

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 1 – February 2017



Numerous dancers enjoyed the NYE dance at the Yarralumla Woolshed with Franklyn B Paverty playing Photo by Lance Court

From the President's Soapbox

Best wishes to you all for the New Year, which got off to a good start with a good crowd kicking up to the music of Franklyn B Paverty at the Woolshed bush dance: this success was followed up with another enjoyable and well attended Contra weekend at Wee Jasper, and Dancing in the Park has also had good numbers with up to 50 dancers on some nights. The Tuesday Night Music Group carried on through the month, flourishing with their increasing numbers, particularly at their twice monthly sessions at the Irish Club. So, January was active for some of our groups, the others starting back this month as detailed on the website.

A date for your diaries: on Saturday March 25 (the same day as the Shearers' Ball at the YWS) the CAP Expo will once again be held at the Old Bus Depot in Kingston. We shall have a stand there for promotion of MFS and also have a display dance spot. If you have not attended one of these before I highly recommend you give it a go as it has a good communal, non-commercial atmosphere and last year there were almost 90 community groups and clubs there demonstrating the remarkable diversity of activities available in Canberra.

And a piece of good news – all going to plan, the Merry Muse at the National Folk Festival will be back this year! You may remember that the Muse used to host blackboard concerts but for some reason the NFF management decided to discontinue this. Following our approaches about this the current director, Pam Merrigan, has offered us the opportunity to use the Central Park stage each evening for a blackboard: Eileen has agreed to MC and Pierre to run sound. We still have to settle details but I hope this eventuates as it will be a good opportunity for us to re-establish a foothold at the NFF, to promote the society and show people what we offer in Canberra all year round.

Finally, I trust that this year will see us building on initiatives begun last year, however this will be dependent on a considered and successful approach to promotion and the willingness of you all to support the organisers of activities in both planning and implementation of their ideas. So please don't sit back in the shadows and expect others to provide entertainment – step up and offer a hand wherever possible.

Geoff

“Canberra’s a great town for live folk Music” by Declan O’Connell

Summer festival season in Oz (Woodford, Cygnet, Illawarra) meant 2017 started off with some great live folk music here in the national capital. Hats off to the organisers: Cassidy Richens Buxton, who brought English duo Winter Wilson to the Canberra Irish Club for a semi-outdoor ‘deck concert’ in Weston Creek and Nigel McRae, who brought Irish legend Andy Irvine and young Irish band Four Winds to Smith’s Alternative in Civic.

Winter Wilson (Kip Winter and Dave Wilson) are living the life many Canberra folkies may dream of (in a city where Phil Ochs’ song *Rehearsals for Retirement* has a particular resonance). They took redundancies from their work and hit the road making music, putting on gigs. Dreamers please note: they’ve succeeded in this because of their musicianship, their great songs, their warm stage presence and their wonderful repartee (banjo jokes and all). They sang about how music had changed their lives in *Cutting Free*. They almost had us in tears with songs about the Metagama (a ship which took British migrants to Canada), giving up a baby to the Magdalene laundries, pregnancy test lotto and deaths in World War 1 (built around a quote from Rudyard Kipling: “If any question why we died, tell them, because our fathers lied”). They also gave us songs about the writer Jack London and the John Steinbeck character Tom Joad (Dave Wilson not fearing to tread where Woody Guthrie and Bruce Springsteen trod before).



Kip Winter at the Canberra Irish Club

Andy Irvine didn't have to wait until a mid-life redundancy to hit the road making music. He walked into Dublin pub O'Donoghue's in August 1962 and a whole new world opened up before him. He walked into Smith's Alternative in January 2017 to bring that world to us. O'Donoghue's and Smith's Alternative have some things in common: the sale of alcohol, the making of music, being homes away from home for musicians, the odd public servant or two at lunchtime. Andy gave us a great range of songs; including Irish anti-authority songs (*Arthur McBride*, *Come to the Bower* – although, as he said, the latter sounded more like a tourism ad than a call to arms), sad Australian songs (*The Wreck of the Dandenong*, *The Death of Ben Hall*) songs about his life in music (*O'Donoghue's*, *My Heart's Tonight in Ireland*), humorous songs and more. He ended with his theme song, a tribute to Woody Guthrie, *Never Tire of the Road* and a message Woody would have been proud of: support music on ABC Radio National.

Four Winds are a young Irish band playing high tempo, high energy reels, jigs, hornpipes, slides and Kerry polkas on bouzouki, uilleann pipes, concertina and bodhrán. I was sitting beside the stage and it was great to see them so obviously enjoying their music and encouraging each other on. One highlight was Robbie Walsh's bodhrán solo. It made the bodhrán sound like a cross between a didgeridoo and an accompaniment on a Sheila Chandra CD. There were some songs as well including the unforgettable *Clasped to a Pig* (for when you wake up wondering where you are and how you got there). Four Winds demonstrated the enduring influence of Andy Irvine on Irish folk music. That bouzouki for starters. They sang a Woody Guthrie song too – *The Ludlow Massacre*, learned from a Christy Moore cassette (which Andy Irvine had a hand in) and given a lively new arrangement.

What's my take out on all this? Canberra's a great town for live folk music and the spirit of Woody Guthrie's alive and well (we'll need it in 2017).

Dancing About

Bush Dance Workshops Mondays 8 pm to 10pm from February 6 to the end of November (except for public holidays and school holidays), at All Saints Church, Cowper St Ainslie. Entry \$6 for members and \$8 for non. Supper plates welcomed but not expected.

Thanks to Christine from Irish Set Dancing for stating what we should state all along,
tips for new dancers:

Slippery sole shoes (leather or hard plastic) are preferred for easy movement across the floor and put less strain on knees and ankles. Please don't wear perfumes/colognes/strong deodorants as these may impact on the enjoyment of others, especially those who may experience allergies.

Second Saturday of the Month Dance7 pm to 10:30 pm **February 11** and again on **March 11** at All Saints Church, Cowper St Ainslie. Live music by Bush Capital Band and entry is only \$10 for MFS members. Please bring a small plate of supper to share.

End-of-Month Dance 8 pm to 11:30pm **February 25** at Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 11 Currie Cres Kingston. Dance to the music of **Humbug** and **Colin Towns** calling. Please bring a small plate of supper to share.



25 March 2017

Shearers Ball at Yarralumla Woolshed. Dance to the music of **Stringfiddle**, led by **Bob McInnes**, with calling by **Don Richmond** . \$19 members \$24 for others (you can join at the door).

Please bring a plate of supper to share.



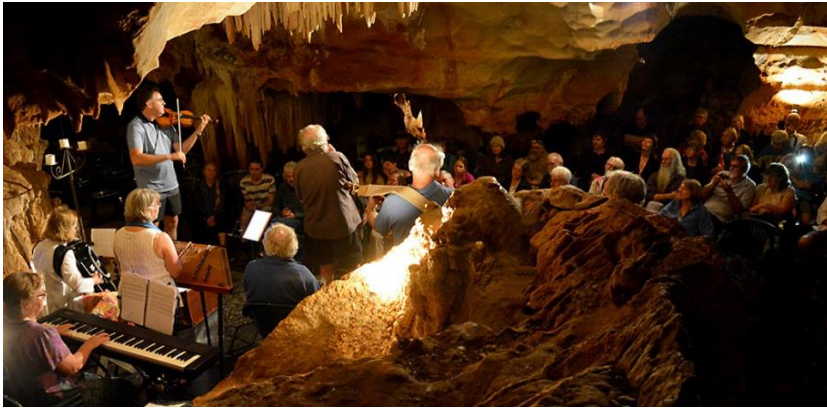
Contra is on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 7.30 to 9.30 pm at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner with live music from Contraband. Entry is \$6 for MFS members and \$8 for others, 2nd time free.

Irish Set Dancing Wednesdays 8.00 pm to 10.00 pm at 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 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.

CONTRA AT WEE JASPER



The weather was hot, but Careys Cave was the same cool temp that it always remains. Some of us remembered to bring long sleeved clothing but smarter people remembered to bring quilted long sleeved clothing.

As we approached Wee Jasper we couldn't believe the amount of water in the lake: we don't remember ever seeing it this way. It is nice to know that we can save that much water.

The concert was entertaining as we always expect and the last minute hiccups added to the excitement. We had guest musicians as well as the Canberra Contra Club regulars. Some tunes were sad and some were happy, some were funny. Geoff delivered a song that he was still writing during the concert and it was stunning to learn how many different words he could find to describe the same part of the human anatomy. We then arranged ourselves under the grapevines for BBQ and picnic, tasting each others' food and sharing drinks.

The dance venue was hot - it must have been around 500 degrees inside. The fans were working overtime as we danced and danced. We had a full complement of musicians and dancers despite the heat and the callers were exceptional. Some of the locals even joined in the dancing.

Back to our accommodation and in the morning the musicians had a jam session at Billy Grace Reserve. There was a nice number of musicians and appreciative laid back listeners for some great music. At one point the President fulfilled his role in protecting the society members by herding a decent sized brown snake away from the camp with his mandolin case – one of the musos was heard to comment that it was the best use he had put the mandolin to in the last 10 years.

Some people swam in the river beside Billy Grace camp ground, as there was plenty of water. Others waited until after the session and continued to Micalong Creek to a swimming hole there.

To sum up, there was plenty to do and plenty of time to chill, if the temperature had only dropped that far!

Linda Aunela



Outside Interests

Folk Dance Canberra - Beginners World Dance Class

NEW: Thursday nights, 7.30 – 8.30 pm (starting 2 February) at Folk Dance Canberra Hall, 114 Maitland St, Hackett. Learn the Gypsy Polka, Russian 'Ya Da Kalinushku', Peruvian 'Chilili', Albanian 'Valle Pogonishte', Turkish 'Hastayim', Romanian 'Sarba de la Eninsala' and many more wonderful dances to inspiring music from countries around the world. No partner necessary. All welcome. Bookings and enquiries: 0420 524 412 (Rebecca).

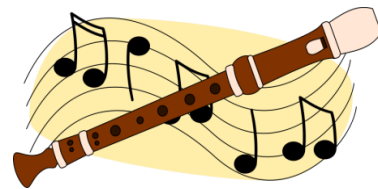
See <http://www.folkdancecanberra.org.au/> for more Folk Dance Canberra events.

Music with MFS



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 1st and the 15th. 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.



Out and About

SUNDAY MORNING CAMPGROUND SESSION, WEE JASPER

Strings, reeds, wind & skins,
Last night's dancers are today's audience
Still tapping their toes.

Anyone know this one?
What key can we all play in?
Join in when you can.

Other campers drift over
Toddler joins in on chicken-shake,
Mum helps, crouched behind.

Slow lilting waltzes
Harp and hammered dulcimer
Angel music.

Above the dry creek
Teenagers play on rope swing
You guessed it - no internet.

Pick up the tempo
Rags, Modal and otherwise
Unleash the fiddle!

Coming to join us
Brown snake scythes through summer grass
The charm works too well...

Pauline Allingham



THE UKE CAFÉ



The Uke café is a sing-along (strum-along) collection of folky, bluesy, country, doo-wop, jazz standards. (a genre' for just about everyone) held every 2nd Sunday of the month from 2.00 to 4.00 pm at Beyond Q at the Curtin shops.

All songs (words & chords) are projected on a 2 meter movie screen so no music books are needed.

Loaner ukes are available... along with loaner uke players to give a pointer here or there... if a pointer here or there is desired. So even if you've never played before ...here's your chance. (No strings attached... no pun intended) PLUS There's a full band, so all your "klinkers" will be blended right into that big beautiful sound of all of us playing together. PS... Words, chords and even links to song videos can be emailed to anyone who might like a little up-front practice before we all get together.

Beginner-ish tunes 1st hour... little more tricky 2nd hour. Learn some new tunes, have a drink and a bikkie during intermissions, and make some friends. It's a nice afternoon... nice people.

Here's the Facebook page ... it may have a bit more info... and even some videos & photos from past get togethers. <https://www.facebook.com/theukecafe/>

Cheers Daniel

PS... the next Cafe Feb. 12th ... will be ALL love songs for Valentine's day.

Doesn't this sound appealing?

Local musos Jo Cresswell and Dave O'Neill have been taking walking and music tours to France over the years.

TRIP OUTLINE

Our adventure is set in a region of mountain grandeur, sparkling rivers, verdant valleys and picturesque villages.

Your days will be a leisurely mix of beautiful walks, delicious food, sightseeing and traditional celtic & French music.

Your hosts are walking guide and musician Jo Cresswell and renowned musician and teacher Dave O'Neill.



For the musicians in our group there will be the additional pleasure of private tuition with Dave, workshops and jam sessions.

For full information – costs, dates, itinerary, accommodation details and more - go to www.francewalks.com



Bold Kerryman Tour: THE SEAMUS BEGLEY TRIO



On Thursday 2nd March the National Folk Festival is partnering with Ainslie+Gorman to bring a very special concert to Canberra.

The Bold Kerryman brings together the musical gifts of Seamus Begley (vocals/accordion), Dezi Donnelly (fiddle) and Matt Griffin (guitar). Experience the passion and intensity that these Irish musicians bring to the stage combined with an intimacy and warmth that will make you feel part of the performance.

Edgy in their delivery, tunes and songs are given a powerful, dynamic new flavour. This is a celebration of Traditional Irish music and song that you have to experience, providing stunning arrangements of traditional Irish masterpieces.

Tickets are now on sale and there will be reserved seating. The concert will be held in the beautifully refurbished performance space at Ainslie Arts Centre commencing at 8:00pm with the bar open pre-concert, during the intermission and for after show drinks. For more information and to purchase your tickets please call Ainslie+Gorman via 6182 0000 or visit www.agac.com.au

Presented by
**Monaro Folk
Society Inc.**



Merry Muse - Sunday 5th February - 4.00 pm to 7.00pm

Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson St, Weston

Blackboard plus Feature Act - The Lowlands

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 on the day to perform, or just get along and listen to some great music.



The Lowlands are Ella, Joel and Sammy. Expect guitar, cello and vocal harmonies. A musical care package of jazz, blues, and folk. BYO whisk(e)y. Since forming as a trio in February 2016, they have been building a local profile playing live shows extensively around their hometown of Canberra. Winner of the inaugural Uranquinty FF Youth Showcase Award 2016.

"Canberra artist to watch in 2017" - BMA Magazine

Future Dates for Blackboards will be first Sunday of the month :

Sunday 5 March

Sunday 2 April

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)

Ed's notes: Many thanks to Linda Aunela, who contributed the Dancing About section of this issue.

The two photos of the Sunday Session musicians at Wee Jasper were taken by Moir Holmes. The photo in the cave was taken by Peter Gamble but I apologise, I'm not sure who authored the others used.

I was hoping to write something about Numeralla, also illustrated with photos, but I ran out of space. Maybe it will sneak in to the March issue

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. 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, 6.00 pm, Murrumbateman Hotel Function Room. . Contact: Wal Brewer – wal.brewer@gmail.com

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. 12.00 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) 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: Peter Gamble; Secretary: Ian Bull – secretary@mfs.org.au;

Treasurer: Matt Gibbins - treasurer@mfs.org.au; Public Officer: Antonella Salpietro Committee Members: John Hewat, , Anne Mathas, Chris McGinty, 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

Monaro Folk Society Inc

PO Box 482

CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608