tickets are included in weekend and day pass tickets or available separately. [RUSSELL INSERT LINK FOR ERIC'S TICKETING](#))

Come and learn Australian tunes. Bring your instruments to the Session bar at 11.30am on Saturday and Sunday and 'play along' in slow tunes - to learn Australian bush dance tunes. It's great fun and a rare opportunity to play with others.

Chloe and Jason Roweth must be Australia's hardest-working folk group. Their Roweth Band is appearing at the festival and so is their young bush poet daughter, **Megan Roweth**. Then there's the Woodstock band..... this is a festival; finale event in the Eddy and should be a ripper as the band and audience join as one to remember 1969 - the 50th anniversary of

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Woodstock. You can wear flowers in your hair, sway back and forth and sing along to some very memorable tunes by Neil Young, Credence Clearwater Revival etc..... this will be BIG FUN.

Our festival Session Bar to really zing. **The Session Bar** is a favourite spot for all festival goers and we are excited to introduce this festival rarity to Sydneysiders and festival 'virgins'. The Session Bar is open all through the festival and late late late..... you'll find impromptu music, sometimes rabid conversation and an endless bar.

Finally, ticket sales for the festival are selling well. Tell your friends to get on line and book some tickets at <https://wl.eventopia.co/event/SYDNEY-FOLK-FESTIVAL-The-Next-Generation-of-Folk/383051?afflky=TheFolkFederationofNSW>. They can get weekend passes, day passes or, if they're strapped for time, separate tickets for the Eric Bogle concert on Saturday night.

Save the Planet. The clock is also ticking for our Save the Planet songwriting competition. Open to anyone who purchases a festival ticket or is performing or volunteering - send your songs NOW.



PRESENTED BY THE FOLK FEDERATION OF NSW
CONCERTS | WORKSHOPS | SESSIONS | CONVERSATIONS | DANCE SESSIONS

3 DAY FESTIVAL WITH
10 VENUES ACROSS
198 - 294 PITT STREET
IN THE HEART
OF SYDNEY

WEEKEND WRISTBAND
GETS ACCESS ACROSS
ALL VENUES

SYDNEY Folk Festival

SYDNEY FOLK FESTIVAL

16/17/18 AUGUST 2019

ERIC BOGLE | MARA! | MOUSSA DIAKITE & WASSADO
CHAIKA | THE BUTTON COLLECTIVE
LUKE PLUMB & THE CIRCUIT

KEITH POTGER	ROWETH BAND THE LAST AUROCHS	THE WILLING PONIES THE BOTTLERS	DEN HANRAHAN & THE RUM RUNNERS	OVER 60 BANDS & SOLO ARTISTS
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