

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 27, Number 8 – September 2018**



Helen and Tony Romeo performing at the Merry Muse on Sunday 12th August. They will be back in Canberra as part of Currawong for the Colonial Ball on September 1st (Photo by Arlene and Tony Williams)

From the President's Soapbox

Spring kicks off this Saturday 1 September with a major trifecta at the Albert Hall.

First off is the free Come and Try bush dance from 10.30 am until 12.00 noon. This is a promotional initiative aimed at attracting the general public. However, its success will depend on our regular bush dancers turning out to make it an active event. Bush Capital Band members will be providing the music, so dancers please come along as the more successful the event, the higher the chance of swelling the ranks with new participants at our other regular activities.

Next, the Canberra Mandolin Orchestra concert, beginning at 2.30 pm and in collaboration with MFS, will focus on Australian social dance in a historical context. Dances will be demonstrated by members of the Bush Dance Group and the music will feature Filipino classical guitarist Segundo Vasquez. This promises to be a very special event. More information at our website: www.monarofolk.org.au/canberra-mandolin-orchestra-concert.

Our flagship event, the Colonial Ball, caps off the day with a special program, Dancing Around Australia, compiled by well-respected caller John Short. Ticket sales have now closed due to catering requirements, however late purchases may be possible in the event of any cancellations. Contact Mark on 0421 814 718 or email colonialball@monarofolk.org.au

The Irish Set Dance October weekend is only 6 weeks away – earlybird discount ticket sales close this Friday 31st August. So, if you haven't got a round tuit, it's time to make the decision. *

The not-to-be-missed ONCE ONLY event of the MFS 2018 AGM will begin at 7.00 pm on Thursday 20th September at the Irish Club in Weston. This will feature: fascinating insights into the mysterious workings of MFS subgroups; financial revelations more relevant and anticipated than Donald Trump's tax returns; the cut and thrust of internal politics as candidates battle for highly prized positions of authority (which will make this week's Canberra scene pale into insignificance) and, last but not least, a sumptuous banquet of finger food to fuel all this excitement! So, make it a date, be there, and be prepared to voice your opinion.

A final point: the sustainability of the Monaro Folk Society is dependent upon new people being attracted to participate in our activities and become members. To succeed in this we need effective promotion, and this requires vision and energy, so if you think what we do is worthwhile, please contact me to discuss how you may assist. Oh, yes ... and you are always welcome to join our committee.

Geoff

* Please note that the deadline for the discount on the ISD weekend has just been extended to September 9th. See **Stop Press** in Dancing About for more on this.

Dancing About

Saturday 1st September at the Albert Hall

It will be a busy day at the Albert Hall on September 1st with three events taking place.

Firstly a FREE BUSH DANCE CLASS

The Monaro Folk Society is offering all Canberrans the chance to dance at the iconic Albert Hall, at a free "Come and Try Bush Dancing" class.

The class will be held from 10.30am to midday with the doors opening 10.15am. The class will provide an introduction to Bush Dancing for those who have never danced, or may have only danced other styles.

Experienced dancers are also most welcome to help the newer dancers or just enjoy the atmosphere and ambiance of dancing at the Albert Hall.

Come alone, or bring your partner, friends or family (suitable for ages 12 upwards - no upper limit!)

Wear loose, light, comfortable clothing, preferably layered, and flat soled, smooth or non-grippy shoes. Clean soles and no high heels are required to protect the beautiful wood floor.

Secondly the CANBERRA MANDOLIN ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Dance Music To Step Through Oz History

As a joint initiative of the Monaro Folk Society and the Canberra Mandolin Orchestra (CMO) a grand concert will be held at the Albert Hall in the afternoon of the Colonial Ball from 2.30pm.

The concert will have an overall Australian flavour with a number of pieces featuring music related to the history of social dance in Australia. The program will also feature demonstrations by local dancers.

Tickets are \$20 and \$15 (for MFS members and Colonial Ball ticket holders) and will be available at the door. More information at www.cmo.org.au

Thirdly the **COLONIAL BALL**

The Monaro Folk Society's annual Ball will be held from 7:20pm.

Music will be provided by The Currawong Bush Band with John Short calling

The dance program will feature a selection of dances from each of the States and Territories of Australia that highlight the vital role played by dance composers, dancers and choreographers in the development of social dancing in Australia.

Ticket sales have already closed and there will be no tickets for sale at the door. Late sales (29/8 to 31/8) only available through cancellations – contact Mark on 0421 814 718 before making a purchase.

THE PICNIC

After such a full day – even if you only went to the ball - unwind on Sunday 2nd September at the traditional recovery picnic in the park. Details of the picnic will be given at the Ball.

Ed's Notes: There was more information on both the Ball and the Mandolin Concert in the August Monaro Musings. The piece about the Ball was written by Antonella Salpietro.. They can also be found on the MFS website – www.monarofolk.org.au – and the Mandolin Concert is also on the CMO's website – www.cmo.org.au.

2nd Saturday Dance Prepare to dance your feet off with our second Saturday of the month dance on the 8th September, at All Saints from 7pm to 10.30pm. Live music by the Bush Capital Band.

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, Daryl, Colin, Peter and Mark, and called, so no experience needed and no partner necessary (but do bring them if you have one). If you're new to dancing you are also welcome to come along.

Hints: please wear smooth, soft soled shoes so you can glide along the floor. Please don't wear perfume or aftershave as you will be very close to people and the scent can seem very strong.



End of Month Dance In previous years, we didn't have an end of month dance in September due to the Family and Community Day long weekend. That holiday is no longer being celebrated, which allows us to hold one this month



As the Labour Day long weekend includes the last Saturday the **end-of-month dance** will be held a week early.

While we have 'lost' a long weekend in September we have 'found' the opportunity to have an additional dance. Hence the theme of the evening will be "Lost and Found" with dances related to the theme.

When: 22nd September 2018, 8.00 pm – 11.30pm

Where: Canberra Baptist Church, Currie Cres, Kingston

Band: Paverty Bush Band with Bob Buckley calling.

Cost: Entry is \$18 full price, \$16 for groups and concessions, \$14 for MFS members (join at the door), students half price.

Please bring a plate of supper to share. Buy a cup for \$1 and enjoy as much water, cordial, tea or coffee you like



Dance Story

A Dance with a difference

A wonderful Swedish Hambo, first lesson was given by Roger and Christine Gifford at the Yarralumla Uniting Church on the 9th of August.

24 keen dancers attended, willing to learn, and that's what we did. The gender balance was exactly perfect and by the end of the evening there were up to 12 couples at any one time swishing around the floor. By the time you receive this newsletter, the 2nd lesson (of three) will have taken place. We will have reinforced what we've learned, and learned more moves and dances, using Hambo steps, to add excitement. Not that Hambo needs any more excitement.

This is a very difficult dance to learn, but Roger and his beautiful assistant, Christine, taught it brilliantly. Thank you both very much.

Linda Aunela

Stop Press

Early bird discount for the 14th Irish Set Dancing Weekend (12th-14th October) extended to midnight on Sunday, 9th September.

Sadly, due to a foot injury, Pat Murphy is unable to teach this year. The good news is that, with Pat's help, we have arranged for **Irish dance master Maureen Culleton** from **County Laois** to teach at the weekend. Maureen is an expert dancer, teacher and supporter of all forms of Irish traditional dance, with strong followings among dancers in Europe, Japan and across Ireland. She regularly conducts summer schools of dance in Ireland, the most recent being the Summer Festival of Dance at Ballyfin held earlier this month.

To provide you with additional time to make a decision about whether to attend the weekend, **we have extended the early bird discount until midnight on Sunday, 9th September.**

Book online at http://www.mabula.net/setdancing/workshop_registration.html by **9th September for a 10% discount** on the following:

- \$90 All events (includes all workshops & three ceilis with the Jimmy Mullarkey Ceili Band)
- \$22 Friday night welcome ceili
- \$32 Saturday workshops
- \$22 Saturday night gala ceili
- \$32 Sunday workshops and afternoon farewell ceili.

Full-time students and those under 18 years are half-price.

Morning teas and evening suppers are included.

Your booking is fully refundable if subsequently you can't attend.

Venue: Hall Pavilion, Gladstone St, Hall ACT 2618

Contact/more information:

isdcanberra@gmail.com

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

<http://www.monarofolk.org.au/events/irish-set-dance-weekend/>

Irish Set Dancing On every Wednesday in September.



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 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 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@homemail.com.au.

Monday Workshops Every Monday in September at All Saints at 8pm. Party night is on the 24th as it is the last workshop before a two week break for the school holidays. Please bring a plate of supper to share on party night.

Dance and have fun with live music. Beginners and intermediate dancers attend these workshops as they are tailored to teach. Experienced dancers also attend to help out and to enjoy the dancing and the live music.

Not a dancer, but can play an instrument - then come along too, and join the band - no charge for musicians.

Dancers - it's just \$6 for MFS members \$8 for non-members and the second night is free.

Contributions for supper are welcome but not essential.

Contact person is Mark Simmons 0421 814 718



Contra is on the 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

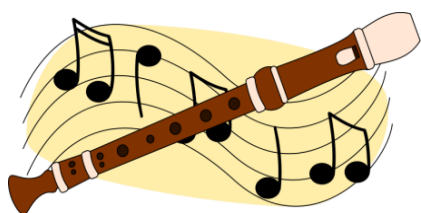
English Country Dancing is on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 7:30 to 9:30 pm at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner. This is a wonderful opportunity to improve your dancing technique and learn more steps. Please bring some friends to share the fun. Entry is \$7 for MFS members and \$9 for others.

Contact person is Colin Towns 6238 0246



Music, Music, Music

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.. 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 2nd and 4th 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

As we move into Spring and the weather improves festivals proliferate and this one is a favourite with folkies from Canberra, with its laidback atmosphere



Happening in Yass from 14th to 16th September



Weekend Pass \$95
Weekend Concession \$75
Weekend Youth (12-17) \$35
Children Under 12 Free
Friday Night (5pm -9pm) \$35
Saturday Whole Day (10am-Late) \$60
Saturday Night (5.30pm - Late) \$35
Sunday Whole Day (10am -4pm) \$40
Weekend Camping Pass (4 people
per site) \$30
All Star Community Concert
(Saturday Night) \$20
Ceili Single pass (Friday, Saturday or
Sunday) \$20

A selection of performers coming to Yass for the Irish and Celtic Music Festival: Clockwise from top centre:

Platform 9 3/4, Cassidy's Ceili, Tidal Moon (Barbara Jeffrey and Jose Garcia), Strayaway Child (Chloe and Ben Hurley)

Facebook – [jointhecraicinyass](https://www.facebook.com/jointhecraicinyass)

Website – www.irishcelticmusicfestival.weebly.com

Bookings via Eventbrite



www.kangaroovalleyfolkfestival.com.au

Presented by
**Monaro Folk
Society Inc.**



Merry Muse: Sunday September 9th from 4.00 pm to 7.00pm

Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson St Weston

Admission: \$3 MFS Members, Concessions, blackboard performers, \$5 Others

Please note that the Irish Club has asked that regular attendees also join the Irish Club

Blackboard plus The Shiny Bum Singers

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.

The Shiny Bum Singers



Established in 1999, the Shiny Bum Singers perform the work songs of the Public Service in traditional working dress. True to folk tradition, the 'Bums' recycle well-known tunes and encourage audience singalong to parodies that satirise just about every issue that invites it. Based in Canberra, they have regularly performed to packed houses at the National Folk Festival and other folk venues in the ACT, New South Wales and Victoria, and entertained at Public Service conferences and dinners, including the prestigious Prime Minister's awards.

Fresh from their sell-out mock opera "Seize the Day" the vocally inspiring and visually entertaining group will sing some favourites from their broad repertoire of over 300 songs.

Coming up

October 14th - Blackboard plus **Hither and Yon** CD launch. Hither and Yon acoustic duo 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 launch their 3rd CD, The Man Bench, in October 2018.

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

Enquiries ph Eileen 0412 127 882 or email [eileennew23\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto: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 /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.

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

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.

Queanbeyan Bush Poets - 4th 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 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.

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

Appointed Officials

Membership: Declan O'Connell - 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; Bookkeeper: Linda Aunela – payments@monarofolk.org.au; Web Manager: Simon David

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