

Monaro Folk Society (MFS)
Canberra Contra Club
Plan and budget for period 2026-27

Canberra Contra Club area of responsibility - goals and objectives

Goals and Objectives:

A regular Contra dance night is held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Where there is a fifth Tuesday in the month that night is used by the Contra Club musicians to learn and practice new tunes. It is anticipated that Contra Club dances and music nights will continue to be held on these nights between the start of July 2026 till the end of June 2027 with the exception of the third Tuesday in December 2026 and all of January 2026.

The goal is that sufficient dancers attend such that door takings cover hall hire costs for each dance night. This has not been achieved every dance night but remains the goal. Musicians and callers are not charged entry fee as they contribute their music and calling services to the night. With the increase in the hall hourly hire fee from 1 July 2025 to \$45/hour (being a total of \$135 for the 3 hours each Contra dance night) we have sought to attract more dancers to attend. Efforts have been made to attract new dancers with the goal of covering costs, including training of more callers. Attendance numbers will be closely monitored and further efforts will continue to be made to encourage new and younger musicians, callers and dancers.

Description of activities:

Live music is provided by the Contra Club Band. Rob Mahony organises and leads the Contra band with an average of about 13 musicians per night over the year. Peter Foster organises the callers for dance evenings and there are generally around 3 callers per dance night. Gabrielle Mackey sends out MFS-Announce messages regarding the dance nights and is responsible for managing the takings and transferring the takings for the night to the MFS account and reporting to the Treasurer on each dance night. An average of 16 dancers attend each dance night with boosted attendance on the Tuesday before the National Folk Festival where the numbers can more than double with interstate dancers also attending.

The Contra Club also participates in various folk festivals with contra dance workshops and dances. In 2025-26 the Contra Club performed at Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival in October 2025. Rob Mahony is responsible for making the application to perform and it is anticipated that applications for the Canberra Contra Club to perform will also be made for festivals in 2026-27. Attendance at festivals is wholly dependent upon the application being accepted.

The Canberra Contra Club ran the Wee Jasper Contra weekend in January 2026 and it is expected that this weekend will be run again in January 2027. A fun time was had by all who attended in 2026.

The key organisers of Canberra Contra Club committee

Rob Mahony, Peter Foster & Gabrielle Mackey

Budget

Item	Income	Expenditure
22 Contra Club nights July 2026 – June 2027 @ \$135.00/night TOTALS:	[Est] \$3,000.00	\$2,970.00

Submitted by: **Rob Mahony & Gabrielle Mackey**