

# 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 29, Number 2 – March 2020

### The Merry Muse honours Col Wright



Simone, Pam, Phil and Pete



Baz



Cassidy's Ceili

There was a great turnout to pay tribute to Col Wright at the Merry Muse on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February - with several people on the blackboard sharing memories of Col. Some of the people making up the audience were long-time friends of Col and Annie when they lived outside Canberra and Laurie MacDonald brought along a poster Col had designed which displayed his own beautiful handwriting. Cassidy's Ceili did a fine set as the feature act then led the audience in singing Wild Mountain Thyme and they did a fantastic rendition of I'll Fly Away for an encore .  
Eileen

### From the President's Soapbox

Autumn seems to be on its way, with a marvellous, welcome turn around in the weather.

March brings us to two events for the 50th Anniversary, the first being the Gala Ball on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>. I believe Linda will have covered this fairly well in the dance items below, however let me add that we would really like to see as many of our dancers, past and present, to celebrate Roni and Adrian's anniversary as well as that of MFS. You are welcome to bring friends, but please point out them that to keep the evening flowing there will be minimal walkthroughs, so they do need to be dancers. The Bush Capital Band, under the stress-free leadership of Dave Wardle, has actually been rehearsing (!) pieces such as the devilish Entrance of the Queen of Sheba so it is shaping up to be an excellent evening. The program is on the webpage: [www.monarofolk.org.au/gala-anniversary-ball-2020/](http://www.monarofolk.org.au/gala-anniversary-ball-2020/)

Saturday 28 March will be the Big Day at the Woolshed. It kicks off with the Kids Bush Dance, followed by stage performances of members past and present, interspersed with an Irish Set dance session and a Contradance session. It will culminate with the Shearers Ball from 8.00 - 11.30, with music by the Bush Capital Band.

We are currently working on promoting this event to the public – Anne, Gina and new member Shirley, have done a great job in contacting ACT schools to promote the Kids Dance and we are gradually building a data base to make future promotion easier. We will also be placing paid ads in some Canberra publications which helps to secure editorial space. So, start telling people you know about the event and encourage them to attend. The more, the merrier.

As I have said a number of times, promotion is important if the society is to move forward (survive) and this should not all be down to a couple of people. So once again, I ask if you can assist in planning, copywriting, design, decorating, or just providing bodies to help get things set up, to please step forward. You can always contact me at: [president@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:president@monarofolk.org.au)

Performers: we still have stage spots open for solos or groups for the 50th at YWS, so if you would like to be part of it, please get in touch with me. We have also set up a Google spreadsheet with the proposed schedule: [MFS 50th Anniversary](#). You can claim a spot or just take a look to see what is happening. Geoff

# Dancing About

## Dancing - Special Events

### **GALA ANNIVERSARY BALL – Saturday 7th March**



The Gala Anniversary Ball, will take place on Saturday March 7th at the Albert Hall, doors open at 6.30pm, with dancing starting at 7pm. This event is a double celebration, as it marks the start of the MFS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, as well as the 30th Wedding Anniversary of regular dancers Roni and Adrian Giacobetti, who instigated this year's 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 10.30pm. There will be water and tea/coffee provided, bring anything else you'd like.

There is no need to book, and doors will open at 6.30pm for the Ball.

The format of the evening dance will be a number of experienced callers, but only limited walk throughs, with some 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 has been posted on the MFS web site and advised by MFS Announce. Please look at <http://www.monarofolk.org.au/gala-anniversary-ball-2020/>

Here is a glimpse to get you tempted:

Blackwattle Reel, Maxina, Casuarina Waltz, Valeta Waltz, Levi Jackson Rag, 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 will be a New Vogue dance during the day. If you dance New Vogue, you are welcome, otherwise you may watch for free from the viewing gallery upstairs anytime between 10am and 3pm, for free.

Finally, if you can spare 30 minutes from 8.30am, helpers to put out chairs and tables are needed and all help gratefully received.

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Big Day at the Woolshed – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

This is the main showcase event for the MFS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

An afternoon's program is planned, and a schedule will be published on the website in a couple of weeks. However, for now, the day will begin with a Kids Bush Dance about midday with music by the Tin Mugs band. This will be followed by stage performances, interspersed with an Irish Set Dance join in session and a Contra Dance join in session. A feature act to finish and the Shearers ball at 8.00pm. The activities during the day are free to the public but there is an entry cost for the Shearers' Ball.

Watch this space: [www.monarofolk.org.au/monaro-folk-society-50th-anniversary/](http://www.monarofolk.org.au/monaro-folk-society-50th-anniversary/)



## Regular Features

**Monday Workshops ...** Every Monday except the public holiday on 9<sup>th</sup> March, so come to All Saints at 8.00 pm on all but that date.

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



**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....** 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](mailto:isdcanberra@gmail.com)

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

## Bush Capital Band at Cooma Fundraiser

### Bush Fire Fundraising Dance, Cooma – held on Saturday, 15th February



The MFS was invited to contribute dance callers and musicians to assist the Cooma Baptist Church run a fund raiser to acknowledge the heroic work done by the RFS, SES and volunteers, and to help restoration of wildlife in the area.

Eleven musicians, supported by Colin and Peter calling the dances, put on a show which greatly exceeded the locals' expectations. And some dancers from Canberra also travelled down. The audience were fantastic, enthusiastic and over half were aged below 25.

I believe that the door take and raffle/auction raised nearly \$3,000 to be split equally between the local RFS and LAOKO (the local wildlife rescue group).

Top Left: Fire Hose Reel called by Peter

Bottom Right: "Fire!" adapted from Troika, called by Colin

Middle Left: Stars in one of Peter's dances.

To make the evening special, I suggested that Peter and I chose, or re-purposed, well known dances with appropriate pantomiming/actions - some of which I'd like to share with you:

"Gateway to the Snow" is Circassian Circle with dancers going in and out using skiing or snow boarding actions. Swings are the cable car winches, and promenade back to the chalet.

"Bob Sled" is Bridge of Athlone with line of competitors forward and back 'good to meet you' followed by 'hope you don't win'. The Head couples waves the start flag and rush to the bottom of the set, and the others holding waists in front cast their bob sled down to the bottom and through the finish flags waved by the original Head couple.

"Fire!" is Troika with lines upwards and back shouting "Fire" instead of "Oi". The middle person acting as a kangaroo, wombat, cockatoo weaves figure 8s around the outside 2 who stand as trees. Then circle as a fire hose, whooshing the fire out as you stamp.

Those of you who attended the Bush Dance in October 2019 run by MFS as a fund raiser for the Special Olympics will recognise some of the original ideas. I have to say I had so much fun dreaming up these reboots, and encourage others to give it a go.

Thanks to all who travelled to Cooma, and to Dave for coordinating the communications. And any ideas for other fund raising events willingly considered.

Colin Towns

### Current notes about dancing



**Contra** has had a shortage of ladies lately.

**Ladies**, please come along and enjoy the unusual gender balance. Contra is fun and fast, but the moves flow into each other and thus the effort to enjoyment ratio is excellent.

**Gents**, please don't be put off by this as this call may cause an influx of ladies and it would be a shame to sway the gender balance too far.

**Perfume.** I overheard someone the other day saying that she won't be attending as many dances, because the scent that some people wear, is affecting her health. Yes, I agree, sometimes I get headaches and nausea when I'm close to someone who is wearing scent and I understand that other people have breathing issues.

We do understand that most cleansing products have scent. We're not asking you to refrain from washing, but please understand that if you use an aerosol to apply your product, be it hair spray, deodorant etc, the scent sticks to your clothes and skin.

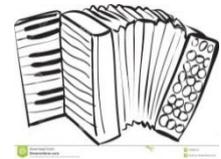
We can't help being intolerant to scent, so please help us get by. Please do not wear aftershave or perfume.

Linda (Musings Dance Pages)



## 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month. Check with Ray Mulligan on 62474725 for more information.



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. **The last session for 2019 will be Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December and the first for 2020 will be Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January.** 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 - this month it's on 8<sup>th</sup> March . 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 7 .

## Out and About

### Canberra Greek Group at The Hellenic Club on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Attention all lovers of Greek music and culture! Canberra's newest Greek ensemble, ICHOYENNISI, are performing at the Canberra Hellenic Club, Woden on Sunday March 22nd, 7 - 9.30 pm \$25 (Supper Included). The group's debut concerts in 2019 championed the Greek cultural giant, Mikis Theodorakis, and in 2020 they are expanding their repertoire to include the hauntingly beautiful songs of composer Manos Hatzidakis. This promises to be a unique evening of music featuring the voice of Athenian born Theodora Volti, and Jackie Luke on the rare Greek Sandouri (Hammered Dulcimer). A stellar string section of Sandy Gibbney & Amanda Pickering (Fiddle), Greg Wilson (Harp) and Rita Woolhouse (Cello) is complimented by Jon Jones on Percussion.



The name Ichoyennisi literally means "Spring through rebirth" and the group seeks to re-imagine the music of sixties and seventies Greece.

Bookings essential <https://hellenicclub.com.au/whatson>

On Saturday February 15<sup>th</sup> **Fred Smith** wrote:

‘The Canberra launch for *Domestic* last night was really lovely. Many thanks to those of you who ventured out and made us feel soooo supported!!!

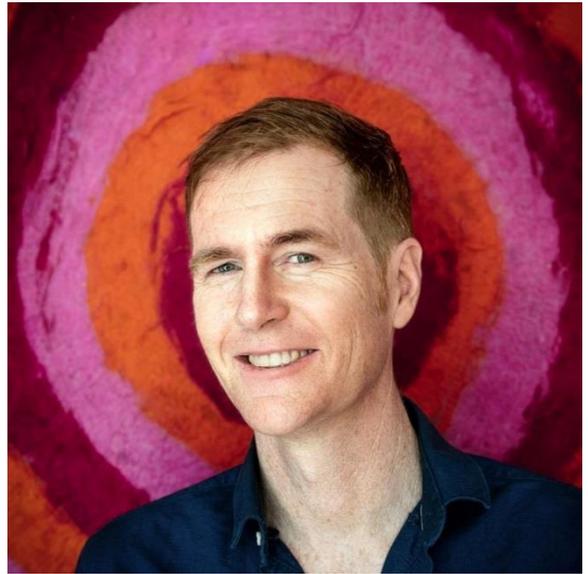
And I woke up this morning to a generous (4.5 star review) for *Domestic*, in the Sydney Morning Herald.’  
This is the review, by Bruce Elder, published in the Sydney Morning Herald on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February.

*DOMESTIC* ([www.fredmith.com.au](http://www.fredmith.com.au))

★★★★½

‘Fred Smith is simply the best folk/country musician working in this country in 2020. Beyond writing some of the finest songs about Australians at war (*Dust of Uruzgan*), he's created a repertoire that is wry, literate, witty, powerfully emotional and insightful.

On this remarkable album – with his palette impressively broad in both lyrical and musical stylings – he ranges through country, folk and faux-cabaret. He includes suitably sharp and savage commentary on our recent political history (*Musical Chairs*) where, hilariously, he rhymes "prime ministerial" with "venereal"; a haunting duet with Liz Frencham, *Four Strong Hands*, about the hardship of rural life during drought where men are suicidal and women are caring and rock-solid in their love; and a quasi-rockabilly backing for an amusing satire on modern life in Sydney (*Brand New Page*). But at the album's heart lies a stunning cycle of deeply personal songs about marriage, babies, love, tolerance, decency and the complexity of modern life (*Maryanne, Turn Around, There I Go, Staying Up Late, Beautiful Girl, Certain Things*). A sublime study in tenderness and vulnerability.



### IMPORTANT ED’S NOTES!

As mentioned before I am hoping to be doing some fairly extensive travelling any time soon and will not be able to continue in my role as acting-for-a-long-time editor of the *Monaro Musings* for much longer – it’s a bit over five years now as far as I can see. So which of you out there would like to step up and take over from me? If you are in the job market editing a newsletter looks very good on your CV. It says that you are not only good with words and can spell but also that you are reasonably computer literate. Linda Aunela ably prepares the Dancing About section, which is a big part of the Musings, every month and Eileen Newmarch supplies the Merry Muse page so it only remains to gather up other information and put it all together. There are now very few hard copies needing to be wrapped and mailed out as the great majority of members receive the Musings by email. I’m willing to work with you for a good handover period if necessary.

Likewise I will not be able to continue my long-standing commitment to presenting on 2XX Community Radio - currently this is for Making Waves (Folk and Country music and news) on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 6.00-7.00 am and Breakfast on Thursday (7.00-8.30 am). Breakfast is a core programme involving reading the weather and community announcements and playing music from whatever genres please you and chatting a bit if you like to. MFS will pay for the necessary training with 2XX and there would be the additional possibility of presenting a show on another topic, or a different style of music, if you have something dear to your heart you’d like to bring to the community. Being a radio presenter also looks good on your CV, especially if a career in the media is your aim!

Please contact me asap on [tina\\_lynam@hotmail.com](mailto:tina_lynam@hotmail.com) or 0403599790 if either, or even both, of these jobs appeal to you.

Presented by  
**Monaro Folk  
 Society Inc.**



**Merry Muse Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup>: 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm**

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

Admission: MFS Members, Concessions and Blackboard Performers \$3; Others \$5  
 Please note that the Irish Club has asked that regular attendees also join the Irish Club

### **Blackboard plus Feature Act *So Far So Good***

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.

### ***So Far So Good***



**So Far So Good** features, in alphabetical order, bassmaster extraordinaire Georg Breu, Californian, Australian multi-instrumentalist and songwriter Daniel McFeeley, 12-string guitar picker and vocalist Fred Pilcher, and Irish/Australian guitar virtuoso, songwriter and vocalist Johnny Reynolds. They perform an eclectic mix of acoustic folksy, rocky, bluesy, funny, silly material that's always engaging and entertaining and will make you laugh and cry,.

### **Coming Up**

**No Merry Muse in April – See you at The National.**

**Back on Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup> - Feature Act TBA**

<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 Celtic Choir** is a friendly social choir. Choir which sings in two, three and four part harmonies. Meets on Mondays 7.30 – 9.00 pm at the Canberra Irish Club, Weston.. For more details, ,email [canberracelticchoir1@gmail.com](mailto:canberracelticchoir1@gmail.com), see Facebook or just pop in one Monday evening.

**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,. See Canberra Shanty Club on facebook.

**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

**Saturday Slow Session ....** An Informal group, all instruments and levels welcome. Music provided. Saturdays 2.00 – 4.00 pm, Canberra Irish Club in Weston.. For more information contact Anna at [acrab@netspeed.com.au](mailto:acrab@netspeed.com.au)

**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: Rod Peters - [treasurer@monarofolk.org.au](mailto:treasurer@monarofolk.org.au); Public Officer: Antonella Salpietro; Committee Members, Linda Aunela,.Matt Gibbins, John Hewa, Anne Mathas. . 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)