

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 28, Number 1 – February 2019



Lovely Sunday morning session under the trees at Billy Grace campground after Contra at the Caves the day before
(Read more in the article by Linda Aunela and Rob Mahony in Out and About)

From the President's Soapbox

A bit of catchup from the end of last year: the MFS Christmas party at All Saints was well attended despite the hot weather. We also unveiled some new banners for the society and subgroups to be used to give MFS an obvious profile at non-MFS events.

Sad news during December was the passing of Norm Merrigan. A fine musician and all-round good bloke, Norm was well known on the folk scene: he played in a number of bands in the Sydney area and was the director of the Turning Wave Festival in Yass until last year when he relinquished the position due to his medical condition. Our condolences go to his wife, Pam, and family.

Congratulations to EOMDOT for organising, once again, a most successful New Year's Eve dance at the Woolshed. It was the only MFS dance held at the YWS over the past year as bookings need to be secured much further in advance than previously due to its increasing popularity for weddings.

Dancing in the Park continued throughout December and January (despite the fee now levied by the NCA for our use of Stage 88) with good attendances, even with the unusually hot weather we are still experiencing. The final night saw calling by a variety of our regulars, however a highlight was the last dance where Simon gave everyone a taste of his new Contrapop format to the music of Bananarama (which gave the musos a chance to pack up before dark for a

change). Everyone afterwards commented on how much fun it had been, so hopefully there may be an increase in attendees at Simon's regular Friday night workshops in Turner.

The floor of the North Canberra Baptist Church hall, which we refinished a year ago (as we use it for Contra, ISD and ECD workshops), received a couple of follow up coats of oil in January thanks to our volunteers, and is looking even better.

Ray Mulligan has moved his Settlers Sessions from Wednesday nights to 1st and 3rd Thursday afternoons (4-6 pm) at the new venue of the Beyond Q bookshop in Weston, our hosts for our last AGM. It is a most pleasant space, with the added advantage of the availability of refreshments. Contact Ray if you are interested in attending.

All regular dance workshops are back in swing so it will be good to catch up with a lot of you this month. BTW, the January – June dance Calendar is now on website.

Geoff

Late news: apologies for the glitch in the website. We are working on it – in the meantime if you access it and the Tempera page appears, just go to the usual menu at the top and select the page you want.

Dancing About

No End of Month Dance in February

2nd Saturday Dance Prepare to dance your feet off with our second Saturday of the month dance on the 9th February, at All Saints from 7.00 pm to 10.30 pm. Live music by the Bush Capital Band.

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

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

If you're new to dancing you are welcome to come along.

Hints: please wear smooth, soft soled shoes so you can glide along the floor.

Please don't wear perfume or aftershave as you will be very close to people and the scent can be overpowering.

Monday Workshops Every Monday in February at All Saints at 8.00 pm.

Dance and have fun with live music. Beginners and intermediate dancers attend these workshops as they are tailored to teach. Experienced dancers also attend to help out and to enjoy the dancing 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 for supper are welcome but not essential.

Contact person is Mark Simmons 0421 814 718



Contra is on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 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.

Contact person is Linda Aunela 0437 350 254, if emailing please put "Contra" in the subject line. lindaaunela@yahoo.com.au





English Country Dancing is on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays 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 technique and learn more steps. Please bring some friends to share the fun. Entry is \$7 for MFS members and \$9 for others.

Contact person is Colin Towns 0417 020 615

Irish Set Dancing On every Wednesday in February.

Come along from **7:30pm to 9:30pm**, 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 refresher classes are also free and start 30 minutes before the regular class, but are run on **request only**. To make a request, please contact Christine 0413 168 562 or isdcanberra@gmail.com



ContraPop ... On every Friday

ContraPop is a new way to enjoy dancing to your favourite music! Join us as we attempt dances from popular folk-dance genres to the latest and greatest pop & dance tracks. Friday nights 6-8 pm at Turner Scout Hall, 5 Masson Street. The hall has a children's play area, so parents are most welcome.

\$8 standard and \$6 concession.

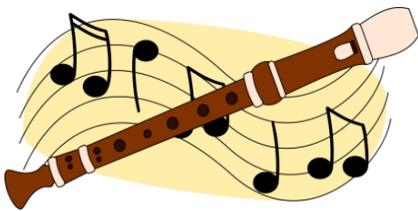
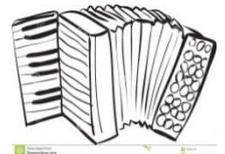
Look for "ContraPop" on Facebook!



Partner-Dancing
in Formations
to Pop Music!

Music, Music, Music

Australian Settler's Music Sessions have moved in both time and place. The new venue is the lovely Beyond Q Bookshop at 11, Brierley Street, Weston (it's towards the back of the Arcade) and the new time is 4.30 to 6.30 pm on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. 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.

The upcoming (it may even have started as you read this) **Australian Blues Music Festival** at Goulburn is one of those rare things – a free event. It uses a number of venues in town - in hotels and clubs, one restaurant and a stage in Belmore Park. There is also a bus service which picks up at various motels around town. The website is www.ausytalianbluesmusicfestival.com.au and there is a facebook page (Australian Blues Music Festival).. The wonderful Jan Preston is going to be there – but only on Friday and Saturday. And talking of people I'm a big fan of Sharon Shannon is going to be at Cobargo, but also in Canberra before that, on Thursday 28th February at the Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centre in Elouera Street, Braddon + Susan O'Neill. Tickets via www.sharonshannon.com are \$48.56.



Out and About

Contra in the Caves

Story from Rob Mahoney and Linda Aunela and pics from Judy Gorman and Jenni Marsh



We've just returned from a fabulous weekend at Wee Jasper. All the threatened thunderstorms passed us by. The only real rain happened during the concert - and we didn't notice from down in the cave. The cool change came through and made the dance a pleasant 25 degrees or so.

The concert featured a few new faces, many of the old regulars and a new song by Geoff, which kept us in stitches. Springtide showed how to make a cello sound like a ukulele. We asked ourselves 'why?'

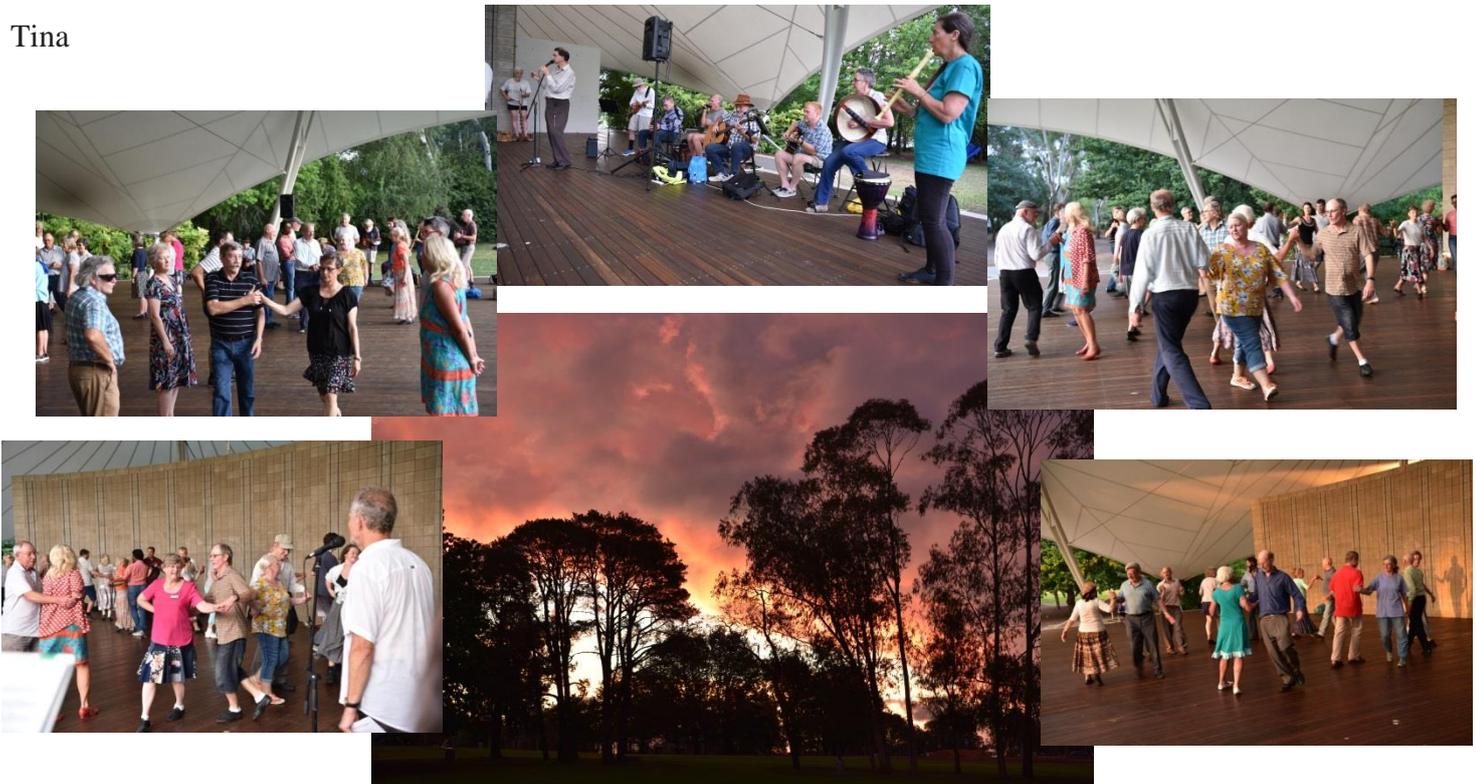


Good dancing in the Wee Jasper Hall, which is now equipped with reverse cycle air conditioning! The Sunday session made a beautiful morning under the trees at Billy Grace. Thanks to everyone who came along and added to the weekend.

Dancing in the Park managed to happen after all the worries about the huge proposed cost of using Stage 88. All credit to President Geoff who managed to negotiate a very reasonable deal whilst some of us were gathering information and contemplating submissions to the Minister without much progress.

David Hunter has sent me some photos from two of the nights – 10th December and Scottish night on 7th January with Derek Synnott. I leave those of you who were there to work out which are which. You may well remember the rather striking sunset.

Tina



Presented by
**Monaro Folk
Society inc.**



Merry Muse Sunday February 10th – 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm

Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson Street, Weston

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

Please note that the Irish Club has asked that regular attendees also join the Irish Club

Blackboard plus Feature Act *What the F'n'G*

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.



Feature Act What the F'n'G are Fred Pilcher and Georg Breu: Fred Pilcher is a 12-string acoustic guitar fingerpicker and vocalist who's been a fixture on the Sydney and Canberra music scenes since the mid 1970s. Returning to his acoustic roots, Fred covers a range of material that showcases the orchestral lyricism of a well-played 12-string. Fred is joined by Georg Breu on bass guitar. Together they take full advantage of the melodic interplay between their instruments and Georg plays some wicked bass solos. Fred and Georg will be joined by guitar virtuoso Johnny Reynolds, and mouth harpist extraordinaire Daniel McFeeley.

Coming up:

Sunday 10th March - Blackboard plus feature act New York Public Library

Sunday 14th April - Blackboard plus feature act Turnip Sundaes

<http://www.monarofolk.org.au/music/merry-muse-folk-club/>

Enquiries ph Eileen 0412 127 882 or email eileennew23(at)gmail(dot)com

Regular Events

Beyond Q Bookshop Old Time American music jam sessions, Weston Arcade, 11 Brierly St, Weston - alternate Wednesdays on the weeks that Smiths Alternative Old Timey Tuesday is NOT on, 4.00-6.00 pm. Contact: Donna Vaughan 6258 9845.

Bluegrass Jam Nights at Harmonie German Club, 49 Jerrabomberra Ave, Narrabundah - 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, 7.30-9.30 pm. Contact: Diane Cross 0402 644 450.

Canberra Scottish Fiddlers - A group for anyone with an interest in traditional Scottish fiddle music. Players with any level of experience are welcome to join. For more information, see our website www.scottishfiddlers.com/Canberra /or contact markjenner@grapevine.com.au

Canberra Shanty Club meets fortnightly on Mondays at 7.00 pm at the Old Canberra Inn,

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

English traditional music sessions, Pot Belly, 5/26 Weedon Close, Belconnen - alternate Sundays, 3.00-5.00 pm. Contact: Donna Vaughan 6258 9845, Jackie Luke 0417 679 139.

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

Hoskinstown Acoustic Kitchen Jam in the Hoskinstown Memorial Hall (old time American, bluegrass, folk) - 1st Thursday each month, 7.00-9.30 pm. Contact: Diane Cross 0402 644 450.

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.

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 at the Queanbeyan Library. Contact: Laurie McDonald 6253 9856

Shape Note Singing (aka Sacred Harp) - most Wednesdays 7.00-9.00 pm, at Ainslie Church of Christ hall, corner of Limestone Avenue and Grimes Street, Ainslie. Contact Dianne Porter for dates: email porter.32@bigpond.com or facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Canberrashapenote/>

Smith's Alternative Old Timey Tuesdays (old time American music jam sessions), 76 Alinga Street, Civic - alternate Tuesdays, 7.00-10.00 pm. See <https://www.smithsalternative.com/calendar> for the dates.

Surly Griffin Morris practices fortightly on Sundays from 5.30 to 7.00 pm at the Lake Ginninderra Sea Scouts Hall in Belconnen and performs at fetes and festivals and other occasions. Contact Simon Wall on 0404 859 404 or see facebook Surly Griffin Morris.

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: David Ball; Secretary: Ian Bull – secretary@monarofolk.org.au; Treasurer: Vacant - treasurer@monarofolk.org.au; Public Officer: Antonella Salpietro; Committee Members: Matt Gibbins, John Hewat, Anne Mathas. Nelly Rogers, Chris Ward. For general enquiries please use secretary@monarofolk.org.au

Appointed Officials

Membership: Christine Gifford - 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: Neil Glassford - webmaster@monarofolk.org.au

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