

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 26, Number 10 – November 2017



Canberra's very own Surly Griffin Morris at Kangaroo Vallley

Photo by Eileen Newmaarch

From the President's Soapbox

I have just been told that one of our members was not happy that the most recent edition of the Musings appearing on the MFS website is March 2017. The reason for this is that we are trying to wind down the www.mfs.org.au site and upload any current material to the www.monarofolk.org.au site. I have asked members over a number of editions of the Musings now to go to the new website and register to be able to access the member portal, however some folk seem to find the process a little difficult, so we hope the following Idiot's Guide to Registration may be of assistance.

Step 1: Go to the new website (www.monarofolk.org.au).

Step 2: On the top menu go to > Members> Member's Website Registration

Step 3: Enter your username, email address, password, first name, last name

Step 4: Click Register button

This information will then be magically sent into the ether. As this has to go out into space and back, doubtless through a plethora of various security agencies, (and we also have other things to do in our lives as well), it may take a day for this to be activated. So please be patient and just enjoy the building of anticipation and excitement. We suggest you keep a record of your username and password in that little red book squirrelled away in a secret rabbit burrow for future reference. For our part, we shall prepare ourselves for an avalanche of responses to the release of this Guide.

On another note, our congratulations to Christine and her team of stalwarts for organising yet another successful Irish Set Dance annual weekend. And well done to get the Irish ambassador there. Unfortunately, the Irish President, Michael Higgins, who was coming to Australia hoping to attend the event, got his dates muddled and had to settle for the usual political glad-handing in the Bermuda vortex of central Canberra with Malcolm instead: Dublin to a brick he would have enjoyed the ISD weekend a lot more.

The next Kids bush dance is scheduled for the 11th of November, so tell anyone you know with primary aged kids who may be interested – relatives, friends, or co-workers.

The village of Binalong, not far from Yass, is preparing for its weekend of dance and bush music on the 17th of this month and Ray Mulligan has been in the thick of it, lending his expertise and charm as revealed in his article below – looks like a good idea, very much in the spirit of what MFS is about, so give a thought to attending as Binalong is a great little place to visit.

Finally, we are trialling using a Google group as an alternative to the current mfs announce tips list. There are a number of reasons for this and we hope to have a decision within the next few months.

Geoff

Dancing About

No End of Month Dance in November

Monday Workshops Get out your dance shoes every Monday in November for Bush Dance Workshops at All Saints at 8pm Fun evenings of bush dancing to live music. Beginners attend these workshops as they are tailored to suit any level of person who attends.

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 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 11th November, 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, 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 Our series of kids dances continues with a dance on 11th November (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.





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.

No need to bring a partner but please bring some friends to share the fun. Dance to the invigorating music of our own ContraBand. Contra is a lively dance style, dancing with a partner and meeting other couples as you progress along a column of dancers. Fun and energetic, with all dances taught and called.



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. This is a wonderful opportunity to improve your dancing and learn more steps. Please bring some friends to share the fun. Entry is \$7 for MFS members and \$9 for others.

Irish Set Dancing is on every Wednesday in November so come along 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 also free and 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).



Xmas Bush Dance put it in your diary now – Saturday 2nd December



At the atmospheric Yarralumla Woolshed, from 8pm to 11.30pm. Live music by the Bush Capital Band with calling by Peter Foster and invited callers. Bring a plate of supper to share. Entry is \$19 for MFS members and a cup is just \$1 for all the tea/coffee/cordial or cold water you wish. Wear something Christmassy, or not!

13th Annual Irish Set Dancing Weekend

Around 90 dancers from NSW, Victoria, and the Canberra region kicked up their heels at the 13th annual Canberra weekend held at the Hall Pavilion 6 - 8 October.

The event was officially opened by His Excellency the Ambassador of Ireland to Australia, Breandán Ó Caollaí, who attended the Saturday night ceili with his wife, Carmel and several friends. The Ambassador and party stayed to socialise with us over supper and join in some of the dancing; a real treat. The Embassy's sponsorship and support is very much appreciated; increasing the 'standing' of the weekend and helping to attract more dancers.



The three ceilis held over the weekend were danced to the fab music of the Jimmy Mullarkey Ceili Band. No matter how weary we may have been after a full weekend of dancing, once the Band started it was impossible to remain seated.

The Friday evening ceili was dedicated to our very dear and honoured friend John McCauley who very sadly passed away on 23 September. We danced a number of John's favourite sets over the weekend in his honour; sharing our memories and stories of him.

Workshops on Saturday and Sunday covered a variety of sets, a ceili dance, a half-set and stepping embellishments. There was something for everyone with teachers James and Sally Garner (Sydney), Liz Carter and Kate Crowley (also from Sydney) and our own Paul Wayper.

And to keep the energy levels up, yummy suppers and morning teas, and hot and cold drinks.

Thank you to all who came along and who helped to make this year another resounding success. A special thank you to all the many volunteers who gave extra in many different ways. We wouldn't be able to run the event without your contributions.

A few testimonials:

We all enjoyed the weekend thoroughly.

It is lovely having three live music ceilis and the Jimmy Mullarkey Ceili Band is a great band.

Everyone is so pleasant and friendly so there is a great atmosphere all weekend. Loved it!!!



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 9 for details.

Ed's Note – don't forget Major's Creek Festival is on from 10th to 12th November. www.majorscreekfestival.org for full information, ticket sales, pictures. Sorry, I had no room to do a decent spread on this great festival.

Out and About

Back to Binalong – November 17th – 19th 2017



Bush Traditions welcomes you to a weekend Gathering at Binalong on 17th – 19th November 2017.

The purpose of the weekend is to:

- Enjoy life
- Get together with the like-minded
- Play music
- Dance
- Learn something new

The GATHERING IN THE BUSH will celebrate the music of Harry Cotter, Val Turton and others, as well as Banjo Paterson, who lived on Illalong Station.

The event will be conducted as a gathering, modelled more on Numeralla than other events we may be familiar with. It will follow the format of a similar weekend held earlier this year when folkies gathered at Sofala to celebrate the music of Joe Yates. The plan is to use existing facilities, e.g. the Binalong Motel (Stephen Street) and the Binalong Hotel (cnr Fitzroy & Wellington) for food, accommodation etc.

Participants will be responsible for their own accommodation and meals. There is a large reserve on crown land available for camping. Camping is free of charge and showers will be available courtesy of the local football club. Your organisers will collect \$5 from campers to cover the cost of hot water. Bush Traditions will hire the Hall (Wellington Street, 130M from the Hotel) and will charge a small fee to attend dances in order to recover this cost. Practiced participants will lead music on a come-all-ye basis.

Planning for the weekend is to be kept fairly informal but will include opportunities for a bush dance both Friday and Saturday nights and many informal music sessions. There will also be concertina playing workshops offered throughout the weekend.

Binalong is west of the Hume Hwy, 35 km south of Yass. The town boasts 220 residents and the district another 350. It has a Hotel and a Motel, a community Hall and a large campground. You can find a map here: <https://www.google.com.au/maps/@-34.6735029,148.6344627,965m/data=!3m1!1e3>

The gathering is the first in what is hoped will be a continuing series of similar events to be run by Bush Traditions in coming years. The aim is to take our collected music back to the communities where it was collected to put the music into its historical context with a contemporary experience. The event is being promoted through the Monaro Folk Society, The Bush Music Club and the Kiama Folk Club.

Ray Mulligan

Love is the Way

When Scottish singer Eddi Reader first heard Declan O'Rourke sing *Galileo*, she told him it was the most romantic song she'd ever heard. She went on to record it and another O'Rourke song, *Love Is the Way*. Canberra folkies got to hear O'Rourke for themselves at the Ainslie Arts Centre (the old North Ainslie Primary; the gig was held in what must have been the old school hall) on Tuesday 3rd October.

And what a treat it was. Exquisite guitar playing; powerful romantic songs like *Galileo*, *Love Is the Way* and the encore *Golden Bars in the Sun* as well as sensitive historical songs about orphan girls sent to Australia, Irish famine victims (*Poor Joe's Shoes*) and the convict system in early New South Wales (a wonderful version of *Moreton Bay*).



Declan O'Rourke at the Irish Embassy

It was Irish singer-songwriter night at the Ainslie Arts Centre with the lively Áine Tyrell from Galway opening the gig. Like O'Rourke she has strong Australian connections. She drove down to Canberra from Mullumbimby. Declan, born in Dublin, lived here for a while as a child and began his singer-songwriter career here when he came back as a young man, taking inspiration from the likes of Paul Kelly and Australian Crawl.

Áine's first song was accompanied by body percussion. Later she gave us jigs on tin whistle and told us she'd played a tin whistle while hula hooping in a circus. Her bracket included two songs about sixteenth century Irish pirate queen, Grace O'Malley: one (in Irish) that children learn at school in Ireland and one she'd written herself: *Pirates Call*. She's got an album called *Queen of Swords*.

Both singers commented on Ireland's endorsement of marriage equality in a referendum in 2015 and hoped a "Yes" vote would do the same here. Two weeks later, Declan O'Rourke was back in Canberra to sing three songs for Irish President Michael D Higgins at the Irish Embassy: *Poor Joe's Shoes*, *Moreton Bay* and his poignant tribute to the Dublin tenement children who died during the 1916 Rising, *Children of '16*.

Declan O'Connell

Introducing Maleny

Yes, Maleny has its own festival, usually the last weekend in August, but this year held on the first weekend in September, starting Friday night and running until late Sunday afternoon. It is one of the smaller festivals, with three performance venues, a workshop tent, a session tent, a very active kids' festival, and street performances. Size doesn't mean a lack of quality though, it is well worth escaping Canberra's still cold weather and starting your festival season early with a visit north. Nights are cool, but the days warm up quickly. You could even follow up Maleny with Neurum Creek Festival the following weekend, and still get home in time for the first of the southern festivals.

Music and poetry performers and performances - just some highlights.

This was the fourth time we have attended this festival since moving to Queensland. The first couple were fairly traditional "folky" festivals, though with lots of good music, with more performers of the style of Cloudstreet and Rebecca Wright and Donald Mackay. The last two festivals have had more performers new to us, and a definite move towards folk/blues styles.

This year's headliners, however, were Martin Pearson and Bruce Watson, who have styles all of their own of course, and who are well known to Canberrans.

3 Miles from Texas (Texas Queensland, not USA!) one of our surprise "gems" for this year, kept our feet tapping with "alternative folk with a soaking of blues", but also some great harmonies and a variety of instruments, four guitars, accordion, fiddle, and a small drum. This was our first band of the festival, on a cool Friday evening, and, along with a very nice mulled wine and good gas patio heaters, certainly helped settle us nicely into festival mood.

Other highlights for us were a band called Tin Stars. Guitars, fiddle, accordion, billed as "reminiscent of the burgeoning sounds of the sixties", they were certainly melodic with great voice ranges. We did think a fair bit of their work, especially the original numbers, were more blues style, but that in no way lessened their virtuosity, and they certainly enthralled their audiences. They were the only band we made a real effort to see twice, although we caught a bit of some others more than once. Montgomery Church was one of those. Ciele and James from Cooma were a delightful duo to listen to, with dobro, guitar and soaring vocals. A duo well worth watching out for locally if you haven't already heard them.



Tin Star on the Obi Obi stage,

We managed to make it to all of both Poet's Breakfasts, on Saturday and Sunday mornings. These are led by the very funny and very talented Ian Mackay. A wonderful addition this year, and also a festival performer in his own right, was Irish Joe Lynch. He is funny, poignant, a skilled storyteller, and has a great singing voice too. All delivered in a strong Irish accent, but with a clear voice so his audience had no problems understanding him.

Also known to many MFS folk, will be Evan Mathieson who did a wonderful workshop of Sea Shanties. In Evan's effective manner, each song was preceded by a fascinating historical anecdote that introduced the setting for the song.

We ended our festival on Sunday afternoon listening to Tawny, the only Celtic band we heard all weekend. With strong Irish instrumentals, they certainly had the audience out on the floor dancing, although only about six of the dancers were dancing Irish dances, and just for a couple of sets and some jigs.

Dancing and street performers.

This festival does not have a focus on formal dancing, although this year Barleysakes played and called for a bush dance in Maleny Community Hall on Friday night. It was free for festival goers, a small fee for anyone else.

Otherwise, three sets of street performers danced at various times throughout the weekend. Raggedy Band Morris presented all the fun and intricate performance of traditional Morris; the very versatile and agile hula hoop girls danced at several venues, and did a street workshop; and a group named Cherry Ripes (in their head-to-toe cherry orientated outfits) did a Zumba workshop. Carnavalia O Gypsy Circus thrilled watchers after dark with fire eating, tumbling, juggling and other acrobatic antics. No animals involved!

Food and drink.

From about midday, and all through the evening, there are three bars operating, one next to each main performance venue. They serve canned and bottled beers, cans of Guinness, several different wines and spirits and the best mulled wine that I have had since Andrew Pattison days at the National. The bar areas are separated from the actual performance venues by low barriers, and monitored by security staff so that alcohol can't be taken outside the specified area, but you can comfortably watch the performances from each bar area.

There are good coffee stalls, and a wide variety of herbal tea choices.

There is the usual fairly broad and eclectic choice of food, although we did find evening hot food a slight problem, but mostly due to my dairy dietary issues, as we didn't want the same vegetarian curry every night. We managed though as we had given ourselves the option of doing some self-catering in our caravan.

Conclusion

Like every festival, it all ended too soon, and feels too long to next year. The volunteers did a fantastic job, as volunteers do, but are always looking for more folk to add to their teams. Just a four hour shift over the weekend gets you a festival ticket, including camping. The festival is held at Maleny Showground, which has some powered campsites, although you have to book early for those, plenty of unpowered camping space, and enough hot showers and toilets that you never have to queue for very long.

So check the website, put it in your diary, and we will see you there next year.

Trish Crossley and Brian Brodie (Trish and Brian are MFS members who have moved to Donnybrook in Queensland)

2017 National Folk Fellow Lecture – Mission Songs



Tuesday 21st November 6.00-8.00 pm

NLA Theatre – Lower Ground Floor

2017 National Folk Fellow Jessie Lloyd presents a collection of Indigenous songs from Christian missions, Aboriginal reserves and the fringes of townships where Indigenous people were relocated. Selected from the Library's Oral History and Folklore Collection.

This is free but bookings are required. Go to www.nla.gov.au and look for the event in What's On

Just a reminder that the **Charlotte Pass Celtic Music Camp**, hosted by Dave O'Neill and Jo Cresswell with the addition of Lindsay Martin as a tutor is happening in 2018 from 12th to 17th January. If you're interested in attending go to <https://charlottepasscelticmusiccamp.com/> for full information.



Presented by
**Monaro Folk
Society Inc.**



Merry Muse - Sunday November 5th - 4.00 pm to 7.00pm

Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson St Weston

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

Blackboard plus Mike Martin

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.



Mike Martin has busked the London underground to the streets of Europe, ignited the wandering spirit and travelled further afield to the Americas, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. Playing wherever possible to support a meagre existence and finally settling in Australia, in South Coast Candelo. He has been a Medieval Minstrel in Gas Town, Vancouver. BC. Canada and a Convict Minstrel - Old Sydney Town. Gosford. NSW. He has recorded with Cocky's Joy, Collector, Allan Musgrove and Friends, Barramundi Brothers and The Blowflies. He has worked on his own projects: Jindi, CD - Jindi Plays Joe; KBO, CD - Australian collected dance tunes, The Strelley Project, CD - The Strelley Project and Mike Martin, CD - Postcard from Candelo

Coming up Sunday December 3rd Blackboard plus Turnip Sundae

Turnip Sundae brings together the talents and friendship of three been-around-the-traps- forever musicians: spectacular cellist- Rita Woolhouse, fancy 12 string guitarist- Fred Pilcher and creative Simone Dawson on flute and tenor guitar (not at the same time). Playing some of Fred's favourite songs, Simone's original material and Rita's funky tunes, the Turnips blend vocals, instruments and rhythms to create a perfect contemporary sound.

So turn up on Sunday December 3rd to hear Turnip Sundae - an underground "folk & roots" sensation!



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@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.. 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, 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. 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.

Monaro Folk Society, Inc. 2017-18 Committee

President: Geoff Kell - president@monarofolk.org.au; Vice-President: Vacant; Secretary: Ian Bull – secretary@monarofolk.org.au; Treasurer: Tina Lynam - treasurer@monarofolk.org.au; Public Officer: Antonella Salpietro Committee Members: Matt Gibbins, John Hewat, Anne Mathas. For general enquiries please use secretary@monarofolk.org.au

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Membership: Declan O'Connell - 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: Simon David

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