

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 6 – July 2017



Band playing for the Bundanoon Dancefest Saturday Dance on 10th June 2017 (Photo by Lawrie Brown)

From the President's Soapbox

The passing of Mike Paterson last week was a shock to us all, even though we were aware of his struggle with cancer which had hospitalised him a number of times. As a longstanding member of Woolies Home Band and then the Bush Capital Band, Mike's concertina playing and dry sense of humour will be sadly missed at Monday bushdance workshops. Vale Mike.

Bundanoon Dance Festival was once again a great success – one of the attendees commented to me that it is getting better each year. Peter Gamble's success at the NFF in winning the Traditional Social Dance Association of Victoria's annual award for Best General Social Dance was acknowledged with the presentation of the shield. His contra-style dance, Mary's Lament, will doubtless go into our dance programs.

This month we say *bon voyage* to Claude Barret, who returns to France this month after a couple of years as a valued attendee at dance workshops and events. Claude gave us great assistance at the MFS promotional event and has subsequently prepared an organisational project document for future participation at the NFF for which we thank him. His happy face will be missed – Veronique will be here for another month before also returning to France.



Photo by Anne Mathas

Finally, don't forget the inaugural Kids Dance at Ainslie on Saturday 8th July if you know anyone with primary age children. Details at www.monarofolk.org.au.

Geoff

Dancing About

MONARO FOLK SOCIETY THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL COLONIAL BALL

SATURDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2017



Photo of the 2016 Colonial Ball by Peter Gamble

The Monaro Folk Society's annual Colonial Ball will be held on Saturday 2nd September 2017 at the Albert Hall, Canberra.

Music by The Heritage Ensemble Band with Heather Clarke calling. The Heritage Ensemble Band has made regular appearances at Monaro Folk Society Dances over recent years. Heather Clarke, an accomplished dance historian and caller, is widely regarded as one of Australia's leading dance callers.

Doors will open at 7.20pm for pre-paid ticket collection, with a pre-ball welcome drink from 7:30pm and dancing from 8:00pm to midnight, including a fully catered supper.

Dress will be colonial /early 1900s evening dress wear or after five.

This year we celebrate the Centenary of the Trans-Australian Railway. Dance back in time and wear something sumptuous, funny, elegant, unconventional inspired by the many people, including federal politicians, theatrical performers and members of the royal family who travelled on the line.

Below is the link to find details of prices for this year's ball. Once you are there you will have to click on [Payments Page](#) for details of the various methods of payment. There are early bird prices available until 1st August. http://mfs.org.au/wiki/index.php?title=Colonial_Ball#2017_Colonial_Ball

Monday Workshops

The first Monday workshop in July is on the 17th, due to school holidays, so get out your dance shoes and be at All Saints at 8 pm for a fun evening of bush dancing to live music. Then two more fun evenings, the 24th and 31st.

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.



2nd Saturday Dance

Prepare to dance your feet off with our second Saturday of the month dance on Saturday 8th July, 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.

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).

Live music by the Bush Capital Band.

Kids' Dance The first in our series/trial, will be held on 8th July (before the 2nd Saturday Dance). Dances with live music for children of all ages (and their young at heart carers). From 2:30 to 4pm at All Saints Church, Cowper St Ainslie. Entry by gold coin donation. Live music by the TiNMuGs.

Dancers' Dance There will a Dancers' Dance in July. This includes dances from various genres and is designed for the more experienced dancers. Come to All Saints on Saturday July 22nd 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 Dance to the music of the Polka Pigs with calling by Ian Bull. Dress for dancing: layered clothing and smooth-soled, flat shoes.

Saturday 29 July – 8:00pm to 11:30 pm at Canberra Baptist Church Hall – 11 Currie Crescent, Kingston

MFS members \$14, Non members \$18, concessions and groups \$16, under 18 free. Bring a plate to share for supper.



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. Entry is \$6 for MFS members and \$8 for others, 2nd time free.

Irish Set Dancing is on school holidays until 19th. So come along on Wednesdays the 19th and 26th 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 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 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 7.30 to 9.30 pm at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner. Please bring some friends to share the fun. Entry is \$7 for MFS members and \$9 for others.

Folk Dance Canberra (FDC) and Canberra International Folk Dance Association (CIFDA) combine to offer some world dance workshops this month:

André van de Plas is a professional world dance teacher from the Netherlands. For more than 30 years he has choreographed and taught international dance in the Netherlands and overseas. He currently teaches at the largest world dance society in Holland and as Artistic Director of their performance group has won many prizes at both national and international festivals. André believes that the process of learning to dance should be fun at all levels, at all times, for everyone.



Andre will be holding workshops in Canberra as follows:

Sunday 23 July

9.30 am – 12.30 pm Easy dances (\$25)
1.30 – 4.30 pm Intermediate dances (\$25)
7.00 – 10.00 pm World Dance Party (Free)

Monday 24 July

7.30 – 9.30pm Advanced dances (\$25)

Discount for three sessions \$65

Where: Folk Dance Canberra Hall, Hackett Community Centre, 114 Maitland Street, Hackett

Further Information: 02 6241 2941 (Suzanne)
publicity.fdc@gmail.com (Lynette) or <http://www.folkdancecanberra.org.au/>

Some thoughts about the **Bundanoon Dancefest** from Eileen Newmarch:

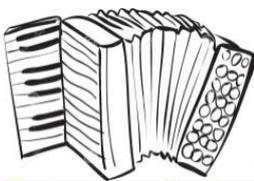
I spent the June long weekend at the Bush Traditions Bundanoon Dancefest . This was my first time and I really enjoyed it - there were a variety of workshops of different dance genres, even Morris dancing if you are brave - I wasn't. I found the workshops varied - I did the Contra, Scottish Country Dancing, the workshops by Bruce Hamilton from the US and Royally Yours and Odds and Sods called by Mark Simmons. I particularly enjoyed the Odds and Sods and there were no couple dances in the workshop, so no difficulties finding a partner, and the workshops by Bruce Hamilton, particularly the Creamy and Crunchy workshop, which included some lovely tips for making the dances flow.



Sunday Ball at Bundanoon (Photo by Lawrie Brown)

Many thanks to the Bush Traditions crew for a well-organised weekend of dance.

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 5th 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 7 for details.

Ed's note: Please don't forget to renew your membership if you haven't already

Out and About

Pete West writes about the Mary Coughlan concert in June:

On the night of June 04 Mary and I and a warmly enthusiastic packed house enjoyed a wonderful performance at Canberra Irish Club's Auditorium Lounge by Irish singer Mary Coughlan with Irish guitar legend Jimmy Smyth and Sheamus Von Luken on bass. Mary's singing was powerful on original songs and covers; and she delivered masterful covers of songs like Love Will Tear Us Apart, Whiter Shade of Pale and I'd Rather Go Blind. Her presence on stage was engaging and her personal anecdotes contextualised the songs.



Full House!



Sheamus von Luken and Mary Coughlan

The accompaniment by Jimmy and Sheamus was absolutely superb. For my money, Sheamus and Jimmy were equally the stars on the night. With good sound provided by Pete Richens and friendly service from Club staff, it was a wonderful show from all viewpoints, the best we've been to in a long while. Thanks to Cassidy Richens and the Canberra Irish Club for bringing it to us.

Pete and Mary also enjoyed Sessionfest at Morriset over the June long weekend



Brent Rogers of the NHVFC

Mary Martin and I very much enjoyed this year's rainy but music packed Sessionfest hosted by the Newcastle and Hunter Valley Folk Club on the long weekend June 9-12 at Morriset Showground, at which the NHVFC celebrated its 50th year.

As our friend Toni Davies wrote "A wonderful time was had by all who braved the weather. A feast of music and song, laughter and tears, joy and reminiscences, friendships old and new".

Here are reflections about the festival posted by Dallas De Brabander of Ecopella Canberra:- Considering the amount of rain there was until it suddenly fined up on Monday, I believe it was one of the best Sessionfests I've experienced (and I've been to quite a few now). The long gumboots really came into their own! Sloshing around in the mud and wet grass was very satisfying and I never got wet.

We had two great venues with heating. A great sound system (and sound engineers) for blackboards in the larger shed and a nice intimate feel in the smaller hall for quieter sessions and workshops. I met some wonderful new friends and hopefully gained some new singers for the Newcastle branch of Ecopella. I used up pretty much my entire repertoire of songs doing blackboards with Miguel and even did a solo spot on one blackboard session.

I enjoyed a small session on Sunday night with Matthew and Kathleen Clarke (Sweet Songs and Soft Guitar) and I was so impressed with the depth, quality and range of the music they presented over the weekend that I have invited them to do a house concert at my place next year. Miguel, Matthew, Kathleen and I performed as Ecopella for one blackboard session with Kathleen singing soprano (learned that weekend!). Congratulations to Matt for his first Ecopella gig.

Many thanks to Brent Rodgers of the NHVFC and his amazing team of volunteers for making us all so comfortable on what must have been a very challenging weekend of wetness.

Pete West

Fairport Convention Celebrates 50 Years



I was lucky enough, when in England recently, to be present when the band hit Birmingham Town Hall during its Spring tour to celebrate reaching 50. Only one of the five current members – Simon Nicol - was part of the very first gig in a hall in Golders Green on May 27th 1967. That line-up was Ashley Hutchings, Simon Nicol, Richard Thompson and Shaun Frater - he played only for that first show. Many have come and gone since then but now Simon Nicol (guitars, vocals), Chris Leslie (vocals, mandolin, bouzouki, violin, banjo, tenor guitar), Ric Sanders (violin, bass ukulele), Dave Pegg (bass guitar, mandolin, bass ukulele, vocals) and Gerry Conway (drums, percussion) form the current band. They are all still playing well, the singers are in good voice and a bit of banter adds to the entertainment. Ric Sanders is a virtuoso on the fiddle – his main instrument – and has a wildness in his playing. Simon Nicol's deep voice is very fine and when he, Dave Pegg and Chris Leslie combine the harmonies are excellent. The audience was very enthusiastic and clearly nostalgic but not as large as I expected for such an event. There were songs and tunes, traditional and contemporary, my favourite being Ralph McTell's *The Girl from the Hiring Fair*, a song I've always loved.

The band recorded an album last year to celebrate the upcoming milestone – it's called 50:50@50 and contains 14 tracks, seven of which are studio recordings and seven live from various concerts. Of course I bought it, and have been playing it during Making Waves on 2XX (Tuesday to Friday mornings from 6.00 to 7.00 am, presented by Pete West on Tuesdays and by me on the other days). I also bought the very sumptuous Anniversary Tour Programme which is full of information, anecdotes and photos and definitely worth whatever I paid for it! If any of you out there are big Fairport fans and would like to borrow it please drop me an email or give me a call (tina_lynam@hotmail.com or 0403 599 790).

The culmination of the celebrations will be Fairport's Cropredy Convention which is held near Banbury in Oxfordshire. This year it will run from Thursday 10th to Saturday 12th August and various former members of Fairport will be joining in. Richard Thompson is one of them and is also doing a solo concert. There are numerous other performers on the bill as well, the most unexpected one being Petula Clark - not quite sure what she'd be doing at a Folk Festival. I do wish I could pop back over to be there but it is rather a long way!

Tina Lynam

Presented by
**Monaro Folk
Society Inc.**



Merry Muse Sunday 2nd July from 4.00 pm to 7.00pm
Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson St, Weston

Blackboard plus Feature Act Humbug

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



'Humbug' has been one of Canberra's best Celtic oriented bands for some time. Its new line-up, featuring the addition of an exciting new violinist who joins established members, will make its debut at the Merry Muse on 2 July. Be prepared for a concert featuring new numbers and old favourites, some new sounds and interpretations which new members bring, some familiar sounds, some warm poignant moments, some toe tapping moments - and great entertainment.

Coming up

Sunday 6th August:- **Blackboard plus Feature Act *Royalty*** - Do you like to laugh? Edward Nass with Reid Stevens on bass and harmonies, *Royalty* will have you laughing, tapping your feet and singing along. Edward's songs are about life and the quirky everyday events that can happen! Hailing from Berwick in Victoria, Edward Nass, singer song-writer includes songs with a twist towards Fantasy and Humour. Can you relate to everyday life events like the supermarket blues, working in the yard or not having to shave today? People can also relate to his more serious songs which touch people in a way that is highly personal.

Sunday 3rd September - **Blackboard plus Feature Act *Springtide***

Blackboards are usually the first Sunday of the month at 4 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)

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 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.. St John's Church Hall, Constitution Ave, Reid. Also dance classes at ANU, Jane Austen Festival and other events. Contact: Aylwen Garden 62811098

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, 5.00 pm (during wintertime), 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) 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.

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Monaro Folk Society Inc

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