

Monaro Folk Society - Bush Dance Group Annual Report 2017/18

The Bush Dance Group has had another mostly successful year, with mixed results compared to last year for both attendances and financials.

Attendances at Monday Bush Dance Workshops have continued to attract strong numbers, with a slight fall from last year's average of 29 to 27 dancers, and numbers ranging from a low of 16 to a high of 45 during the year. The "open stage" for musicians and callers is attracting an average of 11 musicians (down from 12), plus 2 callers (unchanged).

The CIT courses held in conjunction with the Monday Workshops continue to bring in small numbers of new dancers, however only a few have joined the Society or continue to come to Workshops and Saturday dances following completion of their course.

Saturday dances have seen continuing low attendances, although there has been a slight increase in the average attendance of 24 (up from 22), with numbers ranging from a low of 11 to a disappointing high of 45 at the Christmas Dance. The increased average is due to the improvement in attendance at the Dancers' Dances, which are now being held four times during the year in place of regular dances, rather than running them separately.

The Kids' Dances, held on the same day as the Dancers' Dances, have also picked up attendances and contributed a modest profit of \$25.

During December 2017 and January 2018 another season of Dancing In The Park was held. Numbers were steady for this, but again there were very few new dancers attending. DITP has been a cost neutral event, however this may change as the NCA has indicated that they will start charging for use of Stage 88 (perhaps \$50). If this is the case, to keep this activity going the society will have to bear this cost, though it could be offset by having a donation bucket there on the night.

Although it operates loosely under the BDG, the Bush Capital Band does some outside events - these activities are listed under Promotional financials so are not included in BDG financial report. As well as promoting MFS activities, they contributed a further \$56 profit to the society from two non-MFS events.

Overall the BDG has done well financially, making a profit of \$1,170 (including \$850 CIT income) but this is down on last year. This fall in profits is mostly due to increased hall hire costs without an increase in door prices. The Christmas Dance at the Woolshed again ran at a loss and a decision has been taken to discontinue using the Woolshed due to the escalating hire price and falling attendance.