

# 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 27, Number 5 – June 2018**



Monday afternoon stayers at the Bundanoon DanceFest last year

## **From the President's Soapbox**

The July-December dance calendar will be printed this week, ready for distribution at the Bundanoon dance weekend. In preparing this we realised that the October Kids Dance and Dancers Dance were scheduled for the same Saturday as the ISD weekend, so we have moved them to the week before (6th October). Also, a heads up for December. The BDG has decided not to hold the Christmas party dance at the Woolshed this year, but at our workshop home, All Saints hall. It will now be on the second Saturday (8<sup>th</sup> December) instead of the first Saturday. More details as we get closer to the date but worth putting into your diary now.

We have just emailed out reminder notices for 2018-19 memberships early, as it appears that the reason many members don't renew is that they just forget or don't get around to it: thanks to those of you who have already replied with your renewals. Everyone so far has taken up the rebate offered for receiving the Musings electronically – this means less income for subs, but also makes it more affordable and attractive for new members to join. If you have not already

received one of these emails, there is a good chance that you overlooked renewal last year and are not currently financial, or that we do not have a current email address for you. If so, please contact us with your current email address at < membership@monarofolk.org.au>.

Finally, expressions of interest for performance at the 2019 National Folk Festival will open on 15<sup>th</sup> June. The ACT is one of the two featured states so it is worth thinking about it soon as deadlines come and go rapidly. Information at <http://folkfestival.org.au/apply/performer-info/>.

Geoff

## Dancing About – past and to come

### Dancing in June includes the Bundanoon Dance Fest.

Queens Birthday Long Weekend, 8<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> June 2018



*The Tenth DanceFest* will be held at Bundanoon in the Southern Highlands of NSW on the Long Weekend in June 2018. The weekend of dance with live music is possible because of the fine dance callers and lead musicians and support musicians who come to the DanceFest.

*The program includes 4 dances and many workshops.*

See below for an illustrated article about the origins of Bundanoon DanceFest .

### End of Month Dance .... Christmas in June, to the music of The Burnt Roast with Colin Towns calling



**When:** Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June – 8:00pm to 11:30pm

**Where:** Canberra Baptist Church, Currie Cres, Kingston

[Location map](#)

**Cost:** Bush dancing has to be the best value-for-money recreation around. Entry is just \$18, \$16 for group and concessions, \$14 for MFS members (you can join at the door), students half price, under 18s free.

Please bring a plate of supper to share; Chrissy contributions and attire would be nice.

Buy a cup for \$1 and enjoy as much water, cordial, tea or coffee as you like.

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

#### The Burnt Roast Band have this to say for themselves:

*A fine collection of musicians arising from the ashes of the Canberra Chapter of British Masterchef.*

*They are renowned for their attempt to BBQ a slab of beef, whilst drinking, playing and dancing for over 4 hours in a circle around the sacrificial BBQ.*

*At this point it was discovered that no-one has actually lit the fire. They made up for this by turning the gas to full, only aware there was a problem when the BBQ erupted in flames several drinks later. No-one was seriously injured, but several musicians had rather singed instruments and the Tuba and Trombone players suffered burnt lips.*

*The Roast tasted fantastic.*

*Repeat attempts to recreate that special flavour have resulted in the use of a flame thrower, combined with the burning of banjos and accordions!*

*By God, the band will be HOT, HOT, HOT on the Saturday night.*

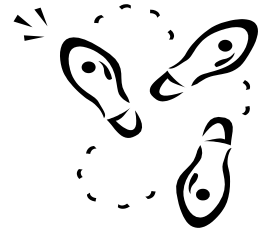
**Monday Workshops ....** There are three Monday workshops in June at All Saints at 8pm. The one we'll miss is on the public holiday 11<sup>th</sup> June. On the other Mondays, you can experience fun evenings of bush dancing to live music. Beginners and intermediate dancers attend these workshops as they are tailored to teach. Experienced dancers also attend to help out and to enjoy the dances and the 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, \$8 for non-members and the second night is free. Contributions to supper welcome but not essential.



**Contra ....** is on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays from 7:30pm to 9:30pm 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> time free.

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. Fun and energetic, with all dances taught and called.

**English Country Dancing ....** is on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays from 7:30pm to 9:30pm at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner. This is a wonderful opportunity to improve your dancing and learn more steps. Please bring some friends to share the fun. Entry is \$7 for MFS members and \$9 for others.



**Irish Set Dancing ....** Please note the new time for the rest of term 2, and come along from 7:30pm to 9:30pm, 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 before the regular class, but are run on **request only**. To make a request, please contact Christine (contact details on back page).

See below for an article about the Comhaltas Dance Weekend in Melbourne in April

For more info on all the above dance events try our website: [www.monarofolk.org.au](http://www.monarofolk.org.au)

## Bunders celebrates 10 years young! by Colin Fong

2018 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Bundanoon DanceFest held over the June long weekend. Since its inception in 2009 dancers and dance callers and musicians have travelled from NSW, ACT, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania for the experience and it is now recognised overseas as a dance destination.

The story of Bunders goes back to 2008 when a group of dancers and musicians attended a weeklong dance tour on Norfolk Island primarily organised by Barbara and Lance Court with Dave Johnson programming the dance and the music. After this experience the question



Merka Viigisalu and Adrian Giacobetti (in the middle) Photo – Dave Johnson

"What will we do next?" was answered with the first Bundanoon DanceFest, then known as the Bundanoon Weekend of Bush Dancing and now referred to affectionately as "Bunders".

The Bundanoon DanceFest is run by Bush Traditions Inc with Dave Johnson, a life member of the Bush Music Club, organizing the programme and cajoling the musicians and dance callers, while Ray Mulligan manages the venues and finances. Well over one hundred dancers converge on Bundanoon and the event contributes greatly to the local economy by way of accommodation and hospitality. Over the years there have been many styles of dances taught with Australian colonial, bush and contemporary being the focus. The programme has regularly included Ballroom, Scottish, Irish, English, Morris, Contra and European (Estonian, German, Swedish, Norwegian) plus excursions into Tango, Blues, Rapper Sword and such. The different styles of dancing have meant many dancers have had to leave the comfort zone of their favourite dance style because in the evening the different styles are demonstrated and danced.



Mainly Fiddles

Photo – Sandra Nixon

Live music at all the workshops plus the evening dances is a big attraction for both dancers and musicians. A lead musician liaises with the workshop caller and organises the required music. This is made available via the Bush Traditions website for musicians to download and practice before the weekend. Musicians incidentally volunteer their skills for the double joy of playing with capable leaders and for experienced dancers.

The dance programme has three streams of 90 minute workshops, with four time slots on Saturday and Sunday and two on Monday morning. There is a welcome dance on the Friday night, a Saturday night dance then a bush ball on Sunday night. For the past few years, due to crowding on Sunday evening, another dance has been held in the school hall. The weekend finishes with a dance on Monday afternoon

Over the years, the main venues have been the Soldiers Memorial Hall, the Bundanoon School hall and the Bundanoon Club, with other venues such as the Uniting Church hall and the local motel occasionally needed. Accommodation in the town and nearby villages is booked solidly, and some frost hardy souls even camp at the local Pony Club. Bundanoon in June means that the nights are significantly cooler than the days.

To avoid unnecessary waste reusable ceramic cups are provided and bottomless cups of tea and coffee are available. Since the dance festival commenced, the town of Bundanoon has become the first in Australia to cease selling bottled water and people have the opportunity to have free filtered water at taps located on the footpaths.

After the evening dances many people gather in the hotel lounge where musicians jam along together with the occasional singalong.



Dancing the hornpipe with Colin Towns - featuring Roland Clarke on fiddle! Photo – Sandra Nixon

Bundanoon DanceFest welcomes dance callers, musicians and dancers. The Bush Traditions website ([bushtraditions.org](http://bushtraditions.org)) has the info and contacts..

Bundanoon on the June long weekend, are you going to join the dance locomotion?

Acknowledgements: To Dave Johnson and Sandra Nixon for photos, corrections and additions to the text.

## Comhaltas dance weekend in Melbourne



What a fab weekend of Irish Set Dancing in Melbourne 27<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> April. Renowned Irish Set Dancing Master, Pat Murphy, was the draw card for this weekend hosted by Melbourne Comhaltas. Pat has visited Australia in the past but not for many years so we were anticipating something special and were not disappointed. Over 100 people attended. Many made the informal 'meet and greet' at the Quiet Man Irish Pub with a bit of dancing to get us in the mood. Wonderful to talk to Pat and Esther and to meet up with old and new friends from Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Brisbane.

Over the next two days Pat demonstrated and taught several sets from his latest book of collected dances 'Come West Along the Road' - including the *Barnane Jig Set*, the *Seit Chamuis*,

the *Termonfeckin* (one word!) *Lancers* and the *Battle of Affane Set*. Pat has a very appealing way of demonstrating and teaching, complete with little stories that really bring to life the meaning of each set, its context, and style of dancing. The fun *Battle of Affane Set* was a great choice for Sunday morning - an opportunity for theatre when it was your turn to be the Earl of Desmond and stamp and slap the knee as you were shot.

Pat's own dancing style is a delight to watch. There is just so much there for dancers, teachers and callers to learn from and aspire to. Thank you Pat and Esther.

If you missed Pat in Melbourne, or you want to learn from him again, don't miss the Canberra Irish Set Dancing weekend 12-14 October. See MFS website for details or email [isdcanberra@gmail.com](mailto:isdcanberra@gmail.com).

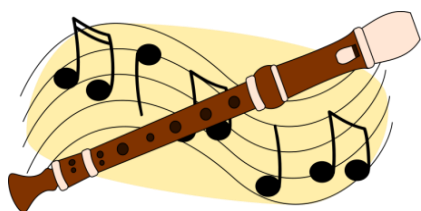
Congratulations to Melbourne Comhaltas for such a wonderful and successful weekend. As usual the catering was superb - morning teas, evening suppers, sausage sizzle and soup lunches. And thank you to the Melbourne Comhaltas Ceili Band for two high energy ceilis. The whole weekend was just fab!

Chris Briton



## Music with MFS

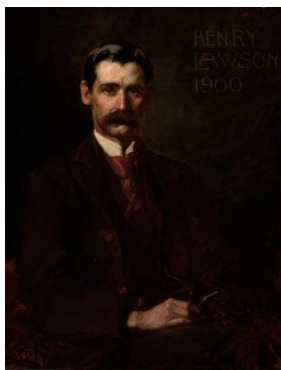
**Australian Settler's Music Sessions** – this group meets between 7.15 and 9.30 pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, except January, at the Grant Cameron Community Centre, 27 Mulley Street, Holder.. Contact is Ray Mulligan on 62474725



The **Tuesday Night Music Group** (beginner to intermediate), which happens on almost every Tuesday of the year, now meets on the 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.

## Out and About

### **River Men: Henry Lawson and Nick Drake** by Declan O'Connell



Henry Lawson by John Longstaff. Source: Wikipedia



Nick Drake. Source: Wikipedia



*The Soul of a Poet* and *Five Leaves Left*

Henry Lawson and Nick Drake had very different lives. Henry went to bush schools and left school early. Nick went to Marlborough College and Cambridge University. Henry was born in a tent at Grenfell, New South Wales in 1867. His father was a struggling gold miner. The family later had a small selection. Nick was born to a well-off expat family in Rangoon. The family returned to England in 1950, when he was three. His father was an engineer and company director. Nick died at the age of 26, Henry lived twice as long. Thousands turned up to his funeral. His writing was well known in his own lifetime. Nick's songs had posthumous success. About fifty mourners attended his funeral.

And yet, they had things in common. Depression and substance abuse for starters. Drink in Henry's case; Nick was more of a pothead. Great talents, nurtured by their mothers. Louisa Lawson founded a feminist journal, *The Dawn*. Molly Drake was a formidable songwriter in her own right, albeit unrecognised in her own lifetime. Above all, they both had a way with words, a great lyric gift. They also both had a bit of a rebellious streak.

Henry's poems and Nick's songs continue to inspire artists and find new interpreters. When a sixteen year old Chris Kempster put Lawson's poem *Reedy River* to music in 1949, he helped to inspire an Australian folk revival. Nick Drake regarded the haunting *River Man* as the centrepiece of his debut album, *Five Leaves Left*. It has been covered by, among others, Norma Waterson, Rachel Unthank and the Winterset, and Teddy Thompson. Henry Lawson and Nick Drake will be the focus of a special *River Men* edition of *Rebel Chorus* on Radio 2XX on 16th June (from 10 am to 12 noon). *Rebel Chorus* takes its name from a Lawson song, *Freedom on the Wallaby*.

*River Men* goes to air in the week in which Henry would have turned 151 and Nick 70. It will include an interview with Jason Roweth about the new Chloe and Jason Roweth album (with Liz Frencham), *The Soul of a Poet: Songs and Poems of Henry Lawson*. Radio 2XX broadcasts on 98.3 FM and livestreams from its website.

### **Looking for a choir to join?**



Brindabella Chorus, one of two women's barbershop choruses in Canberra, is welcoming new members in June. The chorus won the international championship medium sized chorus in a world-wide competition in Las Vegas in 2017, and in May 2018 won the Australian medium-sized chorus competition and came second overall. The chorus welcomes women with some previous singing experience and is taking new members during June and July. For more information see their video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7T0WOoh0hYc> and to register interest go to [www.brindabellachorus.org.au](http://www.brindabellachorus.org.au). Their Las Vegas performance is available on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sRjEAn8csQw>

Presented by  
**Monaro Folk  
Society Inc.**



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**Please Note:** There will be no Merry Muse this month because of the Queen's Birthday long weekend

**In July we will be back to normal with the blackboard from 4.00 to 6.00 pm and the Feature Act will be Jason and Chloe Roweth**

Ed's note: Recently a copy of *Trad and Now* came into my hands and it contains a comprehensive Festival Guide which led me to wonder how many people know just how many folk festivals there are going on around the country in addition to the Bundanoon Dancefest featured earlier in these pages. Some of them are rather far from here but you might like to have a look at their websites with a view to the future if you can't make it this year.

**Top Half Folk Festival - 8th to 11th June 2018** [www.topendfolkclub.org](http://www.topendfolkclub.org)

**National Celtic Festival – Port Arlington, Victoria - 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> June**

Australian artists flying the Celtic flag include New South Wales duo **Hat Fitz and Cara**, the **Melbourne Scottish Fiddle Club**, **Tim Scanlan Trio** and trad-folk icons **Trouble in the Kitchen**. [www.nationalcelticfestival.com](http://www.nationalcelticfestival.com)



**Peak Music Festival – 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> June in the Snowy Mountains**

[www.peakfestival.com.au](http://www.peakfestival.com.au)

**Palm Creek Folk Festival - 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> June**

The Palm Creek Folk Festival is an annual event, held in June each year, in the lush tropical grounds of the Mountain View Lake Eco Park, 40km south of Townsville, North Queensland. [www.palmcreek.com.au](http://www.palmcreek.com.au)



**Sessionfest - 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> June** – Morisset Showground, Morisset NSW 2264. Access via the M 1 Motorway. This is a festival where you create the event, the atmosphere & the music!

[www.newcastlehuntermvalleyfolkclub.org.au/event/sessionfest](http://www.newcastlehuntermvalleyfolkclub.org.au/event/sessionfest)

And a bit later in the month ...

**Festival of Voices – 29<sup>th</sup> June to 15<sup>th</sup> July in Tasmania – celebrate the power of song**

This one has a wealth of different activities, certainly not a straight folk festival, at various venues with wide-ranging genres [www.festivalofvoices.com/category/fov-coastal](http://www.festivalofvoices.com/category/fov-coastal)

## 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 0421 814 718.

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 6282 3523 or Robert on 6291 9135.

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 6247 4725

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 6281 1098

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 6286 6401

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 - 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday each month, 7.00 pm. Contact: Laurie McDonald 6253 9856, 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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