

5TH EDITION | JULY 2012



# The BLUESLETTER

## Col's Two-Bob

COLIN THOMPSON

**EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING AROUND THE SECOND BENDIGO BLUES & ROOTS MUSIC FESTIVAL, TAKING PLACE FROM NOVEMBER 8TH THROUGH 11TH, 2012.**

Another incredibly talent-filled line-up is assured, featuring approximately 80 acts, spread across roughly 20 great venues in and around town, over the four day program. The main event of the festival will again be an all-day, family-friendly, free-entry concert on Saturday November 10th featuring 16 great acts (and other attractions) and will be held at Civic Gardens surrounding and incorporating our magnificent Town Hall.

Of course there will be another strong contingent of some of Australia's finest Blues & Roots practitioners visiting the region to perform at this year's BB & RMF (Dallas Frasca, Jimi Hocking, Josh Owen, Sal Kimber & The Rollin' Wheel, Archer, Abbie Cardwell, Ash Davies, Stringybark McDowell, Genevieve Chadwick - to name just a handful). The festival will again proudly feature many of the brilliant Central Victoria-based acts, who hunger for the opportunity to have their talent showcased in an event such as this.

One of the most rewarding by-products of putting this festival and its supporting events together, has been the opportunity to shine a light on just some of the incredible talent pool that exists right under our noses here in Central Victoria.

The supporting events I speak of have

been an integral part of getting the festival off the ground - in more ways than one. The fundraiser/showcase events we've staged at various venues over the course of the last two years have served to not only raise capital and show potential supporters that we're serious about this endeavour, they've also helped us to build a following for a festival that really is in its absolute infancy. It's allowed us to build the kind of momentum and awareness of what we're doing that wouldn't have been possible if we'd stuck to staging nothing but the festival itself. It's also been brilliant to see so many performers come out of the woodwork over the last couple years - young, old and in between - who otherwise might have kept their talent hidden. Its also been exciting to see a dramatic increase in the number of people who've been reminded of the fun to be had just by witnessing live music first-hand again. There are a lot of individuals and groups in Bendigo right now doing their part to help get the live music scene jumping again and to ensure it's something future generations can enjoy as well. I'm very proud of the group that's behind the Bendigo Blues & Roots Music Festival and what we've been able to contribute to that effort so far - and we're just getting started. Keep an eye out for the various Showcases and partnered events which are staged all-year round at one venue or another by BB & RMF's committee, support crew and partners.

There is still a lot more in store for 2012, not only for the festival itself, but with numerous other events we are staging in the lead-up to November...



Photo by Damien Neill

## ARCHER

ARTIST PROFILE BY  
MICK GRIFFIN

Rustic bluesman, Archer is a man of few words, preferring to leave his unpretentious take on pre-war country blues as his main means of expression.

A largely self-taught musician, Archer developed his love of old country music through listening to his grandfather's extensive record collection. Archer recalls his old man as an odd old bloke who owned some great records. As a kid, the sounds of Jimmy Rodgers, Tex Morton, Leadbelly and Australia's yodelling sweetheart Shirley Thom's captured his imagination.

When asked about his take on last year's Bendigo Blues & Roots Festival, Archer had this to say.

"The Blues is good for people. Seeing pubs jumpin' and people having a seriously good time...that has to be a real good thing."

Atypical Archer performance is an authentic and genuine representation of a simple music from another time, which uniquely articulates a heartfelt expression of the human condition in all its extremes.

"I got me a band these days...the Long Gone Daddies" declared Archer during our chat.

So what did he have to tell me about the band? "Well, they want women... and they aren't too fussy"

The next fundraiser/showcase event will take place at the Newmarket Hotel on Sunday September 2nd and be another multi-band bonanza! This one will be a little more "rockin'" than our previous events of 2012.

One of the most exciting additions to this year's festival will be the "Blues Tram" - see more below from BB & RMF Treasurer, Julius Porlai, who is chief organiser of this particular initiative. Not content to wait until the festival in November to launch the Blues Tram, we are going to run two

Saturday afternoon rides, featuring some of the best Blues/Roots acts you could hope to enjoy at close range, on September 22nd and October 27th. Please check our website at: [www.bendigobluesandroots.com.au](http://www.bendigobluesandroots.com.au) and find us on facebook at: [www.facebook.com/bendigobluesroots](http://www.facebook.com/bendigobluesroots) for further updates and full details of the above mentioned shows as the line-ups are announced in due course. Ticketing information will also be available via our website and facebook page respectively.

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# ALANNA & ALICIA EGAN

Bendigo singing siblings Alanna and Alicia Egan's folk music has been opening a lot of doors of late, most belonging to relative strangers.

Bankrolled by an Arts Victoria Touring Grant, The Egans have just wrapped up a national tour, taking in festivals all across the country, and never ones to avoid something new, that tour involved the girls playing a series of "house concerts" for the first time.

"You're basically playing in somebody's house," Alanna says. "It's our new thing."

"The owners usually have a base of folk loving friends... it's bringing the folk right back where it started from, in people's houses."

"Then after you just stay in the house..."

we played in some beautiful houses out in the country."

They'll also be playing a grand old building next month, Goldmines, all in the name of a heady concoction of beer, blues and plenty of grub.

In short, the Bendigo Blues & Roots Music Festival is teaming up with the boys from Bendigo Beer and Festival of Lamb to present: Ewes, Brews, Stews & Blues, a delicious mix of music, craft beers and lamb stews and recipes, from midday on July 22.

Bendigo Beer's Justin McPhail said the event would be the perfect blend for foodies and musos.

"Festival of Lamb is a great event showcasing some of our local

producers' finest produce," he said.

"As a result, Bendigo Beer was approached to continue that approach in regards to local craft beers.

"We love supporting the most local, and therefore freshest, hand crafted beers.

"Goldmines Hotel are one of our biggest supporters with only local beer on tap, so it's a good fit, and especially great to have the Bendigo Blues & Roots Music Festival linked in too, as we all know that lamb stews, craft brews and earthy blues go so well together!"

The Ewes, Brews, Stews & Blues is on Saturday July 22 at Goldmines Hotel from midday. The Egans sisters play The Palais on June 8.

ARTIST PROFILE BY  
BEN CAMERON



Photos by Mick Griffin



Alanna & Alicia Egan



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Jacob McGuffie

## Q&A: JACOB MCGUFFIE

BEN CAMERON

**How would you describe the past year with the Vampire Killers in one or two sentences?** We've spent hundreds of ours in a van, eaten lots of truck stop burgers, released an album that was two years in the making, done some great support gigs had way too much fun.

**What's been the highlight of that period, and why?** Releasing our debut album was a pretty big landmark for the band. It took two years to get it out and we're stoked with the final product.

**Did you experience a "pinch me" moment during this time? ie meeting a music hero, playing a particular gig etc** Playing to a sold out Palace Theatre when we opened for The Mars Volta was pretty amazing. After the gig I spoke to their bass player, Juan Alderete, for an hour about basses and everything he's done including his time in Racer X with Paul Gilbert (Mr Big)... It was pretty bizarre!

**Why did you accept to be part of the July showcase? Why is the Bendigo Blues & Roots Music Festival so important to the city?** The festival is a great way to showcase some of the great music that is happening in the region. It also gives people of Bendigo a chance to experience artists from out of town that they wouldn't otherwise get a chance to see. I was given a lot of great opportunities growing up playing music in Bendigo so I'm always keen to come back and have a play.

**What do you like about the festival partnering up with Bendigo Beer and the Festival of Lamb?** I think it's a great idea to involve people with different

interests, the three things go hand in hand.

**What's your favourite tipple and why?** At the moment I've been enjoying cider of both the apple and pear varieties. There's lots of great ciders popping up, I really like the 2 Brothers Gypsy Pear Cider. One of my favourite foods of all time would have to be a well cooked Osso Bucco, it's got all the goodness of meat with just the right amount of awesome.

**What would you rather be: a brew, stew, ewe or a Blue, and why?** A Blue, that way I could still enjoy the Brew, Stew and the Ewe.

**If you had the house to yourself and you wanted to match one CD, with one beverage and one dish, what would it be and why?** Right now it would be Ryan Adams latest album 'Ashes and Fire', a decent Shiraz and a Lamb Roast. But hey, as if I'd cook a roast for myself.

**If you could nominate three people, who would you say makes up the "engine room" of Bendigo music, ie making things happen, and why?** There's a lot of great people doing great things for Bendigo's music scene at the moment but if I had to single people out I'd say Colin Thompson and the Bendigo Blues and Roots committee, Don Webb for all his work the the biannual 'Gigfest' and Albert 'Skip' Skipper for encouraging young people to develop their talents and get involved with the music community.

**What are your plans for the rest of 2012?** I'm heading back into the studio very shortly to finish my debut solo

## The BLUES TRAMS

A new way to enjoy the 2012 Bendigo Blues and Roots Music Festival will be the "Blues Trams". Two first class performers on two historic Bendigo trams. You will enjoy a relaxed gourmet buffet meal at the Central Deborah Goldmine, travel through the streets of beautiful Bendigo while listening to some of the best blues and roots music you're likely to hear anywhere. Taking a pit-stop, to change trams at the historic "Joss House", relax and enjoy your desserts, then back on board for a music filled trip back to the Central Deborah Goldmine.

Picture, if you will, a close encounter with the infectiously rowdy Bones Blackwood or Stringybark McDowell, as you slowly ride the rails through the Vienna of Victoria. Tickets will be on sale soon for Friday the 9th, Saturday the 10th and Sunday the 11th November.

The cost? A bargain at \$65 per head for dinner, show and an experience you won't soon forget... priceless!!!

*Laissez les Bon Ton Roulet*  
Dr.Jules

album. It will be available through Melbourne's Newmarket Records by the time the festival rolls around in November. The Fearless Vampire Killers are also recording in the next few weeks to release another 7" vinyl that we're very excited about.