

# MULGA WIRE

INCLUDING  
SINGABOUT



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# MULGA WIRE

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# BUSH DANCES

February - April

## BEECROFT Community Centre

Becroft Road (opposite Fire Stn)

7:30pm—11:30pm

February 6

**Ryebuck**

March 5

**BMC Concert Party**

April 2

**Sydney Coves**

Enquiries: Sigrid 9980 7077  
Wilma 9489 5594

## ERMINGTON Community Centre

10 River Road, Ermington

7pm—11pm

July 16

**BMC Concert Party**

Enquiries: 0412 145 262

## Bush Music Club enquiries:

**0412 145 262** or

**bmcmail1954@gmail.com**

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

**[www.bushmusic.org.au](http://www.bushmusic.org.au)**

### Cover:

David Johnson leading a group in the Saplings Workshop at the 2016 Illawarra Folk Festival.

Photo: Sandra Nixon



Welcome to 2016! I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year and have come back refreshed.

The club has had a busy start to the year where excellent workshops and sessions were presented by the Saplings and the BMC Concert Party at the recent Illawarra Folk Festival in Bulli. Both the Saplings and Concert Party workshops and sessions were well attended and had enthusiastic audience participation.

Ron Hicks, a long term BMC and Concert Party member, has not been very well recently and we wish him a very speedy recovery. Get well soon, Ron.

There are some exciting happenings with the club this year so stay tuned via Mulga Wire, our e-list, blog, Facebook or on our webpage.

*Sharyn Mattern*

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## Worth Noting

**Don and Sue Brian** will be hosting a presentation of Norfolk Island folk history on the island 5-13 August 2016. Details at:

<https://www.norfolkislandtravelcentre.com/events/norfolk-island-folk-history>

The **National Folk Festival** is seeking donations towards its celebration of the 50th festival. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

<http://folkfestival.org.au/donate/>

We are hoping to hold **Going Bush** weekends at Morrisset at the end of May and at Sofala in September. The objective is to get the musicians that meet at Hut 44 out in informal sessions with other out-of-town musicians. Details will be posted on the BMC website & blog when finalised.

**Keith Wood** has just published a new book *Down Under Contra 2* which is available from Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/Down-Under-Contra-2/dp/1517673321>

## For the Love of Folk : The Addison Road Sessions

We're a hotchpotch group of folk singers who meet once a month to share songs and we welcome newcomers. We sometimes nominate a theme and enjoy exploring how it has been approached in the folk tradition and by contemporary writers in the genre; but sticking to the theme is optional.

Songs with choruses are popular; unaccompanied is fine, but bring an accompanying Instrument if you wish.

**When:** 7pm, First Friday of the month

**Where:** Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville

**Contact:** Margaret 0427 958 788

## Mulga Wire: 2016 Publishing Deadlines

Item Deadline	To Printers	Folding Session
17 March	22 March	29 March
19 May	27 May	31 May

## Illawarra Folk Festival

Including results of the Dale and John Dengate Parody Competition

Could it really be 31 years since I first packed the tent and drove John and Norma Harbour to Jamberoo! Since 1985, festivals have changed considerably, growing in size with more performers and audiences; so it was a delight to walk into the Alan Scott and Aussie traditional concert on Friday night at Bulli and recognise so many 'old' friends all enjoying talented performers in the traditional style. Indeed, there was something for all ages and tastes and a tremendous number of opportunities in which folk could participate. In my book, that is what marks a folk festival from other music festivals. Among the poetry, dancing, singing sessions there were instrumental workshops with lots of young people learning from older looking characters including many from the Bush Music Club.

Having been asked by Bigruss, that tireless President of Illawarra Folk Club to help judge the woolly yarns and the parody competition, I wanted to report back on the entries. I had offered John's beer mug to encourage ongoing writing of parodies, and the results have had the audiences joining in chorus and enjoying the considerable skill from all participants.

Tony and Gene Smith got the audience off to a fine start with clever words and had us all joining in choruses to 'It's slipping away from me'. Duncan Chalmers continued in great style with 'What shall we do with the non-tripe eater?' No prize for guessing the tune. Jeff Haswell, from S.A. took the political path with 'Where do you go to Malcolm?' and Steve Wilson, with concertina and puppets of 2 PMs, narrowly stole the show and mug with 'Hello Malcolm Turnbull' to the tune of 'Hello Patsy Fagan'. Neil Rowsell's words included local wit and humour with 'Folkin' on the Rise' while Amelina from Erkinville gave some of the audience some pensive moments as they joined the chorus to 'The Banks of the Ohio'. Matthew Clark and Cathy from Newcastle gave us the answer to coal board advertising with a powerful 'Rocks of Fire'. Robin Connaughton and Alan Wright proved poets could get our attention with words alone. Robin used a medley of Australian ballads for his parody while Alan gave all bushwalkers a warning. The Shanty Singers from Redfern definitely would have won a chorus cup, had there been one, as in old festival formats. The concert finished with the sharp wit of comedian Peter Willey and Long Jim Chapman, also a competitor in the yarn spinning, told of 'The man who wrote to God.'



It was thrilling to see that the art of parody continues and that words and their message can be very important, and certainly entertaining, at a folk festival.

***R. Dale Dengate***

Dale and Russ delivering the results and Dale with the winner, Steve Wilson.

Photos: *Ros Young*

# Illawarra Folk Festival - Continued

## Woolly Yarns

Out of ten competitors in the Woolly Yarns competition, most showed they had plenty of talent in spinning a yarn from years of experience. Most of the yarns I had heard previously, having been fond of a telling a shaggy dog story over long trips and having lived with John for fifty years! I usually heard all the winning entries when John judged the yarns.

Alan Stone aka 'Stoneybroke' won with a fine telling of the yarn about Dooley Franks, who every one knows. The three Polesons all competed making it a tough decision, as John and Chris have entertaining skill in this field, but Lyn gained the next place with her succinct true story about a spiritualist in Ireland. The winner of many previous awards, Kevin Donnigan, was there with a warning to hitchhikers and Steve Caskey gave us an insight into the butcher dance from the indigenous tradition. Jimmy Chapman, Ralph Scrivens, Alan Wright, and Duncan Chalmers all entertained us with 'true stories' from their wide experiences. It was great to welcome a new comer, Katherine Krincone spinning a yarn about a speleologist adventure with her father. 'Trust me' they could all spin a yarn!

*R.Dale Dengate*

## Concert Party

## Saplings



Photos: Sandra Nixon



**Bush Music Club Inc.**  
**2016 Annual General Meeting**

**Where:** Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville

**When:** 2pm, Saturday 12th March 2016

FORM OF APPOINTMENT OF PROXY

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
(full name)

of \_\_\_\_\_  
(address)

being a member of The Bush Music Club Incorporated

hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_  
(full name of proxy)

of \_\_\_\_\_  
(address)

being a member of that incorporated association, as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the general meeting of the association (annual general meeting or special general meeting, as the case may be) to be held on the

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_ and at any adjournment of that meeting.

- My proxy is authorised to vote in favour of/against (delete as appropriate) the resolution (insert details).
- To be inserted if desired.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of member appointing proxy

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: A proxy vote may not be given to a person who is not a member of the association.

# DUKE'S PLACE

**Australian Songs  
in Concert & session**



**Usually Second Friday of  
the Month Feb - Dec**

Doors open 7:30pm  
Concert 8 - 10.30pm, followed by  
singing session  
(gates close midnight)

Tritton Hall - Hut 44  
Addison Rd Community Centre  
142 Addison Rd, Marrickville

\$10 - Bring a plate - bring songs

## **Friday 12th February - Miguel Heatwole**

Miguel Heatwole - man of a zillion songs, choir director, composer, songwriter, leader of singing sessions. Over many years his contagious enthusiasm for promoting community singing, whether live or recorded, has brought many people together to share and learn new skills and insights.

## **Friday 18th March - Evan Mathieson**

<http://www.evanmathieson.net/>

Evan spent his first 20 years on the family farm which bordered the sheer cliffs of the magnificent, infamous "Ship Wreck Coast" of southern Australia. His great love of folk music and the history of the land and the sea comes from these early days where the experiences of ship wrecks and the oral transmission of the local history were a part of the web of everyday life. Evan spent some years in the Melbourne folk & jazz scene in the early 60s, then moving on, guitar in Mini Moke, travelled north to warmer climes. He soon settled into the young and enthusiastic folk scene of Brisbane as a solo performer. He added blues harp and autoharp to his performance repertoire. He went out of town on collecting trips meeting "grey beards" and swapping songs and stories. He met Harry Robertson & has in recent years recorded all his songs & helped set up the Harry Robertson website archive - <http://www.harryrobertson.net/index.html>.

## **Friday 8th April - Pat Drummond**

<http://www.patdrummond.net/>

## Pennant Hills Dance Activities

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

The 2015 dancing year for the BMC dance workshops ended on a good note (pun intended) at the Christmas Party held on 14th December. Thank you to the members of the BMC Concert Party for playing for us and thanks also to everyone who bought a plate for the delicious supper.

The Christmas party was not quite the end of our year as we held our annual “Dancers’ Request Night” on 21st December. Dances included Cascades, Swing Waltz, Arkansas Traveller, Virginia Reel, Levi Jackson, Maxina, Margaret’s Waltz and Postie’s Jig.

The 2016 dancing year started with a “Welcome Back” workshop where we danced some of our better known dances to get back into the swing (Oh no, another pun...)

In February we will be looking into timing and tempo and also comparing old and new dances, and in a few cases, old and new versions of the same dance.

In March we will be learning some of the dances on the various programs at the National Folk Festival, held in Canberra over the Easter weekend.

On the 14th March we will interrupt this practice to celebrate Victoria Labour Day, Tasmania 8 Hour Day, Canberra Day, Commonwealth Day and Adelaide Cup Day, which all coincide! We will learn a dance from each of these states and territories. (It’s also Taranaki Anniversary day so we’ll see if we can find a New Zealand dance...)

Come and join us in 2016. We are a friendly bunch and there are plenty of dancers who are always happy to help. The hall is air conditioned which makes dancing comfortable, even at this time of the year.

We welcome singles, couples and groups. See you at Pennant Hills!

*John Short*

### Programme February/March

<b>MONDAY 7.30–10.30</b>	<b>THEME/DANCE STYLE</b>
<b>1 February</b>	Timing and Tempo
<b>8 February</b>	Timing and Tempo
<b>15 February</b>	Dances, New and Old
<b>22 February</b>	Dances, New and Old
<b>29 February</b>	Dances from the National Folk Festival
<b>7 March</b>	Dances from the National Folk Festival
<b>14 March</b>	Celebration days - dances from each state/territory above
<b>21 March</b>	Dances from the National Folk Festival
<b>28 March</b>	<b>No Workshop - Easter</b>

## **CD Review: *Light Another Fire* - Jason and Chloe Roweth**

By dedicating this CD to Henry Lawson and John Dengate, Chloe and Jason Roweth acknowledge the Australian traditions that have influenced their selection of works for this CD.

This dedication would have moved John beyond words; indeed, the songs brought both laughter and tears to my eyes as I listened. Jason and Chloe seemed to have selected many of my favourite songs and tunes which evoke so many memories. Over twenty other Australian song writers are also represented on this CD.

Jason's voice has gained strength and character over the years and Chloe's always inspiring voice is even richer, so both bring a delightful interpretation to many songs.

I think it is important that they have made the songs their own so that in those written by John Dengate they have not tried to sound like John in his performances. Actually his presentation and words sometimes changed as the times and situations in a living culture changed. In some cases they have brought new life to John's words and listening to their music is delightful.

They both play a number of traditional instruments and at times are joined by Bill Browne on percussion and Baz Cooper on accordion and piano. One could write more about the music but suffice to say you could enjoy the CD on this level too.

The CD starts with Lawson's 'Freedom on the Wallaby', a stirring and provocative song. This rebel chorus was sung with gusto at Bush Music Club meetings in the 1960s but John and I last sang it together at Gay Scott's funeral early in 2013. Jason has added John's last written verse of defiance: we go on disobeying to Lawson's words for a very strong start to the CD.

The next introductory tune for John Hospodaryk's words about the stark life in the Female Factory was the 'Croppy Boy' often used for the 'Convict Maid'. It recalls memories of times when most folk singers had it in her repertoire but Chloe's singing surpasses the best renditions with very different words from the moralistic sentiments. There is also a delightful version of Sally Sloane's traditional singing of 'Lovely Molly' as well as 'Molly Darling' which is a sweet sentimental sing-a-long song from 1871.

When I first heard 'The Man who Struck O' Hara' I thought of the 'bogan slogan' PM we had recently booted and thought: good to hear that 'he won't be back'! Times change as I've already commented, and a number of people find

Chad Morgan hasn't stood the test of time, but I have always laughed at the wry humour in his comments about characters and life's situations in country songs. This has similarities to 'The Shit Flung on the Floor – by Invitation Only' which refers to a Binalong incident in 1913, which involved the class issues of the day.

There is an amazing amount of history in the selection of songs which one doesn't get from the standard history of Australia books, Indeed, one could write pages on that aspect of the CD alone.

I think songs about public transport and train trips will be even more relevant as the city of Sydney copes with an overhaul of city transport systems. The only way to cope is to maintain a sense of humour, but definitely do not 'lie down on the tracks'.

This selection gives an unique insight into quality of Australian songs and the variety of tunes. The cover with its campfire dark exterior and wattle-golden interior gives a symbolic meaning to the contents, and the initial stiffness loosens with use.

This double album CD deserves strong promotion and is ideal for Christmas gifts, especially for those who ask where have the Australian traditional and protest songs gone !

'Light Another Fire' is available for purchase / download online from the Roweth's website [www.rowethmusic.com.au](http://www.rowethmusic.com.au). Cost is \$40 plus postage.

***R. Dale Dengate***

## **Festivals**

A good time was had at the Illawarra Folk Festival with an appearance by the Concert Party at the Australian Traditions Concert on Friday night and the Songs & Tunes workshop on Sunday. Both the Songs from Reedy River and Song & Tunes Session were very well attended with the audience joining in enthusiastically.

The Saplings team presented hour long workshops on Saturday & Sunday with a new member on the team, 2nd-generation member Vanessa who graduated from student to tutor. Check out the articles on Saplings & Concert Party in our blog [www.bushmusicclub.blogspot.com.au](http://www.bushmusicclub.blogspot.com.au)

At the National we will be presenting our Saplings workshops for musicians 8-16 years, a tunes workshop, Waltzathon Part 2 in a venue where dancers can glide about if they are so inclined!, and Songs of Reedy River.

## **Baerami Bush Dance & Campout Upper Hunter Valley Sat April 16, 2016**

An authentic and fun filled bush dance in a beautifully timber-lined hall in the Upper Hunter (2 hrs west of Newcastle).

Traditional acoustic music performed by Hunter musicians. Dances are explained and you don't need a partner. Very family friendly.

Arrive from 4pm; dancing starts at 7.30pm and continues into the night! BYO dinner and a supper to share.

Camp at the hall, or stay at local accommodation. Join a leisurely Sunday morning guided bushwalk or bike ride.

**Tickets** available through <http://www.trybooking.com/KAWG>

Adults (prepaid on Trybooking): \$17 or at the door: \$20

Pensioner concession: \$10

Children (under 15 years) free

Camping included in ticket price

**Enquiries** to Martin & Jan Fallding

Ph: 6571 1208 or E: [info@calli.com.au](mailto:info@calli.com.au)

[www.calli.com.au](http://www.calli.com.au) at the bottom of 'events' page

Facebook: Baerami Bush Dance

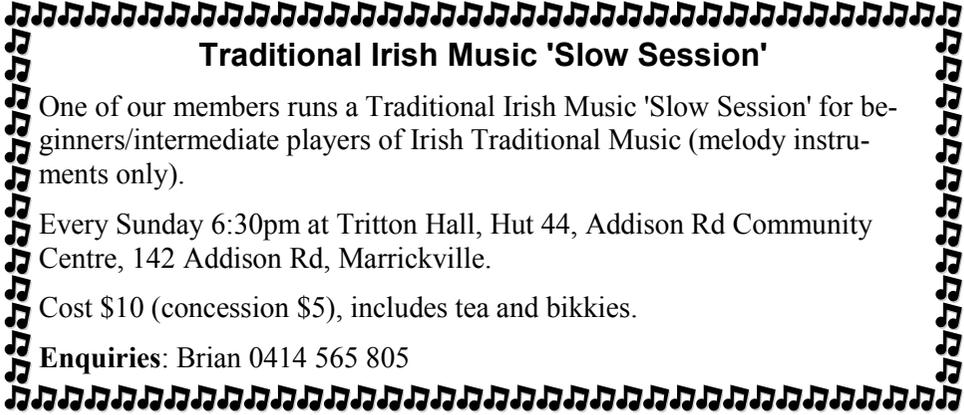


★ Annabel CHONG ★ ★ Fay HAIGH ★  
★ Katrina WEIR ★ ★ Cathy RICHMOND ★  
★ Bob SMITH ★ ★ Glenda THOMAS ★

## **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 [bmcmail1954@gmail.com](mailto:bmcmail1954@gmail.com).





## Traditional Irish Music 'Slow Session'

One of our members runs a Traditional Irish Music 'Slow Session' for beginners/intermediate players of Irish Traditional Music (melody instruments only).

Every Sunday 6:30pm at Tritton Hall, Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, 142 Addison Rd, Marrickville.

Cost \$10 (concession \$5), includes tea and bikkies.

Enquiries: Brian 0414 565 805

## Senior Men's Pickers Guitar Group

Thursdays, 11am-3pm, \$3, BYO lunch

Gymea Community Centre,

39-41 Nicholson Parade Cronulla 9521 6575

## Playford Dancing at the Hut

Next meeting: **Tues 1st March**, 7:30pm to 9:30pm

The Bush Music Club is hosting Sydney Playford dancing in our headquarters, Hut 44 Addison Road Community Centre, Marrickville.

We meet 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

Bring your friends along for an enjoyable night of dancing.

## Beecroft Spot Prizes

At recent Beecroft dances we have been handing out special prizes to dancers at certain points during the night. The prizes are donated by the following local businesses:

**Renaissance Hair Studio** Westleigh

**La Thai Restaurant** Thornleigh

**Topiary Café** Epping

**The Beauty Salon** Westleigh

**Wilma Lyon Music School** Normanhurst

**Westleigh Quality Meats** Westleigh

## Concert Party News

The Bush Music Club Concert Party has continued operating throughout the Festive Season with practices in Hut 44 and performances at both the Everleigh Railway Workshops and Illawarra Folk Festival. This dedicated group is nothing if not willing to perform in eclectic events. The Concert Party has played at bush dances, folk festivals, railway events, citizenship ceremonies, historical occasions, retirement villages, Anzac day ceremonies and senior citizens weeks... to name but a few. Not only that but these people are peripatetic too! They have played at Molong, Yeoval, Bulli, Goulburn, Yass, Katoomba and Canberra. Not to mention Bourke, Parkes (and other famous streets of Sydney!)

Monday nights in the Hut continue to draw around 20 people with new participants arriving at almost every session. A joyful atmosphere prevails with a (surprisingly) wide variety of forms of entertainment provided (including, inter alia, singing, tunes, poetry, yarns and opera arias! .. the last item from our very own talented Cliff). A veritable cornucopia of instruments have been seen being played on Monday nights: eg. violins, mandolins, drums, banjos, harmonicas, accordions, concertinas, guitars, pianos, whistles, flutes, lagerphones, bush basses etc etc ). If you can sing, play an instrument, recite or spin a yarn, this is the place for you and remember, it keeps us off the streets for which members of the NSW constabulary are eternally grateful.

*Allen Davis*

### **Making Direct Deposit Payments (Membership/Shop/Ball)**

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

**BSB: 062-005**

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

**Reference**

#### **Email details of payment to treasurer:**

**Allen Davis** <allendavis@iprimus.com.au>

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

## AROUND THE BUSH MUSIC SCENE

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

- Feb 6 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, Ryebuck**, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594
- Feb 12 **7:30pm Duke's Place, Miguel Heatwole**, Hut 44, Marrickville. (p8)
- Feb 13 7:30pm Gosford Dance, East Gosford Progress Hall. ☎ Robyn: 4344 6484
- Feb 20 Loaded Dog Folk Club, **George Mann (USA)**, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, ☎ Sandra, 9358 4886
- Mar 5 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, BMC Concert Party**, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594
- Mar 12 Loaded Dog Folk Club, **Alistair Brown (UK) + Jim Low**, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, ☎ Sandra, 9358 4886
- Mar 18 **7:30pm Duke's Place, Evan Mathieson**, Hut 44, Marrickville. (p8)
- Mar 24-28 National Folk Festival, Canberra. [www.folkfestival.asn.au](http://www.folkfestival.asn.au)
- Apr 2 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, Sydney Coves**, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594
- Apr 8 **7:30pm Duke's Place, Pat Drummond**, Hut 44, Marrickville. (see p8)
- Apr 16 Loaded Dog Folk Club, **Solidarity + Tony Eardley**, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, ☎ Sandra, 9358 4886

### Regular Events

**Singing Session - 7pm** 1st Friday of each month (except Public Holidays)  
Hut 44, Addison Rd Comm Centre, Marrickville. Margaret 0427 958 788

**Songlines Song session - 7pm** 1st Sunday of each month  
**Has moved** to The Friend in Hand, Glebe ☎ Jenny 9576 2301

**Sydney Playford Dance Group - 7:30pm** 1st Tuesday of each month  
Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville (see p14)

**Toongabbie Music Club - 7:30pm** 2nd & 4th Friday of each month  
17 Whitehaven Rd Northmead, ☎ 9639 7494

**Kiama Bush Dance - 7pm** 2nd Thursday of each month  
Kiama Community Centre, ☎ Tony 0422 540 249

**Campfire Session - 7pm** 3rd Tuesday of each month  
Kiama Community Centre, ☎ Tony 0422 540 249

**Dance Workshop - 2pm** 3rd Sunday of each month  
Upper hall, Pennant Hills Community Centre.  
<http://keith-wood.name/danceworkshops.html>

**Sutherland Acoustic - 7:30pm** 2nd Thursday of each month  
Tradies, Gymea

**Southern Cross Fiddlers - 7pm** Tuesday nights  
1/103 Foveaux St. Surry Hills.

For the latest information on events see the BMC Website: [www.bushmusic.org.au](http://www.bushmusic.org.au)