

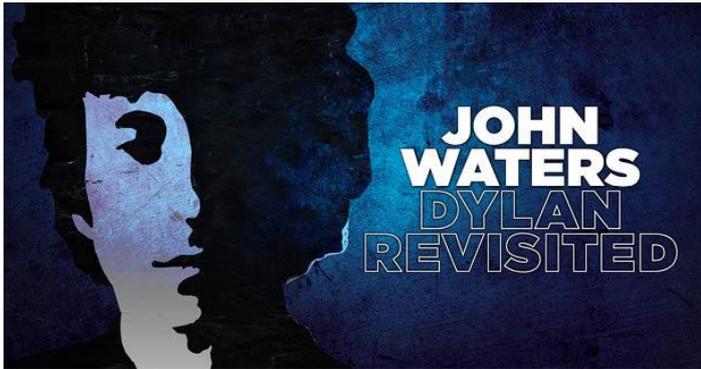
# Monaro Musings



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

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

*Monaro Musings*, Volume 28, Number 7 – August 2019



## A Taste of Ireland



## The Soweto Gospel Choir

Details of all the commercial shows pictured above can be found in **Out and About** on pages 4 and 5

## From the President's Soapbox

After many months of trying, we finally found an evening that suited almost everyone for another Organisers' Consultation. It was well attended, with 14 subgroup organisers and committee members discussing issues that affect the society in general. Proceedings will soon be up in the members' section of the website.

One of the items was publicity and our attempts to promote our activities to the general public, such as at the National Folk festival, CAP Expo, and various annual Heritage events. It was felt that many possibilities are overlooked because, while each group does what it can to publicise its own activities, we do not have a promotions officer to coordinate these efforts. The reason it is difficult to find people to take on such positions (Promotion, Musings Editor, Merry Muse coordinator) seems to be a fear of being lumped with a huge job with an open-ended commitment: a black hole that will swallow up their whole life.

Personally, I think it far more useful to consider having small groups of three or four people to spread the initial load of coordination. This then becomes more of a social meeting over coffee to discuss what could/needs to be done, and then find individuals to take on specific tasks: people are often happy to assist, but want tasks to be defined in scope and time commitment. I have already had offers of input to such a group, so if you are interested in being a part of it, please email me [president@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:president@monarofolk.org.au). The more, the merrier.

Some members raised some concerns that current dance practices could be improved. As these issues did not relate to all groups it was decided to schedule a more specific meeting to allow enough time to discuss them. This meeting was duly held with 17 people attending, all MFS dance groups having members present, but with others

also coming to share information about protocols in other dance groups. It was a good meeting with a number of agreed outcomes, including the establishment of a working group to formulate practical solutions: these will then be circulated to interested parties. We have set up a new email address – if you have any concerns, complaints or suggestions, please give us input towards this process. Your email will be treated totally confidentially if you so wish. [dancersfeedback@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:dancersfeedback@monarofolk.org.au)

Another item was the MFS 50th anniversary which will occur in 2020. We discussed the possibility of a celebration similar to the one we held for the 45th anniversary in 2015 at the Yarralumla Woolshed. We will establish a working group – and any participation in this, or any thoughts/ideas from members on this are most welcome.

Early bird tickets for the 2019 Colonial Ball (28<sup>th</sup> September) are now available through the website with prices unchanged from last year, so take advantage while you are thinking of it.

The Merry Muse this month features the Canberra Shanty Club on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>,

We have had 128 membership renewals to date, about two thirds of our 2018-19 numbers: as it is the end of July, we will be sending out reminder emails to those of you who have not yet renewed, to ensure that you will continue to enjoy the benefits of insurance, entry discounts at events, receipt of the Musings and access to the members' section of the website. So please attend to this as soon as possible either online, or at one of the activities you participate in.

Geoff

## Dancing About

Don't forget that MFS's **Annual Irish Set Dancing Weekend** will be happening from **11<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> October** at Hall and that the earlybird 10% discount ends on 31<sup>st</sup> August. Book online at <http://www.mabula.net/setdancing/workshop.html> (Full refund if you subsequently can't make it).

**When:** Friday evening, 11<sup>th</sup> October to Sunday afternoon, 13<sup>th</sup> October

**Where:** Hall Pavilion, Showground, Gladstone St, Hall Village

**Suitable for both new and experienced dancers.**

No experience or partner required. All dances are taught and called.

**Margaret and Bill Winnett (NSW)** and **Matt Harriage (Vic)** are the featured teachers for Saturday and Sunday workshops.

One of Australia's well-known Ceili Bands will inspire dancing at Friday night, Saturday night and Sunday afternoon ceilis.

Come to the whole weekend (\$90) or choose selected sessions (see ticket prices on the flyer).

Full-time students and under 18s are half-price.

Morning teas and suppers included, along with continuous hot and cold drinks.

Contact: [isdcanberra@gmail.com](mailto:isdcanberra@gmail.com)

## 15th Annual Canberra Irish Set Dancing Weekend

Friday 11 - Sunday 13 October 2019

### Hall Pavilion

Gladstone St (Hall Showground), Hall ACT 2618

#### Saturday and Sunday workshops

Margaret & Bill Winnett (NSW)

Matt Harriage (Vic)

Three Ceilis with live music



Session	Ticket Price
All events	\$90
Friday night welcome ceili	\$22
Saturday workshops	\$32
Saturday night ceili	\$22
Sunday workshops & farewell ceili	\$32
Full time students & under 18	Half-price

Book online from 1 June  
10% discount for bookings by 31 August



Photos: melbournceilicamera.org

[www.mabula.net/setdancing](http://www.mabula.net/setdancing)  
[monarofolk.org.au](http://monarofolk.org.au)  
[isdcanberra@gmail.com](mailto:isdcanberra@gmail.com)



**2nd Saturday Dance ....** Prepare to dance your feet off with our second Saturday of the month dance on the 10<sup>th</sup> August, at All Saints from 7pm to 10.30pm. Live music by the Bush Capital Band.

Just \$10 for MFS members, and \$1 for a cup of 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, Colin, Peter and Mark, and called, so no experience needed and no partner necessary, but do bring them if you have.

If you're new to dancing you are welcome to come along.

Hints: please wear smooth, soft soled shoes so you can glide along the floor.

Please don't wear perfume or aftershave as you will be very close to people and the scent can be overpowering.

**End of Month Dance ....** with Earthly Delights and friends.

Saturday 31 August – 8:00pm to 11:30pm

Theme: Fun dances from the Australian tradition.

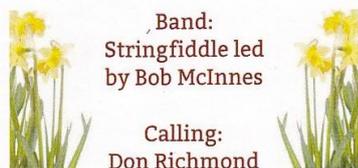
Canberra Baptist Church Hall – 11 Currie Crescent, Kingston

\$19 for adults, \$17 for group entry and concessions, \$14 for MFS members, \$9 for students (18 and over), all under 18s free.

Dress for dancing, layered clothing and flat, smooth soled shoes. Please bring a plate of supper to share.



The Monaro Folk Society's annual **Colonial Ball** will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at the Albert Hall, Commonwealth Avenue, Yarralumla.



Theme: Floral Tribute, as Floriade will be on

Welcome drinks and hors d'oeuvres from 7:30pm.  
Dancing 8pm to midnight.  
Fully catered supper

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

[www.monarofolk.org.au](http://www.monarofolk.org.au)

Tickets to the Ball are very reasonably priced and payment can be made by Direct Deposit, Cash, Cheque or Postal Order. For catering purposes we close ticket sales on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September. Early bird sales (at reduced price) will be available until Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Tickets and information:

<http://www.monarofolk.org.au/colonial-ball-tickets/>

Stringfiddle is a vibrant band with an eclectic and exciting repertoire. Bob McInnes brings a wealth of experience and creativity to the task of lead musician. Don Richmond's extensive skill and experience as a caller is well regarded around Australia.

**Monday Workshops ....** Every Monday in August and September.

Dance and have fun with live music. Beginners and intermediate dancers attend these workshops as they are tailored to teach. Experienced dancers also attend to help out and to enjoy the dancing and the 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, \$8 for non-members and the second night is free.

Contributions for supper are welcome but not essential.

Contact person is Mark Simmons 0421 814 718



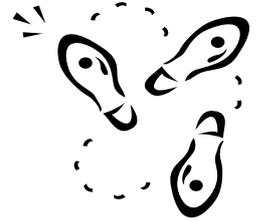
Bush  
Dancing  
in Canberra



**Contra ....**is on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

Contact person is Linda Aunela 0437 350 254, if emailing please put "Contra" in the subject line. [lindaaunela@yahoo.com.au](mailto:lindaaunela@yahoo.com.au)

**English Country Dancing....** is on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays 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 technique and learn more steps. Please bring some friends to share the fun. Entry is \$7 for MFS members and \$9 for others.



Contact person is Colin Towns 0417 020 615

**Irish Set Dancing....** Every Wednesday in August and September.



Come along from **7:30pm to 9:30pm**, North Canberra Baptist Church Hall, 17 Condamine Street, Turner.

\$8 for MFS members and \$9 for others. The first TWO classes for new starters are FREE. Beginner's refresher classes are also free and start 30 minutes before the regular class, but are run on **request only**. To make a request, please contact Christine 0413 168 562 or [isdcanberra@gmail.com](mailto:isdcanberra@gmail.com)

'photo: [melbourneceilicamera.org](http://melbourneceilicamera.org)'

## Music, Music, Music .....

**Australian Settler's Music Sessions** have moved in both time and place. The venue is now the lovely Beyond Q Bookshop at 11, Brierley Street, Weston (it's towards the back of the Arcade) and the new time is 4.00 to 6.00 pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month. Contact is Ray Mulligan on 62474725.



The **Tuesday Night Music Group** (beginner to intermediate), which happens on almost every Tuesday of the year, meets at the Irish Club in Parkinson Street, Weston on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month from 7.30 to 10.00 pm. 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.

**The Merry Muse** happens on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month from 4.00 to 7.00 pm with two hours of blackboard sets followed by the Feature Act for the month. Full details on page X

## Out and About

### Dylan Revisited – John Waters

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September at Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden (Book at [www.csccl.com.au](http://www.csccl.com.au))

Tickets: Dinner and Show – 6.00 pm, \$96.65 + BF; Show Only – 8.00 pm, \$61.65 +BF

One of Australia's leading actor/singers, **John Waters**, brings you his unique perspective on the work of the greatest living songwriter

John Waters is revisiting the illustrious Bob Dylan songbook. From *Blowin' in the Wind* to *Like A Rolling Stone*, *Hurricane* to *Knocking on Heaven's Door*. Hear the songs that changed the world, performed by an artist whose world was changed by Dylan's songs.

### **A Taste of Ireland – The Irish Music and Dance Sensation**

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2019 – 7:30 pm at the Bicentennial Hall, Crawford Street, Queanbeyan (Next to The Q)

Tickets: Adult: \$69.90, Concession: \$62.90, Child: \$49.90, Group of 8+: \$62.90 each, Family of 4: \$225

Book via [www.theq.net.au](http://www.theq.net.au) .

Told through Irish music and dance, **A Taste of Ireland** explores magical tales spanning generations of Irish storytelling and culture. This world-class show features World, All Ireland & National Champion Irish dancers, and musicians from around the globe performing unique music and dance that reflects the story that is Ireland.

### **Soweto Gospel Choir: *Freedom***

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August - 7:30pm at Llewellyn Hall

Tickets \$49.90 and 59.90 + booking fee (per transaction).

Go to [www.llewellynhall.com](http://www.llewellynhall.com) to book and for more information

Winner of the 2019 Grammy Award for Best World Music Album for their latest album *Freedom*, a collection of songs which celebrate and commemorate South Africa's democratic movements struggle for freedom, Soweto Gospel Choir now bring their *Freedom* concert to Australia for the first time.

In this uplifting and joyous repertoire, The Choir will perform a rousing program of freedom songs celebrating the life of the father of their Rainbow Nation, Nelson Mandela as well as international gospel classics including a spine-tingling take on Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah and an extraordinary rendition of Amazing Grace which has had over 15 million views on YouTube.

### **Paco Pena – *Esencias***

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October – Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden

Tickets: Dinner and Show – 6.00 pm, \$116.65 + BF; Show Only – 8.00 pm, \$81.65 +BF

One of the world's leading traditional Flamenco players, **Paco Peña** will be touring Australia with his *Esencias* tour in 2019.

Paco Peña is part of the phenomenon that has transformed the perceptions of Flamenco around the world. He expands his horizons as a guitarist, composer, dramatist and producer, beautifying Flamenco with flamboyance, while remaining true to the essence of this traditional Spanish art form.

The *Esencias* tour will feature a percussionist, singer, Flamenco dancer and guitarists from the Paco Peña Flamenco Dance Company. The show will truly inspire an audience of Flamenco lovers and first timers in an art form centuries old, yet relevant to today's society.

**Ed;s Note:** I didn't know much about James Bennett but an email from him arrived in my inbox so I investigated him via his website ([www.jamesbennettmusic.com](http://www.jamesbennettmusic.com)) and am listening to him on youtube as I write and I think he's folky enough to be in the Musings. He is launching his latest album *This Time Tomorrow* at Smith's Alternative on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September..



### **Canberra Album Launch**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September from 6:30 pm to 9:00pm

Smiths Alternative, Alinga Street

Tickets \$20 full, \$15 concessions via [www.smithsalternative.com](http://www.smithsalternative.com)

**Ed's Plea:** As you've probably all noticed I've been struggling a bit with the Musings over the last few months and it hasn't been going out on time. Also I don't feel I'm doing a good job in making it more interesting and informative. Furthermore I will be stopping work sometime this coming Spring and have plans to be off travelling

for quite long periods once that happens. I would welcome hearing from anyone who thinks they'd like to have a try at being Musings editor. Currently Linda Aunela does a great job of preparing the Dancing About section so you don't have to get all that together. Email me at [editor@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:editor@monarofolk.org.au) or call me on 0403599790. Thank you!



**Ed's Note:** As far as I know this (look left) is the first actual Sydney Folk Festival and it's taking place in various venues in Pitt Street, right in the CBD. Have a look at the website – [www.sydneyfolkfestival.com.au](http://www.sydneyfolkfestival.com.au) - for performers, programme, ticket prices etc.

Are you a **Billy Bragg** fan? This tour (look right) is a long way ahead but if you want to be there you are going to have to plan some travelling as Canberra is not on the agenda. Each venue hosts three different concerts, covering different phases of Billy's career, on three consecutive days. Have a look at the booking website [www.handsometours.com](http://www.handsometours.com) if you want to give it a go.

### Charlotte Pass Celtic Music Camp – January 2020

Welcome to the 5th year of this great camp situated in the magnificent Kosciuszko National Park. The dates are Friday 17<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020. Come and enjoy four days and five nights of workshops, sessions and great company.

Your hosts are musicians Dave O'Neill & Jo Cresswell with second tutor Kate Burke.

Two classes will be offered for multi-instruments based on learning tunes. One class will be for people who feel they are slower at picking up tunes by ear. The alternate class will be for people who learn by ear quickly. An accompaniment option will also be offered. Your tutors for both classes will be Dave O'Neill and Kate Burke who will teach one session a day with each class group. The music at camp will focus on Irish with meanderings into French Canadian, Cape Breton and Scottish tunes.

We will be staying at The Sundeck situated in stunning country at Perisher Valley. It is a 1.5 hour drive from Cooma or 2.5 hour drive from Canberra. More information and bookings at [www.charlottepasscelticmusiccamp.com](http://www.charlottepasscelticmusiccamp.com)



Presented by  
**Monaro Folk  
Society Inc.**



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**Merry Muse – Sunday August 11<sup>th</sup> from 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm**

**Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson Street, Weston**

Admission: \$3 MFS Members, Concessions, blackboard performers and \$5 Others

Please note that the Irish Club has asked that regular attendees also join the Irish Club

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August - Blackboard plus feature act Canberra Shanty Club**

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.

#### **CANBERRA SHANTY CLUB**



At the tail end of 2017 a small group of keen singers took it upon themselves to set sail on a journey of music, community and rousing good fun. Sea shanties were working songs for sailors, and the group set to work recruiting a crew. Now, less than two years later, the Canberra Shanty Club runs sessions which attract a diverse group - old and young, women and men, landlubbers and seafarers - to sing, stomp their feet and generally have a lot of fun.

With regular crowds of up to 40 people attending each shanty session, the structure is such that even first-timers with no idea of the words or tunes will end the night having joined in the choruses and call-and-response-sections of every song.

While some singers have a history with choirs and singing groups, others have no experience at all. Whatever your singing experience - once the song begins and the voices swell everybody finds a way to contribute.

Canberra Shanty Club is a supportive and friendly environment, welcoming to all. With blackboard appearances at the 2019 National Folk Festival and hosted singing sessions at the Bush Traditions Gathering 2018 under their belt, the club is now spreading their shanty singing to more festivals and venues, and spreading the rollicking good times far and wide.

<http://www.monarofolk.org.au/music/merry-muse-folk-club/>

Enquiries ph Eileen 0412 127 882 or email [eileennew23\(at\)gmail\(dot\)com](mailto:eileennew23(at)gmail(dot)com)

## Regular non-MFS Events (In alphabetical order)

**Beyond Q Bookshop Old Time American music jam sessions**, Weston Arcade, 11 Brierly St, Weston - alternate Wednesdays on the weeks that King O'Malley's Old Time American music session is NOT on. 4.00-6.00 pm.  
Contact: Donna Vaughan 6258 9845.

**Canberra Scottish Fiddlers** - A group for anyone with an interest in traditional Scottish fiddle music. Players with any level of experience are welcome to join. For more information, see our website [www.scottishfiddlers.com/Canberra](http://www.scottishfiddlers.com/Canberra) /or contact [markjenner@grapevine.com.au](mailto:markjenner@grapevine.com.au)

**Canberra Shanty Club** meets fortnightly on Mondays at 7.00 pm at the Old Canberra Inn,

**Earthly Delights Historic Costume Balls** – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 6281 1098

**English traditional music sessions**, Pot Belly, 5/26 Weedon Close, Belconnen - alternate Sundays, 3.00-5.00 pm.  
Contact: Donna Vaughan 6258 9845, Jackie Luke 0417 679 139.

**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 6286 6401

**Hoskinstown Acoustic Kitchen Jam** in the Hoskinstown Memorial Hall (old time American, bluegrass, folk) - 1st Thursday each month, 7.00-9.30 pm. Contact: Diane Cross 0402 644 450.

**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.

**King O'Malley's Old Time American** music jam session, 131 City Walk Civic – alternate Tuesdays on the weeks that Beyond Q Bookshop Old Time American jam session is NOT on, 7.00-10.00 pm . Contact: Donna Vaughan 6258 9845.

**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](mailto:wal.brewer@gmail.com)

**Queanbeyan Bush Poets** meet 4th Thursday each month at 7.00 pm at The Old School House, Christ Church, 39 Rutledge St., Queanbeyan. Contact: Laurie McDonald 6253 9856 or 0432 488 828

**Shape Note Singing** (aka Sacred Harp) - most Wednesdays 7.00-9.00 pm, at Ainslie Church of Christ hall, corner of Limestone Avenue and Grimes Street, Ainslie. Contact Dianne Porter for dates: email [porter.32@bigpond.com](mailto:porter.32@bigpond.com) or facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Canberrashapenote/>

**Surly Griffin Morris** practices fortnightly on Sundays from 5.30 to 7.00 pm at the Lake Ginninderra Sea Scouts Hall in Belconnen and performs at fetes and festivals and other occasions. Contact Simon Wall on 0404 859 404 or see facebook Surly Griffin Morris.

*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](mailto:president@monarofolk.org.au); Vice-President: David Ball; Secretary: Ian Bull – [secretary@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:secretary@monarofolk.org.au);

Treasurer: Matthew Gibbins - [treasurer@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:treasurer@monarofolk.org.au); Public Officer: Antonella Salpietro; Committee

Members: John Hewat, Anne Mathas. Nelly Rogers, Chris Ward. For general enquiries please use [secretary@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:secretary@monarofolk.org.au)

### **Appointed Officials**

Membership: Christine Gifford - [membership@monarofolk.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:editor@monarofolk.org.au); Bookkeeper: Linda Aunela – [payments@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:payments@monarofolk.org.au); Web Manager: Neil Glassford - [webmaster@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:webmaster@monarofolk.org.au)