



folk

**The World Turned
Upside-Down**Warren Fahey and Luke
Webb

Rouseabout/MGM

★★★★☆

WITH our sunburnt land currently being mined extensively, resurrection and collation of songs from Australia's gold rush era could be deemed timely. Songs informed by the diggings were a surprising omission from Warren Fahey's 2009 box set *Australia: Folk Songs and Bush Verse*. This album features the formidable multi-instrumental skills of Marcus Holden (fiddle, mandolin, cello, guitar and keyboard) and other of the Sydneysider's regular side players – most notably pianist Garry Steel, whose playing evokes the period beautifully. Vocalist Luke Webb's familiarity with old-time US music helps illustrate the influence of American minstrel ditties on Aussie gold rush songs. Tunes associated with *Oh Susannah*, *Marching Through Georgia* and *Campdown Races*, such as *The Golden Gullies of the Palmer* and *Shipping Agents*, are embellished with Webb's dulcet tones and banjo playing. Fahey's singing excels in the company of accordion in a brace of bushranger odes relating to Frank Gardiner. A quartet of wordy and sarcastic songs authored by self-styled "colonial minstrel" Charles Thatcher, are also highlights.

Tony Hillier