

Monaro Musings



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

Visit MFS at the website www.monarofolk.org.au and/or www.facebook.com/monaro.folk.society

***Monaro Musings*, Volume 27, Number 2 – March 2018**



'Dancers at the Yarralumla Woolshed where the Shearers' Ball will be held later this month

From the President's Soapbox

The Organisers' Consultation meeting in January was an opportunity for those who attended to have some refresher instruction on how to edit the website, so organisers will be able to keep their own activity information updated. If you notice any oversights in this department please let us know. We also discussed moving from use of MFS announce to an MFS Announce Google group as it gives us much wider options. All the current recipients of MFS announce will be placed on this new list - if you do not wish to be included please let us know. When this becomes operational you will receive an email with further information – this will also include an opt-out option.

The February flurry of activity has begun with the resumption of Dance workshops as well as promotional activities for the society. The trifold brochure for the society is almost complete and hopefully available for distribution in a couple of weeks. It covers all current dance and performance activities of the society. They have been working on increasing the dance offerings at the Cobargo Festival on the first weekend of March and the Contra band will be playing for a dance and workshops – there will be a lot of dance events so check out their publicity.

On Saturday, March 24, the CAP Expo at the Old Bus Depot will be a local promotional opportunity as we shall have both a stand and a join-in bush dance stage display. If you attend, drop by and see us, and perhaps spend a bit of time chatting with people who express interest in what we do.

The Bush Capital Band played at Bungendore for an inaugural bush dance for the Annual Country Muster there early this month – there was a good, appreciative response from locals and they are looking to make it an ongoing feature of their event.

Antonella has been pursuing her idea of organising a series of dance classes at ANU this semester as a way of introducing our events to a younger group than usually attend. We only had the go ahead a week ago, but Antonella secured permission for a promotional stall at O week market day at no cost to MFS. Thanks due to Sarah, Antonella and Simon, who put in a fair bit of time engaging people and passing out promotional fliers on the day. Unfortunately, the goalposts had been shifted a few times by the administration which made it difficult to plan and promote the classes – however if we do not get the numbers needed for this series of classes, we will try again next semester with more lead time and a better chance of success.

Finally, only 4 weeks to the NFF – Set in Their Ways will be performing, as well as a dance group organised by Daryl and Antonella. MFS will be running the Evening Muse from Friday to Sunday nights as well as our promotional marquee at the Central stage. If you attend the festival as a performer or spectator it would be greatly appreciated if you could spare an hour or two at the marquee during the day - remember that more than 50% of those who go to the NFF are from Canberra, and precisely our demographic, so it is a good chance to promote your society. Contact John Hewat or me at mfs.at.nff@monarofolk.org.au.

Dancing About

There is a lot of dancing in March including festivals and the Shearers' Ball.

For more info try our website: www.monarofolk.org.au

Cobargo Folk Festival



Dance Program at the School of Arts Hall, Cobargo Village

Friday 2nd March

8.00 - 9.30 pm Bush Dance

9.45 - 11.15 pm Tango & Salsa

Saturday 3rd March

8.00 - 9.30 pm Contra Dance

9.45 - 11.15 pm Irish Set Dancing Ceili

Dance Workshops at the Brolga Stage on the main festival site

Friday 2nd March

6.00 - 7.15 pm Tango Primer

Saturday 3rd March

(from 9.15 am - 6.00 pm) Wake Up Dancing, Barefoot Salsa, Bush Dancing, Morris Dancing, Flamenco, Contra Dancing, Irish Set Dance, Rapper Sword

Sunday 4th March

(from 9.15 am - 3.30 pm)

Wake Up Dancing, Can Can Project, Blues Moves, English Dance, Deep River African Dance, Folk Dancing

2nd Saturday Dance Prepare to dance your feet off with our second Saturday of the month dance on Saturday **10th March**, at All Saints from **7.00 pm** to 10.30pm.

Just \$10 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.

All dances taught by our expert callers, and called, so no experience needed and no partner necessary (but do bring them if you have one).

Live music by the Bush Capital Band.



Shearers' Ball Come all ye to the Shearers' Ball at 8pm on **24th March**. This is held at the iconic Yarralumla Woolshed, with its rustic charm and sprung timber floor. Use this occasion to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or just celebrate the fact that it's Saturday. Dress like a shearer or a landlord or lady or just wear something comfortable. We advise the use of soft soled shoes. Entry is \$24, groups \$22, members \$19, students half price, under 18's free. Just \$1 for a bottomless cup for tea, coffee, cordial and cool water. Please bring a plate of supper to share.



More about the Shearers' Ball with a historical slant from Antonella Salpietro

The Monaro Folk Society (MFS) is proud to present its annual Shearers' Ball on 24th March 2018. The event will kick off at 8.00 pm and guests will enjoy an evening of traditional bush dancing.

Held in the historic Yarralumla Woolshed, this special event will feature a special performance by the Paverty Bush Band, Canberra's best-known bush band.

In the very early days of settlement, dances from England, Ireland and Scotland were popular in Australia. Over the years, dances from other parts of Europe, including France and Germany made it to Australia. From the ballrooms of cities and towns, these dances would quickly spread to the rural areas.

Known as bush dances these events would often be held in woolsheds and shearing sheds due to their large size and hardwood floor. In fact, the lanolin from the sheep wool would make it possible for dancers to 'glide' on the floor. The bush dances were a great way to meet the locals and in some cases, they were the only way of meeting a possible partner in life.

At the Shearers' Ball all dances will be demonstrated, so no experience is necessary and all are welcome to join in.

Being held in the Yarralumla Woolshed, it offers an authentic and memorable experience for all. Originally built in 1904 by Frederick Campbell of Yarralumla, it was later partitioned with galvanised iron to form sleeping areas for labourers on various building sites in the new city of Canberra. In 1917 local farmers asked that the shed be used again for shearing. Since the 1970s, the building has become an important Canberra community social venue, particularly as a focus for bush dances and folk music activities.

Don't miss this very special event.. It's a great way to spend a night with family and friends and experience dances from decades long gone.

National Folk Festival



The full programme is now available on the festival website www.folkfestival.org.au



English Country Dancing is on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 7.30 to 9.30 pm 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.

Monday Workshops There are three Monday workshops in March at All Saints at 8pm. The one we'll miss is on the public holiday 12th March. On the other Mondays, fun evenings of bush dancing to live music. Beginners and intermediate dancers attend these workshops as they are tailored to suit any level of person who attends. 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 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 7.30 pm 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.

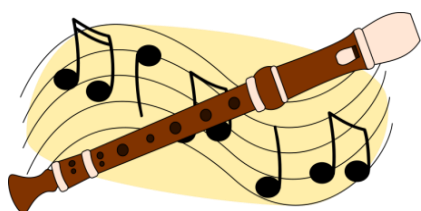
No need to bring a partner but please bring some friends to share the fun. Dance to the invigorating music of our own ContraBand. Contra is a lively dance style, dancing with a partner and meeting other couples as you progress along a column of dancers. Fun and energetic, with all dances taught and called.

Irish Set Dancing is on every Wednesday during the school term, , so come along from 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 also free and available from 7.30 – 8.00pm before the regular class, but are run on **request only**. To make a request, please contact Christine (contact details on back page).



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 7th and the 21st. Contact is Ray Mulligan on 62474725



Out and About

BLUE: The Songs of Joni Mitchell

Performed by Queenie van de Zandt

2 - 3 March 2018 @ 8 pm at The Q

Call 02 6285 6290 or book at www.theq.net.au

Musical Theatre star Queenie van de Zandt has appeared in King Kong, Les Misérables, Oliver, Hair, The Full Monty, The Boy From Oz, Cabaret and more.



Following rave reviews and sell-out performances in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney, plus two nominations for the Broadway Australia Sydney Awards, cabaret Chanteuse and musical theatre star - Queenie van de Zandt - brings you the songs, stories and music of the legend that is Joni Mitchell.

Renaissance woman, painter and poet, Mitchell created a soundtrack for the Woodstock generation. In *BLUE: The Songs of Joni Mitchell*, Queenie, along with legendary musical director Max Lambert and a live band, explores her love of all things Joni. Using voice-overs and intimate story-telling, Queenie takes us on a sonic journey through Joni's life, losses and loves, affectionately reinterpreting her melancholy music and intimately revealing the stories behind some of her most haunting songs.

"As exquisite a biography as you're likely to hear." - AUSTRALIAN ARTS

Thank Q For the Memories



To mark The Q's Tenth Anniversary Shortis and Simpson are creating a performance that celebrates the history and range of events so far. Shortis and Simpson will be joined by the likes of Dave Evans, Jenna Roberts, Jordan Best, Christine Forbes, Gordon Nicholson, Peter J Casey, The Queanbeyan Players, Free Rain, The Worldly Goods Chori, and musicians Dave O'Neill, Jon Jones and Ian Blake. The production will also feature excerpts from some of the many shows Shortis and Simpson have performed at the Q.

Bookings www.theq.net.au or 02 62856290

An Evening with Harry Manx

One show only at The Street Theatre on Childers Street on Wednesday 14th March at 7.30 pm. Tickets \$55

Bookings: 02 6247 1223

street@thestreet.org.au



Canadian Harry Manx has been one of the most successful international touring musicians ever to grace stages in Australia. He will be returning in 2018 to perform at Port Fairy Folk Festival, The Blue Mountains Music Festival and Byron Bluesfest as well as side shows in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra and Perth. This deeply original multi-instrumentalist has entertained audiences in more than 10 extensive tours since 2001.

The explanation is simple. Harry's created his own genre, often referred to as the 'Mystissippi Blues'. His mesmerizing sound is an organic fusion of eastern musical traditions with the Blues. The result is an expressive, moving and unforgettable new world.

His unique toolbox is a fascinating range of conventional acoustic and electric guitars, banjo, harmonica, stomp box, and the Mohan Veena, created by Harry's Indian mentor Vishwa Mohan Bhatt. His award-winning songs 'create musical short stories that wed the Blues with the depth of classical Indian ragas'.

A worldwide festival favourite, Harry's 15 albums and ceaseless touring have seen him earn a slew of Maple Leaf, Juno and Canadian Folk Awards, nominations, and accolades from musicians and fans alike.

"Watching Harry play tonight I feel like I learned something new....." Bruce Springsteen, at the International Guitar Festival, New York City

Jan Preston's Wonderful Winnie

This show is an uplifting and entertaining show combining live music, narration and visuals which celebrates the life and music of piano honky tonk great, **Winifred Atwell**.

Jan will be at the Street Theatre on Sunday 18th March at 4.00 pm for one show only.

Tickets: \$35 full, \$32 concession, \$29 student

Bookings: 02 6247 1223 or street@thestreet.org.au



Unfortunately at very much the same time on Sunday 18th March the Canberra Southern Cross Club at Woden has this show from Ireland:

Lunch and Show

Make a day of it and enjoy a two course meal in a private dining area before the show with our 'Lunch and Show'

Show Only at 3.00 pm. Cost: \$47.65 plus booking fee ticket offer. Lunch from 12.15pm. Cost: \$81.65 plus booking fee

Experience an inspirational journey covering the last 80 years of Irish music and humour with the award winning captivating artistry of multi talented Irish performers Peter Byrne, Paul Martell, Eileen McCann and Shannon Bacall, and narrated by multi award winning Irish comedian Paul Martell.

Together they will feature the music of The Corrs, Foster & Allen, The Fureys, Van Morrison, The Pogues, Thin Lizzy, U2 and many more, showcasing traditional Irish instruments such as the fiddle, harp, bodhrain, mandolin guitar and whistle.

Bookings via 6283 7200 or website www.csccl.com.au

House Concert - Bruce Watson - Sun 11th March 2018



This concert is in celebration of Bruce's latest album "Mosaic". Doors open from 2.00 pm - Show starts 2:30 pm.

Please bring a plate and drinks to share for afternoon tea (intermission).
Venue is about an hour's drive from Canberra.

\$20 adults / \$15 (concession) – numbers will be strictly limited as for a house concert, so a deposit will be required to guarantee your place.

To book and for address and more info contact Colin Towns, - mobile 0417

To book and for address and more info:

Contact Colin Towns: Mob: 0417 020 615; ctowns@pcug.org.au

Bruce's website is www.brucewatsonmusic.com

And another House Concert the following week ...

Sunday 18th March - Save the date!! Local folk group Hither and Yon are excited to be supporting a house concert featuring two young singer songwriters, Teri Young from Tasmania and Andy Paine from Brisbane, on 18th March from 5 pm to 7 pm.

Teri and Andy have been touring the east coast on their way to perform at the National Folk Festival this coming Easter. Teri was featured at the National by the National Folk Federation in 2016 and Andy has been featured in Triple J unearthed



Hear previews of Andy's music at
www.andypaine.bandcamp.com

Hear previews of Teri's music at
www.teriyoungmusic.com

Cover charge is \$10 (cash), please bring a plate to share for "supper" and your own drinks

Please register your attendance on the Hither and Yon facebook page
(www.facebook.com/hitherandyonmusic) where you can also find the address

Any questions phone Lyndal on 0418 972 438

Photos: Hither and Yon (top left), Andy (right), Teri (below left)

Further Down the Track

National Trust Heritage Festival Open Day 2018 - Monaro Folk Society dancers

The MFS Dancers and musicians have participated in the previous two National Trust Heritage Festival Open Days. This year the National Trust is partnering with ACT Historic Houses to hold the Open Day at Lanyon Homestead.

The Open Day will be on Saturday 14th April 2018 from 10 am to 3 pm. It is the start of the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival which runs until Sunday 29th April and the theme for 2018 is My Culture, My Story.

As you know, Lanyon is quite well known but this Open Day will be a chance to see "beyond the homestead". In addition to the Homestead, there will be other attractions such as garden and outbuilding tours, a walk to the canoe tree, a chance to see the Fowler steam road locomotive in action and our usual range of stalls, classic cars and entertainment. The Lanyon café will be operating in addition to the sausage sizzle and ice cream van.

Colin Towns is organising two dance join-in sessions, as in previous years, and invites all bush dancers and musicians to attend to have fun.

The dances will be nice and easy - very similar to Dancing in the Park - and focussed on getting the public to join-in. Please let me know if you are interested so that I can focus the emails.

Contact Colin Towns – Mobile: 0417 020 615; ctowns@pcug.org.au

Presented by
**Monaro Folk
Society Inc.**



Special Free show: Austrian Australian Club Friday 2nd March 2018 at 8.00 pm

Merry Muse has partnered with Songland Records, Country Music Association Canberra and Lone Wolf Promotions to present at Bucky and Jeffros' Blues Roots and Country

Bluestone Junction



Bluestone Junction's sound is traditional bluegrass, but their repertoire includes original compositions, tunes by modern bluegrass 'traditionalists' such as the Johnson Mountain Boys, and of course classic compositions from bluegrass pioneers such as Bill Monroe, Earl Scruggs, Lester Flatt, the Stanley Brothers and more. This is one class act with the cream of bluegrass musicians - Chris Jacobs on vocals and rhythm guitar, Mick Harrison on Banjo, Mike St-Clair Miller on double bass and tenor harmonies, Donal Baylor on fiddle, Pete Fidler on dobro and mandolin. Check them out at www.bluestonejunction.com

Merry Muse - Sunday March 11th 4.00 pm to 7.00pm

Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson St Weston

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

Please note that the Irish Club has asked that regular attendees also join the Irish Club

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 to enjoy the music.

Feature Act Ecopella



Warning! May cause harmony to the environment! Passionate, satirical and creative, this environmental choir has been spreading its a cappellamanifesto for 20 years. Ecopella's sense of fun fills each performance with positive and satirical messages. Even in serious mood the beauty and solemnity of the music is uplifting.

National Folk Festival, Central Park - Merry Muse Blackboard Friday 30th March to Sunday 1st April – come along at 4.00 pm and put your name down for a spot

**www.merrymuse.org.au - Enquiries ph Eileen 0412 127 882 or email
[eileennew23\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:eileennew23@gmail.com)**

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

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 6282 3523 or Robert on 6291 9135.

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 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 gives full details or contact Lesley Rose on 6286 6401. For first Saturday of the month social dance contact Maria Jenkins on 6231 4472.

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

Queanbeyan Bush Poets - 4th Thursday each month, 7.00 pm. Contact: Laurie McDonald 6253 9856, 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) 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; Vice-President: Vacant; Secretary: Ian Bull – secretary@monarofolk.org.au; Treasurer: Tina Lynam - 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

Appointed Officials

Membership: Declan O'Connell - 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; Bookkeeper: Linda Aunela – payments@monarofolk.org.au; Web Manager: Simon David

Monaro Folk Society Inc
PO Box 482
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608