

Festival Features

POETS' BREAKFASTS

Magpie Stage – Saturday 8.00 – 10.15am & Sunday 8.00 – 9.30am

Start the day with this year's festival poets, sharing rollicking humour, sensitive reflections, a few yarns and a little history over breakfast. Our host this year will be the ever popular Vic Jeffries. The Sunday Poets' Breakfast will be a memorial to Cec Cox who was a local bush poet and founder of the Yuin Folk Club who died in 2005. The poets' breakfasts are an opportunity to bring your poetry and join in, or to just listen. An inexpensive and healthy breakfast, prepared by the Mumbulla School mamas, can be purchased from the kitchen area near the bar.

THEMED PRESENTATIONS CONCERTS & WORKSHOPS

As in previous years, we have several special presentations and themed concerts within the festival program in which one or more performers are concentrating on a particular theme or genre of music. These include a wonderful musical adaptation of Lewis Carroll's *Hunting of the Snark* by three of our talented local musicians performing under the name of The Eclectic Kitchen; another group of musicians has formed a group (The Apple Pleasants String Band) to present a Tribute to The Carter Family; Dale Dengate and friends will be looking at the folklore of family life in *Family Fun, Fears and Frivolity*; The Southern Cross Trawlers will be presenting songs and stories from the Irish diaspora in Australia in *Sons of Freedom*; The Canberra Union Voices will be singing *Songs from Reedy River*; and John Dengate will be presenting songs dealing with Farewells (including a newly composed song "farewelling" John Howard!). Our ever-popular Political Soapbox and Comedy concerts present a smorgasbord of satirical and humorous songs and verse from a variety of performers. Folk merges with jazz on Saturday night in Peter Wild's Alpha Rhythm Jazz Club. Of course, for the musicians there will be the usual range of workshops, this year covering guitar, whistle, gypsy fiddle, harp, accordion, Australian tunes, spoons, drums and voice.

INSTRUMENT FORUMS

Folk festivals usually result in a gathering together in one place of some of the finest players of their particular instrument. These forums take advantage of that fortunate circumstance and allow the many fine musicians to demonstrate their playing and to play with other instrumentalists (sometimes for the first time together on stage). We endeavour to include as many different styles of playing and genres of music within each forum. We will have three instrument forums this year – Festival Fiddlers, Glorious Guitars, Mandolin Madness and an extra one for The Blues. These have proven to be some of the most popular events at our festival and are open to everyone, not just players of the instrument.

FESTIVAL CHOIR

Everyone is invited to join the festival choir. Miguel Heatwole, well-known choral director and singer with Ecopella, will be directing the Festival Choir again this year. He has had many years of experience doing this at various festivals. Two rehearsals (one each day) will culminate in a concert performance in the Grande Finale on Sunday. Anyone interested should come to the first rehearsal at 10.00am Saturday in the Voices Theatre.

INTERNATIONAL GUESTS

This year we are pleased to welcome Peggy Seeger and SONiA, both from the USA but really both are world-citizens. Interestingly, despite being many years in age apart, and one (Peggy) more of a traditional folk performer while the other a more contemporary singer-songwriter, both women are activists, touring the world spreading the word of peace and justice for all through their music. Peggy played to a full and very appreciative house at the Cobargo School of Arts a couple of years ago and we know that she will be equally well received at this festival. SONiA is currently touring Australia with her "Disappear Fear" show and she was a surprise late addition to our program - we are very pleased that she was able to fit Cobargo into her busy schedule. To both of these performers & their fellow travellers, a special welcome to Cobargo.

OPEN MIC /BLACKBOARD CONCERTS

The Yuin – Friday 1.30 – 4.30pm and 8.30 – midnight

The Yuin - Saturday 8.30pm – midnight

(see also The Crossing for specific youth blackboard concerts)

Regardless of what these events are called, this is the opportunity and venue for anyone wishing to “do a spot” of performing. So whether you are a beginner wanting to hone your skills before an audience or a seasoned performer wanting to try out some new material, see the MC at the concert who will allocate you a time slot if available. These fill up quickly so you should see the MC as early as possible. Preference will be given to performers who are not booked to perform elsewhere on the festival program. The Friday night concert will be hosted by the Candelo Arts Society. Any young performers also have the opportunity to do a spot at The Crossing venue throughout the weekend (see below)

CHILDREN’S PROGRAM

There are plenty of activities specifically for children during the day on both Saturday and Sunday. These are held in a dedicated children’s venue – The Bunyip. Activities will include music making and singing, storytelling, Zamboni’s magic, dancing - plenty to keep the children occupied and entertained.

SPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PERFORMERS

The Cobargo Folk Festival has again combined with The Crossing Land Education Centre to provide the The Crossing Youth Music Expo. This venue will showcase youth talent and give young musicians experience performing in front of a live audience. The aim of the Youth Music Expo is to provide challenging and fun experiences in a supportive environment where young people can learn new skills, increase self-awareness and build confidence. Several young performers have been booked by the festival to perform but if any other young people attending the festival wish to get up on stage and have a go, see one of the MCs at the venue.

For the past six years, The Cobargo Folk Festival has fostered young performers via our Youth Performance Initiative, in collaboration with Folk Alliance Australia. Sometimes this has taken the form of a series of workshops but, as in the last couple of years, we will have a Talent Quest. It is open to all young performers aged 10 – 18yrs. More than just a competition, these concert spots will provide a showcase of our emerging talent and an opportunity for young performers to hone their stage skills before an audience. The performer judged to be most worthy of encouragement will be given a spot on the main stage (at 2pm Sunday in the Mumbulla) and will be awarded a seasonal pass to the National Folk festival at which he or she will perform in the Folk Alliance Youth Concert. First heat - Saturday at 9.30 am, finals Sunday at 9.30 am. Both are held in The Crossing venue. Please report to Jim MacQuarrie prior to the start of the heat at The Crossing venue.

In addition, The Crossing Land Education Centre is holding a songwriting contest. The ‘My Special Place’ song contest is for anyone playing on the youth stage between 14 - 21 years of age. Each contestant is to write a song about the place where they feel the most happy and at peace in the world. Each song will be about three to five minutes in length and a gift from Magpie Music will be the prize.

MULTICULTURAL DANCE PROGRAM

Our multicultural dance program has now established itself as a popular part of the festival and we again present a diverse program of demonstrations and workshops encompassing everything from Australian bush dance, American Contra dance, Irish dancing, Tap dancing, the Tango and more. The program will be held in a dedicated dance venue appropriately called The Brolga and is enlarged in size from previous years (& free of obstructive poles!). The program comprises both demonstrations & participatory workshops, so bring your dancing shoes (or bare feet) and have fun and get some healthy exercise in the process!

SESSIONS

No festival would be complete without the impromptu 'sessions' that happen wherever musicians and singers gather. For the instrumentalists, a session tent is provided adjacent to the bar (of course!) and will be available all weekend. Our local group of consummate session musicians, The Uninvited, will frequently be seen in this area seeding a session, so as the name suggests, don't wait to be invited, just grab your instrument and join in. For singers, there will be a session led by The Southern Cross Trawlers and friends in the Voices Theatre on Saturday night from about 10pm. (The two performances prior to this involve quite a lot of sing-along songs). Everyone is welcome to come and join in the choruses or even lead a song