

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 initial final product will be a video of approximately 45 minutes, celebrating 75 or so individuals — and acknowledging a further 150 or so. Using photographs, video and audio recordings, *Immortal* will aim to capture the essence of each 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 plan is to launch it 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 45 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
- A series of 5 minute 'satellite' videos of key people.

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 July 2024.

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