

# Monaro Musings



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

Visit MFS at the website [www.monarofolk.org.au](http://www.monarofolk.org.au) and/or [www.facebook.com/monaro.folk.society](https://www.facebook.com/monaro.folk.society)

**Monaro Musings, Volume 26, Number 11 – December 2017**



**Dancing in the Park- Dec 17 to Jan 18**



**Woodford Folk Festival – 27/12/17 to 01/01/18**



**Nariel Creek Folk Festival  
27/12/17 to 03/01/18**

[cygnetfolkfestival.org](http://cygnetfolkfestival.org)



**26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

[http://visitcoom.com.au/  
events/44th-numeralla-  
folk-festival-2018/](http://visitcoom.com.au/events/44th-numeralla-folk-festival-2018/)

Just a few things happening during December and January, near to home and far away. More details inside the newsletter or from websites indicated, or just google!

## From the President's Soapbox

We are currently in discussions about our involvement in the next National Folk Festival. We shall be running the Evening Muse again at the Central Stage and our marquee to promote the society. However, we also have the opportunity to run the activities on the Central Stage during the day if we have some folk to act in the positions of MC and stage manager. So, if you feel you would like to do this and be rewarded with a season pass to the NFF, please contact me as soon as possible.

As we head into silly season, which tends to add other things to the calendar, I hope our members will make the effort to attend their groups' final offerings for 2017:

This coming Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December the Christmas Bush Dance will be held at the Yarralumla Woolshed: don't forget the BYO picnic at 6.30pm. This may be the last Christmas dance we hold at the Woolshed.

The final Merry Muse for 2017 at the Irish Club will be on Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> featuring Turnip Sundae.

Dancing in the Park begins on Dec 4<sup>th</sup> at Stage 88.

Irish Set Dance finishes up on Wednesday 13th December with their traditional Christmas party.

The final ECD night will be Tuesday 12th and final Contra dance night will be on Tuesday 19th.

At the New Years' Eve Bush dance at the Woolshed music will be by Stringfiddle with calling by Peter Foster.

January 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> the annual Contra Club weekend is held at Wee Jasper. Many people come to camp for the weekend at Billy Grace Reserve and on Sunday morning there is a music session. We are hoping to build this weekend into more of a music gathering, so we encourage other musos to come out and join us. For more information feel free to contact Rob or Geoff.

Finally, on behalf of the MFS committee, thank sto all the organisers and helpers who have created such successful events this year and all the members who have attended and supported those events. Our best wishes to you all for the Christmas and New Year season.

Geoff

## Dancing About

### Dancing in the Park ....

Get out your dance shoes every Monday in December and January (except for Christmas Day and New Year's Day) for folk dancing to live music. We will experience a variety of dance styles and callers.

This is at Stage 88 (under cover, so we dance even if it rains) in Commonwealth Park from 6:45pm on Mondays and will finish when the light goes.

*This is a free event.*

If you would like to join us for a BYO picnic before the dancing, we meet under the vines, up the hill from stage 88, near Regatta Point.



**English Country Dancing ....** is on 12<sup>th</sup> December from 7.30 to 9.30 pm at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner. Then it will be on holiday until February. Entry is \$7 for MFS members and \$9 for others.



**Irish Set Dancing .....** will wrap up 2017 with a Christmas party and mini-ceili on Wednesday 13 December at the North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 7:30 - 10 pm (note earlier start time).

FREE ADMISSION. Please bring a small plate to share.

Thanks everyone for making 2017 another successful year. You all played an important role - teachers, callers, supper providers, helpers to set up and pack away, those who brought someone new along, and everyone for your willingness to share and have fun. Thank you!

Dates for 2018, Wednesdays 8-10pm, North Canberra Baptist Church Hall:

Term 1: 7<sup>th</sup> February – 11<sup>th</sup> April

Term 2:: 2<sup>nd</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> July

Term 3: 25<sup>th</sup> July – 26<sup>th</sup> September

Term 4: 17<sup>th</sup> October – 19<sup>th</sup> December

And don't forget the annual dance weekend: 12<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> October 2018, featuring Irish Dancing Master, Pat Murphy (Hall Pavilion, Hall Showground)



**Christmas Bush Dance .....** Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at the atmospheric Yarralumla Woolshed, from 8 pm to 11.30 pm.

Live music by the Bush Capital Band with calling by Peter Foster and invited callers. Bring a plate of supper to share.

Entry is \$19 for MFS members and a cup is just \$1 for all the tea/coffee/cordial or cold water you wish.

Wear something Christmassy, or not!

**New Year's Eve Dance .....** Sunday 31st December at the Yarralumla Woolshed from 8pm until the new year.

Dance the evening away with "Stringfiddle" led by Bob McInnes. Calling by Peter Foster. All dances taught and called, so no experience necessary.

Cost is just \$25 for adults, \$23 for group entry and concessions, \$20 for MFS members, student \$13, under 18s free. No booking required – tickets at the door.

Please bring a plate of supper to share. BYO drinks but entry price includes a bottomless cup of tea, coffee, water or cordial.

### **What should I wear?**

Dress comfortably! Bush dancing is great exercise, and it is a good workout, and so don't overdress. Even if it is cool you probably won't want to wear a jumper or long sleeves while dancing. Layers of clothing work well, just as in Cross-Country skiing. Women often enjoy dancing in a skirt, as skirts flow to the music. Casual shirts are common dress. Don't worry about what to wear – there is no special costume, just be comfortable. You probably will get warm as you dance.



### **What about shoes?**

Since we dance on hardwood floors, many people bring a separate pair of shoes from the ones they wear to the dance. Clean off any grit from outside that might be on the soles of your shoes and could damage the floor. If possible, it is

preferable not to dance in shoes with rubber soles, as these are harder on your joints – ankles, knees and hips in the long run. But people have danced in joggers, tennis shoes or whatever. The main thing is that your shoes are comfortable for you for active dancing. This normally means flat, comfortable shoes with smooth soles.

Contact: Antonella [asalpietro@hotmail.com](mailto:asalpietro@hotmail.com)



**Contra....**is on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays in December from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner. Entry is \$6 for MFS members and \$8 for others, 2<sup>nd</sup> time free. Contra workshops are not happening in January, but see below for information about Contra in the Caves.

No need to bring a partner but please bring some friends to share the fun. Dance to the invigorating music of our own ContraBand. Contra is a lively dance style, dancing with a partner and meeting other couples as you progress along a column of dancers. It is fun and energetic, with all dances taught and called.

## Contra in the Caves is on again!

Cool off at the concert in the caves, join in a BBQ then heat up Wee Jasper Hall with some great dancing.

Camp over if you feel outdoorsy and cool off again in the Goodradigbee River or spring fed creeks.

Saturday 6th January 2018

**Concert:** gold coin donation.

**Dance:** Free!

**Camping:** Normal fees apply.

Drive home or camp. Camping is available in the Billy Grace Campground. Normal charges apply.

(Please pay the ranger). Other accommodation is also available in Wee Jasper.



**Itinerary** - Attend what you want, don't feel you have to do everything :-)

3pm Tour of Careys cave [regular afternoon tour of the cave run by Geoff Kell - normal entry fees apply]

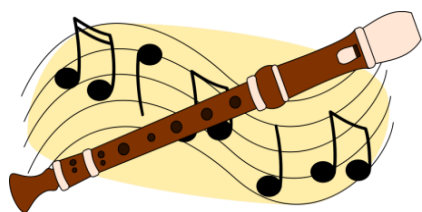
5:00 - 6:45pm Concert in Careys Cave featuring members of the Canberra Contra Club and friends. A chance to hear some of the talent in the Contra group: Featuring The Canberra Contra Club and individual performances.

7:00pm-8:00pm. Picnic. BYO nearly everything. In the covered picnic area outside Careys Cave. There is a BBQ that will be available and running, there are some tables and some seating.

Contra Dance 8:30pm-12:00. Contra Dance at Wee Jasper Memorial Hall.

Sunday morning in the camp ground informal sessions and then swimming at the Micalong creek.

## Music with MFS



The **Tuesday Night Music Group** (beginner to intermediate), which happens on almost every Tuesday of the year, now meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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 5<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup>. Contact is Ray Mulligan on 62474725





## Out and About

### “Mission Songs” at the National Library by Declan O’Connell



I still remember the words I saw on a 1980s poster: “White Australia Has a Black History”. You wouldn’t always know that from the ballads about convicts, bushrangers, shearers and the like; apart from the odd reference to, say, the “native black lying there in ambush” who gave the tyrant Captain Logan his mortal stroke, to the delight of the prisoners in *Moreton Bay*.

2017 National Library National Folk Follow Jessie Lloyd’s *Mission Songs Project* is setting all this to right, bringing Indigenous songs from the “Mission era” (1901-1967) back into circulation. The songs are not just from the Christian missions but also from Aboriginal reserves and town camps. As she explained in her wonderfully informative and entertaining lecture/concert at the National Library on Tuesday 21 November, she was initially inspired by a song she learned from her nan in Palm Island, *Down in the Kitchen*. She went on to track down “knowledge-carrying songs” from across Australia; songs characterised, she found, by hope, resilience and humour, songs which tell us so much about Australian history.

When the lecture morphed into a concert, Jessie was helped out on vocals by Deline Briscoe, Jessica Hitchcock and Emma Donovan. After *Down in the Kitchen*, the quartet sang *Old Cape Barren* (from Tasmania), *Hopkins*

*River* (from Framlingham, Victoria, a song Jessie got from Archie Roach, it was written by his grandmother’s sister), *Outcast Half Caste* (collected by Chris Sullivan and written by Emma Donovan’s nan and pop, Mary Deroux and Micko Donovan), *Middle Camp* (from Moree) and *Surrare* (from the Torres Strait). Jessie Lloyd’s *Mission Songs Project* CD (and booklet) includes all these songs and more. It is worth tracking down. It’ll make you re-think what the Australian folk tradition means.

"Canberra's Jazz & Blues force of nature"  
**Dorothy-Jane**  
SINGER SONGWRITER BLUES-HARPIST  
DOES DUETS with:

JEFF PRIME - guitar  
MOONDOG J guitar, voice, blues-harp  
LEILA GATO - flute, voice  
REIDAR & KARLA - voice, guitar, accordion

**FRI 8 DEC 9:30PM**  
Smith's Alternative  
\$15/\$10  
book online or call 6257-1225

### Nariel Creek Folk Festival

The Nariel Creek Folk Festival is a celebration of traditional folk music, song and dance and is held on the banks of the beautiful Nariel Creek in the Nariel Recreation Reserve. The event has been held since the early sixties, making it one of the longest running folk festivals in Australia. The artists are not paid, and the event is a not-for-profit community event. Experience musical performances around the campfire and attend the blackboard concert on New Year’s Day. There will also be a series of old time dances held in the Cudgewa Hall. The Festival is a great family-friendly event for those wanting something a little more laid-back and relaxed to enjoy over the festive period. Camping is available leading up to, during and after the festival. Fees apply.

• [www.facebook.com/narielcreek.folkfestival/](http://www.facebook.com/narielcreek.folkfestival/)

**The Earthly Delights Christmas Carol Ball** - Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December – 7.00 -11.00 pm at the Canberra Baptist Church Hall, Currie Crescent, Kingston. Tickets \$25 at door . Discounts for bookings via website:  
[www.earthlydelights.com.au/upcoming](http://www.earthlydelights.com.au/upcoming)



Check the website of **Folk Dance Canberra** to see what's on offer there for the festive season.  
[www.folkdancecanberra.org.au/](http://www.folkdancecanberra.org.au/)



# The Shiny Bum Singers

## Seize the Day

**A Public Service Mock Opera**



**Sunday 10 December 2017**  
**2pm – 4pm**  
**Communities@work**  
 Weston Community Hub (old Weston Creek Primary School)  
 cnr Hilder and Gritten Streets, Weston



*How can one working day be so long – and so many things go wrong?*

**Only in Canberra!**

*From fire drills to audits, from system crashes to ministerial interference – it all happens to a group of workers in a public service department on one tumultuous day.*

*And of course, there are the office romances!*

*The icing on the cake is the announcement that their department is being moved – to Crookwell!*

*Come along – you even get to sing along to the choruses.*

Bookings Eventbrite - <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/seize-the-day-tickets-39596413940?aff=es2>  
 or cash at the door – all tickets \$20

 <https://www.facebook.com/Shiny-Bum-Singers-125576308118348/>  
 W: [borisbooks.com.au/sbs](http://borisbooks.com.au/sbs)  
 Enquiries P: 0403781513  
 @Shinybums



**A concert in aid of Pain Support ACT**

## Stop Press

Rachel Hore is now running a Singing & Music tour in France with **Jo** Cresswell & Dave O'Neill. 26<sup>th</sup> August to 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

Also don't forget **Jo** and Dave's Walking & Music tour 10<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018.

Bookings for both trips by Jan 2018.

[https://nam03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=www.francewalks.com&data=02%7C01%7Ctina\\_lynam%40hotmail.com%7Cf781b5bd71d24b135ee708d531ab868c%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C636469535119325511&sdata=Dqeth8Vw9WsXXfJ14%2FrICzj5myTZzcSkF2PCrN3EKEw%3D&reserved=0](https://nam03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=www.francewalks.com&data=02%7C01%7Ctina_lynam%40hotmail.com%7Cf781b5bd71d24b135ee708d531ab868c%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C636469535119325511&sdata=Dqeth8Vw9WsXXfJ14%2FrICzj5myTZzcSkF2PCrN3EKEw%3D&reserved=0)

**Ed's Note:** Just enough space left for me to wrap up with my good wishes to everyone for an enjoyable time over the Summer holidays and a happy, healthy and peaceful 2018. Many thanks to all who have contributed to the Musings during 2017, You are much appreciated. Tina



Presented by  
**Monaro Folk  
Society Inc.**



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**Merry Muse - Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4.00 pm to 7.00pm**

**Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson Street, Weston**

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

### **Blackboard plus Turnip Sundae**

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.



Turnip Sundae brings together the talents and friendship of three been-around-the-traps- forever musicians: spectacular cellist- Rita Woolhouse, fancy 12 string guitarist- Fred Pilcher and creative Simone Dawson on flute and tenor guitar (not at the same time). Playing some of Fred's favourite songs, Simone's original material and Rita's funky tunes, the Turnips blend vocals, instruments and rhythms to create a perfect contemporary sound.

So turn up on Sunday Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> to hear Turnip Sundae - an underground "folk & roots" sensation!

### **Future dates:**

This will be the last Merry Muse for 2017. We expect to resume in February – and have asked the Irish Club if we can move back to the second Sunday of the month to avoid clashes with Cobargo and National Folk Festival – watch the website to confirm date – hopefully February 11<sup>th</sup> and feature act.

**[www.merrymuse.org.au](http://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](mailto:cbriton@homemail.com.au)

MFS Contra Club – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner. Contact: Linda Aunela - [lindaaunela@yahoo.com.au](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month and other weeks in members' homes. Contact Julie on 62823523 or Robert on 62919135.

Australian Settler's music sessions, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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, Back to 6.00 pm start now Winter is over. Murrumbateman Hotel Function Room. . Contact: Wal Brewer – [wal.brewer@gmail.com](mailto: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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. 2017-18 Committee

President: Geoff Kell - [president@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:president@monarofolk.org.au); Vice-President: Vacant; Secretary: Ian Bull – [secretary@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:secretary@monarofolk.org.au); Treasurer: Tina Lynam - [treasurer@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:treasurer@monarofolk.org.au); Public Officer: Antonella Salpietro Committee Members: Matt Gibbins, John Hewat, Anne Mathas. For general enquiries please use [secretary@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:secretary@monarofolk.org.au)

### Appointed Officials

Membership: Declan O'Connell - [membership@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:membership@monarofolk.org.au); Merry Muse Coordinator: Vacant; Merry Muse PA Coordinator: Pierre Sibilant; Merry Muse Subcommittee Chair: Vacant; Acting *Monaro Musings* Editor: Tina Lynam - [editor@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:editor@monarofolk.org.au); Bookkeeper: Linda Aunela – [payments@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:payments@monarofolk.org.au); Web Manager: Simon David

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