

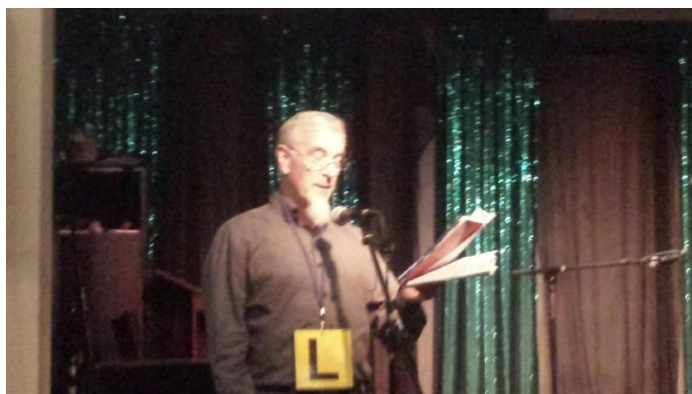
# Monaro Musings



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

Visit the MFS at the website [www.mfs.org.au](http://www.mfs.org.au) and/or [www.facebook.com/monaro.folk.society](https://www.facebook.com/monaro.folk.society)

**Monaro Musings, Volume 25, Number 8 – September 2016**



Spotted at the Murrumbateman Acoustic Music Club on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August were old friends Annie van Herck (left) and Col Wright (right), temporary residents of Murrumbateman. So good to catch up with them and to enjoy a blackboard spot from Col – photos by Denise Burton. John Walker (centre) launching his book of poetry – *The Loaded Doggerel* – at the Merry Muse on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August – photo by Geoff Kell.

## From the President's Soapbox

The past 12 months have shot past and we are round to the Annual General Meeting again, this year to be held at the Irish Club at Weston on Thursday September 15<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. As the committee would like this to be a social occasion for members to catch up as well as for business the format will be slightly different from usual: all formalities will be taken care of initially, followed by the opportunity to socialise, with refreshments and entertainment provided by the society. We will also present the initial phase of the new website. So please come along, meet up with other folk and see what we have been working on.

Over the past year we have been building a good cooperative relationship with the Irish Club at Weston. This began with the Tuesday Night Music Group holding sessions there as well as a number of committee and subgroup organisers' meetings being held there. They generously offered the use of their auditorium for the August Merry Muse on short notice. As a result it has been decided to make The Irish Club our regular home for the Merry Muse (this happy arrangement having been negotiated by Eileen) so we hope our members will come and enjoy the warm and welcoming atmosphere there.

The new Poets Group made its presence felt at the last Merry Muse in a blackboard program that intertwined music and poems as well as the launch of John Walker's book. It was a most successful union that may well lead to a new generation of wee songs and little limericks so the Poets will be ongoing participants at the Muse. It has been suggested that a likely name for them would be The Gilded Poets (as in "there were some gilded youths that sat along the barber's wall"). However any thoughts on a different name may be welcomed by them.

Don't forget the Turning Wave Festival is happening this month in Yass from Friday 16 to Sunday 18. MFS is supporting the festival with sessions, workshops and the Bush Capital Band playing for the Colonial Bush Dance on Saturday night so put that into your calendar.

Finally the AGM is the occasion for voting for the 2016-17 Committee and new candidates are always welcome. The duties are not onerous and it is an opportunity for you to be a part of developing initiatives in your society. Hoping to see you there.

Geoff

# MFS happenings past and to come

**Bush Dance Classes** on Mondays continue until September 19<sup>th</sup>. There are public holidays on the last Monday of September and the first one in October so classes recommence on October 10<sup>th</sup>. 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.

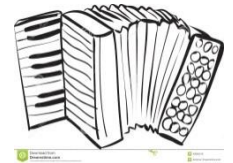
Monday night classes are held at All Saints Church Hall, Cowper Street Ainslie, from 8.00 to 10.00 pm and the cost is still only \$6 for MFS members. A great place to introduce your friends to the wonderful world of dance - new dancers receive their 2nd night free.

The **2nd Saturday Bush Dance** will happen on September 10<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. Prices are down too – only \$10 for MFS members and \$1 for a bottomless cup of hot or cold drink. Supper plates welcomed.

As always, all dances are taught and called, so everyone can come along and have a great night of dancing. We'll do many of the dances that have been taught in detail on Mondays so some of you will be familiar with these. Live music from the Bush Capital Band.

There will be no **End-of-the-Month Dance** in September.

**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 that means the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup>. Contact is Ray Mulligan on 62474725



This music can be characterized as dance music brought to Australia by the many peoples who came here to settle over the past 200 years. The music derives from Europe, predominantly from Britain and Scandinavia, but it originates from wherever immigrants came from. Once here the music moved through whole communities, each influencing the other, changing it in ways that reflect life in Australia. It has its own style; relaxed, laconic and pretty.

Over the past 70 years some notable and dedicated people have recorded interviews covering many thousands of hours with singers, musicians and dancers who spoke of what it was like to live their lives in communities across Australia. The result is an oral record covering the past 150 years. The National Library of Australia holds over 50 000 hours of this material. The Settlers Group provides a way of accessing this music. It is an opportunity to engage with a living tradition, to learn and play some of this music.

Instruments tend to be acoustic in nature; accordion, bass guitar, fiddle, flute, guitar, mandolin, piano, whistle etc.

**Contra** for September happens on Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 20<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.

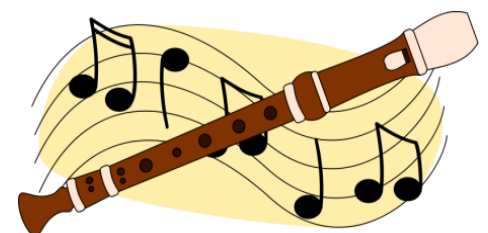


**Irish Set Dancing** – Term 3 continues on Wednesdays throughout September. Classes run from 8.00 to 10.00 pm, at the North Canberra Baptist Church Hall in Condamine Street, Turner and cost \$8 for MFS members and \$9 for others.

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 **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 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 September is on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<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.

## **Annual Irish Set Dancing weekend 7-9 October at the ‘Hall at Hall’**

By the time you receive this edition of Musings you will have missed the early bird discount for tickets to this popular event now in its 12th year. But never fear, you can still come along to the whole weekend or selected workshops and/or ceilis - the choice is yours. Online bookings are preferred, but if you wish you can pay at the door (cash or cheque only please).



This year's event features *Hoddle* at the Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday afternoon ceilis. Workshops on Saturday and Sunday are with experienced interstate and local teachers Marie Brouder, Kirsty and Richard Greenwood, Nora Stewart and Martin Largey.

Full program, ticket prices and how to book online are at: <http://www.mabula.net/setdancing/workshop.html> or see MFS website (main page).

## **A note of thanks**

Daryl Powell would like to thank the Monaro Folk Society President, members and friends for their support during his recent emergency eye surgery. All three new implants in his left eye appear to be working well. He should be back at the bush dance classes early in September.

## **The Merry Muse goes Poetical!**

The Merry Muse whiteboard session at the Irish Club in Weston on 14<sup>th</sup> August featured the launch of John Walker's poetry book, "the Loaded Doggerel – memoirs of a Ten-Pound Pom 40 years on". Perhaps appropriately (considering the venue) channelling Irish comedian Dave Allen, John performed from a comfy chair, with a glass of Guinness in one hand, and with the startled look of a first-time performer alone onstage under the spotlights. His poems covered his origins in the English manufacturing city of Coventry (where our Aussie phrase "True Blue" came from – did you know that?), the journey to, and arrival in, Australia (welcome to "Woo-Loo-Moo-Loo" – have a pint of schooner!), and a range of almost-credible experiences of living in the Canberra-Queanbeyan region. Tales of his (fictitious) great granddad's phenomenal sporting prowess, and his (also fictitious) Aunt Elsie and Uncle Cyril amused the audience, while some may have been surprised by the consequences of Polish former Pope John Paul II's difficulty in distinguishing between Pole-dancing and Polish dancing. The book is available from Echo Books, online as paperback for \$24.95 or downloaded as e-books for \$9.95 from <https://www.echobooks.com.au/loaded-doggerel>. John has a small and diminishing stash of paperbacks available for \$15 to MFS members.

## **Out and About ,,,,,**

### **Vale Jim Macquarrie**

It is with sorrow we pass on the news of the passing of Jim MacQuarrie on 10 August after ongoing health challenges. Many Monaro Folk Society members would have known Jim.

Jim has made an amazing contribution to the Folk scene for decades, both as a performer, including at the Merry Muse, and as an International Touring Agent and Manager of his agency Newsouthfolk which brought us many talented and wonderful performers including James Keelaghan. Jim was Secretary and twice President of the FAA, and organised insurance matters for the FAA for many years.

Jim's drive and passion for encouraging and supporting artists as they made their way in the scene has made a significant difference to too many young artists to mention. The endless time spent sharing his knowledge with others in areas such as touring/agency work, house concerts, and festivals was a testament to his generosity and passion for supporting the business of Folk.

## The Goulburn Gathering



**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 - Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016**

This is the best little festival in the folk calendar where the focus is on enjoyable participation & contribution & firmly based on our Australian Traditions. Enjoy workshops, concerts, dances featuring many of Australia's best folklorists and performers. It is held at the historic Old Goulburn Brewery on Bungoinia Road, Goulburn

- Food & Refreshments available
- Camping available (bookings required – see website)

Ed's note: The programme for the 2016 Gathering is not yet on the website, but there is a hint that Martin Wyndham-Read may be around this year. I suggest keeping an eye on the website until things firm up.

[www.bushtraditions.org/gathering/outline.htm](http://www.bushtraditions.org/gathering/outline.htm)



**The 3rd Weekend in September: 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

The Turning Wave Festival is an outstanding celebration of Irish & Australian music and the related arts. It features 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.

For information on performers, tickets and so on check [www.turningwave.org.au](http://www.turningwave.org.au)



It's a fair while till Easter but there are a few dates you might like to consider if you're planning to have a stall, would like an instrument maker's spot, want to buy tickets at the Early Bird 1 price, or simply to be a volunteer.

- Payment Plan at EB1 price NOW OPEN (Finishes 30 September 2016)
- Early Bird 1 Tickets NOW SELLING until 30 September 2016
- Stalls Applications NOW OPEN - Close 31 October 2016
- NFF Lifetime Achievement Awards Nominations - NOW OPEN
- Instrument Maker Applications - Open 1 September 2016 (For 6 weeks)
- Volunteer Applications - Open 1 November 2016

**Ed's Note – Anyone who has not yet renewed membership of MFS needs to do so by the date of the AGM, if wishing to participate in it, or by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September to receive the October Musings.**

Presented by  
**Monaro Folk  
Society Inc.**



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

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**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September - 4.00 pm to 7.00pm**

**Blackboard plus Feature Act The Shiny Bum Singers**

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.



The Shiny Bum Singers are a vocally inspiring and visually entertaining group who sing their own wicked parodies about the working life of the Australian Public Service. No subject in the workplace is safe from the finely honed fingers of the group's talented writers.

**Sunday 25 September - 3:30 pm to 5.30pm. A special show – note early start**

**Jez Lowe – with support act Cassidy's Ceili Trio**

Admission: \$15 MFS members. \$17 Concession, \$20 Others

Receiving a double nomination in the 2015 BBC Folk Awards (Folksinger of the Year and Best New Song), Jez Lowe has leapt into his third decade as a song-writing troubadour, on the back of a new and much acclaimed album – his nineteenth – THE BALLAD BEYOND. As BBC Radio DJ Mike Harding said recently, “No-one else writes or sounds like Jez Lowe”, and chances are, even if you’ve never heard the man himself, you’ll have heard his songs, sung at festivals, club-gigs, open-mikes or on CD, by the great and good, the professional and the enthusiast, the young and not-so-young. What higher accolade could a songwriter hope for?

The Cassidy's Ceili Trio will provide a short opening set of celtic inspired music, with the powerful voice of Cassidy Richens, Sandy Gibbney on fiddle and Peter Richens on guitar.



**Enquiries ph Eileen 0412 127 882 or email [eileennew\(at\)grapevine\(dot\)com\(dot\)au](mailto:eileennew(at)grapevine(dot)com(dot)au) or [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@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. 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 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: David Grant 62270043,  
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. 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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