

# 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 8 – September 2017**



*Springtide* is the featured act for this month's Merry Muse on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September (details on page 6)

## **From the President's Soapbox**

The public section of our new website, [www.monarofolk.org.au](http://www.monarofolk.org.au), has been operational for a while and we have held a workshop to demonstrate to organisers how they can edit their material on the website: keeping their information up to date will now be up to them. We seem to have shaken out the bugs in regards to members' password access and I will be working on transferring relevant material from the members' wiki to the new site over the coming weeks – how quickly this happens will depend on available time. I would appreciate if you could register on the new site – it may take 24 hours for your registration to be validated and you will then have access to the members' section. You need to be a current financial member to register. If you have any difficulty please let me know as there may still be some gremlins at work that need tracking down.

You will also need to be a financial member to vote at the AGM in three weeks' time so it is a good time to renew your membership if you haven't done so yet. Group reports etc will be up on the website so please try to read them before the AGM. We will be in search of more committee members so please consider becoming a part of steering the MFS over the coming year.

Our bush dance flagship event, the Colonial Ball, is on this coming Saturday – tickets sales close this Wednesday. In case you were not aware, the NCA has decided to restructure their hiring arrangements for the Albert Hall from an hourly rate to a whole day, and as this will increase costs significantly the ball may not be held at this historic venue next year ... so enjoy this one!

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September will see the second of our kids' dances at Ainslie. The first one in July was very successful with about 70 parents and kids attending and we hope for a similar turnout for this one. If you have friends with primary age kids please let them know -details are on the website.

Society changes and the values of society change, not necessarily for the better. The trend seems to be one of fragmentation and a loss of "old values" - perhaps what we are losing most is a sense of community. The great value of what MFS does is not just in keeping musical traditions alive, it is this sense of community that is created through participating in playing music and dancing, the interaction of people in a creative endeavour that brings a sense of fulfilment in life, when perhaps other things aren't going so well. We have a good mob of members, but we need to keep our community invigorated by examining what we do, how we do it and by trying new approaches. As you will have seen in the Musings this year we have explored some initiatives that are meeting with success in promoting to a wider audience. This requires quite a commitment by the organisers and I wish to thank those of you who have assisted so much this past year in keeping the dream alive. Help is always welcomed in spreading the load so if you have some spare time, feel free to offer your assistance. Every little contribution will make it easier in the coming year.

Finally, as the great essayist, G.K.Chesterton, said: "If a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing badly". While there is a great sense of achievement in the pursuit of excellence, let us not forget that the important thing is that we enjoy what we are doing, who we are doing it with and don't sweat the small stuff.

Geoff

## Dancing About

### Annual Canberra Irish Set Dancing Weekend - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2017

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 gala 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 Wayper.

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)

Here's what people said about last year:

*You have a great formula. Please do the same again next year.  
A great weekend of dancing, music and craic, what more do you need for a set dance weekend.  
Thank you for another memorable, well organised and happy dance weekend!  
Thank you for a most enjoyable weekend!  
The hard work that was put in was very apparent!  
Great venue, food, band and workshops!*

## MONARO FOLK SOCIETY THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL COLONIAL BALL



SATURDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017

The Monaro Folk Society's annual Colonial Ball will be held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2017 at the Albert Hall, Canberra.

**Music by The Heritage Ensemble Band with Heather Clarke calling.** The Heritage Ensemble Band has made regular appearances at Monaro Folk Society Dances over recent years. Heather Clarke, an accomplished dance historian and caller, is widely regarded as one of Australia's leading dance callers.

Doors will open at 7.20pm for pre-paid ticket collection, with a pre-ball welcome drink from 7:30pm and dancing from 8:00pm to midnight, including a fully catered supper.

Dress will be colonial / early 1900s evening dress wear or after five.

This year we celebrate the Centenary of the Trans-Australian Railway. Dance back in time and wear something sumptuous, funny, elegant, unconventional inspired by the many people, including federal politicians, theatrical performers and members of the royal family who travelled on the line.

Ball dances will be practiced at Bush Dance Workshops throughout August (see below). Heather Clarke will be at the final Workshop on the 28<sup>th</sup> and will also be running a final practice session on the day of the Ball – full details to be announced later.

**End of Month Dance ....** No End of Month Dance in September, but look forward to dancing to 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 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 to share for supper.

**Monday Workshops ....** Bush Dance Workshops continue in September, so get out your dance shoes and be at All Saints at 8pm for fun evenings of bush dancing to live music. However, the last Monday falls in the school holidays, so we'll be taking a short break then.

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.





**Dancers' Dance ....** There will be a Dancers' Dance on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. This includes dances from various genres and is designed for the more experienced dancers. Come to All Saints and remember the starting time is **7.00 pm**.

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.

Live music by the Bush Capital Band.

**2nd Saturday Dance ....** Prepare to dance your feet off with our second Saturday of the month dance on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September, at All Saints from 7.00 pm 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.



**Kids Dance ....** The second in our series will be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> September (before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Dance). Dances with live music for children of all ages (and their young at heart carers) from 2:30 to 4.00 pm at All Saints Church Hall, Cowper St Ainslie. Entry by gold coin donation. Live music by the TiNMuGs.



**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.

**Irish Set Dancing .....** is on every Wednesday in August so come along from 8.00 pm to 10.00 pm, 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).



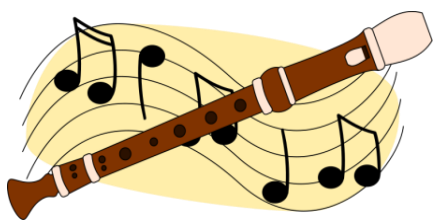
**English Country Dancing ....** is on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month from 7.30 to 9.30 pm at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner. Please bring some friends to share the fun. Entry is \$7 for MFS members and \$9 for others.

The **Earthly Delights Historic Dance Academy** runs balls on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month from 7.00 to 11.00 pm at Canberra Baptist Church Hall, Currie St., Kingston. Costumes welcome but any dress fine. \$25 at door but discounts are available at <http://www.earthlydelights.com.au/upcoming>. The next dance, on September 16<sup>th</sup> will relate to the Georgian Era (1700 to 1800)



## Music with MFS

**Australian Settler's Music Sessions** – this group meets between 7.15 and 9.30 pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, except January, at the Grant Cameron Community Centre, 27 Mulley Street, Holder. This month the dates are the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup>. Contact is Ray Mulligan on 62474725

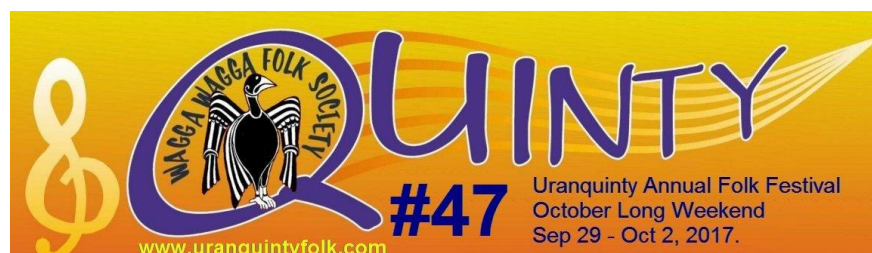


The **Tuesday Night Music Group** (beginner to intermediate), which happens on almost every Tuesday of the year, now meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from 7.30 to 10.00 pm at the Irish Club in Parkinson Street, Weston. Some members arrive earlier and have a meal at 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 – see page 6 for details.

## Out and About .....

Be very quick if you want an earlybird price for the Turning Wave Festival coming up from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September at Yass because after 31<sup>st</sup> August you will pay more. Book and see full details at [www.turningwave.org.au](http://www.turningwave.org.au)



The Uranquinty Folk Festival is getting quite venerable now and has grown in size and quality over the years but still retains its friendly and relaxed atmosphere. In case you can't read it on the banner the website is [www.uranquintyfolk.com](http://www.uranquintyfolk.com)

Concerts, Dances, Campfire Sessions, Blackboards, Poets' Breakfast, Kids' Festival, Workshops, Women's Concert, Candlelit Dinners, Concert for Danny and Noel, Tennis Hut Specials.

**The Bush Traditions Gathering** is a weekend confluence of musicians, reciters, singers and dancers held annually on the NSW October Long Weekend (Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September to Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October this year) at the Old Goulburn Brewery which has provided an historical backdrop to the Gathering site since the first one in 2006.

Players, performers and dancers come together to enjoy a programme of music and dance workshops, poetry recitations, concerts and dances as well as hours of informal music sessions. There are workshops to learn tunes by ear or music, song workshops, dance music workshops, dances and, of course, showcase concerts.

All necessary information plus ticket purchase facility are at <http://www.bushtraditions.org/gathering/tickets.htm>

**Charlotte Pass Celtic Music Camp** – Kosciuszko National Park near Jindabyne - 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Tutors Dave O'Neill & Lindsay Martin

Come and enjoy four days and five nights of workshops, sessions, delicious meals, walks and great company. Two classes will be offered for multi-instruments based on learning tunes. One class will be for people who feel they are slower at picking up tunes by ear. The alternate class will be for people who learn by ear quickly. An accompaniment option will also be offered. Your tutors will teach one session a day with each class group. The music at camp will focus on Irish with meanderings into French Canadian, Cape Breton, Old Time and Scottish tunes. More info and bookings: <https://charlottepasscelticmusiccamp.com>



Presented by  
**Monaro Folk  
Society Inc.**



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## **Merry Muse – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September from 4.00 pm to 7.00pm** **Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson Street, Weston**

### **Blackboard plus Feature Act *Springtide***

Admission: \$3 for MFS Members, Concessions and Blackboard Performers; \$5 for 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. Generally the blackboard runs from 4.00 pm and the Feature Act starts at around 6.00 pm after a short break.



**Springtide** - A shared love of beautiful, elegant music brought together a hammered dulcimer, cello, and harp, and the result is *Springtide*, Australia's most distinctive folk trio. Jackie Luke and Greg Wilson have recently moved from the Hunter Valley to Canberra and are officially an "ACT" band, with their long time musical partner, Rita Woolhouse. They play a stunning mix of Celtic classics and musical gems from around the world, and have performed at major folk festivals and clubs in Australia, New Zealand, UK, and Ireland. Their recent CDs "The Wisdom of Trees" & "Spindrift" invite you to tap your feet, or just chill out to the sounds of dulcimer, harp, cello & voice – perfect!

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

Blackboards are usually the first Sunday of the month at 4.00 pm

**[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)**

**Important note:** If there is a pink dot in the address area of this copy of the Monaro Musings it means that you are not financial. Please renew your membership if you wish to continue to receive the Musings and to enter MFS events at the discounted members' price.



## 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@homemail.com.au](mailto:cbriton@homemail.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. 2016-17 Committee**

President: Geoff Kell - [president@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:president@monarofolk.org.au); Vice-President: Vaacant; Secretary: Ian Bull – [secretary@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:secretary@monarofolk.org.au); Treasurer: Matt Gibbins - [treasurer@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:treasurer@monarofolk.org.au); Public Officer: Antonella Salpietro Committee Members: 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 Sibillant; 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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