

MULGA WIRE

INCLUDING
SINGABOUT



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MULGA WIRE

EDITORS of MULGA WIRE are:

Mike Young 0428 223 033 - mike55young@tpg.com.au

Colin Fong 9716 9660(h) - c.fong@unsw.edu.au

President: Sharyn Mattern 9799 7439 (h)

Vice President: Don Richmond 9642 7950 (h)

Secretary: Sandra Nixon 9358 4886 (h)

Treasurer: Allen Davis 9639 7494 (h)



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BUSH DANCES

June - August

BEECROFT Community Centre

Becroft Road (opposite Fire Stn)

7:30pm—11:30pm

June 4 **JH Dance Band**

July 2 **Currawong**

August 6 **Snake Gully**

Enquiries: Sigrid 9980 7077
Wilma 9489 5594

ERMINGTON Community Centre

10 River Road, Ermington

7pm—11pm

July 16 **Christmas in July
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

Cover:

A group of folkies including Dale Dengate joined in a musical dedication of Dengate Cres in the ACT, named in honour of the late John Dengate.

Photo: Sharyn Mattern



President's Message

The recent 2016 'Regency to Ragtime' Heritage Ball, held at Parramatta Town Hall, was a wonderful night of music and dancing. An enormous 'Thank You' to Wendy Richmond and her amazing team who created a gastronomic delight! Also many 'Thanks' to Dave Johnson and the Heritage Ensemble for the enchanting music. The Recovery Picnic was held at Australiana Village Wilberforce and was a wonderfully relaxing day enjoyed by everyone. Well done and thank you to everyone involved for all your hard work in making the weekend so amazing.

The inaugural BMC 'Music at Morisset' is on track to be an enjoyable and amazing weekend. Stay tuned in the next issue of MW for reports and pictures.

It is with a sad heart that we recently said farewell to both Greg Strutt and Noel May. Both will be sorely missed and we extend to their families our sincere condolences.

Sharyn Mattern

Worth Noting	4	National Folk Festival Report	10
Heritage Ball Picnic Report	5	Book review - Araluen	11
Subscription Ball at Maitland	6	Baerami Bush Dance	12
Currawong 20th	7	Membership Form	13
Duke's Place	8	Event details/Playford	14
Singabout - "Refreshing Memories"	S1-4	Concert Party News	15
Pennant Hills Dance Workshop	9	Around the Bush Music Scene	16

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>

We are hoping to hold a **Going Bush** weekend at Sofala in September to follow up on the weekend at Morisset. 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.

The Traditional Social Dance of Victoria (TSDAV)'s George Ansell announced the winners of their Dance Composers Competition during the National Folk Festival final concert:

The Beatrice Klippel Memorial Award (General Social Dance) was won by **Norm Ellis**, for his dance "On Christmas Day in the Morning", and the VFMC Perpetual Trophy (for a more challenging dance) was won by **Keith Wood**, for his dance "The Wide Brown Land".

We sadly note the passing of two well known members of the folk scene, **Noel May** and **Greg Strutt**. Our condolences go out to family and friends. We will miss them.

The BMC Blog has lots of new items including reports from the National Folk Festival, **Sandra Nixon**'s paper presented at the National Folklore Conference, and the musical dedication of Dengate Cres.

<http://bushmusicclub.blogspot.com.au/>

Bundanoon DanceFest, a weekend of dance workshops and evening dances will be held on the June long weekend.

<http://www.bushtraditions.org/dancefest/bunders.htm>

Mulga Wire: 2016 Publishing Deadlines

Item Deadline	To Printers	Folding Session
15 July	21 July	26 July
16 September	22 September	27 September

Heritage Ball Picnic

Sunday sun shone through bush back-burning smoke, kept moving into our respiratory systems by gentle breezes, to welcome all Ball-recovery & other picnickers at Pioneer Village Wilberforce on 22 May 2016. Certainly it was a picnic with a 'smoked-flavour', reminiscent of a wood-fired back-yard BBQ when open fires were permissible & modern gas BBQ's weren't the 'rage'.

A long table was already 'set' by Wendy Richmond, when 2 BMC committee members arrived at 10.30am. just near the bush-stage at the hill-top location. A forward 'scout' dispatched from the car park found her 'claimed' site.

After the longest picnic lunch many would have attended (due to continual arrivals), this proximity provided the dance floor for the more energetic, to mount children's horses-headed poles & gallop in regulated dance formation to the bush musicians playing. Passer-bys did enjoy sharing some of their time with us, to the extent that we 'stage-dressed' some overseas visitors with Aussie-gear, before complying with their photographic request.

The more weary departed, leaving a good contingent to linger into the late shading & cooling afternoon, with the changed breeze direction out of the North wafting the musical sounds to those many picnickers further down on the flats, enjoying the sun's late rays.



Brian Freeman

A dedicated group of musicians playing at the ball picnic.
Photo: Mike Young

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

Bush Music Club
36th Colonial Subscription Ball
Saturday 27th August 2016
Maitland Town Hall
6.30 pm for 7pm start

The Ball

A Colonial-style Subscription Ball held each year at Maitland Town Hall, a venue boasting one of the best sprung dance floors in the country. The ball is a dancer's delight with the dance programme selected from diverse styles of dances, including Colonial, Traditional, Celtic, Regency, European and Bush. Preferred dress is formal and in keeping with Australia's Colonial period.

Recovery Picnic

Held on Sunday, 28th August from 11 am at Marmong Park, George St, Marmong Point, the BBQ/picnic is a time to recover, relax and socialise, with the opportunity for more dancing if desired. The park contains the Marmong Point Community Hall for dancing and shelter from the weather (if required). There is a large grassy area with shade trees and a view of Lake Macquarie. You can partake of the BBQ lunch provided (pre-booked and prepaid) or BYO. Please BYO chairs and drinks. Musicians, bring your instruments.

Practice Sessions

Newcastle

Sunday August 14. 10am-5pm.

Masonic Hall, Metcalfe St, Wallsend (near intersection with Cowper St).

Contact Arthur or Julia - Ph 49555701

Central Coast

Sunday August 7. 10am-5pm. East Gosford Progress Hall,
Wells St and Henry Parry Dr. East Gosford.

Contact Arthur or Julia - Ph 49555701

Sydney

Date TBA. 10am-4pm. Scout Hall, Park Ave, Concord.

Contact Wendy - Ph 0412 145262.

All practice sessions cost \$8 for the day.

Tea, coffee and cold drinks provided.

**** Attendance at practices is highly recommended****

There will also be practice nights at the Pennant Hills Dance Workshop.

Enquiries: Wendy - Ph 0412 145262 or Email: wendy_richmond@yahoo.com



Currawong Bush Band

20 Year Celebration Dance

Saturday 2nd July 2016

7.30pm start

Everyone is welcome to join us to celebrate twenty years of the Currawong Bush Band at the Beecroft Community Centre.



The special Currawong Band for the evening will feature both previous and current musicians.

The dance program will contain many of your favourite bush dances and a few surprises.

A special feature of the evening will be
“The Woylie Waltz”

a year 2000 prize-winning dance written by Amanda Daly with music by Tony Stuart, both Currawong musicians at the time.

See you there!

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 10th June - Jim Low

Jim has lived in the Blue Mountains for 30 years and started writing songs about the area because he “couldn’t find anything already written”. He has also written books and articles and developed school learning materials on Australian themes.

<http://jimlow.net/>

Friday 8th July - Ten Quid Poms (John Warner & Robin Connaughton)

Performers and songwriters of contemporary and traditional music. Witty incisive commentators on industrial, political and social issues. They both arrived in Australia from England with their parents as subsidised migrants, hence the name.

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Ten-Quid-Poms-975426715865311>

Friday 19th August - Penny Davies & Roger Ilott

Penny and Roger began recording together in 1983 and have released more than 20 albums, featured at folk festivals and toured extensively. Alan Scott once commented “I could listen to them sing the telephone book” and long-time ABC radio presenter David Mulhallen described them as “Two of Australia’s great folk artists”.

<http://www.restlessmusic.com.au/index.html>

Pennant Hills Dance Activities

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

During May the BMC dance workshop participants learned some of the Parramatta Heritage Ball dances taught by Wendy and Don Richmond. The workshops were good fun and very useful preparation for the ball. Our thanks to Wendy and Don for giving their time to our group.

We have a full programme of dancing coming up. On 6th June we will be practicing the dances for the Central Coast dance to be held on Saturday 11th June where the JH Dance Band will be playing in their unique style.

On 13th June there will be no workshop (public holiday). However there will be a whole (long) weekend of dancing at Bundanoon with the annual “DanceFest” and the Central Coast dancers will be holding their regular monthly dance on the Saturday evening, so there is plenty of choice.

The July Beecroft dance (2nd July at the Beecroft Community Hall) will be a celebration of 20 years of the Currawong Bush Band with many previous and current musicians playing. This will be a very special night featuring many of their favourite dances. One of the highlights will be the “Woylie Waltz”, a prize winning dance written in 2000 by Amanda Daly with dedicated music by Tony Stuart, both “Currawongs” at that time. An evening not to be missed.

We will be holding some practice workshops at Pennant Hills for the Currawong dance so if you’re not sure of the “Woylie Waltz” (or any of the others) come and learn them. In July we will have our annual “birthday” party (the workshop’s birthday that is) and will have a few practice nights as well. If you were one of the early members of the Pennant Hills workshops why not join us? Founding members are especially welcome. See you at Pennant Hills!

John Short

Programme June/July

MONDAY 7.30–10.30	THEME/DANCE STYLE
6 June	Practice for Central Coast June Dance
13 June	No Workshop - Queen’s Birthday public holiday
20 June	Practice for “Currawong” Celebration, July 2 Beecroft
27 June	Practice for “Currawong” Celebration, July 2 Beecroft
4 July	Mixed workshop - some American dances (not all contras)
11 July	Practice for Dance Workshop Birthday Party
18 July	Practice for Dance Workshop Birthday Party
25 July	Dance Workshop Birthday Party (bring plate and friend)

2016 National Folk Festival Report

2016 was a festival of memories and tributes mixed with confidence for the future of folk and Nationals.

Young people were everywhere, performing, singing or busking as were those with greyer hair or other signs of many years attendance at folk festivals. The Bush Music Club should be commended on the special workshops to encourage youthful participation. Moving between the Saplings and the lunchtime sessions kept Helen and Tony Romeo very busy and others too. Chris Woodland, who assisted Dennis and Mem Taberner run the Dennis O'Keeffe lunchtime Australian songs session, said it was one of the best Nationals ever. Among the sizeable gathering of many familiar faces, it was good to see long time BMC members, Ann and Frank Maher with their daughters Helen and Monica enjoying these sessions.

Near the front entrance it was good to see the traditions of Australia's First Peoples presenting aspects of their culture and hear Col Hardy at the National Library. As always the Folklore Conference had some very informative papers. I always learn so much at the Conference and it is always well attended by BMC people. Sandra Nixon had done a very thorough piece of research into the Editors, office bearers and illustrators of the early volumes of 'Singabout'. Chris Woodland presented an insight into his book on Araluen, with some historical photographs.

There were a number of concerts commemorating the humble beginnings from the Melbourne mob in 1967. The program from 2016 had hundreds of performers from every state. Excellent research with recollection of events, programs of the first festival and profiles of people were presented by Phyl Lobl, Danny Spooner and Margaret Roadknight. Colleen Z. Burke organised a commemorative Declan Affley concert. Jeannie Lewis managed to continue her moving rendition of Woody Guthrie's *Deportee* in spite of the Brass band marching outside the beautiful *Speigel Zelt*. As one of those from the '67 folk festival, this was not the first time Jeannie had sung unaccompanied and without microphones.

It was wonderful to hear a number of the original performers or younger performers carrying on the traditions.

Jason and Chloe Roweth along with their brilliant band gave a passionate performance including songs and poems with memories of John Dengate. Another themed concert prepared with passion and talent was the moving presentation of *The Easter Rising, Ireland 1916*. The *Fettlers* from NT gave an informative concert of songs and stories of the *Rails and Planes of the Top End*. Peter Mace always has a strong impact with his bush poetry and to represent the young people, Megan Roweth did a very good recital of Paterson's *Walgett Town*, at the *Poet's Breakfast*. Sydney Morris dancers and others from every state including some from across the ditch added to the carnival atmosphere, and also ran *Morris for Kids*.

A special tribute to Peter Ellis brought nostalgic memories of a true gentle man of dance heritage and the people who shared their experience of traditional music and dance. I recall a discussion with Peter, some years ago after we did the *Pride of Erin*, when he said you Sydney BMC people often seem to have your own versions, and we thought we were the traditionalists! However, doing the *Pride of Erin* with Roger Holmes from Queensland, I realized they dance another version...the wonders of folk traditions...

There were plenty of opportunities to join singing sessions, dancing and reciting, but it would be impossible to see everything. I know I missed some great performances.

There were also a number of brilliant overseas visitors who love the authenticity and variety of the National. Pam Merrigan and Organisers did a wonderful job blending them all into the National Program which is so much larger than the one held fifty years ago.

R Dale Dengate

Book Review

Araluen: a history through photographs c 1840-2000, Braidwood and District Historical Society Inc, 2014, \$25.00

This book gives a portrait of what it was like growing up, living and working in the Araluen area and surrounding districts. The early settlers had to put up with a lot of hardship with little of the pleasures experienced by the larger regional areas or cities. The gold mining which attracted people to the area is highlighted by the many photographs of gold mining activities ranging from panning to the dredging for gold. Photos of the local public and Roman Catholic schools reveal diversity of school wear. A photo of people wearing their Sunday best to church reflects times past compared to today where no one wears their Sunday best and even Anglican priests often do not wear clerical garments during church services.

Recreational activities such as lodges, clubs and sporting activities are covered with emphasis on the male of the species.

Folk music is featured in the pages on musicians playing traditional instruments together with a photo of John Meredith playing his button accordion. Mention is made of the Bush Music Club visiting in the 1960s and their playing attracted a big crowd. Although not listed on the title page, BMC life member, Chris Woodland was a prime initiator of this publication having supplied most of the research, photos and text for the publication. His Araluen photographic compilation numbers about 300 images, having collected them over several decades.

Dorothea Mackellar's poem My Country with its words: "Of droughts and flooding rains" is certainly evident in the Araluen district and surrounding areas. Included in the text are a number of poems such as *Snooks* by Alby Matthews, *Dames of the Deua* by JH Sturgiss, *Deua River Woman* by Myrtle Collett (nee Davis) and *The Valley* by Peter P Green.

This title is a testament to the pioneer folk who settled the Araluen district and is a book worth viewing to wonder at the life that once was and how their legacy lives on in the present generation. Another recollection of the Araluen area I have encountered is one about Iree McCarron whose recollection *Back of Bendethera* was published in Martin McAdoo's *When grandma was just a girl*, Sydney, Lansdowne Press, 1983. John Meredith's sisters are featured on the title page of Martin McAdoo's book.

Colin Fong

Baerami Bush Dance Report

We attended the Baerami Bush Dance on Saturday Night & had the most wonderful night dancing. The people were a great crowd with lots of children thoroughly enjoying themselves as well as the adults. We danced well into the night until we ran out of dancers.

We camped overnight near the hall which was very enjoyable as well.

My sister Shirley & friend came to meet up with us from Mudgee & spent the weekend. She also thoroughly enjoyed the time there.

The next morning we were at the hall ready to go on the bush walk at 8:30am.

We walked to the top of the mountain with the other people who were up to it after dancing all night.

When we arrived back at the hall after the bush walk the beautiful sound of the Bush Band was coming from the hall. The music was echoing across the camp ground making a most magical atmosphere.

We stayed in the hall until the final note was played later that afternoon.

What a wonderful weekend I wish they were held more often..

Julie-Rose Fancett-Bailey

A rectangular box with a black border containing the text "New Members" in a stylized, bold, black font. The word "New" is positioned above "Members", and both are slanted upwards to the right.

★ Donna McLAREN ★ ★ Diana HARRIS ★
★ Stephen WEIR ★
★ David BALL ★ ★ Louise MURRAY ★
★ Wongawilli Colonial Dancers ★

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 bmcm11954@gmail.com.

BUSH MUSIC CLUB inc

GPO Box 433, SYDNEY NSW 2001

Founded 1954

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Would you like to receive: Electronic MW [] Yes Regular electronic news updates [] Yes

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[] SINGLE \$22 [] FAMILY \$30 [] PENSIONER \$12

[] AFFILIATION (Clubs only) \$50 [] DONATION \$ _____

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THIS IS PROOF OF MEMBERSHIP FOR 2 MONTHS FROM THIS DATE

If membership card is not received within 2 months
Please contact the Membership Secretary on 0412 145 262



Event Details

Beecroft Bush Dance, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft

☎ Sigrd 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594

Bundanoon DanceFest

<http://www.bushtraditions.org/dancefest/bunders.htm>

Communities for Communities Bush Dance, St Marks School Hall,
31 Tranmere St, Drummoyne

Duke's Place, Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville

☎ Sandra 9358 4886 See p8

Gosford Bush Dance, East Gosford Progress Hall

☎ Anne Maree 0413 588 634

<http://www.cbdma.org/dance/>

Hornsby Folk Club, Beatrice Taylor Hall (in Willow Park), Edgeworth David Ave

☎ Barry 9807 9497

Keith's Dance Workshop, Upper Hall, Pennant Hills Community Centre

<http://keith-wood.name/danceworkshops.html>

Kiama Bush Dance, Kiama Community Centre

☎ Tony 0422 540 249

Loaded Dog Folk Club, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre

☎ Sandra 9358 4886

Songlines Song Session, Friend in Hand, Glebe

☎ Jenny 9576 2301

Sutherland Acoustic, Tradies, Gymea

☎ Jenny 9576 2301

Sydney Playford Dance Group, Hut 44, Addison Rd Comm Centre, Marrickville

☎ Julie 9524 0247 See below

Toongabbie Music Club, 17 Whitehaven Rd, Northmead

☎ 9639 7494

Playford Dancing at the Hut

Next meeting: **Tues 7th June**, 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.

Concert Party News

The BMC Concert Party has maintained its proud attendance record for 2016 with around 20 people attending each Monday evening in Hut 44. Several of the Concert Party members performed with the Heritage Band at the Ball in Parramatta Town Hall on Saturday 21 May 2016, and at the picnic the following day.

There have been many pleasing reports from people who were in the audience attending the recent Senior Citizens gig at Winston Hills Shopping Centre. The Concert Party will be performing once again at the Ermington Dance in July and at Dalmar Homes Carlingford on Sunday 27 November 2016.

All members have been looking forward to the Morisset Bush Music Sessions in late May 2016.

Allen Davis

Senior Men's Pickers Guitar Group

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

GyMEA Community Centre,

39-41 Nicholson Parade Cronulla 9521 6575

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

AROUND THE BUSH MUSIC SCENE

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

- | | | |
|-----------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jun 4 | 7:30pm | Beecroft Bush Dance, JH Dance Band |
| Jun 5 | 7pm | Songlines Song Session |
| Jun 7 | 7:30pm | Sydney Playford Dance Group |
| Jun 9 | 7:30pm | Sutherland Acoustic Night |
| Jun 9 | 7pm | Kiama Bush Dance, <i>No Such Thing</i> |
| Jun 10 | 7:30pm | Duke's Place, Jim Low |
| Jun 10 | 7:30pm | Toongabbie Music Club |
| Jun 10-13 | | Bundanoon DanceFest |
| Jun 11 | 7:30pm | Gosford Bush Dance, <i>JH Dance Band & friends</i> |
| Jun 17 | 8pm | Hornsby Folk Club, <i>Little Rabbit</i> |
| Jun 18 | 7:30pm | Communities for Communities Bush Dance |
| Jun 19 | 2pm | Keith's Dance Workshop, Contra: Rerun |
| Jun 24 | 7:30pm | Toongabbie Music Club |
| Jun 25 | 8pm | Loaded Dog Folk Club, <i>Fred Smith (ACT) + Margaret Bradford</i> |
| Jul 2 | 7:30pm | Beecroft Bush Dance, Currawong |
| Jul 3 | 7pm | Songlines Song Session |
| Jul 5 | 7:30pm | Sydney Playford Dance Group |
| Jul 8 | 7:30pm | Duke's Place, Ten Quid Poms |
| Jul 8 | 7:30pm | Toongabbie Music Club |
| Jul 9 | 7:30pm | Gosford Bush Dance, <i>Bad Wallaby</i> |
| Jul 14 | 7:30pm | Sutherland Acoustic Night |
| Jul 14 | 7pm | Kiama Bush Dance, <i>No Such Thing</i> |
| Jul 17 | 2pm | Keith's Dance Workshop, Contra: Mad for Robin |
| Jul 22 | 7:30pm | Toongabbie Music Club |
| Jul 23 | 8pm | Loaded Dog Folk Club, <i>Paul Spencer + Cap in Hand</i> |
| Aug 2 | 7:30pm | Sydney Playford Dance Group |
| Aug 6 | 7:30pm | Beecroft Bush Dance, Snake Gully |
| Aug 7 | 7pm | Songlines Song Session |
| Aug 11 | 7:30pm | Sutherland Acoustic Night |
| Aug 11 | 7pm | Kiama Bush Dance, <i>No Such Thing</i> |
| Aug 12 | 7:30pm | Toongabbie Music Club |
| Aug 13 | 7:30pm | Gosford Bush Dance, <i>Southern Cross</i> |
| Aug 19 | 7:30pm | Duke's Place, <i>Penny Davies & Roger Illott</i> |
| Aug 19 | 8pm | Hornsby Folk Club, <i>Lime and Steel</i> |
| Aug 21 | 2pm | Keith's Dance Workshop, Keith's dances |
| Aug 26 | 7:30pm | Toongabbie Music Club |
| Aug 27 | | BMC Subscription Ball |
| Aug 27 | 8pm | Loaded Dog Folk Club |

See page 14 for more details of these events

For the latest information on events see the BMC Website: www.bushmusic.org.au