

MULGA WIRE

INCLUDING
SINGABOUT



No. 240
Registered by Australia Post

February 2017
Publication PP 100001235

ISSN 0157 - 3381

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)



MULGA WIRE appears each even month. Unsolicited articles should be submitted four weeks prior to publication. Email articles to the editors or mail to GPO Box 433, Sydney 2001.

MULGA WIRE is sent free to members of the Bush Music Club Inc and costs \$2.00 or \$2.70 (posted) per issue to others. Subscription is \$15 per annum, including postage, for six issues.

Except where it is indicated that copyright is reserved, all articles in **MULGA WIRE** may be freely reprinted, provided that source and author are clearly acknowledged.

Views expressed herein are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Club or Editorial staff.

MULGA WIRE is not possible without the support of those members who prepare the magazine for posting.

ADVERTISING (Copy size in mm)
Full Page (vert) \$45.00 (185h x 127w)
Half Page (horiz) \$25.00 (92h x 127w)
Quarter Page (vert) \$15.00 (92h x 63w)
Business Cards \$ 7.00 (< 30 x 47)
Classifieds \$ 1.50 Per line
Inserts \$30.00 (Minimum)

Copy for advertisements should be at 100%, no larger than 123 mm high by 83 mm wide (full page), camera ready and submitted three weeks prior to publication, or by prior arrangement with the Editors.

MULGA WIRE is printed by Unique Print, 154 Broadway, Chippendale.

BUSH DANCES

February - April

BEECROFT Community Centre

Becroft Road (opposite Fire Stn)

7:30pm—11:30pm

February 4 **Currawong**

March 4 **Ryebuck**

April 1 **BMC Concert Party**

Enquiries: Sigrid 9980 7077
Wilma 9489 5594

ERMINGTON Community Centre

10 River Road, Ermington

7pm—11pm

December 16 **Southern Cross**

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:

Part of the BMC Concert Party which played in the Australian Tradition concert at the recent Illawarra Folk Festival. Dave Moir, John and Chris Poleson, and Ralph Pride on bush bass.

Photo: Mike Young



Welcome to 2017! I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year and have come back refreshed. The club was well represented at the recent Illawarra Folk Festival by both the Saplings and the BMC Concert Party. Congratulations and well done to everyone involved.

The bush dance season starts again soon with Currawong playing at the February Beecroft dance.

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.

If you would like to be kept up to date with the latest BMC news via our e-list just send an email to: bmcmail1954@gmail.com.

Sharyn Mattern

Worth Noting	4	Dengate Parody Mug Report	10
Festivals / Central Coast Dance	5	“Songs That Shake Things Up”	11
Poet’s Corner	6	For the Love of Folk / Playford	12
Bush Dances	7	Membership Form	13
Duke’s Place	8	Event details	14
Singabout - “Australians”	S1-4	Concert Party News	15
Pennant Hills Dance Workshop	9	Around the Bush Music Scene	16

Worth Noting

Rob Willis has been named Forbes Citizen of the Year for 2017. His realisation that his hometown was a major folklore resource that needed collecting has led to a large body of material in the National Library and many entertaining and informative presentations/concerts at folk festivals, particularly the National Folk Festival, and has helped to put Forbes on the folk map. Well done Rob!

<http://www.forbesadvocate.com.au/story/4430542/citizen-of-the-year-2017-rob-willis/>

Ermington dance has been scaled back this year due to poor attendance, particularly in July - only the December dance will be held.

Heather Clarke has been researching the Rum Rebellion and Governor Bligh (Australia Day 1808) and found a tune and dance called *The Silly Old Man* that celebrated the uprising. The results of her research may be found on her website:

<http://www.colonialdance.com.au/the-silly-old-man-2571.html>

Traditional Irish Music 'Slow Session'

The Sydney Slow Session is a place where musicians can learn a new Irish Folk tune each week at a pace that suits beginners and intermediate players.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/SydneySlowSession/>

New
Members

★ Karen TAYLOR ★ ★ Julie McEWEN ★
★ Geoff TURNER ★ ★ Reg MURRAY ★
★ Denis McKAY ★ ★ Anthony SCHMUCK ★

At the Festivals

National Folk Festival

We have applied for a number of spots - check NFF website for results.

Central Coast Bush Dance

There have been some changes to stay within tighter budgetary constraints. Here is what the Central Coast Committee have to say:

Live bands have been a popular feature of our Bush Dance nights ever since our beginning and so these will continue, but only on our special theme nights to be held on every odd numbered month starting from March. All of our bands have been great, but some will need to be rested this year and followed up again in future programs.

The even numbered months starting in February will give us an opportunity to utilise some of our best dance caller teachers to present a night of varied and interesting social dance. With inviting guest callers and the best available CD music to support our dancing it is expected that we may experience some old favourites, but also new and freshly different dances this year.

Everyone who attended the Friday night dance workshop last year had a good time. This year it will be replaced with an ad-hoc program of special afternoon or full day dances in preparation for our special theme nights, Jane Austen, British Isles and Spring Ball. These will most likely be held on Sundays preceding the special dance nights.

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

Poet's Corner

This will be a space where our new poetry group can showcase one of the poems presented at the hut. If you like poetry, why not join them?

At a Campfire with Lawson by Frank Bulgin

As Henry was in his grave in Waverley Cemetery
I thought he might have a bit of time for me
Yarning by the campfire at the close of day
He'd reach for his swag and fill his old clay
Then tell me stories as if from a dream
As we ponder on the men we might have been.
Mesmerized by the fireflies at the rising of the moon
I fancied I could hear a distant mournful tune.

He was wondering about the rivers of the West,
The Lachlan, The MacIntyre, and Darling he knew best
And had the working man risen in the social revolution
And had the "war to end all wars" a just and fair conclusion
And were the faces in the street less severe today
Or was it the same old story of hurt and dismay
Well I knew he'd laid at rest for more than 80 years
As I told him of my hopes and fears.

I told of Pig Iron Bob and Little Johnnie Howard
And how political correctness made everyone a coward.
Of Oz being carved up between Japs and Poms and Yanks
As I handed him a beer he nodded and said thanks
And I saw him turn away and thought I heard him say
Something about mateship and Mitchell,
And Joe Wilsons mates
And that he still longed for "The Roaring Days".

POETRY anyone?

Enjoy reciting a poem? Sharing a poem with others?
Perhaps writing your own poems? Brushing up on performing some 'bush' poetry?
If so, you are very welcome to come along. A contribution to go with afternoon tea would be appreciated.

Where: The BMC Hut at Marrickville, Addison Rd.

When: Saturday 2pm to 4pm - Feb 11

Cost: \$5 or gold coin donation

Contact: Karen Fong, (02) 9716 9660 (a message can be left)

OR fongs@bigpond.net.au

Bush Music Club

Beecroft Bush Dance



7:30pm - 11:30pm *Note start time*

Beecroft Community Centre
Beecroft Road (cnr Copeland Rd)

Cost: \$19 Adult, \$14 BMC Members
Includes supper

Sat February 4 - *Currawong*

Sat March 4 - *Ryebuck Bush Band*

Sat April 1 - *BMC Concert Party*

Bush Music Club

Ermington Bush Dance



7pm - 11pm *Note start time*

Ermington Community Centre
River Rd, Ermington

Hall is air conditioned

Cost: \$19 Adult, \$14 BMC Members
Includes supper

Sat December 16 - *Southern Cross*

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 February - Sue Gee & Brian Jonathon

"Velvet tongue, sharp teeth" Sue Gee is a singer-songwriter with an "edge" who has long amused audiences with her acerbic lyrics on politics, society and women's "herstory". Her recent foray into Ecopella (choir) and ukekele-playing has spawned quite a few new environmental ditties and political parodies. She recently came 3rd in the John Dengate Memorial Parody-writing competition. Conservatives be warned! Sue accompanies herself on guitar, autoharp, ukelele and harmonica.

Dublin-born singer-songwriter Brian Jonathon has passionately burst onto the Sydney folk scene with songs of social justice, reconciliation, environment and the dark absurdities of modern life

Friday 10th March - Warren Fahey

Warren Fahey started performing in mid 1960s and has never stopped. As a cultural historian he uses songs and storytelling to bring history to life. He has a unique repertoire of bush songs, early ballads, city ditties & associated folklore including poetry, drinking toasts & parodies. As a young lad he regularly attended the BMC Singabout nights. His group, The Larrikins, founded in 1969, helped redefine Australian folk music.

Coming up later in the year:

Peter Hicks <http://peterhicks.com.au>

Eric Eisler & Nancy Nicholls

Lola's Keg Night <http://christinapossum.wixsite.com/lola/about>

Steve Wilson <http://www.concertinaman.net>

Mulga Wire: 2016/17 Publishing Deadlines

Item Deadline	To Printers	Folding Session
17 March	23 March	28 March
19 May	25 May	30 May

Pennant Hills Dance Activities

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

The BMC Dance Workshop finished 2016 with some great evenings.

Our Christmas Party on 12th December saw thirty four dancers enjoying live music from the BMC's Concert Party. Dances included Blackwattle Reel, Maxina, Love and Kisses, Silver City Reel and Marching Through Georgia. Our thanks to the Concert Party musicians for supporting us on this special night.

Our last evening of the year was the Dancers' Request Night where the dances were requested by those present. We danced Queen of Sheba (Annie), Swing Waltz (Judy), Loyalty Waltz (Felicity), Maxina (Fay), Postie's Jig (Wilma), Virginia Reel (Sigrid), Arkansas Traveller (Russell) and Janet's Delight (Colin). A really enjoyable way to finish the dancing year.

In January 2017 we have been learning some modern Australian Dances based on traditional dance movements such as schottische steps, reels of three and four, waltz turns and right and left hand stars. Formations have included longways proper sets, improper sets, couples, Sicilian circles, quadrilles and "three facing three". These new dances have been a good test of our brain cells.

In February we will be revising timing and phrasing of some of our traditional and new bush dances and revisiting some recent ball dances, and in March we will have fun with dances based on some unusual themes.

The early months of the year can be very hot and humid but not in the Pennant Hills Community Centre where we have the luxury of air conditioning.

See you at Pennant Hills!

John Short

Programme February/March

MONDAY 7.30–10.30	THEME/DANCE STYLE
6 February	Traditional & Modern Dances - Basic timing & phrasing
13 February	Traditional & Modern Dances - Basic timing & phrasing
20 February	Revisiting past ball dances
27 February	Revisiting past ball dances
6 March	Dances named after places
13 March	State celebration dances
20 March	Dances named after people
27 March	Dances with Royal-sounding names

Dale and John Dengate Parody Mug Report, 2017

There were seven fine parody entries and each of them sustained the high standard of previous contests. Most had choruses and encouraged participation. John Tubridy started on a serious note with a salute to Leonard Cohen and others who died last year. Neil Rowsell accompanied himself with ukulele to wonder what we do with the drunken folkie? He included Russell Hannah, who was quite sober when we blew in the straw at the gates to test before driving!

Peter Willey is a well seasoned parody writer and humourist, who had us laughing with 'Thank god I'm a city boy' as well as his versions of the Haka. Paul Spencer continued the humour with his puns on 'Wade in the Water.' Allan Wright introduced some great rhymes with 'Clementine, the Cliff Climber'. That passionate performer, Peter Hicks sang 'The Wild Rorter', a very current parody by his partner Geoff Francis about the political expenses paid for by tax payers. It was acclaimed equal first with Jane Scott.

It is always hard to pick just one for the trophy, but Jane got the Parody mug for 2017. She used Solidarity Forever as a recruiting song for the Solidarity choir. Jane is well known for her poetry, but this time she sang and had us all joining songs that shake things up.

R. Dale Dengate



Joint cup winners Peter Hicks (above) and Jane Scott (right - holding the mug) with Dale and Russ Hannah.

Photos: Sandra Nixon



Here is Jane Scott's entry in the Dengate Parody Mug competition:

Songs that Shake things Up

The Solidarity Choir Recruitment Song

I'm joining Solidarity.
I want to fight the fight.
I want to help to change the world
Sing out with all my might.
They say it's not a problem that my music skills are slight
To sing songs that shake things up.

We're singing on the picket line
Of workers' rights so fine
My heart's there but my tunefulness is on the borderline.
When the protest's over we will all go share some wine
And more songs that shake things up.

We sing for social justice, in support of refugees.
The song will sound much better when I find the proper key.
We dream about a world where everybody can be free
To sing songs that shake things up.

We sing songs in Italian,
Some in Spanish and Chinese too
There're so many sounds to get my tongue around
I don't know what to do.
I'm glad there's Google translate or I wouldn't have a clue
Singing songs that shake things up.

I need to sing a harmony.
Soprano's have the tune
But where the notes go I don't know
They say I'll get there soon.
At least it's not a solo so I won't end up marooned
Singing songs that shake things up.

Come join Solidarity
And help us fight the fight
If you can't sing in parts just yet
Don't worry, you'll be right.
Just come and help to change the world
Sing out with all your might.
Singing songs that shake things up.

Chorus: Solidarity forever, solidarity forever
There is nothing we like better
Than songs that shake things up.

For the Love of Folk (Singing Session)

We're a hotchpotch group of folk singers who meet once a month to share songs and we welcome newcomers.

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

Time: 7pm, First Friday of the month

Venue: Tritton Hall (Hut 44),
Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville

Cost: Gold coin donation

Contact: Glenys 4758 7851

Playford Dancing at the Hut

Next meeting: **Tues 7th 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.

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.

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**.

BUSH MUSIC CLUB inc

GPO Box 433, SYDNEY NSW 2001

Founded 1954

MEMBERSHIP

APPLICATION []

RENEWAL []

UPDATE []

Name:

Address:

Phone: Home () Work ()

Email

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

YEARLY MEMBERSHIP

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

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

5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP

[] SINGLE \$100 [] FAMILY \$130

[] PENSIONER \$60 [] AFFILIATION \$250

CASH / CHEQUE Enclosed \$..... (No cash through post please)

Signature: Date:

Direct deposit details: BSB: 062-005 Reference: Your Name & "Membership"
Account: 0090 7524 Bank: Commonwealth

Email this form or details of payment to treasurer: Allen Davis: allendavis@iprimus.com.au

Office Use Only

Feb	Apr	Jun	Aug	Oct	Dec	
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	--

Fee received ---- / ---- / ----	Appl approved ---- / ---- / ----	Record updated ---- / ---- / ----	Member Number	New Card Posted ---- / ---- / ----
------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	---------------	---------------------------------------

INTERIM RECEIPT AND PROOF OF MEMBERSHIP Name

Fee received by..... \$..... Date / /
(Committee Member)

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

☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594

Cobargo Folk Festival,

<http://www.cobargofolkfestival.com/>

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

☎ Sandra 9358 4886 See p8

For the Love of Folk - the Addison Road session

☎ Glenys 4758 7851 See p5

Gosford Bush Dance, East Gosford Progress Hall

☎ Anne Maree 0413 588 634 <http://www.ccbdma.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, Hindmarsh Park

☎ Tony 0422 540 249

Loaded Dog Folk Club, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre

☎ Sandra 9358 4886

National Folk Festival, Exhibition Park, Canberra.

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

Poetry at the Hut, Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville

☎ Karen 9716 9660

Songlines Song Session, Friend in Hand, Cowper St, Glebe

☎ Jenny 9576 2301

St Albans Folk Festival,

<http://www.stalbansfolkfestival.com.au>

Sutherland Acoustic, Tradies, Gynea

☎ Jenny 9576 2301

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

☎ Julie 9524 0247 See p12

Toongabbie Music Club, 17 Whitehaven Rd, Northmead

☎ 9639 7494

Troubadour Folk Club, CWA Hall, The Boulevarde, Woy Woy

☎ Michael 4342 6716

Concert Party News

The Concert Party members played for the Pennant Hills Dance Workshop and also enjoyed a delightful Christmas party at the Hut in December. The regular Monday night music and song workshops will restart in 2017 on 6 February.

In January a large number of members attended the Illawarra Folk Festival at Bulli. Nine members performed at the Australian Traditions concert on Friday night. This group had practiced for some considerable time and the reports coming in all indicate that the quality of musicianship was first class... well done and congratulations good and faithful musicians and singers!

The BMC also presented our singalong and tune sessions as usual. The Sunday morning Saplings workshop attracted several new members, along with a number of our regulars. Unfortunately the heavy rain probably put off others, including a boy who had joined our songs workshop the day before. The future of Australian Bush music is in safe hands indeed.

Allen Davis



Concert Party at the Illawarra Folk Festival.

Photo: Chris Woodland

AROUND THE BUSH MUSIC SCENE

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

Feb	3	7pm	For the Love of Folk
Feb	4	7:30pm	Beecroft Bush Dance , <i>Currawong</i>
Feb	5	7pm	Songlines Song Session
Feb	7	7:30pm	Sydney Playford Dance Group
Feb	9	7:30pm	Sutherland Acoustic Night
Feb	9	7pm	Kiama Bush Dance, <i>No Such Thing</i>
Feb	10	7:30pm	Duke's Place , <i>Sue Gee & Brian Jonathon</i>
Feb	10	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Feb	11	2pm	Poetry at the Hut
Feb	11	7:30pm	Gosford Bush Dance
Feb	17	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club
Feb	18	8pm	Loaded Dog Folk Club
Feb	19	2pm	Keith's Dance Workshop
Feb	24	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Feb	25	7pm	Troubadour Folk Club
Feb	24-26		Cobargo Folk Festival
Mar	3	7pm	For the Love of Folk
Mar	4	7:30pm	Beecroft Bush Dance , <i>Ryebuck</i>
Mar	4	7pm	Songlines Song Session
Mar	7	7:30pm	Sydney Playford Dance Group
Mar	9	7:30pm	Sutherland Acoustic Night
Mar	9	7pm	Kiama Bush Dance, <i>No Such Thing</i>
Mar	10	7:30pm	Duke's Place , <i>Warren Fahey</i>
Mar	10	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Mar	11	2pm	Poetry at the Hut
Mar	11	7:30pm	Gosford Bush Dance, <i>Bad Wallaby</i>
Mar	17	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club
Mar	19	2pm	Keith's Dance Workshop
Mar	25	8pm	Loaded Dog Folk Club, <i>Christina Mimmocchi + Helen & Tony Romeo</i>
Mar	25	7pm	Troubadour Folk Club
Apr	1	7:30pm	Beecroft Bush Dance , <i>BMC Concert Party</i>
Apr	2	7pm	Songlines Song Session
Apr	4	7:30pm	Sydney Playford Dance Group
Apr	7	7pm	For the Love of Folk
Apr	8	2pm	Poetry at the Hut
Apr	8	7:30pm	Gosford Bush Dance
Apr	13	7:30pm	Sutherland Acoustic Night
Apr	13	7pm	Kiama Bush Dance, <i>No Such Thing</i>
Apr	13-17		National Folk Festival
Apr	21	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club
Apr	21	7:30pm	Duke's Place
Apr	21-23		St Albans Folk Festival
Apr	22	7pm	Troubadour Folk Club
Apr	23	2pm	Keith's Dance Workshop
Apr	28	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Apr	29	8pm	Loaded Dog Folk Club, <i>Chloe & Jason Roweth</i>

See page 14 for more details of these events