

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 9 – October 2019**



Alanna and Alicia

The delightful singing twins were performing at the Irish and Celtic Music Festival at Yass, fondly known as 'The Craic at Yass', in mid-September. (Photo by Mary Martin)

From the President's Soapbox

Firstly, thank you to all who attended the AGM last month. We had a fair turnout of about 35 members who enjoyed the café setup around tables at Beyond Q. Business was finished in under an hour, then people sat around and socialised with some entertainment – poetry from Nelly and a music session with some of the TNMG. Good coffee and toasties, plus fruit platters brought by Linda. Some committee members stepped down and a few new ones stepped up. The new committee is listed below, and welcome to you all!

2XX is looking to recruit and train new announcers, so if you have a secret desire of being a DJ, now is your chance! MFS will sponsor your training, so contact Tina if you are interested. As a long running radio show host she will be happy to give you the rundown on what is involved. editor@monarofolk.org.au

The Dance Working Group has been beaver away, talking with callers and dancers for input on what would help our events run better, attract new people and keep the ones we have. A meeting with Dance Organisers is scheduled for the last Tuesday in October, so if you have anything to contribute, however minor it may seem, you are welcome to email the group at: dancersfeedback@monarofolk.org.au

Well done again to the EOM team for their work organising at the Colonial Ball. While numbers were a bit down, partly due to a new ball held on the same night in Sydney, all feedback has been that it was a most enjoyable event – “the best they have attended”, according to some. The Come & Try Bush Dancing free event in the morning brought new dancers – thanks to the dancers and musicians that helped make that a success. The Canberra Mandolin Orchestra afternoon concert was also well attended and very well received.

Finally, as part of our 50th Anniversary next year, you will have an extra opportunity to don your fancy clothes when the Bush Dance Group hosts a formal Gala Anniversary Ball on Saturday March 7 at the Albert Hall. As it celebrates Roni and Adrian’s 20th wedding anniversary there will be New Vogue dancing during the day and a Bush Dance Ball in the evening with an established dance program and music by the Bush Capital Band. So, put it into your diaries now and further information will be made available in the months to come.

Geoff

NEW MFS COMMITTEE 2019 - 2020:

President: Geoff Kell Vice President: David Ball Treasurer: Rod Peters Secretary: Ian Bull
Public Officer: Antonella Salpietro

General Committee Members: Anne Mathas; John Hewat; Linda Aunela; Matt Gibbins

Tina continues as Acting Editor for the Monaro Musings, however she really needs someone to begin assisting her. Christine Gifford has settled in well as Membership Secretary and Linda continues her much-appreciated work as Bookkeeper.

Dancing About

2nd Saturday Dance No second Saturday dance in October, but you will be welcome at the Irish Set Dance weekend in Hall.

Irish Set Dancing returns from school holidays on 16th October.

Come along from 7:30pm to 9:30pm, 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



End of Month Dance Dance and have fun with the Canberra Mandolin Orchestra, to the theme of Colonial and Ceilidh. Calling by Ian Bull and Jude Stuart.

26th October 2019 from 8.00 pm to 11:30 pm, Canberra Baptist Church, Currie Crescent Kingston

Cost: Just \$19 for adults, \$17 for group entry and concessions, \$14 for MFS members, \$9 students, accompanied under 18's free.

No need to bring a partner, no need to book, just turn up at the door for a great night out.

Please bring a contribution to the supper. Tea, coffee, cordial and chilled water are available for the cost of \$1 for a bottomless cup. If you prefer, bring your own bottle of water.



Monday Workshops Monday 7th is a public holiday so there will be no workshop that night. Come along on all other Mondays in October.

Dance and have fun with live music. These workshops are tailored to teach beginners and intermediate dancers. Experienced dancers are welcome to 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



**Bush
Dancing
in Canberra**



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 61



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 2nd Sunday of the month - this month it's on 13th October. 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 7.

Out and About



SHINY BUM SINGERS

Kerry Kennedy
TRIBUTE CONCERT

2pm - 4pm Sunday 27th October 2019

Artists
Shed



Kerry Kennedy

22 october 1949 - 10 april 2019

contributed many songs to the Shiny Bums 20 year strong collection of parodies about the Public Service, pollies and occasional unrelated matters.

The Shiny Bums will pay tribute to our dear friend, Kerry, by performing our favourites of the many parodies he wrote or co-wrote for the group.

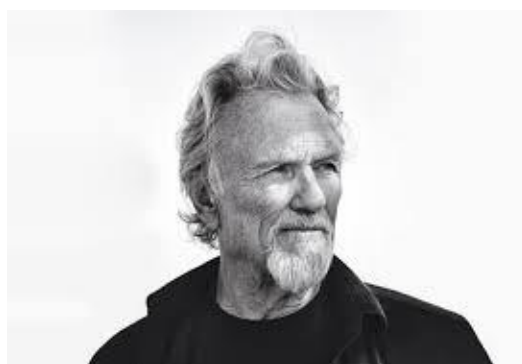
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LIVE MUSIC
at the
Artists Shed

Him and Bobby McGee, here in Canberra by Declan O'Connell

A legend slipped into Canberra for a gig at Llewellyn Hall on 25 September. I didn't see much publicity about Kris Kristofferson coming to town. I can't remember where I heard about the show. Facebook maybe. Anyway I was glad to catch it. Some Kristofferson songs have been part of the soundtrack of my life since the 1970s. He's 83 now and his voice is a bit croakier than it was on 1970s albums like *Kristofferson* and *The Silver Tongued Devil and I* but that didn't matter. Right from the get go he had an appreciative audience for his songs of lovers, losers, loners, drifters, dreamers and drunkards. He even had us whoopin' and hollerin' along at times. And we got all those 70s classics: Me and Bobby McGee (I used to know all the words), Sunday Mornin' Comin' Down, Darby's Castle etc. There was poignancy, too, in the opening number, Shipwrecked in the Eighties (Singing Holy Toledo I can't see the light anymore/All those horizon that I used to guide me are gone/And the darkness is driving me farther away from the shore/Throw me a rhyme or a reason to try to go on) and Feeling Mortal.



Kristofferson had Merle Haggard's band, The Strangers, backing him on keyboards, drum kit and fiddle, so we had some Merle Haggard songs as well including An Okie from Muskogee (somewhat tongue-in-cheek, I think), Daddy Frank (The Guitar Man) and I Think I'll Just Stay Here and Drink. Not much talk between songs, no encore (he didn't need one he'd got into the show-stoppers earl,. A happy crowd stepped out into the Canberra cold to make their way home, glad they'd seen a legend and heard his greatest hits.

Photo from Kris Kristofferson/s website

Festival of Irish and Celtic Music, Yass NSW, 13-15 September 2019 by Pete West

This year's Festival of Irish and Celtic Music in Yass was well managed and had a beaut program of entertaining performers, and didn't they turn on the beautiful weather for the weekend. Our festival director Janno Scanes really knows how to pull some strings.

Mary Martin and I hosted the Beginners' Harmonica Workshop at the festival again this year, which we've done now for three years. This year's workshop was attended by about 25 persons, a much more manageable number than the 44 who turned up to the workshop last year! This time we were helped by our friends Jeffery Brown who plays chromonica and Peter Russell who sang for us.

The tune we used as our learning piece was that of the Foggy Dew, a patriotic Irish song from the Easter Rising in Dublin. And for play-along experience we used Ulick O'Boyle's lovely song Jindabyne Farewell that Peter sang beautifully for us. They were a musical crowd and they encouraged one another well, and by the end of the workshop session they were able to play along together on both pieces, some even had mastered single note playing and the others were playing chords. From our viewpoint the workshop was a hoot. Jeff hosted an advanced harmonica workshop after our beginners' one. It was attended by about ten players.



Among the performers whose acts we saw, we most enjoyed the excellent concert by Suzette Herft that celebrated the songs of Joan Baez. We agreed with other patrons after the show who described it as "brilliant". We also greatly enjoyed the performance by South Coast band The Water Runners whose bluegrass influenced playing was tight and well rehearsed. They had some very good songs and we particularly enjoyed the playing of the group's fiddler.

At the Club House venue, we enjoyed several good acts among which we thought the Sweet Sorrows was outstanding. A big thanks to Rick Saur for his great sound management of the Club House stage, not the easiest venue from the sound viewpoint.

The festival committee, the local business people and the townsfolk all made us feel very welcome. We're sending a special nod to the friendly staff of the Liberty Cafe & the Club House Hotel where we stayed. Congratulations and thanks to all involved.

Open Gardens Special Event -Sat.12th & Sun. 13th October - Spring Garden Dance Party

Join a two-day long party as costumed members of the Earthly Delights Historic Dance Academy offer lots of live music, display & join-in dancing in the studio of John & Aylwen's home at 87 Schlich St., Yarralumla, as part of a rare open garden event.

The non-profit organisation Open Gardens Canberra will manage entry to the garden between 10am and 4pm (visitors \$8, accompanied under 18s free).

There will be hot and cold refreshments available for a gold coin donation, lots of places to eat a picnic lunch and dancing and music from 11am-2pm (the 1st bracket each day starts at 11am, and the 2nd and 3rd perhaps at 12:15 and 1:30pm). Different dances every time.

On the Saturday we will spin the time machine and do dances from whatever period we are transported to, be it in the Renaissance, Cavalier, Baroque, Rococo or Regency era.

On the Sunday we will revel in Victorian era quadrilles, couples dances and games with the full live band. Come along on Saturday and then bring your ticket back for free entry on the Sunday. And after each planned bracket, add your own request ...can even be a Lost Dance!

Ed's note: The photo of peach blossom and camellias is not of John and Aylwen's garden – it's just a nice Spring garden photo!



Bush Traditions Gathering

Labour Day Long Weekend, 2nd - 5th October 2020

Four days of traditional Australian music, dance, poetry, songs and general good fun.

The Gathering happened in Yass over the weekend just past. The feed back has been one of superlatives and satisfaction. The Gathering works like a convention. There was much to do, much to be part of. The atmosphere can be characterised as warm, friendly, sharing, informal. There were sessions, some slow, some faster and some pretty.

Rob Willis and John Harpley spoke of their interviews with Bill Case, and played snippets of their recording. These recording are available in full from the National Library of Australia.

Marion Haig brought us some poems of John O'Brien, put to song by Dom Moreno. There was shanty singing, and a workshop lead by Dave Johnson featuring songs found in Trove.

This year we placed a focus on crafts. This worked well with intriguing displays of skills and technique in the production of hats made from cabbage tree fibres, silk and wool threads dyed intense colours of yellow, orange, russet and various greys using eucalyptus leaves and various mordants. Stitching, tatting and soap making - passing on skills. (Captions for photos are at bottom of page 7)





Merry Muse Sunday October 13th – 4.00 to 7.00 pm

Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson Street, 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

Blackboard plus feature act Bradley Barnett

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.

Bradley Barnett is a local musician and a newcomer to the Merry Muse. You may not know him by name but if you've been living in this area for some time you may have seen him long ago in a band called Black Dog. If you currently frequent the Dickson shops you will most likely have enjoyed his singing and playing at his spot outside Woolworths, where he is a popular busker with a mixed repertoire. I have often sat down and listened to his music and recently noticed that almost everyone who passed by had a wave for Bradley or stopped for a chat or to listen/

Bradley's response to my request for some words about himself was 'Naval Reserve Cadet, courier, street performer, Shakespearean actor, railway worker, theatre tech, unrepentant poet, songsmith and writer or angry, unsent letters'

(Tina)

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

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

Photos from page 6 - Craft activities at the Bush Traditions Gathering

Left to Right: Making hats from Cabbage Tree fibres; Dyed wool ; Instruction in tatting from Moir; Home – made soaps.

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 – 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.

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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Appointed Officials

Membership: Christine Gifford - 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: Neil Glassford - webmaster@monarofolk.org.au