

**60th Anniversary Celebrations**

- January 16-19 Illawarra Folk Festival - Bulli
- February 1 Beecroft Birthday Dance
- February 14 Inaugural Duke's Place Folk Club
- February 21-23 Cobargo Folk Festival
- March 29 Members' Dinner
- April 18-21 National Folk Festival - Canberra
- May 17 Heritage Masked Ball - Parramatta
- June 6-9 Bundanoon DanceFest
- July 19 Great Aussie Tune Swap
- August 10 Saplings Masterclass
- August 23 Subscription Ball - Maitland
- September 6 & 27 Songwriting Workshop
- September 12 John Meredith biography launch
- September 13-14 Molong Show and Yeoval Museum
- September 19-21 Turning Wave Festival - Yass
- October 4-6 The Goulburn Gathering
- October 9 Lola's Keg Night premiere
- October 17-19 Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival
- November 15 Diamond Jubilee Concert & Reunion
- November 30 Saplings Session
- December 20 Christmas Dance - Ermington



# MULGA WIRE

INCLUDING  
**SINGABOUT**



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# MULGA WIRE

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Comments extracted from the 60th Anniversary guest book.

### Cover:

Chris Poleson showing dashing Bush Music style at the National Folk Festival, Easter 2014.

Photo: Sharyn Mattern  
 Diamond Anniversary Logo: Les Love



Welcome to the Bush Music Club's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition of Mulga Wire.

2014 was such an amazingly busy year that we decided to revisit it just one more time!

I would like to send a special "Thank You" to everyone who volunteered last year and helped make 2014 such a special year. I would also like to thank everyone who came along to the various events throughout the year and added to the atmosphere.

To the BMC Founders we cannot thank you enough for enriching our lives with music, song, dance and verse; both collected and newly written!

*Sharyn Mattern*



Committee 2014



Life Members



NLA wax cylinder recording at the NFF



Frivolity in the Saplings Session at the National Folk Festival



Reunion Concert



# Celebrations



Sharyn and Don cut the cake at the February Beecroft dance.



Anniversary Dinner - March



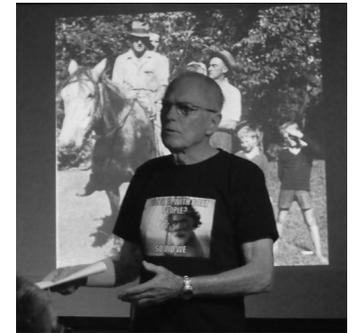
Anniversary cake made by Michelle Bolliger



Presidents blowing out the candles.



*Glad to be here for another one / remember the 10th like yesterday. - Dale  
 Aussie deep and true music to soothe the mind - Moira  
 Thanks for the memories - Margaret  
 You Beauty! - Sue*





## Recovery Picnic

The day after the Ball, we gathered at the Australiana Pioneer Village, Wilberforce for a relaxing picnic.

## Festivals



*B.M.C. Forever - Chris*                      *Roll on the 70th - Bob*  
*Congratulations BMC on 60 fabulous years of celebrating music, dance, storytelling*  
*and most of all, people doing all this together. Best of luck for the next 60 years - Bruce*

# Duke's Place



Peter Cahill, Jason Roweth and Ralph Pride

Duke's Place, our new folk club that was launched in February.



Coolfinn Mac



Alex Hood



Helen and Tony Romeo



HP 'Duke' Tritton



# Yeoval Concert & Molong Bush Dance



BMC Concert Party gave a concert at the Banjo Paterson Museum at Yeoval, and played for a bush dance at Molong.





The inaugural song-writing workshop run by Phyl Lobl

## Songwriting Workshop and Great Aussie Tune Swap

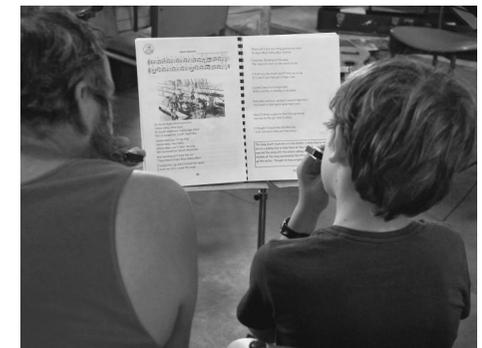
BMC and *No Such Thing* got together to teach each other their music.



*Just like old times - Yvonne*      *Good to see old friends - Anthony*  
*Greetings from the Victorian Folk Music Club to our big sister. Keep growing because we are too. - Harry*



Saplings *Afternoon Session*



*Thank you for the BMC community and all the music! - Darri  
 Lovely to look back at so many old photos!! - Cathy  
 Whacko - You beauty bottler Sport mate - Ralph*

## Sixty Years "Bush Music Club"



Let's all get together  
To celebrate this day  
With bells and whistles  
Flutes and drums,  
Bush Music all the way

Eric's on the fiddle,  
Ralph and Dave as well  
George on the accordion  
Now that should ring a bell!

Let's program all the dances  
Now Don is good at that  
Then Bob select some music  
He doesn't mind a chat!



Tony, bring your lager phone  
I know it weighs a ton  
And Helen, your accordion  
To show us how it's done.

Why all the fuss and "Do dar"  
The dances, songs and all  
You'd think the club turned 60  
In fact: now I recall

Congratulations to us all  
A milestone now we've met  
Looking forward together  
The best to come is yet

Presidents and members,  
Committee and all here  
We'll take a bow together  
To this our special year

Mike Waters 2014



# SINGABOUT

## 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EDITION

### TRIBUTES TO JOHN DENGATE

#### Vale John Dengate

Gone is the seannachie, the satire that raised the blister.  
Gone the sharp, intellectual, the schoolmaster we all feared,  
The gales of laughter over the pint,  
And the tears for the bronze smith's acid scarred hands.  
He's gone like Declan before,  
And like Declan will his voice and face stay with us.  
But more of the man lives in his songs,  
That agile scalpel wit, barbed ambiguities,  
Precision of rhyme and metre.  
Grieve for this bard, but mourn with pride,  
For we have known him.

Vale John Dengate.

John Warner & Jenni Cole Warner  
© August 2013

## We Won't See His Like?

John Dengate's dead, that grand old man,  
With a wit like a welder's torch,  
Who rhymes as only the Dengate can,  
With wicked invective to scorch -  
The pompous, the liar, the political boss,  
The cheat, the vindictive and vain,  
And some have said as they mourned for his loss,  
"We will never see his like again."

John Dengate learned, John Dengate read  
He mastered the writer's craft,  
He listened till language rang in his head,  
Told stories and people laughed.  
Lawson, Paterson, Judith Wright,  
Behan, Ogilvy too,  
Shaped his wisdom and shed their light,  
Till his writing was forceful and true.

We stand on the shoulders of giants they say,  
John Dengate chose his giants well,  
But who dares to say that we won't see his like?  
Only the future can tell,  
For Dengate's a giant, with giants he stands,  
His writing's out there to be heard,  
And someone will treasure the works of his hands,  
And learn of his skills with the word.

The world will again hear the true Dengate rhymes,  
John's heritage makes that quite sure,  
The ideas may differ in these changing times,  
But his wit and his wisdom endure.  
Someone will be there to take up the blade,  
Who's learned well from that incisive pen,  
Who's made of the flame of which Dengate was made,  
Then we'll hear from John Dengate again.

John Warner © 14/09/13

## Paeon for John Dengate

*Tune Carrickfergus*

He was a poet of wit and laughter,  
Precise in metre, and verse and rhyme,  
He spoke for drunkards and broken warriors,  
Of Sydney's streets in the Rare Old Times.  
We sang his songs in joyful chorus,  
And wildly laughed and laughed again,  
No bloated, pompous party leader  
Was safe from his incisive pen.

And proud to be a son of Erin,  
He used her music and told her tales,  
Of Ireland's exiles, her sons and daughters,  
Who shaped the stories of New South Wales.  
He sang of squatters at Parramatta,  
Of murdered convicts at Castle Hill,  
Of Carlingford's sweet creeks and orchards,  
Of poverty at Erskineville

Hail and farewell you dread school master,  
Whose twinkling eyes belied your frown,  
They'll miss your whistle down there by Central,  
Old busking Bard of Sydney Town.  
While there's a pint upon the table,  
While friends are singing bold and strong,  
While horses race and bat meets leather,  
Someone will sing a Dengate song. (repeat last 2 lines)

John Warner © September 2013

Author's note:

*Carrifergus is strongly associated with Declan Affley, one of John's close friends.*

*After Declan's death, I noted frequently that if I or any other sang that song when John was present, he'd sketch a quiet toast in Declan's memory.*

*I use this tune to celebrate that historical continuity and place both men firmly in the ancient tradition of the bards of Ireland.*