

BREAKING THE MOULD

“Artists are important because they reflect the current situation in their Art. Here we are now in the age of the individual, and artists reflect that.”

Po Childs is a local character – a father, a performer, and an electrician. Known as ‘The Lone Stranger’, Po artistically works to inspire others, incorporating his eclectic and creative flair; driven to provide a platform for the evolving artist in us all.

First given a guitar at 11 years old in the hills of northern NSW, 30-odd years later you would be challenged to find an instrument that Po isn't willing or able play. Po says, “I think people can try everything”, and his performances reflect that, in a combination of musicianship, wit, intellect and daring. His talent inspired the birth of ‘Organism’ three years ago. Forming in mid-2011 and held at the Sandgate Scouts Hall for 18 months, ‘Organism’ is a network of emerging artists that gather to jam, exchange and perform their talents.

On contract, electrically wiring the ‘Cardigan Bar’ in Sandgate, Po and Owner/Manager Chris Fisher built a strong partnership, and now ‘Organism’ comes to life again in Sandgate every Thursday evening from 7pm. Po describes the open mic night as, “...where I can season myself into the performer that I am, and I use

it as an experimental process in human relationships, developing community, networking, with the benefit and opportunity to inspire people to perform.”

Described as, “a thinking person’s music”, Po’s songs always contain a message. “They have to. Otherwise I cannot justify standing up and singing them, and putting all my energy into that. The stage is a highly intended situation.”

Currently recording a twelve track CD at Clontarf’s Lush Recording Studios, Po’s previous releases can be bought at Ironwood Cottage and EclEcTea. His latest compositions are described as, “world folk with a sprinkle of eccentricity”, evolving from “tombstone, industrial folk rock”. Po’s earlier meditation recording ‘Steel Waters’, was purchased by, and is now available to borrow through BCC libraries.

As his reputation grows, Po sees the potential for local workshops, “to help emotional balance, and openness through drama as a means of actualising that.” With a degree in Dramatic Arts acquired at the Queensland University of Technology, Po will draw on his education and experience, offering classes to people of all ages.

<http://thelonestranger.reverbnation.com/>

Story by Susannah Holmes

