

# Monaro Musings



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

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**Monaro Musings, Volume 27, Number 9 – October 2018**



Dancing *Swab the Decks* at the Canberra Mandolin Orchestra concert on 1<sup>st</sup> September at the Albert Hall

Photo by Lawrie Brown

## From the President's Soapbox

After our first unsuccessful attempt at our Annual General Meeting, you possibly read the MFS announce rant I sent out. I copped a bit of criticism regarding its tone, however I make no apology for that as I felt a wakeup call was needed. The second AGM attempt (last night as I write) was a totally different affair! We not only had almost 40 members attending but also about the same number of apologies, which itself indicates a fair degree of engagement which is most encouraging. A decision to jump off the cliff and change the traditional form of the AGM also seems to have been well received by those present – I await written feedback with bated breath.

The venue was the Beyond Q café (above the bookshop in Weston) which had great atmosphere – instead of enduring the usual lines of torture chairs, members sat in threes and fours around small tables where they could drink tea and coffee, conversing, interacting and generally socialising before, during and after AGM business. All this in a room lined with shelves full of books, which not only created a pleasant ambience but also great acoustics. Reports were taken as read and after 20 minutes we were onto Election of Officers. This took a little longer, but after arm twisting, berating and other forms of threatened violence we actually ended up with a full committee, including 4 new additions – this was a fantastic result. At the end of business, just after 8pm, toasted sandwiches provided by Beyond Q and fruit platters prepared by Linda Anuela were produced and the entertainment began. Nelly Rogers delighted us with a poem about (appropriately) committees, a couple of old has-beans presented a couple of songs, followed by some marvellous classical guitar pieces played by Segundo Vasquez, our newest member. The feedback on the night indicated that we had an (unheard of!) enjoyable AGM.

Personally, I felt greatly encouraged by the success of the evening, by the energy in the room, and by the welcome addition of new blood and ideas to the committee: a sense of both recovering something we seemed to be losing and new possibilities opening up for the society. I wish to thank those members who attended and

participated so fully and happily, those who helped on the night, those who got up and entertained, and Simon and Jenny for providing us with such a suitable space.

On to other matters – on the promotional front, thanks are due to the MFS musicians, dancers and callers who will, by now, have participated in the Bush Traditions Gathering at Yass over the long weekend. The public exposure this provides for the society is most welcome, so kudos particularly to Paul Carr for the organisational time he has devoted to their dance program. On October 27th and 28th, Cooleman Court is holding its 40th year celebration: Colin is organising a join-in MFS dance group and he will welcome your participation – the TNMG will also be holding a session there. Keep your eyes open for an MFS announce providing more details closer to the date.

The next Kids' Bush Dance and the Dancers' Dance will be held on the 6th October and of course the Annual Irish Set Dance weekend kicks off in Hall on the 12th.

Finally, I urge you to read the article below regarding Stage 88, which I do not want to be lost in this Soapbox article just because you got bored. Geoff

### **NEW MFS COMMITTEE 2018 - 2019:**

President:- Geoff Kell (r ); Vice President - David Ball; Treasurer:- Alice Bauer; Secretary:-Ian Bull (r ); Public Officer - Antonella Salpietro (r ).

Committee Members: Anne Mathas (r ); John Hewat (r ); Matt Gibbins (r ); Nelly Rogers; Chris Ward.

We welcome the new members to the Committee

Tina has stepped down as Treasurer but continues to act as editor of the Monaro Musings.

Declan has finally been granted his ticket of leave and we thank him for his years of servitude.

Christine Gifford is taking over as Membership Secretary. We welcome her to the position.

Linda Aunela continues as Bookkeeper.

## **FOLKIE ACTIVISTS ARISE! READ THIS!**

### **REDISCOVER YOUR FIRE FROM THE 60'S – OR TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY IF YOU ARE TOO YOUNG TO HAVE BEEN THERE!**

I have just received some most disturbing news from the NCA regarding our use of Stage 88 for Dancing in the Park on Monday evenings during summer.: In response to our submission last year regarding proposed changes in usage of their facilities by community groups, we had still received no concrete information as to their decision, despite my sending a number of emails of enquiry.

In following up on this last week, in order to inform our members at the AGM, I was finally put in touch with somebody who had some answers. They have obviously decided to apply a blanket policy to all facilities under their control. We first struck this with the Albert Hall, where community groups are now given a rate which is 50% of the commercial rate, but an hourly rate is no longer considered, and we have to take it for a full day, which makes it more expensive for us.

Consequently, they will now charge \$500 per occasion for using Stage 88 for 1½ hours on a Monday evening when no one else is in sight. In response to my immediate outrage they just suggested I send them an email asap letting them know which day we wished to book!

This may seem a storm in a teacup, however I regard this outcome of their “community consultation” as an affront to any spirit of community awareness that the NCA espouses and should not be allowed to pass unnoticed by the residents of Canberra. There is a principle at stake! Being certain that you members of our society will feel the same, I proposed to the meeting that MFS immediately convene an action group to discuss and consider options. We have already contacted Di Johnstone from Friends of the Albert Hall. This organization was formed when the government was about to surround the Albert Hall with a totally inappropriate development, and furthermore planned to lease the building to the Hyatt Hotel for 30 years. It waged a most successful campaign both to stop the development and to retain the Albert Hall as a community facility. Di is a mine of useful information to aid us in our own campaign. We need to get to work as soon as possible to put together a case to take to the Minister concerned and change his mind. . If you have a willingness to participate send me an email or give me a call.

We should not let this matter lie!

Geoff

PS Tina has indicated that she will be part of an action group with Mark Simmons and Chris Ward.. Anyone else interested?

# Dancing About

## Kids' Dance

Our Kids' Dances are generally aimed at primary aged children, however you may bring littlies if they like to dance. Dances are fairly simple and they are taught then called through the dance. Usually parents join in to help guide the kids.

**When and Where:** Saturday afternoon 6<sup>th</sup> October at All Saints Church Hall, Cowper St, Ainslie., 2.30 – 4.00 pm

**Cost:** Gold coin donation

Live music by the TiN MuGs



## Dancers' Dance

Dancers' Dances are nights for intermediate to experienced dancers, and will consist of fast-moving popular dances with minimal calling, more difficult dances that will be taught and called, or couples dances that will usually be led from the floor.

Dances will generally be from several dance genres, from Bush, Scottish, Irish, Contra, English Country, Scandinavian, Bavarian, Ballroom and others, depending on the callers for the evening.

Live music will be by the Bush Capital Band. Occasionally we may use recorded music for specific dances that require music outside the band's repertoire.



**Where:** All Saints Church Hall, 9 Cowper St Ainslie.

**When:** 6th October (Please note: rescheduled from 13<sup>th</sup> October due to clash with Irish Set Dance weekend)

**Time:** 7.00 pm to 10.30 pm

**Cost:** MFS members \$10, Groups and Concession holders \$11, Non-members \$12, Full-time students half price and under 18s free. Please also bring a plate of supper to share during the dance.

## October End of Month dance - From Convicts to the Ballroom



Taking place on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018 from 8.00 pm - 11.30 pm at the Canberra Baptist Church, Currie Cres, Kingston the End of Month Dance will feature the Canberra Mandolin Orchestra with Colin Towns as caller and dance teacher

Formed in 2003, the CMO brings together players of mandolin, mandola, mandocello, guitar and bass. It keeps alive the rich tradition of the mandolin groups that emerged in the first couple of decades of the 20th century. The CMO's repertoire is very varied, showcasing the interests and versatility of its musicians.

Since the very early days of settlement, dancing has played a very important role in Australian social life providing not only recreation but also contributing to social cohesion and a sense of belonging. In line with the theme "From

'Convicts to the Ballroom' the October end of month dance program will feature music and dances from the earliest Colonial period through to Federation, with a few MFS favourites thrown into the mix. This theme was featured in a recent concert at the Albert Hall and MFS Dancers performed many of the dances - so this is your chance to do it for your own fun and enjoyment.

Entry is just \$18, \$16 for groups and concessions, \$14 for MFS members (you can join at the door), students half-price and under 18s free. Please bring a plate for supper to share. Bottomless cup of tea, coffee or cordial available for just \$!.

**Monday Workshops ....** Dancing will be held on 3 Mondays in October at All Saints at 8.00 pm. They will be the 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. On the first two Mondays there is no dancing due to the school holidays.

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



**English Country Dancing ....** is on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 6238 0246



**Contra ....** is on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:lindaaunela@yahoo.com.au)



**Irish Set Dancing ....** Is on three Wednesdays in October. They are the 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. The first two Wednesdays fall in the school holidays.

**Please note: The new time will continue through term 3,** so come along from **7:30pm to 9:30pm**, 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 for 30 minutes before the regular class, but are run on **request only**. To make a request, please contact Christine 0413 168 562 or [cbriton@home.com.au](mailto:cbriton@home.com.au).

## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Irish Set Dance weekend

### Weekend teacher

Maureen Culleton has been dancing since she was four years old when she danced informally in her home to music played by her father R.I.P. on melodian. The cottage in which she grew up is now a cultural centre known as An Sean Chistin (The Old Kitchen) to which Maureen has dedicated one of her recently composed sets.

In the 1950s, Maureen learned traditional step dancing from Mícheál Ó Duinn, the local dancemaster who visited the primary school in Ballyfin, Co Laois weekly where Maureen was a pupil. There began her lifelong career in dance. In 1967 she qualified as a primary teacher and brought her love of dance to her students for 40 years.

To the present day Maureen teaches set dancing, traditional step, sean nós and two hand. She recently composed three sets which she is delighted to share with the set dancing family at home and abroad. Her love and knowledge of dance and her teaching skills have taken her to many parts of the world including France, Germany, Switzerland, Hungary, Brittany, Chicago, Halifax and Japan. She also teaches regularly at many weekend workshops in Ireland including the Joe Mooney Summer School in Drumshanbo and South Sligo Summer School.

Maureen is looking forward to meeting the set dancers in Canberra and to sharing her love of dance with this extended family.

‘To dance is Human, to dance is Divine.’



### Registration

You can register online now at [http://www.mabula.net/setdancing/workshop\\_registration.html](http://www.mabula.net/setdancing/workshop_registration.html).

To register please complete the [online form](#). You will need your full name, email address and a phone number to commence registration. For each participant that you are registering, you will need:

1. full name
2. email address
3. category (eg, under 18 years/full-time student or just a standard adult)
4. what they want to register for (eg, 'all events' the whole weekend or select one or more of the individual sessions)
5. dietary requirements.

You will be able to calculate the total price at the end of the registration process. Once you have submitted your registration your invoice will be displayed and emailed. You can pay by bank transfer or cheque.

### Registration at the door

If you are unable to register online you are welcome to attend by registering on the day. We accept payment by cash or cheque. However, we would appreciate an [email](#) indicating that you are planning to come along as it helps us with catering and other logistics.

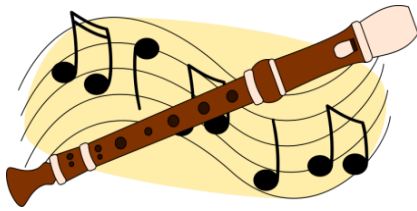
### An FDC Event – Romanian Dance Afternoon

Saturday, 27th October 2:00 - 4:00 pm at Folk Dance Canberra Hall, Maitland Street, Hackett. This event will be a carefree dance afternoon with Gary Dawson from Sydney leading us through some lovely Romanian dances. Gary has travelled widely throughout the Balkans and is a very experienced dancer and teacher with a great personality. LIVE MUSIC will be presented by a band of LOCAL musicians skilled in playing Balkan music. Cost: \$15 members, \$18 /non-members A contribution to afternoon tea would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

## Music, Music, Music .....

**Australian Settler's Music Sessions** – this group meets between 7.15 and 9.30 pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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.

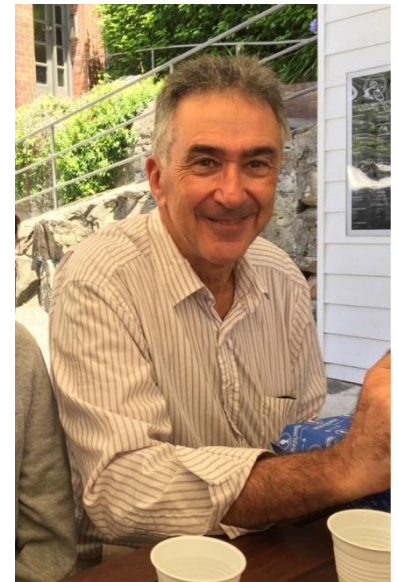
## Out and About

### Vale Robin Nahum

Robin Nahum, who played a major part in Monaro Folk Music Society (MFMS) activities in the late 1980s and early 1990s, died in Sydney on 7 September of brain cancer. He is survived by his mother Giselle, wife Leah Bloomfield, son Daniel and step-daughter Tessa.

Robin's involvement in folk activities in Canberra was broad, involving performance, radio presenting and organisation. He played bass in the bush dance band Melaleuca in the 1980s and was involved in the co-ordination of the MFMS production of *The Transports*, which was featured at the 1988 National Folk Festival in Sydney. He also presented *Lark in the Morning* on Community Radio 2XX for a brief period. His major role, however, began in 1990 when he was appointed as co-ordinator of the 26<sup>th</sup> National Folk Festival, for which MFMS had successfully bid to have located in Canberra. The story of this seminal event is well covered in David Myers' history of MFMS "A Score and Half of Folk". Robin applied his considerable organizational skills to creating a glittering program (there was even an attempt to put Bob Dylan on the bill), motivating a large team of volunteers and persuading SBS to film the event.

The event was a resounding artistic success but left MFMS with a massive debt of \$50,000, largely through lack of income from attendees, who were numerous, but mostly found enough entertainment without buying a ticket. This outcome precipitated the Australian Folk Trust (who owned the event) to cease holding it in a different location each year and to have it run by a professional body. As the 1992 event in Canberra had generated such a swell of enthusiasm, the AFT decided to locate the event permanently in Canberra. MFMS managed to clear the debt over the subsequent three years and the National Folk Festival has become a Canberra institution, bringing in millions of dollars of revenue from visitor expenditure over the past 25 years. Without Robin Nahum's vision and the momentum generated by the 1992 event, the AFT might well have anchored the National Folk Festival in Melbourne. SBS later screened five half-hour programs using footage from the event. No other folk festival since then has generated a comparable amount of TV coverage.



The 1992 National Folk Festival was a hard act to follow, and Robin's interests turned more to sound engineering and the technical side of performance. When he moved to Sydney in 1996 he started working as a sound engineer, specializing in music from Eastern Europe and providing general audio services for the Emanuel Synagogue in Woollahra via his company, Acoustic Resonance. He also helped organize tours for overseas performers playing Eastern European music, most recently the London Klezmer Quartet. He also took up Hungarian dancing and learned to speak the notoriously difficult language. Although his musical tastes leaned more towards jazz in this period, he attended MerleFest in Wilkes, North Carolina as volunteer stage crew. MerleFest, named after Doc Watson's son Merle, describes itself as "traditional plus" and Robin was able to meet many of the stars of American roots music, which gave him great pleasure.

Robin did not shy away from the National Folk Festival after his time at its head – he and his wife Leah were frequent visitors to the event when it did not clash with a Hungarian dance event.

Robin bore his illness with characteristic optimism and humour, and his massive social network ensured that he was seldom without visitors even when confined to bed and unable to speak in the last stages of his affliction. He will be greatly missed by all those who knew him.

Simon Kravis

Robin's widow, Leah, would like copies of any photos of Robin from his Canberra years. Could you please contact Simon at [simonkravis@bigpond.com](mailto:simonkravis@bigpond.com) if you can help.

## Canberra Scottish Fiddlers and an upcoming Scottish Country Dance

The Canberra Scottish Fiddlers are inviting violin, viola and cello players to join them to play and perform an exciting range of traditional and modern music from Scotland and Canada, with the occasional central European and Scandinavian piece for variety!

The Fiddlers have a concert repertoire for performance at local events including the National Multicultural Festival and Floriade, together with sets of strathspeys, jigs and reels which are played for dancers. Many of the group's tunes are online at:

[www.scottishfiddlers.com/Canberra/sheetmusic.html](http://www.scottishfiddlers.com/Canberra/sheetmusic.html).

The group welcomes musicians with any level of experience - including past or current classical players interested in exploring the possibilities offered by traditional folk styles.

Recent recruit Lyndal Thorburn has found her involvement with the fiddlers both challenging and satisfying. "It was just the thing I needed to extend my current skills, and playing with a group is great for someone who has only played solo at home before now. Getting up to dance speed is a challenge, but I've worked out ways to stay in time and contribute to the overall sound. It's always gratifying to see that our audiences appreciate what we're delivering, particularly when we play music that gets their toes tapping! Playing with the group also gave me the confidence to participate in the National Folk Festival Fiddle Rally."

Formed in 1999, the group includes fiddlers of all ages and experience. Past and present Fiddlers include members of Strathmannan, Spoot O Skerry and the Waistrels. The group rehearses on Sunday afternoons every three to four weeks, in members' homes around Canberra.

If you are interested please contact Mark Jenner by email at [narkjenner@grapevine.com.au](mailto:narkjenner@grapevine.com.au).

**Postscript:** Dance enthusiast Kate Armstrong reports "Scottish Country Dancers love dancing to live music and the Canberra Scottish Fiddlers fitted the bill perfectly. A great selection of tunes and confident sound underlined by strong rhythms and strict tempo made them a pleasure to dance to and to hear. It is a treat to work with such a professional and flexible group of musicians in the Scottish Country Dancing scene in Canberra."

The group will again play for the Scottish Country Dancers at the **Halloween New Dancers' Social**

**Date and Time** – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October with dancing from 2.00 – 4.30 pm followed by afternoon tea

**Venue** - North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, Condamine Street, Turner **Admission** - \$10 per person

## Oh! What a Day it Was ....

Congratulations to the End Of Month Dance Organising Team (EOMDOT) for such a successful outcome from the great amount of work they have put into the three events on 1<sup>st</sup> September - thanks also to the dancers and musicians who contributed to the new events earlier in the day

We all agree that the venue is an important aspect of the Colonial Ball. The members of EOMDOT (and Antonella in particular) are to be lauded for the lateral thinking that turned the unwelcome new requirement (by the NCA) of payment for a full day's hire for an evening event into an opportunity for a broader approach. This, of course, required more work on the part of EOMDOT, so I sincerely hope that some of the members who benefitted from this opportunity can see a way to assist next year in spreading the load.

Of course, the success of these events depends on our members also turning up to participate as well as encouraging others to do so. So please bear this in mind when you are considering whether or not to bother attending a dance or workshop.

Great result EOMDOT!

Geoff

**Ed's note:** I wasn't present at any of the Wattle Day events mentioned above because I was in Brisbane but by all accounts it was a very successful day for both MFS and the Canberra Mandolin Orchestra.

It started with the free to all Bush Dance Workshop in the morning. Quite a number of people not seen before at MFS events came along to dance to the playing of our faithful musicians and had a great time.

After lunch it was time for the Canberra Mandolin Orchestra to take the stage for a concert featuring music related to the history of social dance in Australia, with some dances being demonstrated by local dancers.

Finally the Ball itself: The playing of the Currawong Band and the calling of John Short were very well received by the crowd, which was just the right size to fill the floor, but not to crowd it. The supper as usual was excellent. Here are a few enthusiastic comments from attendees:

'Thank you for welcoming us to yet another wonderful Canberra Ball!'

'We thoroughly enjoyed dancing 'around Australia' & the hospitality of our Canberra friends!'



'...we enjoyed the night very much. Please also pass on our gratitude to the rest of the team for making the night a memorable one.'

' Thanks very much for last night's Ball. The occasion had the sound, feel and ambience of a Ball.'

On pages 9 and 10 there are some photos from all these events as well as a couple from the Irish and Celtic Festival at Yass in mid-September and from the MFS AGM which finally happened on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September and was very entertaining!

## Family Day – A Taste of the Pacific at the National Library

Free and no bookings required



Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm

Happening at the Bookshop, Brindabella Room, Exhibition Gallery, Foyer, Online, Podium, Treasures Gallery, Ground Floor

Celebrate the cultures of the First Nations peoples of the Pacific with traditional music and dance, talks on Pacific Island and indigenous collections, food stalls and exhibition tours.

## Jan Preston plays Floriade!

Jan will be appearing on Stage 88 on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 11.45 am. In case you don't know Jan is an outstanding boogie pianist with a huge personality. She is doing a number of shows with Nick Charles and Liz Frencham on this tour but I don't know if they will be with her at Floriade – I checked the website but it doesn't say. Go to see her/them if you can and I promise you'll be very glad you did.

Tina



## National Folk Fellow Presentation

Sonu: Italian Songs from the National Library



Date:

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Time:

6.00 pm-7.30pm

Place

NLA Theatre -, Lower Ground 1

Cost:

Free

Book via [www.nla.gov.au](http://www.nla.gov.au)

Salvatore Rossano and his band, Santa Taranta, present 'Sonu', a project that explores themes of migration using field recordings from the Oral History collection.

## Part Two of Joan Baez's Folksinging Non-Violent Resistance Continues

by Warwick McFadyen, Courtesy Daily Review via Trad and Now (Much postponed since Part One appeared in the July Musings. Again I have replaced the original illustration with a recent photo –Ed)

Baez's star began to rise at the Newport Folk Festival in 1959. Her second and third albums went gold. She was on the cover of Time magazine in 1962. She introduced the world to a young folksinger from the Mid-West named, Bob Dylan. Their stars aligned for a few years as the king and queen of the folk/protest movement, and lovers, until he went electric and everything changed. Dylan has praised her song 'Diamonds and Rust' on their relationship.

Early on in her career, Baez was asked how she would describe herself. “Human being, pacifist, folksinger,” she replied. She was not only a witness to some of the tectonic events in American history, she was in the middle. She was pivotal. Art was not isolationist, art was life. It was the struggle, the victory, the defeat. Above all, it was the beauty and power to inspire the movement of souls. In working for change, she was part of a line that included Pete Seeger and Odetta. Baez walked alongside Martin Luther King jnr, she sang ‘We Shall Overcome’ at the civil rights march to Washington in 1963, as did Dylan and Odetta. She went to the recruits to the Vietnam War, as they were being sent away, and told them they didn’t have to fight. She was arrested, thrown in jail, but returned to fight another day. Joan always returned. If not for her countrymen and women, but for those elsewhere who were pawns in the game of war. She visited Sarajevo in 1992, and sang ‘We Shall Overcome’ a-capella on the city street. Baez has carried that song with her nearly all her life. There is the meaningful song, she has said, and there is a meaningful life, too. Baez is the coalescing of both. There are highs, such as having a hit with ‘The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down’, and there are highs of consequence.

David Crosby, while not only admiring Baez’s musical skills, has spoken of her ethical and moral stance in the world. Jackson Browne, speaking at her induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2017, said: “To track Joan Baez’s involvement in human rights and social justice is to chart the evolution of our own moral awakening and of our own growing planetary consciousness.” Baez responded: “My voice is my greatest gift. I can speak freely about the uniqueness of it, precisely because it’s just that, a gift. The second greatest gift was the desire to use it the way I have, since I was 16 and became a student and practitioner of nonviolence, both in my personal life and as a way of fighting for social change. It has given my life deep meaning and unending pleasure to use my voice in the battle against injustice.” And sometimes the voice emerges, unexpectedly, from deep within, not as song but as release. When Baez first visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall, with its more than 58,000 names of those dead or missing inscribed on it, she touched it, but she said she wanted to go within, deeper than mere hand on surface, and then she screamed. And still she is tapping into the tenor of the times. One of the songs on the new album is a cover of Zoe Mulford’s ‘The President Sang Amazing Grace’. It is based on the visit by Obama to the funeral service of Clementa Pinckney, a pastor killed, with eight others, in a Charleston church in South Carolina in 2015. After speaking of the virtues of grace and of the pastor (“He was full of empathy and fellow feeling, able to walk in somebody else’s shoes and see through their eyes”), Obama sang ‘Amazing Grace’. Baez told ‘Rolling Stone’: “I was just driving and I heard that song and I just pulled over. “It’s so expressive of my thoughts and feelings, which are pretty fucking gloomy, but she (Mulford) did it in such a beautiful way that’s as dark as it is beautiful.”



In 2015, the Library of Congress selected Baez’s debut album, ‘Joan Baez’, for the National Recording Registry. That same year, Amnesty International gave her the Ambassador of Conscience Award. On receiving the award, Baez said: “No serious change happens unless people are willing to take a risk.” That is the beauty of her voice

## At the AGM that happened – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October at Beyond Q in Weston



Geoff and Dave in action

Photo by Tina Lynam

Segundo playing



The audience

Photos by John Hewat

## At the morning Bush Dance Workshop on September 1<sup>st</sup> at the Albert Hall

Brenda brought her father Larry for a morning out from his local nursing home to enjoy the live bush music and watch the dancing in the wonderful Albert Hall bringing back memories of his earlier nimble dancing years.



Spotted here livening things up with Brenda doing a turn or two at the side of the dance floor.



Photos and text by David Hunter

## At the CMO Concert in the afternoon



## At the Colonial Ball in the Evening



(Photos by Lawrie Brown)



Nicola Vavasour and Adrienne Unger at the Ball  
And what were they doing?  
Adrienne was tying Nicola's sleeve ribbon

## At the Craic in Yass – 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> September (Irish and Celtic Music Festival)



Stringline in the Lovat Chapel (above)  
Cassidy's Ceili (below)



Presented by  
**Monaro Folk  
Society Inc.**



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**Merry Muse Sunday October 14<sup>th</sup> - 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. The cost is minimal and you receive discounts on drinks and meals which will save you that much in a couple of afternoons.

### **Blackboard plus Hither and Yon CD Launch**

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.

### **Feature Act Hither and Yon**



**Local acoustic duo, Hither and Yon** present original folk songs plus old and new Celtic and Australian tunes. Songwriter Tom Jordan is inspired by the local landscape and topical events including the local fauna and decisions of our local polities (the people, not the cockatoos). They are launching their 3rd CD, the Man Bench.

**Coming up Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup> – 4.00 pm. A special blackboard to commemorate Armistice Day**

This is Armistice Day and 100 years since the end of World War I. So a special blackboard – roll out your anti-war songs – all songs welcome from the impact of war, protest songs, angry songs, sad songs, songs of individual tragedy and suffering – but please no patriotic glorification of war songs.

<http://www.monarofolk.org.au/music/merry-muse-folk-club/>

**Enquiries ph Eileen 0412 127 882 or email eileennew23(at)gmail(dot)com**

## Regular Events

**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.

**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.

**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](http://www.scottishfiddlers.com/Canberra) /or contact [markjenner@grapevine.com.au](mailto: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** – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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<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.

**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](mailto:wal.brewer@gmail.com)

**Queanbeyan Bush Poets** - 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday each month, 7.00 pm at the Queanbeyan Library. Contact: Laurie McDonald 6253 9856

**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](mailto:porter.32@bigpond.com) or facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Canberrashapenote/>

**Smith's 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.

**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.

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**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: David Ball; Secretary: Ian Bull – [secretary@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:secretary@monarofolk.org.au); Treasurer: Alice Bauer- [treasurer@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:treasurer@monarofolk.org.au); Public Officer: Antonella Salpietro; Committee Members: Matt Gibbins, John Hewat, Anne Mathas, Nelly Rogers, Chris Ward. For general enquiries please use [secretary@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:secretary@monarofolk.org.au)

### Appointed Officials

Membership: Christine Gifford - [membership@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:membership@monarofolk.org.au); Merry Muse Coordinator: Vacant; Merry Muse PA Coordinator: Pierre Sibillant; Merry Muse Subcommittee Chair: Vacant; Acting *Monaro Musings* Editor: Tina Lynam - [editor@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:editor@monarofolk.org.au); Bookkeeper: Linda Aunela – [payments@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:payments@monarofolk.org.au); Web Manager: Neil Glassford - [webmaster@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:webmaster@monarofolk.org.au)

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