

Monaro Musings



The Newsletter of the Monaro Folk Society Inc., Reg No A 00208

Visit the MFS at the website www.mfs.org.au and/or www.facebook.com/monaro.folk.society

Monaro Musings, Volume 26, Number 3 – April 2017



A selection of performers from the upcoming National Folk Festival – 12th to 17th April at EPIC

They are (clockwise from top, with Ukulele Republic of Canberra central): Chloe and Jason Roweth; Accrowbatics Quartet (from Finland); Chris Matthews; Penny Davies and Roger Ilott; Fred Smith; Mixed Morris; David Spry; Jumptown Swing – all Australian except where stated otherwise.

Ed's note: Have a great time at the National everyone!

From the President's Soapbox

Last Saturday, MFS participated at the annual CAP Expo at the Old Bus Depot with an information stand displaying musical instruments, which led to many discussions with passers-by. Those who play instruments were happy to hear that we have open sessions that they are welcome to attend, while others expressed interest in our dance workshops. Many thanks to the members who came and spent some time on the stand chatting with these folks. We also had a time slot on the dance stage: 3 musicians were enough to carry the accompaniment but over 16 dancers, including some newcomers to our Monday bush dance workshops, turned up which was fantastic. It was run as a workshop demonstration, called by Mark Simmons, and some of those watching did join in and had a good time of it. Thanks to all of you who came and enjoyed making it a success. The group onstage before us (the belly dancers) played to packed stands so we are considering a future change in bush dance attire to spangled bikinis and feathers for the ladies and loincloths for the gents, which will undoubtedly swell our audiences....

Mark then headed off to the Woolshed to call for the Kids bush dance which began at 2.30pm with the TiN MuGs, led by Daryl, providing the music. Attendance at Kids dances had dropped off to a very poor level last year, however this event was a great success with about 80 children and parents turning up and having a really good time: this was greatly due to the work Roy Harvey had put in on promotion, proving that the participation is there as long we can successfully get the word out in advance. Great job all round! The Shearers Ball at the Woolshed that night also drew a fair number, with music by Stringfiddle led by Bob McInnes and calling by Don Richmond. More on that below from Antonella.

Only two weeks now to the NFF! MFS will be hosting a blackboard "Evening Muse" between 6pm and 9pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings at the Central Park Stage, with Eileen as MC. Our MFS marquee will also be flying the flag adjacent to the stage from Friday to Monday. John Hewat, Rita Turnbull and Claude Barret are organising the peopling of our information stand, and would greatly appreciate any help if you are attending the NFF. It is not asking a big commitment, just call by the stand and put your name down for an hour or so – it is a great opportunity to let ACT folk know what we do and increase attendance at our workshops, dances and music sessions. Even if you are involved in too many other things to help, at least drop by, say hi and find out what other MFS members are presenting at the NFF. Hope to see you there.

Geoff

Dancing About

Monday Workshops

Bush Dance Workshops are on holiday. After 3 April the next Monday workshop will be on 1 May. There are five Mondays in May, so get out your dance shoes and be at All Saints on Monday evenings at 8.00 pm for a fun evening of bush dancing to 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 for two hours of dancing (with a brief break for a cuppa and light supper). Contributions to supper welcome but not essential.

All dances taught by our expert callers, Daryl, Peter and Mark, and called, so no experience needed and no partner necessary (but do bring them if you have one).

2nd Saturday Dance Prepare to dance your feet off over Easter with a "warm up" dance on Saturday 8 April, at All Saints from 7.00 pm to 10.30pm.

Just \$10 for MFS members, and \$1 for a cup and all the drinks you want (water, cordial, tea, coffee, etc). Please bring a contribution to the shared supper.

Live music by the Bush Capital Band.

Dancers' Dance There will be no 2nd Saturday Bush Dance due to Easter but we will be having a Dancers' Dance on 22 April. This includes dances from various genres and is designed for the more experienced dancers. Come to All Saints on Saturday April 22, at 7.00 pm.

Just \$10 for MFS members, and \$1 for a cup and all the drinks you want (water, cordial, tea, coffee, etc). Please bring a contribution to the shared supper.

Live music by the Bush Capital Band.

End-of-Month Dance Enjoy a full evening's bush dancing on Saturday 29th April from 8.00 to 11.30 pm at the Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 11 Currie St Kingston, with music by *Folklines* and calling by Claire Stoneman.

You don't need prior experience and you can come with or without a partner. Why not bring a group of friends for even more fun.

All dances are taught and then called and you'll be joining in before you know it.

Cost is just \$14 for MFS members; \$18 for non-members; \$16 for groups and concession holders, and under 18s free. Please bring a plate of supper to share during the dance.



Contra is on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner with live music from Contraband. The National Folk Festival might bring more dancers so come along and share the fun with them. Entry is \$6 for MFS members and \$8 for others, 2nd time free.

Irish Set Dancing will have a break for two weeks after 5 April and back on 26 April. Wednesdays 8 pm to 10 pm, North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner and cost \$8 for MFS members and \$9 for others. The first two classes for new starters are FREE. Beginner's classes are available from 7.30 – 8.00 pm before the regular class, but are run on request only. To make a request, please contact Christine (contact details on back page).



English Country Dancing is on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 7.30 to 9.30 pm at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner. The National Folk Festival might bring more dancers so come along and share the fun with them. Entry is \$7 for MFS members and \$9 for others.

10th -12th November, Millthorpe NSW (near Orange). Heelers Hoedown - learn flat foot clogging, buckdancing and Appalachian square dancing (using flat foot etc stepping) to live mountain-style music. For more info see <https://www.blueheelercloggers.com/heeler-s-hoedown-2017/>



Ed's note: April looks like a great month for the dancers with MFS dances on three of the five Saturdays and as much dancing as you can handle at the National. Plus for the music people as much music as you can handle over Easter, including this year an MFS presence in Central Park.

The annual Shearers' Ball on Saturday 25th March 2017

The 2017 annual Shearers' Ball was held at the historic Yarralumla Woolshed in Canberra where dancers enjoyed a special evening of traditional bush dancing.

The popular band Stringfiddle, led by Bob McInnes, played very well and Don Richmond did a great job at teaching and calling the dances.

The event kicked off at 8pm and continued with music and dancing until close to midnight!

The music of Stringfiddle led by Bob McInnes contributed immensely to making it a memorable night!

Don Richmond's dance repertoire is undoubtedly very wide and interesting and at the Shearers' Ball he confirmed his reputation for being one of Australia's most accomplished callers. The dance program included a large variety of fun dances from the Australian bush dance tradition.

In the very early days of settlement in Australia, dances from England, Ireland and Scotland were very popular. From the ballrooms of the cities and towns, these dances would quickly spread to the rural areas. Over the years, dances from other parts of Europe, including France and Germany were also introduced.

Known as "bush dances", these events would often be held in woolsheds and shearing sheds which provided shelter, a space to dance and hardwood floors. In fact, the lanolin from the sheep's wool made it possible for dancers to 'glide' on the floor. The bush dances were a great way to meet the locals and, in some cases, the only way of meeting a possible partner! The Yarralumla Woolshed brings its own history of shearing and rural life and its atmosphere contributed to making the Shearers' Ball a special event.

Originally built in 1904 by Frederick Campbell of Yarralumla, the Federal Government resumed construction of this historic property in 1913. Since the 1970s, the building has become an important Canberra community social venue, particularly as a focus for bush dances and folk music. Various organisations, including the Monaro Folk Society, continue to use it as a venue for dances.

The 2017 Shearers' Ball was a great way to have fun and experience dances from decades long gone.

Antonella Salpietro

Dancing at the Cobargo Folk Festival from Paul Carr

Leslie and I were asked to help Fran Robinson with the dance program at this year's Cobargo Folk Festival and I thought I would share our experiences with MFS members in this article, and start a conversation with Canberra dancers about what worked well and what else we can include in future years to attract more of you to come along and enjoy yourselves.

This year the festival, under the stewardship of executive director Zena Armstrong, committed fresh resources to the dance program including two new venues, quality PA equipment, stage managers and sound crew at all dance events.

The evening dances were held in the recently renovated School of Arts Hall, a pleasant ten minute walk back into the village from the main festival site at the showgrounds. The hall has a good floor and large raised stage area for the band and caller. This year the Friday night dances consisted of two bush bands. Mike Martin did a good job calling a selection of accessible dances in a friendly welcoming way with the Kameruka Bush Orchestra and Friends supplying the music. Later in the evening we had a fine selection of engaging dances called by our own Clare Stoneman with music supplied by Folklines. On Saturday night No Such Thing supplied an excellent selection of tunes with the 'big band sound' that such a large collection of fine musicians can supply. Sally Leslie kept the proceedings under control with the caller's mic and treated us to a pleasant selection of dances. The highlight of the weekend for me followed with an Irish Set Dance Céilí dancing to the wonderful music of the Bunch of Keys Céilí Band. Calling by Paul Carr and Chris Briton.

The combined displays and workshops were held on site at the Brolga stage. Each group were given an hour and fifteen minutes and encouraged to mix up displays and teaching within that time slot however

they wished. The venue was excellent with a spacious wooden floor under cover in a central location that attracted plenty of foot traffic, who came along both to watch and join in. A great mix of workshops included Yoga, Wake Up to Dance, Barefoot Salsa and Samba, Renaissance, Irish Set, Colonial, Cajun, Mexican, Family Dance, Morris, Blues, and African. Some of the workshops attracted big crowds with up to sixty to seventy dancers filling the stage. The MFS was well represented with teaching and calling by Clare Stoneman, Lance Green and Gabrielle Mackey, Paul and Leslie Carr, Chris Briton, and Rachel Murphy.

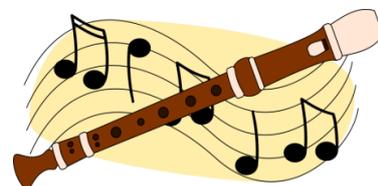
Next year we would like to add a bit more variety to the evening dances by introducing some more genres. Contra, Scottish, or Latin dances spring to mind. If you or your group are keen to get involved next year drop me an e-mail (paul.carr@anu.edu.au).

Music with MFS



Australian Settler's Music Sessions – this group meets between 7.15 and 9.30 pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, except January, at the Grant Cameron Community Centre, 27 Mulley Street, Holder. This month the dates are the 5th¹ and the 19th. Contact is Ray Mulligan on 62474725

The **Tuesday Night Music Group** (beginner to intermediate), which happens on almost every Tuesday of the year, now meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 7.30 to 10.00 pm at the Irish Club in Parkinson Street, Weston. 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.



There is also music at the **Merry Muse** on the first Sunday of the month – see page 6 for details.

Out and About

The annual **National Folk Festival Concert** will be on Wednesday 12th April from 6.00-7.00 pm at the National Library of Australia Theatre. This year it features the Rheingans Sisters. This is a free event but to be sure of a spot you can book via www.nla.gov.au

Winners of the BBC Radio 2 Folk Award for Best Original Track in 2016, fiddle-singers Rowan and Anna Rheingans make bright, playful, bold folk music that nods to traditions without ever being bound by them.



Also at the NLA there is a **Conversation and Concert** on Thursday 13th April from 12.30pm-1.30pm

Genni Kane and her brother, John, were both members of the ARIA award winning county/bluegrass band, *The Flying Emus*. The Emus were recognised as one of Australia's leading bluegrass bands. Genni and John along with Genni's husband Jon Wilby still continue their musical flight both separately and together. Genni recently

released her first solo album 'Selfies' with her husband and brother as supporting musicians.* John Kane is also recognised as a major contributor to many musical genres in Australia. Join Genni, Jon and John in conversation and concert with NLA folklorist, Rob Willis. (Bookings can be made as above)

* This group is also performing at the National.

Presented by
**Monaro Folk
Society Inc.**



Merry Muse Sunday 2nd April - 4.00 pm to 7.00pm

Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson St Weston

Blackboard plus Feature Act –Baz Cooper

Admission: \$3 MFS Members, Concessions and Blackboard Performers, \$5 Others

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 on the day to perform, or just get along and listen to some great music.

Feature act will be **Baz Cooper**



Baz Cooper is something of a musical chameleon, he plays accordion and keyboards and sings in many styles of music, having come through an interesting and varied life in music. His solo shows are an eclectic mix of music and songs that can include French accordion, Gypsy Jazz, Cajun and Zydeco, Klezmer, other folk styles from around the World maybe some piano blues and boogie and even light classical music along with some of his own self penned songs and tunes, some humorous, some moving ballads, some with a rock or jazz influence.

Baz is very passionate about his music, but nonetheless likes to inject some humour into his shows for more fun and entertainment!

Sunday 7th May - Blackboard plus Feature Act **Fred Pilcher**

Fred Pilcher has been playing the 12-string acoustic guitar and performing since the late 1960s, when he was a regular at PACT Folk, Sydney's premier folk club. As a solo performer his material ranges from traditional to contemporary. Recently, Fred has been joined in his solo acts by Georg Breu on bass guitar.

Blackboards are on the first Sunday of the month. Note Blackboard on Sunday 4th June will start at 3.00 pm

www.merrymuse.org.au

Enquiries ph Eileen 0412 127 882 or email [eileennew\(at\)grapevine\(dot\)com\(dot\)au](mailto:eileennew(at)grapevine(dot)com(dot)au)

MFS Monday Bush Dance classes and second Saturday of the month dances, All Saints Church Hall, Cowper St, Ainslie (Bush dances or classes are not offered on long weekends or during ACT school holidays.) . Also MFS Dancing in the Park – Mondays in December and January (except Public Holidays) at Stage 88, Commonwealth Park. Contact: Mark Simmons 0421814718.

MFS ISD classes each Wednesday (four terms per year) plus beginners' classes on request. North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine St, Turner. Also MFS ISD October dance weekend. Hall Pavilion, Hall Showground. Contact: Christine Briton, 0413 168 562, cbriton@home.com.au

MFS Contra Club – 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner. Contact: Linda Aunela - lindaaunela@yahoo.com.au (please put 'Contra' in the subject line) or 0437 350 254

MFS English Country Dancing, 2nd & 4th Tuesday each month at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner. . Contact: Colin Towns 62380246.

MFS last Saturday of month Bush Dance, Canberra Baptist Church Hall, Currie Street, Kingston. Contact Antonella S; 0413 295 004

MFS Tuesday Night Music group – a beginner to intermediate level session group. Meets at Canberra Irish Club, Parkinson Street, Weston on 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month and other weeks in members' homes. Contact Julie on 62823523 or Robert on 62919135.

Australian Settler's music sessions, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at Grant Cameron Community Centre, 27 Mulley Street, Holder. Contact is Ray Mulligan 62474725

Earthly Delights Historic Costume Balls – 3rd Saturday each month. Contact: Aylwen Garden 62811098. St John's Church Hall, Constitution Ave, Reid. Also dance classes at ANU, Jane Austen Festival and other events.

Folk Dance Canberra offers international folk dancing for fun and fitness. www.folkdancecanberra.org.au gives full details or contact Lesley Rose on 02 6286 6401. For first Saturday of the month social dance contact Maria Jenkins on 62314472.

Murrumbateman Acoustic Music Club - last Sunday each month, 6.00 pm, Murrumbateman Hotel Function Room. . Contact: Wal Brewer – wal.brewer@gmail.com

Queanbeyan Bush Poets - 4th Thursday each month, 7.00 pm. Contact: Laurie McDonald 62539856, now meeting at the Queanbeyan Library

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.

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) 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.

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Treasurer: Matt Gibbins - treasurer@mfs.org.au; Public Officer: Antonella Salpietro Committee Members: John Hewat, , Anne Mathas, Chris McGinty, Julie Szabo. For general enquiries please use secretary@mfs.org.au

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Monaro Folk Society Inc

PO Box 482

CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608