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 28, Number 10 - November 2019



Group photo from the 15th annual Canberra Irish Set Dancing Weekend, Friday 11th - Sunday 13th October 2019 (See report on the weekend in Dancing About)

From the President's Soapbox

One of the main issues for any volunteer/community group is finding people prepared to put some time into organisation and logistics, instead of just turning up to enjoy the activities. As our membership ages, those who have fulfilled these roles for years may no longer have the time, ability or inclination to continue doing so. As I have said before, many will not step forward as they regard any position as a black hole that will inevitably swallow up their life, or just feel that they do not have the skills. I believe a much more productive approach is to have small groups to fulfil certain necessary functions, rather than one person to carry the load alone, quickly tire of it, then drop it and run for the hills. All our subgroups work on the basis of such small groups sharing the tasks and this generally works well.

We have just invited two dancers to join the Bush Dance organisers, and last night we just sat and chatted over food. It emerged that they understood little of the overall picture and issues in the BDG, let alone the society in general. The great thing was that as they were filled in on matters, they began to come out with comments and ideas that were very relevant and useful. As a result, we are beginning a revitalisation process that is both necessary and achievable. Moreover, I thoroughly enjoyed the sociable atmosphere, rather than feel it to be another boring meeting, and drove home afterwards feeling very optimistic.

When we discussed the difficulty of finding assistance in matters such as promotion, they both said that a general call to action is ineffective: I totally agreed, as personal invitations as far more likely to get people interested, but the question became that of how to identify those to approach. They both suggested that our membership form should ask what skills the applicant may already have or be interested in acquiring.

I will now modify our application form accordingly, but also will send out an email to each of you, as existing members asking just this. I hope that a fear of overinvolvement does not lead you to either not reply, or say that you have no skills. You may wish to acquire some skills. When Christine agreed to become our Membership Secretary, she did not know much about using Excel spreadsheets - now she is doing brilliantly, handling everything and only needing occasional tips - so ask her about it. The idea is not to heap work on any one person, rather to build groups that can discuss viable ways to achieve results, allocate tasks in handleable

packages, and that this be a social activity instead of a major task, with people learning how to do new things. Please remember that without this happening, the society will not survive.

On another matter, it appears I was incorrect about the number of years that Roni and Adrian have enjoyed connubial bliss: next year is their 30th anniversary. Understandable mistake, I reckon, when you see them on the dance floor together – I hope you have already saved the date for next March.

Daryl Powell left many boxes of music, dances and history, and Dave Wardle has been kept off the streets going through and cataloguing the material. There are a number of books and a list of these, when completed, will be put up in the MFS website members section and available for borrowing.

Congratulations to the ISD team for making their Irish October weekend, once again, a great success.

Don't forget that the Christmas Party will be held at All Saints on Saturday 30th November. It will begin with a picnic outside from 5.30 pm (inside if weather inclement), then dancing from 7.00 pm. Admission is free in the best Christmas tradition, though the band will have a hat down for tips – all notes and currencies happily accepted. As well as your picnic food, please bring something to share for supper. All society members are welcome so even if you are not really a dancer, come and socialise for a while. Info here: Christmas Party

BTW, regarding replies to MFS announce messages – please DO NOT "Reply to All" as it will be rejected and your message will not go through. Select "Reply" and it will go to the person who sent the announcement.

So, hope to see many of you at the Christmas Party. Geoff

Dancing About

15th annual Canberra Irish Set Dancing Weekend, Friday 11th - Sunday 13th October 2019

The 2019 event drew a crowd of 90+ dancers from around Australia to the Hall Pavilion for a weekend of workshops, ceilis, socialising and much laughter.

Margaret and Bill Winnett, always a crowd favourite, taught sets from Limerick, Donegal and Roscommon: the West Limerick Polka Set, Ballure Set and the Keadue Lancers. Matt Harriage, with cup of tea in hand, taught sets created by Melbourne enthusiasts: the Port Fairy Set and the McAlinden Ceili Set.

Even if we didn't all perfect the more difficult moves, there was much hilarity in trying to get there. Some dancers came well prepared for the challenge, wearing T-shirts proclaiming: *It's not a mistake - It's just a variation*.





The Friends Ceili Band, led by Ian Hayden, gave us wonderful music for three ceilis over the weekend. As has become a bit of a tradition, numbers swelled on the Friday and Saturday evenings by people drawn by the opportunity to dance to live, and lively, Irish music. Thank you to Ian and friends. It was great craic.

The Embassy of Ireland sponsored the event again in 2019. This is the fourth year in which the Embassy has given its support; enhancing the standing of the event and its financial viability. The organisers and participants are very appreciative of this support.



A big thank you to this year's organising team - Bec Tarrant, May Thorp, Julie Clowry and Paul Wayper. Thank you also to May's family who worked tirelessly in the kitchen to produce wonderful morning teas and suppers - Jacqui, Michael and Chris. And thank you also to the local 'firies' who popped in to invite us to a free sausage sizzle in the main street (to promote the local fire brigade).

Some feedback from dancers:

'Fantastic weekend of dancing, music and socialising at Hall last weekend. Congratulations on a successful and very enjoyable weekend, seamlessly and beautifully organised. People made us feel welcome and amongst old friends, as we were.'

See you all again next year at Hall: Friday 9th - Sunday 11th October 2020.

Canberra Irish Set Dancing Group

Photos courtesy of Connor Clarke and Paul Wayper



Upcoming Dances

Dancers' Dance The next Dancers' Dance will be held on November 9th at All Saints from **7.00 pm** to 10:30 pm. The dances are aimed at **experienced** dancers only. They may be difficult or they may be easier but with no walk throughs and little calling. Expect Irish, Scottish, Contra, Bush, Bavarian, English Country to name a few.

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.

Do bring friends if they are experienced dancers.

Live music by the Bush Capital Band.

Christmas PartyCome all ye to celebrate Christmas at All Saints Church Hall, Cowper Street, Ainslie

Picnic: 5.30 – 7.00 pm; **Dance:** 7.00 – 10:30 pm on **Saturday 30th November**.

BYO everything Picnic on the lawns next to the Hall from 5.30 to 7.00 pm, followed by a Christmas themed Bush **Dance** from 7.00 pm (please bring a plate of supper to share) with live music from the Bush Capital Band.

Come to either or both, and why not dress in something "Christmassy" (optional).

Entry is **free for all**, however there will be a **donations** "hat" for the musicians should those at the dance wish to contribute.



Monday WorkshopsEvery Monday in November, so come to All Saints at 8.00 pm.

Dance and have fun with 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 for supper are welcome but not essential.

Contact person is Mark Simmons 0421 814 718





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.

Contact person is Linda Aunela 0437 350 254, if emailing please put "Contra" in the subject line. lindaaunela@yahoo.com.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 technique and learn more steps. Please bring some friends to share the fun. Entry is \$7 for MFS members and \$9 for others.



Contact person is Colin Towns 0417 020 615



Irish Set Dancing On every Wednesday in November

Come along from **730 pm to 930 pm**, North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner.

\$8 for MFS members and \$9 for others. The first TWO classes for new starters are FREE. Beginner's refresher classes are also free and start 30 minutes before the regular class, but are run on **request only**. To make a request, please contact Christine 0413 168 562 or isdcanberra@gmail.com

Photo: melbourneceilicamera.org

Music, Music, Music

Australian Settler's Music Sessions are now held at the lovely Beyond Q Bookshop at 11, Brierley Street, Weston and the new time is 4.00 to 6.00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. Contact is Ray Mulligan on 62474725.





The **Tuesday Night Music Group** (beginner to intermediate), which happens on almost every Tuesday of the year, meets at the Irish Club in Parkinson Street, Weston on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 7.30 to 10.00 pm. 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.

The Merry Muse happens on the 2^{nd} Sunday of the month - this month it's on 10^{th} November. It runs from 4.00 to 7.00 pm with two hours of blackboard sets followed by the Feature Act for the month. Full details on Page 10.

Out and About

National Folk Fellow Presentation 2019 at the National Library of Australia on Tuesday 19th November, 6.00 – 7.00 pm in the Theatre, Lower Ground 1(In association with the National Folk Festival)

The New Albion Music Project



Australia is home to an incredible wealth of eighteenth and nineteenth century musical collections brought here during the early days of colonisation. Initially used in domestic music settings they went on to be integrated into public concert repertoire and music institutions, and are now housed in libraries and museums across the country.

Shane Lestideau, baroque violinist and music researcher, will present her exploration of the National Library of

Australia's early music collections, focusing on music with a connection to Scotland. You'll learn about the treasures of the Baillie Collection, Tasmania's convict-fiddler, Australia's 19th century dance culture and how Robert Burns came to set a love song to a tune written for Captain Cook. Featuring an exceptional line-up of musicians from Evergreen Ensemble, the lecture will be accompanied by musical excerpts from the 2019 fellowship recording 'One Hundred Days Away' which was released through ABC Classics in June

This is a free event but please book through www.nla.gov.au by finding the event in the What's On Menu.



The festival is on from Sunday 8th until Sunday 10th November. See www.majorscreekfestival.org/

There are lots of performer names I'm not familiar with on this year's programme and I wish I could be there to see some of them but I'll be in Brisbane. It's a great little festival (the church is a particularly lovely venue) and I highly recommend it to anyone who can be there Tina

Maleny Music Festival through the eyes of Lyndal Thorburn and Tom Jordan

We attended the Maleny Music Festival for the first time at the end of August, in sunny Queensland. The weather was perfect for a relaxed weekend based at the Maleny Showground and a few venues in the town - the latter bringing the festival to the general public. The festival was very family friendly with a separate kids' program and the campground was pretty quiet at night, we were told (we did our usual thing of staying in a hotel for our first visit to a festival, so we could suss. things out).



Jenny Fitzgibbon

(These photos, from Lyndal Thorburn, are stills from the videos she took at the festival)



MalWebb and Kylie Morrigan at Maleny Lane



Gone Molly

There was a session tent near the main stage and we spent a lot of time there, in particular the slow sessions in the mornings, run by Dave de Santi and Andy Patterson. We also enjoyed the sea shanty and singing sessions at night. Standout performers on the main stages were some of our favourites (Lindsay Martin and Victoria Vigenser and Cloudstreet) - and quite a few new to us - Gone Molly (spectacular!!) and Jenny Fitzgibbon's Cabaret of Resistance. It was also great to catch up with Queensland-based friends from Dave O'Neill's Charlotte Pass Music camp. Next year, I think we will need to add a couple of days to enjoy the Sunshine Coast a little more, en route.



2020 will be the fifth year of the **Charlotte Pass Celtic Music Camp** hosted by musicians Dave O'Neill and Jo Cresswell with Kate Burke as second tutor. It is situated in the magnificent Kosciuszko National Park and will run from Friday 17th to Wednesday 22nd January. Come and enjoy four days and five nights of workshops, sessions and great company.

www.charlottepasscelticmusiccamp.com/ will tell you everything you need to know.

Things With Many Strings - Sunday 17th November, Smith's Alternative, 3.30 - 6.30 pm

Book tickets https://www.smithsalternative.com/ \$20 / \$15

This is a concert which celebrates the life and legacy of Canberra dulcimer maker & musician, Gillian Alcock and is also a fundraiser for MS Australia..



Photo at right: Springtide

A couple of photos taken by Eileen Newmarch at **Kangaroo Valley:**

This will be a great concert – come along and enjoy some of Canberra's finest acoustic groups – and for a good cause too!

From the isles of Greece to the Indian subcontinent, via Romania to your very own Canberra backyard, four special acts come together to showcase the music of a unique and unusual instrument. Gillian Alcock devoted her life to making and playing the dulcimer, and her influence continues to reverberate in Canberra and beyond. This concert celebrates her musical legacy and is a charity fundraiser for MS Australia, the peak body for Australians living with multiple sclerosis, as Gillian did.

Springtide combines dulcimer with harp and cello to create rippling and magical acoustic folk with a Greek twist, Mohona explore the music of the Indian subcontinent through a jazz lens, with the dulcimer in the driver's seat! Woodgate joins Dulcet Tones to perform intimate, original folk tunes with a local flavour, blending the sounds of violin, guitar and dulcimer. Super Rats play traditional Romanian and Roma (gypsy) music that features the cimbalom, a (you guessed it) large dulcimer.





Right: Suzette Herft

Left: Scott Cook



The Shiny Bums' Tribute Concert for Kerry Kennedy on the afternoon of Sunday 27th October was a wonderful time of song, laughter and memories. Redwing opened the show with some songs which had special significance in Kerry's life and Donna O'Brien sang the originals of several songs that have been parodied for the 'Bums'. In addition to his talent for parody Kerry wrote other poems, witty, erudite, and sometimes humorous. Chris Clarke and Frankie Seymour read some of these. The 'Bums' presented many of their favourite parodies,, specifically those written, or co-written by Kerry. Too numerous to mention all of them, some are illustrated below in photos by Helen Sahhar : Top Left – *Waiting* (to the tune of Sailing), practicing Tai-Chi while stuck in a lift; Bottom Left – *Evacuation Serenade* (to the tune Elizabethan Serenade) about the annoying ritual of a fire drill; Bottom Right – *I'll Draw the Line* (to the tune of I Walk the Line) on the theme of rigid unempathetic bosses.

The new home of the Artists Shed, at 88 Wollongong Street, Fyshwick has a comfortable ambience. It includes the spacious Bohemian Coffee and Winebar, where the concert took place, a gallery, and the studio of local artist Margaret Hadfield, who is also a member of The Shiny Bums. They will all be back again on Sunday 17th November presenting *Rampant Bureaucracy* – a Public Service Musical Melodrama. (You will find a flyer for the event included in this mailout.)



Ed's Note: *Fluttering Butterfly Fingers* is a book of songs and poems, written or co-written by Kerry Kennedy. It sells for the modest sum of \$5. I bought one on Sunday and I can tell you it is worth many many times the cost. It contains 24 of the parodies sung by the Shiny Bums and one serious song which is the only song set to Kerry's own music. The words are reproduced below and are highly relevant to our times. There are also 25 of Kerry's other poems which are diverse, clever, enlightening and entertaining. In my opinion Kerry should be famous!

I Have Seen a River

Chorus: I have seen a river, flowing swiftly down the mountain, And I have seen that river flow across the rolling plain, But the power stations tamed it and the irrigators drained it, And now I'll never see that mighty river flow again.

In a far off alpine valley, in the early springtime warming, There the ice and snow are melting, just a trickle from the thawing. Then the trickles join together, down the gullies they are pouring, As new-born baby rivers, down the mountainside they flow.

The mindless waters ramble, their environment exploring Till they find the ancient channels dredged by centuries of scoring. Frothing, foaming down the creek beds with a sullen, growing roaring, As they rush to bring their lifeblood to the fertile land below.

Chorus

Then the waters reach the foothills and their headlong surge is growing As they plunge from heights undreamt, with not a single sign of slowing. But they find a broader channel where the western sun is glowing. At last they join to form one mighty river on its way.

Then the river on the lowlands its stately path is flowing Through the wetlands with their wildlife in screaming chorus crowing, Through the ploughed land where the farmers their thirsty crops are sowing, As it makes its way sedately to the sea so far away.

Chorus

Spoken:But where once there flowed a river bringing life to all around,
Now a tiny muddy trickle is all that can be found,
And the music of the river in silence now is bound,,
And so we sing in memory of the river.

Chorus





Merry Muse Sunday November 10th – 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm Canberra Irish Club - 6, Parkinson St Weston

Admission \$3 MFS Members, Concessions, blackboard performers \$5 Others Please note that the Irish Club has asked that regular attendees also join the Irish Club

Blackboard plus feature act Ian MacDougall

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 and listen to some great music.

Ian MacDougall plus The Acme Jigs and Reels Company



Ian MacDougall, accompanied by his former bush band, The Acme Jigs and Reels Company will perform a series of original songs from Ian's folk musicals, written by him while holding a Music Fellowship in 1974. Some are songs from his show *Terrie and Frankie* which the ABC subsequently produced for radio with John Wood, Graeme Lowndes, Jeannie Lewis and Mike McClellan as musical director. Others are from his shows *The Return of the Kangaroo Kid* and *The Freedom Cycle*, both produced at the ANU. The Acme Jigs and Reels Company was one of the most

popular bush bands of the 80s. Ian himself has performed in many venues over the past 40 years, was one of the ten finalists in the Seven Network's *National Star Quest*, a nationwide song contest, and is often heard on Ian MacNamara's *Australia All Over* program. Other Acme members who will join him on the night are Alan Smart, now playing with *The New York Public Library*, John Hilvert (who with his wife Linda now performs at various venues as *The Red Hillbillies*), and Don Dennes (who also now performs with Louise Brooks at venues around Canberra in *The Accidental Luddites* duo). One of the soloists will be Frankie Seymour, known from her role in the *Shiny Bum Singers*. Don't miss this very special performance.

> http://www.monarofolk.org.au/music/merry-muse-folk-club/ Enquiries: Eileen 0412 127 882 or email eileennew23(at)gmail(dot)com

Regular non-MFS Events (In alphabetical order)

Beyond Q Bookshop Old Time American music jam sessions, Weston Arcade, 11 Brierly St, Weston - alternate Wednesdays on the weeks that King O;Malley's Old Time American music session is NOT on. 4.00-6.00 pm. Contact: Donna Vaughan 6258 9845.

Canberra Scottish Fiddlers - A group for anyone with an interest in traditional Scottish fiddle music. Players with any level of experience are welcome to join. For more information, see our website

www.scottishfiddlers.com/Canberra /or contact markjenner@grapevine.com.au

Canberra Shanty Club meets fortnightly on Mondays at 7.00 pm at the Old Canberra Inn,

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

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.

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

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.

Jammalong -2^{nd} 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.

King O'Malley's Old Time American music jam session, 131 City Walk Civic – alternate Tuesdays on the weeks that Beyond Q Bookshop Old Time American jam session is NOT on, 7.00-10.00 pm . Contact: Donna Vaughan 6258 9845.

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 meet 4th Thursday each month at 7.00 pm at The Old School House, Christ Church, 39 Rutledge St., Queanbeyan. Contact: Laurie McDonald 6253 9856 or 0432 488 828

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/

Surly Griffin Morris practices fortnightly on Sundays from 5.30 to 7.00 pm at the Lake Ginninderra Sea Scouts Hall in Belconnen and performs at fetes and festivals and other occasions. Contact Simon Wall on 0404 859 404 or see facebook Surly Griffin Morris.

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

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