

Sweat in the Sun, Mate

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Sarah Bradley
Auckland Archaeological Society

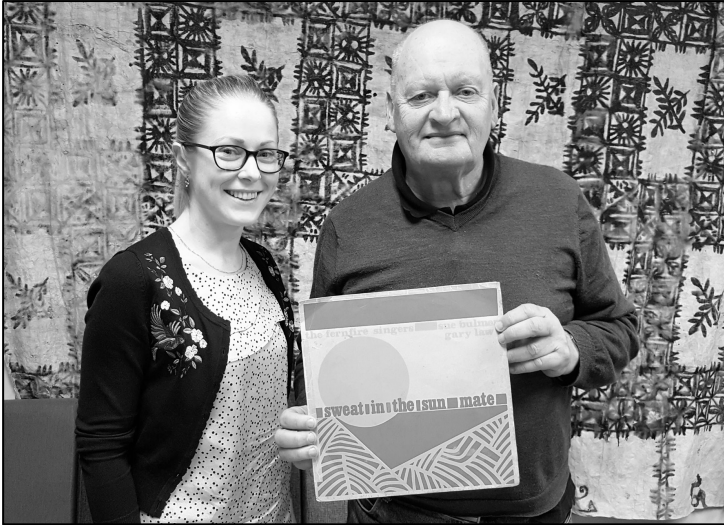
Early in 2017, while researching the history of the Auckland Archaeological Society, we discovered that in 1967 the Society produced a 12-inch LP titled *Sweat in the Sun, Mate*. Later, we would discover that a small reissue of the recording was made on CD, in 2004, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the New Zealand Archaeological Association. The LP was recorded by The Fernfire Singers, consisting of Auckland singers Pat and Rudy Sunde and John Walton. Conversation with the author, Michael Brown (Curator of the Music Archive of New Zealand Music, at the National Library) revealed that the Fernfire Singers were, in some ways, the evolution of an earlier group, The Unity Singers, associated with the left-wing Unity Artists Collective. One of the key members, Murray Gittos, also founded an Auckland Literary Journal *Fernfire*.

The record was first conceived of by Les Groube, lecturer in archaeology at the University of Auckland, as a nostalgia project, harking back to the golden days of summer excavations in the Coromandel in the late 1950s. After a full day of field work, Pat and Rudy, who were also members of the Society and active on many digs, would entertain everybody around the campfire. It was later decided that these ballads and classic folk songs, would be recorded on a long playing record, and constitute part of the Auckland Archaeological Society's farewell gift to Roger Green. In 1967, after seven years at the University of Auckland, Roger was leaving to take up an appointment at the Bernice P. Bishop Museum in Hawai'i. Initially, the record was to consist of Roger and his wife Kaye's favourite songs. However, in view of the interest shown in the project by other club members wishing to own a copy, a private pressing of 50 copies was commissioned, and the songs recorded by Don R. Clements in November of 1967.

In 2017, copies of the original recording were located in both the National Archives in Wellington and the Auckland Library archives, although neither were agreeable to lending a copy to the Society. While we were keen to reissue the LP as a 50th anniversary edition, the project was put on the backburner, while our attention focused on other club matters. In the summer of 2018, we began the search for a private copy of the original 1967 recording, beginning with the original performers. Garry Law kindly provided background information on the recording, and lent the Society both the original LP and 2004 CD version to reproduce. Further research led us to the remaining performers. Pat Sunde gave her permission to release the record on behalf of herself and her husband, Rudy,

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who passed away in 2015. John Walton was equally delighted for us to continue with the project. Lastly, Alice and David Bulmer, also lent their support to reissue of the LP, on behalf of their mother Sue Bulmer, who passed away in 2016.



*Figure 1. Sarah Bradley and Garry Law with Garry's original pressing of **Sweat in the Sun, Mate.***

Having located the original performers, our attention turned to the album artwork, which was produced by well-known New Zealand artist, Dame Robin White, when she was still a student at the Elam School of Fine Arts. Robin kindly gave her permission to the Society to reproduce both the cover art and change the incorrect spelling of Garry's name; something he confessed had bothered him for many years.

By early April, our friends at the Archive of Māori and Pacific Music (University of Auckland) had digitised the LP, and we began the process with the Australasian Performing Right Association and Australasian Mechanical Copyright Owners Society (APRA AMCOS) to obtain our manufacturing license. Further research was required to locate the various copyright holders of the words or music, who all lent their enthusiastic support to the project. We were grateful to receive the help from many during this process including the Auckland folk music community and members of the New Zealand Folk email list, the Titirangi Folk Music Club, the Maritime Crew, APRA AMCOS and the Archive of Māori and Pacific Music.

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Figure 2. Sarah Bradley and Marie O'Connell (Archivist/Manager of the Archive of Māori and Pacific Music) digitising the LP.



Figure 3. Gala Morris recording a new track for the 50th anniversary CD edition.

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The Society is now in the final stages of preparing the LP for production as a limited-release CD. Keen to add our own stamp to the 50th anniversary edition, we have included a new track written and performed by talented Society member, Gala Morris. The CD will cost \$25 and we will be taking orders from October. Due to production costs the Society will probably only produce as many copies as are ordered. More information will be published in the coming weeks on how to order a copy of this long forgotten piece of NZ folk music history. We are excited to re-release the original recording and bring some of the Auckland Archaeological Society's history to light. All queries can be sent to aklarchsoc@gmail.com.

Sarah Bradley & Amanda McIvor (ArchSoc President & Vice President)