

Performer Bios for the 2007 Cobargo Folk Festival

Entries are listed alphabetically by first name

Acoustic Shock see Karen Lynne and Acoustic Shock

Alan Musgrove and His Watsaname Band. Collector and performer Alan Musgrove formed the Watsaname Band in 2004 to present traditional Australian folk song with a passion and commitment that comes from a deep knowledge and understanding of the musical traditions of a bygone Australia. The Watsaname Band was created in the vein of the “New Authenticity” bands described by Graeme Smith in his history of folk and country music in Australia, *Singing Australian*. Since 2004 the band has performed at festivals, including Cobargo, Illawarra and Gulgong as well as at folk clubs and house concerts. Their repertoire covers all aspects of Australian traditional folk from British-derived love and murder ballads to old bush songs and songs of Australia’s maritime history. The band perform with a humour and vitality which, along with a tight instrumental and vocal sound, stands alone in the field of Australian traditional music.

Bob McInnes, the fiddle player in the band, is also a renowned exponent of Scottish fiddling and will be performing in the *Fiddlers Frenzy* forum. Alan Musgrove will also be giving a workshop on Australian fiddle tunes.

Fri Mumbulla 4.30pm

Sat Yuin 5.00pm (Alan – w’shop)

Sat Magpie 7.15pm

Sun Mumbulla 9.30am (Bob – Fiddles)

Sun Yuin 2.15pm

Allez-Gator is a high energy Cajun and Zydeco band that will take you along to their Cajun Party (Fais Do Do) and have you stompin’ and hollerin’. When you’re with the Allez-Gators (Laissez les bon temps Roulette), let the good times roll! Members of the band will be appearing in other guises throughout the weekend – Trevor Dunham in the *Glorious Guitar* forum and (with friends) in the *Blues* forum; Eric Johns in *Silver Strings* and the *Mandolin Madness*; Baz Cooper in the *Squeezeathon*; Sandy Gibney and Eric Johns in the *Fiddlers Frenzy* forum, Bill Dunham in the **Amy and Bill Dunham** duo.

Fri Mumbulla 10.45pm

Sat Magpie 12.15pm (Eric – Mandolins)

Sat Mumbulla 4.45pm (Trev – Guitars)

Sat Mumbulla 8.45pm

Sun Mumbulla 9.30am (Eric and Sandy – Fiddles)

Sun Magpie 12.30pm

Sun Magpie 2.00pm (Trev – Blues)

Amy and Bill Dunham are a brother and sister duo playing and singing original, contemporary folk. Although young, they have both been on the festival scene for quite some time. Amy performed on the main stage at the National Folk Festival at the age of 15 where she released her first CD *No Good at Goodbyes*, and brother Billy is the bass player for the **Allez-Gators**. They performed again at the National Folk Festival in 2006 where they released their critically acclaimed CD *Gone Again*. They will be joined in glorious harmony by their younger sister Josie in some of their performances.

Sat The Cossing 3.15pm

Sat Yuin 6.00pm

Sun Yuin 11.45am.

Anthony McGloin. The recent release of Anthony’s debut acoustic guitar album *Nightflight* has brought wide acclaim both here and overseas. His performances are presented in a laconic style, in addition to setting up nostalgic and adventurous scenes. The ‘ship tune’ (Ship in the Storm) and ‘that one about the bird’ (Nightflight) have become festival favourites amongst a growing audience who also appreciate some quirky covers from past hits. In addition to a song or two and a deftly display of his mandolin playing, his versatility will have the listener absorbed. Anthony’s influences encompass folk, jazz, pop, Ragtime, traditional Irish and Bluegrass styles. In addition to his solo performances, Anthony will be appearing in both the *Glorious Guitars* and *Mandolin Madness* forums and will be conducting a **guitar workshop**. www.anthonymcgloin.com.

Sat Magpie 12.15pm (Mandolins)

Sat Mumbulla 4.45pm (Guitars)

Sat Yuin 7.30pm

Sun Yuin 10.00am (w’shop)

Sun Magpie 3.15pm

Arati George is a seasoned performer noted for her powerful, original songs and amazingly versatile dynamic vocals. Recently, her songs have been influenced by her passion for world music but they maintain her self-revealing, humorous, honest style. She will be joined in her performances by David Stern. Arati also performs in **Mandala** and the **Tatha Women's Choir**.

Sat. Voices 12.30pm (Tathra Womens Choir)

Sat Magpie 2.00pm (Mandala)

Sun Voices 10.45am

Sun Voices 4.00pm (Mandala)

Barry Lake hails from Narooma, NSW. He is a veteran performer, author, MC, bush poet and spinner of yarns and likes to get the audience involved as he recites over a wide range of emotions on heritage, war, bush themes, dogs and dunnies. Barry will be featured at the daily **Poets' Breakfast**

Sat and Sun Magpie 8.00am (Poets Breakfast)

Big Snore Hammers is the creation of ten-year-old Samuel De Santi, bringing to life his vision of a make-believe traditional-tune big band. They play high energy dance music from his favourite bands such as Chipolatas, Felpeyu and Wongawilli. Sam is joined by dad Dave on accordion, mum Tania on piano, Mark Holder-Keeping on saxophone, Ann Lehman on bouzouki and Perla Fefey on Percussion—playing an assortment of tunes from various traditions for your enjoyment. Dave and Tania are well known members of the legendary *Wongawilli* bush band. **Dave De Santi** is also director of the Illawarra Folk Festival and founder of that excellent Australian folk magazine 'Trad and Now' As an accordionist, Dave will be participating in the **Squeeze-athon** and Perla will be drumming with **Pamoja**. Dave and the band will be presenting a workshop on **Italian Tunes**

Sat Mumbulla 11.30am

Sat Yuin 2.30pm (Italian Tunes w'shop)

Sat Voices 6.45pm (Dave – Accordions)

Sun Voices 3.15pm

Bob and Marg Fagan. Founding members of that much loved band *The Fagans*, Margaret and Bob are here this year in their original incarnation as a duo. Their music is a fine and stirring blend of traditional and contemporary song from Australia and the British Isles, featuring politics and history, poetry and passion. They will also be presenting a special workshop entitled **The Roar of the Crowd: Sydney's Realist Writers and Their Legacy** (see Special Presentations). Not to be missed.

Sat Yuin 3.15pm (Roar of the Crowd)

Sat Mumbulla 8.00pm

Sun Yuin 1.30pm

Bush Medicine. Jennifer Noble is a respected singer-songwriter from the local area. She played at the second Cobargo Folk Festival and has since been travelling Australia with her family. Now back in Tilba, she has formed Bush Medicine with Tuck (tenor saxophone), Louise Matheson (bass and mandola) and Allen Heffernan (drums) to present her original songs and other favourites.

Sat Yuin 4.15pm

Sun Yuin 4.15pm

Byjingo is a lively and entertaining local band with the accent of their repertoire definitely inclined towards Aussie music, everything from Waltzing Matilda to Eagle Rock and beyond to more contemporary Australian music. The band plays for bush dances, old-time dances or rock it up with classic rock and roll numbers, Byjingo style.

Fri Yuin 2.30pm

Sat Brolga 8.45pm (Bush Dance)

Sat Bunyip 1.30pm (kids)

Sat Voices 6.45pm (Steve – Squeezeathon)

Sat Brolga 9.00pm (Dance)

Sun Bunyip 12.00pm (kids)

Sun Yuin 3.00pm (Song of the SE)

The Canberra Contra Club runs friendly, low-key, dance evenings to live music fortnightly in Canberra. Contra dance is fun to do, easy to learn and the club encourages new musicians, new callers and especially new dancers. The club is now enjoying running dances and workshops at festivals and spreading their enthusiasm for Contra dancing and music. Come along and join us for the dance of the festival. Beginners are very welcome and we make an effort to include everyone in the dancing. No partner is necessary.

Fri Brolga 6.30pm (w'shop)
Sat Brolga 12.00pm (w'shop)
Sun Brolga 3.30pm (w'shop)

Canberra Dance Theatre has operated in the ACT for over 26 years, delivering quality dance programs, performances and classes locally, nationally and internationally. The World Dance Performance Group arose from the classes held at CDT taught by Gretel Burgess and Alison McLean and has performed at a number of the major festivals in the region.

Sat Brolga 10.30am (African dance display)
Sat Brolga 1.00pm (Indonesian dance display)
Sat Brolga 4.30pm (African dance w'shop)
Sat Brolga 8.15pm
Sun Brolga 12.30pm (Asian dance display)
Sun Brolga 2.30pm (Indonesian dance w'shop)

Canberra Union Voices is a choir singing in wonderful four-part harmony: Their songs are of justice and freedom. They collect and perform songs from Australia and around the world that reflect the struggle of people against oppression and celebrate the success that strength in solidarity can bring to people's daily lives.

SatVoices 1.45pm
Sun Voices 9.30am
Sun Mumbulla 11.15am (Political Soapbox)

Cruiscin Làn plays traditional music with a contemporary edge. Their repertoire is a mix of Irish and Australian music, original material and music from the Celtic nations. Their sound reflects a strong connection to an Irish ancestry and blends inherent Celtic influences with music and song that bridge the traditions of Ireland and Australia. With an interesting variety of instrumentation, the result is an exciting fusion of past and present, songs and tunes, both contemporary and traditional. Pam Merrigan will also be conducting a *whistle workshop* and Norm Merrigan will be playing in the *Squeezathon* (accordion and concertina forum/session). www.members.optusnet.com.au/~galimore.

SatYuin 1.45pm (Pam – whistle w'shop)
SatMagpie 4.15pm
SatVoices 6.45pm (Norm – Accordians)
Sun Yuin 11.00am

Dale Dengate is a well-known and long-time stalwart of the folk scene, MC and presenter of workshops at festivals since the 1980s, encouraging others to sing and learn songs that focus on women's experiences. Dale will be presenting a special *workshop* about the folklore of pioneers and politics in the Channel Country of Western Queensland (see Special Presentations) together with her husband **John Dengate** and friends Chris Woodland and Jenny O'Reilly. Dale, John and Chris met at the Bush Music Club in Sydney in the 1960s and were very influenced by John Meredith. Since then they have been enthusiastic researchers of Australian folklore and performers of traditional Australian folk music.

Sat Voices 2.15pm

Damon Davies emerged from the Sydney blues scene (where he played in such bands as the *Mudsteppers*) about 12 years ago and, seeking a 'quiet country life', moved to Cobargo. He is a versatile performer, both as a singer and multi-instrumentalist and seems equally at home in blues and folk mediums while likely to, unexpectedly, and disconcertingly, revert to jazzbo mouth trumpeting and cool double bass plucking. While well known for his performances at folk festivals, Damon has featured in the televised Bridgetown Blues Festival in Western Australia and performed in China at the Beijing Arts Festival. Damon has released three solo CDs; *Ride This Train* (1995), *Serious Man* (1997) and *People with Oomph* (2002). Damon will be doing a solo spot, will be performing in the **Heather, Deb and Damon** trio, and will be performing with special guest Tracy Bunn (from the sadly now disbanded *Toe Sucking Cowgirls* who were the hit of the 2006 Cobargo Folk Festival). Damon will also be demonstrating his expertise on blues guitar in the *Glorious Guitars* and *Blues* forums. www.damondavies.com

Fri Mumbulla 5.15pm
Sat Mumbulla 1.45pm (Heather, Deb and Damon)
Sat Mumbulla 4.45pm (Guitars)
Sat Mumbulla 11.00pm (with Tracey Bunn)
Sun Magpie 2.00pm (Blues forum)
Sun Mumbulla 4.30pm

Dan Bakker. Start your festival days with a gentle *Yoga session* that will ease the body, mind and soul into a state ideal for frolicking frivolity. Dan Bakker is a practicing Yoga teacher on the Far South Coast and invites you to bring a blanket and pillow down to the Brolga Tent for an hour of breathing and movement techniques. Ideal for beginner/intermediate levels.

Sat and Sun Brolga 8.30am

Daniel Champagne is a talented local singer-songwriter and guitarist. He won the youth songwriters competition sponsored by The Crossing at last year's Cobargo Folk Festival and the Far South Coast juniors songwriters award in 2002. Daniel performs original material covering a range of styles and has recently begun recording. He will also be performing in **Guitarama**.

Sat Yuin 10.30am

Sat The Crossing 1.30pm (Guitarama)

Sun The Crossing 1.00pm

Sun The Crossing 3.00pm (Guitarama)

Darryl Bowen and Lydia Clark. Darryl is a true-blue Aussie singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist who has been entertaining young and old for the past decade. Together with Lydia Clarke will be running a percussion and singing session for children. So, sing a song, bang a drum... come on kids and have some fun.

Sat Bunyip 2.30pm (kids)

Sun Bunyip 10.00am (kids)

David Meyers is a singer songwriter, bush poet and founding member of the **Shiny Bum Singers**, who loves to entertain his audience. He brings to the stage a huge variety of material including original song and poetry, folk and bush ballads, humorous parodies and bush yarns. As well as his solo spot, David will be appearing at the **Poets' Breakfasts** and will be conducting a **workshop** on performance skills for budding performers as part of the Crossing Youth program.

Sat Magpie 8.00am (Poets B'fast)

Sat Voices 11.30am (Shiny Bums)

Sat The Crossing 2.30pm (w'shop for youth)

Sun Magpie 8.00am (Poets B'fast)

Sun Voices 2.15pm (Shiny Bums)

Francesca Sidoti is a musician hailing from the Blue Mountains. Playing every venue she could find, from café corners to the National, Blue Mountains and Cobargo Festivals, Francesca has built a reputation of joyous and engaging performances. Francesca won the Youth Performance Initiative talent quest at last year's Cobargo Folk Festival which took her to the 2006 National Folk Festival where she then won the Liz Johnston Award for Vocal Excellence. An invitation to perform at the Folk Alliance Australia convention quickly followed. Francesca says that her greatest achievement is her unbroken streak of being asked back after every single performance to date. Cobargo is no exception: come and see what all the fuss is about! www.myspace.com/cezsidoti

Fri Mumbulla 2.00pm

Sat The Crossing 3.45pm

Sun The Crossing 11.30am

Gordon Budd's Irish Dancers Gordon Budd was ranked 11th in the World Irish Dancing Championships in Ireland. He has toured internationally as leading dancer in the Guinness *Riverdance* production. He has now retired from professional dancing and teaches Irish dancing on the far south coast. His current show includes old traditional dances and modern Irish dances: jigs, reels, hornpipes, set dances and step dances. A high energy performance, not to be missed.

Sat Brolga 2.00pm (display)

Sun Brolga 1.30pm (w'shop)

Guitarama is a new and exciting group of mainly young guitarists from the local region, specialising in Latin American styles from Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Cuba. The infectious rhythms of the samba, choro, milango and tango will make it impossible for audiences to sit still.

Sat The Crossing 1.30pm

Sun The Crossing 3.00pm

Heather, Deb and Damon. Heather Black, Deb Weeden and Damon Davies need little introduction for the locals and, for those in the dark, you will discover a certain enlightenment upon hearing the exquisite voice of Heather Black and of course Deb and Damon's instrumental accompaniment and harmonies, singing some of their favourite tunes. It has been a few years since they last performed at the Cobargo Folk Festival but they are back due to overwhelming requests, possibly with a new CD to launch.

Sat Mumbulla 1.45pm

Jim Lay and Friends. Jim Lay is a local singer songwriter and a regular at Cobargo. This year he will be launching his first studio album, recorded at Damon Davies' 'Planet Mars' studio in Cobargo. His seasoned band will be performing

songs about his experiences as a remote area fire fighter, his adventures working with the Wik people on Cape York and songs about living on the South Coast. Alan Leake on dobro, guitar and mandolin, Paul Leeder on bass, Jay McMahon on drums and Heather Black and Deb Weeden's backing vocals all provide a relaxed chemistry on stage that you will be sure to enjoy. The male choir "Mumbulla Dahs" will provide some vocal backing as well. www.jimlaymusic.com

Fri Yuin 3.45pm

Sat Magpie 2.45pm (CD launch)

Sun Yuin 3.00pm (Songs of the SE)

Jim MacQuarrie has a powerful voice in the full-blooded Canadian folksinger tradition and a winning way with song. He is an artist well at home with his material and a warm communicator of his love for a good song. The quality of his voice has been likened to that of the late Stan Rogers. Jim's CD *Time Can't Erase* has received critical acclaim. In addition to his solo performance, Jim will don his other hat as Executive Officer of the Folk Alliance Australia to host the **FAA Youth Performance Initiative Talent Quest**.

Sat The Crossing 9.30am (FAA Talent Quest)

Sat Yuin 8.15pm

Sun The Crossing 9.00am (FAA Talent Quest)

John Dengate has been performing at folk festivals and in folk clubs for about 40 years. He is best known for his political satires but his songs, poems and stories range across many facets of Australian life and history. He is Australia's master of parody, his satire bites, his songs are clever, his sense of the ridiculous is highly developed, he reduces pomposity to banality and he dances precariously around the libel laws. Above all, however, he is an entertainer. John also has a prodigious memory and his repertoire of traditional material is second to none. He has been named a "living treasure". See the two sides to John's craft in the '*Political Soapbox*' concert and '*Karuwali, Pioneer and Politics*' presentation, as well as in his solo performance (with a lighthearted look at songs of illness!).

Sat Voices 2.15pm (Karuwali)

Sat Magpie 5.45pm

Sun Mumbulla 11.15am (Political Soapbox)

John Warner is one of Australia's finest songwriters and folk historians. John's epic song cycle *Yarri of Wiradjuri* was presented at last year's Cobargo Folk Festival. John is also a very experienced children's entertainer and this year he will be presenting his **Pack O' Pirates** show as part of the Children's Program in the Bunyip venue. John also sings with **The Roaring Forties** who will be encouraging you to join in on the rousing choruses at the Saturday night **Singing Session**.

Sat Bunyip 4.30pm (kids Pirates show)

Sat Voices 8.30pm (Singing session)

Sun Voices 10.00am (Roaring Forties)

Jonathon Ashley is a fine singer of traditional English and Scottish ballads, accompanying himself with fingerstyle guitar and harmonica. He also plays Appalachian banjo tunes in the traditional Clawhammer style. Jonathon mainly performs in intimate venues such as wine bars, cafes and restaurants. He released his first CD, *Jacket Blue*, in 2005.

Sat Yuin 6.45pm

Sun Voices 1.00pm

Judy Small really needs no introduction. In her humble way says "She is an old-fashioned stand-up-with-a guitar singer-songwriter". She sings songs of politics, peace, people, fun and love. Her songs are sung at festivals, concert halls, folk clubs, campfires, political rallies and street corners all over the English-speaking world. Judy has been called 'Australia's Folk Diva' and 'the grande-dame of Australian folk' However. Judy says "Personally, I think I am too young for such titles"! Judy sings to packed houses wherever she performs, so make sure you get to her concerts early if you want a seat.

www.judysmall.com.au

Fri Mumbulla 8.30pm

Sat Mumbulla 4.00pm

Sun Yuin 9.00am (songwriting w'shop)

Sun Mumbulla 10.30am

Just a TAD and Moz. Tom Bridges, Alison Jones and Deanne Dale (TAD) and Maurie Mulheron (Moz) combine their long and varied experience as musicians to perform classic songs and under-sung gems from the folk canon, including many that invite chorus participation. Taking any opportunity to use expertly arranged close vocal harmonies, they also teach parts to a sing-along audience. Their vocals are supported by Maurie's banjo or guitar, or sung acappella.

Sat Mumbulla 1.00pm

SatVoices 8.30pm (Singing session)

Sun Yuin 12.45pm

Karen Lynne and Acoustic Shock. Traditional Bluegrass band featuring award winning players, great harmonies and the beautiful voice of Karen Lynne. Top renditions of traditional songs and tunes and original material. Their collaborative album *Blue Mountain Rain* achieved nine award nominations, three charting singles and picked up “Best Independent Release” at the Victorian Country Music Awards. They have recently toured UK and Europe, supporting Ricky Scaggs and Kentucky Thunder in Norway. Mandolin Player Nigel Lever will be appearing in the **Mandolin Madness** forum, bass player Liz Frencham will also be playing in the Lawnmowers. The band will also be conducting a **workshop** on Bluegrass music and instrumentation. www.karenlynne.com

Fri Mumbulla 9.15pm

SatMagpie 12.15pm (Nigel – Mandolins)

SatVoices 4.00pm (w’shop)

Sat Magpie 9.30pm

Sun Mumbulla 3.00pm

Kate Fagan. Poetical songstress Kate Fagan is being compared to indie roots artists Natalie Merchant and Gillian Welch and it is easy to see why. The internationally acclaimed songwriter, also known world-wide for her performances with her family band *The Fagans*, is captivating audiences everywhere with her spellbinding and powerful take on country-roots folk: her solo debut *Diamond Wheel* won the National Film and Sound Archive Award for Best Album at the 2006 National Folk Festival. Kate is touring Australia with seasoned acoustic/slide guitarist Robbie Long, and her haunting and evocative lyrics are matched perfectly by Robbie’s laid-back improvisations. The duo have recently featured on ABC TV’s Sunday Arts Program and on Radio National’s Daily Planet and Music Deli shows. Robbie Long will also be playing in **The Lawnmowers** (bluegrass) and in the **Glorious Guitars** forum. www.katefagan.com

Fri Mumbulla 6.15pm

SatMumbulla 12.15pm

SatYuin 3.15pm (Roar of the Crowd)

Sun Magpie 10.00am

Keith Preston presents **Preston’s Historic Punch and Judy Show**, the old-time version of the classic puppet show for both kids and adults. Over 230 performances have been staged at festivals and schools since 1994. Keith has extensive experience of working in the community arts/folk/multicultural arts sector in South Australia and at a national level encompassing work as a performer, administrator and project manager in a variety of art forms.

SatBunyip 11.30am (kids)

Sun Voices 11.30am (adults)

Sun Bunyip 2.00pm (kids)

Lucie Thorne and Heath Cullen. Lucie Thorne writes intriguing songs of people and places and has been earning herself a loyal following as she travels around the countryside singing them. Lucie has a rich voice and together with Heath Cullen on second guitar and vocal harmonies, they deliver their irresistible folk/roots music with a warmth and intimacy for which their live shows have become renowned. www.lucithorne.com.

Fri Yuin 6.00pm

SatMagpie 6.45pm

Sun Magpie 4.00pm

Lucy and Larissa. Through Café Carnivale, Musica Viva Australia inspired the creative collaboration of two extraordinarily talented musicians – virtuoso Belorussian cimbalom performer Lucy Voronov and Larissa Burak whose beautiful soprano voice combined with Ukranian bandura playing has thrilled audiences in Europe and now in Australia. Their unusual folk instruments, cimbalom and bandura, provide endless opportunities for a wide ranging classical and traditional repertoire. Both musicians are classically trained in the conservatoriums of Belarus and Ukraine.

Sat Voices 6.00pm

SatMumbulla 9.30pm

Sun Magpie 1.15pm

Mad Violet. Hailing from Toronto, Canada, Brenley MacEachern and Lisa MacIsaac have been travelling the globe for seven years promoting their “tumbleweed” pop sound. With two UK produced, award winning albums, a little bit country and a little bit pop, these songstresses have been winning over audiences with their road stories and rootsy fiddlin’, their harmonies, humour, and heart-felt songs. Sidestepping the Canadian winter, the self-confessed ‘freezibags’ spent three months exploring Australia last year. The pair say they do their best song-writing in remote places and confined spaces and their second album, *Caravan*, draws its title from the vintage motor home they occupied

for three weeks in Byron Bay following the completion of their Australian tour last year. Many of the songs on that album were written whilst living in the van. www.madviolet.com

Fri Mumbulla 7.45pm

Sat Mumbulla 7.15pm

Sun Mumbulla 2.15pm

Mal Webb is a vocal gymnast, multi-instrumentalist and songwriter-ballads, beatbox and beyond. A jolly jaw dropping journeyman., eclectic, ebullient and even educational. Around the world and into your brain, vocal adventurer and songwriter Mal Webb plays too many instruments in too many styles to too many people. "You're a freak" said Ani DiFranco of Mal. "He's like Bobby McFerrin, Aphex Twin and Cole Porter playing scrabble" (B.Freely) In addition to his solo performances, Mal will be conducting a *workshop* so that you too can learn some of his amazing vocal techniques. www.malwebb.com

Fri Yuin 4.45pm

Sat Voices 3.15pm (w'shop)

Sat Mumbulla 6.30pm

Sun Magpie 10.45pm

Mandala is a collaboration of some of the South Coast's finest musicians. Most of the music begins with a favourite world folk tune and all the artists have contributed their music magic to create a unique sound using a variety of instruments and vocal harmony.

Sat Magpie 2.00pm

Sun Voices 4.00pm

Miguel Heatwole will again be directing and rehearsing the *Festival Choir*, a popular event at our festival. Anyone wishing to join the choir should attend the rehearsals. Miguel is the director of Sydney's *Solidarity Choir*, singing songs of social justice from all over the world, and also directs *Ecopella*, who perform environmental songs. Miguel is also a member of **Triantan** which is performing at the festival.

Sat Voices 10.00am (Festival Choir rehearsal)

Sat Voices 1.00pm (with Triantan)

Sun Voices 8.45am (Festival Choir rehearsal)

Sun Voices 12.15pm (with Triantan)

Sun Voices 2.45pm (Festival Choir performance)

Monaro Colonial Dancers are the longest running Colonial dance group in the ACT, having formed in 1991. The aim of the group is to continue Australia's traditional dance heritage, by dancing Quadrilles, Waltzes, Schottises, etc as danced in the ballrooms of the 1800s. They perform to traditional Australian tunes in full traditional costume.

Sat Brolga 1.30pm (display)

Sat Brolga 3.30pm (w'shop)

Sun Brolga 1.00pm (display)

Nick Charles has been described by the Melbourne Age as "...Australia's virtuoso of acoustic roots guitar...". Nick will be performing material from his four critically and internationally acclaimed albums as well as some classic country blues and folk. Recently signed to a US record deal and just back from his fifth USA tour, Nick has been awarded 'Blues Artist of the Year' and 'Solo Performer of the Year' (2006). A regular favourite at Cobargo, his performances are a must hear for lovers of great guitar music. www.charlesguitar.com

Fri Yuin 6.45pm

Sat Magpie 12.15pm (Mandolins)

Sat Mumbulla 4.45pm (Guitars)

Sat Magpie 10.15pm

Sun Magpie 11.30am

Sun The Crossing 4.15pm (w'shop for youth)

Nuttleys Creek is a group of locals from Bermagui who found each other playing regularly at the River Rock Café sessions. In other musical incarnations they have performed in various local venues in various guises. They give a new take to old songs with strong vocal harmonies and play contemporary folk/country originals on guitar, mandolin, fiddle, harps, the stomach Steinway and percussion.

Sat Magpie 11.30am

Sun Magpie 5.30pm

Pam Merrigan has the great advantage of coming from a family steeped in music. Her grandmother and uncles played for dances in the Armidale area of NSW in the 1920s and has ancestry going back to County Galway in Ireland. While

Pam has a formal music background and qualifications, she has an innate ear for traditional music. Pam is highly regarded as both a singer and multi-instrumentalist, especially for her whistle playing and she will be conducting a **whistle workshop**, in addition to her performances in **Cruiscin Làn**.

Sat Yuin 1.45pm (whistle w'shop)

Sat Magpie 4.15pm (with Cruiscin Làn)

Sun Yuin 10.45am (with Cruiscin Làn)

Pamoja A group of about a dozen female drummers from the Milton-Ulladulla area will be leading a womens' drumming session.

Sat Brolga 6.30pm

Sun Brolga 10.30am

Paul Wookey has been a distinctive singer and songwriter since he first discovered the music of Woody Guthrie and Bob Dylan and was inspired to pick up a guitar and emulate his heroes. Over many years he has honed these skills and toured extensively throughout Australia with occasional international forays. A regular performer at numerous folk and country music festivals, he won the prestigious Best New Artist Award at the Tamworth Country Music Festival in 1981 in recognition of the quality of his first album, *Mountain Breakfast*. Paul has subsequently released two more albums – *One Way Ticket* and *I Wish It Would Rain*. Paul's music is not easy to classify, sitting somewhere between folk, blues and country music with a more or less even distribution of Irish, American and Australian influences.

www.paulwookey.com.au

Fri Yuin 3.15pm

Sat Yuin 11.30pm

Sun Magpie 2.00pm (Blues Forum)

Peter Wild is the South Coast's favourite piano, ukulele and guitar playing singer songwriter whose music travels from folk to jazz to pop to theatre music and back again. His commitment to honesty and humour and his infectious enthusiasm all combine to make his performance a delight to behold.

Fri Yuin 8.30pm (CAS)

Sat Magpie 3.30pm

Sat Yuin 9.30pm (Jazz Club)

Sun Yuin 12.15pm

Pettibone is a group of young multi-instrumentalist who draw their influences from bluegrass, new folk, klezmer, and European gypsy music to create their unique blend of sassy folk music.

Sat Mumbulla 10.15am

Sat The Crossing 4.45pm

Sun The Crossing 12.00pm

Richard Blomfield is 16 years old and has been performing for seven years. Richard plays guitar, piano accordion, drums and sings. He is also an award winning songwriter, owns a recording studio and teaches guitar and piano accordion at Magpie Music. In 2006 Richard was accepted into the Talent Development Project in Sydney and now attends monthly workshops to enhance his talents. He has toured with the Southern Schools Performing Ensemble as a vocalist and has been a soloist in WIN Television's "Southern Stars" for the last three years.

Fri Mumbulla 3.00pm

Sat The Crossing 12.00pm

Sun The Crossing 11.00am

Robyn Martin. Having toured the world as a bass player / vocalist for many other artists (including sister Jodi Martin and Greg Champion), songwriter Robyn Martin takes to the stage with her own show – an eclectic mix of folky originals, funky jazz and soulful country. Robyn will be accompanied by **Peter Wild**, Sam Martin and Jay McMahon. Robyn will also be conducting a hands-on music making **workshop for children**

Fri Yuin 7.30pm

Sat Magpie 1.15pm

Sun Bunyip 3.00pm (kids)

Roving Raq Sharki The "Rovers" are a community based troupe, dedicated to sharing the joy of Egyptian music/dance through dynamic, colourful and upbeat performances at nursing homes, folk/multicultural festivals and all manner of community events in Canberra and surrounding regions. Audiences always comment on the colourful costumes and the uplifting experience

Sat Brolga 12.30pm

Sat Brolga 2.30pm (w'shop)

Sat Brolga 7.30pm
Sun Brolga 12.00pm

Russell Hannah has been the anchor man of the Illawarra Folk Club and Festival since its inception. Russell is the traditional default MC, stalwart of the workers, councillor extraordinaire, upholder of the environment, brunt of large jokes, tripe connoisseur, tormentor of accordion players and generally all round good bloke. If you run out of drinking partners, look for Russell who will gladly share a drink and a good yarn. Russell will be hosting the Cec Cox (founder of the Yuin Folk Club and old mate of Russell's) Memorial *Poets Breakfast* on Sunday, as well as MC'ing other concerts at which he will no doubt use as an opportunity to spin a yarn or tell a joke.

Sat and Sun Magpie 8.00am (Poets Breakfast)

Shanty. Leon Arundell is Australia's foremost taborer and has played pipe and tabor at two previous Cobargo Folk Festivals. He has formed Shanty, with a brand new look and sound, especially for this year's festival. Other members of the group are Francie Lowe, Bob Harrison, Vivien and Aidan Lowe. They will be conducting singing and music making sessions for children, contributing to the singing session on Saturday night and as roving minstrels around the festival.

Sat Bunyip 10.00am (kids)

Sat Voices 8.30pm (Singing session)

Sun Bunyip 11.00am (kids)

Silver Strings. Bob Hart and Eric Johns play old time country music and folk songs from the USA and Australia. They feature songs from the Appalachian Mountains, the Carter Family, the Delmore Brothers, Doc Watson and many others; also songs from the early Australian shearing sheds, drovers' camps and songs from the Great Depression. They play guitars, mandolin, fiddle and clawhammer banjo. Eric also plays fiddle in **Allez-Gator** and will be appearing in the *Fiddle Frenzy* and *Mandolin Madness* forums.

Fri Mumbulla 12.30pm

Sat Magpie 12.15pm (Eric – Mandolins)

Sat Magpie 8.00pm

Sun Mumbulla 9.30am (Eric – Fiddles)

Sun Magpie 4.45pm

Tabouli are a local group who draw their inspiration from the ancient musical traditions of the Middle East and Africa to present a lively percussion-based sound and colourful dance with which to move audiences in body and soul. The exotic rhythms of the Middle East will allow dancers to demonstrate the beautiful, sensuous moves of the Arabic tradition.

Sun Brolga 10.00am (Belly dancing w' shop)

Talla Tango Let's face it: learning a new dance takes practice. But come explore the basics of Argentine Tango with Talla Tango. Erika and Paul will give a short demonstration before setting you off on your way to dance heaven.

Sat Brolga 5.30pm

Sun Brolga 11.00am

Tathra Women's Choir Heartfelt Harmony from around the world. The bonds of love and friendship between these women is tangible and their aim is to heal the planet and release all obstacles to peace through song. Come and get healed, feel peaceful and have fun!

Sat Voices 12.30pm

The Beez are a musical comedy and cabaret group from Berlin, Germany. Formed in 1998 by native Berliner accordionist and cabaret chanteuse Deta and Sydney guitarist Rob Rayner, they were joined in 2004 by bassist Charlotte Giuliani, a native of the Baltic sea coast who imparted a distinct indie rock flavour; Peter D'Elia, demon dobra fingerpicker completed the line-up in 2005, adding a bluegrass flavour to the rapidly diversifying repertoire. The Beez don't just play covers – they rearrange them, in much the same way as Al Capone might in bygone days have rearranged the face of a luckless business associate. From Klezmer to country, from the Balkans to Bavaria, worldwide favourites get that Beez facelift that renders the originals helpless. www.thebeez.de

Fri Mumbulla 10.00pm

Sat Mumbulla 2.30pm

Sun Mumbulla 12.45pm

The Bega Valley String Orchestra. Founded by Veronika Wilcox in 1998. This group of local string players have been playing and performing together for several years, providing the opportunity for talented young string players to perform alongside more experienced and advanced players, whilst developing the skills required for ensemble work.

Ages in the orchestra range from eleven to over seventy and the focus is sharing and enjoyment. The Bega Valley String Orchestra is conducted by Geoffrey Badger.

SatVoices 12.00pm

The Eclectic Kitchen These local musicians (Elizabeth Andalis, Max Campbell, Mathew Perry and Dave Harris) have gathered in the kitchens of the South Coast, sharing good food and good music for many years. More recently they have blended their quality ingredients and seasoned them with a spicy and tantalising blend of music, to create a pleasurable experience for the palate. Ingredients include: double bass, banjo, fiddle and voices. The variety of dishes on the menu is plentiful. Elizabeth Andalis will also be performing in *Fiddlers Frenzy* forum.

Fri Mumbulla 3.45pm

Sat Yuin 1.00pm

Sun Mumbulla 9.30am (Elizabeth – Fiddles)

The Flamenco Girls They haven't been seen at Cobargo for a couple of years, but some of the flamenco girls are back with a new series of choreographies by teacher Tomas Dietz. Join then at the dance venue Saturday night for what is sure to be an exciting performance.

SatBrolga 8.00pm

The Front Porch Pickers are a South Coast duo who play a variety of Roots music – bluegrass, folk and blues. Fingerpickin' guitar, hot bluegrass licks, guitar instrumentals, along with some great original songs are played in their unique style. Blues guitar fingerpicker 'Uncle' Bob McGowan has many years' experience in the music industry, playing with the acclaimed "Uncle Bob's Band" and other groups in Sydney and Melbourne. The Front Porch Pickers allows Bob to play in a more acoustic 'unplugged' style. Multi-instrumentalist Ray Gardaya provides tasteful and driving mandolin and a solid rhythm guitar backup in this duo. Raised in the USA, he grew up absorbing a rich variety of bluegrass and roots music. Bob and Ray will also be appearing in the *Glorious Guitars* and *Mandolin Madness* forums respectively.

SatMagpie 12.15pm (Ray – Mandolins)

SatMumbulla 4.45pm (Bob – Guitars)

SatMagpie 8.45pm

Sun Magpie 2.00pm (Bob - Blues forum)

Sun Yuin 5.00pm

The Hellands. After starting their folk career at Majors Creek five years ago, brothers Sven (19), Leif (17) and their sister Sigrid (16) from the beautiful Bega Valley, are here to show that folk music is safe and well in the hands of the next generation. Their repertoire covers a wide range of traditional world music and the number of instruments played on stage is growing. You will experience recorders being played in two and three part harmonies, as well as violins, a viola, guitar, flute, bouzouki, bodhran, miscellaneous percussive instruments, and on rare occasions – a singer. If you have been lucky enough to see them before, they now bring a wider, more polished, even greater musical offering than ever! Celtic to Klezmer – it's all there, along with the odd original.

Fri Mumbulla 1.15pm

SatYuin 10.00am

Sun The Crossing 2.30pm

The Illawarra Union Singers have been singing together for about 15 years and believe they make a positive contribution to the Union movement through song. They sing songs of protest, of struggle, of peace, the environment and songs about social justice.

SatVoices 5.00pm

Sun Mumbulla 11.15am (Political Soapbox)

Sun Voices 1.45pm

The Jim Stubbs Backing Band produce a warm folk blues sound incorporating acoustic blues, Irish, gospel and old-timey country music. The members of the band are: Jim Stubbs, blues and folk harmonica player, Steve MacDonald, guitarist from the Illawarra and Kellie Stubbs, singer.

SatYuin 9.00pm

Sun Magpie 2.00pm (Blues forum)

The Lawnmowers. Sublime and ridiculous, nothing is safe around the Lawnmowers... they keep the audience (and each other) on tippy toes with a high voltage selection of bluegrass classics and some tasty original pieces. Formed in 2003, The Lawnmowers have established themselves as a force in Australian bluegrass, performing at over 20 festivals and recording two albums. Three times national banjo champ Dave Hellens and veteran all-rounder Andrew Clermont join with guitarist Robbie Long, well known and loved bassist Liz Frencham (best known for work with Jigzag) and

harmonica ace Tony Eyes, to create a distinctive contemporary Australian ‘newgrass’ sound. Robbie Long will also be appearing with **Kate Fagan**, and in the *Glorious Guitars* forum. www.themowers.net

Sat Mumbulla 3.15pm

Sat Mumbulla 4.45pm (Robbie – Guitars)

Sat Magpie 11.00pm

Sun Mumbulla 1.30pm

The Meandering Wastrels. Jazz, swing and blues, with a tinge of country and accents of world music – the Wastrels can supply this and much more. Premier local guitarist Garry Renton leads this duo, improvising in all colours and shades of the rainbow, with Michael Menager on rhythm guitar and multilingual vocals. Gary may also be appearing in the *Glorious Guitar* forum.

Fri Yuin 5.30pm

Fri Yuin 8.30pm (CAS)

The Roaring Forties have been singing unaccompanied songs since the early ‘80s when they were an ad hoc team under the name “The Ensemble of Fat Bearded Shantymen”. The Roaring Forties appellation came about in 1988 when they were doing some gigs in the Australian Bicentenary Year and decided to put out an album of shanties. Since the early 1990s they have had a stable core of singers (Robin Connaughton, Tom Hansen, Jennifer Lees, John Warner, Margaret Walters and newest member Don Brian) and have enlarged their repertoire to encompass different types of songs, but always with rousing choruses. Members also perform original songs and verse. In addition to their solo performances, the group together with other friends will be leading the *Saturday night singing session*.

www.members.optusnet.com.au/~roaringforties

SatVoices 8.00pm

Sun Voices 10.00am

Sun Mumbulla 12.00pm (Political Soapbox)

The Shiny Bum Singers. Sing along with the wicked parodies written by Canberra’s infamous Shiny Bum Singers as they perform their songs of the Australian workplace. They have performed widely in NSW and at five National Folk Festivals. Be early to be sure of a seat!

Sat Voices 11.30am

Sun Mumbulla 11.15am (Political Soapbox)

Sun Voices 2.15pm

The Uninvited. ‘Choonfool’ duo Andrew Kordas (viola, harmonica, guitar, double bass) and Ralph Cullen (flute, whistle, mandolin, guitar) are joined by the ubiquitous folk festival fiddler Nick Hutten and the Irish blacksmith, the elusive Mike Peterson (pipes, whistle, bodhran) for a return to folk music in the raw – acoustic, inclusive and spontaneous. Uninvited, but always welcome. Gatecrash with glee!

SatBunyip 7.00pm (Tune swap/session)

Triantan are passionate proponents of traditional songs in Gaelic and English. Singing unaccompanied, except for the occasional use of the bodhran, their raw harmonies add an exquisite dimension to their performance, breathing fire into their music. Robust material ranges from fun slip-jigs and tragic love to warrior-stuff that would make the “Haka” quail.

Miguel Heatwole will also, as in previous years, lead the *Festival Choir* in rehearsal and performance.

SatVoices 1.00pm

Sun Voices 12.15pm

Vasek and Vendulka Witchta are two very talented young performers from Cooma who won a spot at the Folk Alliance Australia concert at the National Folk Festival as a result of their debut performance in the Youth Performance Initiative at the 2005 Cobargo Folk Festival. Vasek is 10 years old and plays guitar and Vendulka is nine years old and plays cello. They will entertain with Czech and English traditional songs and tunes.

SatThe Crossing 6.15pm

Sun The Crossing 2.00pm

Velma McKeachie has been telling stories to children for about 21 years. As a Steiner School teacher she does this every day, not reading stories but telling stories. She tells Celtic fairytales full of magic and miracles. Fairytales and stories are soul-food and young and old alike need this nourishment. Being Canadian born, Velma also has a special interest in North American Indian tales. Velma is a member of the Storytellers Guild and she regularly tells stories at the National Museum of Australia. Velma will be conducting a storytelling session for children each day in the Bunyip venue.

SatBunyip 3.30pm

Sun Bunyip 1.00pm

Vic Jefferies is one of the best known ‘bush poets’ and presenter of the ever-popular *Poets’ Breakfasts* on the festival scene. As well as developing a refreshing approach to the role of master of ceremonies, Vic writes and presents ballads and poems based on his keen observation of life. His poems have meaning and wit and are sure to make you laugh, maybe make you cry, but will certainly entertain you.

Sat and Sun Magpie 8.00am (Poets Breakfast)

Wheelers and Dealers are Antipodean inversions of Celtic and country music. Skilful and original takes on this warm and lively music genre make for an ideal family-friendly concert – songs about life as it is and as they’d like to see it and instrumentals both silly and serious. Wheelers and Dealers was one of the most popular acts when they last appeared at this festival – come and see why! The band’s fiddler, Mike Kerin (whose new solo album made the top five at this year’s Golden Guitar awards at Tamworth) will also be playing in the *Fiddlers Frenzy* forum.

Sat Yuin 12.15pm

Sat Mumbulla 10.15pm

Sun Mumbulla 3.45pm

Zamboni is a Bega-based comedy magician who creates an entertaining family show that will have everyone laughing and amazed at the same time. He will be conducting two shows as part of the Children’s program. Children will be encouraged to interact as part of the show. Zamboni is always a hit with the kids wherever he performs.

Sat Bunyip 12.30pm (kids)

Sat Bunyip 6.00pm (adults)

Sun Bunyip 4.00pm (kids)