



**Media Release** **23 January 2009**

**“A Night on the Goldfields”**      The Old Macaroni Factory Celebrates 150 years

**Hepburn Springs will be the setting for a magical night under the stars when The Old Macaroni Factory presents an outdoor concert in the garden theatre recently established on the historic property. A Night on the Goldfields on Saturday 28 February is the vision of owner-proprietor and fourth generation descendant Maria Viola whose family built the property 150 years ago.**

Through music, song, dance and verse, the show carries a theme of saluting the many nationalities that came to the area in the 1850s in pursuit of gold and presents a colourful program of regional and national Guest Artists

“A Night in the Goldfields” Creative Consultant, Jon Stephens, says: The Concert will evoke the sort of entertainment you might have seen in the public tents and open air of the goldfields’ shanty towns. A variety of cultures and entertainment styles from the classical to folk, comedy, songs, dancing, musicians and storytellers.”

Melbourne radio personality Tony Tardio (3AW and 97.4FM) will host the evening and also present a special segment on Italians and their coming to Australia. Acclaimed storyteller, Anne E. Stewart will set the scene with stories about the people, goldfields and settlement at the “Jim Crow” Diggings of Hepburn and Daylesford.

International gypsy band Vardos will perform their amazing music and stories with Alana Hunt on Violin, Sofia Chapman piano accordion and Indra Buraczewska double bass. Formed in Perth in 1993 Vardos is now Melbourne based. This stunning trio has serenaded audiences in every state of Australia, and have also toured to New Caledonia, New Zealand, Switzerland and Hungary and showcased in the US. Vardos had successful shows at the Famous Spiegeltent in the Edinburgh Fringe and Edinburgh International Book Festival in 2003 and 2004, where they appeared on Scottish television and the BBC News, and were nominated for the 2003 BBC Radio3 World Music Awards. Vardos return regularly to Eastern Europe to study with folk and Roma “gypsy” musicians to combine the repertoire they learn, with their own compositions, solos and stories! *“With stagecraft that is equal parts formation dancing, martial arts and Keystone Cops, the violin-accordion-double bass trio plays with formidable panache... [The Herald, Edinburgh 2004].*



**Danny Spooner** is a consummate singer of traditional and contemporary folk songs of Britain and Australia performing as a solo acoustic singer or with guitar and concertina. In recent years he's sung at festivals, clubs and house concerts in Europe, England, Canada and the USA. But for 40 years in Australia, audiences have enjoyed his concert brackets, workshops and one-man shows, his deep multi-disciplinary understanding of social history, his personal warmth, and his immense repertoire of songs covering the full range of human emotions, endeavours and experiences. He is a spellbinder and passionate about his work.

**Other Guest Artists include:**

- Emerging artist Peter Toohey a talented 18 year old pianist from Springbank studying at The Melba Conservatorium, who plays Classical, French and Contemporary music.
- Tick Tock Boom Chicks - a mandolin band based in the Castlemaine region that plays Klezmer, Russian, Balkan and Scandinavian music.
- From "Goldfields Opera", Soprano Jennifer Schatzle and Peter Hunt Baritone accompanied by Lynne Dernelly on piano.
- Musicians and dancers from the Bendigo Chinese Association's colourful "Lion Team" will perform to combine art, history and kung fu moves in recognition of their amazing history and origins.
- Members of Ballarat Grammar Musical Ensemble
- Hepburn Primary Singers

**A Night on the Goldfields on Saturday 28 February**, is an outdoor family concert starting at 8pm with gates open at 6.00pm for ticket sales, food, wine and pre-show entertainment. There is car parking on the property and other nearby streets. A pre-show buffet dinner option is available in the restaurant, or sausages and pizza in the Piazza. Supper and drinks also available during the night and at interval.

Tickets for this exciting Night on the Goldfields Concert entry are \$12 adults \$8 stud | conc., \$30 family, children U10 free. Pre-booking is recommended as numbers are limited. Call 5348 4345 or via booking form on-line.

**Further 150th activities on the opening weekend include a "Descendants Dinner" on Friday 27 February and "Daytime in the Piazza" Sun 1 March from 10am.** This is a day to salute Italian customs and traditions in a piazza setting. The program includes historic demonstrations, Lucini sausages, pizza and wine, traditional Italian card games, bocce, community stalls. Entry is by Gold coin donation. The Old Macaroni Factory is at 64 Main Road in the heart of Hepburn Springs. For information about all the Old Macaroni Factory year-long 150th anniversary celebrations check on [www.macaronifactory.com.au](http://www.macaronifactory.com.au)

---

**Interviews, information, photos**

The Old Macaroni Factory, Established 1859 [www.macaronifactory.com.au](http://www.macaronifactory.com.au)  
64 Main Road Hepburn Springs, 3461  
5348 4345 0400 854 029 Maria Viola [mariaviola@bigpond.com](mailto:mariaviola@bigpond.com)  
Robyn Golder Marketing 9816 3225 [rgolder@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rgolder@bigpond.net.au)

