

Monaro Musings



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

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

Monaro Musings, Volume 27, Number 1 – February 2018



Canberra's newest Floor Renovators in action at the North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, the gleaming results of their endeavours at centre and below, a quick test run by Rob and Jim MFS does it better! (Photos by Rob Mahony)

From the President's Soapbox

Welcome back to activities for 2018. Most dance workshops recommence during the coming week so it is time for musicians and dancers to get back into the groove. The New Year was seen in on a great note by 180 people at the Yarralumla Woolshed NYE dance: this is proving to be an ongoing successful event, and congratulations are certainly due to the End of Month team for making it happen. At the annual Wee Jasper Contra weekend, the hot weather did not faze attendees: as a reward it was, in fact, not as hot as predicted and a good night of dancing was had by all.

A meeting of subgroup organisers and committee members was held just before Australia Day to discuss promotional approaches and the website: some concern was expressed that the society is becoming fragmented in that different subgroups pursue their own ends in promoting their activities and a “whole society” approach is being lost. It is worth noting that at these meetings there is certainly a spirit of cooperation amongst the organisers, so it seems to be principally a question of people having such busy lives that they only focus on one or two specific interests. It was decided to address this by producing an overarching brochure to cover all activities in brief and drive traffic towards the website for more specific information. It was also decided to produce bookmarks for promotion of special events, as well as banners to identify and promote the society at events where we have a presence.

In late January a group of MFS volunteers from different subgroups, organised by Rob Mahony, refinished the dance floor at North Canberra Baptist Church, used by three of our dance groups. In the company of some members of the church and the Scottish dance group, the Black Mountain Reelers, our mob spent two long days sanding, sweeping, re-sanding, coating, buffing and recoating for an absolutely fantastic, professional finish. It was a sociable cooperative effort that resulted in a great outcome for our groups and the church, and has cemented group relationships and given us a much-improved dance surface. Chris Mack, the NCBC secretary, has asked me to convey his gratitude to those members involved. I also wish to personally thank Graeme Rossiter, the warden of All Saints College for his time and assistance: Graeme’s knowledge and advice was crucial in achieving such a successful result. Incidentally, the floor finishing team is now available for doing your floors for an appropriately high fee (due to its obvious professional approach and outcome).

The 2018 National Folk Festival begins on March 21: we are now organising our involvement at the Central Stage area, with Eileen running the Evening Muse blackboard sessions, and our MFS marquee for promotion of the society. This is a golden opportunity for us to extend our membership as roughly 60% of NFF attendees are from Canberra and precisely our demographic, so if you are attending the NFF, please consider giving an hour or two of your time at the marquee. It is both a (temporary) home at the NFF, an opportunity to sit back and relax and chat to anyone who has an interest in what we do. John Hewat is coordinating volunteers for the marquee so please contact him on 0420 612 712 or mfs.at.nff@monarofolk.org.au .

I also informed you late last year that there are volunteer positions available as Stage Manager and MC for the Central Stage during the day (under MFS, not the NFF) in return for season passes, however have not had any takers. If you are interested please contact me asap as we need to finalise any such arrangement with the NFF.

News flash: if you receive this in time, there is an inaugural afternoon bush dance at Bungendore this Saturday 3 February, as part of their annual Country Muster, with music by the Bush Capital Band and called by Peter Foster. All dancers are welcome to join in from 1.30 until 3.00 pm.

Dancing About

Dancing in the Park is finished for this Summer and regular Monday workshops will commence on 5th February

Monday Workshops Get out your dance shoes every Monday in February for Bush Dance Workshops at All Saints at 8pm Fun evenings of bush dancing to live music. Beginners and intermediate dancers attend these workshops as they are tailored to suit any level of person who attends. Experienced dancers also attend to help out and to enjoy the dances and the 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 \$8 for non-members and the second night is free.

Contributions to supper welcome but not essential.



The next End of the Month Dance will be in April



Dancers' DancePrepare to dance your feet off with our Dancers' Dance on Saturday 24th February, at All Saints from 7/00 pm to 10.30pm. The dances are aimed at experienced dancers. They may be difficult or they may be our favourites with no walk throughs and little calling.

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.

Do bring friends if they are experienced dancers.

Live music by the Bush Capital Band.



Contra.....is on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in February from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner with live music from Contraband. Entry is \$6 for MFS members and \$8 for others, 2nd time free.

No need to bring a partner but please bring some friends to share the fun. Dance to the invigorating music of our own ContraBand. Contra is a lively dance style, dancing with a partner and meeting other couples as you progress along a column of dancers. Fun and energetic, with all dances taught and called.



English Country Dancing is on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in February from 7.30 to 9.30 pm at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner. This is a wonderful opportunity to improve your dancing and learn more steps. Please bring some friends to share the fun. Entry is \$7 for MFS members and \$9 for others.

Irish Set Dancing is on every Wednesday during the school term, commencing on 7th February, so come along from 8pm to 10pm, 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 also free and available from 7.30 – 8.00pm before the regular class, but are run on **request only**. To make a request, please contact Christine (contact details on back page).



Folk Dance Canberra Beginners' World Dance Classes

Thursday nights, 7.30 – 8.30 pm, at Folk Dance Canberra Hall, 114, Maitland Street, Hackett.

Learn the Gypsy Polka, Russian 'Ya Da Kalinushku', Peruvian 'Chilili', Albanian 'Valle Pogonishte', Turkish 'Hastayim', Romanian 'Sarba de la Eninsala' and many more wonderful dances to inspiring music from countries around the world. No partner necessary. All welcome. Bookings and enquiries: 0420 524 412 (Rebecca)

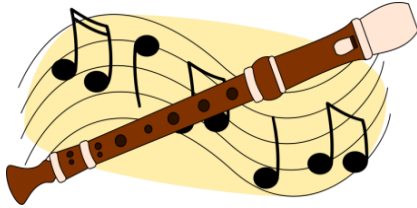
This is just one series of many classes for young and old offered by Folk Dance Canberra. To find out more check the website – www.folkdancecanberra.org.au

The Earthly Delights **Historic Costume Ball** on February 17th from 7,00 to 11,00 pm at Canberra Baptist Church Hall, Currie Street, Kingston has a Pirate theme. See the website for discounted bookings and more details. www.earthlydelights.com.au/upcoming.

Would you care...argh to dance?

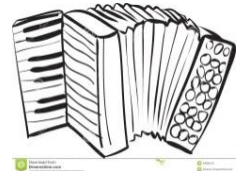


Music with MFS



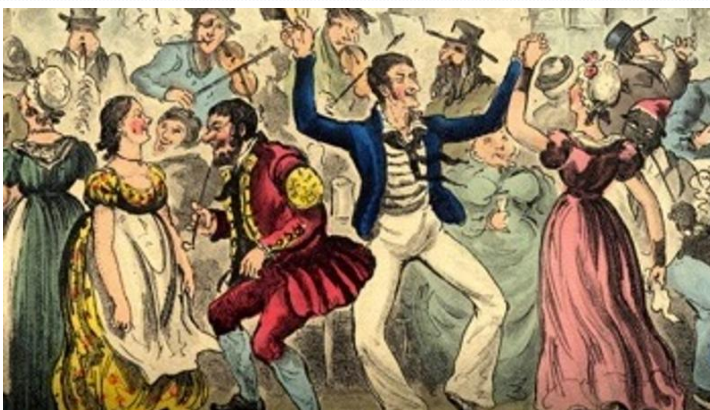
The **Tuesday Night Music Group** (beginner to intermediate), which happens on almost every Tuesday of the year, now meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 7.30 to 10.00 pm at the Irish Club in Parkinson Street, Weston. Some members arrive earlier and have a meal at the Club Bistro. On other Tuesdays the group meets at various members' homes. Please contact one of the organisers, Julie on 62823523 or Robert on 62919135, for more information.

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 5th and the 19th. Contact is Ray Mulligan on 62474725



Out and About

Music and dance made convict life more bearable



Australian colonial dance expert Heather Clarke * is completing her Doctorate on the subject of *Social dance and early Australian settlement: An historical examination of the role of social dance for convicts and common people in the period between 1788 and 1840.*

* Heather Clarke was the caller at the MFS Colonial Ball in 2017/ The link to the whole article from which this excerpt is taken is

<https://www.qut.edu.au/news?news-id=126536>

Thanks to Kathy Henderson for bringing this to my attention.- Tina



Cobargo Folk Festival is a bit later than usual this year, being on the first weekend in March. A reminder just came out about tickets, noting particularly that it is important to book if you need a

camp site, especially if you have a caravan or RV as there is limited flat ground on site. Early Bird prices seem to be still on offer but there was no date for when they finish. Go to <http://cobargofolkfestival.iwannaticket.com.au/>

An Afternoon and Evening at Bulli and Two Half Days at Numeralla ,,,,

I managed to fit quite a variety of concerts into my seven or so hours at Bulli on the Saturday –all very enjoyable: George Mann – stories and songs of struggle, a very funny Trump song (wish I'd recorded it on my phone) – George is a delight; Eleanor McEvoy – famous for the beautiful A Woman's Heart which she wrote many years ago and sang at this concert to great acclaim – lovely voice, lovely personality, lovely sense of humour; Nick Rheinberger, with a band, funny and clever and different, highly enjoyable and joined by Eleanor for a couple of numbers at the end; Dan Walsh – English singer and master of the clawhammer banjo with a style all his own' Eric Bogle (with band) – one of the greatest songwriters in the business in my view, sang many old favourites; and finally Steve Turner= English traditional singer and concertina player with a good voice. I had a great time!

At Numeralls I caught the blackboard concerts on Saturday and on Sunday with a great variety of solo artists, duos, trios and more and too numerous to mention individually except for a few standouts. Vasek being one of them. He;s grown from a youngster performing mainly with his sister Vendulka into an accomplished young man with a pleasant voice and great skill on the guitar. Will from Beechworth was also a pleasure to listen to with traditional and self-penned songs.

The Saturday night Bush Dance was well attended and everyone was having a great time dancing to a considerable band, pictured right. Photo by Lawrie Brown.



Tina

Presented by
**Monaro Folk
Society inc.**



Merry Muse - Sunday February 11th from 4.00 to 7.00pm

Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson Street, Weston

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

Please note that the Irish Club would appreciate it if regular attendees also join the Irish Club

Blackboard plus The Guitar Cases

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



The Guitar Cases create their own brew of outlaw country and folk influenced blues music. Andy Daniels' vocal delivery is intimate and sweet, but also raw and powerful, and Andrew Tatnell makes his guitar sing sweet melodies. A feature of their performances is the unexpected quality of their songwriting and storytelling. Then of course there's the interplay between their guitars.

Check out the youtube clip at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ecuxEu7EuP8>.

Future dates: Second Sunday of the month from 4.00 – 7.00 pm

March 11th - Blackboard and feature act.

April 8th - Blackboard plus feature act

www.merrymuse.org.au

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

Regular Events – MFS and other

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 0421 814 718.

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 6282 3523 or Robert on 6291 9135.

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 6247 4725

Earthly Delights Historic Costume Balls – 3rd Saturday each month. St John's Church Hall, Constitution Ave, Reid. Also dance classes at ANU, Jane Austen Festival and other events. Contact: Aylwen Garden 6281 1098

Folk Dance Canberra offers international folk dancing for fun and fitness. www.folkdancecanberra.org.au gives full details or contact Lesley Rose on 6286 6401. For first Saturday of the month social dance contact Maria Jenkins on 6231 4472.

Murrumbateman Acoustic Music Club - last Sunday each month, Back to 6.00 pm start now Winter is over. Murrumbateman Hotel Function Room. Contact: Wal Brewer – wal.brewer@gmail.com

Queanbeyan Bush Poets - 4th Thursday each month, 7.00 pm. Contact: Laurie McDonald 6253 9856, 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) and electronically. 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. 2017-18 Committee

President: Geoff Kell - president@monarofolk.org.au; Vice-President: Vacant; Secretary: Ian Bull – secretary@monarofolk.org.au;

Treasurer: Tina Lynam - treasurer@monarofolk.org.au; Public Officer: Antonella Salpietro; Committee Members: Matt Gibbins, John Hewat, Anne Mathas. For general enquiries please use secretary@monarofolk.org.au

Appointed Officials

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

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