

# Monaro Musings



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

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**Monaro Musings, Volume 25, Number 10 – November 2016**



A fine crowd attended the 12<sup>th</sup> MFS Irish Set Dancing Weekend in early October. The event was officially opened by Mr Graham Hartnett, Second Secretary, Embassy of Ireland, at the gala ceili held on the Saturday evening (centre with one of his young daughters).

## From the President's Soapbox

The hallmark event for October was the annual Irish Set Dance weekend at Hall and photographs and Christine's comprehensive article below show it was a great success.

As we now slide rapidly towards silly season we have a number of upcoming events. As part of the Country Fair day at the National Portrait Gallery on November 13<sup>th</sup> the Bush Dance Group will have musicians and dancers participating and encouraging those attending to join in dances between 10am and 2pm - so drop by and be a part of the dancing.

There will be a second Saturday bush dance on November 12<sup>th</sup> at All Saints, and with the 7.00pm start this is a good opportunity for families with primary age children to come – in fact at the last one we celebrated the birthday of a 10 year old with a heap of friends and parents and they loved the dancing. I think the idea of the second Saturday dance providing this opportunity is certainly worth pursuing as it makes for an economical party while bringing in new potential members, particularly younger ones.

Please note there is no End of Month dance due to the MFS Christmas Party on 3<sup>rd</sup> December – however speaking of the Christmas Bush Dance we have decided to revive the tradition of a “picnic” dinner beforehand beginning at 6.30pm so bring your food, drinks, chairs and assorted paraphernalia to whoop it up with friends. And don't forget if you know folk with children that the Kids' Dance will be on beforehand at 2.30 pm, music courtesy of the TiN MuGs.

Some good news just to hand – although Eric and Shirley Johns are stepping down as organisers of the monthly Murrumbateman Acoustic Mob Sunday evenings, others have decided to pick up the reins so it is good to hear the tradition and sessions will continue!

Finally, I have just suddenly been offered the great opportunity of presenting a young Italian concert pianist at the cave in Wee Jasper as part of a world promotional tour. We are still working out details but will likely use it as a fundraiser for a worthy cause. Those of you familiar with the cave from our annual Contra weekend will appreciate the superb acoustics of the venue but also recognise the challenge of getting the Steinway down the stairs so we shall have to settle for a keyboard in its place. Details will be forthcoming as soon as they are settled but mark Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November on your calendar.

Geoff

## MFS happenings past and to come

**Bush Dance Classes** are in full swing for term four on every Monday - no more Monday public holidays before the end of school. They 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Bush Dance** for November will be the last one for this year. Don't forget our early start time of 7pm (and early finish of 10.30pm) and cheaper entry price (\$10 for MFS members) when you come to the All Saints Bush Dance on Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup> with music from the Bush Capital Band. Please bring a small contribution toward the shared supper. You can buy hot and cold drinks - "bottomless cup" – for just \$1. Full details on the web site.

There will be no **End-of-the-Month Dance** this month because the **Christmas Dance** will be held the following week - on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

There will be a free Kids' Dance from 2.30 to 4.30 pm prior to the Picnic and the evening dance. All welcome, all dances taught, no need to book.

If you wish bring a BYO everything picnic basket tea from 6.30pm to enjoy in good company. Dancing to the Bush Capital Band will start at 8pm

Christmas wear is admired, but not required. Supper plates to share much appreciated.

Cost just \$19 for MFS members, concessions and groups \$22, other \$24, full-time students half price and under 18 free.



**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 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup>. Contact is Ray Mulligan on 62474725



**Contra** for November happens on Tuesday the 1<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 15<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.

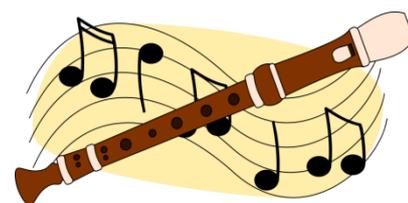


**Irish Set Dancing** – now well into term four - will happen every Wednesday until the end of term.. Classes run from 8.00 to 10.00 pm, at the North Canberra Baptist Church Hall in Condamine Street, Turner and cost \$8 for MFS members and \$9 for others.

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)

The **Annual Irish Set Dancing weekend** in October at Hall was once more a great success – see article and photos on page 3..

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 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.



**English Country Dancing** for November is on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</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.

## Christine Briton reviews the Annual Irish Set Dancing Weekend, Hall Pavilion, 7<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> October

Now in its 12th year, this popular event attracted around 95 people from SA, Victoria, NSW and the ACT for a weekend of workshops and ceilis and of course, great craic!

The official opening was made by Mr Graham Hartnett, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Ireland, at the gala ceili on Saturday evening. Graham was accompanied by his wife Peiyu and his two delightful young daughters, and the family stayed for supper giving us time to chat further with them. Graham has been instrumental in facilitating sponsorship for our event by the Embassy of Ireland. We wish to place on record our very grateful appreciation for this grant from the Embassy of Ireland.

Local band 'Hoddle' provided the music for three ceilis held over the weekend. People commented on their beautiful music, great instrument mix and that they would love to hear them again. Very pleasing for the organisers as we like to support local musicians wherever we can.

Saturday and Sunday workshops featured learning specific sets with Marie Brouder (Melbourne) and Nora Stewart and Martin Largey (local), and - for those who are familiar with ISD terminology - 'wheelbarrows and highgates' with Kirsty and Richard Greenwood (Melbourne). Who knew there were so many? As is usually the case, the workshops were not just about learning but about having fun and socialising while enjoying music and dance.

The weekend ended with the traditional Sunday evening at King O'Malley's before bidding farewell to new friends and old, with a promise to meet dancing somewhere again soon.



The organisers would like to thank MFS Committee for the use of the Tim Keeble memorial stage. It worked well in the space, and was elevated just enough for the musicians and callers, while keeping them close to dancers.

We would also like to record a huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped out over the weekend in many different capacities. Without your help we would not be able to put on a quality event or make it as accessible for our interstate participants. A special note of thanks goes to those volunteers who worked to improve the floor of the Hall Pavilion prior to the event. See the photo of the 'worker bees'.



And a few comments from the happy participants:

You have a great formula. Please do the same again next year

A great weekend of dancing, music and craic, what more do you need for a set dance weekend?

Thank you for another memorable, well-organised and happy dance weekend!

Thank you for a most enjoyable weekend! The hard word work that was put in was very apparent! Great venue, food, band and workshops!

## Out and About .....

In case you planned to go to the advertised **Tharwa Bush Dance** this coming Saturday – 5<sup>th</sup> November – please note that it is not going ahead as they had overlooked a previous hall booking for a wedding.

The **National Portrait Gallery** has invited MFS to run two sessions of bush dancing between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm at its "Country Fair" on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Come along and join in with the Bush Capital Band and caller Mark Simmons for some easy dances - we'll be inviting the public to get up and join us. If you have "Colonial Day Wear" then feel free to dress up, but this is optional. It would be great to have a good crowd of MFS dancers to make this event enjoyable and help promote bush dancing and the MFS. This is a free event - see <http://www.portrait.gov.au/calendar/country-fair/1326>.

## Jan Preston is recovering well ....



In September Jan fell and broke both her wrists, a most unfortunate thing for a piano player to do. However, she is recovering well and writes that she has her casts off, and now has removable splints and can do just about everything, but not walk the dog, drive, or unscrew lids.

She couldn't resist buying a piano whilst on the Gold Coast and is practising finger exercises and singing a lot. To keep herself occupied she's been writing some blogs and she included one in her email which is very entertaining but a little long to reproduce here. You can read it on her website – [www.janpreston.com](http://www.janpreston.com). The title is The Night Spike Played To Me,

I hope we shall see Jan back at the piano and touring again very soon.

## National Folk Fellow Lecture 2016 - The Good Old Concertina Fellowship presentation



Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November - 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm  
at the Theatre, Lower Ground 1at NLA.

This is a free event but bookings are recommended .  
Go to the website [www.nla.gov.au](http://www.nla.gov.au) and click on 'What's on' in the menu at the top, then on 'Events this month' and search for the event. There will be a button there for booking.

2016 National Folk Fellow Chris Sullivan will recreate the unique sounds of the concertina from music selected from the Library's Oral History and Folklore Collection. He will be joined by the Horton River Band.

One of Australia's most influential prolific and influential folklore collectors, Chris used his Fellowship to examine surviving examples of concertina music in an aim to develop performance expressive of both repertoire and playing style.

*In association with the National Folk Festival*

### Ed's note

I'm very happy to report that the last-Sunday-of-the-Month acoustic night at **Murrumbateman** which looked as if it was about to disappear from our lives has a new lease of life. This is because Wal Brewer and Lachlan Irvine have stepped up to take over organising the event and I'm sure lots of people will be wanting to say a big thank you to them both. Huge thanks are also due to Shirley and Eric Johns and David Grant who've been making it all happen for so many years now. No doubt there will be some mention of all that at the final gathering for this year on 27<sup>th</sup> November. According to tradition the first gathering next year (29<sup>th</sup> January) will be unplugged.

And on another matter, - as part of my (Acting) Musings Editor report for the MFS AGM I wrote something along these lines:

I've been 'acting' editor of the Monaro Musings for well over two years now and although I enjoy it to an extent my lack of computer skills probably causes it to take me longer to produce than it would for someone with more expertise. I'm sure many of you will have noticed that the Musings doesn't reach you in such a timely fashion as it used to and this is clearly not a good thing. If anyone has any interest in spending a few hours at my place near the end of each month to help actually putting it together if I gather the information - you can come for dinner - it would be a great help and would probably enable an earlier mail-out. .

Any offers? You might even enjoy it so much that you'd like to take it over – but that doesn't have to be part of the deal. Probably in the next year or so I'll be doing some extended travelling so at some point it would be desirable to have someone take over. Email me ([tina\\_lynam@hotmail.com](mailto:tina_lynam@hotmail.com)) or call me on 0403 599 790.

Thank you, Tina

Presented by  
**Monaro Folk  
Society Inc.**



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**Note: New Venue Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson St Weston**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November - 4.00 pm to 7.00pm**

**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** is a Celtic band playing traditional and contemporary Irish and Scottish songs and tunes, some to dance to, stomp your feet to, sing-a-long with and some to stir your heart. Humbug has been playing at festivals, pubs, clubs, celebrations and events for years and is passionate about Celtic music. Featuring soaring harmonies, groovy rhythms, tapestried instrumentation and funky bass lines, Humbug continues to energize and mesmerize audiences near and far.

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

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December – Blackboard plus feature act TBA

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January – an acoustic session

**[www.merrymuse.org.au](http://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)**

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](mailto:cbriton@home.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 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 Salpietro 0413 295 004

MFS Tuesday Night Music group – a beginner to intermediate level session group. Meets at Canberra Irish Club, Parkinson Street, Weston on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month and other weeks 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 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](mailto: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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month come rain or shine at the Enid Lyons Park pergola, between Questacon and Lake Burley Griffin. 12.00 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.

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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. 2016-17 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, , Anne Mathas, Chris McGinty, Julie Szabo. 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); MFS Bookkeeper: Linda Aunela; Web Manager: Simon David

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