



Special tribute concert a festival highlight

The Saturday afternoon of the festival weekend this year will be a special treat.

The works of the late Denis Kevans an oft-times resident of the Upper River, will be celebrated in a tribute concert at the Upper River Hall: ten of his best-loved works will be presented as poetry and song by some of Folk's most popular artists, selected for the event by Denis' daughter Sophia.

The Shoalhaven Folk Club is delighted to have



The late Denis Kevans

been asked to host this event.

The attendance at this concert will be ticketed separately and the Folk Club will donate proceeds from these ticket sales to the maintenance of the upper River Hall.

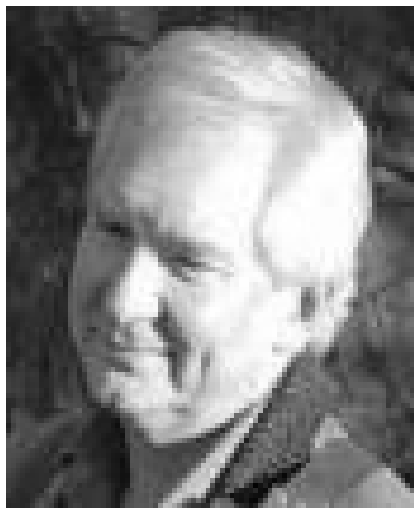
A courtesy bus for ticket holders will run from the showground to prevent congestion on the road and minimise parking problems.

For those who don't know his works, here is an introduction to the man behind the writing:

Denis Kevans (1939 – 2005) was known widely as Australia's 'Poet Lorikeet'.

He was a prolific and unashamedly political poet whose literary output spanned 46 years. His works reflect his lifelong commitment to socialism, republicanism and the peace and environment movements.

From
an
Irish-



Bob Fagan

Australian background, he grew up in Canberra and excelled at both scholastic and sporting endeavours at St Joseph's College in Sydney, where he was a scholarship student.

He enrolled as a medicine student at the University of Sydney but soon followed his heart into the study of literature and politics. He was a star performer on the cricket field and was selected by Sir Robert Menzies to play in the Prime Minister's XI in the traditional match against the visiting English team in 1958.

A beautiful irony exists between the devotion of the PM to the Queen and Australia's English heritage and the loyalty of the young cricketer to Republicanism and an Irish heritage. Denis Kevans re-enrolled in the University of Sydney in 1959 where he completed a Bachelor of Arts while working on building sites and becoming a member of the BLF.

His studies of the works of Lawson and Paterson immersed him in the working class history of the country from the time of the convicts and from about this time his poetry began to appear in various publications, for one of which, Realist Writer, he would serve as a board member some years later.

His death, in August 2005, came only months after that of his brother Jacko, who was also well known in the Folk community.

(Biographical details for this article, although not directly quoted, are taken from an obituary written by Bob Fagan.)

The artists chosen by Sophia Kevans to appear in the ten items of the tribute concert are:

Sonia Bennett and Loosely Woven

Vic Jeffries

Arch Bishop

Wyn Jones

Gregory North

Seamus Gill

Milton Taylor

Bob Fagan

Kate Fagan

Enda Kenny

Please see the website for more details.

Fyre concert

On the Saturday afternoon, during the Denis Kevans concert, there will be an event staged in one of the main marquees at the showground by the local youth group FYRE. This will feature bands selected by that group for their energy and original music: if you enjoyed the recent Battle of the Bands, this will be the concert for you. Saturday afternoon passes at a very reasonable rate will be available at the festival office.



Kate Fagan to be a featured performer

Kid's Festival

For the children, and those who love some good, light-hearted entertainment there is a program of music, song, storytelling, dance and fun for you. Visit the Kid's festival tent for some of the best fun you will find anywhere: entertainers such as Margaret Bradford, The Puddin' Eaters, Velma McKeachie and others to be confirmed.

Tickets to the festival are available now on the website through Moshtix, or through the Kangaroo Valley Supermarket.

Early bird ticket prices are a very generous \$15 off the adult gate price: buy early and save.

www.kvfolk.shoalhaven.info

kvfolk@bigpond.com

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