

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 25, Number 11 – December 2016



From the President's Soapbox

November was marked by a very successful bush dance join in with the Bush Capital Band at the National Portrait Gallery Country Fair day, quite a few dancers turning up and encouraging a lot of participation by the general public in attendance. Major plaudits to all of the musos and dancers who showed everyone what we do well and succeeded in getting so many people involved.

Christmas now looms large and with it the flurry of final events for the year before the closing down of most MFS activities until February.

* Dancing in the Park commences in December and continues through January.

* The Christmas Bush Dance will be held this coming Saturday 3rd with its associated Kids' Dance at the Yarralumla Woolshed: don't forget there will be a BYO picnic at 6.30pm.

* The final Merry Muse for 2016 at the Irish Club will be on Sunday December 4th featuring Chris McGinty.

* Irish Set Dance finishes up on Wednesday 14th December with their traditional Christmas party and the final Contra dance night will be on Tuesday 20th.

* At the New Years' Eve Bush dance at the Woolshed music will be by Franklyn B Paverty with Bob Buckley calling.

While January is always marked by a number of festivals, notably Illawarra and Numeralla, there are two society events occurring:

* On Sunday January 1st at the Irish Club there is a free sit-around Merry Muse acoustic music session and all are welcome to come, join in and recover from New Year's Eve.

* On January 7th and 8th the annual Contra Club weekend is held at Wee Jasper. This begins with the Saturday in-house concert in the cave, followed by a BBQ and then a Contra dance at the Wee Jasper Memorial Hall. Many people come to camp for the weekend at Billy Grace Reserve and the following morning there is a music session. We are hoping to build this weekend into more of a music gathering, encouraging other musos to come out and check that all their gear (camping and music) is in working order before Illawarra and Numeralla. If you are interested feel free to contact Rob or Geoff.

Finally, the MFS committee thanks all the organisers and helpers who have created such successful events this year and all the members who have attended and supported those events. Our best wishes to you all for the Christmas and New Year season.

Geoff

MFS happenings past and to come



Dancing in the Park – will take place on Mondays in December and January, 6:45pm until dark. This is a free event, held at Stage 88 at Commonwealth Park. You are all invited to have a picnic before the dancing starts, under the vines, up the hill from Stage 88, near Regatta Point. BYO everything, except chairs and tables.

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 7th and the 21^s. Contact is Ray Mulligan on 62474725



Contra for December happens on Tuesday the 6th and Tuesday 20th from 7.30 to 9.30 pm at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner with live music from Contraband. The last Contra workshop for the year will be *party night*, on the 20th, so please bring a small plate of supper to share. Entry is \$6 for MFS members and \$8 for others.

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.



Irish Set Dancing will happen Wednesday 7th and 14th, finishing with *party night* on the 14th. Party night will start at 7:30pm to allow extra time for socialising. Please bring a small plate of supper to share. North Canberra Baptist Church Hall in Condamine Street, Turner and cost \$8 for MFS members and \$9 for others.

Beginner's classes are still available up to and including the 7th December, 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 has finished for the year.

See in the new year at the New Year's Eve Dance at the Yarralumla Woolshed.

Dancing starts at 8,00 pm. Franklin B Paverty will be playing and Bob Buckley will call the dances. Cost is just \$19 for MFS members, concessions and groups \$22, other \$24, full-time students half price and under 18 free. Supper plates welcomed.



The wonderful **Contra at the Caves** weekend is on again in January 2017 – it starts on Saturday 7th with the concert in the nice cool caves from 5.00 to 6.45 pm, just for a gold coin donation. If you arrive early enough you can join a tour of Careys Cave run by Geoff Kell at 3.00 pm – normal charges apply. After the concert there is time for a BBQ under the pergola near the cave entrance. The BBQ will be up and running but BYO everything you want to eat and drink along with any crockery and cutlery you need. After that you can head back to the Wee Jasper Memoorial Hall for some great dancing (from 8.30 pm till midnight) and it won't cost you a cent. Stay over at the Billy Grace Campground, right on the Goodradigbee River, or at Micalong Creek – you can swim at either of these. Please pay the ranger for camping. There is also some accommodation in Wee Jasper. Anything else you need to know? Call Linda on 0437 350 254.

Out and About

The Chris Harland Blues Band will be playing at the National Press Club (16 National Circuit, Barton, Phone 6121 2199) from 7.00 to 10.00 pm on Thursday 1st December.

The Mighty Bluzicians will be at the Tuggeranong Arts Centre (137 Reed Street, Tuggeranong, Phone 6293 1443) from 5.00 to 7.00 pm on Friday 2nd December



Band leader, Rick Bamford (guitar, slide and lead vocals), Aria Stone (vocals, acoustic guitar, flute, tenor & alto sax and blues-harp), Gavin (Larry 'spoons') on percussion, and Deano (Dean Edgecombe) on bass combine their talents to become the Canberra regional band **The Mighty Bluzicians**.

Together they play the blues with a repertoire complete with crowd favourites from blues giant BB king and Big Joe Tuner. Chill out while you hear them live:

The amusing duo **Sparrow-Folk** will be playing at the Street Theatre from Thursday 1st to Saturday 3rd December at 8.00 pm. The "Sirens of Satire" are returning to The Street for a degustation of musical festive cheer. Kick off the silly season with a tinsel-filled night of hilarity, as Fox and Lark unwrap a brand new Xmas show. Featuring original songs, well-known Xmas tunes with a Sparrow-Folk twist, and a fresh batch of Lark's famous delicious "Elf Tit biscuits - it's the show that's on everyone's Xmas wish list! Book via www.thestreet.org.au. Costs: Full: \$30, Group 4+ \$27, Concession and Student \$25.

Eleanor McEvoy, Canberra Irish Club, 29 October, by Declan O'Connell

You know a gig is going to turn out well when the power for the main act's guitar fails in the first song and she nonchalantly steps down from the stage to launch into an unplanned unplugged version of Joni Mitchell's Carey. Eleanor McEvoy was in a good mood and she was going to entertain us. As she started so she continued, back on stage and with the equipment working. We were in a good mood already with a fine Dublin opening for a Dublin artist from the acoustic duo version of Night Potion.

McEvoy charmed us with a lovely mixture of her own songs and covers of songs made famous by the likes of the Beach Boys, Edith Piaf, Prince, Bob Dylan and Irish composer Thomas Moore (1779-1852). She told us she was a mad Thomas Moore fan, to the extent of having to knock on the door, talk to the current occupants and check out the house he lived in. Her covers made old songs new through sensitive and interesting reinterpretation. Her own songs were mainly about relationships, the wrong man or thinking about the wrong man. A powerful song, Deliver Me, starkly charted the havoc wreaked by child abuse in a Dublin parish. My favourite song was an a capella one, The D J. I'm biased. I'm a radio presenter. But that's not the only reason I liked it. It celebrates the power of music, something a good gig like Eleanor McEvoy's does as well:

*Tonight the D.J.'s letting his mood decide
Sliding up the fader on a song that so reveals what's on his mind
I sip my drink and I thank the Lord for music sweet and slow
So vital to my soul
And so needed in our times
So my radio stays on*



Further Down the Track



Bulli looks as if it's shaping up to be really BIG next year with (so far) 19 International acts, 88 National and 71 Local. It's getting a mention here because the earlybird ticket price – which gives you a big saving over the gate price – ends on 23rd December. Details below.

These are the various prices for a **Season Pass** (Entry To ALL Events From Thursday To Sunday). Book on the website www.illawarrafolkfestival.com.au Note: there is a 4% booking fee on all purchases.

Adult Earlybird - \$150 (save \$70 on Gate Price) **Ends 23rd December 2016**

Adult Advance - \$170 (save \$50 on Gate Price) **Ends 11th January 2017**

Adult At the Gate \$220 Youth (12-17yrs) - \$65 with paying parent Child Under 12 FREE with paying parent



Numeralla next year will happen from the 20th to the 22nd January in its usual relaxed style. Camp by the river or the tennis courts, choose to attend all or none of the offerings of Poet's breakfasts, concerts, dances, workshops, join in sessions, swim in the river, buy your food and drinks from the bar and kitchen at the Hall or the barbeque at the back to support local community organisations. More information at www.numeralla.org.au/FolkFestival/ or on facebook – Numeralla Folk Festival.

Presented by
**Monaro Folk
Society Inc.**



Sunday 4th December - 4.00 pm to 7.00pm

Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson St Weston

Blackboard plus Feature Act Chris McGinty

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.



Renowned Canberra singer and this year's National Folk Festival poetry reciting champion **Chris McGinty** is the feature act, entertaining with his repertoire of Australian and Irish folksongs and a bit of poetry. Chris McGinty plays guitar and banjo - and double-handed spoons and his songs reflect his lifelong passion for the bush, our pioneers and bushrangers and his Irish heritage. Come and hear Chris and enjoy a drink and an Irish Club meal.

Future dates for Blackboards will be the first Sunday of the month

Sunday 1st January – an acoustic session – come along with your instrument or voice. This will be an informal get together to welcome in the New Year. Admission free.

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)

Ed's Note: I was hoping to write a few words about the Major's Creek Festival and the final night for the year at Murrumbateman. This was the last time that Eric and Shirley Johns and David Grant were officiating, and it was a lovely night of nostalgia and homage to some of our absent friends.. Unfortunately I ran out of space and time but I did manage to squeeze a few of my photos onto the front page which are, clockwise from left: Dan McFeeley; a sub-group of the Shiny Bum Singers; Sandy Gibbney and Pete Richens; Dianne of the Thousand Hats Porter and Geoff Kell up front with Eric Johns, Dan McFeeley and Baz Cooper in the background.

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@homemail.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

Jerrabomberra Jam Night - 3rd Friday each month, 6.30 pm Contact: Ian Wholohan 0427939786. Jerrabomberra General Store

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.

Monaro Folk Society, Inc. 2016-17 Committee

President: Geoff Kell - president@mfs.org.au; Vice-President: Peter Gamble; Secretary: Ian Bull – secretary@mfs.org.au;

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

Appointed Officials

Membership: Declan O'Connell - membership@mfs.org.au; Merry Muse Coordinator: Vacant; Merry Muse PA Coordinator: Pierre Sibilant; Merry Muse Subcommittee Chair: Vacant; Acting *Monaro Musings* Editor: Tina Lynam - editor@mfs.org.au; Bookkeeper: Linda Aunela; Web Manager: Simon David

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