

Monaro Folk Society – End of Month Dance Organising Team (EOMDOT) Report for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

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

Rod Peters

Rita Turnbull

Matthew Gibbins

Mark Simmons

Outcome of activities

In the financial year 2019-20, EOMDOT organised three End of Month (EOM) dances, the annual Colonial Ball on the 28 September 2019 at the Albert Hall, and the New Year's Eve dance on the 31 December 2019 at the Woolshed.

Since March 2020, the pandemic and its repercussions have dramatically affected social and cultural activities in Canberra and interstate. The EOMDOT cancelled the end of month dances planned from April 2020 to the end of June 2020.

Attendance numbers at EOM dances in 2019-20 have ranged from 17 to 39.

The overall financial outcome for the EOMDOT activities held in the financial year 2019-20 has been a deficit of \$527.01 (based on accrual accounting). This is mostly related to the deficit incurred by the Colonial Ball which was held at the same time as a Ball in Sydney; therefore, attendance from NSW dancers was very low.

The decision to hold a Ball in Sydney on the same date as the Colonial Ball was made by the organisers only a couple of months earlier; therefore, when the EOMDOT became aware of the clash, it was too late to make any changes. Arrangements are now in place to avoid future clashes.

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 continued in 2019 and eventuated in an attractive program of joint events for 28 September 2019.

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.

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

On behalf of EOMDOT

Antonella Salpietro

EOMDOT Convener