

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 5 – June 2017**



National Folk Festival Irish Ceili with Jody Moran Ceili Band Photo Lawrie Brown

From the President's Soapbox

As we need to look to the future in giving children the opportunity to experience the traditions that the society espouses, the Bush Dance group has decided to initiate a series of more frequent Kids' bush dances than the current two annual dances at the Yarralumla Woolshed. These will be held at All Saints Church hall in Ainslie as it is a central location, easily warmed in the colder months, and an appropriately sized space for such a venture. The dances will be between 2.30 and 4.00pm on the second Saturday of each second month, with music provided by the TiN MuGs (the TNMG band), beginning on 8 July. So please let any of your friends or relatives who have children know about this event. Details are on the website.

Speaking of which, the new website www.monarofolk.org.au is now accessible with a fair amount of information already uploaded. We still have not established a member login system so administration information has not yet been moved from the wiki which will continue to function for the coming year. We therefore invite you to take a look at it and offer constructive criticism as to whether you find it attractive and easier to navigate. Bear in mind that we realise there is still a lot

of information to go up, however we are more than happy to have your feedback on what you want to see up there – this can help guide our priorities as there is a huge amount of material on the wiki, some of it superfluous and some rather outdated.

Finally, we are approaching the end of the financial year so memberships are now due. The membership form is available on the new website for download – we are working on a fillable form so the process can be done online which will hopefully simplify matters. Until then renewals can be carried out as usual at any MFS events.

Geoff

VALE: Col McJannett



Canberra lost another great folkie on 3 May 2017 when Colin McJannett, passed away on 3 May 2017 at his home in Canberra after a long period of ill health.

Colin was raised in Canberra by his grandparents and at the age of four was happily being taken along to dances in the Old Causeway Hall at Kingston. This music encouraged him to take up playing and he tried to learn the piano, but later took up the banjo, guitar and button accordion. He was a founding member of the Monaro Folk Music Society (MFMS, now MFS). In May 1970 he became the first Treasurer of the Society. He continued to be active on the MFMS committee from the inception of the Society in 1970 until 1977. A highlight of Col's considerable folk involvement was his part in the MFMS organising its first folk festival in 1970, and then the hosting of the National Folk Festival in 1972.

Col McJannett was a long-term member of the Australian Folk Trust (AFT) the (then) peak body representing the Australian Folk community and its Chairman for several years, including at the time the decision was made in 1992 to base the National Folk Festival in Canberra following financial losses over successive years. Col chaired the small team that managed the transition and when National Folk Festival Ltd was formed in 1993, Col was the first Board President with the other Board Members being Seamus Gill, Keith McKenry, Graham MacDonald and Phil Wilson. He remained on the board until 2002 until he retired to play more music.

From 1981 to 1991 he played in 'Reel Tradition' with Mike Heaney, Kate Scott and Mary Miliano and from 1991 to 1999 in Fife and Clackmannanshire. He was also a presenter for 2XX Lark In the Morning.

He was a major contributor to David Meyer's *A Score and a Half Years of Folk: Thirty Years of the Monaro Folk Society Inc* [Sefton Publications, 2004] and I thank this publication for most of the information here.

Col – you will be missed by his friend in the Monaro Folk Society and about town. Thank you for your contribution.

Eileen Newmarch

Dancing About

Monday Workshops There will be Bush Dance Workshops in June every Monday except for the long weekend Monday, so, no workshop on the 12th. But be at All Saints all the other Mondays at 8pm for fun evenings of bush dancing to live music.

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.

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).



End of Month Dance This month we will be entertained by Strathmannan and Claire Stoneman calling, on Saturday June 24, at 8pm. Canberra Baptist Church, Currie Cres Kingston. All dances will be taught and called so come along on your own or bring some friends to share the fun.

Just \$14 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.

2nd Saturday Dance No second Saturday dance due to the long weekend, so for some dancing head to the Bundanoon Dance Fest - see the following for information on this great event.

Bundanoon Dance Long Weekend Looking for something to do over the June Long Weekend (as there is no MFS dancing here in ACT)? Well, look no further than a trip to Bundanoon for a day, or two, or the whole weekend to take part in the Bundanoon DanceFest.

Enjoy evening dances and workshops through the day with the multitude of new and experienced dancers who gather at Bundanoon for this annual event.

Numerous styles of dance are available in the workshops, led by experienced callers from all over Australia. There are up to 4 workshop sessions through the day, with a choice of two or three workshops per session, plus an evening dance (with a Ball on Sunday night).

This is a dedicated dance weekend, with **live music** for all workshops and dances.

Book your own accommodation - anything from camping to luxury available, but get in soon. There will be a large Canberra contingent of dancers, musicians and callers, so if you want to know more just ask around - plenty of us have been before.



You can also find information online - search Bundanoon Dance or use this link: <http://www.bushtraditions.org/dancefest/bunders.htm>



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. Come along and share the fun with the Canberra Contra Club. Entry is \$6 for MFS members and \$8 for others, 2nd time free.

Irish Set Dancing is on every Wednesday in June. 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 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. The National Folk Festival might bring more dancers so come along and share the fun with them. Entry is \$7 for MFS members and \$9 for others.

Journey of Dance Through Albania Workshop for Dancers

Saturday, 3 June, 1.30pm – 4.30pm

Dancing to the rugged music of the north and the beautiful melodies of the south, this workshop will take you on a journey of dance through the little known but transforming dance and music of Albania. Maria Jenkins and Lesley Rose will present old and new dances learned from their respective tours of Albania. Dance experience desirable.

Please bring a scarf. A contribution to afternoon tea is always welcome.

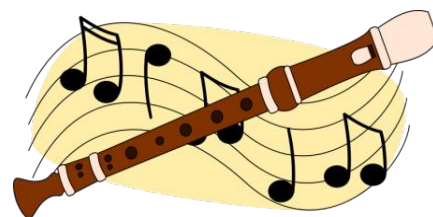
Enquiries: Maria: 6231 4472, Lesley: 6286 6401
Folk Dance Canberra Hall, Hackett Community Centre
114 Maitland Street, Hackett ACT 2602
Cost: \$15 (\$12 members)

10-12 November, Millthorpe NSW (near Orange). Heelers Hoedown - learn flat foot clogging, buckdancing and Appalachian square dancing (using flat foot etc stepping) to live mountain-style music. For more info see <https://www.blueheelercloggers.com/heeler-s-hoedown-2017/>



Music with MFS

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.



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

Out and About

Shining a Light at the Playhouse

Declan O'Connell

I had just spent five days in a perfect world but I was greedy for more. So the Thursday after the National, I headed to the Playhouse for the Billy Bragg /Joe Henry *Shine a Light* show. The title comes from Lead Belly's *Midnight Special*. Billy told the story. It's about prisoners who believed that, if the midnight train shone its light on their cell, they'd be the next one paroled. It was that kind of night. Songs and stories scripted like a Trocadero gig at the National.

The two lads travelled by train last year from Chicago to Los Angeles via San Antonio, recording along the way. The show re-lived the trip, shining its light on the hoboes who rode the rails and the labourers (in Texas, mainly Chinese and African-American) who built the railroads as well as the prisoners who heard the trains pass by. We were taken through the American songbook: Lead Belly ("the patron saint of the whole enterprise", Joe Henry said), the Carter Family, Jimmy Rogers, Woody Guthrie and Hank Williams. Billy Bragg quoted George Harrison: "No Lead Belly, No Lonnie Donegan; No Lonnie Donegan, No Beatles".

In between the train songs, Joe Henry and Billy Bragg each did their individual thing. Joe Henry highlights included his personal meditation-on-the-state-of-America, *Our Song* and the Allen Toussaint song *Freedom for the Stallion*. Billy Bragg highlights were re-working Dylan to bring in some Trump horrors, *The Times They Are-A-Changin'* (Back) and a song he heard at London Occupy, Anais Mitchell's *Why We Build the Wall*. Billy and Joe joined forces for two encores, A Dylan and a Guthrie. What did you expect? The Dylan, *Tonight I'll be Staying Here with You*, isn't on the album, although it qualifies (to be with you, I'll miss my train). The Guthrie, *Ramblin' Round*, rounded off the night: "But I am just a refugee / As I go ramblin' round boys" Joe Henry commented at one point that people sing these old songs for the same reason that theatre companies put on *King Lear*; coz the king still has something to say. He and Billy Bragg's singing certainly had something to say. If you missed the gig, grab the album.

Another great shot of Monaro Folk society at the National – courtesy of Claude Barret



Below is a selection of the fantastic photos Lawrie Brown took at the National Folk Festival Clockwise: **Ami Williamson, Accrowbatics (Finland), Circus Hokum and Spooky Mens Chorale** more photos are at

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10155378452670466.1073741897.688425465&type=1&l=dc4da349cb>



And some photos of the April MFS End of Month Dance at Kingston from Anne Mathas



Further Down the Track

13th Annual Canberra Irish Set Dancing Weekend
Friday 6th - Sunday 8th October 2017
HALL PAVILION
Gladstone St (Hall Showground), HALL ACT 2618

Saturday and Sunday workshops with
JAMES & SALLY GARNER
LIZ CARTER & KATE CROWLEY
PAUL WAYPER

Friday night, Saturday night & Sunday afternoon ceilis with
THE JIMMY MULLARKEY CEILI BAND

Session Ticket Price

All events \$85

Friday night welcome ceili \$20

Saturday workshops \$30

Saturday night ceili \$20

Sunday workshops & farewell ceili \$30

Half-price for under 18

10% discount for early bird bookings by 31 August 2017

Booking is available online from 1 June 2017 at <http://www.mabula.net/setdancing>
isdcanberra@gmail.com

Presented by
**Monaro Folk
Society Inc.**



Merry Muse Sunday 4 June 3.00 pm to 6.45pm - Note early start
Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson St Weston

Blackboard plus Feature Act Jasmine Beth Admission \$3 MFS Members and Concessions \$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.



Jasmine Beth writes and sings folk tales about sailors, devils, ancient Greek legends, Shakespearean characters and madness. Audiences enjoy her jazzy vocal stylings, stripped back guitar and warm stage presence. She spends most of her time on the road, touring Australia and the UK every year. She was a finalist in the 2014 Australian Songwriting Contest, runner-up in the 2012 Sydney Singer-Songwriters' Contest and a semi-finalist in the 2009 UK Songwriting Competition.

Blackboards are the first Sunday of the month Note Blackboard on Sunday 4 June will start at 3pm due to Mary Coghlan performing in the evening make a day of it - come to the Merry Muse have dinner at the Irish Club and see Mary Coghlan in the evening

Next dates

Sunday July 2 4pm Feature act tba

Sunday August 6 Royalty

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)

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 Children's Bush Dance 2.30 to 4pm Second Saturday of each second month beginning 8 July at All Saints Church Hall Ainslie
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, 5.00 pm during winter, 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) 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

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