



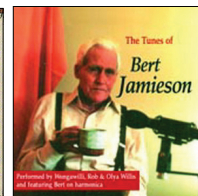
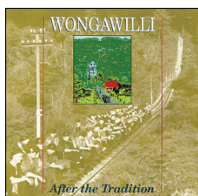
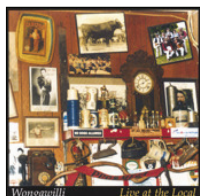
David De Santi – piano accordion  
 Samuel De Santi – bodhran, fiddle  
 Tania De Santi – piano  
 Tim Kendell – guitar, vocal  
 Graeme Murray – main vocal, lagerphone, snare drum, kick drum  
 Reg Murray – mandolin  
 Miffy Ryan – violin, viola  
 Johnny Spillane – whistles, bagpipe, vocal



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## Recordings



The **Wongawilli Band** has been promoting, preserving and performing a rich tradition of music, song and dance since 1987. Since then they have re-energised the old songs and tunes of the Australian settlers and continue to re-invigorate the tradition with new tunes and songs.

In recent years the band has performed internationally, throughout China, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Germany, New Zealand and the UK. At home in Australia. Wongawilli has also been performing to acclaim at Australian folk festivals including Woodford, Port Fairy, Illawarra, Victor Harbour and has now performed a phenomenal 22 times at the National Folk Festival in Canberra.

The Wongawilli Band is more than the average 'bush band' by performing unfamiliar yet entertaining music with a formula that has received recognition on a national scale, with 16 awards at the Australian Bush Music Festival and Bush Band Championships. But the accolades have not stopped there!!

In particular the band's singer, Graeme Murray, received the 1991 Australian Bush Music Awards Best Male Vocalist ahead of John Williamson and Alan Scott. He won again in 1993 and 1994.

The band's accordionist, David De Santi, received the 1992 Australian Bush Music Heritage Award, a Commonwealth Government Centenary Medal in 2003 for services to the folk music industry in Australia, was the editor of Australia's national folk music magazine Trad&Now and Illawarra Folk Festival Artistic Director since 1996.

The group includes the young Samuel De Santi (born 1996), a wizard on the Irish bodhran since the age of 5 and a mighty fine fiddler!

The band name was inspired by the heritage coal mining village of Wongawilli which is at the foot of the Illawarra escarpment, south-west of Wollongong, NSW. The village has a community hall at which band members still play for a weekly bush dance.

## What they've said about the band

*... this ensemble is highly regarded in the field of interpreting authentic Australian traditional music, song and dance as a performance art. The group is recognised in Australia as a leading force in the revitalisation of our folk traditions ...*

Warren Fahey AM, JP, The Larrikins

*... Wongawilli Band, based in the culturally-rich Illawarra region are nationally recognised as one of, if not the, finest exponents, collectors and presenters of Australian traditional 'Bush' music. Their stage performances are distinctively 'Australian' whilst having a wide general appeal with their lively rhythms and music coupled with lyrics which frequently carry the wry humour of the Australian 'bushie' ....*

Bernard Bolan, President Folk Federation of NSW

*... They present entertaining and distinctive interpretations of traditional and tradition-influenced Australian folk songs and tunes and have won many awards and appeared at many major festivals and venues ...*

Jamie McKew OAM, Festival Director for Port Fairy Folk Festival