

Monaro Folk Society – End of Month Dance Organising Team (EOMDOT) Report for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

EOMDOT area of responsibility - goals and objectives

The EOMDOT runs dances on the last Saturday of the month for most months of the year between March and October inclusive for MFS members and the public using various local and interstate bands and callers. The EOMDOT also organises three MFS high profile dances: the Shearers' Ball, Colonial Ball, and New Year's Eve dance.

The EOMDOT's objectives are to build competency in the performance of Australian traditional folk dance, dance calling and music, and grow by recruitment and promotion of these traditions to the general public.

Membership of EOMDOT

Antonella Salpietro - Convener and Primary Contact
Mark Simmons
Rita Turnbull
Matthew Gibbins

Rod Peters and Pierre Sibilant are not members of EOMDOT; however, they fulfil very important roles in providing assistance and advice to the EOMDOT. Rod Peters provides support on publicity and Pierre Sibilant improves the EOMDOT webpages.

EOMDOT organised a number of dances in the financial year 2018-19 including end of month dances, the annual Colonial Ball on the 1 September 2018 at the Albert Hall, the New Year's Eve dance on the 31 December 2018 at the Woolshed and the Shearers' Ball on 30 March 2019.

Attendance at EOM dances follows irregular patterns. The EOMDOT has taken a number of measures to increase attendance and reduce costs, for example, there has been a remarkable effort to promote EOMDOT activities through local newspapers and magazines, and with printed publicity material. In addition, again this financial year, the EOMDOT has decided not to hold the November EOM dance, as it is too close to the MFS Xmas party, and the February EOM that is usually concurrent to the Cobargo Folk Festival.

The overall financial outcome for the EOMDOT activities held in the financial year 2018-19 has been a loss of \$740.60 (based on accrual accounting). Unpredictable factors like bad weather with related dangerous road conditions obviously impact on dance attendance.

The change in hiring conditions and charges introduced by the ACT Government in late 2017 has eventuated in the increase of the Colonial Ball overall budget. However, ticket prices are still relatively low in consideration of the priority to make the event affordable to a wide public, attract younger demographics, and retain MFS members' participation.

The partnership established with the Canberra Mandolin Orchestra (CMO) in 2018 eventuated in an attractive program of joint events for 1 September 2018 and reduced costs for the Colonial Ball.

Mark Simmons proposed that we hold a free dance class at the Albert Hall on the morning of the CMO concert and MFS Ball. It was agreed that the class would be taught by Mark Simmons, be widely advertised, cover figures common to all the dance styles that the MFS offers, and have

musicians from the MFS to provide live music. The class was well attended and some of the participants have been seen at MFS dance events and Merry Muse concerts.

I believe that the EOMDOT has demonstrated a commitment to improving attendance at MFS events, a willingness to seek and develop collaboration opportunities with other cultural entities, a creative and sensible approach to the use of resources, and the ability to explore a wide range of options to reduce costs.

The EOMDOT will continue looking at strategies to increase attendance and overall MFS membership to ensure that ALL MFS activities are successful.

Antonella Salpietro
EOMDOT Convener