

# MULGA WIRE

INCLUDING  
SINGABOUT



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# MULGA WIRE

**EDITORS of MULGA WIRE are:**

Colin Fong 9716 9660(h) - c.fong@unsw.edu.au  
Bob Bolton 9569 7244(h) - bbolton@ausgrid.com.au  
Mike Young 0428 223 033 - mike55young@tpg.com.au

**President:** Sharyn Mattern 9799 7439 (h)

**Vice President:** Bob Bolton 9569 7244 (h)

**Secretary:** Sandra Nixon 9358 4886 (h)

**Treasurer:** Allen Davis 9639 7494 (h)

**MULGA WIRE** appears each even month.

Unsolicited articles should be submitted four weeks before publication. Address articles to: The Mulga Wire Editor, Bush Music Club Inc, Box 433, Sydney 2001 or e-mail the editors.

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# BUSH DANCES

October—December

## BEECROFT Community Centre

Beecroft Road, Beecroft (opposite Fire Stn)

**Note new time: 7:30pm—11:30pm**

December 7 **Urban Scrub**

January **No dance**

February 1 **Ryebuck**

Enquiries: Sigrid **9980 7077** /

Wilma / 9489 5594 / Peter 9477 5848

## ERMINGTON Community Centre

10 River Road, Ermington

7pm—11pm

December 21 **Southern Cross**

Enquiries: Don or Wendy 9642 7950

## Bush Music Club enquiries:

**9642 7950** or

**0412 145 262** or

**bmcmail1954@gmail.com**

Also see our web site for Club doings, history, articles and blog:

**www.bushmusic.org.au**

## Cover:

A group of our life members who were at the John Dengate tribute: Bob Bolton, Helen Romeo, Jamie Carlin, Frank Maher and Ralph Pride.

Photo: Sandra Nixon

## *President's Message*

Another year is nearly over and our 60th Anniversary is almost upon us. I encourage you all to check out the overview of the year's exciting program and invite you to join me at the Members' Dinner to be held on 29th March 2014, more details to come.

Another exciting project that I am proud to announce is the release of our new DVD – 'Bush Music Club – the Early Years'. I would like to thank everyone involved in the production of this fascinating and interesting look into the early years of the Bush Music Club.

This year we have had a wonderful time at both the Parramatta Heritage Ball and the Maitland Subscription Ball. The regular Beecroft dance continues to be an important and popular feature of the BMC calendar and we have added the Ermington dances, to be held twice a year. The Monday night Pennant Hills Dance Workshops are, also, very popular, as are the Song and Music Sessions held at the BMC hut at Marrickville.

There was an excellent variety of entertainment at all of the festivals throughout the year, including the Illawarra, St Albans and the BMC's presentation at the National Folk Festival.

To all the volunteers and helpers and regular participants, thank you for your help, support and involvement. We couldn't do any of this without you.

Seasons greeting to you all and have a happy, safe, and joyous Christmas and a very warm welcome to the Bush Music Club's 60th Anniversary year.

*Sharyn Mattem*

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## Worth Noting

Ross, John (ed) **Penguin book of Australian bush writing**, Camberwell, Vic, Viking/Penguin, 2011. Includes essays by Henry Lawson, Geoffrey Blainey, Les Murray, AB Paterson, AB Facey, Miles Franklin, Tim Flannery etc.

### **Rob Willis is on YouTube:**

<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOrA5H7ULWbJG4vyiLslzAQ/videos>

Stories, yarns, music, dance and folklore from many years recording for The National Library of Australia's (NLA) Oral History and Folklore Collection. These are short segments of longer videos that are mostly housed with the NLA and complement some of our audio recordings. Thanks are due to my wife and travelling companion Olya for her support and expertise over the years. The staff of Oral History and Folklore at The National Library of Australia, John Harpley and Bruce Cameron along with the late John Meredith are also gratefully acknowledged.

Among the 'gems' (or so I think) are probably the only vision of folklore collector, John Meredith, recording and Chris Kempster describing to me how he assembled his song, Reedy River.

Newer videos, shot in hi definition this year, of John Turnbull of Stanley, Tasmania and Ukrainian Bandurist, Victor Mishalow will give an idea of how technology has changed – and that we are still very keen to record on video.

The Federal Government has a website - **australia.gov.au** - which has pages on Australian music. These can be found under the About Australia tab, in the category Australian Stories - Music and performance:

**<http://australia.gov.au/about-australia/australian-stories/music-and-performance>**

The site is very well presented with many illustrations from the National Library collection, lists of reference material and links to other sites.

## Playford Dancing at the Hut

Next meeting: 3rd December, 7:30pm to 9:30pm

The Bush Music Club has a new dance activity at Hut 44. Sydney Playford dancing has been in recess, because of Patricia Early's prolonged ill health and then her death. But now, thanks to the BMC, it will be taught on the first Tuesday of each month (except January), and there will be live music as often as possible.

For more information contact Julie Bishop 9524 0247

A small group enjoyed the music and dance in November. We are looking forward for a large turnout for the final session for 2013.

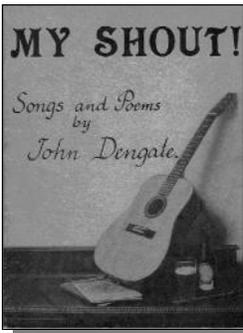




Check out the **John Dengate collection** online link to tributes, articles, interviews and songs plus videos from the wake and memorial concerts

<http://johndengatecollection.wordpress.com/>

If you have anything you would like to add to the site please contact Leyne on [ccmotions@gmail.com](mailto:ccmotions@gmail.com)



## John Dengate Song Books:

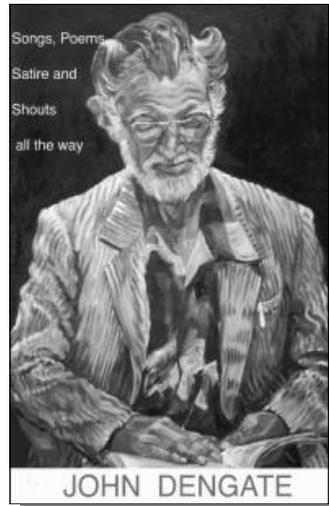
**My Shout!**  
(A5)      \$ 6.00  
Members \$5.00

Reduced size  
reprint Copy of 1982  
BMC Publication..

**Shouts All the Way!**  
(A4)      \$20.00  
Members      \$15.00

2012 BMC Publication

**From BMC functions, or by mail**



## **BMC 60TH ANNIVERSARY NEWS**

**Reminder:** Don't forget your entries for our 60th Anniversary competitions.  
Details below.

**Sandra Nixon**  
**Hon. Secretary**  
**Bush Music Club Inc**

website - <http://www.bushmusic.org.au/>  
photo website - <http://my.opera.com/BushMusicClub/about/>  
email - [bmcmail1954@gmail.com](mailto:bmcmail1954@gmail.com)  
blog - <http://bushmusicclub.blogspot.com.au/>  
youtube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/user/BushMusicClubInc>

### **60th Anniversary Competitions** **Dance/Song/Tune/Verse**

The deadlines for submissions to our 60th Anniversary Competitions have been extended to 31 December 2013.

For details see:

- Blog articles posted in April and August
- The April and June editions of Mulga Wire
- The Club Website (see Items of Note on the right of the home page).

### **Members' Dinner**

We will be having a members' dinner at the Marrickville Golf Club.

**Please note this event in your diaries.**

**Date:** Sat 29th March 2014

**Time:** 6pm – 11pm

### **Some Other Events**

**Jan:** Illawarra Folk Festival

**May:** Heritage Ball (Masked Ball) and Picnic

**Nov:** The Big Concert and session



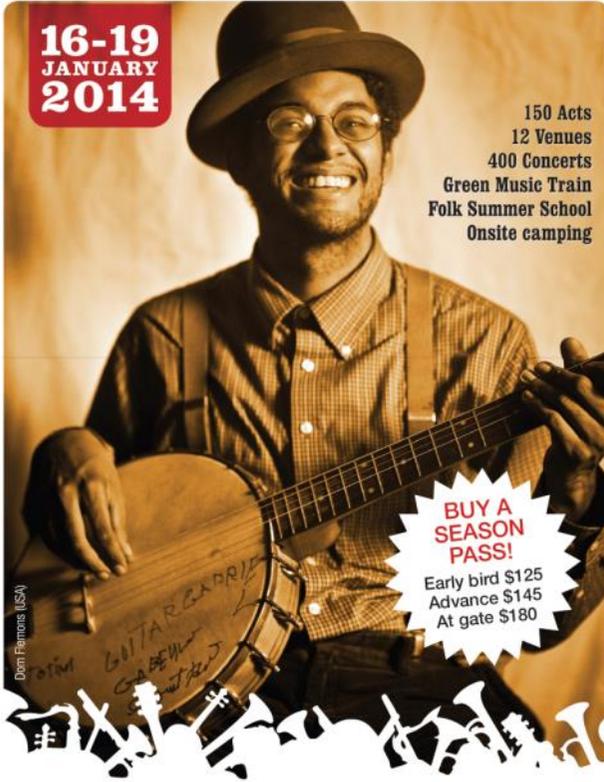


# illawarra FOLK FESTIVAL

BULLI SHOWGROUND, WOLLONGONG, NSW

**16-19  
JANUARY  
2014**

150 Acts  
12 Venues  
400 Concerts  
Green Music Train  
Folk Summer School  
Onsite camping



**BUY A SEASON PASS!**  
Early bird \$125  
Advance \$145  
At gate \$180

**150 ACTS INCLUDING:** AFENGINN DENMARK • ANDY IRVINE IRELAND • THE BEEZ GERMANY  
DOM FLEMONS USA • GORDIE MACKKEEMAN AND HIS RHYTHM BOYS CANADA  
HARRY MANX CANADA • THE HOLLANDS! USA • JAALEEKAAY GAMBIA • JOHN JOHN FESTIVAL JAPAN  
KLEZMORIM BRAZIL • LONDON KLEZMER QUARTET UK • THE LATCHIKOS IRELAND  
UNDERSKORE ORCHESTRA USA • WHITETOP MOUNTAINEERS USA  
BELLE JAR • BERNARD CARNEY • BRUCE MATHISKE • DAVE DE HUGARD • FRANK POVAH  
GLENN SKUTHORPE • GREG CHAMPION • I VIAGGIATORI • KAVISHA MAZZELLA  
THE MISS CHIEFS • RAPSKALLION • ROUGH RED • SHELLIE MORRIS  
SPYGLASS GYPSIES • TAIKO NO WA • THE TIMBERS • THE WOLLEMI BAND

**BOOKINGS 1300 887 034 and online at  
[www.illawarrafolkfestival.com.au](http://www.illawarrafolkfestival.com.au)**



Harry Manx (Canada)



Shellie Morris



Afenginn (Denmark)



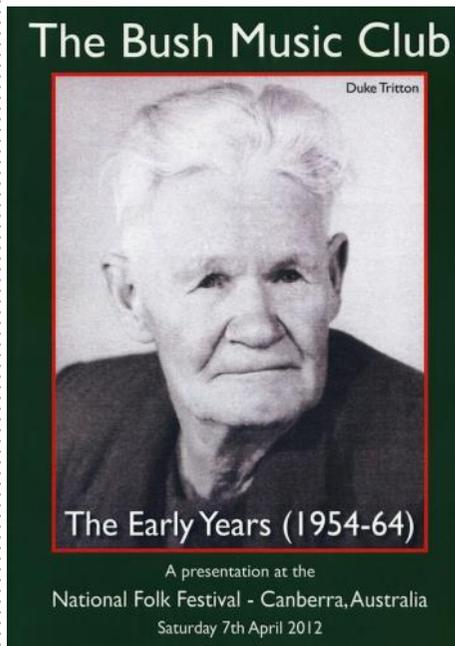
Kavisha Mazzella



Gordie Mackkeeman & His Rhythm Boys (Canada)

The Bush Music is pleased to announce the release of the DVD of

*The Bush Music Club - The Early Years (1954-1964). A presentation at the National Folk Festival - Canberra, Australia. Saturday 7th April 2012*



In the lead up to the Bush Music Club's 60th Anniversary in 2014, we take you on a trip down memory lane to the days when the Australian folk song "The Drover's Dream" was on the top of the Hit Parade. It all began in 1952 when John Meredith and several friends (aka the *Heathcote Bushwhackers*) started performing the songs they remembered from their earlier years. In 1953 they joined the cast of *Reedy River* and contributed to the great success of it's Sydney run. By 1954 the Bushwhackers were so popular that they founded the Bush Music Club to cater for all the aspiring "Bushwhackers", with the aim of re-popularising Australian folk songs and encouraging the composition of new songs contemporary in theme & traditional in style. Within a few years there were Bushwhacker-style bands across the country and Australian Bush Music was born.

Cast includes Alex Hood, Bill Scott, Bob Bolton, Chloe and Jason Roweth, Chris Woodland, Dave Johnson, Frank Maher, Helen Romeo, Margaret Walters, Rob Willis, Silvia Salisbury and the Sydney Trade Union Choir. Reminiscences from those who were there, songs, tunes, dances plus archival recordings and historic photos help tell the story.

This DVD is available for \$20 (including postage within Australia)

Please send a cheque made out to 'Bush Music Club' to  
Bush Music Club Inc  
GPO Box 433  
Sydney NSW 2001

enquiries - [bmcmail1954@gmail.com](mailto:bmcmail1954@gmail.com) or Sandra 9358 4886

## **Pennant Hills Dance Activities**

### **at Pennant Hills Community Centre: (lower, air conditioned hall)**

October featured two dance workshops titled "You Learn Something New Every Day". We concentrated on some new (to us) movements with the dancers mastering crossover mirror reels of three and half mirror reels of three and enjoying some dances which featured these movements.

Our other workshops were practice for the Central Coast Colonial-theme bush dance. We danced some authentic Colonial dances (such as figures 1, 4 and 5 of Circassian Circle) and some more modern dances written in the Colonial style (such as Federation Waltz and Lady Carrington's Waltz).

In December we will be practicing the dances for the Dance Workshop's Christmas Party and then enjoying the party with live music from the BMC's own "Urban Scrub". If you haven't danced with us lately, why not join us for our Christmas Party? It will be a great night with the band. Don't let the heat put you off, the hall is air conditioned, a real luxury.

And don't forget that we have our last dance night of the year on Monday 16th December.

The dance workshops will start in the new year on Monday 3rd February so mark this date in your diary and we'll look forward to seeing you.

*John Short*

<b>MONDAY 7.30–10.30</b>	<b>THEME/DANCE STYLE</b>
<b>2 December</b>	Practice for the Christmas Party
<b>9 December</b>	Christmas Party with music by the BMC's Urban Scrub
<b>16 December</b>	Last workshop for 2013. Bring along a dance request
	Enjoy the break
<b>3 February</b>	Our first workshop for the New Year
<b>10 February</b>	TBA
<b>17 February</b>	TBA
<b>24 February</b>	TBA

## A National Treasure

Lyrics by Peter Cahill

Well ... there aren't too many like you ... Johnny boy  
You made your country listen ... Johnny boy  
And the pollies got the truth ... 'cause you saw their little games  
A National Treasure's what you are now ... Johnny boy

With your whistles in your belt now ... Johnny boy  
To bring culture to the streets here ... Johnny boy  
And it's not for coins or prestige that your play in perfect rhythm  
It's to advance Australia Fair now ... Johnny boy

I saw you quietly sketch a soldier ... Johnny boy  
And the reverence you showed him ... Johnny boy  
Though I never knew you well ... But I certainly could tell  
You truly were Australian ... Johnny boy

So your story's never ended ... Johnny boy  
As your poems and your music ... Johnny boy  
Have been captured and remembered and we hear your whistle playing  
On your corner at the railway ... Johnny boy

Dedicated to the memory of John Dengate

### **Making Direct Deposit Payments to BMC**

#### **Direct Deposit details:**

**BSB: 062-005**

**Acct: 0090 7524 (Commonwealth bank)**

#### **Reference**

Email with details of payment to **Treasurer Allen Davis**

[<allendavis@iprimus.com.au>](mailto:allendavis@iprimus.com.au)

Membership forms or ball ticket forms still need to be sent, either by mail or scanned and sent by email.

## John Dengate Tribute Concerts (Loaded Dog and Bush Music Club)

In October and November John's family and friends attended memorial concerts at the Loaded Dog and at the Bush Music Club Hut. Both concerts were well attended.

The lineup at the Dog included John's 11 year old grandson Cal, who entertained us with two tunes on his electric guitar, and his uncle Lachlan, who was a part of Max's sensational band. Max's band also performed in the concert at the hut.

John's 99 year old mother Kit (*Bare Legged Kate*) enjoyed the concert at the BMC hut.

Life members Jamie Carlin and Frank Maher got together with members of the current Concert Party to entertain the crowd.

Concert party member Peter Cahill sang his new song *A National Treasure*. The lyrics for this appear on the opposite page.

Other BMC performers included Chis Maltby, Cj Shaw, Chris Woodland , Ralph Pride and Jason & Chloe Roweth.

Photo galleries from the concerts are available on the Loaded Dog and Bush Music Club photo sites:

<http://my.opera.com/LoadedDogFolkClub/>

<http://my.opera.com/BushMusicClub/about/>



Kit Dengate with daughters in law, Kay and Dale  
*Photos: Sandra Nixon*

## AROUND THE BUSH MUSIC SCENE

(A selection of interesting events - details as accurate as possible at the time of publishing)

Dec 1 7pm Songlines Song session, Fitzroy Hotel, East Sydney/Woolloomooloo

Dec 3 7:30pm Sydney Playford Dance Group, Hut 44, Marrickville. (see page 4)

Dec 7 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, *Urban Scrub***, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594/ Peter 9477 5848

Dec 11 Aust. Heritage Dancers Christmas Party, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre

Dec 12 7:30pm Sutherland Acoustic. Tradies, Gymea, *Mic Conway*.

Dec 13 7:30pm Toongabbie Music Club Christmas Party, 17 Whitehaven Rd Northmead ☎ 9639 7494

Dec 14 Gosford Dance, *Pastrami on Ryebuck*, East Gosford Progress Hall.

Dec 21 **7pm Ermington Bush Dance**, Ermington Community Hall, *Southern Cross*, ☎ Don/Wendy, 9642 7950 or 0412 145 262

Jan 16-19 Illawarra Folk Festival, Bulli. (see page 9)

Feb 1 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, *Ryebuck***, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594/ Peter 9477 5848

Feb 4 7:30pm Sydney Playford Dance Group, Hut 44, Marrickville. (see page 4)

Feb 8 Gosford Dance, East Gosford Progress Hall.

Feb 15 Loaded Dog Folk Club, *George Mann (USA)*, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, Sandra, 9358 4886

Mar 29 6pm BMC Members Dinner, Marrickville Golf Club.

**BLU-FM, 89.1: on Bush Music Show - 6<sup>00</sup> - 8<sup>00</sup>pm Sundays** [www.blufm.org.au/bushmusic.htm](http://www.blufm.org.au/bushmusic.htm)

**New  
Members**

★ **Bob ARMSTRONG** ★  
★ **Les LOVE** ★   ★ **Joceline KHACHAN** ★

### Mulga Wire: 2014 Publishing Deadlines

Item Deadline	To Printers	Folding Session
10 January	22 January	28 January
14 March	27 March	30 March

## Concert Party News

### A DAY AT AUSTRALIANA PIONEER VILLAGE

The Bush Music Club Concert Party members and the Australian Heritage Dancers spent a delightful day at Australiana Pioneer Village Wilberforce on Sunday 20 October.

BMC members performed in the morning on three separate locations around the village, including on the veranda of the old pioneer buildings. The Concert Party then joined in the fun to play for the Australian Heritage Dancers who were swirling on the village green – in this case the village brown as it was the day of the great bushfires in the Blue Mountains!

Despite the bushfire smoke and resultant lower than normal public attendance the Concert Party and AHD carried on and thoroughly enjoyed the day.

In the afternoon BMC members presented a wonderful concert in the Shearing Shed. This was much fun and several new talents were discovered. Once again, a good time was had by all and we have been invited back to Wilberforce by their committee. An offer we will most readily accept.

Many thanks to all participants and loyal supporters.

### PERFORMANCE FOR HEART RESEARCH CENTRE

Once again the Bush Music Concert party acquitted itself well at the Main Hall in the Addison Road complex near Hut 44.

The function, held on Saturday 23 November 2013, was to celebrate the return of the Heart Research Centre to the Addison Road Community Centre. The audience of over 200 people listened, sang along and enjoyed the music, then had supper and played games of bingo, while the Concert Party members repaired to Hut 44 for a well deserved dinner.

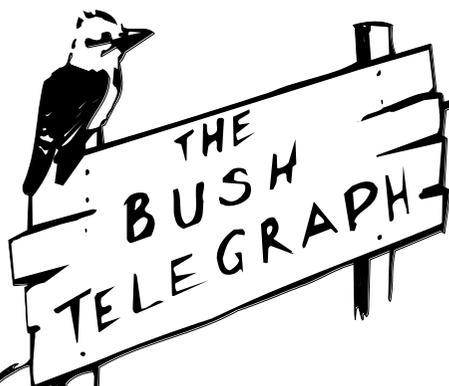
Thanks go to BMC members Bob Foggin, Wilma Lyon, Max Gregory, Sharyn Mattern, Dot Newland and Allen Davis who gave freely of their time to support such a worthy cause.

**Check us out on YouTube! (search for bushmusicclubinc)**

## ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF **MULGA WIRE**

The Committee is offering the option of electronic delivery alongside traditional paper copies.

If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy - rather than a paper one, please contact us on **[bmcm1954@gmail.com](mailto:bmcm1954@gmail.com)**.



BUSH MUSIC CLUB  
BOOKING AGENCY

*Patricia Bolton*

AGENT

9569 7244



# BUSH DANCE

Ermington Community Centre  
10 River Road, Ermington



**Southern Cross Bush Band**

**21 December**

**7.<sup>00</sup> pm - 11.<sup>00</sup> pm**

**\$19/\$17 (conc)/\$14 (BMC)**