

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 28, Number 11 – December 2019



MFS Christmas Dacne – Saturday 30th November at All Saints Church Hall

Photos by
Lawrie Brown



From the President's Soapbox

Best wishes to you all for the Christmas and New Year season!

Cheers Geoff

Dancing About

Please follow the link to the dance calendar for January to June 2020.

[file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/Calendar%202020-1%20FINAL%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/Calendar%202020-1%20FINAL%20(1).pdf)

A hard copy of the dance calendar should be available at dances in December

Dancing in the Park Mondays in December and January, except Dec 30th and Jan 27th. Dance and have fun with live music at these free events.

Not a dancer, but can play an instrument - then come along too, and join the band.

You will experience a variety of dance styles and callers as each night will have different leaders and themes. We also need musicians, so if you play an instrument please also come along to share in the fun.

This is held on Stage 88 (under cover, so we dance even if it rains) in Commonwealth Park from 6.45 pm, finishing when the light goes.

While this is a free event, there will be a gold coin donation bucket to help defray costs. Any contributions gratefully received.

If you would like to join us for a BYO picnic before the dancing, we meet under the vines, up the hill from Stage 88, near Regatta Point from about 5.45pm.

The usual bush dance workshops resume at All Saints Ainslie at 8.00 pm on February 2nd.

Contact person is Mark Simmons 0421 814 718



New Year's Eve Dance

Tuesday 31st December at the Yarralumla Woolshed from 8.00 pm until the new year.

Dance the evening away to *The Burnt Roast Band*, with Colin Towns and Bob Buckley calling.

Dances taught and called, so no experience is necessary.



Entry tickets at the door are just: \$25, \$23 for Groups and concessions, \$20 for MFS members (you can join at the door, pay for only 6 months), \$13 for students producing a full-time student card, under 18s free.

Please bring a plate of supper to share. BYO drinks but entry price includes a bottomless cup of tea, coffee, water or cordial.

Contact: Antonella asalpietro@hotmail.com



English Country Dancing.... is taking a break through December and January. Next session will be on February 10th 2020.

Contact person is Colin Towns 0417 020 615

Contra is on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in December 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.

December 17th is party night, so please bring a plate of supper, to share after the dancing. Dance to the invigorating music of our own ContraBand.

Contra will take a break from its normal routine in January and will return with new vigour on February 3rd.

“Contra in the Caves” will be on in January - see the **Out and About** section on page 5.

Contact person is Linda Aunela 0437 350 254, if emailing please put “Contra” in the subject line. lindaunela@yahoo.com.au



Irish Set Dancing On every Wednesday until the end of term mini-ceili and Christmas party on the 18th December. Free entry to this, but please bring a plate of supper to share, if your surname begins with ‘L’ to ‘Z’.

Classes will resume on Wednesday 5th February

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

photo:melbourneceilicamera.org'

Music, Music, Music

Australian Settler’s Music Sessions are held at the lovely Beyond Q Bookshop at 11, Brierley Street, Weston from 4.00 to 6.00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. Check with Ray Mulligan on 62474725 for more information and to find out what’s happening with the sessions over the Summer holidays.



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 2nd and 4th 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. **The last session for 2019 will be Tuesday 17th December and the first for 2020 will be Tuesday 14th January.** Please contact one of the organisers, Julie on 62823523 or Robert on 62919135, for more information.

The Merry Muse happens on the 2nd Sunday of the month - this month it’s on 8th December. It runs 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 6.

Out and About

Contra in the Caves is on again!



Cool off at the concert in the caves, join in a BBQ then heat up Wee Jasper Hall with some great dancing.

Camp over if you feel outdoorsy and cool off again in the Goodradigbee River or spring fed creeks.

Saturday 4th January 2020.

Concert: gold coin donation.

Dance: Free!

Camping: Normal fees apply.

Drive home or camp. Camping is available in the Billy Grace Campground. Normal charges apply (Please pay the ranger). Other accommodation is also available in Wee Jasper.

Itinerary: Attend what you want, don't feel you have to do everything.

3.00 pm - Tour of Careys cave (regular afternoon tour of the cave run by Geoff Kell - normal entry fees apply)

5:00 to 6:45pm - Concert in Careys Cave featuring members of the Canberra Contra Club and friends. A chance to hear some of the talent in the Contra group: Featuring The Canberra Contra Club and individual performances.

7:00 pm to 8:00 pm - Picnic: BYO nearly everything, to the covered picnic area outside Careys Cave. There is a BBQ that will be available and running. There are *some* tables and chairs.

8:30 pm to midnight - Contra Dance at Wee Jasper Memorial Hall.

Sunday morning in the camp ground informal sessions and then swimming at Micalong creek.

CanberraContraClub is on Facebook

The Ghost of Richard Manuel at 76 Alinga Street

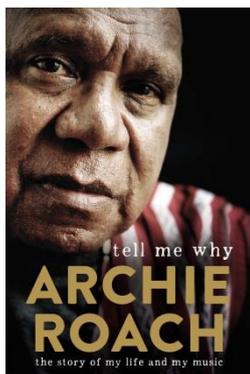


Woodstock wasn't at Woodstock (it was at Bethel, 100 kilometres away) but lots of good music was made there. Especially in the basement of a house called Big Pink, where Bob Dylan and The Band invented "Americana" and in the "midnight ramble" rent parties that The Band's Levon Helm held, when he returned to Woodstock many years later. Current Woodstock residents (when they're not on tour) Mike and Ruthy brought some of that Woodstock musical spirit to Smith's Alternative (which reminded them of a New York sidewalk cafe or a venue in Portsmouth, New

Hampshire), on Thursday 7 November. The Woodstock connection was particularly strong when they sang *The Ghost of Richard Manuel*. It was as if the ghost of that brilliant singer was with us at 76 Alinga Street. "Hey Richard, hey Richard won't you sing 'Tears of Rage' just one more time?"

It was an all Americana evening. Folk met country met indie rock spirit. There was blues (Woody Guthrie's *Dust Bowl Blues* with the blues put back in, Ruthy belting out an Etta James number) as well as bluegrass (a memorable bluegrass version of Richard Thompson's 1952 *Black Vincent Lightning* with banjo pyrotechnics from Mike). Ruthy had us all singing along with *My Baby Drinks Water*, an environmental plea for clean water. Another highlight was the opener *Bright As You Can*, a song which includes advice from a mother, a father, a lover, a suitcase and a baby. I particularly liked the suitcase's contribution: be as light as you can. Ruthy introduced the final song as a Scottish tune written by a Brooklyn Jew (her dad Jay Ungar), a tune that people think comes from the American Civil War, the beautiful *Ashokan Farewell*. A perfect finish. The good news is that Mike and Ruthy will be back, with their band The Mammals, for the 2020 National. Don't miss them.

Archie Roach Book and CD Launch



ANU and *The Canberra Times* (in association with ANU School of Music and ANU National Centre for Indigenous Studies) featured Indigenous singer Archie Roach in their *Meet the Author* series at Llewellyn Hall on Friday 15 November. The event served as the Canberra launch for Archie's memoir *Tell Me Why* and the accompanying CD. Archie was interviewed by John Paul Janke, co-host of NITV's flagship news and current affairs show *The Point* and Co-Chair of the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre in Canberra. The interview ranged over Archie's life. Archie talked about his adoptive parents, the Coxes, who taught him Scottish ballads and gave him an appreciation of Hank Williams. He talked about the letter he got from his sister when he was 15 about the parents he'd never known; about going to Sydney and ending up homeless and a drinker; about the camaraderie of the homeless drinkers; about coming back to Melbourne and meeting his siblings. He talked about a summer spent fruit picking and tossing a coin after it as to whether he'd go to Adelaide or return to Melbourne. He went to Adelaide and stayed in the Salvation Army People's Palace Hotel, where he met up with the love of his life Ruby Hunter, a fine singer in her own right, who encouraged his song-writing. He spoke about the impact of *Took the Children Away* on Indigenous audiences, particularly members of the stolen generation. The first time he sang it in Sydney, there was total silence for a little while, then enthusiastic cheering. Archie also mentioned Framlingham Mission Aboriginal elder Banjo Clarke, who encouraged him to write *Took the Children Away* and Paul Kelly, who helped him record it. After the interview, Archie sang two songs: *Open Your Eyes* (the first song he ever wrote) and *Tell Me Why* (thinking about what happened to the parents he was taken away from when he was 2). Both songs are on *Tell Me Why*, the companion CD to the memoir. It has 18 tracks, one for each chapter. The CD or the book, or both, would make a fine Christmas gift for any folkie. Certainly, it was good to be at Llewellyn Hall to hear one of the great men of Australian song talk about his life and, of course, to hear him sing.

MFS Music Travels the Seas with Julie

I wish to share with my MFS friends my recent 10 days on the Radiance of the Seas cruise ship, 3rd time privileged to be invited to play music with this wonderful professional duo, my Philipino friends, Richard Mendoza on Violin, and Onofre Nisay on guitar.

Over several public sets on the ship we played 60 pieces, including 50 of our TNMG repertoire. Now they are continuing to sail the seven seas, playing our TNMG music, including what I gave them when we played together in 2015 and 2012. They love the music, as do the passengers. I was thanked by the Captain, the Cruise Director, Music Director, staff and passengers. What a great "bucket list thrill" and honour!

In striving to make your dreams come true, it is wonderful when they do!
Julie Szabo, Tuesday Night Music Group Co-ordinator



Photo by Michael Szabo



Ed's note: I can't seem to find a website that says anything about this year's festival. There is a facebook page – Numeralla Folk Festival – but that's not very informative either. However, we all know the ropes for Numeralla after 40 plus years! I wonder if anyone reading this was at the first one.

Numeralla is the closest to us of the summer holiday folk festivals but if you feel like going further afield you might like to check out the following: Nariel Creek (www.facebook.com/narielcreek.folkfestival/); Gulgong (www.gulgongfolkfestival.net.au); Woodford (www.woodfordfolkfestival.com)

Finally best wishes to you for the holiday season from your acting editor, Tina

Presented by
**Monaro Folk
Society inc.**



Merry Muse: Sunday December 8th – 4.00 pm to 7.00 pm

Canberra Irish Club - 6, Parkinson St Weston

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

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

Sunday December 8th - Blackboard plus feature act Jeff and DeeJ

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.

Feature Act Jeff and DeeJ



Jeff & DeeJ is Canberra acoustic Roots duo, Jeff Prime and Dorothy-Jane 'Deej' 'DJ' Gosper. Together they play heart-stirring original ballads and toe-tapping Traditional Blues.

Dorothy-Jane is recognised nationally for her expressive contralto vocal, honest lyrics, outstanding harmonica playing and captivating stage presence. She first hit the Folk scene in 2004 with vocal harmony trio, The Blues Cowgirls. Since then she has played countless Folk, Blues and Jazz clubs, Festivals, pubs, halls and house concerts, and released 8 albums and 2 EPs. Add Jeff's "steeped in the Blues" resonator and wooden guitar accompaniment and you have an earthy yet sophisticated powerhouse duo that is Jeff & DeeJ.

On Sunday, Jeff & DeeJ will perform songs from their beautiful album, "Blues By Candlelight".

Website link: http://dorothyjanegosper.com/jeff_and_deej

<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 (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 /or contact 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 – 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 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 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 – 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.

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

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 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; Vice-President: David Ball; Secretary: Ian Bull – secretary@monarofolk.org.au; Treasurer: Rod Peters - treasurer@monarofolk.org.au; Public Officer: Antonella Salpietro; Committee Members, Linda Aunela, Matt Gibbins, John Hewaat, Anne Mathas. . For general enquiries please use secretary@monarofolk.org.au

Appointed Officials

Membership: Christine Gifford - 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: Neil Glassford - webmaster@monarofolk.org.au

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