

WARREN FAHEY'S AUSTRALIAN FOLKLORE UNIT

# Bodgie News

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**ABC Music to release major Australian Folk Music recording project of 10 CDs to celebrate Warren Fahey's 40th year of performing bush songs.**

Two years ago Warren Fahey set out to record a unique collection of rare ballads and songs from the Australian tradition. These included broadside ballads about the transportation of convicts to Botany Bay, tales of terrible shipwrecks, songs from the crazed 1850s goldrush era, songs of shearers, drovers, bullockies and other pioneers, plus little known songs about love, bushrangers, politicians, city-slickers, sportsmen, and songs of 'pomp and circumstance'. Many of the songs were from unknown library collections and his own field work from the past 35 plus years. "The idea was to record the songs with a keen eye on the 21st century: put the songs into context with fresh arrangements. I have a concern that younger Australians are growing up distanced from the pioneering spirit that created our Australian identity. I hope this unique set will help them appreciate our history and our country's place in the global culture".

The 10 Cds feature a variety of guest musicians but chiefly Warren's usual musical collaborators, The Larrikins, (Marcus Holden, Garry Steel & Clare O'Meara) with whom he shared the creative process of producing such a large body of songs. The recordings were made at Bloody Dog Studios.

The CDs will be issued by ABC Music and officially launched at the National Folk Festival, Canberra, Easter 2009.



The Larrikins in Kuala Lumpur for Austrade.  
L-R: Garry Steel, Marcus Holden, Warren Fahey and Clare O'Meara on stage in Malaysia July 08.

## TOUR OF SOUTH EAST NEW SOUTH WALES

February kicks off 2009 with a 12 night tour coordinated by Musica Viva's Countrywide program and the South Eastern Arts Region. Starting with a weekend at the wonderful Cobargo Folk Festival (<http://www.cobargofolkfestival.com>) then down the coast, over to Cooma then up to Canberra and back to Sydney. Contact Warren for full tour details.

## BUSH SONGS NOW ON I-TUNES

50 of my bush songs are now selling on I-Tunes. You can sample them by visiting this quick link:  
<http://apple.com/itunes/linkmaker>

[The music is from my two ABC\\_releases](#)

## HARPER COLLINS REPRINTS YARN BOOKS

Warren Fahey yarn book, 'Classic Bush Yarns' is now in its umpteenth reprinting - it has been to the printers six times. Impressive for this market. 'Great Aussie Yarns' has also seen three reprints and neither seem to be slowing down. 'Old Bush Songs' and 'Tucker Track' (both through ABC Books) are still available but I can't say for how long. 'Sing Us Another, Dirty As Buggery', the massive collection of Australian bawdry, appears to be far too scary for my publishers and it looks as if I am going to have to publish it myself. I think it's a best seller but I'm still a bit shy!

## WEA COURSES STRETCH YOUR MIND

After a lengthy break Folklore courses are back on the program. November saw a group of mature students start A History of Australian Entertainment from Convict Colony to 21st Century digital downloading. The next course will be staged in the second semester of 2009 and will be a practical guide to Australian Folklore investigating everything from folklore collecting to children's playground chants. Keep tuned to WEA and this newsletter for advance notice. The WEA classes usually run for 6 weeks and are staged during the day. They're great fun and educational too.

## HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS

Yikes! Xmas again. This year The Larrikins will be providing the entertainment at the Sydney Lord Mayor's annual Christmas lunch. We'll be Harking Herald's Angels and spinning a few festive yarns. The lunch, previously scheduled for the Paddo Town Hall has been moved to Technology Park to allow for more guests.

## SENIOR'S WEEK FESTIVITIES

The Larrikins tickled the fancy of last year's Senior's Week and will be back for more concerts and a giant **Beating Around The Bush** event at Darling Harbour. Full concert info will be forwarded in the next Bodgie News, You don't get older - just riper!



**CLIVE CAREY COLLECTION** of Maritime Shanties. In 2008 Warren Fahey discovered a little-known 1923 collection of sea songs taken down on Kangaroo Island, South Australia. Over 60 songs sung on the Australian run. Visit: <http://warrenfahey.com/ccarey.htm>

That's Clive on the left. At one stage he taught music at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, Adelaide.



## BILLY BARLOW COMES TO TOWN

This handsome fellow, with one boot and one shoe, is a character out of Australia's theatrical history. Read his amazing story as a special 'e-book' <http://warrenfahey.com/barlow/index.html>

## WARREN FAHEY TO CELEBRATE 40TH YEAR OF PERFORMING BUSH SONGS & FOLKLORE.

It was back in 1969 that Warren started his journey into performing Australian folk songs when he formed The Larrikins to sing songs for an ABC radio special dedicated to railway folklore. The group, in one form or another, has travelled down through the years performing at Australian and international festivals, workshops and for various ABC radio and television shows. At one stage he even sung (dressed as a swagman) for Mr Squiggle and a large felt snail that lived up a gumtree. It's been an interesting ride and 2009 will see various celebration performances and talks. A long larrikin history!

Special thanks to Joy Hildebrand and Valda Low who lovingly curated this project and made it a reality.