

# SINGABOUT

## JUNE 2014

### BMC COMPETITION WINNERS

As part of our 60th birthday celebrations we ran a series of competitions. The winning entries of the Tune, Song and Verse competitions are now presented for your enjoyment.

The winner of the Tune section was Margaret Somerville with “Yabby Catcher”.

Yabby Catcher

Margaret Somerville

1. G Am D G Am

7 D7 1. G 2. G B G Am

13 G 1. Am G 2. Am G

The winner of the Verse section was Stephen Whiteside with “Australian Dreaming”

### **Australian Dreaming**

You talk of old Australia, with the flooding rain and drought;  
Of the shearer, of the drover; of the cook, the rouseabout;  
You talk of paddle steamer, or of bullock team and dray;  
It’s the noisy, smoggy city where we congregate today.

You talk of red Australia, and the hulking Uluru;  
Of the emu and the brolga, of the bounding kangaroo;  
You talk of Kata Tjuta, like a buried monster’s spine.  
It’s in the boutique restaurants we like to meet and dine.

You talk of white Australia, and the mountains capped with snow,  
Where only hardy currawongs and wombats care to go;  
Or hibernating possums fast asleep beneath a drift.  
We like a bright skyscraper with a fast ascending lift.

You talk of blue Australia, with its narrow rim of sand,  
Where breaching humpback whales provide performances so grand;  
Whale sharks up at Ningaloo, or dolphins in the surf.  
The bitumen and footpath offer more familiar turf.

You talk of green Australia, with the moss, the ferns, the trees;  
The dew drops in the morning, and the cool and healing breeze;  
The nesting cassowaries, or the stealthy thylacine,  
But we prefer the steady purr of petrol-fuelled machine.

We don’t think of Australia as we make our busy way  
Through the surging hordes and traffic of another hectic day.  
“No room for sentiment,” we say, but all’s not as it seems.  
Australia comes, with scented gums, and greets us in our dreams.

© Stephen Whiteside 07.11.2013

<http://www.stephenwhiteside.com.au/>

The winner of the Song section was Bruce Watson with “The Reedy River Still Flows”

### **The Reedy River still flows**

Chorus:

Time goes by, how the years they fly  
And fashions may come and may go  
But as long as there’s music, as long as there’s dance  
The Reedy River still flows  
The Reedy River still flows

In the far distant times of the Dreaming  
When people first walked this land  
There was music and dancing to sing up the spirits  
To bring us together, every woman and man

Chorus

And from far distant lands others came  
And still come to our bounteous shores  
They bring stories and songs that tell who we are  
And we dance round the room as did others before

Chorus

In far distant places through the bush of Australia  
The song catchers tirelessly roamed  
Collecting the stories and tunes of our country  
Collecting the dances, the songs and the poems

Chorus

So let’s sing songs of those come before us  
And let’s strike up the fiddle and bow  
And let’s dance till we drop, and then sing one more chorus  
So the River of Music still flows

Chorus

© Bruce Watson 2013

Visit <http://brucewatsonmusic.com/> for the link to a video of the song

Bruce responded to his win as follows:

I'm absolutely delighted. I really appreciate the BMC running this project. For me it was a great catalyst for reflecting on the Australian folk music tradition and folk revival and what it means in our culture as well as in my life.

I'm really pleased with the song I wrote, which I have now dipped into the flowing Reedy River, hopefully adding to that tradition, keeping it strong and, like a river, constantly renewing.

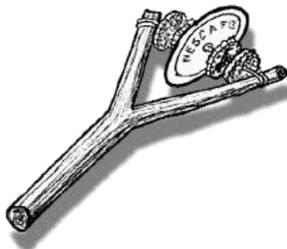
Thanks to the BMC for making that happen - all power to you.

Looks like Victorians swept the pool! I'll resist any gloating about how all the great culture and creativity comes from this latte sipping town of ours! (Now, where did Reedy River premiere?)

## Dogs on The Rocks

At the end of October 2013, I was telephoned by Luke Shaw, the Head of Operations and Artistic Planning for the Australian Chamber Orchestra. He needed a 'sistrum' for a suite of small orchestra pieces they would be performing the following Sunday, at their Pier 2/3 venue, on Dawes Point. He had, apparently, searched and found my on-line copy of Traditional Bush Instruments, where I comment on the sistrum as the earlier form of what we, much later, made into the 'Barcoo Dog'!

I said I could quickly find two, from my examples left from demonstrating the making to schoolchildren. Luke picked up the pair of 'basic sistra' / 'Barcoo Dogs' and told me he had arranged tickets to the performance for myself and my wife, Patricia. It was quite a shift in musical setting for my two humble Barcoo Dogs! I don't know quite which form of Sistrum was envisaged in the composition, but the Barcoo Dogs rang out and held up their heads in such elevated musical company!



*Bob Bolton*