

# Monaro Musings



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

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## **Monaro Musings, Volume 25, Number 6 – July 2016**

### **From the President's Soapbox**

I am happy to see that one of our members, John Walker, ignoring all advice, has thrown caution to the wind and published a volume of his poetry. Those of you who have not yet enjoyed John's live presentation of his observations on the human condition can get a real taste through this offering, *The Loaded Doggerel*. The title is most appropriate for his style, John commenting to me a while ago that he couldn't believe that no one had yet used such an obvious title for a book of poems: I did attempt to point out that most poets go for subtle ..... (I can hear Dave Myers chuckling away)

I hope we can organise a fitting launch at the Merry Muse before long. In the meantime if you enjoy bush poetry and a laugh this will be a worthy addition to your library.

Available online at [Echobooks.com.au](http://Echobooks.com.au)

On another note, we have received the following email from Robin Nahum, member of MFS in the '80s and '90s and Director of the 1992 National Folk Festival:

I have a copy of the film of that National (1992) made by SBS - "Fringe to Folk". I would like to convert it to DVD and make it available to Gabrielle Mackey at NFF and Kevin Bradley at the National Library. The firm doing the copy will need the permission of the copyright holder. The packaging shows the copyright as held by MFS.

This was a very significant festival in the history of MFS. Even though the 1992 NFF was a financial disaster, the MFS committee and members put in a truly amazing amount of subsequent voluntary work to save the situation and meet all the debts incurred: this festival set the stage for the NFF to become the annual Canberra event that it is today.

If anyone has any record or knowledge of this copyright situation, please contact the committee.

Geoff

### **MFS happenings past and to come**

**Bush Dance Classes** on Mondays have a two week break at the start of July, and recommence on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July for a new term. Then our regular callers, Daryl, Peter and Mark will lead dancers through the basics and finer points of dancing, while providing a varied and interesting selection of dances. These classes are a great entry point for learning to dance as we cover all manner of dance formations, square sets, longways sets, circle dances, etc, as well as some of the different dance steps like waltzes, polkas and schottisches. Many of the Monday night dancers have also gone on to take up Contra, English Country and Irish dancing as these all have moves and steps in common with bush dancing.

Monday night classes are held at All Saints Church Hall, Cowper Street Ainslie, from 8.00 to 10.00 pm and the cost is still only \$6 for MFS members. A great place to introduce your friends to the wonderful world of dance - new dancers receive their 2nd night free.

The **2nd Saturday Bush Dance** will happen on July 9<sup>th</sup> at All Saints Church Hall. Please note there is a new starting time of 7.00 pm, and consequently the dance will finish at 10.30 pm.

**Contra** for July happens on Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> from 7.30 to 9.30 pm at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner with live music from Contraband. \$6 for MFS members and \$8 for others.



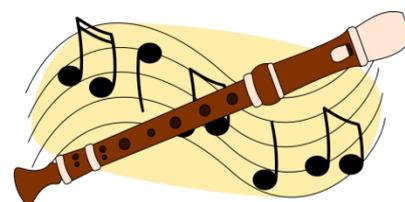
**Irish Set Dancing** is having its school holiday break until the start of Term 3 on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July. Classes run from 8.00 to 10.00 pm, at the North Canberra Baptist Church Hall in Condamine Street, Turner and cost \$8 for MFS members and \$9 for others.

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)

And there's an end-of-month treat for the Irish dancers – you are invited to a Winter Irish Deck Dance at 30, Henry Street, Cook (Corner of Henry and Skene) on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July. Starting at 12.00 noon with dancing, followed by a soup lunch at 1.00 pm.

RSVP to [kate.armstrong66@gmail.com](mailto:kate.armstrong66@gmail.com) <<mailto:kate.armstrong66@gmail.com>> by Wednesday 27 July. Please nominate to bring one of soup, bread, drinks or dessert.

The **Tuesday Night Music Group** (beginner to intermediate) which happens on almost every Tuesday of the year, now meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7.00 pm at the Irish Club in Parkinson Street, Weston. Some members arrive earlier and have a meal at the Club Bistro. On other nights the group meets at various members' homes. Please contact one of the organisers, Julie on 62823523 or Robert on 62919135 for more information.



**English Country Dancing** for July is on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> from 7.30 to 9.30 pm at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner. \$7 for MFS members and \$9 for others.

## Olympic Celebration End-of-Month Dance



Dress up in gold, silver or bronze or all three and enjoy a great night of dancing. You don't have to be an athlete, just someone with a spirit of fun.

You don't need experience and you can come with or without a partner.. All dances are taught and then called. Supper plates welcomed!

The band is *Humbug*, with calling by Lance Green.

Where: **Canberra Baptist Church Hall – 11 Currie Crescent, Kingston.**

Dress: Dress for dancing: layered clothing and smooth-soled, flat shoes.

Cost: MFS members \$14, Non members \$18, concessions and groups \$16, under 18 free.

## Poet Member Published!

MFS member John Walker has just published “The Loaded Doggerel – reflections of a ten pound pom forty years on” (Echo Books – available online as paperback for \$24.95 or downloaded as e-books for \$9.95 from <https://www.echobooks.com.au/loaded-doggerel>). John's work is often described as “quirky”, and he has a limited number of paperback copies available for \$15 (contact John at [john.walker@ozemail.com.au](mailto:john.walker@ozemail.com.au)).. Here's a taster from the book -

A radio programme poet declared that “orange” was one word in the English language that didn't rhyme with anything else. Rubbish, I said to myself.....

## The ORANGE

The soft, round fruit we call an orange  
Was first discovered by a foreign  
Gentleman, who walked his dog  
Around some prehistoric bog

Nowadays, for just a florin,  
Jam is made from tons of orange.  
Countries round the world all trade  
In various forms of Marmalade.

While Scotsmen kept through ancient history  
The contents of their kilt a mystery,  
It's common knowledge they keep an orange  
Tucked up carefully in their sporran.  
Generally they last for weeks  
(and taste much better than sprouts or leeks).

The English tongue is very strange,  
It has no words to rhyme orange.  
So if these verses make you cringe,  
You try to make one rhyme orange !

## Out and About ,,,,,

Lord Byron gig at Smith's Alternative – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July at 7.00 pm



## A Great Concert at the Irish Club (Review)



Connor Hoy, Donal O'Connor, John McSherry and Robert Leslie Hillman

John McSherry played the Irish Uilleann Pipes and Low D Whistle with faultless tone, gracefully gliding effortlessly through jigs, reels and slow airs with defined moments of brilliance that had the crowd whooping.

Donal's dynamic fiddle playing – a combination of warm rich depth and intense haste – was conveyed with unwavering accomplishment and unparalleled passion for the tradition. His witty personable stage banter lightened the scholarly superior mood set by the music, allowing for a relaxed feel.

Together they are the epitome of Northern Irish traditional music with suburb interpretations and arrangements.

Robert Hillman's guitar accompaniment and songs were inspiring, marrying the traditional with the contemporary  
Overall a fabulous night... as one might expect with these guys at the helm.

An enthusiastic full house enjoyed a night of traditional Irish music from Northern Ireland's John McSherry and Donal O'Connor, with Robert Leslie Hillman from Melbourne at the Canberra Irish Club on Saturday 18 June.

Canberra's Dave O'Neill opened the night with a solo set of Irish and American songs and beautiful instrumental tunes.

Adelaide's Connor Hoy, the National Irish Dancing champion, provided an unexpected treat.



**Mandir School of Music** proudly presents *Aradhana*



Saturday 9th July 2016 at Melrose High School, Marr Street,  
Pearce from 3.00 to 8.00 pm

**Highlights:**

FROM MISER TO MUSICIAN – Musical play on the ‘Story of Sri Purandara dasa’

UNIVERSAL SYMBOLISM OF GODS AND GODDESSES—  
Tableau

CLASSICAL RAAGAS & FILM MUSIC

Tickets : \$20/Family \$10/Single  
For tickets and sponsorship Contact:  
Ragini Santhanam 0427 489 562  
awaazmusix@gmail.com

**Further down the track .....**



The Turning Wave Festival is an outstanding celebration of Irish & Australian music and the related arts held on the **3rd weekend in September**, namely from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September featuring events and performances, catering for music & arts enthusiasts, families who wish to enjoy a safe festival, and those who just come to soak up the atmosphere and the friendliness. While the festival focuses on Irish and Australian music it presents styles as diverse as acoustic, bluegrass, roots, Celtic and country and showcases some of our most celebrated musicians, bands, poets and dance groups, in an exciting programme of concerts, workshops, exhibitions and events.



From 23-25 September 2016 the beautiful NSW South Coast town of Kiama will host the 4th Folk by the Sea Festival. You'll be enjoying 50 acts from all over Australia with over 100 artists.

Presented by  
Monaro Folk  
Society Inc.



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## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July Blackboard plus Feature Act Vincent Cross

4.00pm – 7.00pm at The RUC, 54 McCaughey Street, Turner (aka The Bowlo)  
Admission \$3 for MFS Members, Concessions, Blackboard performers and \$5 for 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 to perform, or just get along and listen to some great music.



Vincent's spot will start at around 6.00 pm – don't miss his singing and playing of traditional and self-penned songs.

From about 7.00 pm all friends of Marianne Pietersen are invited to join us at the RUC to say goodbye before her departure later this month to live in Brisbane.

Good meals are available at the Bistro if you'd like to stay for a while. If not just come for a drink and a chat..

Future Merry Muse blackboard dates are Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August and Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September – details to be advised

**ALSO SAVE THIS DATE** – Jez Lowe will be coming to a special Merry Muse on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September



Enquiries ph Eileen 0412 127 882 or email  
eileennew(at)grapevine(dot)com(dot)au, [www.merrymuse.org.au](http://www.merrymuse.org.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@homemail.com.au](mailto:cbriton@homemail.com.au)

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

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

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

MFS Tuesday Night Music group – a beginner/intermediate level session group. Meets in members' homes. Contact Julie on 62823523 or Robert on 62919135

Australian Settler's music sessions, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.folkdancecanberra.org.au) gives details and contacts  
Greek dancing – 1st Friday of month. Contact: Maria Jenkins 62314472. Folk Dance Canberra (FDC) Hall, 114 Maitland St, Hackett  
Murrumbateman Acoustic Music Club - last Sunday each month, 6pm, Murrumbateman Hotel Function Room. . Contact: David Grant 62270043,

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

Queanbeyan Bush Poets - 4th Thursday each month, 7pm. Contact: Laurie McDonald 62539856, now meeting at the Queanbeyan Library

Jammalong – 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month come rain or shine at the Enid Lyons Park pergola, between Questacon and Lake Burley Griffin. 12 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.

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**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. 2015-16 Committee**

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

Treasurer: Matt Gibbins - [treasurer@mfs.org.au](mailto:treasurer@mfs.org.au); Public Officer: Antonella Salpietro Committee Members: John Hewat, Simon David, Chris McGinty, For general enquiries please use [secretary@mfs.org.au](mailto:secretary@mfs.org.au)

#### **Appointed Officials**

Membership: Declan O'Connell - [membership@mfs.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:editor@mfs.org.au); Web Manager: Simon David

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