

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 8 – September 2019

From the President's Soapbox

Our 2019 Annual General Meeting is due to be held on Thursday 19 September. Last year we had to reschedule the AGM due to lack of a quorum, however had a brilliant response and attendance at our second attempt at Beyond Q Café in Weston. As many people told us that they really enjoyed the social nature of the meeting's structure, we are using the same venue this year, and with the same approach. You will not have to sit in rows and endure renditions of Annual reports: the seating will be café style around tables, where you can chat with friends in between items of business and the reports will be taken as read. These will be available in the members' section of the website as they come in from sub-group organisers. Following the election of officers there will be further opportunity to socialise while we showcase some of our performers.

To try to circumvent a lack of quorum (and a subsequent email from yours truly), we have again set up a Google page, [Can You Attend?](#), where we hope you will register your intention to attend, or lodge an apology. If you receive the Musings as paper copy, the link is on our website. Last year proved to be a good night, so we look forward to seeing you there.

If you have not renewed your membership, you may do so on the night, however it would be much less work for everyone if you renew and pay online beforehand. [Membership Link](#)

The next 2nd Saturday bush dance (Sat 14 Sep) at All Saints will be a fundraiser for the Special Olympics. This is a chance to share the enjoyment of bush dancing with those who live with disabilities and we may have some special dances for those attending. A fun evening, so make the effort!

The Colonial Ball will be held on the evening of Saturday 28 September and as we have the Albert Hall for the whole day, we shall feature some additional events.

From 10.30am – 12.00pm, a FREE "Come and Try Bush Dancing" introductory class will welcome all Canberrans over 12 years old - we hope our regular dancers can make it as well.

At 2.30pm The Canberra Mandolin Orchestra begin a concert, with the theme of "After the War".

All details and links for ticket purchases are on our website: [Colonial Ball](#)

The [Bush Traditions Gathering](#), held over the October long weekend in Yass, is an opportunity to participate in sessions for musicians, spoken word presentations, singing and dancing. There will also be craft workshops. Its purpose is not for those attending to just sit and watch (although all poets love an audience), rather to get in and sing and play and dance – to have a go!

And finally, don't forget the annual Irish Set Dancing weekend in Hall is coming up in October: last year drew a record number of attendees to a most successful event so check out the [ISD webpage](#).

Geoff

Dancing About

Monaro Folk Society proudly presents the 2019 Colonial Ball

Tickets are on sale now

Tickets to the Ball are very reasonably priced and payment can be made by Direct Deposit, Cash, Cheque or Postal Order. For catering purposes we close ticket sales on Wednesday 25th September. Early bird sales (at reduced price) will be available until Monday 9th September via <http://www.monarofolk.org.au/colonial-ball-tickets/>



The Monaro Folk Society presents
**The 2019
Colonial Ball**
Saturday
28 September
The Albert Hall Canberra

Stringfiddle, led by Bob McInnes, is a very vibrant band with an eclectic and exciting repertoire. Bob McInnes brings a wealth of experience and creativity to the task of lead musician. Don Richmond's extensive skill and experience as a caller is well regarded around Australia and guarantees that the Ball will be a very enjoyable event

This year, the theme will be Floral Tribute, as the Ball coincides with Canberra's internationally famous Floriade Festival.

Doors open at 7.20 pm for pre-paid ticket collection, with pre-ball welcome drinks and nibbles from 7:30 pm. Dancing is from 8:00 pm to midnight and there will be a break for a fully catered supper.

Dress is Colonial / early 1900s evening dress, or after five.

There will also be a free "Come and Try Bush Dancing" introductory class from 10.30am – 12.00 noon at the Albert Hall, open to anyone over 12 years old - we hope some of our regular dancers can make it as well.

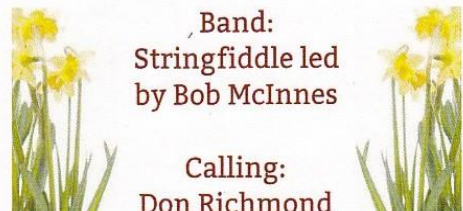
The Post-Ball picnic will be held at the Amphitheatre in Commonwealth Park from 11.00 am on Sunday 29th. BYO food and drinks, plus musical instruments, chair/rug, etc. A chance to explore Floriade too. All welcome (even if you couldn't come to the Ball).

Canberra Mandolin Orchestra (CMO) will present a grand concert at the Albert Hall from 2.30pm in the afternoon of the Colonial Ball.

The concert 'After the War' will feature a selection of the diverse and euphoric music brought to Australia after 1945 from Britain, Ireland, Italy, Greece, the Balkans, Northern Europe and other areas of the world.

The concert will include song and dance tunes as well as light classics all played by a massed plucked instrument orchestra.

Concert discount tickets will be offered to Colonial Ball attendees. More detailed information on the concert at CMO.org.au.



Band:
Stringfiddle led
by Bob McInnes

Calling:
Don Richmond

**Theme: Floral Tribute,
as Floriade will be on**

**Welcome drinks and hors d'oeuvres
from 7:30pm.**

**Dancing 8pm to midnight.
Fully catered supper**

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

www.monarofolk.org.au



2nd Saturday Dance This month's dance will be a fund raiser for the Special Olympics, in coordination with our own Olympian, Juliette. On 14th 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 of 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, 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 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 be overpowering.

Bush Traditions Gathering: 4th - 7th October

The Gathering will happen in the Hartigan Centre, Meehan Street, Yass. It is a participatory event with players, performers and dancers coming together to enjoy a program of music, song, craft, dance, and poetry in a friendly cooperative atmosphere. Program activities proposed so far:

- Cafe' Culture
- Saplings
- Instruments: Beginner didgeridoo; harmonicas
- Yarns: With Alan Swift and then again with Linda Swift.
- Crafts: Cabbage Tree Hats; Dyeing with Eucalyptus leaves; Spinning, needlework
- Bush Cooking for Sunday evening meal (for 40 plates only)
- There will be talk: poetry, yarns etc
- Bill Case: Workshop, audio-visuals and dance music based on material collected from Bill Case, with Rob Willis & John Harpley
- Sessions: Go slow with Kerry Doherty, or go faster: Collected Australian with No Such Thing; English with Burnt Roast; Joe Yates with Tony Stuart
- Singing with *40 degrees South*. The songs of Colin Dryden with Dan Kelly; Australian songs with Dave Johnson; songs with Graham Clark; Bush Music Club; sea Shanties; there is more!
- Dom Moreno's arrangements of some of the poems of John O'Brien, with Marion Haigh
- Dance in Lovat Chapel: Two workshops and an afternoon dance on Saturday, combining the two styles of bush dancing, Contra, & English on Sunday.



The website is www.bushtraditions.org (click on Gathering in the menu).

Monday Workshops Every Monday in September at 8.00 pm

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



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

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



Irish Set Dancing.... Every Wednesday in September.

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'

15th Annual Canberra Irish Set Dancing Weekend Friday 11 - Sunday 13 October 2019

Hall Pavilion

Gladstone St (Hall Showground), Hall ACT 2018

Saturday and Sunday workshops

Margaret & Bill Winnett (NSW)

Matt Harriage (Vic)

Three Ceilis with live music



www.mabula.net/setdancing
monarofolk.org.au
isdcanberra@gmail.com



Session	Ticket Price
All events	\$90
Friday night welcome ceili	\$22
Saturday workshops	\$32
Saturday night ceili	\$22
Sunday workshops & farewell ceili	\$32
Full time students & under 18	Half-price

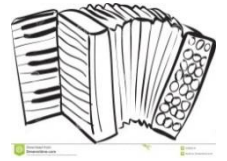
Book online from 1 June
10% discount for bookings by 31 August



Photos: melbourneceilicamera.org

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 so this month it's early – 8th September. 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 8.

Out and About

Launch of A Factory Lad –review by Lyndal Thorburn

Local singer songwriter Daniel Kelly launched his latest CD, *A Factory Lad*, at Yazzbah (in Yass) on 23rd August. *A Factory Lad* is a tribute to Colin Dryden, an English immigrant who was active and well known in the Sydney folk scene in the 60s and 70s. Daniel has been researching the life of Colin Dryden and the CD emerged out of this interest.



A Factory Lad chronicles many of the songs that Colin sang while in Australia (he died in the UK at the young age of 43). At the launch, Daniel sang a set of Colin's songs (most from northern England, about the poor lives of miners there, some traditional and some written by Colin) plus one of Daniel's own that describes Colin's life. I particularly liked Poverty Poverty Knock and Four Loom Weaver. Daniel's blog now has a history of his research into Colin Dryden, including a map of where he travelled in Australia - read more on www.folklounge.org.

Colin was obviously also taken by the Australian folk scene, as the CD has another of his songs, a wonderfully bluesy interpretation of Ryebuck Shearer, which must have ruffled feathers at the time, although he also supported common folkie causes such as anti-conscription concerts.

Daniel's CD launch is available to listen to for free on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZm8BTY9x5o&pbjreload=10>. Originals of Colin singing can, since only 7th August 2019 (courtesy of Gerry Hallom, an Aussie resident in the UK) be found on Youtube at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeVC5te_ntoG3xQegWIY1iQ.

Note: Daniel Kelly will be in Yass for both the Irish and Celtic Music Festival and the Bush Traditions Gathering

Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas coming to Smiths Alternative

Alasdair Fraser's mastery of the Scottish fiddle combines with the youthful virtuosity of cellist Natalie Haas for a dynamic and captivating show. Natalie's affinity with Scottish melodic nuance, driving rhythms and rich harmonies afford a sparkling interchange with Fraser. Together they are re-casting the cello in its historic role at the rhythmic heart of Scottish dance music.



Thursday 26th September. – 7.00 to 9.00 pm
 Tickets \$35/30, www.smithsalternative.com/events/alasdair-fraser-and-natalie-haas-63024



Ed's Note: So many things happening in September but this next one might appeal to you if you are going to be near Sydney on the last weekend of the month and not gliding around the Albert Hall at the Colonial Ball.

Sydney English Country Dance Spring Ball

Calling all potential Mr Darcy, or Bingley or Collins or Wickham and all Miss Bennetts. Please mark the evening of Saturday 28th September as the date for your attendance at the Sydney English Country Dance Spring Ball to be held at the Kuring-gai Town Hall, 1186 Pacific Hwy, Pymble from 7.30 to 11.30pm. Off street parking for your carriages is provided. The cost for the ball is a modest \$30. Supper will be provided. Bookings need to be made by 21st September via Pay by Paypal (Remember to change the Currency to AUD) or <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme2/shortdentedpotts>



Dress up in period costume or come as you are. No partners are necessary and all dances will be called. Live music will be provided by Short Dented Potts.

Dance practices for the ball will be scheduled at St Peter's Church Hall at 181 Blues Point Road, North Sydney. Saturdays 2.30 to 4.30 pm on 31st August and 21st September. Entry \$8 for all these sessions.

Christine Miller for enquiries phone 0434195098

christinetheresemiller@gmail.com or David Potter phone 0413 210 789 or david@the-pottery.org



Ed's Note: There is a lovely article on the Quinty website (See panel above) about a duo's first experience playing at Uranquinty Folk Festival back in 2009. It's called 'Newbies at Quinty' and the duo is Spirit of the Glen. It is well written and for me it sums up perfectly how wonderful being at a small Folk Festival can be – the atmosphere, the friendliness, the music Definitely one of the better experiences life has to offer!

In conjunction with the Irish and Celtic Music Festival in Yass from 13th to 15th September the organisers are offering the **Junior Fleadh** as detailed below. For full information about the festival itself see the



Register via the QR code

or type the link into your browser:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2ZKCD9Y>



Irish National Association
of Australasia
Cumann Náisiúnta na nGaedheal

Free Youth Workshops in Irish Music and Dance! All musical abilities welcome.

Come and join the Junior Fleadh at the Irish and Celtic Music Festival.
Mt Carmel School, via the Hartigan Centre, Meehan St Yass

Saturday 14 September 9:30am - 11:30am
Sunday 15 September 9:30am - 11:30am

Following the Sunday program lunch will be provided then students will present a showcase concert at 12:30pm in the Lovat Chapel.

Bring your own instrument if you have one. D whistles available for the total beginners or kids who do not have an instrument of their own.

This year's tutors are:

- ♪ Chloe and Ben Hurley, performing at the Festival with Strayaway Child
- ♪ Michael Green, performing at the Festival with Green Shoe on a Bender

website – www.irishcelticmusicfestival.com/

Yet another event in September - should be fun. See if you can fit it in ...

Queanbeyan's The Bunker Arts Groups hosts **Music at the Bunker** (4/6 Silva Avenue, Queanbeyan) every month. On 21st September, Danny Velnaar (all the way from Bungendore!!) is the feature act, supported by other locals Brigitte Heyer, Jim Cuttrell, Isabella McNickle and Hither and Yon (Tom Jordan and Lyndal Thorburn). The event commences at 6.00 pm with a free sausage sizzle (it's BYOG), and entry is by donation. All performers are regulars at the Merry Muse at Weston, and will present a range of original songs (plus a few covers). For more information contact Danny on 0413 502 428.

Ed's Note: The flyer for this event is in a separate file attached to the email bringing you this Musings. In addition there are two more files – one with information about the AGM and one with a nomination form to complete if you wish to stand as an Officer or as a Committee Member of MFS for 2019-20.

Do you ever make it to one of the many sessions happening regularly around town? Many are listed on the back of this newsletter. These pictures (by Lyndal Thorburn) are from the Wednesday Old Timey Session at Beyond Q Bookshop and Cafe



Presented by
**Monaro Folk
Society Inc.**



Merry Muse Sunday September 8th – 4.00 to 7.00 pm

Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson St Weston

Admissio:n: \$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

Sunday 8th September - Blackboard plus feature act Jess Ferris

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 Jess Ferris



Jess Ferris is a 14 year old singer from Lake George. Music has always been part of her life from performing at ACT's schools spectacular, Step into the Limelight, to performing with the elite Luminescence children's choir. She recently graduated from the CMAA Junior Academy of Country Music where she was mentored by some of the finest country music artists in Australia. Jess sings from the heart and loves the joy her music brings to others. "Jess appeared at a lot of the blackboard venues at the National Folk Festival and caught the eye of myself and others as a talent to watch, not just in the country scene but the folk scene" Eileen Newmarch

Coming up Sunday 13th October Feature Act Richard Grainger.

A special treat - Richard Grainger is a prolific and widely respected songwriter and musician who has been performing on the British Folk Scene since the 1980s. He has fourteen albums and several musical plays to his name. Born in Middlesbrough, an industrial town on the North- East coast of England, Richard was brought up in a musical family, first playing in Teesside folk clubs at 17 years of age.

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

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

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

President: Geoff Kell - president@monarofolk.org.au; Vice-President: David Ball; Secretary: Ian Bull – secretary@monarofolk.org.au; Treasurer: Matthew Gibbins - treasurer@monarofolk.org.au; Public Officer: Antonella Salpietro; Committee Members: John Hewat, Anne Mathas. Nelly Rogers, Chris Ward. For general enquiries please use secretary@monarofolk.org.au

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