

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 2 – March 2017



Numeralla 2017 – Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd January

Clockwise from top left:

Brodie Buttons at the Friday Youth Showcase

Peter Logue, Zena Armstrong, Jo Cresswell and Dave O'Neill – Sunday Blackboard Concert

Badja Swimming Hole – gorgeous place

Dancers at the Saturday Night Bush Dance

Sunday evening Ceilidh – there were more musicians than dancers

(All photos by Lawrie Brown)



From the President's Soapbox

Firstly, a short discussion on the MFS website. It has been drawn to my attention over the last few days that MFS historical material, the past Colonial Balls in particular, is not available on the current website. It was assumed by some members that this material had been recently removed, but the truth of the matter is it was never on the current site, so it was not removed by anyone – nothing to do with the Committee. The history of MFS annual balls was a personal project developed by John Carroll and was stored on his own website, with a link to it on the MFS site: however, as JC's site became overloaded and he thought there was not any interest, he removed the material more than a year ago. I have discussed this with JC and he will try to reinstate it, hopefully by this Easter - once the situation is resolved and there is a clear path, we shall advise you.

We have already moved some material (such as the Musings) from the MFS site to a cloud and reduced the size of some unnecessarily large images to free up much needed disc space but the links on our current website still keep it accessible.

As I mentioned in the last Musings, the CAP Expo is taking place at the Old Bus Depot in Kingston on Saturday, March 25th between 11 am and 4 pm and I strongly recommend that you check it out. MFS will have an information stall there and would like some volunteers to spend an hour or two to promote our activities to the public – it is a good opportunity as we have a great location. We have Dance Stage time allocated from 11.50 am – 12.15 pm and we can also use the Demonstration Stage for a bush dance join-in if we wish (perhaps 12.30 – 1.00 pm) so we welcome any dancers who can form a core group. Contact me (president@mfs.org.au) or John Hewat (johnmuseh@gmail.com)

Last week I sent out an email to current members regarding the information stall we will be running at the National Folk Festival. John Hewat, Rita Turnbull and Claude Barret are organising this and are asking for members who are attending the NFF to drop by and help out for a while: one condition of our having this opportunity is that the stall must be populated from 10 am till 9 pm each day, which is a big ask for a couple of people. The more members who can help spread it around the better and this is a chance for all of you to contribute to the wellbeing of your society. The stall will be located next to the Central Park Stage where the Merry Muse will be hosting a blackboard event between 6 pm and 9 pm Friday – Sunday. It will not be a major commitment or an onerous task, just to be there to chat and give out promotional material for a while. While the NFF may seem a way off it looms fast and John H would appreciate knowing as far ahead as possible. So please get in touch with him or me if you are attending the festival and are prepared to do your bit.

Finally, please note that I am always available to field suggestions or complaints at:
president@mfs.org.au

Geoff

Dancing About

Monday Workshops

Bush Dance Workshops continue in March (but not on Canberra Day), so get out your dance shoes and be at All Saints on Monday evenings at 8 pm for a fun evening of bush dancing to 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 for two hours of dancing (with a brief break for a cuppa and light supper). Contributions to supper welcome but not essential.

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).

Second Saturday of the Month Bush Dance Looking for an enjoyable Saturday evening activity - then come to All Saints on Saturday March 11, at 7 pm for our regular second Saturday Bush Dance. All dances are taught and called, so no experience needed and no partner necessary (but do bring them if you have one). Many dances will have been done on Monday nights, so if you've been coming on Mondays you will find them familiar. Live music by the Bush Capital Band.

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.

Shearers Ball at Yarralumla Woolshed. – Saturday 25th March from 8.00 to 11.30 pm

Dance to the music of **Stringfiddle**, led by **Bob McInnes**, with calling by **Don Richmond**. \$19 MFS members, \$22 Groups and Concessions, \$24 for others (you can join at the door).

Please bring a plate of supper to share.



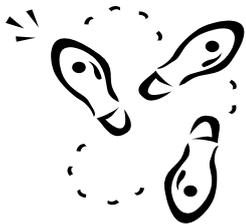
In the afternoon, prior to the Shearer's Ball, there will be a **free** Kids' Bush Dance from 2.30 to 4.30 pm at the Yarralumla Woolshed, with live music by the TiN MuGs.

Come along with your kids/grandkids and introduce them to a healthy fun activity, well away from their screens and keyboards. They will be forever grateful!

No need to book, or have prior knowhow, all dances are taught .



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 Wednesdays 8 pm to 10 pm 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).

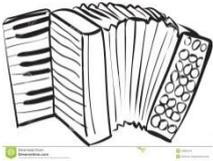


English Country Dancing is on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 7.30 to 9.30 pm at North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner.

Folk Dance Canberra is running an Irish Ceili at Folk Dance Canberra 14 Maitland St, Hackett from 7 to 10 pm.

It should be a wonderful night as **Franklin B Paverty** is playing and Bob Buckley is calling. The cost is only \$15.

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 1st and the 15th. 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 5 for details.

Out and About

Ed's note: I didn't have a lot of material for this issue so I thought maybe I'd do a bit about upcoming festivals. I just googled 'Folk Festivals in Australia' and came up with this link to the Folk Alliance Australia's website - www.folkalliance.org.au/directory/festivals-calendar/. What a revelation! This gives a month-by-month listing with the amazing total of 73 for the year. They are not all designated folk festivals – some are just 'music' festivals, some are 'blues and roots', some are mainly concerned with the spoken word and some, such as the Adelaide Fringe, cover a wide range of genres. I give the websites for a few in March and April for your entertainment and to help with your travel plans.

Nannup, WA - nannupmusicfestival.org – 3rd to 6th March

Port Fairy, Victoria - portfairyfolkfestival.com – 10th to 13th March (probably booked out)

Blue Mountains Music Festival, Katoomba, NSW - www.bmmf.org.au/ - 17th to 19th March

Yackandandah, Victoria - yackfolkfestival.com/ - 24th to 26th March

Candelo, NSW - candelovillagefestival.org/ - 21st to 23rd April

St Albans, NSW - stalbansfolkfestival.com.au – 21st to 23rd April

And not forgetting, of course, our very own NFF – www.folkfestival.org.au – 13th to 17th April



Vale Blue the Shearer (Col Wilson)

We regretfully announce that Blue the Shearer, aka Col Wilson, passed away on Friday 3rd February in Springwood NSW, aged 89. Blue probably holds the record for the most poets reciting his work over many years. A one-time public servant, Blue wrote a poem every week for ABC radio for more years than most can remember. Always ready with his quick wit and incisive political commentary, he tackled politicians, current affairs as well as the mundane facets of everyday life.

Col was a wonderful bloke and his poems contributed enormously to the growth of modern bush poetry. He will be sadly missed.

Taken from the website of the Australian Bush Poets Association Inc. – www.abpa.org.au

Presented by
**Monaro Folk
 Society Inc.**



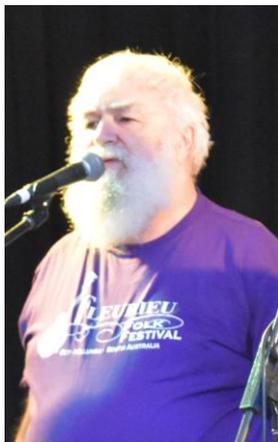
Merry Muse - Sunday 5th March 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm at the Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson St Weston

Blackboard plus Feature Act –Ten Quid Poms

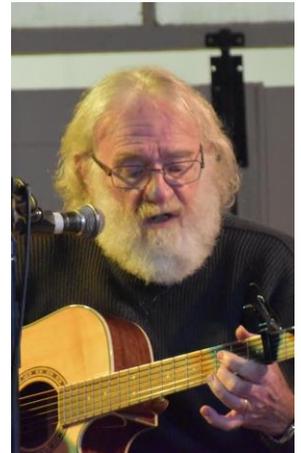
Admission: \$3for MFS Members, Concessions, Blackboard Performers, \$5 for Others

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

Ten Quid Poms.



When John Warner and Robin Connaughton, long-standing members of the “Roaring Forties” both moved to Canberra, they formed a new duo, the ”**Ten Quid Poms.**” Their debut in the 2016 Cobargo Festival had concerts, and a workshop “Celebrate the Horses.” Then followed their songs of the 1960’s steelworks in the opening of a display of steelworks art at the Wollongong Art Gallery. A concert at “Dukes” in Sydney in July, and the Fleurieu folk festival in October, and the Ten Quid Poms had arrived! This pair has been singing traditional folk in



all its guises for over forty years Anything is fair game, politics, work, unions, animals, sea shanties. As many original song compositions as traditional ones, sung with scintillating harmonies, unaccompanied or with various instruments.

Future Dates for Blackboards will be first Sunday of the month:

Sunday 2nd April, Sunday 7th May etc

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)

A Historical Note – Daryl Powell has just reminded me that in March 21 years ago MFS had just paid off the last of the \$50,000 debt which arose from running the 1992 National Folk Festival at ANU. It was an amazing achievement, involving selling a cassette, and later a CD, of local music with all tracks donated by the artists. Alao our wonderful local bands played for dances without pay to help the fundraising. After that a new body was formed to run the NFF and it has had its home at EPIC ever since. I happened to be on the MFS Committee in

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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