

The Hardanger Fiddle

The band members

Jerry Everard Fiddle player extraordinaire, also bodhran (one-time Australian Champion at Kapunda) - Jerry accidentally learned to play fiddle after staggering into an Adelaide folk club. "The floor was wet and I slipped!" he insists. That was almost 30 years ago. Soon after he joined award winning Roaring Jelly in Adelaide and chart-busting Mucky Duck in Perth. The rest they say is history - and he's sticking to it!

Butch Singleton-Hooper Lead singer, rhythm guitar, electric guitar, banjo, in fact there's not much he can't play! A founder member of Perth's Mucky Duck Band, Butch is the lynch-pin of the band. He has played all styles from Irish to bush to classic rock and has developed a unique (some might even say perplexing) rhythm style. Butch is one of the few who can keep up with Jerry's 'wall-of-death' reels. He is a rare talent indeed!

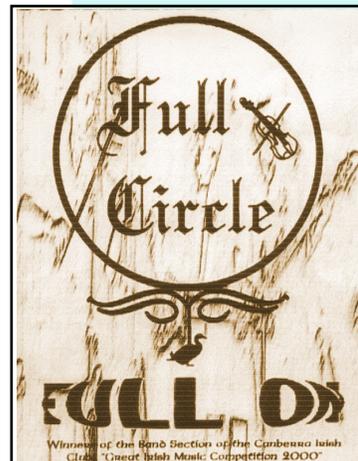
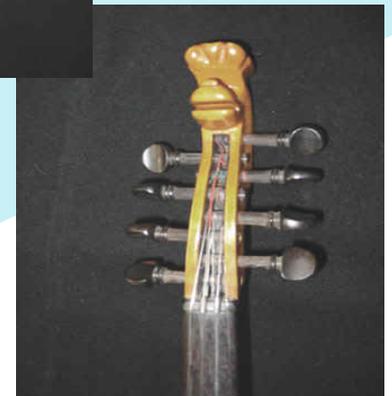
Bruce Topperwien Bass Player (the instrument, not the fish), Banjo, vocal harmonies ("there are no wrong notes, only varying degrees of tension" - he quips) - Bruce and Jerry go back a looong way - all the way to Adelaide more than 20 years in fact. He was recently found hiding under a Bass in Canberra and dragged kicking and screaming into Full Circle, where he has been kicking and screaming up a storm ever since!

The Hardanger fiddle, or Hardingfele is basically an eight-stringed violin with the normal four playable strings passing over the finger-board and bridge, tuned the Australian way (GDAE - pronounced g'day), and four 'sympathetic' strings that pass beneath the finger-board and through the middle of the bridge. These are tuned DEF#A. The effect is like having a delay pedal - but accoustically!

Why the extra strings? The instrument was developed in Norway (in a village called Hardanger, famous for embroidery) at a time in the mid-1700s when Government cutbacks were forcing bands to downsize - to make more sound with less - so more strings were added to give a fuller sound!

Jerry's fiddle was made by Scott Wise in Perth almost 20 years ago, and is a copy of one in London's Victoria and Albert Museum.

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For Pub Sessions,
Weddings, Dances,
Parties or your next
social function ...

Why not give
Full Circle a call:

Butch Hooper
(02) 6292 5046
or email:
fullcircle@lostbiro.com

Winners of the Band Section of the Canberra Irish Club "Great Irish Music Competition 2000"