

Monaro Musings



The Newsletter of the Monaro Folk Society Inc., Reg No A 00208

Visit the MFS at the website www.mfs.org.au and/or www.facebook.com/monaro.folk.society

***Monaro Musings*, Volume 25, Number 7 – August 2016**



MFS Colonial Ball coming up fast – see article in MFS happenings section. Book at earlybird prices until 8th August

From the President's Soapbox

Poets of the society unite! We have a great tradition of poetry in our country and most of us grew up learning some classic poems at school. I enjoyed a lot of them at the time but it was only when I began to hear pieces performed live (particularly by their authors) that I realised how electrifying the experience could be.

So with a fanfare of trumpets I am delighted to announce that after years of hanging around the fringe our society poets are emerging into the light at the Merry Muse this month as a new group under their own society banner. As presaged in last month's Musings this occasion will also feature the launch of John Walker's publication, *The Loaded Doggerel*.

So not only will we enjoy the customary musicianship of the Muse on Sunday 14th August we can now also have a drink and enjoy the outpourings of our wordsmiths as they finally come in from the cold – make the effort and turn out to welcome them. You may well be most pleasantly surprised.

On the topic of new society initiatives such as the fledgling Poets group, if you have any new ideas, suggestions or promotional ideas that you would like your society to take up feel free to contact me at: president (at) mfs (dot) org (dot) au.

We are now into the second month of the new financial year so if you have overlooked renewing your membership now is a good time to do so. Details at www.mfs.org.au

The Colonial Ball fast approaches so please note that early bird ticket sales close on Monday 8th August.

Finally, the MFS AGM will be held next month on Thursday 15th September so put the date into your diary. This year the venue is the Irish Club in Weston, so even the Southsiders will be able to attend.

Geoff

MFS happenings past and to come

Monaro Folk Society 35th Annual Colonial Ball by Antonella Salpietro

Take yourself back in time to Australia's Colonial period when the historic Albert Hall opens its doors for an evening of elegance, grace and glamour on 3rd September 2016 for the annual Monaro Folk Society's 35th Colonial Ball. Colourful ball gowns and long dresses, plus top hats, formal suits, frivolous bow ties and even kilts will enliven the sumptuous Albert Hall for a special night of dancing to the wonderful music of *Stringfiddle* led by Bob McInnes with Peter Foster calling.

Stringfiddle has made regular appearances at Monaro Folk Society Dances over recent years. Bob McInnes is without a doubt, one of our dance music living treasures. Since the 1960s he has been exploring music for dance in many different bands: *The Wild Colonial Boys*, *Reel Tradition*, and of course, the long-running fantastic *Stringfiddle*. Peter Foster is an accomplished and widely regarded caller from Canberra.

Doors open at 7.15pm with a glass of champagne from 7.30pm to be ready to dance at 8pm. A delicious finger food supper will be served at 10pm followed by more dancing till the bewitching hour. For our Ball, Bandu Catering has created a menu that combines traditional Australian bush food and contemporary Australian Cuisine ingredients to create a unique blend of flavours.

All dances will be taught and called on the night so no experience is needed. If you are in Canberra you can get a head start by coming along to dance classes every Monday night. Not a dancer? - no problem, you can enjoy the music and spectacle with a non-dancer ticket, which includes champers and supper.

For all the details including the dances and classes, and a Sunday recovery picnic, please see http://mfs.org.au/wiki/index.php/Colonial_Ball

The cost of tickets to this flamboyant Colonial Ball is very reasonable and can be bought on-line at http://mfs.org.au/wiki/index.php/Colonial_Ball, ordered by email from colonialball@hotmail.com or phone Mark on 0421 814 718. Ticket sales close on Wednesday 31st August. Early bird sales (reduced prices) will be available until Monday August 8th.

Tickets for interstate dancers are the same price as for MFS members. If you would like us to request billeting for an interstate dancer, please email Antonella: asalpietro@hotmail.com.

All enquiries to Mark on 0421 814 718 or email colonialball@hotmail.com

Bush Dance Classes on Mondays –Term 2 continues throughout August. Our regular callers, Daryl, Peter and Mark will lead dancers through the basics and finer points of dancing, while providing a varied and interesting selection of dances. These classes are a great entry point for learning to dance as we cover all manner of dance formations, square sets, longways sets, circle dances, etc, as well as some of the different dance steps like waltzes, polkas and schottisches. Many of the Monday night dancers have also gone on to take up Contra, English Country and Irish dancing as these all have moves and steps in common with bush dancing.

Monday night classes are held at All Saints Church Hall, Cowper Street Ainslie, from 8.00 to 10.00 pm and the cost is still only \$6 for MFS members. A great place to introduce your friends to the wonderful world of dance - new dancers receive their 2nd night free.

The **2nd Saturday Bush Dance** will happen on August 13th at All Saints Church Hall. Please note there is a new starting time of 7.00 pm, and consequently the dance will finish at 10.30 pm. Prices are down too – only \$10 for MFS members and \$1 for a bottomless cup of hot or cold drink. Supper plates welcomed.

As always, all dances are taught and called, so everyone can come along and have a great night of dancing. We'll do many of the dances that have been taught in detail on Mondays so some of you will be familiar with these. All to live music from the Bush Capital Band.

Contra for August happens on Tuesday the 2nd and Tuesday 16th from 7.30 to 9.30 pm at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner with live music from Contraband. \$6 for MFS members and \$8 for others.



Irish Set Dancing – Term 3 continues on Wednesdays throughout August.. Classes run from 8.00 to 10.00 pm, at the North Canberra Baptist Church Hall in Condamine Street, Turner and cost \$8 for MFS members and \$9 for others.

Beginner's classes are available from 7.30 – 8.00 pm before the regular class, but are run on request only. To make a request, please contact Christine (contact details on back page)

See also news of the ISD weekend in October in 'Further down the Track'

The **Tuesday Night Music Group** (beginner to intermediate) which happens on almost every Tuesday of the year, now meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 7.30 to 10.00 pm at the Irish Club in Parkinson Street, Weston. Some members arrive earlier and have a meal at the Club Bistro. On other nights the group meets at various members' homes. Please contact one of the organisers, Julie on 62823523 or Robert on 62919135 for more information.



Photo: The TiN MuGs playing at the Irish Club on 26/07/16



English Country Dancing for August is on the 9th and 23rd from 7.30 to 9.30 pm at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner. \$7 for MFS members and \$9 for others.

End-of-Month Dance

Dress: Dress for dancing: layered clothing and smooth-soled, flat shoes.

You don't need experience and you can come with or without a partner. All dances are taught and then called. The band this month will be the Southern Cross Band from Sydney. Supper plates welcomed!

Where: **Canberra Baptist Church Hall – 11 Currie Crescent, Kingston.**

Cost: MFS members \$14, Non members \$18, concessions and groups \$16, under 18 free.

Farewell and wishes for a happy future in Brisbane to Marianne by Antonella Salpietro

Right: Tina, Debbie, Marianne, Vincent Cross and Eileen at the RUC

Most of you would know Marianne Pietersen for her longstanding involvement with the Monaro Folk Society (MFS) in a variety of roles. Marianne has served on the MFS Committee as President and Public Officer and has devoted a lot of her time and effort in promoting MFS events and activities, including volunteering for the Merry Muse. Marianne will be leaving us around the end of July for a new life in Brisbane.

I would like to mention just a few of Marianne's contributions to the MFS.



Marianne supported a proposal I put forward to nominate Daryl Powell for an award in the Order of Australia, presented it to the MFS Committee and also worked closely with me in preparing it for consideration by Government House. And what great outcome! Daryl was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2013 for his service to the community through the teaching, promotion and preservation of Australian folk music and dance.

In 2013, Canberra celebrated its centenary, and to mark 100 years of dancing in the capital a program of dances was held under the banner of "Kick Up Your Heels". The MFS was successful in having two dances included in the centenary celebrations: the Shearers' Ball and the Founders' Ball. A small working group was created by the MFS Committee to organise these two events. The success of the Shearers' Ball and the Founders' Ball as part of the Centenary of Canberra celebrations was due in considerable part to the steady and wise guidance that Marianne provided to the Committee.



While not necessarily "high profile", Marianne also had a key role in putting in place the necessary public liability insurance that community organisations such as MFS now require. This ensures that MFS activities, events and participants are properly covered and that the MFS can continue to offer its particular contribution to the cultural life of the Canberra community.

Many friends enjoyed a meal and some drinks with Marianne to farewell her at the RUC in Turner (aka the Bowlo) after the Merry Muse concert on 10 July. Marianne was presented with a thank you card and a gift as a token of our gratitude for her very valuable contribution to the MFS.

Left: Marianne at her farewell at the RUC with Ian and Antonella

Thank you very much Marianne for your enthusiasm, support and passion and we wish you the best for your new life in Brisbane! We hope to see you again in Canberra for the 'National' or other folk events.

Out and About ,,,,

Ed's note — I know that Jan Preston doesn't fall strictly into the 'folk' category. I also know that she has wowed audiences at many a folk festival, has a great capacity for making people smile and a huge piano-playing talent so here's some good news. Jan writes:



Hello Boogie friends,

I'm very excited to be included in the program at the prestigious Street Theatre in Canberra with a season of my one-woman show, "Adventures in Pianoland", August 11th to 14th.

My sister Gaylene has written and directed the show; it's been a fantastic collaboration and one that is very close to my heart. (Some of you may know Gaylene Preston's award winning films.)

In this show I come clean on my longstanding and sometimes bumpy road to piano stardom! I spin yarns from dives in Soho to the concert

halls of Europe and you will hear "Chopsticks" as you have never heard it, with my original songs and compositions providing counterpoint to this personal story.

I hope you can make it along - this is very special for me!

Thursday August 11th to Saturday August 13th at 7.30pm and Sunday August 14th at 600 pm

Tickets \$35/\$29, Street Theatre www.thestreet.org.au

46th Top Half Folk Festival (THFF) – 10th to 13th June 2016 – reviewed by Trish Crossley

Brian and I had the good fortune to be able to fulfil a long-held desire and attend this festival this year. Although an annual event, the venue changes, one year (this year) it is held at Mary Wilderness River Retreat, near Darwin, the alternate year it is in the cooler climate of Glen Helen, near Alice Springs. We were glad that this was a Mary River year! Our good fortune was heightened by meeting up en-route, by pre-arrangement, with those fabulous Canberra folkies, Pat and Arminel Ryan and travelling for several days with them. So our festival started early as we enjoyed good times of folkie friendship with shared meals and conversations.

A difference in particular with this festival is being able to see all the performers that you wanted to, and miss none by rushing from venue to venue or trying to fit in meal breaks. Although three (no four) different venues were used, one was for morning, one for afternoon and one for evening performances, so, in essence, there was only one venue running at any given time.

I guess a stand-out for us (ok, we admit to being “old” folkies) was that the major focus was towards “traditional” folk. (Think Jason and Chloe Roweth, The Fagans, Franklin B. Paverty music styles). There were some very good younger performers who “upped the tempo” a little, but not too loud, and the emphasis was still traditional

The festival opened on the Friday night with a session on the verandah of the bar/restaurant. We were treated to some strong singing by members of the Darwin group The Fettleers, with railway-themed songs, who also launched a CD later in the festival. We had a variety of instrumentals, from soft, quiet tunes to lively, foot tapping music.

Extra treats were the clarity of Margaret Walters singing

and the enchanting lilt of Kate Burke. Many voices were raised in harmony on well-known numbers, so we immediately knew that we were in for a very good weekend.



Ruth and, Kate on stage with Margaret Walters

Highlights

We managed to get to both Poets’ Breakfasts, and heard some good readings, of performers’ own work and that of other poets. In true style, there was a mixture of comedy, nostalgia, and evocative thought to entertain us.

In concert, with so many good performances, especially from performers new to us, it is hard to choose the highlights, but I’ll try.

We were delighted to see that heading the bill, and well known to Canberra, were Kate Burke and Ruth Hazleton. Their well-blended, harmonious voices have fulfilled, and exceeded, every promise of when we first heard them many years ago (yes, prior even to “Bee Loud Glade” their first CD). They continue to thrill their audiences with their songs, and make us laugh too, with their sidelines and naturalness of their interaction with their audiences.

Ted Egan and Nerys Evans are also well-known, and gave us some well-loved old numbers, and some new work too, as good as ever. Of particular interest to me personally, was a new song written by Ted and sung by Nerys, called “Women of Steel”. It is about women in World War 2 who took the place of men on the factory floors of the English steel city of Sheffield. I grew up just outside Sheffield, and my first job was in a steelworks office. This song was written about the mother of Ann, a very good friend of Nerys and Ted. Ann just happened to be camped right next to us at the festival.....there goes a whole other story, and a new folky friendship was made.

The Folk Quiz was superb entertainment. Two teams took part, “Oldies” composed of Nerys Evans, Phil Beck, and Bob Rummery. The “Young Ones” were Ruth Hazleton, “Macka”, and Gareth Evans. The format was like the T.V. show “Spicks and Specks”, and just as hilarious. The “young ones” knew far more than the oldies expected, and, although a tight contest, the young team won the day.

Sonsy (Kate Harrison and Alison McAllister) gave us an interesting, vibrant and harmonious introduction to Appalachian songs. They ran a workshop and also did a performance in one of the concerts.



Lauris and Ka (Photos in this article by Trish Crossley)

A young performer who showed a lot of potential in both his vocal and instrumental work was Josh Gray. He opened with a very creditable rendition of “Streets of London”, although it did show that his voice is still developing. His next number stopped me in my tracks from the opening bars. Simply because I can never hear “Seven Seas” without a lump in my throat and a vision of Dave Meyers on stage at Murrumbateman where I first heard him sing it. Dave is still so much missed, and very much by the THFF where he performed and undertook M.C. duties for several years.

Young performers “Macka” and Gareth Evans livened us up with foot tapping tunes, primarily on guitar and mandolin. Lauris and Ka sang ballads with sublime, clear, soprano voices. Ruth’s partner, Bill Jackson, enthralled us with his original work full of evocative lyrics and sparse arrangements in a country-folk style.

An extra treat, not on the programme was a performance by Margaret Walters, who sang some old favourites and a couple of new numbers she was “trying out”, with great success.

Finally, many congratulations and thanks go to the sound men. It was great to be able to hear voices without them being drowned out by too-loud sound of the instruments. Yet, when relevant, the instruments were clear also.

So, all in all, a festival we very much enjoyed. Thanks and well done to the organisers as always, and we hope to return some time in the not too far distant future.

Don’t miss this! Harmonie German Club, Narrabundah - Saturday 6th August - 2.00 to 11.30 pm



Twelve fantastic acts on two stages non-stop with Hot Rods, Blues Art & Photography, Records, CDs & Book sales, German Market stall, Bistro, Restaurant & café for cakes, tea & coffee.

Details: Canberra Blues Society - 0419 607 710 or Harmonie German Club - 6295 9853

<http://www.canberrablueussociety.com.au/event/international-blues-music-day-2016/>

Further down the Track

12th Annual Canberra Irish Set Dancing Weekend Friday 7th - Sunday 9th October 2016



✿ Saturday and Sunday workshops with experienced teachers

MARIE BROUDER
KIRSTY & RICHARD GREENWOOD
NORA STEWART & MARTIN LARGEY

✿ Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday afternoon ceilis
WITH LOCAL BAND ‘HODDLE’

Ticket Prices	Monaro Folk Society Member	Other
All events	\$77	\$80
Friday night welcome ceili	\$16	\$18
Saturday workshops	\$25	\$28
Saturday night ceili	\$16	\$18
Sunday workshops & farewell ceili	\$25	\$28

10% discount for Early Bird Bookings by 31 August 2016



HALL PAVILION
GLADSTONE ST (HALL SHOWGROUND)
HALL ACT 2618

Book online from 1 June 2016
<http://www.mabula.net/setdancing>

Christine: cbriton@homemail.com.au 0413 168 562
Jacqueline: jacquelinejenkins64@gmail.com
Paul: paulway@mabula.net

A Monaro Folk Society Event

Please note the following with regard to the ISD weekend:

There is a 10% discount for Early Bird Bookings – up to 31 August 2016

Online bookings are available at
<http://mabula.net/invoices/cisdw-2016/new>

Over 100 people attended last year's dance weekend. Check out the photos and comments at
http://www.mabula.net/setdancing/workshop_photos_story.html

And just to fill the last little space on the page, for those who are happy to travel a bit for their dancing the Traditional Song and Dance Association of Victoria has quite a few events coming up that might interest you:

Old Time Tea Dance – 26/08/16

Wattle Day Celebration – 03/09/16

(clashes with our Colonial Ball this year)

Portarlinton Spring Dance Weekend – 04 to 06/11/16 with fireworks because Guy Fawkes Day is in the middle of it!

For much more information go to
<http://www.tsdav.asn.au> or call Norm Ellis on 9888-5332 or Marion Stabb on 9439-7100

Presented by
**Monaro Folk
Society Inc.**



Sunday 14th August - 4.00 pm to 7.00pm - Blackboard plus Feature Act

John Walker launching his book of poetry *The Loaded Doggerel*

Admission: \$3 MFS Members, Concessions and Blackboard Performers, \$5 Others

This is a fun afternoon for those wanting to share their love of music and play, sing or recite in an inviting and friendly atmosphere. Put your name on the blackboard to perform, or just get along and listen to some great music.

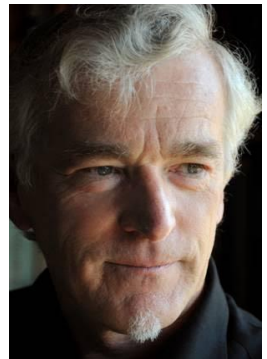
Feature Act John Walker

John will delight in launching his book *The Loaded Doggerel*.

Is doggerel in the ear of the beholder, and is poetry a “better” kind of verse?
Are television jingles just like Shakespeare, or a sign that modern culture’s getting worse?

The Muse presents a nervous Johnnie Walker, for you to judge – which way the verdict goes.

Is poetry an art he can aspire to, or should he really leave it to the prose?



Sunday 11th September - 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm

Blackboard plus Feature Act *The Shiny Bum Singers*



The Shiny Bum Singers is a vocally inspiring and visually entertaining group of people who sing their own wicked parodies about the working life of the Australian Public Service. No subject in the workplace is safe from the finely honed fingers of the group's talented writers.

Sunday 25 September - 3.00 pm to 5.30pm – a special show – note the date now

Jez Lowe – Admission: \$15 MFS members, \$17 Concessions, \$20 Others



With last year’s announcement of a double nomination in the 2015 BBC Folk Awards (Folksinger of the Year and Best New Song), Jez Lowe has leapt into his third decade as a song-writing troubadour, on the back of a new and much acclaimed album – his nineteenth – entitled *THE BALLAD BEYOND*. As BBC Radio DJ Mike Harding said recently, “No-one else writes or sounds like Jez Lowe”, and chances are, even if you’ve never heard the man himself, you’ll have heard his songs, sung at festivals, club-gigs, open-mikes or on CD, by the great and good, the professional and the enthusiast, the young and not-so-

young. What higher accolade could a songwriter hope for? ‘Jez Lowe is one of our finest songwriters.’

Enquiries ph Eileen 0412 127 882 or email [eileennew\(at\)grapevine\(dot\)com\(dot\)au](mailto:eileennew(at)grapevine(dot)com(dot)au) or

www.merrymuse.org.au

MFS Monday Bush Dance classes and second Saturday of the month dances, All Saints Church Hall, Cowper St, Ainslie (Bush dances or classes are not offered on long weekends or during ACT school holidays.) . Also MFS Dancing in the Park – Mondays in December and January (except Public Holidays) at Stage 88, Commonwealth Park. Contact: Mark Simmons 0421814718.

MFS ISD classes each Wednesday (four terms per year) plus beginners' classes on request. North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine St, Turner. Also MFS ISD October dance weekend. Hall Pavilion, Hall Showground. Contact: Christine Briton, 0413 168 562, cbriton@home.com.au

MFS Contra Club – 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner.. Contact: Linda Aunela - lindaaunela@yahoo.com.au (please put 'Contra' in the subject line) or 0437 350 254

MFS English Country Dancing, 2nd & 4th Tuesday each month. Contact: Colin Towns 62380246. Canberra North Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner

MFS last Saturday of month Bush Dance. Contact Antonella Salpietro 0413 295 004, Canberra Baptist Church, Currie Street, Kingston

MFS Tuesday Night Music group – a beginner/intermediate level session group. Meets in members' homes. Contact Julie on 62823523 or Robert on 62919135

Australian Settler's music sessions, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at Grant Cameron Community Centre, 27 Mulley Street, Holder. Contact is Ray Mulligan 62474725

Earthly Delights Historic Costume Balls – 3rd Saturday each month. Contact: Aylwen Garden 62811098. St John's Church Hall, Constitution Ave, Reid. Also dance classes at ANU, Jane Austen Festival and other events.

Folk Dance Canberra offers international folk dancing for fun and fitness. www.folkdancecanberra.org.au gives full details or contact Lesley Rose on 02 6286 6401. For first Saturday of the month social dance contact Maria Jenkins on 62314472.

Murrumbateman Acoustic Music Club - last Sunday each month, 6pm, Murrumbateman Hotel Function Room. . Contact: David Grant 62270043,

Jerrabomberra Jam Night - 3rd Friday each month, 6.30 pm Contact: Ian Wholohan 0427939786. Jerrabomberra General Store

Queanbeyan Bush Poets - 4th Thursday each month, 7.00 pm. Contact: Laurie McDonald 62539856, now meeting at the Queanbeyan Library

Jammalong – 2nd Saturday of every month come rain or shine at the Enid Lyons Park pergola, between Questacon and Lake Burley Griffin. 12 noon until everyone's had enough. Bring a chair and food and drink if you intend to stay for long.

Monaro Musings is the newsletter of and published by Monaro Folk Society Inc, PO Box 482 Civic Square ACT 2608. Contact Editor by email as below. The Editor reserves the right not to publish any copy or advertisements that are considered libellous, misleading or discriminatory. All care will be taken but no responsibility will be accepted for omissions or errors. Views expressed by the Editor and others in Monaro Musings are not necessarily those of the Monaro Folk Society.

Advertising: Ads will rarely be placed in the body of the magazine, Please supply advertising as a paper insert.(about 110 copies required at present) Cost of inserting flyer (to be supplied by advertiser) A5 \$30, A4 \$50. Member discount 50%. If supplied an electronic version can also accompany the newsletter for members who receive it by email.

Contributions for the *Musings*: Contributions, including advertising requests, should be sent preferably to the Editor's email address in the list below to reach the Editor early in the month. To permit proofing, printing and mail out to reach members before the end of the month, the deadline for copy is normally the 20th of the month preceding publication. Submissions are preferred in Word .doc & .docx / plaintext / JPEG / PNG format. All material must be identified as original work, or copyright clearance provided. In the case of photos or images, copyright normally inheres in the photographer or creator, not the owner of the camera, photo or image.

Monaro Folk Society, Inc. 2015-16 Committee

President: Geoff Kell - president@mfs.org.au; Vice-President: Peter Gamble; Secretary: Ian Bull – secretary@mfs.org.au;

Treasurer: Matt Gibbins - treasurer@mfs.org.au; Public Officer: Antonella Salpietro Committee Members: John Hewat, Simon David, Chris McGinty, For general enquiries please use secretary@mfs.org.au

Appointed Officials

Membership: Declan O'Connell - membership@mfs.org.au; Merry Muse Coordinator: Vacant; Merry Muse PA Coordinator: Pierre Sibilant; Merry Muse Subcommittee Chair: Vacant; Acting *Monaro Musings* Editor: Tina Lynam - editor@mfs.org.au; Web Manager: Simon David

Monaro Folk Society Inc

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