



# The Eighth Annual Kangaroo Valley Buster Keaton Silent Movie Festival starring pianist **Robert Constable**

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**7.30pm Saturday August 7 2010, Kangaroo Valley Hall  
presented by The Kangaroo Valley-Remexio Partnership**

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This is the eighth time that Robert Constable has come here - initially from Newcastle, these days from Auckland - to help us raise money for our projects in East Timor. We are, it must be said, starting to run out of Buster Keaton films, but not of enthusiasm for this superb medium. Tonight we start with several Australian silent cinema ads from the 1920s. We then see Keaton's very funny short **The Haunted House** (1921) and two more ads before enjoying delicious refreshments. Then comes Keaton's 1923 feature film **The Three Ages**.

In **The Haunted House**, Buster is a bank clerk visited by robbers. Starring **Edward F. Cline** as the customer in the bank, **Virginia Fox** as the bank president's daughter, **Buster Keaton** as the bank clerk, and **Joe Roberts** as the bank cashier, the film was written and directed by Cline and Keaton.

"Keaton's colossal spectacle", **The Three Ages**, also stars favourite Keaton collaborator **Joe Roberts** and others. Keaton compares love in three ages: the Stone Age, the Roman Age, and the Modern Age. In each he competes for the hand of a Beauty, played by Margaret Leahy, with hilarious results.

For comprehensive notes, visit [www.wesley-smith.info/bk2010.html](http://www.wesley-smith.info/bk2010.html).



**Robert Constable** is a well-known Australian pianist, composer and improviser. He has a particular fascination with improvising accompaniments for silent films (at least three of his great-aunts and -uncles used to play professionally for the "silents" in the period following World War 1) and has been presenting some of the classics in this genre for many years. His work with silent films transcends mere background music, combining his various pianistic, composing and improvising abilities to create an instant soundscape for the images on the screen. With this approach he enters into a genuine artistic partnership with the film. He has a particular affinity with Buster Keaton and over the last ten years has interpreted most of the Keaton classics. Having retired as Professor and Dean of Music at the University of Newcastle, Robert is now Head of the School of Music, University of Auckland, New Zealand.

After the destruction and killing which swept East Timor in September 1999, a small group of KV residents felt a need to do something. A partnership was discussed with an East Timorese village and the **Kangaroo Valley-Remexio Partnership** was formed. Now, several years on, we have a mix of vital local and district people working with many East Timorese in Australia and East Timor.

Donations (tax-deductible) are always welcome! If you would like to assist, please contact **Paul Turnock** on 02 4465 1357 (email: [turnockp@westnet.com.au](mailto:turnockp@westnet.com.au)). 100% of donations go to East Timor as we self-fund our own administration and activities.



Many thanks to Sarah Butler, Derek Lucas, various local thespians, and the Kangaroo Valley General Store & Newsagency. Keaton-Constable graphic above by Sue Prescott. Poster design by Diana Jaffray.