

# The Brisbane Folk Club History Project

Brisbane has arguably the most vibrant folk music scene of all the major cities in Australia. The depth of talent among the local musicians, singers and organisers is outstanding, yet folk music and folk culture is little known in the mainstream.

The stories in song and verse handed down through the many songwriters in our folk music family are of historical importance not just to us but also to the wider community. The Brisbane Folk Club History project aims to record the history of the Brisbane folk music scene and promote the work of the many and varied folk artists who are performing in and around Brisbane today.

The project will take four forms which will be integrated as a package.

- 1: A **DVD** documentary recording the Brisbane Folk Music scene, past and present.
- 2: A compilation **CD** of Brisbane folk music, past and present.
- 3: A companion **book** documenting the history of the above.
4. An exhibition of **photographs** and memorabilia

The **Brisbane Folk History Project** has applied for incorporation as an association. Office bearers are:

President	–	<b>Michael Tully</b>
Vice-President	–	<b>Alison Mackenzie</b>
Secretary	–	<b>Angie Kitzelman</b>
Treasurer	–	<b>Jenny Greder</b>

Membership is open to all, and any assistance is gratefully accepted. A **Funding Subcommittee** is sourcing grants and a **Research Subcommittee** is collating information. We are particularly keen to hear from anyone who has written about or researched this subject in the past. Any **recordings, videos, films, articles, books, anecdotes** and **memorabilia** would be invaluable.

However long you have been involved in the Brisbane Folk Scene, we are keen to hear your stories. The questionnaire included in this issue of the Folk Rag will be going out far and wide, and we invite you to respond using whatever means best suits you:

- Typed responses can be emailed back to **Andrea: [andreabaldwin@optusnet.com.au](mailto:andreabaldwin@optusnet.com.au)**
- To participate in a “group story-telling session” with a few others, please ring **Andrea on 07 3857 5150** or email **Lonnie Martin** at **[lonnie@australiaonline.net.au](mailto:lonnie@australiaonline.net.au)**
- If you “don’t get out much these days”, it may be possible to arrange for a fellow-folkie to come and interview you at a convenient location. Contact **Andrea** or **Lonnie**
- If you prefer, you could use this questionnaire as a stimulus and record your stories at home onto tape or CD. Please send your recording to:

**Brisbane Folk History Project, PO Box 6241 Fairfield Gardens, Q 4103**

All participants in the Brisbane Folk History Project will have their contributions acknowledged in the relevant productions of the project (unless specifically requested otherwise).

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## BRISBANE FOLK HISTORY PROJECT – PLEASE TELL US YOUR STORY

The more detail you can provide, the better (dates, venues, events, people, band names, etc.). Most of these questions are geared towards people who've been involved in the folk scene for a long time. If you are a more recent "arrival", we are just as interested in your story – please do respond! Everyone, PLEASE provide name and contact details for follow-up.

1. How did you first become involved in the folk scene? How did you find out it existed? What drew you in? What kept you there?
2. What did you do as a folkie (eg. singing, playing instruments, dancing, teaching workshops, etc.) Who were your influences? Who were your collaborators or mates in these activities?
3. Can you describe the folk clubs you performed at or attended? What were the venues like? The people? The music? (examples: The Folk Centre, Folko, 291, The Barley Mow, The Red Brick, The Tar Pot, The Caledonian Club, The Pod )
4. Can you tell us about overseas artists who have performed in Brisbane, and left a lasting impression?
5. Can you describe any festivals, fairs, trips or gatherings you participated in? (examples: The Moreton Bay Folk Festival, Maleny Folk Festival, River Cruises, That Taromeo Trip)
6. Can you tell us about relationships between the Brisbane folk scene and other folk communities (eg. within Queensland, interstate, international?)
7. Please tell us about any bands you performed with, or had a special interest in.
8. Were you involved in the development of the Queensland Folk Federation, or other groups dedicated to promoting folk culture?
9. Were you involved with any folk publications?
10. Did you participate in any dancing or dance events (examples: Morris dancing, bush dancing, ceilidh)?
11. Do any particular moments stand out for you, as either:
  - capturing the spirit of that time and place
  - representing for you what "being a folkie" is all about
  - a key turning point or meaningful experience for you personally
  - a key turning point for the Brisbane folk scene
12. Can you tell us about what you are CURRENTLY doing in the Brisbane folk scene? (eg. performing, dancing, writing...)
13. What are your thoughts about the Brisbane folk scene today?
14. What do you see as the future for the Brisbane folk scene?
15. If you could send one message to today's Brisbane folkies, what would it be?
16. Would you be willing to be interviewed on video, for the **BFHP DVD**? If so, please provide your contact details.
17. Do you have any recordings that you would be willing to have (legally) reproduced on the Brisbane Folk History CD? If so, please mail to:  
**Don Jarmey, 5/54 Cintra Road, Bowen Hills Q 4006**, or ph. **Don** to discuss: **0437 332 871**
18. Do you have any visual materials (eg. photos, posters, album covers, publications) that you would be willing to lend or donate to the project? If so, please mail to:  
**Brisbane Folk History Project, PO Box 6241 Fairfield Gardens, Q 4103**,  
or or email **Lonnie Martin**.
19. Are there any other comments you would like to make?

**PLEASE SEND IN ALL MATERIALS, WITH YOUR RESPONSES TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE  
(IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE) BY: FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2007**

Thank you very much for your participation. Your assistance with this project is greatly valued and appreciated.