

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 26, Number 7 – August 2017**



From the President's Soapbox

Not so much happening at present with the cold weather. However, all the dance workshops are now back in to swing for Term 3 with good numbers despite the winter nights.

The Colonial Ball has once again appeared on the horizon, this year's theme being a celebration of the Centenary of the Trans-Australian Railway. Don't forget that early bird ticket sales finish soon - on Tuesday 8th August. The dance program is now displayed on the website and some of these dances will be taught this month at Bush Dance workshops on Monday nights. Colin will also cover some of them at his English Country Dance workshops – his contact for enquiries is on the website.

The first of our bimonthly Kids Dances, held at All Saints on Saturday 8 July was a great success, being attended by over 70 children and adults who thoroughly enjoyed dances called by Mark and Simon to music by the TiN MuGs. Many thanks to those who contributed, particularly to Roy Harvey for his considerable time in organising and promoting the event. The next dance, on Saturday 11 September, promises to be just as well attended, so if you have friends and family with children, let them know about it. (Photo above, taken by Gareth Kay)

Finally, a reminder that the MFS AGM will be held on Thursday 21st September – mark it on your calendar.

Geoff

Dancing About

MONARO FOLK SOCIETY THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL COLONIAL BALL

SATURDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2017



The Monaro Folk Society's Annual Colonial Ball will be held on Saturday 2nd September 2017 at the Albert Hall, Canberra.

Music by The Heritage Ensemble Band with Heather Clarke calling. The Heritage Ensemble Band has made regular appearances at Monaro Folk Society Dances over recent years. Heather Clarke, an accomplished dance historian and caller, is widely regarded as one of Australia's leading dance callers.

Doors will open at 7.20pm for pre-paid ticket collection, with a pre-ball welcome drink from 7:30pm and dancing from 8:00pm to midnight, including a fully catered supper.

Dress will be colonial / early 1900s evening dress wear or after five.

This year we celebrate the Centenary of the Trans-Australian Railway. Dance back in time and wear something sumptuous, funny, elegant, unconventional inspired by the many people, including federal politicians, theatrical performers and members of the royal family who travelled on the line.

Ball dances will be practiced at Bush Dance Workshops throughout August (see below). Heather Clarke will be at the final Workshop on the 28th August and will also be running a final practice session on the day of the Ball – full details to be announced later.

EARLY BIRD TICKET PRICES END ON AUGUST 8TH – so be quick if you haven't purchased already. Tickets available from the web site or from Mark at dances and Workshops.

End of Month DanceCanberra Contra Club will be hosting this month's End of Month Dance with calling by our wonderful Contra Club Callers. Canberra Contra Club is part of the Monaro Folk Society. Dress for dancing: layered clothing and smooth-soled, flat shoes. Contra is fast and has lots of turns so it's fun to wear a skirt that flares out when you turn. Note for the ladies, but it has been known for men to also wear flared skirts when dancing Contra, asking why the ladies should have all the fun.

Saturday 28 August – 8:00pm to 11:30pm

Canberra Baptist Church Hall – 11 Currie Crescent, Kingston

MFS members \$14, Non members \$18, concessions and groups \$16, under 18 free. Bring a plate to share for supper.

Monday Workshops Every Monday in August you can attend bush dance workshops, so get out your dance shoes and be at All Saints at 8pm for fun evenings of bush dancing to live music. We'll be practicing dances from the Colonial Ball program each week.

Not a dancer, but can play an instrument - then come along too and join the band - no charge for musicians.

Dancers - it's just \$6 for MFS members for two hours of dancing (with a brief break for a cuppa and light supper). Contributions to supper welcome but not essential.



2nd Saturday Dance

Prepare to dance your feet off with our second Saturday of the month dance on Saturday 12th August, at All Saints from 7pm to 10.30pm.



Just \$10 for MFS members, and \$1 for a cup and all the drinks you want (water, cordial, tea, coffee, etc). Please bring a contribution to the shared supper.

All dances taught by our expert callers, Daryl, Peter and Mark, and called, so no experience needed and no partner necessary (but do bring them if you have one).

Live music by the Bush Capital Band.



Contra.....is on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner with live music from Contraband. Entry is \$6 for MFS members and \$8 for others, 2nd time free.

Irish Set Dancing is on every Wednesday in August so come along from 8pm to 10pm, North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner and cost \$8 for MFS members and \$9 for others. The first two classes for new starters are FREE. Beginner's classes are also free and 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).



English Country Dancing is on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 7.30 to 9.30 pm at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner. Please bring some friends to share the fun. Entry is \$7 for MFS members and \$9 for others.

Coming up in November – something a bit different for the dancers

TIME TO GET YOUR CLOGS ON OR PICK UP THAT FIDDLE and go along to Heeler's Hoedown, Millthorpe NSW, 10th –12th November 2017

I'm reliably informed that step dancing in some form or other has been around since the time of Caesar Augustus in ancient Rome. Perhaps back then it was an aid to purging to make room for the next course of larks tongues, but that's just a guess. It's pretty familiar to most of us, originating in many different countries, all with slightly different styles, but all percussive and following the beat of the music, either on the up or down beat. And it finally ended up as tap dancing, with you know who leaping around in elegant evening dress (and not forgetting the high heels and having to do everything backwards) in those films in the thirties and forties.

But the forms of the dance I want to focus on here are flatfooting and buckdancing. There's a link here with the word 'hoedown'. Did you know that this word comes from the time of American slavery? Most of the slaves' work was field work, using tools such as hoes. So at the end of the day the hoe would go down, and so the story goes, they'd do a dance of freedom, each individual showing off their own moves. So, cross that with the dances of white immigrants, many coming from European countries where they weren't allowed to dance due to sour-faced religions, and displaced local American Indians who had their own dancing, and somehow it all came together in the Appalachian Mountains.

In the 1980s I went along to some Appalachian clogging classes in Perth, where everybody had taps on their shoes. The same sort of dance class still happens all round Australia. I love the sound of those taps, but there's something about the country rock/commercial poppy music that goes with the routines that doesn't sit well with my folkie background. So it was a real pleasure to discover that the stepping (though not always with taps) can be done to good old American string band music. Enter flatfoot and buckdancing. These are apparently the styles that have really come out of the Appalachian Mountains, and always danced to the local hillbilly music, which is currently known as 'old timey' or 'string band' music, although there is that blurry edge into bluegrass sometimes.



Green Grass Cloggers, circa 1970s

Both flatfooting and buckdancing are freestyle forms of step dancing, that is there is no set routine to a specific tune (although of course there are lots of choreographed dances for display purposes –have a look on youtube, particularly the Green Grass Cloggers, who resurrected the dance form in the 1970s). In terms of style, the differences seem to be mainly in leap or step height. Flatfooting is a very relaxed style, with the feet close to the ground, generally about an inch above it. Consequently there's not a lot of foot noise. The focus is on keeping time with the music. Buckdancers' steps are higher off the ground with a tendency to dance on their toes rather than their heels, and their stance is generally straighter with an immobile torso. It's more extroverted than flatfooting.

The other aspect to these styles of step dancing is their relationship to 'set' dancing, one branch of which became square dancing once the 'sets' arrived in America. In the Appalachians it was normal to combine clogging with the 'sets', maybe because the live music they danced to was the same. Most of the square dancing you will see in Australia, for example in displays at festivals, is now called 'New' or 'Modern' square dance. It can be danced to any style of music, including techno beats and well-known country rock recordings. The caller will often sing along, in between telling the dancers what to do. The standard of dancing is amazing, with different formalised levels of skill for those who want to work their way up to the very difficult moves.

But that's not how it's going to be at Millthorpe this November. Heeler's Hoedown is being hosted by the Blue Heeler Cloggers, from Orange, with main organiser Shelby Ashelford. It will be at the Millthorpe Public School. Millthorpe is about midway between Blayney (near Bathurst) and Orange, and is one of those little towns that have managed to keep their character. The focus of the weekend will be on flatfoot and buckdancing and incorporating those into Appalachian Square Dancing. There will be live music, with string band players coming from the local area, Sydney and Canberra and maybe even further afield.



Dance tutors on the weekend will be Vickie Dean, Judy Jones, Nathan Ballard and Amanda Lim. All the tutors have experience both in Australia and the USA. The program is not yet finalised but keep an eye on www.blueheelercloggers.com/heeler-s-hoedown-2017/ as information will be up-to-date there.

A highlight of the weekend will be the Saturday night Jarfly awards, a friendly competition where every dancer who wants to compete gets up on the dance floor at the same time to show off their moves. There will be different levels so that dancers will be competing with others at the same level. Judging is by peer-rating, with an award in each level. And why 'Jarfly'? This is an Appalachian term referring to the sound a cicada makes when placed in a jar, kind of percussive and rhythmic – just like clogging.

Green Grass Cloggers 2006 at Shad Fest in Grifton, North Carolina

Now to that all-important live music. Think of all those old-timey tunes, jumping with rhythm and obviously made for dancing. Some of the well-known ones that spring to mind are 'Old Joe Clark', 'Whisky before breakfast', 'Soldiers joy', 'Angeline the baker' and 'Boil them cabbage down', but there are millions (at last count) of suitable tunes in the genre. Musicians at Heeler's Hoedown will have their own program, including workshops on playing for the dancing and chances to put the theory into practice. Rod and Judy Jones who have been playing the music and dancing for decades will be in attendance to advise and lead, but there will be plenty of opportunities for jamming, in the school venue where the musicians will have their own space and in the pub across the road.

There's all sorts of information about the weekend on the website (see link above), including accommodation, tourist info, a preliminary program, food (all meals and snacks are catered on Friday (supper), Saturday (all food) and Sunday (morning tea) respectively) and a registration form with ticket prices. Put it in the calendar and dust off the clogs, November is just around the corner.

Donna Vaughan, with assistance from Shelby Ashelford

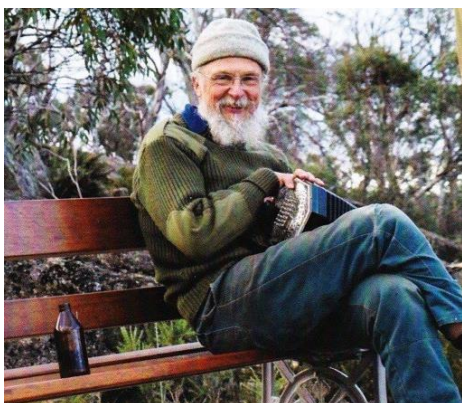
(Both photos courtesy of Green Glass Cloggers)

Music with MFS

Vale : Mike Paterson

Mike was an outdoors man with a laconic & ready sense of humour.

He worked on maintenance & reconstruction parties on mountain huts like Pretty Plain Hut & Disappointment Spur rebuilds for the Kosciuszko Huts Association (KHA) for the benefit & safety of others.



He also played music for both kids & adult dances at the Yarralumla wool shed & dance groups out of All Saints church hall, and also with the Wednesday Settlers group.

I always got on well with Mike as he was easygoing & intelligent.

The last times I saw Mike was in Cooma coming back from a weekend with mates at Snowy Vale & recently I saw him when he was preparing to go to Coober Pedy in his 4 WD.

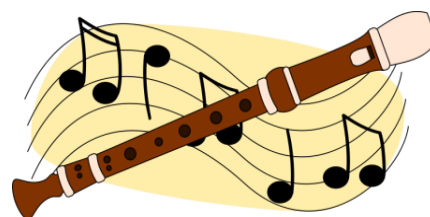
A real Aussie gentleman who I will miss. RIP Mike.

Gavin Holmes - Inaugural member of KHA & folk musician with the Monaro Folk Society.



Australian Settler's Music Sessions – this group meets between 7.15 and 9.30 pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, except January, at the Grant Cameron Community Centre, 27 Mulley Street, Holder. This month the dates are the 5th^t and the 19th. Contact is Ray Mulligan on 62474725

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 Tuesdays the group meets at various members' homes. Please contact one of the organisers, Julie on 62823523 or Robert on 62919135, for more information.



There is also music at the **Merry Muse** on the first Sunday of the month – see page 7 for details.

Out and About

Marianne Pietersen sends greetings and news from Brisbane

Hello from Far Away

As many of you know, I moved to Queensland last year. I now live in a retirement village in Birkdale (Redlands).

I've been a member of MFS since April 1992 (the 1992 National was my introduction to MFS). Over the years I've enjoyed participating in MFS activities, helping at doors of dances and concerts, and I've also been on committees for many of those years. Whilst I no longer will be a hands-on member, I'm maintaining membership so I can keep up with what is happening. If there's anything compelling being offered, I might just fly in for it.

In fact, I came to the NFF in April 2017, volunteering once again. (I've been volunteering at the NFF since 1992 – health permitting).

Since leaving ACT I've been traveling quite a bit, and only recently made my first visit to the Redlands Folk Club in Capalaba. The concept is similar to the Merry Muse, but the venue is much smaller, there's no stage, and the fluorescent lights in the room don't create much atmosphere. The club meets on Sundays from 1 pm to 4 pm, in full daylight and there are windows on two sides of the room. Even so, the music is enjoyable. But I do miss the offerings in music and dance of MFS, and especially the friendships I built up over the years.

Anyone coming to the Brisbane area from Gold Coast to Sunshine Coast, give me a call and we could meet for coffee or maybe visit a Brisbane folk club.

Marianne Pietersen, mep@pcug.org.au or 0402-008-124

Ed's note – I caught up with Marianne in late June at her new home. It was great to see her and we had a good old chinwag. We didn't manage a folk outing but maybe next time. As mentioned she misses Canberra friends and would welcome hearing from any of them who happen to be in the Brisbane area.

More things to do locally

ANU SPORT LIFESTYLE PROGRAM

presents ...

Dancing through the Ages



Starts Saturday 5th August
in Studio 1 of ANU Sport.

Keep fit & have fun learning dances from the Renaissance and Baroque era through to time of Jane Austen, Dickens and beyond. Dances in all sorts of formations, rhythms and styles. 500 years of romance & passion!

Top teacher
Dr John Gardiner-Garden
(Earthly Delights Historic
Dance Academy)
caters for all levels &
makes joining in easy.

**No partner or special
dress necessary!**

3:00 - 5:30pm
on 10 Saturdays:

August 5, 12, 19 & 26; September 2, 9, 23 & 30, October 7 & 14.

Price: ANU Student \$100, ANU Sport Members \$130, General \$160.



**Sign up today
at ANU Sport
reception**



The 3rd Weekend in September: 15th – 17th September 2017

The Turning Wave Festival is a celebration of Irish & Australian music and related arts, modelled along the lines of a typical Irish Fleadh or festival. Held in Yass, NSW the festival features concerts, dancing, spoken word, sessions, Irish music classes and a Junior Fleadh catering for young people wanting to learn Irish music. We're a family friendly event.

The full programme is available on the website and Includes Friday Night Ceili, Saturday Night Ceili and Sunday Afternoon Ceili

Master Classes

Friday the 15th September for 6 hours of Tuition with Tara Finn in Concertina, Pipes, Flute, Whistle

See the website www.turningwave.org.au for programme, ticket purchase, volunteering and more.

Note: Early Bird prices end on 1st September and save you \$24 on an adult weekend ticket.

Important note: MFS membership renewals are now due. Members who haven't renewed will still receive the September Musings but it will have a reminder to renew on it. The October Musings will only be sent to financial members.

Presented by
**Monaro Folk
Society Inc.**

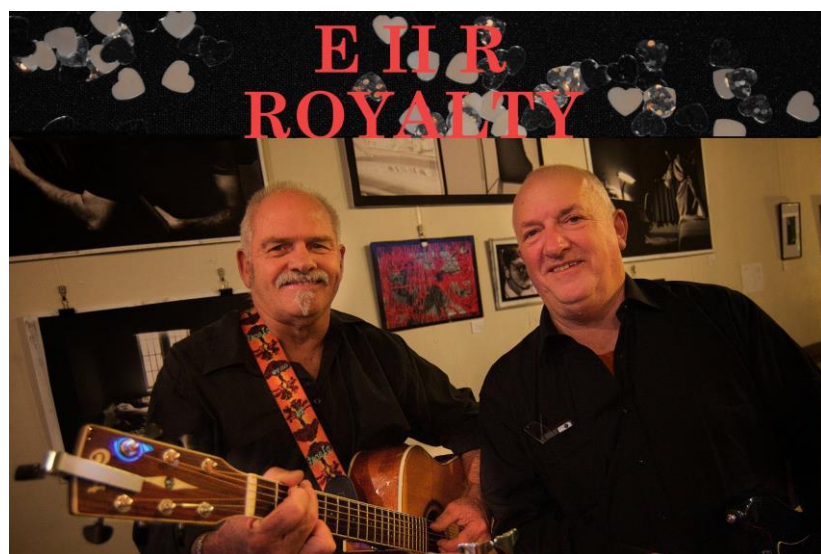


Merry Muse - Sunday 6th August from 4.00 pm to 7.00pm
Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson St Weston

Blackboard plus Feature Act Royalty

Admission: \$3 for MFS Members, Concessions and Blackboard Performers; \$5 for 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.



Royalty - Do you like to laugh?
Edward Nass with Reid Stevens on bass and harmonies, Royalty will have you laughing, tapping your feet and singing along. Edward's songs are about life and the quirky everyday events that can happen! Hailing from Berwick, Vic Edward Nass, singer song writer includes songs with a twist towards Fantasy and Humour. Can you relate to every day life events like the supermarket blues, working in the yard or not having to shave today? People can also relate to my more serious songs which touch people in a way that is highly personal.

Sunday 3rd September **Blackboard plus Feature Act Springtide** Featuring Jackie Luke, Greg Wilson and Rita Woolhouse

Sunday October 1st - **No Merry Muse on Long Weekend** – Check out Uranquinty Folk Festival or Goulburn Bush Traditions

Blackboards are usually the first Sunday of the month at 4 pm

www.merrymuse.org.au

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

Regular Events – MFS and other

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@homemail.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 at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner. . Contact: Colin Towns 62380246.

MFS last Saturday of month Bush Dance, Canberra Baptist Church Hall, Currie Street, Kingston. Contact Antonella S; 0413 295 004
MFS Tuesday Night Music group – a beginner to intermediate level session group. Meets at Canberra Irish Club, Parkinson Street, Weston on 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month and other weeks 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.. St John's Church Hall, Constitution Ave, Reid. Also dance classes at ANU, Jane Austen Festival and other events. Contact: Aylwen Garden 62811098

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, 5.00 pm (during wintertime), Murrumbateman Hotel Function Room. . Contact: Wal Brewer – wal.brewer@gmail.com

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. 12.00 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) and electronically. 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. 2016-17 Committee

President: Geoff Kell - president@mfs.org.au; Vice-President: Vaacant; Secretary: Ian Bull – secretary@mfs.org.au;
Treasurer: Matt Gibbins - treasurer@mfs.org.au; Public Officer: Antonella Salpietro Committee Members: John Hewat, , Anne Mathas, Julie Szabo. 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; Bookkeeper: Linda Aunela; Web Manager: Simon David

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