

# SINGABOUT

## DECEMBER 2013

### JOHN DENGATE TRIBUTE CONCERTS

To honour the passing of “A National Treasure”, tribute concerts were held at the Loaded Dog Folk Club and at Tritton Hall, the headquarters of the Bush Music Club.

John was a life member of the club, and has contributed a large number of songs and verses to the folk scene. Many of these works were satirical in nature, poking fun at people or institutions that John saw as unfair or silly. Others, such as *Bare Legged Kate*, painted a picture of life in a bygone time.

He will be greatly missed, but not forgotten.



A packed house at the BMC Hut



Peter Mace



Margaret & Bob Fagan



Jason Roweth and  
Max Elbourne

## BALLAD OF CHEMICAL KEN

WORDS: JOHN DENGATE TUNE: BLUEY BRINK (SONG OF:)

Handwritten musical notation for the song "Ballad of Chemical Ken". The music is written on six staves in 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes, and various chords (Amin, G, Dmin, C, Em, E7) are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are:

WELL THERE ONCE LIVED A FLAUT-IST AND HIS NAME IT WAS KEN,  
 MUS-IC-AL MAN A-MONG MUS-IC-AL MEN,  
 HE WORKED FOR ONE OF THOSE CHEM-IC-AL FIRMS, AND  
 HE WAS WELL UP ON HIS CHEM-IC-AL TERMS,  
 KEN WAS WELL UP ON HIS CHEM-IC-AL TERMS.



Margaret and Bob Fagan performing to  
the crowd at the Loaded Dog.



Nick Lock



Cj Shaw



Peter Cahill



Lachlan Dengate

## WHEN JAMIE'S ALE WAS NEW

WORD: JOHN DENGATE TUNE: (BASICALLY) WHEN JAMIE'S ALE WAS NEW

THEY TOOT-LED UP-ON TIN WHIST-LES AND SANG OF ME-RI NOS' PIZZ-LES, JAN  
 WAKE-FIELD GOT THE GRIZZ-LES AND SAID TO THIS JOV-IAL CREW, DIS-  
 AS-TER UP-ON THIS CLUB YOU'LL BEING FOR NO-ONE WANTS TO DO A THING, EX-  
 -CEPT JUST SIT A-ROUND AND SING WHEN JAM-IE'S ALE WAS NEW ME BOYS, WHEN  
 JAM-IE'S ALE WAS NEW. SHE TRIED TO SPEAK BUT A 'C' ACC-OR-DE-ON  
 LOND-LY PLAYED AND SHE WAS IG-NORED AGAIN WHEN WILL ORD-ER BE RE-STRON... WHEN  
 JAM-IE'S ALE WAS NEW ME BOYS WHEN JAM-IE'S ALE WAS NEW.



Chris Maltby



Lachlan Dengate, Max Elbourne and Jason Roweth

## BARE LEGGED KATE

Words: John Dengate, Tune: Bare legged Joe

"Written for my mother, Born Kathleen Mary Kelly, Gundagai, NSW, 1914."

### First Verse and Chorus:

Bare legged Kate with your natural grace,  
The big big sad eyes in the Irish face.  
A poor bush girl when the summer is high  
In the stony hills of Gundagai.

Bare legged Kate why do you weep  
When the men ride by with the travelling sheep?  
Does the sight of the drover make you sad?  
Do you think of the father you never had?

Bare legged Kate why do you run,  
Down to the creek in the setting sun?  
Down where the eyes of the world cannot see -  
Run Kate, run, from poverty.

Bare legged Kate, there is gold in the hills  
But you know that the cyanide process kills.  
Poisons the miners and cuts them down  
In the mean little homes below the town.

Bare legged Kate, when the floods come down,  
It's the poor on the creeks are the ones who drown:  
When the great Murrumbidgee is thundering by  
Through the haunted hills of Gundagai.

### Final chorus:

Bare legged Kate with your natural grace,  
The big big sad eyes in the Irish face.  
A poor bush girl when the summer is high  
In the haunted hills of Gundagai.



Ralph Pride



Chris Woodland



Max Elbourne and Chris Woodland



Dale Dengate and friends