

# Monaro Musings



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

Visit the MFS at the website [www.mfs.org.au](http://www.mfs.org.au) and/or [www.facebook.com/monaro.folk.society](https://www.facebook.com/monaro.folk.society)

***Monaro Musings*, Volume 26, Number 4 – May 2017**



Boho Mojo close out the Merry Muse at the National Folk Festival Photo Eileen Newmarch

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

The National Folk Festival for 2017 has now come and gone, with MFS re-establishing a presence there. Ray Mulligan's sessions were extremely popular and I heard a number of comments as to how the Bush Capital Band rivalled any of the bands at the NFF in providing the music for the Dancers' Dance and Peter Foster's Contrabass and Squares: congratulations to the musicians involved. It is also quite remarkable how much better the sound is in the Coorong pavilion since they started hanging drapes around the perimeter to counter the echo.

This year we launched our marquee as an information centre at the Central Park Stage. A few people put in a lot of work in preparing, installing and running the stand throughout the festival. In particular, my thanks to John, Claude, Veronique, Bob, Pierre and Rita in making this endeavour successful and thanks to those members who dropped in and gave some time to promote the society. It was good to have a place that members could regard as a home base at the festival and we hope we can build on this presence next year. The Evening Muse blackboard was most successful – in fact the final act on the Sunday evening, Boho Mojo, expanded its allotted 15-minute spot into 50 minutes with the band

swelling from four musicians to seven and the audience dancing to the energetic music. Congratulations to Eileen for organising and compering and to Pierre and Noel for doing a great job on sound.

On another note, I have been told that a number of people have not been happy about the fact that the monthly Musings does not appear on their doorstep (or inbox) as early as they would like it. My immediate thought is that a useful first response would be to contact someone (like me) who may be able to do something about it. And here's an idea: perhaps you could offer some assistance in getting things done, rather than just expect that others will do it. The MFS is (hopefully) a group of mutually supportive people – unfortunately a few (such as Tina) end up doing a lot of work and are subject to burn-out, so be aware that the activity you enjoy depends on these folk, who would quite likely appreciate assistance if it were offered. Just a thought .....

Geoff

**Vale Ken Wolff**



"We note with sadness that long-time member, Ken Wolff, died at home in Kambah on 18 March. He had been a member of MFS since the 1970s. With his wife Gillian, he was a regular for many years at the Merry Muse, usually enjoying a quiet Guinness, a joke and a smoke with his many friends and acquaintances. Ken was a keen observer of politics and social issues, and a wise scholar with a passion for history. He kept a daily diary throughout his time in Canberra. We loved his company, and appreciated his sharp observations. He had an honours degree in Anthropology, and worked in Canberra in the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and later with the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Commission. Those of us who used to gather monthly with Ken to wrap the Monaro Musings for posting out to members, remember how courteous and reliable he was. Even when battling cancer, he would turn up, undaunted, to lend a hand. Sleep in peace, mate. Arminel & Pat Ryan."

## Dancing About

**Monday Workshops ....** There are five Mondays in May, so get out your dance shoes and be at All Saints on Monday evenings at 8pm for a fun evening 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.



**2nd Saturday Dance ....** Prepare to dance your feet off with our second Saturday of the month dance on Saturday 13 May, at All Saints from 7pm 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, Daryl, Peter and Mark, 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.

**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>

**End of Month Dance ....**Autumn Celebration Dance

Dress up in autumn colours for a great night of dancing.

If you have wanted to enjoy the adrenaline rush of dancing, this is your chance. You don't need to bring a partner, but bring one if you have one—regulars are very welcoming and happy to help. No experience necessary, dances are walked through then called.

All vibrant live music from local band Earthly Delights, with calling by John Garden

When: Saturday 27 May – 8:00pm to 11:30pm

Where: Canberra Baptist Church Hall – 11 Currie Crescent, Kingston

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

Cost: MFS members \$14, Non members \$18, concessions and groups \$16, under 18 free. Bring a plate to share for supper.

Presented by the Monaro Folk Society –  
visit [mfs.org.au](http://mfs.org.au) for further information.



**Contra .....** is on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. Entry is \$6 for MFS members and \$8 for others, 2<sup>nd</sup> time free.



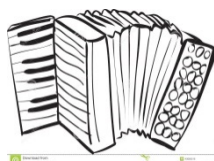
**Irish Set Dancing .....** Wednesdays 8pm to 10pm, North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner and cost \$8 for MFS members and \$9 for others. The first two classes for new starters are FREE. Beginner's classes are available from 7.30 – 8.00 pm before the regular class, but are run on request only.

To make a request, please contact Christine (contact details on back page).



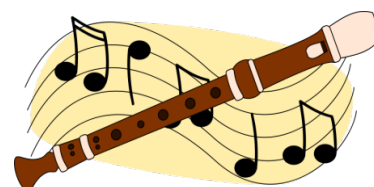
**English Country Dancing ....** is on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month from 7.30 to 9.30 pm at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner. Please bring some friends to share the fun. Entry is \$7 for MFS members and \$9 for others.

## 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 3rd and the 17th. 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.



There is also music at the **Merry Muse** on the first Sunday of the month – see page 6 for details.

## Out and About ...

Early Bird tickets are on sale for the **Peak Festival**, Snowy Mountains' only winter music festival which kicks-off the start of the Perisher ski season June Long Weekend 9th – 12th June with 4 days of awesome music, snow, fun and laughter. Some festival favourites including Fred Smith, Mikelangelo and the Black Sea Gentlemen, Jason Roweth and Daniel Champagne are among a star line-up of artists. More Info at <http://peakfestival.com.au/>

**Murrumbateman Acoustic Music Club** - last Sunday each month has changed its start time to 5.00 pm during winter, Murrumbateman Hotel Function Room. . Contact: Wal Brewer – [wal.brewer@gmail.com](mailto:wal.brewer@gmail.com)

### New session starting for fans of English Traditional music.

A motley bunch of English trad music players will gather at the Pot Belly in Belconnen from 3.00 to 5.00 pm on Sundays, possibly fortnightly, possibly monthly. Please contact 0417 679 139 (Jackie) or 0407 899 905 (Greg) or 6258 9845 (Donna) or Jackie by email [dulce@easy.com.au](mailto:dulce@easy.com.au) or [mailto:dulce@easy.com.au](mailto:mailto:dulce@easy.com.au) for more information.

Presented by  
**Monaro Folk  
Society Inc.**



**Merry Muse Sunday 7 May 4.00 pm to 7.00pm**  
**Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson St Weston**

**Blackboard plus Feature Act Fred Pilcher**

Admission \$3 MFS Members and Concessions \$5 Others



**Fred Pilcher** has been playing the 12-string acoustic guitar and performing since the late 1960s, inspired and mentored by the likes of Doug Ashdown, Mike McLellan, Marion Henderson, Buddy Wilson and Phil Cuneen. He was a regular at PACT Folk, Sydney's premier folk club and played with Pat Drummond's Toot Whistle Plunk and Boom Band, regulars in the Sydney music scene, headlining at many protest movement concerts. Pat's web site retrospective refers to Fred as a "12-string guitar whiz Kid."

Since moving to Canberra in the mid-1970s Fred has played with a wide range of Canberra's musical luminaries and iconic musicians including Mike Hayes (the Pricklefarmer), Donal Baylor, Rita Woolhose, Dave O'Neill, Bruce Packard, and appeared on Eric Bogle's CD, *Endangered Species*. His recent and current projects include Craig and Simone Dawson's *Lord Byron Five*; a double-CD work-in-progress with Pat, Geoff and Steve Drummond; CDs commemorating Gordon Lightfoot's 75th birthday and the 75th Anniversary of the bombing of Darwin, both with Gary Luck; and blues band, *The Lying Cheating Bastards* (aka *The Politicians*). As a member of Celtic band, *Humbug*, he recorded and produced their CD, *On Raglan Road*. Fred is currently recording his own solo CD and a CD for musician, journalist and author, Chris Johnson. As a solo performer his material ranges from traditional to contemporary. Recently, Fred has been joined in his solo acts by Georg Breu on bass guitar.

**Sunday 4 June 3 PM Blackboard plus Feature Act Jasmine Beth**

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  
[www.merrymuse.org.au](http://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 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 62823523 or Robert on 62919135.

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 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](http://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](mailto: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 – 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) 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](mailto:president@mfs.org.au); Vice-President: Peter Gamble; Secretary: Ian Bull – [secretary@mfs.org.au](mailto:secretary@mfs.org.au);  
Treasurer: Matt Gibbins - [treasurer@mfs.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@mfs.org.au)

#### **Appointed Officials**

Membership: Declan O'Connell - [membership@mfs.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:editor@mfs.org.au); Bookkeeper: Linda Aunela; Web Manager: Simon David

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