

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 4 – May 2018



Around the NFF - 29/03 to 02/04 2018

Photos by Lawrie Brown – captions on page 2

More photos and stories from the National below and in Out and About.

From the President's Soapbox

The biggest folk event of the year, the NFF, was once again graced by our presence at the Central Park Stage: MFS organised and ran the sound for the CPS during the day, hosted the Evening Muse, and promoted the society's activities at our marquee. The Evening Muse was very successful, with some great presentations and bands that had the place packed and dancing. Many thanks in particular to John Hewat and Rita Turnbull for organising and running the marquee, Eileen the Evening Muse, Nell as MC, Bob Hodgson for sound mixing and a HUGE thank you to Pierre for organising, transporting and managing the sound for the Central Park Stage. Thanks also to other members who came by and assisted at the marquee.

Set in Their Ways and Antonella/Daryl's Bush dance display performed at the new Piazza, which was reported to be better sheltered than previously, however the dancers commented that levelling of the floor needs attention for next year to minimise "dancer drift".

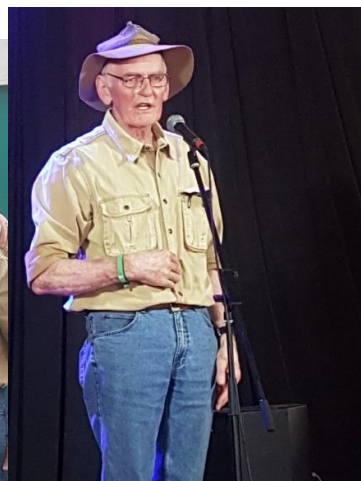
Kudos also for two very popular NFF events spearheaded by MFS musicians: instrument sessions during the day. Ray Mulligan's Australian bush music session aimed at proficient musicians had a strong attendance, but the dark horse has been the "beginner sessions", led by Moir and Gavin Holmes and Alan and Linda Swift. These are now packing in up to 80 participants, despite being an 8.30am start, and provide a somewhat rare opportunity for many of these people to play with others. It is very much akin to the MFS Tuesday Night Music group, which is going from strength to strength in providing a non-judgmental, friendly, encouraging environment to build confidence and musicianship for those at all levels.

Geoff

Photo Captions for front page, clockwise from Top Left:

Wind Twisters at Community Arts; Chordwainers with their fantastic leather Mountain Harp at the Majestic; Lindsay Lou at the Fitzroy; The Scottish Ball at the Coorong on Friday; 'Tall People' roaming; Vendulka at the Flute n' Fiddle; Northern Folk at the Flute n' Fiddle; All Our Exes Live In Texas at thr Budawang

Poetry at the National



Photos by Estelle Blackburn



Top Left – Peter Mace and John Peel with their trophies
Centre - The winners, with Chris McGinty, Greg North, Col Wilson's widow Pat, Keith McKenry and Laurie McDonald
Top Right - Spoken word organiser Laurie McDonald reciting
Bottom Left - Peter Mace receives his award from Col Wilson's widow, Pat
Bottom Centre - : Judge of the two awards, Chris McGinty reciting Will Ogilvie's 'How the Firequeen crossed the Swamp'

The National Folk Festival's Poets Breakfast is growing in popularity, big crowds filling the Flute 'n' Fiddle at 8.30 each morning to hear the recitations in a close competition for the National Reciter of the Year award. It was judged again this year by 2016 winner Chris McGinty, when last year's winner, Len 'Lenno' Martin couldn't make it due to his wife's illness. The winner was John Peel, of Tumut, with 'When Elvis Came Back from the Dead'.

This year, there was a second award, the inaugural Blue the Shearer award commemorating Col Wilson, who wrote a poem a week and recited them on the ABC as Blue the Shearer, and died last year. Peter Mace, of Empire Bay, co-ordinator of Gosford Bush Poets won with his poem 'What Price a VC?' and was presented with the award by Col's widow, Pat

Estelle Blackburn

MFS in Central Park at the NFF

For the second time MFS had a stall at the National, situated in our marquee and adjacent to the stage in Central Park. Let's hope we have a few more people joining up as a result of this endeavour. Hard to believe that not so many years ago – well, more accurately many years ago (1992 to be exact) the MFS actually ran the National, as did other local Folk Societies in whatever area the National was destined to be in different years. It all became rather too big for that sort of arrangement and from 1993 the National's permanent home has been at EPIC with a full Board of Management behind it and a number of full-time staff employed. That said, volunteers – hundreds of them – are still the lifeblood of the festival and many MFS members are a part of it. Many thanks are due to them and to those from further afield, As they always say at festivals – 'It couldn't happen without you'.

The stage at Central Park was programmed by the festival during the day but in the evening became an MFS Blackboard. The criterion was that programmed performers at the Festival did not perform at this blackboard. Nevertheless Eileen, who presided over these evenings in fine style, managed to attract some excellent performers from soloists through to big bands. The standouts for me were locals Zackerbilk – wonderful trad jazz which was very popular for dancing, Son Quba from Victoria with a great Buena Vista Social Club sound, also a hit with the dancers, and Scott Cook – a singer-songwriter from Canada. (all pictured below). There were clearly many more good performances that I wasn't there to see. It was my birthday on Easter Monday and I managed to time my celebration, with lots of cake and friends dropping round, to coincide with the end of the final blackboard and *Happy Birthday* was sung for me by Son Quba, who also participated in the consumption of the cakes. It was a happy way to almost end the festival, though I did proceed to the final concert which, to be honest, I found underwhelming. Caught some good music later into the night at the Flute n' Fiddle, always one of the last venues to close.

Tina

Central Park

Photoos by John Hewat and Eileen Newmarch



Top Right:
Zackerbilk
Above: Son Quba
Right: Rita
Left: Scott Cook

Dancing About

There is only one Saturday dance this month, so be at All Saints Church on 12th May
No End of Month Dance due to Reconciliation Day but you can look forward to the June End-of-Month Dance on Saturday 27th June which will be themed **Christmas in June** and will have an exciting band new to our dances - **The Burnt Roast Band** with Colin Towns calling

2nd Saturday Dance Dance your feet off with our second Saturday of the month dance on Saturday **12th 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, 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.



Monday Workshops There are only three Monday workshops in May due to Reconciliation Day on the 28th. On the first three Mondays at All Saints at 8 pm there will be 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 dancing 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.

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.



Irish Set Dancing is on every Wednesday, so come along from 8 pm to 10 pm, North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner. Cost is \$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 – 8.00 pm before the regular class, but are run on **request only**. To make a request, please contact Christine (contact details on back page).

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

Saturday 5th May from 2.00 to 4.00 pm is the last of the series of three **Bavarian Couples Dance Classes at the Austrian Club** in Mountevans Street, Mawson, presented by Ingrid and Jim. All levels of dancers are welcome and the cost is just a gold coin donation.

In May **The Earthly Delights Historic Dancing Academy** will not be holding the usual Costume Ball on the third Saturday of the month – instead there is a special event on Mother's Day.

You are invited to a Special Baroque dance event at Wesley Hall (in the grounds of Wesley Uniting Church- not to be confused with Wesley Music Centre in those same grounds), National Circuit, Barton

This event features the Earthly Delights Historic Dance Academy dancers, visiting UK baroque dance teacher Philippa Waite and a specially brought-together ensemble of local and interstate baroque musicians.

Musicians will include Ariana Odermatt (spinet), Jennifer Brian (baroque flute), Aimee Brown (recorder), Richard Milner (recorder and viol), Owen Bingham (bass viol) and John Gardiner-Garden (baroque hurdy-gurdy), and they will be playing music from Praetorius to Purcell, Lully to the later Paris Opera.



Dancing will alternate between displays and lots of participation. The displays will include Versailles courantes, bourrées, sarabands, passepieds and minuets and the 'Masque of the Seasons', newly reconstructed from a 1650 manuscript. Participation will be invited on French branles and cotillons, English country dances and lots of other fun Baroque-period dances. Display dancers will be in beautiful period costumes, but participants are welcome to come in any dress they like (casual is fine).

Sun. 13th May, 2:00-5:30pm. \$25 @ door includes program and afternoon tea.

ROMANIAN FOLK DANCE -Workshop for Dancers

Lively, energetic and foot stamping Romanian folk dance! Dianna Laska has an extensive career in classical ballet, character and Romanian folk dance acquired while studying, dancing and teaching for many years in Europe. Come and enjoy the exciting dance and music of Romania.

Dance experience desirable. A contribution to afternoon tea is always welcome.

Enquiries: Suzanne: 6241 2941 or

Lesley: 6286 6401

When: Saturday, 5 May, 1.30pm – 4.30pm **Cost:** \$18 (\$15 **FDC** members)

Where: Folk Dance Canberra Hall, 114 Maitland Street, Hackett ACT 2602

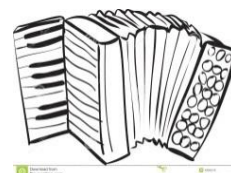
Website: <http://www.folkdancecanberra.org.au>

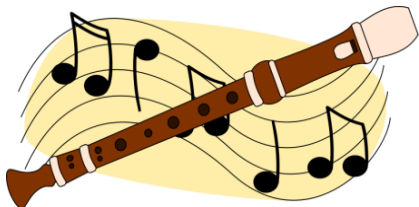
Email: folkdancecanberra@gmail.com



Music with MFS

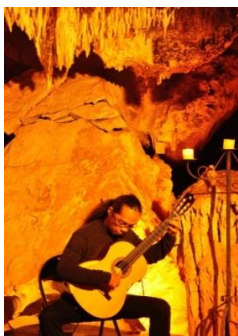
Australian Settler's Music Sessions – this group meets between 7.15 and 9.30 pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, except January, at the Grant Cameron Community Centre, 27 Mulley Street, Holder.. Contact is Ray Mulligan on 62474725





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

Out and About



CRYSTAL CLEAR CONCERTS

FILIPINO CLASSICAL GUITARIST

SEGUNDO VASQUEZ

is performing underground in the beautiful visual and acoustic space of Careys Cave, Wee Jasper at 3.30pm on Sat 26th May 2018

Information/ bookings: www.weejaspercaves.com

House Concert Review from Lyndal Thorburn

Teri Young (from Tassie) and Andy Paine (from Queensland) performed at a house concert in Queanbeyan on 18th March. The pair had been touring, travelling south from Brisbane and performing along the NSW coast, heading towards Melbourne. An appreciative audience welcomed Teri's original songs about Tasmania, in particular appreciating a protest against tall buildings in Hobart (Don't Get Tall), and a lovely song about Hobart visitors, Cruise Ship. Andy's music was more "folk punk" with songs like Don't Kill People, The Sound of Silence and I'm Carbon Neutral Baby. While the two of them took turns to perform, they finished the set with a couple of duets which were also well received.

One of Teri's last songs was Fishing at Okehampton Bay, a protest against the commencement of salmon cage fishing the area. She was later awarded the Alistair Hulett Protest Song award at the National Folk Festival for this song.

All in all we had a lovely relaxed evening with these two fine performers. They had great audience rapport and were very engaged with and responsive to those around them.

Ed's Note: I never dreamt how many opportunities there were in Canberra and its environs for musicians to join in sessions, with bluegrass and American Old Timey very well represented. Now, thanks to Donna Vaughan, I have a list of them to share with you: And there's one for the singers too.

Sessions Galore

Bluegrass jam nights at Harmonie German Club, 49 Jerrabomberra Ave, Narrabundah - 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, 7.30-9.30 pm. Contact: Diane Cross 0402 644 450.

Hoskinstown acoustic kitchen jam in the Hoskinstown Memorial Hall (old time American, bluegrass, folk) - 1st Thursday each month, 7.00-9.30 pm. Contact: Diane Cross 0402 644 450.

Smiths Alternative Old Timey Tuesdays (old time American music jam sessions), 76 Alinga Street, Civic - alternate Tuesdays, 7.00-10.00 pm. See <https://www.smithsalternative.com/calendar> for the dates.

Beyond Q Bookshop old time American music jam sessions, Weston Arcade, 11 Brierly St, Weston - alternate Wednesdays on the weeks that Smiths Alternative Old Timey Tuesday is NOT on, 4.00-6.00 pm. Contact: Donna Vaughan 6258 9845.

English traditional music sessions, Pot Belly, 5/26 Weedon Close, Belconnen - alternate Sundays, 3.00-5.00 pm. Contact: Donna Vaughan 6258 9845, Jackie Luke 0417 679 139.

Shape Note Singing (aka Sacred Harp) - most Wednesdays 7.00-9.00 pm, at Ainslie Church of Christ hall, corner of Limestone Avenue and Grimes Street, Ainslie. Contact Dianne Porter for dates: email porter.32@bigpond.com or facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Canberrashapenote/>



Presented by
**Monaro Folk
Society Inc.**



PLEASE NOTE EARLIER START TIME FOR THE MERRY MUSE THIS MONTH

Merry Muse: Sunday May 13th - 3.00 pm to 6.00pm (Don't be late!)

Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson St ,Weston

Admission: \$3 for MFS Members, Concessions.and blackboard performers; \$5 Others

Blackboard plus Feature Act New York Public Library

An Australian Bluegrass, Irish, Country Music folk band making their umpteenth visit to Canberra to entertain us. They play ANYTHING that takes their fancy, with lots of comedy thrown in. IT IS ALL GOOD ENTERTAINMENT AND GREAT FUN! The New York Public Library are: John Flanagan (vocals, mandolin, tenor guitar), Warren Boyd (vocals, banjo, guitar), Isabelle Fogarty (vocals, double bass, ukulele) and Alan Smart (Guitar and not much else).

Come along and find out where they got their name and what John does for a day job. All will be revealed.



NB No Merry Muse in June because of Long Weekend

Enquiries: phone Tina 0403 599 790 or email [tina_lynam\(at\)hotmail\(dot\)com](mailto:tina_lynam@hotmail.com)



The Shiny Bums will be reprising their mock-opera ("Seize the Day") in early July and are looking for a couple of people to fill a couple of non-principal holes/roles in the cast.

"Seize the Day" is a mock opera, presented over two 40-minute acts, that tells of a tumultuous day in the life of a group of workers in a public service department.

Contact: Kerry on 0403781513 or Kerry.kennedy@inet.net.au if you're interested.

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

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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

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