

MULGA WIRE

INCLUDING
SINGABOUT



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MULGA WIRE

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BUSH DANCES December-February

BEECROFT Community Centre

Beecroft Road, Beecroft (opposite Fire Stn)

Note new time: 7:30pm—11:30pm

December 6 **Paddys River**

January *** No Dance ***

February 7 **Snake Gully**

Enquiries: Sigrid **9980 7077**

Wilma 9489 5594

ERMINGTON Community Centre

10 River Road, Ermington

7pm—11pm

December 20 **Southern Cross**

Enquiries: Don or Wendy 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:

Sue McMahon set down her concertina to play the saw at the BMC 60th Anniversary Party.

Photo: Mike Young
Diamond Anniversary Logo: Les Love

President's Message

We are nearly at the end of our Diamond Anniversary year and what a wonderful year it has been!

The year started with our very successful Members' Anniversary Dinner in Ermington, the club was well represented at the National Folk Festival, Turning Wave and Kangaroo Valley Festivals and at DanceFest Bundanoon, the BMC featured at Bush Traditions Goulburn and the day of celebration in November was a great success with the concert, bush dance and reunion.

The Sapling Sessions has had a very successful year and members performed delightfully at the recent 60th Anniversary Concert.

Also our new folk club, Duke's Place, has had a wonderful array of talented musicians who presented a wide variety of Australian songs.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year such a success.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year and looking to catch up with you all in 2015.

Sharyn Mattern

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Worth Noting

Dale Dengate's review of Keith McKenry's book is in the December edition of Cornstalk.

Helen and Tony Romeo were pictured in the *Kiama Independent* back in October (just *after* last MW) on an article about bush dances No Such Thing are running in Kiama. <http://www.kiamaindependent.com.au/story/2606596/big-plans-for-bush-dances/>

We have new **badges**! Both are quality metal badges. Price is \$5 each plus \$2 postage and handling (for one or two badges).



**New
Members**

★ John Warner ★ ★ Jan Huang ★
★ Kevin & Margaret Rennie ★
★ Cliff Grant ★ ★ Brian Gutkin ★

Playford Dancing at the Hut

Next meeting: **Tues 2nd December**, 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.

Mulga Wire: 2014 Publishing Deadlines

Item Deadline	To Printers	Folding Session
12 January	22 January	27 January
16 March	26 March	31 March

Bush Music Club Dance Competition

The winners were

Category A : General Bush Dance: John Short for "Bimsey Flyer"

Category B : Dancer's Dance: Keith Wood for "Harbour Bridge Quadrille"

Category C : Multi Figure Quadrille: John Short for "The Mulga Quadrille"

Highly Commended

Category B : Dancer's Dance : John Short for "Duke's Jig"



Keith Wood receiving his certificate from Don Richmond.



More Beecroft Dances in 2015!

Beecroft Dance will be held *every* month from February to December in 2015 - even on long weekends!

THE PEARL PARTY

Join the rambunctious revelry
at the Illawarra Folk Festival
30th anniversary



illawarra FOLK FESTIVAL

15-18 JANUARY 2015

BULLI SHOWGROUND, WOLLONGONG, NSW

**150 ACTS • 13 VENUES • 400 CONCERTS • TRADITIONAL • ROOTS
WORLD • CELTIC • DANCE • GYPSY • PEARL BALL • ONSITE CAMPING**

INTERNATIONAL: ANNA LUDLOW BAND ^{CANADA} BETTINA SCHELKER ^{SWITZ} BLACK MARKET TUNE ^{SCOT/AUSTRIA}
DAVID FRANCEY ^{CANADA} DEBASIS CHAKROBORTY & KRITI ENSEMBLE ^{INDIA} THE EAST POINTERS ^{CANADA}
GEORGE MANN ^{USA} JARON FREEMAN-FOX ^{CANADA} KRISTINA OLSEN ^{USA} MELISANDE –
ELECTROTRAD ^{CANADA} REG MEUROSS ^{UK} SCOTT COOK ^{CANADA} SUMSUM ^{ISRAEL} TIM EDEY TRIO ^{UK}

NATIONAL: ERIC BOGLE • TED EGAN • STEPHEN PIGRAM • FOLKAPHONIC YOUTH ORCHESTRA (PREMIERE)
BERNARD CARNEY • THE BORDERERS • CLAUDE HAY • CLOUDSTREET • DAVE DE HUGARD • DAVID BENIUK
DINGO'S BREAKFAST • ENDA KENNY & LINDSAY MARTIN • FRED SMITH • GINA WILLIAMS &
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MELBOURNE SCOTTISH FIDDLE CLUB • MICHAEL FIX • THE MORRISONS • PAT DRUMMOND
SPARROW-FOLK • STRAY HENS • TERRY SERIO'S HALF TRUTHS • VARDOS & many more to come!



BOOKINGS 1300 887 034 | www.illawarrafolkfestival.com.au

At the Festivals

Illawarra Folk Festival

15th-18th January

The Bush Music Club has appearances spread over the festival including the Alan Scott Memorial Concert. The ever-popular Saplings Session will again be a highlight for young people interested in Australian music.

National Folk Festival

Easter

The Bush Music Club will be appearing again at the National Folk Festival - more details later.



9th - 11th January 2015

Wollongong, NSW, Australia

HONK! Oz Festival is a free three-day street music festival featuring alternative community bands and related arts. Honk Oz is a Parade! Honk Oz is Party! A Raucous celebration! Lots of Fun!

HONK! OZ, a fringe event of the Illawarra Folk Festival. It is a not for profit community driven festival made possible by the incredible energy and enthusiasm of the local Wollongong community and in particular the members of the Illawarra Folk Club and The Con Artists Community Music Band.

www.honkfest.org.au



DUKE'S PLACE

Australian Songs in
Concert & session

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 December - Peter Cahill

Friday 13th February



L-R: Jayden Earnshaw (Bass) Beck Richmond
(English Concertina), Ian Crook (Lagerphone), Eva
Li (Violin) and Gerard Nicholls (Piano)

Photo supplied by band

In October Central Coast bush band **Fair Dinkum** played at the Kincumber (Community) School of Arts Hall. The very special occasion was an art show and auction to mark the Centenary of the opening of the Hall. The Hall was the community hub of the small village, especially during WW1 but also until the 1950's and 60's. It obviously was used for weddings and wakes, dances and movies and church services in earlier times by both the Catholics and Anglicans when their own buildings were needing repair. The dance floor had been replaced in recent months, not just by tradies... so to speak... but by CRAFTSMAN. It has been top nailed, puttied and sanded !

The band played tunes from the World War 1 era much to the delight of the very appreciative crowd. Some of the sheet music was brought from NZ in 1928 by Ian's piano playing dad and included "Till we meet again" and "Let the rest of the world go by". The band included other popular WW1 "hits" like "Australia Will Be There."

Ian is joined in the band by a group of our younger musicians (aged from 16 to 24.) Our musical traditions are in good hands!

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

On 13th October thirteen dancers danced Victoria Waltz Quadrille, Carol of the Birds, Grimstock, At Skaters' Pond, Golden Wattle Waltz Quadrille and Monymusk.

On 20th October, 17 dancers were present to start learning the dances for the Central Coast November dance. Dances included Five Spot Rag, Dinky One Step, Mississippi Dip, New Fitzroy Quadrille (Fig 1), Happy Returns and Galopede Country Dance.

Monday 27th October was another workshop for the Central Coast November dance. Twenty four dancers learned Yearning Saunter, Circular Rag, Levi Jacksons, Veleta Progressive and Mississippi Dip.

On Monday 3rd November the workshop danced to live music provided by the JH Dance Band, who will be playing at the Central Coast November dance. Nineteen dancers enjoyed Dinky One Step, Happy Returns, Chicago Swing, Circular Rag, New Fitzroy Quadrille Fig 1, Tango Schottische, Castle Schottische, Yearning Saunter and Levi Jacksons Rag. Our thanks to the JH Dance Band!

On Monday 10th November we had a mixed dance workshop, trying out some new dances as well as some old favourites. Twenty dancers enjoyed Skaters' Pond, Golden Wattle Waltz Quadrille, Cataract, Dust Devils, Waratah Way, Guiding Light and Turning Gold against the Grey.

On Monday 17th November we started to practice some dances for the dance workshop Christmas Party planned for 8th December. Twenty dancers enjoyed St Bernards Waltz, Whitehorse Waltz, Galloping Carousel, Cambawarra Waltz, Circassian Circle and the Barn Dance (Prog and Non-Prog).

On Monday 24th November, Nineteen dancers danced St Bernards Waltz, Borrowdale Exchange, Cascades, At Skaters' Pond, Galloping Carousel and Cambawarra Waltz. Thanks to Keith Wood for teaching his BMC award-winning dance, Harbour Bridge Quadrille.

John Short

Programme December/January

MONDAY 7.30–10.30	THEME/DANCE STYLE
1 December	Christmas Party Dances
8 December	Christmas Party
15 December	Requests
19 January	Workshops resume for 2015



NEW DANCE COMPETITION

The **Traditional Social Dance Association of Victoria Inc.** holds an annual competition for dance composers, which has been judged each year recently at the National Folk Festival.

Advance notice of the 2015 competition

There are **two awards** in the competition -

- **General Social Dance (including Children's Dances)**

The winner of dances judged to be in this category will be awarded the Beat Klippel Memorial trophy

- **Dance for More Experienced Dancers**

The winner of dances judged to be in this category will be awarded the VFMC Perpetual Trophy

Entries are to be received by the 20th February 2015

and sent to the TSDAV c/- George Ansell
62 Wellman St. Box Hill South, VICTORIA 3128
or electronically, to - george.ansell@bigpond.com

We encourage entries with a connection to the "Featured State" of the 2015 National Folk Festival, New South Wales be it inspired by, a name associated with, or otherwise linked to NSW

It is really important for all entrants to obtain a copy of the Rules and Conditions of the competition, from either the website, the above email address or by phoning George Ansell on 03 9890 5650.

Sponsored by the Victorian Folk Music Club Inc (VFMC)
www.tsdav.asn.au

That's Not How I Heard It...

CD of Australian Poetry by Jason Roweth

Reviewed by Chris Woodland

Jason and Chloe Roweth need no introduction to the Australian folk community and beyond. Their vocal and instrumental abilities, interpretations and achievements have contributed much to the Australian heritage. The delight and great satisfaction to us older fogies in knowing that such a relatively young couple have committed themselves to adopting, spreading and continuing the tradition that people like John Meredith and others fought for.

This album is different to all their other productions as this time Jason is the solo vocalist (albeit the spoken word), though Chloe's mandolin and, no doubt, her less-obvious contributions have added to the success of this CD. Yes, there are instrumental excerpts on this album of poetry; beautiful old tunes known to most of us.

The poetry titles are well known to me and no doubt to most others interested in traditional bush poetry. Jason recites four of the Banjo's: *Shearing at Castlereagh*, *Been There Before*, *How Gilbert Died* and *Clancy of the Overflow*. Jason performs Ted Harrington's humorous *The Swagless Swaggie*, along with Lawson's more serious, but excellent time-tested poems, *The Green-Hand Rouseabout*, *The Shearers* and *On the Night Train* very ably.

Jack Moses's *When the Police Force Couldn't Spell* is guaranteed to get a laugh for listeners of Jason's interpretation.

Presentations of his mate's work, the late John Dengate, are very well executed. These are: *The Lanes of Woolloomooloo*, and *Australian Made*. I consider the former to be the best, or as good as the best, Australian war poem ever. I am showing my bias, but have to say that the CD is worth getting for these two poems of John's. (And to think that all those other well-recited poems come with them!)

Denis Kevans' hilarious *When the Monkeys Rode the Greyhounds* and his emotive *White Man, Have You Any Sacred Sites?* are thoughtful inclusions to this album.

Many years ago Duke Tritton would say to members of the Bush Music Club, that when you sang, it should be with venom. I am sure the Duke would have been more than satisfied with Jason's interpretation of Duke's own, powerful poem, *The Sandy Hollow Line*.

I am very pleased that Jason and Chloe have added the spoken word to their long list of achievements. I have heard Jason reciting on stage at a couple of venues and am now very pleased to have his recitations on CD. He is a fine reciter who recites with feeling, good diction and a strong Australian voice.

The selected passages of tunes add to the production, making toe-tapping distinctions between poems. Of course, I highly recommend that people with interest in the Australian spoken word, or those that feel it time they were introduced to quality bush poetry recitations - traditional and a couple of more recent ones - would be more than happy with this CD in their collection.

Bush Traditions Gathering – first timer's report

How lucky was I to be invited to do a lagerphone making workshop at the Bush Traditions 9th Goulburn Gathering 2014 by Dave Johnson. This was after performing with the Concert Party at the 60th Anniversary Bush Music Club's Dinner, Ermington, in my first year of being a BMC member. Co-incidentally my 2014 / 9th boutique lagerphone made since January 2012 was the 60th Anniversary BMC creation, which I made and presented to the club during 2014. This now resides in Hut 44 and is signed monthly by Duke's Place performers.

Having never been away with the BMC to a venue, and not knowing anything about the Gathering at the Brewery over the October long weekend, I had to find what facilities existed. The Mews, town motels, camping, Tiger snakes, possibility of venue flooding, the Lilac Festival, Saturday night dance in town and the Gathering's program seemed to be major items of importance. Where would the workshops be; outdoors or inside; would there be 240 volt power and light; what tools and equipment would I need to bring in my small car; where would I eat and what clothing as always??? I was advised to contact Father Michael and a Mews bed was available and luckily / co-incidentally room 9 was mine!

I had reckoned on making three remaining broom-stick lagerphone 'legs' each with 72 doubled-up beer bottle tops (144), arranged in colour coordinated sequences to match 3 previously made 'heads', thinking that I'd be work-shopping both Saturday & Sunday. When I saw the emailed venue/program before leaving home and knowing at that stage that only an hour had been allocated, I freaked-out! This later shrivelled to 20 or 30 minutes on the day, which only allowed 18 galvanized clouts, 36 beer bottle tops, a hand-grip foam tube and the 'billy-can' 'head' to be nailed in and screwed on, to complete 1 of 3 lagerphones. Luckily it had been previously suggested that I partly prepare the items / workings beforehand, which I'm glad that I did.

Sure enough at 9am. (how about that ; 4 times 9 = 36) there was Francis Greenway's architecture / Brewery partially hidden by a 1-2 metre high flood levee bank, set on the pastoral land and within the gravel road 'moat'. The campers were straight ahead through the paddock gate amongst the cow-pats and two porta-loos. No sign of 'Kenny' though or the Tiger snakes, but what a beaut warm and sunny blue-sky Saturday morning!

I was directed to the Mill on the northern side of the brewery where I got set-up before the 10am. Monty's Tunes session began. At 11am the Mill's interior lighting was only adequate, being that coming through windows behind me. With Bob Foggin's and others assistance, the 36 beer tops were nailed; the foam hand-grip sleeve and the 'billy-can' head-piece were attached before BMC's President Sharyn called time is-up. The rest of the hour's bush instrument making workshop segment was shared between Bob Bolton and Ray Gurney. Tools, bush instruments & equipment were re-loaded into my car, and only the necessary ones were retrieved when needed, my gear was in and out of my car many times over several days!

AROUND THE BUSH MUSIC SCENE

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

Dec 2 **7:30pm Sydney Playford Dance Group**, Hut 44, Marrickville. (see page 4)

Dec 6 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, Paddys River**, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594

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

Dec 11 7:30pm Kiama Bush Dance, Kiama Community Centre, Hindmarsh Park, Kiama. Helen 4297 5128

Dec 11 7:30pm Sutherland Acoustic, *Pastance*. Tradies, GyMEA.

Dec 12 **7:30pm Duke's Place**, Hut 44, Marrickville. (see page 8)

Dec 13 7:30pm Gosford Dance, Christmas Contra with, *Pastrami on Ryebuck*, East Gosford Progress Hall.

Dec 16 7pm Campfire Session, Kiama Community Centre, Tony 0422 540 249

Dec 20 **7pm Ermington Bush Dance, Southern Cross**, Ermington Community Centre, River Rd, Ermington. Wendy 0412 145 262

Jan 15-18 Illawarra Folk Festival, Bulli. (see page 6)

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

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

Feb 7 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, Snake Gully**, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594

Feb 12 7:30pm Sutherland Acoustic. Tradies, GyMEA.

Feb 13 **7:30pm Duke's Place**, Hut 44, Marrickville. (see page 8)

Feb 14 7:30pm Gosford Dance, East Gosford Progress Hall.

Feb 17 7pm Campfire Session, Kiama Community Centre, Tony 0422 540 249

Feb 21 Loaded Dog Folk Club, *Martin Wyndham-Read*, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, Sandra, 9358 4886

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

Bush Music at Cliff's Fountain 77 restaurant - 2nd Tuesday of each month 7pm
77 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe, ☎ 9692 9215



Concert Party News

The Bush Music Club Concert Party has had yet another busy year with membership and attendance numbers increasing considerably under the sound leadership and guidance of Bob Bolton, Ralph Pride and Eric Eisler.

The Club has performed at many functions in the past year including the 60th Anniversary Dinner at Ermington, the 60th Anniversary Concert at Marrickville, bush dances for refugees, the Beecroft Bush Dance, Pennant Hills dance workshop, the Playford dancers, the Addison Road Community Affair, The Bower, a Tune Swap meet at Kiama, the Molong Show Committee, the Banjo Paterson Museum at Yeoval, Bush Traditions in Goulburn, the National Folk Festival in Canberra and the Illawarra Folk Festival among others.

A busy year indeed and that is exactly as it should be with several of our members performing music in public for the first time this year. It is always a delight to see beginning musicians conquer fear and be led by such professionals that we have in the Bush Music Club.

The future holds in store some very interesting items for the BMC Concert Party. A project to produce a Bush Music Club Songbook is underway. It is hoped that it will be ready for the 60th Anniversary of the BMC Concert Party in a few years' time. The idea is that the book will be constructed such that it will show (for each song) the manuscript dots and chords on the left hand page and the words and chords on the right hand page. In this way all performers, whether lead players, chord players or singers will be catered for with ease. At least that is the plan ..we shall see how we go with this.

A big thank you is due to the BMC Committee and other supporters who have encouraged the Concert Party to continue to perform at public functions. The special friendships created in good old Hut44 at Marrickville have added a sense of joyfulness and belonging for many members which we are sure will continue for many years to come.

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.

60th Anniversary Celebrations



November 30 - Saplings Session

We will be organising an afternoon Session devoted to giving young musicians the experience and enjoyment of playing Australian collected music in a relaxed environment

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



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.