



Federation of Australasian  
Mandolin Ensembles Inc.

www.fame.asn.au

# Plucked Strings

*A quarterly newsletter for FAME members*

Editor: Marie Schulz marie@conceptual.net.au

March 2015

## March 2015

### Orchestra Reports

pages 3 - 9

### 2015 Sydney FAME Festival update *page 10*

### Updated ANZCA Syllabus ~ for Mandolin, Classical & Modern Guitar, Electric Bass

page 13

### Mandolins Victoria ~

page 14

### News from members ~

pages 15-16

## President's Report

During the FAME financial year ending October 30th 2014, FAME's primary focus was the FAME Festival held during the second week of January 2014 in Melbourne. This was a very successful Festival judging by the feedback and the happy faces of participants during the week as well as the reaction of the audience during the Saturday evening concert. It was also very successful financially and both FAME and the host orchestra, the Melbourne Mandolin Orchestra did quite well out of it. For FAME, the share of the profits more than returned it's outlay in providing Youth grants to young participants and underwriting the cost of new musical commissions by the two Festival conductors, Stephen Lalor and Robert Schulz.



So FAME's bank account is quite healthy as it needs to be in order to continue to support activities which further the mandolin orchestra movement within Australasia.

One such activity which has come to light since the 30th of October 2014 is the "rebirth" of Mandolins Victoria which was result a collaboration between Concordia, the Melbourne Mandolin Orchestra and Mandolins D'Amour resulting in two concerts, in 2007 and 2013, respectively and has recently been "re-energized" with a mission to grow the mandolin movement within Victoria by various strategies aimed at attracting young people to play the mandolin and join mandolin orchestras.

An approach was recently made by Mandolins Victoria seeking funding from FAME to set up a website and while the request was ultimately granted by a majority of representatives, I am disappointed that there was not unanimous support within FAME's committee. But such is the nature of committees with representatives bringing diverse opinions to the organisation.

Articles for  
next edition  
due  
14th June

*cont. p2*

Such a development is exactly what FAME should be supporting because FAME on it's own cannot do the groundwork within specific locations due to the very nature of its structure with a small committee of representatives from mandolin ensembles spread right across Australia and the Tasman sea to New Zealand. The aims of Mandolins Victoria are totally consistent with FAME's aims!

As FAME's President, I am delighted that the enthusiastic group of people seeking to fulfill the aims of Mandolins Victoria have a positive vision for the future of mandolin orchestras in the State of Victoria. I hope that if and when there are clear benefits from their hard work that their example will be followed within other States.

I am hopeful that FAME's new committee for 2015 will focus on developing a new Constitution. In addition FAME's website is well overdue for redevelopment.

The Sydney FAME Festival, to be held in July this year, promises to be excellent with new repertoire and a very experienced and capable conductor, Werner Ruecker and I hope that all FAME members have the opportunity to participate in this week of rehearsing and performing.

During the Festival, FAME will hold a Special Meeting to enable all members to voice their opinions about FAME's operation and procedures and thereby to provide essential feedback to the committee.

*Danny Silver*

## WHAT'S NEW FROM SCHULZWERKE?

Not totally new but getting ready for a performance, is '**Symphonic Fantasy in E minor**' (sorry for the slightly prosaic title) to be performed in Japan this December. Catalogue number MO 073. Scored for Oboe, Timpani, Percussion Mandolin 1, Mandolin 2, Mandola, Mando-Cello, Guitar and Bass, it is one long movement (about 30 minutes) and comprises 7 themes with 'link' passages. I hope to be able to produce a recording of the performance.

'**Concertino for Guitar and Orchestra**' - Catalogue number MO 080 is scored for solo guitar and orchestra. The solo part is designed for upper intermediate level of difficulty for those aspiring guitarists who want to play solo. 3 movements in all with a running time of about 13 minutes.

'**An Irish Breakfast**' - Catalogue number MO 081 is a re-working of an earlier duo. This has been prepared for WAMO's Irish Theme night later in the year. Scored for standard mandolin orchestra. Duration 4'50".

'**Ashokan Farewell**' - Catalogue number MG 037 - an arrangement of this popular film theme, for mandolin and guitar.

'**Suite Beizenmortel**' - Catalogue number MG 039 - a three movement work for mandolin, mandola and guitar. An attempt to expand this genre of the repertoire. Duration approx 11 minutes. For more advanced players.

Contact: [rschulz@conceptual.net.au](mailto:rschulz@conceptual.net.au)

[www.robertschulz.net](http://www.robertschulz.net)

## Canberra Mandolin Orchestra



*The CMO at the National Botanic Gardens' Luminous Botanicus*

Well our year has certainly got off to a flying start with a most original, unusual and beautiful project at the National Botanic Gardens (NBG) in Canberra.

As part of Canberra's annual Enlighten Festival, the NBG organised *Luminous Botanicus* - a series of events over two weekend evenings and nights which they described as:

"A rare opportunity to wander through the Gardens at night experiencing lantern lit pathways and thematic garden lighting complemented by music and visual performances.

"This self guided walk commences in the lush Rainforest Gully, then passes through the conifers, Rock Garden, Australian Daisy Garden and Eucalypt Lawn. Your evening concludes with refreshments and dramatic fire and drum performances in the Red Centre Garden."

The CMO was invited to play at eight night-time concerts spread over two weekends in the Rock Garden, not far from the banjo frogs' pond.

While the frogs were politely quiet during our playing, other wildlife, especially the kookaburras, joined in a glorious 'carnival of the animals' accompaniment.

The organisers wanted only eight players present at any time so we drew up a roster to give all CMO members a chance to participate in what turned out to be a most exotic set of concerts. The evenings were magical with Canberra's warm summer night air (most nights), the wildlife and our music wafting up to the passing audience in the semi-darkness.

The photographs on this page illustrate the atmosphere perfectly. How we received them was also another exotic experience. Apparently someone sent them to Anita Petersson in Sweden who was until recently on posting to Canberra with her husband the Swedish Ambassador. Anita played mandolin with the CMO for a number of years.

She sent the photos to us in an email saying she had received them from a friend she identified as "Penny in the audience". So to Penny, many thanks for the beautiful photos.

*Luminous Botanicus* was a huge success, attracting four times as many people than the organisers had planned for. We received many compliments directly from the mysterious audiences in the darkness and the organisers said they had received "extremely positive feedback" for the mandolin music.

And, they have invited us to play again next year.

continued.....

In the lead up to Christmas we had another very enjoyable afternoon of performing at the **Lerida Estate winery** just north of Canberra playing to luncheon guests in the barrel room. Great acoustics, great food (we get lunch too) and of course, a lovely drop (we all get to take home a complimentary bottle home!).

#### **New members:**

This year we welcome two new members (so far). Jerushah Bull has joined the firsts. Jerushah plays and teaches a number of musical instruments along with Along with studying engineering and mathematics at the ANU. Her dad Ian plays in the seconds.

We also welcome Polly Garland, fresh from the Sunshine State where she played with the Brisbane Mandolins. Polly, who plays mandola, has moved to the Canberra region with her partner and her collection of harps and bouzouki. Queensland's loss is certainly our gain!

#### **Beginners sessions**

This year we have revived our popular beginners sessions which are held 90 minutes before each rehearsal on a Monday evening. Seasoned players and teachers Ian Bull and Geoffrey Nelson guide aspirant players through their paces.

We are now rehearsing for a special performance at an exclusive diplomatic residence and another at one of Canberra's major social and ethnic community facilities - but more on that in the next edition.

Until then, happy plucking and warm greetings to all our FAME friends around Australia and New Zealand from the Canberra Mandolin Orchestra!

**Sam Leone**

## **MandolinsD'Amour**

Mandolins D'Amour have regrouped for the year and our preparation for our concert in June, have been interrupted by the rehearsals for the Mandolins Victoria Launch. MDA members cheerfully joined the to make up the orchestra of 46 and spent the month of March in joint rehearsals for the Launch. They found it interesting going to other groups rehearsals and said that the vibe was similar to a Festival Concert. The build up was exciting as we rehearsed with Slava and Leonard Grigoryan and on the night before the concert with soloists Stephen Lalor who had flown in from Sydney with Fiona Horbach who joined us in the performance. Basil Hawkins and Werner Ruecker the joint conductors ran very efficient and effective rehearsals.

Our soloists wove their magic in both the published works and their improvisations. The audience was great (about 280 ) and receptive to all the music played and they came from far and wide. MDA's cellist Ben Nicholson's father drove from Gulgong N.S.W to hear us and whole families of MDA's players turned up to hear as well. The Concert was a great success socially as well as musically. A supper prepared by Juliette Maxwell and Basil Hawkins with wine donated by John Travalgini increased the atmosphere. I saw old friends of many of FAME members - Stephen Morey, Peter Mangold, Hermann Mandold and dear Branco Birnbauer who were so active in the mandolin movement in the 1970's and 80's.

After the holidays MDA will concentrate on our own music, I am sure that our confidence and skill has improved playing in the larger group.

**Joan Harris**

## WAMO



The ongoing development of our Youth Orchestra has turned an unexpected corner. After their outstanding performance at the end of last year, 2015 showed a demographic outcome which has caused us to re-think the situation.

The WAYMO member ages range from 10 - 17 and with the older students now entering University years, they are ready to make the leap into WAMO. It is hoped this will happen in the middle of this year and could in effect remove 6 of the more technically advanced players.

This then poses a problem of repertoire for the remaining players. Although the numbers are still encouraging, it will mean re-writing new repertoire. And as the rehearsals were only monthly due to the disparate locations of the players, it has been decided to suspend

these meetings. In order to give some incentive still to the remaining players it is proposed that two rehearsals take place (June and December) where WAYMO and WAMO will jointly rehearse a chosen piece together, so keeping up the contact between the two groups. It will be up to the teachers to keep the students up to speed with the chosen piece.

2015 therefor brings what I will call the 'second stage' of WAYMO, the integration of the more advanced players and the retaining of the younger ones.

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WAMO has begun the year's performances with a highly successful concert no less than 320 kilometers east of Perth. The small town of Mukinbudin (population about 400) received us with great aplomb and typical country town hospitality.

Arriving by bus at about 2 PM we settled into our accommodation (we took over all the caravan park cottages) and were unexpectedly delivered a sumptuous afternoon tea of slices, cakes, biscuits tea and coffee. The new sports complex provided us with our concert venue, due to take place at 7.30 PM in the foyer area, all suitably lit and comfortably seated.

Afternoon rehearsal was devoted to setting up and orienting ourselves to make the best use of the acoustics. Dinner was provided (paid for by WAMO) by the local P & C committee who were also instrumental in the selling of the tickets. Players then retired to change and ready themselves for the concert.

Our program included a very wide range of pieces - baroque, classical, dance pieces and ethnic tunes. Soloists included Kathryn Kenny (voice), Mark Blades (reader), Rob Kay (reader) and we had the extra benefit of our new percussionist Dave Wang who helped highlight several of the works.

The program ended with a collection of bodies at the bar for after concert chatting with the audience many of whom had travelled from far away (Kalgoorlie included).

It was deduced by some of the more mathematically minded members of WAMO that by attracting about 12% of the towns population, if WAMO were to pull off a similar coup in Perth, each member would go home with about \$100,000 dollars! This will be given serious consideration by the committee!! (In fact I think we did better than that with about 80 in attendance).

WAMO's next performance will be the first of 3 Theme Nights at the Rhein-Donau club. May 16th will see our 'Russian Night' theme with special guest Eddie Staszak on accordion as soloist.

Work is progressing on the History of WAMO in readiness for our 40th year in 2016.

**Robert Schulz**  
**Music Director**

## COZMO - Capital of Australia Mandolinata

COZMO rehearsals started back on 1 February, introducing new material to the repertoire and revisiting some of the older pieces that newer members haven't yet played.

COZYMO's Learning Group programs for Semester 1 also began on 1 February, with new and old participants starting or continuing their studies, including preparation for COZMO's Winter Concert in which the Learning Group players perform a short set. It's always great to see new players getting their fingers and minds around the intricacies of reading music and playing pieces in an ensemble setting. So much to learn!

Our final performance for 2014 was our Annual Summer Concert held on 7 December at the Hellenic Club in the City. COZYMO presented arrangements of *Londonderry Air*, Robert Schulz's *Syncope Blues* and a Belgian folk tune *Berceuse des Brumes*, and acquitted themselves extremely well. They then joined with COZMO to play the popular tune *Latina Suite - Mambo* and left the stage to the great applause of well-wishing family and friends in the audience. COZMO then played a 50-minute set including pieces by Stephen Lalor, Rob Kay, Satie's *Gymnopedie No. 1* and a set of three Christmas carols to complement the festive season. We then retired downstairs in the club for a celebratory Christmas dinner. Not a bad way to finish the year!

Our most exciting news is that we now have a conductor. Having had a conductor from the chair up until now (myself), it has been in our thoughts for a while that we needed someone out front to take COZMO to the next level. Derrick Brassington, well-known Canberra musician, percussionist and educator took over the job of directing the ensemble, and after just a few weeks with Derrick we can already begin to see and hear the benefits. Derrick also conducts the popular Blarney Street Big Band and a number of ensembles at Canberra Grammar School, and is about to play percussion in the musical *Mary Poppins* in Canberra.

Our 2015 performance schedule on Valentine's Day, only two weeks into our playing year, with a set at the National Multicultural Festival and a performance at Floresco restaurant in the National Botanic Gardens. Last-minute NMF programming changes unfortunately meant that we weren't available for the changed time, so we had a more relaxing afternoon leading up to our evening set at Floresco. Some Italian standards, Rob Kay's *Pennyglen* and Stephen Lalor's *Atherton Tableland Waltz* were features for the romantic candle-lit diners.

The next event for us is the Connect and Participate Expo. This Expo is a community event that showcases the range of groups in Canberra in the arts —art, craft, music, leisure, cultural, and performing arts. We'll have a stall to promote COZMO and we'll be offering 10-minute 'lessons' to anyone who hasn't seen or held or played a mandolin before, but who'd like to give it a go. We'll also be playing a 20-minute 'taster' set, so Joe and Jane Public can come and hear what fun it is to play in a mandolin ensemble!

With a variety of engagements planned throughout the year, 2015 is shaping up to be both busy and very enjoyable.

**Col Bernau,**

***Musical Director***

## Auckland Mandolinata

We finished off 2014 with a very busy lead up to Christmas and continued into 2015 with quite a few weekends booked. A long play out at the Auckland Botanic gardens (now a regular fixture for us) started the year with some great weather and an impromptu programme taken from our standard repertoire. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of January our accordionist Melanie had her wedding (also at the botanic gardens) and we were there to help celebrate by providing the music. We all had a great time and all the best to Melanie and Alex. Our final gig for the summer was at Kensington Park in Orewa with another alfresco show and a great appreciative audience.

Now it's time to begin the work on our new season and as ever we will dust off and polish some of our favourite pieces as well as adding an interesting mix of new material including *Novo Cetvorno* (a Bulgarian folk song/dance in 7/8), the *Intermezzo* from Mascagni's *Cavalleria Ruciana* and Albinoni's *Adagio* as well as many others. Also one that is new to many in the orchestra and may pose a bit of a challenge is Yvette Audain's *Three Auckland Nocturnes* which has proved popular in the past; we are looking forward to performing this intriguing piece. As always we like to play a mix of styles and challenge ourselves to keep things interesting as well as introduce our audience to diverse music from around the world.

I didn't have a photo of the orchestra to send this time – so here's one of me at work. It is our very busy harvest time in the wine industry and I always keep a mandolin handy at work to have a practice in my downtime. Some people even think playing music to fermenting wine makes it taste better...

***Gianni Flego***



## Melbourne Mandolin Orchestra

Welcome to 2015.

We are very pleased to have Werner as our Conductor again and also congratulate and thank him for his work with us to date. Thank you, too, to all of our players coming together and celebrating music for Mandolin Orchestras and also to Michelle Wright, our Leader.

We farewell with thanks, three long-serving committee members, Donna and Ray Kerslake and Ina Postuma. At our AGM we acknowledged and thanked Donna and Ray for all of their work and Ina especially for her 16 years as a committee member.

Our Committee is:

*President:* Lorraine le Plastrier,

*Secretary:* Danny Silver,

*Treasurer:* Mia Silver,

Long serving Committee member Roberta Condie, and New members Natalie Radomski, Michelle Wright, and Tony Wheldale

Welcome to them all.

We are working toward two concerts at present. Both in March, the first is part of the Castlemaine State Festival. A very big Regional Arts Festival in Victoria. We are playing in the closing feature and I am delighted to say one of the pieces we are playing is 'Harmony on Lyttleton St' by Michelle Nelson. Castlemaine people are looking forward to hearing this as Lyttleton St is one of our main local streets. It is where I live and where Danny has his work practice. It was written when Danny was living in Lyttleton St.

Our next concert is to celebrate the launch of Mandolins Victoria and will be a combined concert with MMO, Concordia, and Mandolins D'Amour. Soloists Stephen Lalor and Slava and Leonard Grigoryan will be featured.

We are currently recruiting Double Bass Players if you know of someone who would like to join us, please contact Werner Reucker on Mob. 0402 570 415 for further information.

Last year we said farewell to Joan Roberts with a concert dedicated to her and we played her favourite piece 'Japanese Autumn' by Kuwahara. We love this piece, too. We wish her well and will miss her.

***Lorraine le Plastrier***  
***President***



## Mandolins in Brisbane



WELL, it's 2015 already and Mandolins in Brisbane are off to a strumming start. Our first concert of the year went off without a hitch - well, a small hitch but was nonetheless a great success. Turns out the wild weather up in Queensland caused by a cyclone sandwich in February left our concert program as yet unprinted by the time we were due to perform and thus all the planned advertising by our hosts hadn't yet hit the streets. So, numbers were down at our Bris Asia festival concert at the beginning of March but the audience we did have was fabulous and extremely appreciative.

We are indebted to them!

Once again we played with shakuhachi player Shigeru Nakajima and it was a fantastic, oriental-themed performance that helped bring in the New Year of the Sheep. Baa.

Here at MIB we don't dwell on our successes for too long, however. Already sights are turned to our next concert series, which is planned for May and June. It will be an old favourite and one that our loyal fans have long requested we delve back into – that's right, an Italian theme. We have a number of concerts organized tentatively for May and June and there are plans afoot to record a new version of our sell-out Italian CD from years gone by. Further down the track we have plans to do a modern mandolin concert series. Watch this space.

Our conductor Joel Woods has been recently elected MIB's new president and is hailing a sort of changing of the guard within the players, with the aim of bringing some younger members to the forefront of decisions about our future direction. It's a promising sign for the continuation of MIB into the future. We wish to thank former president Murray Green, who is staying on as Vice President for another year, for his continued and dogged service to the group. We couldn't have done it without him.

Joel, a talented classical guitarist in his own right, is giving a performance that hails back to his European tour last year, a kind of reminiscing, on April 3 that shouldn't be missed. Meanwhile, players have their sights set on fundraising opportunities and grant funding to help bolster the club's finances and to build a cache that will one-day support an MIB youth orchestra. Our website is up and running at long last, check out all our latest news at [mandolinsinbrisbane.org](http://mandolinsinbrisbane.org) and we are on Facebook, too, so give us a "like" next time you're online.

**Brooke Baskin**



## Update – 2015 Sydney FAME Mandolin Festival

Things are moving along well – we can't believe how quickly the time is going. Before we know it, we will be greeting old friends and starting to make new ones, at this year's FAME camp!

Werner has been to visit the Concert venue and has given it the 'thumbs up'!

We have set up event on-line ticketing through trybooking.com (<http://www.trybooking.com/HHAW>) if you have friends or relatives in Sydney who might like to buy tickets. (Should be operational by the end of March.)

We have an enjoyable outing planned mid week, a Theme night, on Friday, that will add a little spice to the week and some interesting workshops to enhance your playing and personal wellbeing.

Registrations have continued to trickle in; we are almost at our 'magic number'. So if you thought about attending, now's the time to do something about it, and even though the Registration form says that Registrations were due by 15<sup>th</sup> February, we will be happy to continue to accept registrations right up to the start of the camp, if required.

However, as you won't be given access to the music until you have registered, sooner is definitely better!

We will be sending out Balance Owing notices to those who haven't yet paid in full, by the end of March, as the Full Payment is due 1<sup>st</sup> May.

For those who opted to take up the Invitation to be a part of a small ensemble, we will be contacting you individually soon.

This will probably be our last PS update – check the website closer to the time for any additional information.

Looking forward to seeing many of you in Sydney, in July.

Cheers, from the **2015 Sydney FAME Organising Committee**





## 2015 Sydney FAME Mandolin Festival

5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Dunmore Lang College, Macquarie University  
Herring Rd, North Ryde NSW 2113



Federation of  
Australasian  
Mandolin  
Ensembles

### REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and send by email to – [thesydneymandolinorchestra@hotmail.com](mailto:thesydneymandolinorchestra@hotmail.com)

Or print, complete and send to – PO Box 522, Northbridge 2063

(One form for each player)

#### PERSONAL INFORMATION (Please PRINT)

Player:

Family Name: Mr/Mrs/Ms \_\_\_\_\_ Given Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Financial Member of FAME (Y / N) \_\_\_\_\_ (non-FAME members have a \$10 surcharge)

Family or Friends accompanying Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(ie non-players) Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Emergency Contact Details:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Orchestra (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred position in FAME Orchestra (Please tick or write Y & indicate skill level –

(1) Beginner (2) Intermediate (3) Advanced)

Mand 1 \_\_\_( ) Mand 2 \_\_\_( ) Mdlr \_\_\_( ) M'cello \_\_\_( ) Guit \_\_\_( ) Bass \_\_\_( ) Percussion \_\_\_( )

Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a Double Bass player from Interstate / Overseas, do you need an instrument provided for you?  
(Y / N) \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Conditions, Serious Allergies &/or Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

#### REGISTRATION FEE: (Non-Refundable) Per Person; Due 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015 \*.

Resident player	@ \$ 300	\$ _____
Resident non-player	@ \$ 150	\$ _____
Player (non-resident)	@ \$ 300	\$ _____
Fee (\$10) for non-members of FAME (players only)		\$ _____
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Registrations are ONLY accepted on receipt of this Non Refundable Registration Fee or the Full Fee  
(Deposit & Accommodation Fee, on page 2).

**\*NOTE – An EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEE (non-refundable) of \$250, is available,  
For Players only, until 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2014.**

**After that date the Full Registration Fee is applicable & is due by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015.**

**YOUTH FAME SUBSIDY**

This is available to encourage young people to participate in FAME Festivals. A subsidy of up to \$200 may be available.

Requirements – You must register as a full-time playing member of the Festival Orchestra. This means you must attend all day and evening rehearsals and participate in the Festival Concert.

You must be an Australian or New Zealand Resident.

You must be less than 26 years of age.

**General Information**

Membership of a mandolin orchestra is NOT a requirement. The Youth Subsidy is not paid to the applicant, but paid by FAME to the Festival Management Committee. The FMC will advise the applicant, upon approval, the amount of the grant, which will then be deducted from the balance of money owing.

I wish to apply for the FAME Youth Subsidy (Y / N) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

**ACCOMMODATION FEES (This is in ADDITION to the REGISTRATION FEE)**

There are a limited number of twin rooms (motel style) with ensuites, some single rooms with ensuites, some single rooms where 2 rooms share a bathroom and then single rooms (student accommodation). These will be allocated on a first registered / first allocated basis.

1. Full board and Accommodation	@ \$ 650 per player / non-player	x _____	\$ _____
2. Lunch & Dinner, NO Accom	@ \$ 200 per person		\$ _____
3. Lunch only, NO Accom	@ \$ 100 per person		\$ _____

Full Cost (Registration + Accommodation) is \$ 950 per player / \$ 800 non-player.

Full cost of the Festival (Registration plus Accommodation Fee) is due 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015.

Payments made after 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015 will incur a \$50 late fee. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**BANKING DETAILS For Electronic Fund Transfer**

If you transfer funds electronically, it is VERY important that you include your FULL NAME as a reference. If you do it through your own bank, you must ask the teller to include this reference.

You may also pay by cheque when you send your **Registration Form** by conventional mail, to –

The Sydney Mandolin Orchestra, PO Box 522, Northbridge NSW 2063

Deposit (in Australian Dollars): St George Bank

Account Name: Sydney FAME 2015

BSB: 112 - 879 Account Number: 448237292

**INDEMNITY & PERMISSION**

By sending this form (even if unsigned) to the 2015 Sydney FAME Mandolin Festival Organising Committee, I acknowledge and agree that the organisers of the 2015 Sydney FAME Mandolin Festival and associated volunteers will not be liable for the injury to any person or for loss or damage to any property arising from any act or omission by the organisers of the said Festival and associated volunteers or any other person whether arising under the law of contract tort or otherwise, and indemnify the organisers of the 2015 Sydney FAME Mandolin Festival in relation to any such injury, loss or damage.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I give full consent for all audio and video recording and for photographs that may be taken of the rehearsals, FAME concert and the normal social activity of the Festival for whatever use is deemed appropriate by the organisers.

(Y / N) \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

## CALLING ALL CLASSICAL GUITAR AND MANDOLIN TEACHERS!!!

### UPDATED 2015-2017 "ANZCA" PLUCKED STRINGS SYLLABUS FOR MANDOLIN, CLASSICAL GUITAR, ELECTRIC BASS AND MODERN GUITAR

What is ANZCA? ANZCA is a non-profit Musical examinations body and holds examinations for many instruments including classical guitar and mandolin.

Based on sound educational principles combined with a practical, common sense attitude, ANZCA examinations are offered in Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong. Teachers who use ANZCA examinations are virtually unanimous in praise of the high standards as well as the friendly, unintimidating environment ANZCA provides.

ANZCA MUSIC EXAMINATIONS - at a glance.

- Modern and classical examinations, both practical and written.
- Graded courses leading to recognised diplomas.
- Career-oriented syllabi.
- A wide range of choices and flexibility within each syllabus.
- Opportunities for creativity through improvisation.
- Assessment by qualified, professional musicians

ANZCA qualifications of Grade Seven and above can also be used to obtain a ranking from the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) for application to enter some Queensland tertiary institutions. Application for this ranking can be made to QTAC, or by forms available from school counsellors.

The mandolin syllabus has been written by Robert Schulz, with updates and higher grade lists by Darryl Barron and with contributions by Joan Harris and Michelle Nelson. The syllabus features accessible introductory pieces to Diploma level works by composers such as Calace, Munier and Leone. This syllabus may assist teachers (and all other mandolin players) to understand the repertoire and even expose you to music previously unheard. Teachers are encouraged to use this syllabus when planning repertoire of a suitable standard for students. Current FAME players may even wish to use this as a tool to guide your own playing and musical development.

The mandolin syllabus is available free (!) at the following link

<http://www.anzca.com.au/files/nrteUploadFiles/182F022F2015103A303A23AM.pdf>

And scroll down to page 122.

The Contemporary Classical guitar syllabus is available free (!) at the following link

<http://www.anzca.com.au/files/nrteUploadFiles/182F022F2015103A303A23AM.pdf>

And scroll down to page 61.

***Darryl Barron***

## MANDOLINS VICTORIA

### Organisation

The past few months have been an exciting time for 'Mandolins Victoria'. Since the joint conductor's presentation, in September 2014 to the three Victorian orchestras, we have consolidated this nascent entity by securing incorporation, creation of banking systems and relevant details, and have formally adopted a 'founding' committee.

And, equally significant, we have gained a generous start-up grant from FAME to help us get the enterprise off to a good start. The current FAME executive recognizes our concerns with participation levels in Victoria and our plans to address that. We take this opportunity to thank FAME for showing confidence in the vision presented to them for the renewal of the mandolin scene in Victoria.

### M.V. Launch Concert

The first fund-raising venture of this newly minted music body will be our launch concert. We are officially launching Mandolins Victoria with a very special "Gala Concert" on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Featuring musicians, Stephen Lalor (mandolin) Slava and Leonard Grigoryan (guitars) together with the combined mandolin orchestras of Melbourne, this will be a truly exciting night of music-making.

Our featured soloists have performed with orchestras and musicians around the world and are three of Australia's most highly respected and sought after artists. This is a rare opportunity to hear them perform Concerto's by Vivaldi, Handel and other solo items in the beautiful setting of St. Stephen's Anglican Church Richmond.

This concert will help Mandolins Victoria Inc. generate the funds needed to institute the regular workshops, educational programs and events that will benefit and grow the mandolin movement. We simply cannot think of a better way to spend \$25 - so if you are in the general Melbourne region, please come and join us for this special event. *(Sorry, I couldn't get the newsletter out in time to advertise this event)*

Should you wish to donate to Mandolins Victoria Inc. please contact us through our Facebook page:

***Yours in music,  
the Mandolins Victoria founding committee***

## AMATEUR TEACHER

After five years learning mandola from John Flaming, who not only was meticulous on technique but also has a philosophical approach to music, I asked about teaching mandolin. John said to give it a go, so using his ideas on technique I set out to give players old and new the rudiments of playing mandolin as I knew them. Others who were influential and helpful in my knowledge were our concertmaster Lynne Sue Flaming, our Musical Director Bryan Holden and from afar Robert Schulz. Most useful also was my working life as a nurse with students tagging along and teaching them on the move. That gave me experience in teaching adults and learning from them.

I must say I was nervous when the first learner came along. Questions ---

- How much should I charge, if anything?
- Would professional teachers be upset by my horning in on their territory?
- Maybe I might miss something important?
- Will I be able to answer all their questions?
- How do I tell them to give up and stop wasting my time when they don't practise?

However people kept asking us through our website if we knew of a mandolin teacher which is part of our aims – to spread the word. So I began.

Learners came along with a variety of reasons

- My husband gave me a mandolin and I want to learn how to play it
- I love the sound of the mandolin
- I have a mandolin and would like to join a group
- I thought I would pay for my granddaughter's music and she says she wants to learn the mandolin
- I found your contact on the website and the mandolin sounds interesting

Besides desire, progress also depended on regular and focused practice so I showed them practice methods I had learned from John Flaming. Some could not read music and needed help in that area and I would pass them on to others with a more in-depth knowledge of music theory.



To prevent problems with the professional teachers I charged a token \$10 per lesson that went to the orchestra. That became a good little source of funds for us. I only had two to three students at a time. Lessons were at times convenient to both student and me. Some worked and came in the evening after work, others during the day. Cold drinks or a cup of tea as part of the service!! As I am retired the lessons almost became a social event that I thoroughly enjoyed.

Continued...

I found preparation for each student important. By keeping a record of each lesson I was able to remember what to focus on next time. It was just a little card. I would decide what pieces to move onto that reflected the individual's needs such as "Silent Night" for tremolo practice. That way they could concentrate on the tremolo and not have to worry too much about the tune. As they mastered each skill I would suggest another, e.g. staccato. Also I would have chairs and music stands set up to save time.

One of the disadvantages of not being an experienced teacher of mandolin was that it took me a little while to work out why something was not working. It could be the angle of the mandolin to stop the pick sticking between the strings or just simply relaxing. Those are things that need to be picked up quickly to prevent bad habits. I really do love comments from new players about other players techniques, e.g. "Why does he stick his little finger out? Or "She doesn't play down up. Just down.!" New players can be purists so develop your own technique!! We are all role models.

Not only has the orchestra gained new players but also new ideas, new committee members and everyone is involved in looking out for new gigs, etc. The increase in players has deepened the sound of the orchestra. There is great a camaraderie in the orchestra that new players quickly link up with. Teaching one person can send out ripples that positively affect international groups such as FAME. Several new members have been to FAME camps.

It is with satisfaction that an amateur teacher/player like me can not only look at our orchestra playing and organising itself but also watch people enjoying themselves and gaining deep emotional satisfaction from playing that cute little instrument, the mandolin!!

***Diana Grant-Mackie***  
***Auckland Mandolinata Orchestra***

## The new year started well for me...

The new year started well for me, I was very happy when rehearsals started again in February and in the same week started teaching my young 10 year old guitar student again after a break for the Christmas holidays. Unfortunately his younger sister, who was playing mandolin, has stopped for a while because of other commitments. I am very pleased with my young guitarist's progress, he can sight read very well and plays carefully with a nice tone. Does anyone have some suggestions of easy duets for two guitars? The Perth long hot summer is starting to show signs of cooling off, although as I write this, tomorrow is forecast as 41 degrees! I have paid my deposit for the Sydney Fame festival, my second one in Sydney after 2008. I think that first Fame festival really hooked me into the mandolin orchestra, Sydney 2008 was such fun, playing music, socialising, exploring Sydney, getting locked out of the accommodation (climbing over tall fences) and visiting with my Mum who lives in Padstow Heights. I am looking forward to July!

***Elizabeth Neeson***  
***WAMO***