

# Monaro Musings



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

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

**Monaro Musings, Volume 26, Number 9 – October 2017**



David and Kathy Potter  
- left

Adela Greenbaum,  
brilliant as Queen  
Victoria - right

(Photos by Adrienne  
Unger)



## From the President's Soapbox

My thanks to those members who came to the AGM and raised a quorum so we could take care of business: each of you did make a difference. The new committee has hit the ground running, but we went after them and dragged most of them back. Most positions remain the same and we welcome Tina to our ranks as Treasurer. Reports are on the website at [www.monarofolk.org.au](http://www.monarofolk.org.au) and the draft minutes from the AGM will be posted within the next few weeks.

One matter that was raised at the AGM by Keith Sayers was a request to form a group to organise Dancing in the Park through February. The meeting resolved to support Keith as the convenor of such a group so he is currently seeking a couple of others to assist him. It was pointed out that as the BDG workshops resume at Ainslie at the beginning of February the best approach would be to consider a different day for DITP, perhaps Friday or Sunday afternoon, so he would also like dancers' feedback on this. Please contact him at <[keith@keith.sayers.id.au](mailto:keith@keith.sayers.id.au)>

Big on the calendar is the Irish Set Dance weekend at Hall from Friday 6<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October. Tickets are still available, with details at: <http://www.monarofolk.org.au/events/irish-set-dance-weekend/>.

Bush Dance and ISD workshops are taking a break due to the school holidays, however Contra and English Country Dance are still happening on Tuesdays.

It was very sad to hear of the recent death of John McCauley. John was much loved by those in different groups: he was a long-standing member of the society and a founding member of the Bush Dance Display group, the Irish Set Dance group, and Set in Their Ways. He was also to be seen at the Colonial Ball each year with Pauline. John was a true gentleman who will be greatly missed at dance events in the society. Our condolences to Pauline, who we hope will continue with her activities within the society. John's funeral will be held at 3.00 pm on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at Norwood Park Crematorium, followed by a wake at the Ainslie Football Club.. Following the service everyone is welcome to celebrate and share stories of John at 4.00pm at the Ainslie Football Club, 52 Wakefield Avenue, Ainslie. Please sign in at reception and the staff will direct you to the function room.

Geoff

### **Vale John McCauley – Two Tributes to John from dancing friends**

The Irish Set Dance community in Canberra and Australia is saddened by the death of John McCauley. John and Pauline McCauley were keen Irish Set dancers from the beginning of the regular classes in October 2003 at St Johns, Reid. For well over a decade, they were committed participants, ready and willing to learn, share and enjoy. John was a warm, generous and courteous dance partner and was always a pleasure to dance with.



John with Bill Winnett

When we changed our approach from a single teacher to a team of teachers and callers, John immediately put his hand up to give it a go. He learned how to teach and call the popular and well-known dances, but also enthusiastically embraced Australian-composed sets from the relatively straightforward Antrim Square Set by Des Jackson to the more complicated Ceili Set by Faye McAlinden. He was also keen on relatively new sets and we recall him patiently teaching us the Flight of the Earls and his interest in the historical background and story behind its structure and moves. The Newport set was one of John's favourites and was also one that we often relied on him to call.

John was a very willing volunteer at the annual Irish Set Dancing Weekend and was always happy to help out with the calling at the ceilis. He often stayed back at the end of the weekend to help pack up and clean the venue along with the other members of the 'clean team'.

As the momentum to display Irish Set Dancing built both John and Pauline joined in. They were founding members of the Set in their Ways display group in 2008 and dedicated many hours to displaying their love for the dance form at festivals and local community events.

In addition to his dedication to the dance community, John undertook many hours of volunteer guiding for the Australian War Memorial and the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, passing on his love of social and cultural history. He was also a keen motorcyclist, an interest that he passed on to his two daughters.

We will all miss John on the dance floor and calling from the stage but our community is the better for having been in his company.

We extend our sincerest condolences to John's family.

Kate Armstrong and Christine Briton on behalf of the Canberra Irish Set Dance community



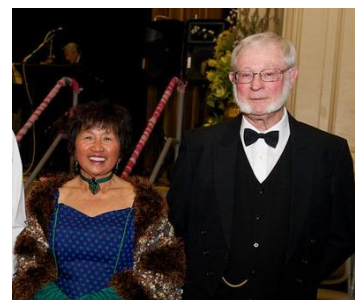
Set in Their Ways with John, centre back,  
Just behind Pauline



We are very saddened to hear of the passing of John McCauley who was an active member of the Monaro Folk Society.

A keen dancer, John performed in many dance displays with the Bush Dancers Display Group, including performances at Government House, Floriade, the Multicultural Festival, Blundell's Cottage, and notably the 80th anniversary of the Albert Hall.

John was an accomplished dancer in a number of styles and well regarded by other dancers. He was a regular and active participant in the Colonial Ball where his dancing skills were greatly appreciated. John was a softly spoken, kind and respectful gentleman who, as many would know, had an entertaining and wry sense of humour.



Pauline and John

**Antonella** Salpietro

## Dancing About

### Annual Canberra Irish Set Dancing Weekend

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at the Hall Pavilion, Showground, Gladstone St, Hall Village.

If you love dancing to live music, learning something new or just having fun with like-minded people - don't miss out on this popular dance weekend. No experience or partner needed.

The event is now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year and continues to attract around 80-100 people from the ACT and interstate. The Embassy of Ireland sponsors the weekend and will officially open this year's event at the Saturday evening ceili.



This year you can dance to the fab music of the Jimmy Mullarkey Ceili Band at three separate ceilis - Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday afternoon. For something new and/or to polish up your footwork, come along to workshops on Saturday and Sunday with experienced interstate and local teachers - James & Sally Garner, Liz Carter & Kate Crowley, and Paul Wayer.

You can attend the whole weekend, or individual sessions. Full-time students and under 18's are half-price. If you pre-purchase your ticket and subsequently can't attend, you will be fully refunded.

The morning teas and suppers included in your ticket price are now legendary. Continuous hot and cold drinks included also.

\$85 All events

\$20 Friday night welcome ceili

\$30 Saturday workshops

\$20 Saturday night ceili

\$30 Sunday workshops & farewell ceili

For the full program, online registration and all other details about the weekend see

<http://www.mabula.net/setdancing/workshop.html>

Contact: [isdcanberra@gmail.com](mailto:isdcanberra@gmail.com)

**2nd Saturday Dance ....** Prepare to dance your feet off with our second Saturday of the month dance on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 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.



## End of Month Dance .... FolkLines and Friends with calling by Lance Green, on 28<sup>th</sup> October.

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

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October – 8:00pm to 11:30pm

Canberra Baptist Church Hall – 11 Currie Crescent, Kingston

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



**Monday Workshops ....** Bush Dance Workshops resume on 9<sup>th</sup> October after two public holidays, so get out your dance shoes and be at All Saints at 8pm for fun evenings 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.



**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.

No need to bring a partner but please bring some friends to share the fun.

**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.



**Irish Set Dancing ....** is on every Wednesday in August 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 – 8.00 pm before the regular class, but are run on **request only**.

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

## Dancing at the Turning Wave Festival – 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September at Yass



This year was the 12th annual Turning Wave Festival celebrating traditional and contemporary Irish and Australian music and related arts. There was plenty of music on offer and a full dance program with fabulous music by the Scratch Ceili Band, the Coast Ceili Band, and Ann Donovan and the Ceili Playboys. Workshops in Irish Set Dancing were led by Margaret and Bill Winnett (Sydney), Arthur Kingsland (Newcastle) and our own Paul Carr. The Festival certainly lived up to its mantra “One Mighty Weekend, One Brilliant Festival”.

**Set in Their Ways** performing at the Turning Wave Festival in Yass with Tara Finn, the Festival's Guest Performer from Ireland. Tara, who is an accomplished musician on concertina, flute, whistle and uilleann pipes, led a master class at the atmospheric Lovat Chapel. Photo courtesy of Peter Stringfellow.



## **MFS Thirty-Sixth Annual Colonial Ball – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2017**

The Monaro Folk Society's Annual Ball was held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2017 at the beautiful and historic Albert Hall.

Music was provided by The Heritage Ensemble Band led by David Johnson, with Heather Clarke calling. The Band has made regular appearances at various Monaro Folk Society (MFS) dances over recent years. Heather Clarke, an accomplished dance historian and caller, is widely regarded as one of Australia's leading dance callers.

This year we celebrated, in dance, the Centenary of the Trans-Australian Railway. Railways have been a very important part of Australian history and have been celebrated in our towns and cities for the commerce and communication they bring. The railways have also united people and played a role in forming the social and cultural life of communities, be it a whiskey inspired jig by the line, or a ball at the local station. There are a number of dances with railway connections.

Heather Clarke developed a highly engaging dance program that kept with the railway theme including the Sydney Railway Waltz and the Railway Polka, as well as a variety of travel-related dances and a selection of favourite colonial dances.

The Maxina, a dance first performed in 1917 and subsequently popularised, has its centenary this year and was danced at the Ball. But, just as the States built their railways in a variety of gauges, dancers and dance masters also developed their own versions of the Maxina. And just as rail travel remains bedevilled by the variety of line dimensions and connections, dancers have the problem of "which version" of the Maxina to perform. This year's program included the Maxina - but which version? If you came to the Ball you would know, and enjoyed it! Also The Yarralinka written by Kathy Potter (pictured on front page) featured on the Ball program. This year, at the National Folk Festival, Kathy Potter received the VFMC Perpetual Trophy for dances for more Experienced Dancers for this beautiful dance.



Antonella Salpietro, one of this year's organisers

Isobel and Rosie Clarke gracefully led the Grand March that unconventionally developed into a creative and enjoyable serpentine.

Many dancers came to the Ball and danced back in time by wearing flappers, cravats, feathers, top hats, diamante encrusted headdresses, bow ties, tailcoats and colonial gowns inspired by the sumptuous, elegant, and unconventional dresses worn by the many people, including federal politicians, theatrical performers and members of the royal family, who travelled on the Trans-Australian Railway.

A friendly contingent of interstate dancers and Earthly Delights Historic Dance Academy dancers graced the Albert Hall with their glamorous dresses and impeccable dancing. And we danced on into the evening to the entrancing music of the Heritage Ensemble Band and the precise and 'soft' calling by Heather Clarke.

The following day, the recovery picnic was hosted by Daryl and Diana Powell at their place where we shared food, dance stories and good company.

Many thanks to all the people who contributed to making the Ball a special and memorable event.

### **Music – playing and listening**

#### **Spirit of Scotland - Chris Duncan & Catherine Strutt in concert.**



Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm:

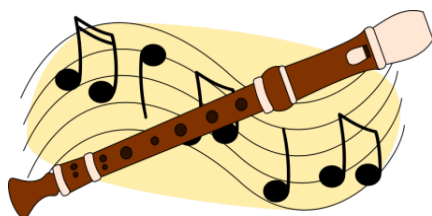
Wesley Music Centre, National Circuit, Forrest

Adults \$30; Concession \$25; Student/child under 12 \$15

Tickets from [www.trybooking.com/QXHY](http://www.trybooking.com/QXHY) or at the door from 7.00 pm

Australia's foremost Scottish music duo, fiddler Chris Duncan and pianist Catherine Strutt has been exploring and performing the traditional fiddle music of Scotland since 1990. These ARIA award winning, Newcastle-based musicians have performed internationally and nationally captivating audiences with their superlative musicianship, bringing to life the sensitive slow airs, the swing of the jig and the groove of the reel.

**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 5<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup>. 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 – but not this month, See page 7 for details of the Merry Muse for November.

## Out and About

### Review of the 2017 Turning Wave Festival September 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> by Pete West

Yass impresses as a friendly welcoming place for the holding of this festival. We couldn't hear all the entertainments that were on offer, but we enjoyed some very good sessions in the Australian and Royal Hotels, and a particularly fine band was assembled by Sue and Pete Hobson to play for the Friday and Saturday Night Ceilis in the well-appointed St Clements Hall.

The weather was good for this year's festival, if a little chilly. It was good to see many of our favourite folk acts on the program, who lived up to expectations: Senor Cabrales, Chloe & Jason Roweth, Fred Smith, Lugh Damen, Lime & Steel, Seachas and many more. The Bottlers from Sydney seem to go from strength to strength ... and Bruce Watson & The Dixie Chooks were an unexpected delight in a new musical setting with wonderful cajun-like harmonies that reminded us of the Harmony Sisters.

The Yass Golf Club and new venue Trader & Co were most amenable places for the poetry events.

I was asked to host the Beginners Folk Harmonica Workshop at this year's festival. It was a lot of fun, attended by a most enthusiastic group of 19 music lovers, including 3 young folks who came they said because "We love the harmonica sound". All but one were harmonica beginners. But they were all so attentive and musical - probably to be expected of patrons of a traditional music festival - that by the end of the 90 minute session we had the whole group vamping out The Parchman Farm Blues to rhythm provided by Mary Martin on the washboard. I'm sure everyone involved was as proud as I was of such a pleasing result. One bloke there asked Mary "So where we gigging tonight?"



I must send a special word of thanks to the Comur Street business YASS I.T. which procured a stock of Key-C Hohner harmonicas and sold them cheaply to patrons in support of the festival. Mention is also made of the delicious and affordable country-style meals we enjoyed at the Liberty Cafe in Yass's main street.

The 2017 Turning Wave Festival of Irish Music and Culture at Yass was a great success and its organisers are to be congratulated. (Photo by Mary Martin of The Bottlers at the Turning Wave)

Presented by  
**Monaro Folk  
Society Inc.**



**Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup> - No Merry Muse - Long Weekend** – Check out Uranquinty Folk Festival or Goulburn Bush Traditions

**Merry Muse Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November - 4.00 pm to 7.00pm**

**Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson St, Weston**

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

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.

Unfortunately our booked **Feature Act** for this date - **Jed Rowe** - is now unable to make it. Replacement act tba asap!

**Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> - Blackboard plus Turnip Sundae**

**[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)**

## **A Message from Fred Smith**

Hello,

So the single for my new double album, ***Great***, was released last week. It's a song I wrote to celebrate the charisma of Donald Trump, the intellectual coherence of his platform, and the spirit of optimism sweeping the world since his election. It's called "What Could Go Wrong".

Already, those rascals in the Liberal Media Elite have been misinterpreting the song is satire.

For example, a company called Fake News Productions made this appalling video. I'm so cross about this that I want you to check it out and to share it with you and all your friends:

Facebook: [Facebook What Could Go Wrong Video](#) or youtube: [Youtube What Could Go Wrong Video](#)

Anyway, it's not easy being a poet in this country...so often misunderstood. But persist I must, so it's on the road we go:

Canberra CD launch on 13<sup>th</sup> October has already sold half the available tickets. At this rate we'll run the Harmonie German Club right out of pork knuckle!

Oh, and if you can't make it to the launch, email me your postal address if you'd like a pre-release copy of ***Great***.

Warmly, Fred

## 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 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@homeemail.com.au](mailto:cbriton@homeemail.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.. St John's Church Hall, Constitution Ave, Reid. Also dance classes at ANU, Jane Austen Festival and other events. Contact: Aylwen Garden 62811098

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 wintertime), 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) 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](mailto:president@monarofolk.org.au); Vice-President: Vacant; Secretary: Ian Bull – [secretary@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:secretary@monarofolk.org.au); Treasurer: Tina Lynam - [treasurer@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:treasurer@monarofolk.org.au); Public Officer: Antonella Salpietro Committee Members: Matt Gibbins, John Hewat, , Anne Mathas, Julie Szabo. For general enquiries please use [secretary@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:secretary@monarofolk.org.au)

### Appointed Officials

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

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