

MULGA WIRE

INCLUDING
SINGABOUT



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MULGA WIRE

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BUSH DANCES

February—April

BEECROFT Community Centre

Beecroft Road, Beecroft (opposite Fire Stn)

Note new time: 7:30pm—11:30pm

February 1 **Ryebuck**

March 1 **Urban Scrub**

April 5 **No Such Thing**

Enquiries: Sigrid **9980 7077 /**

Wilma / 9489 5594 / Peter 9477 5848

ERMINGTON Community Centre

10 River Road, Ermington

7pm—11pm

June 21 **Urban Scrub**

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:

Lola Wright at the Illawarra Folk Festival Show Pavilion for the second preview reading of the first act of the play "Life of Lola"

Photo: Mike Young

President's Message

Welcome to the Bush Music Club's 60th year!

This year brings lots of exciting special events with the 60th Anniversary Dinner to be held on 29th March at Ermington Hall. An invitation has been included in this issue and I am really looking forward to meeting you all. Please mark this date in your diary.

The year has started off well with the BMC Monday night Concert Party having performed every day at the recent Illawarra Folk Festival, see their report in this issue. Our year of celebration continues with the Ryebuck Bush Band playing at the February Beecroft dance. This is fitting as Ryebuck started the Beecroft dances over 30 years ago.

Another special event this year are the competitions, the response to every category has been overwhelming. Good luck to all the entrants and I can't wait to dance, sing and play - not only the winners, but all the entries.

I would like to send a get well message to our resident poet, Eddy Sampson, who has been quite sick. Eddy, our thoughts are with you and we all hope that you are well on the road to recovery.

I trust that you all had a relaxing and rejuvenating break over the Christmas period and are ready to get back in the swing and kick your heels up.

Sharyn Mattern

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Photo: **Sandra Nixon**



Cathy Rytmeister with John's Mug and a Replica to keep

Bush Music Club Festival Appearances in 2014

The Bush Music Club will be presenting 3 workshops at the National Folk Festival at Easter. The Songs workshop will be based on the content of *Singabout Reprints* (songs from 1954 to 1967), the Tunes workshop will be based on the Blue Book & accompanying CD, & the Saplings workshops will teach Bush Music to children daily as part of the Children's festival.

We will also have a presence at Bush Traditions & other festivals over the year. Details will be reported in Mulga Wire, on the eLIST and on our website.

Bush Music Club Annual General Meeting

Location: Hut 44, Addison Road Community Centre

Time: 2pm

Date: Sun 16th March 2014

Worth Noting

Cathy Rytmeister won the inaugural John & Dale Dengate Memorial Parody competition at the Illawarra Folk Festival. She won with a song John loved - Precious Gift (aka The Tony Abbott Song).

Bob Campbell has a new book and CD available. The book, titled *Giant's Leap—An Activist Folksinger's Memoir*, covers the exciting and optimistic period from WW2 to the end of the seventies and is the first book of a two part memoir and social history.

Vale Bob Ballantine, a Whistle player from Newcastle in the UK, who led many a session in the session bar at the National Folk Festival.

Playford Dancing at the Hut

Next meeting: **Tues 4th February**, 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

Bring your friends along for an enjoyable night of dancing.

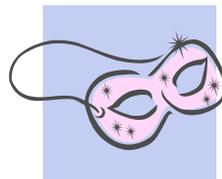
**New
Members**

★ **Brian FREEMAN** ★
★ **Madeleine GRAF** ★ ★ **Kate HANNAH** ★

Bush Music Club Inc. presents

2014 Heritage Masked Ball

Saturday 17th May 2014
Parramatta Town Hall
182 Church St, Parramatta



Grand March 7:30pm dance till 12:30am

BMC Members \$50 (before April 14th)
Non Members \$60 (before April 14th)
Students \$40 (before April 14th)

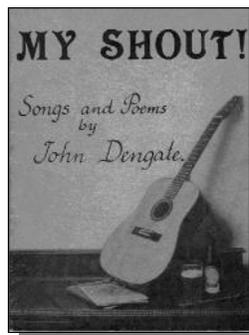
After April 14th ALL tickets \$70

NO tickets will be available after May 10 2014.

A discount of \$3 per person is available for sets of 4 couples, paid for at the same time before April 14th.

Enquiries: 0412 145 262 or email wendy_richmond@yahoo.com

A booking form is available on the BMC Website <http://www.bushmusic.org.au>



John Dengate Song Books:

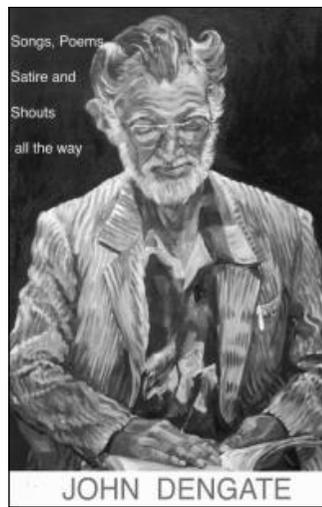
My Shout!
(A5) \$ 6.00
Members \$5.00

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

Members' Dinner

You are invited to our 60th anniversary members' dinner at the Ermington Community Centre. Bring instruments, dance shoes and voices!

Please note this event in your diaries:

Date: Sat 29th March 2014

Time: 6pm – 11pm

Cost: \$10 members, \$20 non-members (BYO drinks)

Venue: Ermington Community Centre
10 River Road, Ermington

Bus: M52 - Circular Quay to Parramatta stops at Ermington shops.

Bookings essential for catering purposes.

Bookings close on 15th March.

See the insert for details.

Some Other Events

Apr: National Folk Festival

May: Heritage Ball (Masked Ball) and Picnic

Nov: The Big Concert and session

Contact Details:

Sandra Nixon
Hon. Secretary
Bush Music Club Inc

email - bmcmail1954@gmail.com

website - <http://www.bushmusic.org.au/>

photo website - <http://my.opera.com/BushMusicClub/about/>

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

youtube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/user/BushMusicClubInc>

Photos From Illawarra Folk Festival 2014



Jamie Carlin



Chris Woodland



Duke's Place

for a great night of Australian Songs

Featuring Guest Performer and a Session

Second Friday

(Feb - Dec)

7.30pm - 10.00pm

Tritton Hall - Hut 44

142 Addison Road Marrickville

\$10 - Bring plate - Bring Songs

Enquiries: Sandra 9358 4886
www.bushmusic.org.au

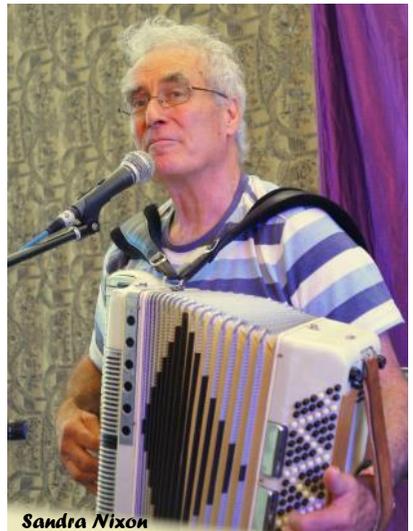


Chloe and Jason Roweth

Illawarra Folk Festival 2014



Andy Irvine

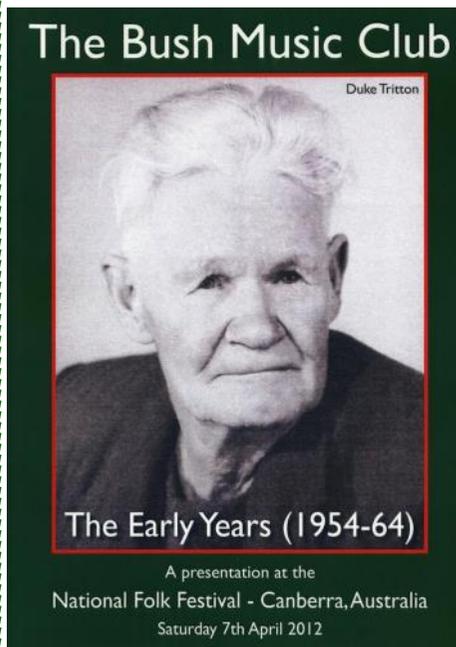


Sandra Nixon

Dave de Hugard

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 or Sandra 9358 4886

Pennant Hills Dance Activities

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

In December we enjoyed our Christmas party with live music by our BMC musicians, "Urban Scrub". Thirty one dancers enjoyed *The Maxina, Margaret's Waltz, The Barmkin, La Russe Quadrille, Lord Lamington's Lament* and *Golden Wattle Waltz Quadrille* along with a wonderful supper. Our thanks to the musicians for playing for us every year.

Our final workshop for the year was a request night where the dancers suggested the program. We danced *Gypsy Tap, Swing Waltz, Twelvesome Reel, Postie's Jig, Love'Em and Leave 'Em* and *Virginia Reel*.

After our break during January we will return on Monday 3rd February for our first workshop of 2014. As usual, we welcome all levels of dancers and you can join us by yourself or with friends. We will be concentrating on timing during our first three workshops and learning how the movements of a dance fit the phrasing of the music.... and as usual we will have fun doing it and learn some new dances while we are at it.

We'll look forward to seeing you. Don't forget your first workshop is free and our hall is air conditioned, so we are always comfortable, no matter how hot the evening. .

John Short

MONDAY 7.30–10.30	THEME/DANCE STYLE
3 February	Good Timing, Good Dancing
10 February	Good Timing, Good Dancing
17 February	Good Timing, Good Dancing
24 February	Waltzing and Weaving
3 March	Waltzing and Weaving
10 March	Back to Basics and Beyond
17 March	Back to Basics and Beyond
24 March	Practice for the Central Coast April Dance
31 March	Practice for the Central Coast April Dance

The Lola Wright Play

Christina Mimmochi & playwright Pat Cranny are writing a musical play about Lola Wright using her own words, and gave us a preview of the first act at the Illawarra Folk Festival. It will also be presented at the National Folk Festival at Easter.

The Life of Lola (working title) is a new verbatim play with music based on the passionate life and times of former Illawarra resident, Lola Wright – teacher, activist, performer, wife, mother, lover. For over forty years, from the 1940s to the 1980s, Lola contributed to the Illawarra's vibrant social history. Whether teaching nursery rhymes to primary students, establishing the South Coast's first bush band, playing piano at local dances, singing The Red Flag at miners' strikes, or leading a sing-along of The Internationale at one of her infamous Oak Flats Keg Nights, Lola's passion for music, and social justice left its mark on all who knew her. This is her story in her own words - and the music that she loved. Supported by the Alistair Hulett Memorial Fund, the Bush Music Club, Illawarra Folk Club, The National Library of Australia and the NSW Teachers Federation



The cast joined by Lola on stage at the Illawarra Folk Festival

Lola was inspired to start a bush band after seeing the Bushwhackers in the play Reedy River in 1954 at the New Theatre, and subsequent visits from The Bushwhackers to the South Coast, where with their help she set up a Bushwhacker's band. Lola's band, The South Coast Bush Band, is significant in that not only was it a pioneering group (the second in Australia) but was also led by a woman, Lola. The band played at Communist Party of Australia gatherings, fundraisers, May Day marches, demos and even Mary Gilmore's 90th birthday party!

The majority of the songs and tunes used in the South Coast Bush Band's repertoire was from BMC sourced material. The band played until c1962 and was well known and

Lola Troy (later Wright) is mentioned in Singabout Vol 1 No 1 (Feb 1956) as contact for the South Coast Group:

.....

"WE CAN'T PICK A NAME", is the sad plaint of leader of the South Coast Group, Lola Troy. "We find it difficult to get the mob assembled for practice because we are so scattered, and because of shift-work. The band members number six, and we have started a folk dancing group. Two of us are going to the North Coast at Xmas, and hope to fossick out an old song or two from some old bullockies. We had a visit from the secretary of an athletic club in Woonona, who was seeking assistance in setting up a similar band to ours, and who also gave us an engagement."

(Lola Troy, 22 Rawson Street, Coledale N.S.W.)

.....



Sandra Nixon with Lola Wright at Illawarra Folk Festival after giving Lola a reproduction copy of Singabout Vol 1 No 1. Lola said she hadn't seen one of those for a long time but she still has all her old Singabouts.

Photo: *Mike Young*

AROUND THE BUSH MUSIC SCENE

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

- Feb 1 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, *Ryebuck***, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrd 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594/ Peter 9477 5848
- Feb 2 7pm Songlines Song session, Fitzroy Hotel, East Sydney/Woolloomooloo
- Feb 4 7:30pm Sydney Playford Dance Group, Hut 44, Marrickville. (see page 4)
- Feb 8 Gosford Dance, 16th Anniversary, *Sydney Coves*, East Gosford Progress Hall.
- Feb 13 7:30pm Sutherland Acoustic. Tradies, Gymea, *Chaika*.
- Feb 15 Loaded Dog Folk Club, ***George Mann (USA)***, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, Sandra, 9358 4886
- Mar 1 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, *Urban Scrub***, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrd 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594/ Peter 9477 5848
- Mar 2 7pm Songlines Song session, Fitzroy Hotel, East Sydney/Woolloomooloo
- Mar 4 7:30pm Sydney Playford Dance Group, Hut 44, Marrickville. (see page 4)
- Mar 8 Gosford Dance, *Snake Gully*, East Gosford Progress Hall.
- Mar 13 7:30pm Sutherland Acoustic. Tradies, Gymea.
- Mar 22 Loaded Dog Folk Club, ***Enda Kenny & Lindsay Martin***, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, Sandra, 9358 4886
- Mar 29 6pm BMC Members' Dinner, Ermington Community Centre.
- Apr 1 7:30pm Sydney Playford Dance Group, Hut 44, Marrickville. (see page 4)
- Apr 5 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, *No Such Thing***, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrd 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594/ Peter 9477 5848
- Apr 6 7pm Songlines Song session, Fitzroy Hotel, East Sydney/Woolloomooloo
- Apr 10 7:30pm Sutherland Acoustic. Tradies, Gymea.
- Apr 12 Gosford Dance, *JH Dance Band*, East Gosford Progress Hall.
- Apr 12 Loaded Dog Folk Club, ***Tom Lewis (Canada & UK)***, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, Sandra, 9358 4886
- Apr 18-21 National Folk Festival, Exhibition Park, Canberra
- Toongabbie Music Club - 2nd & 4th Friday of each month 7:30pm**
17 Whitehaven Rd Northmead, ☎ 9639 7494
- BLU-FM, 89.1: on Bush Music Show - 6⁰⁰ - 8⁰⁰pm Sundays www.blufm.org.au/bushmusic.htm**

Mulga Wire: 2014 Publishing Deadlines

Item Deadline	To Printers	Folding Session
14 March	27 March	30 March
9 May	22 May	25 May

Concert Party News

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The BMC Concert Party has been busy over the festive season. The Christmas party was a great success with over 30 musicians and supporters enjoying a night of bush music, light opera, the old piano roll blues, rock and roll and other music which can hardly be described! The food was good and the fun apparent.

ILLAWARRA FOLK FESTIVAL

In January 2014 the Concert Party performed on four separate days at the Illawarra Folk Festival which was held in Bulli. All four of our shows were conducted in the Grandstand Bar and involved Waltz tunes, an Alan Scott tribute, a Singalong session and finally, a session of Jigs and Reels. We were joined on all occasions by some very talented musicians and the Singalong session was packed with everyone in good voice. All persons wishing to join in each session were given sheet music and/or lyrics which added to the enjoyment. Our thanks go out to the organizers and sponsors of the Illawarra Folk Festival for putting on such a delightful event each year. A good time was had by all.

GET WELL WISH FOR EDDY SAMPSON

Eddy Sampson, our resident poet, has been quite sick lately. We miss you, Eddy, and wish you a speedy recovery so that you can be back with us again.

Check us out on YouTube! (search for bushmusicclubinc)

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>

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**.

60th Anniversary Celebrations

February 1 - Beecroft Birthday Dance

A dance party with Ryebuck Bush Band

February 21 - 23 - Cobargo Folk Festival

Dale Dengate, Chris Woodland and members will be presenting a Concert "John Dengate—Australian Son"

March 29 - Members' Dinner

Celebrating the effort all members have contributed to the Club over the past 60 years - all welcome - **bookings essential**

April 18 - 21 - National Folk Festival - Canberra

BMC will be presenting Sapling Sessions for children, a Song Workshop and a Tune Workshop

May 17 - Heritage Masked Ball

Parramatta Town Hall - purchase tickets early for the best price. Music provided by Heritage Ensemble with post ball "dress up" picnic at Pioneer Village, Wilberforce from 11.00am on May 18

August 23 - Subscription Ball

Maitland Town Hall with its sprung floor. The post ball picnic will be held at Lake Macquarie in Speers Point Park

October 4 - 6 - The Goulburn Gathering

The Gathering is always a special event on anyone's Bush Music Calendar. In 2014 BMC will have a greater presence

November 15 - Reunion Concert

The Big Concert will be held in the big hall at Addison Road Community Centre with a reunion in Tritton Hall.

December 20 - Christmas Dance - 7.00 - 11.00

The final event for the year will be the Christmas Dance at Ermington with Southern Cross Bush Band

