

HEADLINES

- FAA stages successful AGM in Sydney, elects a new Board
- Bill Hauritz's proposal that the 2010 FAA Conference be held at Woodford receives strong support
- Chris Wheeler convenes a meeting about Australia's Folk Federations
- Young Musician's Folk Awards applications open November 17
- Membership Reminder and Report from Jim MacQuarrie
- Gig and event news

FAA AGM A SUCCESS

Folk Alliance Australia held its AGM at Balmain Uniting Church in Sydney on Sunday November 1 with an attendance of over thirty members, including members from NSW, QLD, Victoria, Tasmania, ACT, Northern Territory and South Australia. Given that fifteen members were needed to make quorum it was wonderful to have so many people turn up and make the AGM a legal, social, creative and a representative success.

Warren Fahey delivered a report as the retiring Chairman and paid special tribute to the work of Jim MacQuarrie and Keith Preston. Kate Mac Lurcan also retired as Secretary, and went out in fine style having organised the venue and the food for the event.

NEW BOARD ELECTED

John Thompson, Chairman (Qld),
Keith Preston, Treasurer (SA)
Roger Joseph, Secretary (Tasmania),
Bob Charter (NSW)
Una McAlinden (Victoria),
Dennis O'Keefe (Victoria)
Martin Goreing (Northern Territory),
Peter Noble (NSW)

Meet the Board Members:

John Thompson, President - member of the Queensland based duo Cloudstreet and moving force behind the Maleny Winter Celtic School joined the FAA Board in May 2009. As an ex-barrister John brings strong skills in negotiation to the FAA Board.

Keith Preston, Treasurer - Long serving member of the FAA Board from Adelaide, re-elected as Treasurer. Keith also was Acting Chair while Warren Fahey was unavailable during last part of the year. Keith brings great expertise to the FAA Board as a director of folk festivals, touring theatre companies and as a multi cultural arts officer.

Roger Joseph, Secretary - from Tasmania brings great experience in events management to the Board and has been involved in the Cygnet Folk Festival for a number of years. Elected as Secretary to the Board

Bob Charter - re-elected after serving on the previous FAA Board and brings a wealth of experience to the Board having managed and organised venues and festivals in the Blue Mountains for many years.

Una McAlinden - Director of the National Celtic Festival in Portarlinton, Vic and comes from a well known family with long and deep involvement in the Celtic music and dance scene in Australia. Una has been working in performing arts, festival management and events professionally at Geelong Performing Arts Centre and beyond.

Dennis O'Keefe - singer, songwriter and researcher from Warrnambool, Vic is arguably Australia's greatest resource on Waltzing Matilda

Martin Goreing - made a flying visit from Darwin and becomes the first representative from the Northern Territory to serve on the FAA Board. Has for a number of years been Secretary of the Top End Folk Club and involved in the Top Half Festival and the NT Folk Federation.

Peter Noble, Director of the Byron Bay Blues and Roots Music Festival. Through his recording label AIM Peter was part of a team that was the first independent Australian record label to win a USA Grammy Award. Peter's background in blues and roots music brings a new diversity to the FAA Board.

BILL HAURITZ'S PROPOSES NEXT FAA CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT WOODFORD, QLD

The Board listened to and considered a proposal by Bill Hauritz and Amanda Jackes, from Woodford Qld and the Queensland Folk Federation, to hold the next FAA Conference at Woodford in 2010. The basic concept of the proposal was for the QFF to host the conference at Woodford for three years and build the conference into a solid successful business with the QFF underwriting any losses for the 3 year period and forwarding any profits to the FAA. The elected Board members and the FAA members present unanimously supported accepting Bill Hauritz' proposal, and a subsequent Board meeting has agreed that work should begin on planning the 2010 Conference at Woodford as soon as possible. Bill Hauritz has been nominated to Chair the Committee staging the conference under the title of a Convention, and more details including the date will be included in the December newsletter. The FAA Board sees this as a very exciting opportunity for the FAA and the beginning of a great partnership that has the possibility to bring about exciting developments in the Australian folk community in the years to come. Bill Hauritz highlighted in his proposal that:

- (a) we begin planning for the Convention over a three year period
- (b) that we broaden the approach to "who we are" ie the folk community
- (c) that we aim for success both artistically and financially, as well as a re-branding of the folk movement
- (d) that we underpin the event with a social agenda so that it is "OK just to sit and talk."

Finally Bill urged the FAA AGM meeting to adopt the approach that marketing of the event 'starts today' and we commit to the idea" that we are all coming along and bringing our families and friends for one heck of a party."

CHRIS WHEELER LEADS DISCUSSION ABOUT FOLK FEDS

The day of the AGM also included a discussion about the state of the Folk Federations in Australia, in a meeting that was led by Chris Wheeler from the NSW Folk Federation. The discussion was felt to be constructive and it is hoped will be followed up in the next few months.

The main issues broached were:

- (a) Are the Folk Federations relevant institutions in Australia? Does the folk community want them, and are they prepared to contribute to them?
- (b) Where the Folk Federations are seen to be successful they are linked to specific events. Do the Folk federations need to run specific events to be successful? What other roles can they fulfill?
- (c) The lack of resources has lead to a loss of enthusiasm and a mis-management of volunteers. Where there is professional support volunteers can be much better organized and managed and become a real asset of an event.

APPLICATIONS FOR FAA YOUTH AWARDS OPEN ON NOV 17

The Award which is a partnership between FAA and the National Folk Festival will be staged at the National Folk Festival in Canberra on Sunday April 4 2010 between 10am and 12.30pm. The Award is open to Young Musicians aged between 16-and 25, and for groups with no more than 3 members. Finalists will be invited to perform in the Easter Concert and the winner will receive a booking with a \$300 performance fee at the following National Folk Festival in 2011. Applications must be received by the close of post on Thursday December 17 and for more information about the Award contact Felix Meagher PO Box 22 Mitcham 3132 or email development@folkalliance.org.au

MEMBERSHIP OF THE FAA – REPORT FROM JIM MACQUARIE

Just a reminder to people who have been previously been members of the FAA and haven't yet renewed their membership, or to those who are considering it for the first time. Membership to the FAA can easily be purchased online at "Membership on Line" from our Menu on www.folkalliance.org.au . There are also links for both ordinary and insured membership complete with forms. For the insured membership, the pages also give full details and descriptions of the various insurances available to you. For advice and assistance, contact Jim on faamembers@folkalliance.org.au

FAA Membership & Insurance.

We are currently holding a membership of 322 financial members. We still have another 120+ that have not renewed from the notices for membership renewals that have been sent out since June 1st, 2009. Would love to have you on board again. Our new insurance program with the workshops added to the solo membership has certainly been great for many new people coming on board. We have gained many new members but what is really great is the number of people that join our membership every year to "just belong and to support" FAA. It's magic! We have news that there are some changes happening to many of our Festivals in the Insurance area and times and circumstance are influencing and forcing these changes. The "special" groups memberships are doing well too!! Our membership can now be ordered on line from our website!!

Festivals Banner project.

This has kicked off very well indeed with 16 of our Festivals joining the program to date. This also gives us an income to provide support to our projects for our "new" performers and administration funds to keep the business end of FAA running efficiently. In fact, it actually provides direct support to help us follow our "Vision Statement, Policy and Objectives". It's a reasonably priced project of \$150.00 annually and this will place your banner image in 2 places on our website.

First: you will be on the more static "Festivals of Australia" banner page. This page has your festivals dates, opening and closing dates for applications.

Second: your banner will be placed in our "random access" program that has been specially scripted by Graviton Media and randomly allows each banner a pride of place at the top of each of our web pages. This means your banner will appear randomly at the top of a page everytime one of our pages is opened by a visitor. We experience very high daily "hit" rate and with that several people, who really matter, are going to see your banner appear in their line of sight. A simple click will bring them to your Festival web page.

regards, Jim MacQuarrie: FAA Membership and Insurance Services. faamembers@folkalliance.org.au

GIGS AND EVENTS

-Newcastle NSW Ukelele Orchestra kicks off Nov 10 6.30 start every Tuesday at Croatia Sports Club, Albert St Wickham markjackson@iinet.net.au

-Brisbane session every Saturday between 2pm and 6pm at a new venue _ Kitty O'Shea's on Caxton St, Petrie Terrace.

-Janette Geri performs at Albert Park Vic Nov 13 and Mike McClelland on Nov 28 taxman@bigpond.net.au

-November 13 Keith Potger in Hobart TAS tickets from Roger 03-61050585 www.dramatix.com.au/arelmedia

-Dutch Tilders Blues Legend at Bridgetown Festival WA Nov 13 -15 - peanuts@dutchtilders.com.au

-Illawarra NSW Folk Festival Volunteer applications close on November 15 For registration go to <http://www.illawarrafolkfestival.com.au/page/Volunteer>

-Illawarra Folk Week Nov 16-21 contact gregorytk@bigpond.com

-Final Nightingale Nosh is to be held Sunday November 15 at 5.30 - NB this is a change of previous date raelenebruinsma@yahoo.com

-Tarerer Festival Killarney Vic Nov 14-15 featuring Tonchi Tosh and Matt Earl - tonchimcintosh@gmail.com <http://www.tarerer.com.au/>

-Ernie Gruner Bohemian Nights Dec 1 with Phil Carroll Budapest bar, Glenhuntly VIC - erniegru@mira.net

-NSW Folk Federation end of Year Bash from 3pm Gaelic Club Devonshire St, Surry Hills December 5 and wake for Jonathan Mitchell in Darlington December 6 at 7pm - mwalters@mail.usyd.edu.au

-Folk Victoria News for extensive newsletter contact Jeanette - jfgfolk@gmail.com

-The Don Henderson Project CD will be launched at Woodford Folk Festival - On December 28
<http://donhenderson.com.au/>

-The Lake School of Celtic Music Song and Dance, Koroit, Vic Jan 3-8 - felix@bushwazhee.com

-28th Cygnet TAS Folk Festival to be held Jan 8-10 - Info contact [Steve woden@bigpond.com](mailto:Steve.woden@bigpond.com) or
<http://www.cygnetfolkfestival.org/>

-Turrumurra Folk Camp Jan 15-18 Book soon it sells out! - <http://www.geelongfolkmusicclub.com/turrumurra-folk-music-camp>

-Warren Fahey is researching the folk revival in Australia and looking for photos from 50s 60s 70s 80s and 90 of groups, solo artists, folk clubs, posters, dancers etc - Warren on wfahey@bigpond.net.au

-Australia's national Living Treasure -Ted Egan is touring the Southern states with Jan Wositzky in March 2010 and -- looking to pick up some gigs around Port Fairy Festival early in March - yarn@storytellersguide.com.au

-Venice In Melbourne Body Painting Competition Feb 5 2010 - contact maria_lucia09@hotmail.com

-Wolf Tones tour Australia January 16-29 tom@hooplahoopla.com.au with our own Gibb Todd in support

Disclaimer

Apologies to any information that is incorrect or left out. If I missed your event I will try and make it up! I have done my best to get information right. Any reasonable suggestions or constructive criticisms welcomed and accepted Felix.development@folkalliance.org.au