

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 29, Number 1 – February 2020



Images from the final night of Dancing in the Park for Summer 2020

Photos by David Hunter

From the President's Soapbox

A very sad beginning to the year with the impact of the bushfires on the lives of many, including those in the folk community living in some of the devastated areas, such as Cobargo. The following is a message sent to me by Zena Armstrong, coordinator of the annual Cobargo Folk Festival. The link to the recovery fund is now on the front page of the MFS website.

Our small rural village of Cobargo on the NSW Far South Coast was one of the hardest hit by the bushfires that have devastated so much of eastern Australia this year. This is a community-led fundraiser to help Cobargo manage its recovery and ensure the village survives this disaster. Cobargo was overwhelmed by a massive firestorm on New Year's Eve. Three people died in the conflagration including father and son Robert and Patrick Salway. A fourth person died later in hospital. At least 108 homes were destroyed, more than 400 properties badly damaged, our farms have been devastated, thousands of animals killed, our forests burnt and the historic heart of our beautiful village was razed to the ground. The neighbouring village of Quaama was similarly fire ravaged. We need to do all we can to ensure our village recovers from this disaster. Cobargo needs to restore the confidence of its community, help people deal with the long-term trauma of these fires, restore the local economy and local jobs, and regenerate our natural environment. In our rebuilding we want to implement more sustainable solutions for energy usage, including a village micro-grid. We also want to improve the readiness of our village and localities to deal with future disasters. Our aim is to ensure that we emerge from this tragedy as a stronger, regenerative community, guided by regenerative principles. We need your help to do this. The Cobargo Community Bushfire Recovery Fund has been set up by four of Cobargo's leading not-for-profit community groups to raise funds to help Cobargo recover and rebuild. The Fund will be used for projects that benefit the recovery of the whole community. It is run by community volunteers, so overheads and admin costs will be kept low. This group will help lead the community discussion on the future of our village. Projects will be identified through community consultation; developed and implemented by local people, drawing on expert help as needed. The fund is an initiative of the Cobargo Folk Festival and the Yuin Folk Club Inc, the Bowerbird Opportunity Shop, the Cobargo Cooperative Society Ltd and the Cobargo Show Society Inc. It will be managed transparently and fully audited. Each of these organisations are run by reputable committees and all have a history of giving back to the community. Safeguarding the reputations of our village and our parent organisations by ensuring this fund is properly managed is a priority. While we are shattered by what has happened to our region, we are full of hope for the future. All enquiries, including media, to cobargofund@gmail.com All contributions, big and small, welcomed. You can contribute through this GoFundMe page or directly to: Cobargo Community Bushfire Recovery Fund. Bendigo Bank BSB: 633 000 Account no: 171 210 016 Thank you. Zena

The Resound Bushfire Appeal has also begun an appeal for replacement of instruments lost in the fires:

“We are after 3 bodhrans, 4 irish tin whistles, xylo drum, tdarbuka, pan pipes/flute, Vietnamese Dan bau, banjos, recorders,djembe, chromatic harmonica, tambourine, blues harmonica, autoharp with pickups. These are for musicians who lost their instruments on the nsw south coast fires. I'm wondering if your network would have anyone who could help us? Our website is www.resound.org.au and we are a program of the Music Trust/Australian Arts Trust. Thanks! “ Please contact Rachel Hocking <rachel@resound.org.au> 0424 071 914 directly if you can help.

Closer to home, workshops resume this week for all groups. We are beginning promotion for our 50th anniversary – the Gala Ball is in 5 weeks and the big day at the Woolshed is in 8 weeks. We now have a few people prepared to work in a promotions group, however we will need some assistance from more of you in general. For example: we need someone to just phone around to clubs, associations and work social clubs to make contact with their social coordinator; someone to email to our list of schools to find out when their monthly newsletters go out and who the contact person is. Don't be worried about your reception – these people are more than happy to have information for their members, and you don't need special skills, just some time to do it. Every bit of help spreads the load from those trying to get the task done. But we need to move now as deadlines approach quickly!

We intend to place paid ads in a number of publications, and hope to have at least one agree to do a feature on the 50th Anniversary. However, to be effective these need to be accompanied by editorial material supplied by us as well as good, dynamic, interesting images. Therefore, we need people who can write copy for this as well as supply images and ideas.

So, if you can assist in any way, please contact us as soon as possible at: <promotion@monarofolk.org.au>

Finally, to those of you in fire prone areas – we wish you the best in getting through the next months safely.

Geoff

Vale Col Wright

Many of us older folk in MFS remember Col with great affection for his music, his stewardship of the Merry Muse for many years, his kindness and humour and just for being an amazing bloke. The words below are from his 'bestest friend' Annie van Herck, who spoke them at his funeral in Wellington, New Zealand.

Tina

'I would like to thank all of you for coming today and being with Megan and me to give Col a good farewell. And thank you also to all those who sent lovely comments by email and on Facebook. There were lots from overseas, so I know that all his faraway friends and huge Australian family are with us today, not to mourn but to celebrate this beautiful man's life and character.



And a character he was too with his sailor's cap in the early years, then his Akubra later, larger than life, a monument of the folk music world, a passionate performer, entertainer, organiser, storyteller, song and poem writer, folk news editor, radio man, but also a builder, an artist, a gardener, a farmer.

He was a natural performer and loved an audience, whether on stage or in real life. I'm sure he loves this funeral, watching us from up there in the stars. Imagine, being the centre of attention, and having all these nice things said about him without having to do anything ! It must be paradise !

I loved his beautiful deep voice. He played guitar and melodeon, never a virtuoso (he had better things to do than practice !). He used to call himself a "3 chord folky", but good enough to accompany his songs confidently and to play in the bushband the "Mugwumps" years ago.

He loved American and Australian folk music, spending several months in the States discovering the likes of Gordon Bok and Stan Rogers, and Victory Music. There he played to probably the largest audiences he'd ever had. He used to introduce himself as

coming from "Awe-strucking-failure". Once the MC said it wrong !

He was a storyteller and loved traditional poetry, bush poetry that rhymes and tells a story. He belonged to the Queanbeyan Bush Poets Club in Australia, where he met one of his best mates Dave Meyers who wrote the poem you are going to hear in a minute. Unfortunately Dave passed away 10 years ago, just a few days after Col's son, Greg, was killed in a truck accident in Canada. It was a horribly sad time for Col.



Col reached his peak in poetry with the "Ballycastle Fair" that was given to him directly by the author Will Millar of the Irish Rovers. It took about 8 minutes to recite. Col brought several people to tears with that poem which won him the Wellington Folk Festival Bush Poetry Award in 2010.

Col also wrote a few songs and poems, among them one about the Erebus disaster. But he would also tell stories all the time about things that happened or that he did, embellishing reality in such a way that you wouldn't have dared mention the real facts ! That made him very entertaining and there wasn't a boring moment in his company. He would tell all sorts of jokes in all situations. So got many a blank look from supermarket cashiers and the doctors and carers didn't always know what to think of his funny answers to their straight questions !



Col loved organising and running events. He started with dances in Australia, folk clubs in Wellington and Canberra which he ran for many years, dedicating all his time and energy to them. Folk festivals again in Wellington and Canberra where he contributed to the National by running the venue named after the Folk Club, the Merry Muse.

In Australia he also organised his own festival on the farm which people nicknamed "Colstock". He would prepare it for months and turn the place into a Hollywood setting with a great scenario: stage on the lake for a concert, lights everywhere then darkness while a boat drifted with a piper, then the Lady of the Lake all in white singing a beautiful song, a birthday cake with candles drifting on the water,

pulled by an invisible string. It's worth reading the article written about it, in the book in the foyer. There was no boundary to Col's imagination. And he didn't care about the cost.

Col would also organise concerts at the community hall near the farm in Bungendore. But he didn't just book performers, he would build a whole set in the background, sometimes spending a whole week working on it by himself !

Col liked to introduce people to Australian culture when he was overseas and organised slide-shows with the "tastes and sounds of Australia", singing songs and even distributing bread and vegemite.

In Germany where he spent a few years he would organise house concerts for travelling performers. Mike Harding was one.

Col was also himself a great audience, attending all folk clubs around where he lived and supporting local performers.

Col had another side to him : the builder, gardener, artist and photographer. He loved renovating and improving the place wherever he lived.



His big project was his farm near Canberra, Spring Valley. One visitor to Colstock described it "I was astounded in the first instant of my arrival by the most wonderful gardens, trees and lawns that surrounded a lagoon with two islands, one connected by an arched white bridge" (which Colin built) "and set up for BBQ, the other a small wilderness island."

Yes, Col transformed a few paddocks into an oasis of gardens and trees. One neighbour wrote "He has been a shining light among us, helping, sharing, creating such an oasis of beauty in his property which many tried to match but in vain". Most people around raised sheep and cows, Col planted trees and flowers. He had an eye for beauty and was also very good at drawing and lettering. His beautiful handwriting amazed everyone (even the police who said they hung his letter on the wall when he wrote a big tall story to avoid a fine. They were so impressed they waived the fine).

His skill at lettering and sign-writing was very useful for folk music events. He created many beautiful signs for the concerts he organised and also the folk club banner which is still in use at present. His songbooks with songs and illustrations done by hand are a real work of art.

Col was a very generous man, never measuring his time to help others, never asking for money. Friendship or "mateship" was all important to him. In his folk music activities, he encouraged and supported lots of budding performers who later became great musicians, or not. He was particularly fond of helping young damsels in distress. That he could not resist, but always remained a gentleman and the many lady friends that he charmed knew they could come and cry on his shoulder. He was a good listener. He even charmed the carers at the rest home who will remember him for a long time I think.



He also helped his neighbours in the farming community. One neighbour wrote when Col left the farm : "His willingness to provide assistance and make his equipment available (tractors and machinery) often at considerable cost to himself in both money and time will be remembered by us all." His specialty was actually burying dead horses !

Col was always ready to volunteer for the community, whether it be for folk music (he received a certificate of appreciation from the Australian National Folk Festival in 1999 for his contribution) or for the local people. He was nominated for the ACT Volunteer of the Year Award 2000 for significant contribution to the community. That was after spending several months building a big verandah for the local hall.

Col was a precious man. Again a neighbour's quote : "I don't think any of us could expect to encounter someone of Col's beauty and self sacrifice twice in any lifetime". He had no vices : no drinking, no smoking (he gave up after I told him off for burning a hole into one of my napkins with a cigarette). His only vices were probably telling porkies (quite normal for a storyteller) and charming the ladies.

He was a family man and never missed an opportunity to visit his many relatives in Australia, all on the East Coast in New South Wales and Queensland. His twin sister Noreen passed away before they could have their 160th birthday in 2013 but he still had his sister Meg and his brother Doug as well as a myriad of nieces and nephews, grand and great nieces and nephews. He suffered greatly from the loss of his son and unfortunately was too frail to go to the funeral or visit Greg's children in Canada.

He loved travelling and meeting new people. He went to the States, Canada, Germany, France. He would talk to anyone, even people on the street that he had never met. After a while in any one place, he would know half the population, and they remembered him of course. He had this character look that made artists want to draw or paint him and got him a job on the Hobbit as a Laketowner.

To me he was the “bestest” friend in the world. He always supported me, even in my running (for which he had no understanding whatsoever). When I was preparing for my first marathon, I had to train around the bays at night. He would drive behind me slowly to light up the way !

He could be a stubborn Aussie as well. He called me “Little Napoleon” and would often ignore instructions and keep doing what he wanted.

Now Col, lovely friend, I wish you a great trip to the stars where I will find you one day. You are now with your dear son and your beloved mother. You used to look at a special star in the sky and say it was her.

Annie van Herck

Dancing About



2nd Saturday Dance Held on 8th February, at All Saints from 7.00 pm to 10.30 pm. 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 and called by our expert callers, 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.



Dancers' DanceThe next Dancers' Dance will be held on 22nd February at All Saints from **7.00 pm** to 10:30 pm. The dances are aimed at **experienced** dancers only. They may be difficult or they may be easier but with no walk throughs and little calling. Expect Irish, Scottish, Contra, Bush, Bavarian, English Country to name a few.

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.

Do bring friends **if** they are experienced dancers.

Live music by the Bush Capital Band.

Monday WorkshopsEvery Monday in February, so come to All Saints at 8.00 pm.

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





Contrais on 1st and 3rd 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, 2nd time free. No need to bring a partner but please bring some friends to share the fun. Dance to the Contact person is Linda Aunela 0437 350 254, if emailing please put "Contra" in the subject line. lindaaunela@yahoo.com.au

English Country Dancing.... is on 2nd and 4th 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.... On every Wednesday until 8th April.

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'

MFS Gala Anniversary Ball



With all dancing recommencing in February, it's time to start looking at some of the special events coming up in 2020, as the MFS celebrates its 50th Anniversary.

The first of these is the Gala Anniversary Ball, which will take place on Saturday March 7th at the Albert Hall, with dancing starting at 7.00 pm. This event is a double celebration, as it also marks the 30th Wedding Anniversary of regular dancers Roni and Adrian Giacobetti, who instigated the event. All dancers are invited to this very special double celebration.

Entry is just \$20 (an absolute bargain for any dance at Albert Hall) with a bring-a-plate supper after the dancing at about 10.30 pm. There will be water and tea/coffee provided, bring anything else you'd like.

The format of the evening dance (there will also be a "by invitation only" New Vogue dance during the day) is that there will be a number of experienced callers, but only limited walk throughs, with most dances being repeated (so

those who can't find a partner or set will get a second chance). Some couples dances will be led from the floor. The majority of dances will be well known to regular dancers, and as many dances as possible will be practiced at the Monday night Bush Dance Workshops leading up to the Ball.

The full program of dances will be posted on the MFS web site and advised by MFS Announce, but here are some to get you tempted:

Blackwattle Reel, Maxina, Casuarina Waltz, Valeta Waltz, Levi Jackson, Posties Jig, Queen of Sheba, Australian Ladies, Love 'em and Leave 'em, Arkansas Traveller, Swing Waltz, and more.

Dress for the evening is formal - Ball Gowns, Tails and Top Hats, or smart after 5 evening wear (long dresses and suits). Military Dress Uniform, Kilts, and Colonial Gowns are also perfectly acceptable.

There is no need to book, and doors will open at 6.30 pm for the Ball. Also, if you'd like to take a look at the New Vogue dancing during the day, you can go upstairs to the viewing gallery anytime between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm, for free.

This is the link for full details: www.monarofolk.org.au/gala-anniversary-ball-2020/

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 9th February. 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 .

Canberra Celtic Choir friendly social choir. Choir sings Irish, Scottish and Welsh music in two, three and four part harmonies. All welcome. No auditions. Rehearsals on Mondays 7.30 - 9.00 pm at the Canberra Irish Club in Weston. First meeting for 2020 is 3rd February. For more details, follow us on Facebook, email canberracelticchoir1@gmail.com or just pop in and see us one Monday evening.

Saturday Slow Session An Informal group, all instruments and levels welcome. Music provided. Saturdays 2.00 – 4.00 pm, Canberra Irish Club in Weston. First meeting for 2020 on Saturday 1st February. For more information contact Anna at acrab@netspeed.com.au

Ed's Note: The above two regular events have just been brought to my notice - thanks, Mandy Scott – and I hope one or the other may satisfy someone's need to sing or play music if they are not already doing plenty of that! These will be added to the back page listings in future issues of the Musings. I hope there is room for them! It's great that we have such a variety of instrumental sessions, choirs and dance groups in our region. Must be something for everyone.

Out and About

A very sad message from the organisers of the Cobargo Folk Festival:

The 2020 Cobargo Folk festival has been postponed as we regather, recover and rebuild after the devastating fire that swept through our village on New Year's Eve 2019.

The Australian Blues Music Festival in Goulburn



In 2020, the festival will run over 3 days, 7th to 9th February, featuring over 25 incredible blues acts at seven fabulous pubs and clubs around beautiful Goulburn from various starting times through to 12.30 am. In addition to this, in 2020 we are thrilled to welcome to the festival, headline entertainment featuring BACKSLIDERS, 2011 Aria Blues & Roots nominees and iTunes Australia Blues and Roots Album of the Year winners, Kate Lush Band, Liza Ohlback and many other fabulous acts, along with a celebration of local talent in School Yard Blues.

Due to the heartbreaking bushfire crisis that is currently occurring across NSW and Australia, the previously advertised ticketed event will now be a FREE event, so that affected families, friends and neighbouring communities who have been dealing with this unprecedented disaster, can escape to the festival to have some healing time out, whilst enjoying some beautiful blues music, within a supportive community. We will invite all of our patrons to make a donation at the door of each of the festival venues, with all door proceeds going to the bushfire appeal. All festival attendees who have already purchased a ticket will be immediately refunded as quickly as possible.

Performances can be seen at multiple Goulburn venues including:- Goulburn Workers Club, Goulburn Soldiers Club, Tattersalls Hotel, Astor Hotel, Southern Railway Hotel, Goulburn Club, and Goulburn Railway Bowling Club. Enjoy 3 days of exceptional Blues and Roots music in a fantastic festival atmosphere!

See website <https://www.australianbluesfestival.com/> to see who's playing and full programme.

Beginners World Dance Classes with Folk Dance Canberra



Wednesday nights, 7.30 – 9.00 pm (starting 5th February 2020)

Learn the Gypsy Polka, Russian 'Troika', Peruvian 'Chilili', Albanian 'Valle Pogonishte', Turkish 'Hastayim', Romanian 'Sarba de la Eninsala' and many more wonderful dances to inspiring music from countries around the world. Folk Dance Canberra is a community club promoting fitness and well-being through world dance. No partner necessary. All welcome.

Bookings and enquiries: 6286 6401 (Lesley)

Cost: \$10.50 per class (discount for term payment)

FDC also runs World Dance Classes for young people, with groups for two to four years (with parent or carer), four to seven years and eight years +

Cost: \$8 per class (discounts for term payment and family discounts). Enquiries: 0420 524 412 (Rebecca)

Fred Smith launches his latest CD – *Domestic* – at Kambri on ANU Campus

I write to let you know that tickets are on sale at the end of [this link for the CD Launch concert](#) for *Domestic* at the new Kambri Cultural Centre on the ANU campus on 14th February.

The show will be on Valentine's Day, so if you are feeling a faint sense of anxiety about what to do that evening, angst no more!

You could go out for a romantic dinner for two (or one as the case may be) at one of a number of chic new restaurants on the new ANU precinct (<https://kambri.com.au/eat-drink-shop/>)...



...then slide across the courtyard to the show which starts at the idiosyncratic time of **7:45 pm** -: late enough for you to fit in dinner; early enough to get home to relieve the babysitter before he or she falls asleep! We think of everything here at Fred Smith Enterprises.

Illawarra Folk Festival Thank You Concert

7.30pm, Friday 7th February, City Diggers Wollongong

FACEBOOK EVENT

All are welcome to the 2020 Illawarra Folk Festival Volunteer Thank You concert. Artists performing include **The Humphreys** (Friends of Steve) and **Donna and Rick Nestler** (Dirty Stay Out Skifflers, USA).

Volunteers, accommodation billeters and sponsors have free entry in recognition of their support. If you were not a volunteer, then you are very welcome to come for a mere \$15 as an Illawarra Folk Club Member or \$20 as a non member (why not join up on the night to receive \$5 discount at all concerts during the year).

It will be a great night and hope to see you there.

Folk by the Sea is a long time away yet but just to let you know that artist applications close on 30th March. This is the link to apply:

https://folkbythesea.com.au/2020_artist_application



THE WITNESS" ALBUM LAUNCH
Sunday 22nd March 4.00 pm
 Smith's Alternative, Canberra City

5 piece band plus special guests: John Mackey (saxophone) and Julia Horvath (cello)

Revel in dance, music, fashion & games of our past!

~ 18-19 APRIL 2020 ~

Novice & experienced dancers welcome!
 Regency, Victorian or smart dress welcome!

A great dance floor in a heritage venue. Learn while living history!

On SATURDAY enjoy	On SUNDAY enjoy
10:30am morning tea	10am morning tea,
11am dance class,	10:30 dance class,
1pm buffet lunch,	12:30 costume
2pm dance class,	parade, period
4pm free time	games, &
then Grand	bring-your-
7-till-midnight	own picnic,
Ball with	then 2-6pm
march,	Afternoon
quadrilles,	Tea Dance
longways sets,	with dozens
couples dances	of fun dance
& supper.	games!



Dances led by dance historian Dr John Gardiner-Garden & special guests. Fine music by Earthly Delights players led by fabulous pianist Sally Taylor.

All weekend good company, costume gallery, complimentary refreshments, and marketplace with dance books, period patterns, fabric, clothing and hats.

Book at www.earthlydelights.com.au/upcoming

CANBERRA AND REGION
HERITAGE FESTIVAL
 REIMAGINE 14 APRIL-5 MAY 2020

Early bird ticket just \$75 if purchased before Christmas 2019.
 Group and family discounts.
 For more information



phone Aylwen on 0409817623 or email john@earthlydelights.com.au

Book also for **FRIDAY 17 APRIL** 7-9 pm talk on and viewing of ~ 19th cent. dance prints, manuals, music and ball cards ~ at John & Aylwen's Yarralumla home.
 Free to ticket holders.

Presented by
**Monaro Folk
Society Inc.**



Merry Muse Sunday February 9th – 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 February 9th: Tribute to Col Wright Blackboard plus feature act Cassidy's Ceili



Col Wright, who ran the Merry Muse with Annie Van Herck from 1993 to 2001, passed away on Friday 10th January in Wellington NZ after a long battle with vascular dementia and prostate cancer. He went peacefully with his best friend Annie at his side. Col was a wonderful man with a generous spirit and wicked sense of humour and also a great performer. “A very great amount of the thing that The Merry Muse became both at the Canberra venues it inhabited and at The National Folkie was directly linked to his vision and love for the thing that he had fostered over the years that he and Annie contributed so capably in the ways that they did. “ Billy Folkus. “ His legacy is clear in that he left his beloved folk music attitudes & perspectives for all of us to build on.” Baz Cooper. He is also remembered for his mini-festivals, Colstock, at his property outside Canberra.

We are inviting people who knew Col, particularly those who performed at the Merry Muse in the years he ran it to come along and pay tribute to Col. Come along and share your memories of Col and some songs. And if you didn't know him come along anyway – Col always welcomed strangers.

Cassidy's Ceili



guitar and banjo and Sandy and Peter harmonising with Cassidy for some fine three-part vocals you are in for a real treat.

The feature act for the day will be well known Canberra band Cassidy's Ceili – Col Wright introduced Cassidy to Sandy and the rest is history. Cassidy's Ceili play celtic influence music from delicate ballads to full on Irish pub music including the Pogues and some jigs, reels and airs to round out the mix. With Cassidy Richen's amazing voice and Sandy Gibbney starring on fiddle, Peter Richens on

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

Enquiries ph Eileen 0412 127 882 or email 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.

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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.

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