

Monaro Musings

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

www.monarofolk.org.au

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From the President

Hi everyone

As we head into the middle part of 2021, we are continuing to make good progress in getting our activities up and running again. I have been heartened by the turn-out we have had at a number of our recent events, including the Merry Muse and the dance preparation workshop ahead of the proposed Colonial Ball in September. As our restart continues, I would again encourage you to consider trying out one or the society's groups that you don't normally attend.

Our small band combos have now commenced, and there are also some people who would like to join a group subject to enough people being available at particular dates and times. So please go to the website if you are interested in getting involved.

One other particular project that I have in mind for the coming months is to take a look at our music repertoire across our various music groups, with the aim of identifying areas of commonality (without sacrificing distinctiveness) that could potentially form the basis for greater collaboration amongst the society's musicians. If you are interested in helping out with this, please let me know.

Assuming that the COVID situation here in the ACT remains stable, and the vaccine rollout continues as expected, we are hopeful that 2021-22 will be close to a normal year for the society.

As ever, we welcome further ideas and feedback about how to improve and grow the Society's activities into the future.

Cheers

David

Few Words: Many Pictures

This is really a picture book edition of *Musings*. So many things really started to get off the ground in the last few months, and particularly the opportunity to catch up with so many interstate friends at the GoodFolk sessions and concerts. Pictures can often capture the feeling of this far better than any words. I wonder if there are any members out there who have been around long enough, or have got around enough, to recognise all, or almost all of the people in the photos. Let me know.

Now we seem to be, fingers crossed, up and running again, *Musings* will depend on a steady stream of contributions, if it is to survive as a worthwhile publication. We would particularly like to get record or performance reviews or other thoughts about music or dance, musicianship or dancing skills that you would like to share. There is no need to do everything yourself—you can just arrange to talk about it with the editor who can help put it together.

If anybody would like high resolution copies of any of the photographs in this edition related to them, contact the editor at editor@monarofolk.org.au. If I have access to the originals I can send them on.

Dylan Turns 80 at the Merry Muse

The Merry Muse drew another full capacity audience for the concert arranged to celebrate the great man's recent 80th birthday. Due to prior commitments, Bob was unable to be there but it was a great evening as the blackboard artists and the featured band worked through their favourite Dylan songs.

The blackboard artists pictured below really rose to the occasion, with a series of strong performances.



Janine, Pete and Maria
(Boots of Spanish
Leather, I Threw It All
Away, Make You Feel My
Love)



Marijan Rupcic
(Tangled Up In Blue)



Brigitte Heyer
(Forever Young, Don't
Think Twice, In the
Mood For You)



Danny Velnaar
(Simple Twist of Fate,
Tombstone Blues)



Merrilyn Simmons
(Blind Willie McTell, Not
Dark Yet, You Ain't
Going Nowhere),



Luke Folkard
(Lay Lady Lay, One More
Cup of Coffee, If Not For
You)



Lachlan Irvine
(If You See Her Say
Hello, When the Deal
Goes Down)



Pierre Guenette
(Things Have Changed,
My Back Pages, I'll Be
Your Baby Tonight)



Frankie Seymour (with
Fred Pilcher),
Farewell Angelina and Mr
Tambourine Man)

The Dylan 5 –1

The feature band, consisting of Simone Dawson (flute), Rita Woolhouse (cello) Fred Pilcher (bass), and Bill Pitt (guitar), with all sharing vocal duties, had been formed just a few months ago just for this occasion. Despite being a member short at the last moment as Craig Dawson (who had been the main organiser and had done a huge amount of work on the arrangements) was unfortunately ill, they put on a terrific show.

The not-so predictable combination of instruments combined beautifully as did the combination of lead and background vocals. Songs featured were One Too Many Mornings, Love Minus Zero No Limit, Tomorrow Is A Long Time, Where Are You Tonight, I Want You, Desolation Row, It Takes A Lot to Laugh, All Along the Watchtower and a rousing rendition of I Shall Be Released.

Roll on Bob's 90th!



Simone Dawson



Rita Woolhouse



Fred Pilcher



Bill Pitt

Covering Dylan—Blonde on the Tracks

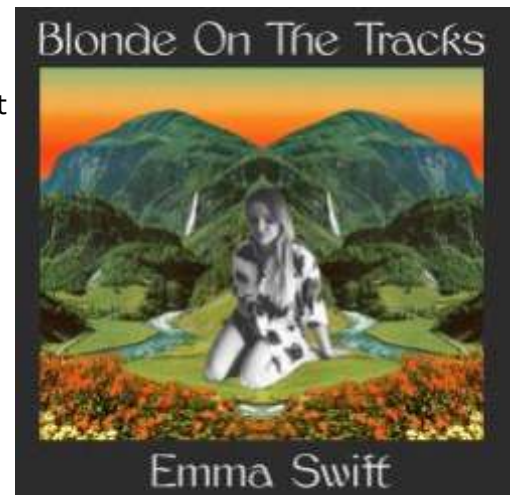
If you left the Dylan evening wanting more, Emma Swift, the former 2JJ announcer, now resident in Nashville, took up the challenge and put out her album of Dylan covers last year. All but one are from the 1965-1975 period, beginning with *Queen Jane Approximately* from *Highway 61 Revisited* through tracks from *Blonde on Blonde*, *New Morning*, *Planet Waves* and *Blood on the Tracks*.

It is a seriously good album, with the band being faithful to the originals while still putting their own stamp on them. Emma's vocals really bring the lyrics alive with lots of subtle changes in tone, phrasing and timbre that keep the songs alive and the melody interesting.

Listening to songs such as *One of Us Must Go*, *You're A Big Girl Now*, or *Going Gone*, you really feel we are in a real conversation. Someone is thinking carefully about what they need to say to us, and trying to get a point across. We end up 'listening' to the feelings behind the words as much as the words themselves.

The backing band is just as good and a great example of 'less is more'. No pyrotechnics but lots of very nice playing, restrained riffs, percussion and segues to support the lyrics and interesting interplay between the different instruments. This is really tasteful stuff.

Blonde on the Tracks is available in cd, vinyl, or digital download from Bandcamp or Emma's website. You can also see her on YouTube. Emma was supposed to be touring Australia right now but that was thwarted by the Melbourne lockdown. It has now been postponed to 2022 but will be worth waiting for.



The Olive Farm Session



The TiNMuGs were invited to perform on 22 May at the Guys Cross Olive Farm at Carwoola at the evening's celebrations for the weekend bringing in the olive harvest. A cold night very quickly warmed up, thanks partly to the heaters provided but mainly due to the dancing called by Jeanette Mill and Greg Wilson.

Things started fairly sedately with the children on the floor but the olive pickers soon came out en masse. Once introduced to the Troika and the Hokey Pokey, they couldn't get enough of them and there were many repeats. In a competitive field, these dances have probably rarely been performed more robustly and with so much improvisation.

The band got a lot of compliments for the quality of the music and the entertainment value at the end of what turned out to be a great evening. Perhaps a tradition in the making but we will see.



*Photos: Michael Szabo, Val Carmody,
Rob Waterworth*

Googong Heritage Day

The MFS Bush Dancers, led by Colin Towns, were one of the centrepieces of the Googong Heritage Day on 18 April, held at the London Bridge woolshed, as part of the Canberra Regional Heritage Festival.

The group's presence and fine costumes added greatly to the theme of the day. Throughout the event, a number of spectators also joined in the dancing, including most notably the National Trust's galah mascot (see bottom right) - a good natural dancer was lurking under the costume.



Photos: David Hunter

GOOD FOLK

A FOLK EXPERIENCE — IN QUEANBEYAN

The sessions that formed part of the GoodFolk program on 3 and 4 April organised by the National Folk Festival were a great success. A great venue—with a session tent set up on the laws of the Campbell & George in Queanbeyan and a good turnout and the first opportunity for a long time to play and catch up with interstate friends.

The Aussi Tunes sessions led Ray Mulligan and Moir Holmes kicked off both days. The English Session Muster, led by Jackie Luke and Greg Wilson, took the Saturday afternoon slot and the Old Time, organised by John Taylor, took the Saturday evening. Sunday afternoon was for the Irish Session (session leader: David Game) and the program finished in the evening with the Contra Session led by Rob Mahony.

On both days, the Canberra Shanty Club led a much missed opportunity to sing along with an hour-long Sea Shanty Session between the afternoon and evening instrumentals.



The Session tent: *Photo: Jeanette Mill*

GoodFolk: The Contra Sessions



Photos: David Hunter

GoodFolk: Aussie Tunes





GoodFolk: The English Session Muster





GoodFolk: The Sea Shanty Sessions



Shanty Photos: David Hunter

GoodFolk: The Irish Sessions





GoodFolk: The Old Time Sessions



MFS Dance and Music Sessions Contacts

As most sessions are now either in hibernation or operating in ways that are liable to sudden change due to the COVID situation, members interested in joining, should disregard previously advertised session times and get in touch with the contacts listed below.

Monday Dance Workshops	Mark Simmons 0421 814 718
Contra	Linda Aunela 0437 350 254 lindaaunela@yahoo.com.au
English Country Dancing	Colin Towns 0417 020 615
Irish Set Dancing	Christine 0413 168 562
Australian Settlers Music	Ray Mulligan 6247 4725
Tuesday Night Music Group	Julie 6282 3523 or Robert 6291 9135

Other Dance and Music Sessions Contacts

Canberra Celtic Choir	canberracelticchoir1@gmail.com
Canberra Scottish Fiddlers	markjenner@grapevine.com.au
Canberra Shanty Club	canberrashantyclub@gmail.com
Earthly Delights Historic Costume Balls	John & Aylwen Gardiner-Garden 0409817623
English Traditional Music Sessions	Jackie Luke 0417 679 139
Folk Dance Canberra	Lesley Rose 6286 6401 folkdancecanberra@gmail.com
Hoskintown Acoustic Kitchen Jam	Diane Cross 0402 644 450.
Jammalong	Dianne Porter porter32@bigpond.com
Murrumbateman Acoustic Music Club	wal.brewer@gmail.com
Old Time American Jam Session	Donna Vaughan 6258 9485
Queanbeyan Bush Poets	Laurie McDonald 6253 9856 or 0432 488 828.
Saturday Slow Session	Anna at acrab@netspeed.com.au
Surly Griffin Morris	Simon Wall 0404 859 404

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Monaro Folk Society, Inc. 2020-21 Committee

President: David Ball - president@monarofolk.org.au; Vice-President: Peter Stringfellow; Secretary: Ian Bull - secretary@monarofolk.org.au; Treasurer: Rod Peters - treasurer@monarofolk.org.au; Public Officer: Antonella Salpietro; Committee Members, Linda Aunela, Rebecca Tarrant, John Hewat, Colin Towns. For general enquiries please use secretary@monarofolk.org.au

Appointed Officials

Membership: Christine Gifford - membership@monarofolk.org.au; Merry Muse Coordinator: Vacant; Merry Muse PA Coordinator: Pierre Sibilant; *Monaro Musings* Editor: Keith Ogborn - editor@monarofolk.org.au; Bookkeeper: Linda Aunela - payments@monarofolk.org.au; Web Manager: Neil Glassford - webmaster@monarofolk.org.au

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