

Immortal

A video tribute to Australia's folk legends

The Idea

For many decades the Australian folk scene has produced a number of extraordinarily talented people who are no longer with us, but who have left a lasting legacy through their music, inspiration, knowledge and passion. Performers, songwriters, collectors and inspirers have all played a key role in defining and shaping Australia's changing cultural identity.

This project will remember and celebrate these people in a tangible, entertaining way that will also provide a permanent record of these people in the one place and provide inspiration to the next generation. It was inspired by a similar, but simpler, project by NZ folk legend Chris Priestley called [*Gone But Not Forgotten*](#).

The Plan

The final product will be a video of approximately 55 minutes, celebrating 75 or so individuals — and acknowledging a further 160 or so. Using photographs, video and audio recordings, *Immortal* will aim to capture the essence of these individuals, their lives and their creative cultural contribution. While the focus is on performers, singers and musicians, it will not ignore significant people in the areas such as spoken word, dance and collecting. All efforts are being made to include broad representation from across Australia.



Festival Presentations

Before putting the final result on-line, the video will be launched at some folk festivals in early 2025. Screening of the video will be accompanied by a short live introduction, discussion, and if possible some guest 'experts' (depending on who is at the festival). Feedback will be sought before the video is finalised, making this a true community project. The presentation will appeal to long-time folkies, of course, but will raise issues of change and continuity within the folk scene and Australia, and aims to provide inspiration to the next generation.

And then . . .

The video will go on-line. But the project is bringing together much more fascinating material than can be presented in the planned 50 minute video, so a number of 'satellite' videos are being considered, all of which will be freely available on a dedicated YouTube channel. Possibilities include:

- expand the YouTube version of the video into a longer, two part version to include more of worthy people who don't make the initial cut.
- regional versions of the video, focussing on specific states/territories

Thanks

Since the project commenced in early 2024, more than 100 people have helped by providing advice, information, material and permissions for the project. Their generosity is inspiring and greatly appreciated. They will be acknowledged in the video.

This project is supported by a grant from the [Troubadour Foundation](#). Thanks so much to the committee for showing faith in this work, and in making it so much easier for it to happen.



Who will be included in the video

The selection of who to include has been a complex task. More than 50 people with a long association in the Australian folk scene were asked to provide their list of who they thought should be included. A 'league table' was compiled from that list as a starting point. This was supplemented by many conversations and Bruce Watson's judgement (a few important and surprising names were left out!). The list below is not final, because the occasional new name emerges, and because there are some people on the list for whom photographs have not yet been sourced, and may never be. But here is the working list as at January 2025.

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| 1. Alan Scott | 39. John Meredith |
| 2. Alistair Hulett | 40. John Munro |
| 3. Archie Roach | 41. John Thompson |
| 4. Bill Scott | 42. Judith Crossley |
| 5. Bob Bolton | 43. June Factor |
| 6. Bob Michell | 44. June Nichols |
| 7. Brian Mooney | 45. Ken Ferguson |
| 8. Caroline Bushby | 46. Lis Johnston |
| 9. Chris Kempster | 47. Louis McManus Jr |
| 10. Col Wilson (Blue the Shearer) | 48. Lucy Stockdale |
| 11. Colin Dryden | 49. Marian Henderson |
| 12. Danny Spooner | 50. Michael Kennedy |
| 13. David O'Connor | 51. Michael O'Rourke |
| 14. Declan Affley | 52. Mick Flannagan |
| 15. Denis Gibbons | 53. Norm O'Connor |
| 16. Denis Kevans | 54. Paul Lawler |
| 17. Dennis O'Keeffe | 55. Pete Thornton |
| 18. Derek Moule | 56. Peter Auty |
| 19. Don Henderson | 57. Peter Ellis |
| 20. Frank Povah | 58. Peter Mann |
| 21. Frank Traynor | 59. Peter Parkhill |
| 22. 'Fritz' Fitton | 60. Rick E Vengeance |
| 23. Gary Shearston | 61. Ron Edwards |
| 24. Glen Tomasetti | 62. Ronnie Summers |
| 25. Gordon MacIntyre | 63. Sally Sloane |
| 26. Graham Squance | 64. Seaman Dan |
| 27. Harry Gardner | 65. Shirley Andrews |
| 28. Harry McQueen | 66. Shirley Jacobs |
| 29. Harry Robertson | 67. Simon McDonald |
| 30. Helen McGeachin | 68. Stan Arthur |
| 31. Hugh McDonald | 69. Stan Hastings |
| 32. Ian Simpson | 70. Tim Whelan |
| 33. Jacko Kevans | 71. Tina Lawton |
| 34. Jenny Milne | 72. Tony Miles |
| 35. Jim Smith | 73. Trevor Lucas |
| 36. Joe Paolacci | 74. Val Hastings |
| 37. John Dengate | 75. Wendy Lowenstein |
| 38. John Manifold | 76. Zulya Kamalova |

In addition, approximately 160 other people will be briefly acknowledged in the video by name, accompanied by a photograph. Several of these people may be given a higher profile in any 'spin-off' videos.

Alan Forshaw	Geoff Wills	Melanie Shanahan
Alex Legge	Georg 'Smokey' Schmolke	Merle Gubbons/Lamb
Alistair 'Digger' Wilson	Geri Lobl	Michael Harris
Angus Cameron	Gibb Todd	Mike Ball
Arthur & Kathy Lumsden	Glenys Johnston	Mike Eves
Barbara Lisyak	Greg Hildebrand	Mike Heaney
Barry Collerson	Hans Poulsen	Mike Silverwood
Barry Halpin	Hugh Anderson	Morag McGrath
Bernie Besasparis	Hugh McEwan	Neil Holt
Bernie "Thatch" Farrow	Humphry Tranter	Nell Challingsworth
Bert Gibson	Iain Campbell	Neville Simpson
Bev Barnes	Ian Ball	Noel Raines
Bill Berry	Ian Clarke	Norm Merrigan
Bill Wannan	Ian Drynan	Paddy Connolly
Billy Moran	Ivan Milligan	Paddy Fitzgerald
Bob Ballantine	Ian Turner	Pamela Gallagher
Bob Elwell	Jamie Johnston	Pat Do'ole
Bob Maza	Jess & Duncan Dunnadge	Patricia Cook
Bob Molloy	Jim Buchanan	Paul Marks
Bob Randall	Jim Irvine	Paul Prestbury
Bob Rummery	Jim MacQuarrie	Peter Mann
Bob Stewart	Jimmy Gregory	Peter O'Shaughnessy
Bobby Miller	Jimmy Little	Phil Brown
Brad Tate	Joan Martin	Phil Day
Brian Loughlin	Joe Yates	Phil Wilson
Chad Swaby	John Dvorjak	Rab Mitchell
Charlie Batchelor	John Francis	Randall Percy
Chris Buch	John Goward	Ray Downes
Chris Duffy	John Graham	Reg Murray
Chris Nicholson	John Holmberg	Rhys Owen
Chris Pemberton	John Lewis	Richard Brooks
Chris Sullivan	John O'Leary	Richard Evans
Chris Wendt	Joy Durst	Richard Keam
Christie Cooney	Julie Wong	Richard Magoffin
Col McJannett	Kate Townsend	Rita Mills
Colin Petersfield	Ken Evans	Rob Charlton
Con Klippel	Ken Mackay	Roddy Read
Danny Holmes	Ken McMaster	Rowan Webb
Dave Alexander	Kim Sanders	Roy Abbott
Dave Weston	Len Neary	Ruby Hunter
Dermott Ryder	Lenore Somerset	Rudy Brandsma
Dougie Young	Leonard Teale	Russel Ward
Duke Tritton	Les Dow	Saeed De Ridder
Dutch Tilders	Lionel O'Keefe	Sean Byrne
Eddie Scott	Lola Wright	Shirley Friend
Edie and Paddy Dawson	Louis McManus Snr	Simon Melia
Eileen McCoy	Maite Swallow	Simon Nield
Eric Bolton	Malcolm J Turnbull	Slim Dusty
Ev Whiteaker	Manduwuy Yunupingu	Stan Treacy
Ewan MacKenzie	Margaret Kitamura	Sue Ross
Frank Daniel	Margaret Walker	Ted Simpson
Frank Nickels	Mark "Blossom" Brown	Theo Bosch
Frank Pitt	Mark Gillett	Tom Walsh
Geoff Adeney	MaryJean Officer	Tony Lavin
Geoff Welham		