

BUSH CREEK



Bob Bickerton

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CD Track List

- 1 Down By The River
- 2 Cow Pats
- 3 In The Bush
- 4 Dancing Round The Woolshed
- 5 The Noodle Dance (with called instructions)
- 6 The Smoochy Waltz
- 7 Now Is The Hour
- 8 Down By The River (Backing Track)
- 9 Cow Pats (Backing Track)
- 10 In The Bush (Backing Track)
- 11 Dancing Round The Woolshed (Backing Track)
- 12 The Noodle Dance (No Instructions)
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- 14 Down By The River (Backing Track - Chorus only)
- 15 Now Is The Hour (Backing Track)

All instruments and vocals Bob Bickerton.

Introduction

My intention with Bush Creek was to write a music/theatre piece suitable for performance to and by primary and intermediate school students that would introduce them to aspects of New Zealand rural life.

As well as learning about aspects of kiwi rural life, it is hoped the students will go on to learn songs and even perform the show, which provides huge learning outcomes.

Many concepts introduced in the performance and supported in this resource kit apply directly to the Arts and Social Studies curricula.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further suggestions for the kit.



Bob Bidenda

My Performance

The narrative version of the work performed by myself in Schools is, by necessity, a much simpler version of the full production. It would be impossible to communicate the concepts and characters of the full production in a solo show. However, it is hoped that my solo performance will inspire students to go on to perform the production themselves.

Acknowledgements

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Curriculum Links

The Bush Creek live performance and subsequent follow up through this resource kit provides strong contributions to many facets of the school curriculum which are too numerous to specify in detail.

However, in terms of the Arts Curriculum, Bush Creek makes specific contributions to the strands of Developing Practical Knowledge in Music, Communicating and Interpreting Music and Understanding Music in Context. It also makes broad contributions to the disciplines of Dance and Drama and supports the 'Culture and Heritage', 'Place and Environment' and 'Time, Continuity and Change' strands in the Social Studies Curriculum.

How To Use This Resource Kit

This resource kit is designed to:

Provide follow up work to my Bush Creek performance.

Provide all resources necessary to enable a class or school to perform Bush Creek as a production.

The kit may be used in many different ways and may form the basis of wide ranging music, craft and social studies projects.

Draw Pictures Of The Story

An excellent follow up for younger students. Having drawn 'scenes' from the story, they can discuss what happened.

Write A Synopsis

Write a short synopsis of the story line.

Review The Performance

Discuss the performance, which sections did you like, which sections didn't you like. Study some reviews from a newspaper and write your own. Younger students could make two drawings, one of the section they liked most and one of the section they liked least.

Study The Words To Songs

The words to the songs have been selected/written to make educational points.

Study All Or Part Of The Script

By reading or listening to part or all of the script, students can discuss concepts.

Learn a song

Words to songs (including melody line and chords) are included in the kit. All songs are included on the CD.

Learn a dance

Instructions for the Two Minute Noodle Dance are included, more advanced instrumentalists might like to learn the dance tune (music and chords are included).

Produce the show

This kit enables a school to fully produce Bush Creek themselves.

The production could take one of the following formats:

A reading of the script by a class, syndicate or school, with or without songs/dances.

A performance of the show by a class, syndicate or school without costumes/sets.

A full production of the show by a class, syndicate or school using costumes and sets.

Production notes and staging notes give suggestions to assist with the production.

Suggestions on promoting the production to your community are included in the Promotion Kit section.

If you wish to perform the production publicly it is necessary to fill out and return the 'Performance Agreement'.



The Instruments

Guitar

The *Guitar* is an instrument that has been long used in bush bands in New Zealand. It is an important rhythm instrument that can be used to accompany dance tunes as well as songs.

The guitar can be picked with the fingers or strummed with a pick. In bush band music it is more often strummed.



Fiddle

The *Fiddle* is also well known as a bush band instrument and is probably the most common melody instrument used in bush bands.

It has four strings which are played by drawing a bow across the strings. The hair on the bow is horse hair and a sticky substance called rosin is rubbed onto the hair of the bow to create friction when the bow is drawn across the strings.

All the melodies in bush creek have been written to suit the fiddle.



Bush Bass

The bush bass or tea chest bass has been used for many years in Kiwi bush bands. It can be constructed using a tea chest or plywood box, a broom handle and a piece of string. What could be simpler?

Having found or made a box make a cradle (as per the photo) into which to rest one end of the broom handle and nail it into one corner of the box.

It's important to pinch the string as you play (see photo) to avoid blisters and you can pull on the handle to alter the pitch of the note. Try playing the bush bass on the beat of the tune, i.e. where you would tap your foot.



Cradle for broomhandle



Pinching the string



Lagerphone

The lagerphone is also well known in bush bands and provides a great percussive sound. It is essentially a broom handle onto which bottle tops are nailed. It is played with a stick with a serrated edge.

The idea is that you bang it on the floor on the beat and hit it with the stick on the off beat. In other words if you can say 'boom-chick' along with a tune, the 'booms' would be where you'd hit the lagerphone on the floor and the 'chicks' would be where you'd hit it with the stick. It may help to screw a rubber foot onto the bottom of the broom handle to save marking the floor.



Serrated stick

Down By The River

Words and Music Bob Bickerton © 2004

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are: "Down by the river, Down by the river, Down by the river we will go. You can have a lot of fun, there's enough for every one. It's down by the river we will go. It's down by the river, there's sights you've never seen. The bird song's rich and fills the air. The river runs crystal clear. The trees are tall and green and That's where we play without a care." The chords are: D, G, D, A, D, G, D, A, A, D, G, D, A, D.

Chorus:

Down by the river, down by the river
Down by the river we will go,
You can have a lot of fun, there's enough for everyone,
Down by the river we will go.

Down by the river there's sights you've never seen,
The bird song's rich and fills the air,
The river runs crystal clear, the trees are tall and green
That's where we play without a care.

Down by the river, the teachers all are kind
And school only happens once a week
The lessons just take half an hour and playtime lasts all day
Yes teachers do the homework in Bush Creek

Down by the river, you do just what you like
And parents never ask you to behave
You stay up all the night and sleep in all you like
And play right through till the end of day

Cow Pats

Words and Music Bob Bickerton © 2004

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. Chord symbols (D, G, A) are placed above the staff to indicate accompaniment. The lyrics are: Cow Pats Splish Splosh Splat Cow pats you find them every where Cow pats splish splosh splat Cow pats are something to beware I'll sing you a song and it won't take very long but it will make you vomit gag or squirm it's of a liquid brown that splatters to the ground each time cows bottoms take their turn

Chorus:

Cow pats, splish, splosh, splat,
Cow pats you find them everywhere.
Cow pats, splish, splosh, splat,
Cow pats are something to beware.

I'll sing you a song, it won't take very long,
But it'll make you vomit, gag or squirm,
It's of a liquid brown, that splatters to the ground,
Each time cow's bottoms have their turn.

It's a very natural process, nothing naughty or ferocious,
Cows eat grass by the bucket-load,
After going through several stomachs, it shoots straight towards their buttocks,
If they don't let it out well they'll explode!

On a morning bright and clear, as you walk without a fear,
The dew is bright and glistening on the ground.
And then it hits your nose and you look down at your toes,
And there's brown stuff squelching all around.

In The Bush

Words and Music Bob Bickerton © 1994

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a C chord and contains the lyrics: "In the bush I heard a we-ka call a we-ka call a we-ka call In the". The second staff continues with "bush I heard a we-ka call a ve-ry spe-cial sound In the bush" and includes F, G, C, C7, and F chords. The third staff repeats "In the bush" three times with C, F, and G chords. The fourth staff concludes with "I heard them call" and a C chord.

In the bush I heard a weka call, a weka call, a weka call,
In the bush I heard a weka call, a very special sound.
In the bush (sound of bird), In the bush (sound of bird),
In the bush (sound of bird), In the bush.

Second verse: In the hills - Kea
Third verse: At night - Ruru
Fourth Verse: In the bush - Kokako
I heard them call.

(For use in the bush dream sequence - not used in my live performance)

Dancing Round The Woolshed

Words and Music Bob Bickerton © 2004

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chord symbols (A, D, E) are placed above the staff lines. The lyrics are: "Hi di did- le aye day hav- ing so much fun dan- cing round the wool- shed with old Joe Kel- ly's son Hi di did- le aye day hav- ing so much fun dan- cing round the wool- shed with old Joe Kel- ly's son I'll tell you of Joe Kel- ly he's a good keen ki- wi bloke he loves to wear his swan- dri his gum- mies are no joke His beard's a tan- gled knot of weed his teeth he has but few you'll smell him when he's com- ing he don't wash as much as you".

Hi di diddle I day, having so much fun,
Dancing round the woolshed with old Joe Kelly's son,
Hi di diddle I day, having so much fun,
Dancing round the woolshed with old Joe Kelly's son.

I'll tell you of Joe Kelly, he's a good keen kiwi bloke,
He loves to wear a swandri, his gummies are no joke,
His beard's a tangled knot of weed, his teeth he has but few,
You'll smell him when he's coming, he don't wash as much as you.

A month or two ago he asked me to a dance
Way up in his old woolshed, I thought I'd take a chance,
I dressed up in my finest clothes I even combed my hair,
And buttoned up my waistcoat for all the ladies there.

When I arrived I thought it odd, no ladies could I see,
Just Kelly in his woolshed, a few more blokes and me,
Says Kelly “We’ll have fun tonight, I’m going to show you how,
Round here we dance with animals” and he courtseyed to a cow.

Now you might think it strange all this carry on
There were fellahs doing polkas and chickens on the run
I saw a horse tap dancing like Rodgers and Astair
And a dirty pig doing disco with brylcreem in his hair

And then at last the moment came when I was asked to dance
By a sheepdog with two left feet and a kind of sleazy glance
He asked me if I’d foxtrot or if I’d rock and roll
We did the funky chicken and the rooster had a ball.

Smoochy Waltz

Music Bob Bickerton © 2004



The Two Minute Noodle Dance

Music and Dance Bob Bickerton © 2004

G
Call: Boil the water

G C G D G C D G
Call: Noodles in the pot

G C G C D G
Call: Noodle escapes! (Faster and about four times through)

This is a neat dance for primary school students of all ages.
Form a circle of around four to eight students holding hands.

Call: 'Boil The Pot'

Holding hands all go round to the left for a count of 8.
All go back to the right for a count of 8.

Call: 'Noodles In The Pot'

All put right hands into the middle and go round for 8.
All put left hands in the middle and go round for 8.

Call: 'Noodle Escapes'

Select a head noodle who skips around the room at random, followed by the rest of the group who hold onto the hips or shoulders of the person in front of them.

Call: 'In The Pot'

All form a circle and do the dance again.

Zak's Rap (Down By The River)

Words Bob Bickerton © 2004

I'll tell you a story, it's so true
It's so bad you won't know what to do
That man Seeger he's no good
He's gonna build houses in the wood
He'll clear the bush he'll make it bare
That man Seeger he don't care
He's gonna marry Boniface
Just to get his hands on the place
He don't care about her hand
He just wants all her land
So don't you be misunderstood
That man Seeger he's no good!

Now Is The Hour

Words and Music Traditional

Now is the hour when we must say good-bye
Soon you'll be sailing far across the sea
While you're away Oh please re-mem-ber me
When you re-tur-n you'll find me wai-ting here.

Now is the hour, when we must say goodbye
Soon you'll be sailing, far across the sea
Whilst you're away, Oh do remember me,
When you return you'll find me waiting here.

How To Produce Bush Creek

Bush Creek is a musical production written to be performed by primary and intermediate age students. It can be used as a small scale classroom play, involving the whole class, to reinforce the ideas and concepts introduced through the music. Depending on the resources and enthusiasm available, it can also be adapted as a full musical theatre production which can be staged for school or public performances.

By following the instructions in the 'Staging Notes' section and referring to the lyrics, script and CD, staff and students can work together to perform the production.

Hopefully you will want to perform 'Bush Creek' publicly. If you do, you'll need to fill out and return a copy of the enclosed performance agreement as public performances incur royalty payments and credit provisos. To assist with promotion of your public performance a resource on how to promote the project is included.

Scene Overview:

Scene 1- Main Street In Town

Scene 2 - Down By The River

Scene 3 - At The Dance

Scene 4 - Down By The River

Scene 5 - Old Joe's House

Scene 6 - Miss Boniface's House

Scene 7 - At The Talent Quest

Scene 8 - Main Street In Town

Actors:

Zak - City kid.

Young Joe - Country kid (son of old Joe).

Chrissy - Country kid.

Jules - Country kid.

Grant - Country kid.

Old Joe - Widower farmer.

Miss Emily Boniface - School teacher.

George Seeger - American developer.

Patsy Seeger - Daughter of George.

Ron Jones - Property developer.

Extras:

Contestants in the talent quest.

Audience at the talent quest.

Dancers in country dance.

Creatures in bush dream scene.

Band:

Bush Bass

Lagerphone

Chordal accompaniment (guitar/piano/autoharp)

Melody (recorder/fiddle/flute)

Synopsis

Scene 1- Main Street In Town

A city kid, Zak, has just arrived in town. He is befriended by four country kids, Young Joe, Chrissy, Jules and Grant who invite him to join them to play the next day. Zak explains he has come to stay with an auntie because his mother is ill.

Music/Dance: Down By The River

Scene 2 - Down By The River

Next day they meet by the river and Zak is taken to the place where the country kids play and they meet up with Old Joe who invites them to a barn dance.

Music/Dance: Cow Pats, In The Bush

Scene 3 - At The Dance

The kids arrive at the dance, Old Joe proposes to Emily Boniface their teacher but George Seeger announces they he is already engaged to her. He announces there will be a talent quest to celebrate the engagement

Music/Dance: Dancing Round The Woolshed/Two Minute Noodle Dance/
Smoochy Waltz

Scene 4 - Down By The River

The kids are discussing events at the dance and decide to enter the talent quest. Then they overhear George Seeger and a property developer talking. Seeger intends to marry Boniface to access her land and intends to clear the bush for a housing estate.

Music/Dance: None

Scene 5 - Old Joe's House

The kids inform Old Joe about Seeger's plans and they devise a plan to expose him. They practice for the talent quest.

Music/Dance: Down By The River - rehearsal

Scene 6 - Emily Boniface's House

Seeger and Emily Boniface are discussing the talent quest.

Music/Dance: Patsy Seeger rehearsing

Scene 7 - At The Talent Quest

The talent quest gets under way, the kids perform 'Down By The River' with a rap section by Zak that exposes Seeger. Seeger leaves, Boniface accepts Old Joe and the kids win the talent quest.

Music/Dance: Talent Quest Entries/Down By The River (with rap)

Scene 8 - Main Street In Town

Everyone gathers to farewell Zak.

Music/Dance: Now Is The Hour



Scene 1 - Main Street In Town

Late afternoon in the country town of Bush Creek.

(Zak enters with a suitcase listening to walkman and grooving, enter Young Joe, Chrissy, Jules and Grant)

Young Jo Well look at that would you!

Chrissy His a cool bloke, if ever I saw one.

Grant You don't see many kids like that dressed round here, looks like something you'd find on a Christmas tree.

Jules I don't know about Christmas, he looks like he's from Mars!

Young Jo Hardly, he's just down from the big smoke, Auckland or somewhere, let's go and take a closer look.

(They move closer)

Chrissy Hi.

Zak Hi.

Chrissy Where are you from.

Zak Oh I just come down from Auckland, eh?

Young Jo *(to Grant)* Back of beyond, more like

Jules Don't listen to him.

Chrissy Auckland, I bet it's cool there!

Grant *(to Young Joe)* Only in winter!

Chrissy Fellahs.

Zak Sure it's cool in Auckland, eh? Wouldn't be as munted as this place.

Jules Munted?

Young Jo Well, it might be a bit on the small side around here, but there's lots to do.

Zak Cool, Playstation? You got Sky?

Young Jo Err, no we ain't got those things.

Chrissy No Joe means there's lots to do in the country. How long are you here for?

Zak Oh, about two weeks. My mom's not well, eh. So I've come down to stay with my old auntie. I've never been to the country before.

Young Jo Never been to the country before?

Grant Well we should show you round.

Jules Yes, you might get to like country life.

Zak Cool.

Chrissy So what are you doing tomorrow? There's a secret place where we go to play down by the river.

Young Jo Yea, she's a cracker.

Grant Let's tell him about it.

Song: Down By The River

Zak Sounds cool.

Chrissy Good, we'll meet you in that paddock over there after school.

Zak Yea, see you then.

Chrissy Anyway my name's Chrissy and this is Young Joe, Grant and Jules, what's your name?

Zak Oh, eer, Zak!

Chrissy Alrighty Zak we'll see you tomorrow.

Zak Cool, see ya.

Others See ya.

(Exeunt)

Scene 2 - Down By The River

Next day in the paddock.

(Enter Zak, Chrissy, Young Jo, Jules and Grant walking along)

Zak Hey, this is cool, but the grass is sort of cold and wet between your toes, eh?

Chrissy Yea, but it'll soon warm up, it's going to be a beaut day.

Zak Oh yuk! What's that?

Young Jo Well what do you think it is?

Zak I don't know. It's revolting!

Chrissy It's nothing to worry about, it's just a cow pat.

Grant Nice fresh one too, look it's still steaming!

Zak Oh gross man!

Young Jo It's not so gross, in fact on cold mornings like this, it can be quite handy.

(He puts his toes into the cow pat)

Grant Great for warming up your tootsies!

(He also puts his toes in)

Zak Oh that's really disgusting man!

Young Jo Come on try it!

Grant It's not so bad.

Zak Well, OK.

(He cautiously moves over and puts his toes in)

Chrissy Well what do you think Zak?

Zak Yea, I see what you mean, kinda nice when you get used to it.

Song: Cow Pats

Chrissy Let's move on, you fellahs can wash your feet in the creek over there.

(They move)

Jules Well here's our special place.

Zak Cool place to hang out, eh?

Young Jo Bush Creek it's called. See all that bush over there, it's been there since the early days.

Grant Yea, never been cleared.

Chrissy Can you hear the birds sing Zak?

Zak Never heard sounds like it before.

Chrissy It wasn't all that long ago when most of the land was covered in bush.

Jules It was just like paradise!

Young Jo That's right, before the Maori came this land was full of moas.

Zak Lawn mowers?

Young Jo No, moas, the birds. Some were tall as a house they say (aside to Zak) and I've heard there's still some up there, deep in the bush.

Zak Wow, that's amazing.

Grant Anyway, all this talk of moas is making me sleepy, who's for a snooze?

Jules That's a good idea.

(They settle down for a snooze)

Zak You sure those moas won't come down and get us?

Chrissy Don't worry Zak, there aren't really any moas left.

(They fall asleep. Start of dream sequence where younger children can act as moas and other creatures during the song)

Song: Bird Song

(They wake)

Zak It must have been really cool back then.

Chrissy Yes, and then the Maori came and ate many of the birds.

Jules Yes, and then the Europeans came and they cleared all the land.

Grant So we're really lucky to have our piece of bush, so close to the town.
(Enter Old Joe)

Old Joe Giddyay you whipper-snappers, how's it going?

Young Jo Hi Dad.

Chrissy Very good Mr Kelly.

Old Joe Who's this. Looks like a new chum in gladwrap.

Zak Hi, I'm Zak, eh?

Old Joe Zakay? That's an unusual name.

Chrissy No, his name's just Zak.

Old Joe Zak.

Grant Down from Auckland.

Jules Mom's crook.

Chrissy Staying with auntie.

Young Jo Looks odd.

Grant But he's OK.

Old Joe Thanks, but I'm sure he can talk for himself.

Zak eerr.....

Old Joe Anyway you coming to the dance tonight?

Zak A dance! Cool! (does hip-hop)

Chrissy It's not that sort of dance Zak!

Young Jo No it's much more fun.

Grant Yea, you get to hold girls by the hand.

Zak Oh gross!

Chrissy No it's good fun really Zak. It's a bush dance, come along. It's in Mr Kelly's woolshed over there around 8 o'clock. We'll pick you up from your auntie's.

Zak Cool.

Old Joe We'll see you at the dance then. Now, in the meantime, you young uns look for any suspicious looking blokes over in the bush there. I saw two fellahs there yesterday, all dressed up in suits they were, city slickers like yourself, didn't like the look of them.

Young Jo Dad!

Old Joe Yea?

Young Jo Is Miss Boniface coming to the dance?

Old Joe What do yer mean? (*looking embarrassed*)

Young Jo Well, you know, she's quite nice isn't she?

Old Joe Well she's not too bad.

Young Jo And it's a long time since Mom passed away.

Old Joe Go on.

Young Jo And, I reckon you quite fancy her.

Old Joe Oh you do, do you? Well she's coming alright, and well, we'll just have to see.

(Old Joe Exits)

Zak So he fancies this Miss Boniface does he?

Young Jo Well I reckon he does. But these country folk, they're so shy when it comes to asking people out.

Chrissy Yes Miss Boniface would be a pensioner before Old Joe Kelly would make a move.

Zak Well maybe we can help out.

Jules Good idea.

Zak So who is this Miss Boniface anyway?

Chrissy She's our teacher, Miss Emily Josephine Boniface.

Grant She's good looking too.

Chrissy And she owns the next farm there.

Grant And all the bush.

Jules So it's a match made in heaven really.

Zak How long ago did your mother die Young Joe?

Young Jo Oh four years ago now. So it's time for the old fellah to move on.

Zak We'll see what we can do. See you at the dance later.

Others See ya!

Scene 3 - At The Dance

At the dance in Old Joe's woolshed. Lots of people dancing and having fun.

Song: Dancing Round The Woolshed

Zak Wow, this is really, eer....., really, eer....., I don't know what it is.

Chrissy Come on Zak let's dance.

Dance: Two minute noodle dance

Zak That was fun alright.

Chrissy Thank you kind sir.

Young Jo Now there's Miss Boniface. What's the plan Zak?

Zak Well you get Old Joe and Miss Boniface talking and I'll go and get the band to play something smoochy.

(Young Jo gets Old Joe and Boniface talking as the band strikes up a waltz and they dance together)

Dance: Smoochy Waltz

Old Joe Would you care for this dance?

Boniface I'd love to Joe.

(They talk as they dance)

Old Joe You know Emily, it's been four years since my wife died.

Boniface Yes Joe.

Old Joe And it can be mighty lonely being on your own.

Boniface Yes Joe, I know.

Old Joe And, well, young Joe's doing alright but it would be good if he had, well, a mother figure around the house.

Boniface Yes Joe.

Old Joe Anyway, I was wondering, Emily, I was wondering.

Boniface Yes Joe.

Old Joe I was wondering if you'd

(Music Stops as George Seeger enters)

Old Joe Marry Me?

(Everyone hears and stares in silence)

Seeger Marry her? Marry her? *(He Laughs)* I haven't heard anything so ridiculous in all my life. *(laughs some more)*

Zak Who's that?

Chrissy That's George Seeger, the slimiest, most awful piece of work you could imagine.

Jules Trouble is, I think he's been seeing something of Miss Boniface of late.

Seeger Marry her? You're a little too late for that old man! In fact tonight is the night that Emily and I would like to announce our engagement!

(Shock, Horror)

Old Joe Emily?

(Boniface looks away, Old Joe exits)

Seeger Poor fool. Now to celebrate this important announcement I have decided to hold a talent quest!

Others A talent quest?

Seeger Well yes, just a little something for the kids you understand. I thought you'd all appreciate a contribution to our community.

Young Jo His community? He's just a blow in!

Seeger So the talent quest will be next Saturday night in the school hall and Miss Boniface will be the adjudicator.

Chrissy Where's he coming from?

Seeger And, oh yes, the prize will be five thousand dollars!

Others Five thousand dollars?

Seeger Yes, so, carry on now.

(Band continues with Smoochy Waltz as Seeger exits)

Chrissy This all sounds very strange.

Young Jo Yes, let's meet tomorrow. We've got to do something about this.

Excuent

Scene 4 - Down By The River

Next day down by the river

Enter Chrissy, Zak, Grant, Jules and Young Jo

Chrissy Well that was a strange carry on last night.

Young Jo Yeh, Miss Boniface would be mad to marry someone like that.

Jules That's true.

Grant I don't trust that Seeger. Firstly he's just arrived from America, what's he going to do over here?

Zak Yeh, but that's a great prize for the talent quest, eh?

Chrissy Well you might think that's a great prize, but his daughter Patsy is the best musician in town by far!

Young Jo So she will win the talent quest hands down.

Grant And Seeger will get his money back.

Zak Oooh, that's dirty!

Jules It's dirty alright.

Zak It's a shame really, that prize would have paid for Mom's operation.

Chrissy Operation?

Zak Yeh, that's why she's ill, she can't afford to have the operation, so she's having to wait, could be months.

Young Jo Well maybe we need to do something about that!

Zak How?

Young Jo Well maybe we could enter the talent quest.

Grant Yes and if we win you could have the prize money for your Mom's operation.

Chrissy Now hold on! Firstly, Patsy Seeger is the best singer in this side of the black stump.

Zak Where's that?

Jules And secondly, we don't play music!

Young Jo Well, we've got a week.

Grant Yes, did you see the bush band last night.

Young Jo Half the instruments we could pick up in no time.

Grant Young Jo here has a fine voice.

Young Jo We could do the 'Down By The River' song.

Jules Well it's a long shot.

Chrissy But I think it's worth it. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Young Jo Good on yer!

Jules Hold on look who's coming

Grant Quick let's hide.

(They hide, enter George Seeger and Ron Jones)

Seeger Here we are Jones, here's the land I was talking about.

Jones Wow, this is original native bush.

Seeger That's right, but when I marry Miss Boniface it will be mine and then we can proceed with my project.

Jones I'm not sure it's on clearing all this bush for your new housing estate.

Seeger Why not? It's not being used as anything now is it?

Jones Well....

Seeger Just a few trees and weeds.

Jones What about Miss Boniface, will she agree?

Seeger She won't have much of a choice after we're married. Anyway get to it, start making plans.

(They leave, others emerge from hiding)

Young Jo So that's his plan.

Chrissy Seeger is marrying Miss Boniface so that he can get his hands on this land!

Young Jo Our land!

Jules Our bush will be cleared!

Grant Our den will be gone.

Chrissy And all the birds will leave.

Zak That stinks!

Young Jo We have to tell Miss Boniface.

Zak We do but why would she believe us?

Chrissy I don't know. Let's work on it.

Young Jo Fine. Well let's get together to practice our music.

Grant Might as well.

Young Jo So how about my place tonight.

Others Great see you there.

Exeunt

Scene 5 - Old Joe's House

Later that day in Old Joe's house.

Enter Chrissy, Young Jo, Jules, Grant and Zak

Chrissy Here we are I've borrowed the instruments from the bush band.

Grant Well I play a bit of guitar and I think I have the chords for 'Down By The River'.

Jules And I could play some fiddle, the tune's pretty easy.

Young Jo I suppose I could have a crack at the bush bass.

Chrissy So that leaves me with the lagerphone.

Zak What's a lagerphone?

Chrissy See Zak, these are all bottle tops, from bottles of lager.

Zak What if you used coke bottles?

Young Jo Then you'd have a coke-a-phone.

Grant Or a cachophony.

Zak You guys.

Grant It goes like this, play along.

(He plays a few bars)

Jules So let's see if I have the tune.

(She plays)

Young Jo How's this?

(He plays)

Chrissy What about this?

(She plays badly, others groan, block ears)

Chrissy Come on, it wasn't that bad, I'll practice. Now who's going to count in?

Others You!

Chrissy OK, here we go.....1, 2, 3, 4.

(They sing a verse sort of badly)

Chrissy Well what do you think Zak?

Zak Hmmmm, well it has potential.

Jules So what are you going to do Zak?

Zak Well, I'll work on it.

Chrissy Here comes Old Joe.

Jules *(To Young Jo)* Did you tell him about Seeger's plan?

Young Jo Yeh, He just about blew a gasket!

Grant That right.

Young Jo I don't know whether he was more mad about losing Miss Boniface or losing the piece of bush.

(Enter Old Joe)

Old Joe Giddy.

Chrissy Hello Mr Kelly, we were sorry to hear the news about the bush.

Old Joe Sorry alright. It's a disaster.

Young Jo Are you going to tell Miss Boniface what's going on Dad?

Old Joe Well I think we might, but we'll hold off and do it in front of the whole town. That way Seeger can't wriggle out.

Young Jo So when will we do that?

Old Joe I reckon we'll do it at the talent quest. That'll spoil Seeger's little party. In fact I've got a plan, come with me Zak.

Zak Me?

(They exit)

Young Jo Wow, the old fellah's onto it now.

Exeunt

Scene 6 - Miss Boniface's House

Miss Boniface's house the night before the talent quest.

(Enter Seeger and Boniface)

Seeger Well Emily, I'm so looking forward to when we are married.

Boniface Yes, me too.

Seeger You have a lovely house here, but it's a little on the small size.

Boniface Well it suits me and hopefully it'll suit you too George.

Seeger I don't know. In the States we have big houses, we could build one here.

Boniface Well I like it just the way it is.

Seeger Sure. How's the talent quest shaping up?

Emile Good, we have a number of entries, even one from a new bush band.

Seeger Hmmm, a bush band, that music's a bit out of date.

(They hear Patsy rehearsing her song off stage)

Boniface You might think so George, but around here, people still like it. Though you don't need to worry, I don't think anyone will match your Patsy, she's a great singer.

Seeger Well I guess it wasn't being too fair, offering a big prize when I knew Patsy was going to win.

Boniface I'd say you're safe enough.

(Patsy enters)

Seeger Well, we'll be off now. See you at the talent quest tomorrow night Emily.

Boniface Goodnight George.

Patsy Goodnight Miss Boniface.

Boniface Goodnight Patsy.

(Seeger and Patsy exit)

Boniface (To herself) I don't know about that George Seeger. If only I'd known how Old Joe felt about me. Maybe things would have been different. I don't know.

(Exit Miss Boniface)

Scene 7 - At The Talent Quest

In the school hall at the talent quest.

Seeger It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all here this evening to the inaugural Bush Creek talent quest.

(Applause from those present)

Seeger We have a fine line up of contestants tonight, all competing for the fabulous prize money of five thousand dollars, generously donated by myself, of course.

(Less applause this time)

Seeger Now your adjudicator needs no introduction, it is the beautiful Miss Emily Boniface.

(Huge applause)

Seeger And I have asked, the slightly less beautiful, Mr Joe Kelly to act as compare. Please welcome Mr Joe Kelly.

(More applause)

Old Joe Yeh, giddyay everyone, how you doing, alright? Now the first contestant tonight is_____.

(At this point the school can showcase it's own talent and feature various students from the school doing their own thing! You'll need to arrange for Old Joe to introduce them)

Old Joe And now we have Miss Patsy Seeger.

(She sings a song, preferable something formal e.g. 'Oh For The Wings Of A Dove')

Old Joe Beaut Patsy. And now we come to the last act of the evening, would you please welcome the Bush Creek Kids!

(Enter Chrissy, Young Jo, Grant and Jules. They sing 'Down By The River'. Audience starts clapping. Seeger looks worried. After a chorus Zak enters and does a rap telling the story of Seeger's plan. Huge applause and cheers at end)

Seeger Well those kids have good imaginations don't they?

Old Joe Imagination my foot. That Story about Seeger wanting to develop the bush is true.

Boniface George?

Seeger Never.

Young Jo Yes it is. We heard Seeger and his property developer mate Ron Jones talking about his plan!

Grant He wants to marry you so he can get the land and clear the bush!

Jules And build lots of houses!

Young Jo And he's not worried about what you think about it too.

Boniface George Seeger!

Old Joe *(To Seeger)* Now we don't like your type round here and I think you've overstayed your welcome. So be off with yer.

(Exit Seeger in a huff)

Old Joe Emily.

Boniface Yes Joe?

Old Joe I'm not very good at this sort of thing, and I've asked you before and I'll ask you again.

Boniface Yes Joe?

Old Joe Will you marry me?

Boniface Yes Joe!

(Huge cheers and applause)

Zak *(To Boniface)* Excuse me. I was wondering err, who won the talent quest?

Boniface Well there's no doubt in my mind that the winners are 'The Bush Creek Kids'.

(Huge cheers from the audience, Patsy cries and runs off)

(Exeunt)

Scene 8 - Main Street Of Town

Next day in main street the whole town has come to say goodbye to Zak.

(Enter Zak, Chrissy, Grant, Jules, Young Jo, Old Joe, Miss Boniface and extras)

Zak I can't thank you enough for what you've done.

Chrissy Not at all, it's been great fun.

Grant Yeh, we've enjoyed it

Boniface Ah Zak, we've been talking about the prize money for the talent quest and we've decided you should have it for your mother's operation. *(She hands him an envelope)*

Zak Oh thank you!

Boniface Well it's for a good cause.

Old Joe Yeh, I hope your Mom comes right soon.

Zak I can't wait to tell her, she'll be thrilled.

Chrissy So what do you think of the countryside now Zak?

Zak It's pretty cool, eh?

Jules Will you come down again?

Zak Can't wait! I'll see you next school holidays.

Others Great!

Zak Might bring me Mom too. She'd like it here.

Chrissy It would be good to see you both.

Zak Well I'd better go now.

Others Bye Zak!

Zak Bye.

Song: Now Is The Hour

(Zak exits one side of stage waving, everyone else exit other side)

THE END

Curtain calls to Two Minute Polka Tune

Staging Notes

Bush Creek is very easy to stage with minimum props and scenery. However, some of the following items may help with the production:

Props

- Bush Bass
- Lagerphone
- Other instruments
- Plants for Bush Dream Scene
- Envelope for prize money

Scenery

Bush Creek really needs little scenery. A bush backdrop may be desirable for the river scenes and a table and chairs for the house scenes.

Actors Directions

The work has been scripted to cause as few production difficulties as possible, to enable the group to focus on the contents. A few points worth noting are:

The principal actors genders are unimportant. Change the genders/names to best suit your acting resource.

Extras (younger children) can be included in the Bush Dream Sequence, at the dance and also at the talent quest (even as an audience).

Any children with a performance talent can be included as entries in the talent quest.

Costume

Most costume could be sourced from parents or from op shops. Costumes for the bush dream sequence could be made in school by students.

Music

The music in Bush Creek is designed to be simple and hopefully will be playable by students in your school. If not then the backing tracks could be used.

The songs are probably best learnt from the CD with reference to the words.

Keys may be transposed to suit singers voices.

It is imperative that singers have learnt words to songs off by heart well before rehearsals commence.

You could form an off-stage choir to reinforce the songs.

Instruments could be mimed in the dance scene, the band rehearsal and the talent quest with a 'live band' playing music at the side of stage.

If you are using a live band you could play music between scenes. Just pick a chorus or verse or section of a tune from a previous scene.

Backing tracks are cued for live performance on the CD with 8 second gaps between tracks.



Performance Agreement

If you wish to perform Bush Creek publicly, you will need to sign this performance agreement and fax it to us. Please note that whilst this is not necessary if the production is performed within a school (at no charge), we are still very interested in hearing from you, so that we can report on performance and audience numbers. Please note this agreement applies only to New Zealand schools, other performances must be contracted directly with the publisher.

This agreement is between _____ School (hereafter called the school) and Bob Bickerton (hereafter called the publisher) regarding the production 'Bush Creek' (hereafter called the production).

School Details:

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Address: _____

The school wishes to perform the production as follows:

Performance Dates/Times: _____

Total Number Of Performances: _____

Admission Prices: _____

The school agrees to:

Keep accurate records of monies taken and forward a cheque for royalties being 10% of the gross door take to the publisher within 7 days of the final performance.

Forward a report detailing the number of people attending the performance/s to the publisher within 7 days of the final performance.

Use the name 'Bush Creek' and the words 'by Bob Bickerton' in all publicity and programmes associated with the production.

The publisher agrees to the school performing the production as outlined above.

Signed _____ Date _____ For the school

Signed _____ Date _____ For the publisher

Fax To Bob Bickerton at 03 545-2030

Promotion Kit

If you decide to perform the production publicly, you'll need to promote it! Whilst you would no doubt receive a reasonable response from the school's 'community', the production will also be of wider public interest and an interesting exercise for senior students would be to promote the production to the public using this promotion kit.

Here are some ways to promote the production at little or no cost to the school:

Word Of Mouth

School Newsletter

Posters

Media Release

Ticket Giveaways On Local Radio

Sponsored Advertisements In Local Newspaper, Radio or Television

Word of mouth and your school newsletter are self-explanatory. The basis of a poster could be a drawing or painting by a student, with text superimposed. Remember black and white images are easier to reproduce than colour. You may pick a visual theme to run through all your promotion, something like a logo. Posters could be photocopied and a reduction of this could be included in the school newsletter. Write a media release about the show with 'quotes' from the principal and students. Send it by fax to as many newspapers, radio stations and television programmes as you can think of. Don't forget Holmes and the Television One weather announcements. Pre-print tickets and have them available for sale in advance. Send free tickets for giveaway on radio (which effectively gives you free radio advertisements). Approach local businesses to see if they will sponsor (pay for) advertising in newspaper etc.

Before you commence promotion you will have made a number of decisions regarding the production:

Performance Dates

Performance Venue

Ticket Prices

Advanced Booking Details

Local Sponsors

All promotional material, including media releases, must include the above details as well the presenter's name, i.e. '*your school*', the name of the production, i.e. '*Bush Creek*', the composer's name, i.e. '*Bob Bickerton*' as well as credits for any local sponsors.

Bob Bickerton

Specialising in Celtic music, Bob Bickerton has performed at most major concert venues and folk festivals around New Zealand.

He has been a guest at numerous festivals including the Tauranga Arts Festival, the Taranaki Arts Festival and has presented music programmes for children in the New Zealand Chamber Music Festival and the Capital E Arts Festival in Wellington.

He has performed to over 150,000 students in schools over the last 20 years, where he has received critical acclaim for the quality of his educational programmes.

As Director/General Manager of the Nelson School Of Music, he encouraged the development of community programmes, with particular emphasis on children. He has given workshops and classes in Irish music and has studied uilleann pipes, flute and fiddle in Ireland.

He has performed with contemporary, classical and ethnic groups, and has recorded as a session musician on numerous albums, as well as for radio and television. His debut CD 'Music In The Glen' was a finalist in the prestigious Music and Entertainment Awards.

For more information on Bob, visit his website at: www.bickerton.co.nz



Bob Bickerton (Photograph Craig Potton)