

AROUND THE BUSH MUSIC SCENE

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

- Jun 6 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, *Bad Wallaby***, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594
- Jun 5-8 Bundanoon DanceFest. ☎ Dave Johnson 02 4884 4214
- Jun 12 **7:30pm Duke's Place, *Margaret Bradford***, Hut 44, Marrickville. (see p8)
- Jun 13 7:30pm Gosford Dance, *Southern Cross*, East Gosford Progress Hall.
- Jun 20 **7pm Ermington Bush Dance, *BMC Concert Party***, Ermington Community Centre, 10 River Rd, Ermington, ☎ 0412 145 262
- Jun 27 Loaded Dog Folk Club, *Seamus Gill (ACT)*, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, ☎ Sandra, 9358 4886
- Jul 4 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, *JH Dance Band***, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594
- Jul 10 **7:30pm Duke's Place, *Chris Maltby***, Hut 44, Marrickville. (see p8)
- Jul 11 7:30pm Gosford Dance, *Old Empire Band*, East Gosford Progress Hall.
- Jul 25 Loaded Dog Folk Club, *Folklore*, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, ☎ Sandra, 9358 4886
- Aug 1+8 Songwriting Workshop. (see page 8)
- Aug 1 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, *Ryebuck***, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594
- Aug 8 7:30pm Gosford Dance, *JH Dance Band*, East Gosford Progress Hall.
- Aug 14 **7:30pm Duke's Place, *Bob & Margaret Fagan***, Hut 44, Marrickville. (p8)
- Aug 16 **Saplings Masterclass**, Hut 44, Marrickville. ☎ 4297 5128
- Aug 22 Loaded Dog Folk Club, 25th Birthday Party with *Shiny Bum Singers + Garland/Fine*, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, ☎ Sandra, 9358 4886
- Aug 29 **7pm BMC Subscription Ball**, Therry Centre, King St, East Maitland. (p6)
- Aug 30 **11am Recovery Picnic**, Marmong Point Community Centre

Regular Events

- Songlines Song session - 7pm** 1st Sunday of each month
Fitzroy Hotel, East Sydney/Woolloomooloo
- Sydney Playford Dance Group - 7:30pm** 1st Tuesday of each month
Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville (see p14)
- Toongabbie Music Club - 7:30pm** 2nd & 4th Friday of each month
17 Whitehaven Rd Northmead, ☎ 9639 7494
- Campfire Session - 7pm** 2nd Tuesday of each month
Kiama Community Centre, ☎ Tony 0422 540 249
- Kiama Bush Dance - 7pm** 2nd Thursday of each month
Kiama Community Centre, ☎ Tony 0422 540 249
- Sutherland Acoustic - 7:30pm** 2nd Thursday of each month
Tradies, Gynea

MULGA WIRE

INCLUDING
SINGABOUT



No. 230
Registered by Australia Post

June 2015
Publication PP 100001235

ISSN 0157 - 3381

MULGA WIRE

EDITORS of MULGA WIRE are:

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

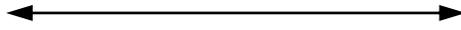
Colin Fong 9716 9660(h) - c.fong@unsw.edu.au

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

June-August

BEECROFT Community Centre

Beecroft Road, Beecroft (opposite Fire Stn)

Note new time: 7:30pm—11:30pm

June 6 **Bad Wallaby**

July 4 **JH Dance Band**

August 1 **Ryebuck**

Enquiries: Sigrid 9980 7077
Wilma 9489 5594

ERMINGTON Community Centre

10 River Road, Ermington
7pm—11pm

June 20 **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:

Peter Ellis OAM on stage on Norfolk Island with his concertina playing for a dance at the forerunner to Bundanoon DanceFest, April 2008.

Photo: Mike Young

Concert Party News

The Bush Music Club Concert Party continues to grow in numbers and ability. New members have come from several sources including a social media site named Meetup. All new members have shown both talent and keenness to participate in singing and playing instruments.

The Concert Party performed recently at the Tails from the Past function held in the Addison Road Marrickville precinct (former army barracks). In addition to the above performance, several members played in the Heritage Ensemble at the Parramatta Ball held on Saturday 16 May 2015. On the Sunday following the Ball, a number of Concert Party members played at the Australiana Village, Wilberforce for the traditional Post-Ball Picnic.

It is a credit to the Club, and in particular those loyal musicians who turn up on hot or cold Monday evenings at old Hut 44, that the Concert Party is growing in an age where joining organisations seems to have diminished somewhat. Well done good and faithful servants of bush music.

Allen Davis

Ed: See Singabout for picture from “Tails from the Past”

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.

Traditional Irish Music 'Slow Session'

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

Playford Dancing at the Hut

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

New Members

★ William GALER ★ ★ Don CASEY ★
 ★ Jan, Martin & Samuel FALLDING ★
 ★ Col EGLINGTON ★ ★ Rod DREW ★
 ★ Andy GOLLAN ★ ★ Lorna SPROULE ★

Beecroft Spot Prizes

At recent Beecroft dances we have been handing out special prizes to dancers at certain points during the night. The prizes were 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



It is with a heavy heart that we report the recent passing of Peter Ellis, OAM. Peter's death is a great loss not only to his family, friends and community but, also, to the world of dancing, music and collecting. His enthusiasm, professionalism and charm won many hearts and he will be deeply missed.

We are also mourning the passing of singer, Marian Henderson. Marian was there at the beginning of the so-called folk revival. She made several recordings, appeared at countless concerts and was ever-present at peace marches and other demonstrations for a better world.

Milton Taylor also passed away recently. Milton was a poet, reciter and retired shearer who once collapsed and died after shearing 200 sheep but was revived.

To their families and friends we extend our condolences and deepest sympathy.

Regency to Ragtime was the theme for this year's ball in the Parramatta Town Hall. Congratulations and sincere thanks to organiser, Wendy Richmond, and her team 'The Unflappables' for an evening of fine food and excellent dance calling and to Dave Johnson and the Heritage Ensemble for the wonderful music. Thanks also to the Blacktown Boys' Brigade for their valuable contribution.

BMC will be present at various festivals in the coming months so stay tuned.

Sharyn Mattern

Worth Noting/Dance Offer	4	AGM - President's Report	10
Festivals	5	AGM - Treasurer's Report	11
Subscription Ball	6	AGM - Secretary's Report	12
Ball Booking Form	7	Membership Form	13
Duke's Place/Songwriting	8	Slow Session/Playford	14
Singabout - "Tails from the Past"	S1-4	Concert Party News	15
Pennant Hills Dance Workshop	9	Around the Bush Music Scene	16

AGM Secretary's Report

Mail is collected once a week, minutes are created, and an eLIST of BMC and similar activities is prepared and sent out monthly, and as needed to members & friends.

The blog is continually being updated, with many draft articles and ideas awaiting posting or creation.

2014 was the 60th Anniversary of the Bush Music Club and Celebrations continued all year.

Winners of our Diamond Jubilee Songs, Tunes, Poetry and Dance competitions were announced in 2014.

October saw the successful premiere of *Lola's Keg Night*, a play about the founder of the second Bush Band in Australia, created by Lola with the assistance of our founders The Bushwhackers. The play was sponsored by many organisations including the Bush Music Club, and many individuals. BMC members Ralph Pride and Helen and Tony Romeo assisted with technical/musical aspects and Lola joined Concert Party workshops at Bulli & the National!

At the Illawarra Folk Festival we ran our usual Songs and Tunes workshops, and made our usual appearance at the Australian Traditions/ Alan Scott concert.

We ran our first Saplings workshops for young musicians & would-be musicians at the National Folk festival, unfortunately in the Children's Festival area, so older musicians did not attend, but those who did had a great time. We ran successful Songs & Tunes workshops

We were well represented at Turning Wave (songs, tunes and John Dengate Memorial Concert) & Kangaroo Valley Festivals (Songs, tunes, dances, Tune Swap with No Such Thing, and Saplings) and had a much larger than usual presence at the October Bush Traditions Gathering.

Members also participated in the John Dengate memorial concert at Cobargo.

Duke's Place - Australian Songs in Concert & session had a successful year, with average attendances of 21 per concert. Door money went to performers, with several refusing the money so we banked \$310.

The Songwriting workshop with Phyl Lobl was successful, attracting 6 members and non members, and will be repeated in 2015.

Our Member's Dinner in March and Concert/Dance/Reunion in November attracted a large proportion of our members and went well, and like all activities in our Diamond Jubilee year, would not have been the success they were without the work of all our volunteers.

Sandra Nixon

At the Festivals

Bundanoon DanceFest

5 - 8 June

There will be a strong contingent of dancers, callers and musicians from the Bush Music Club at this gathering in the Southern Highlands.

Turning Wave, Yass

18 - 20 Sept

The Bush Music Club will be appearing in three performances over the weekend.

Bush Traditions Gathering, Goulburn

2 - 5 October

We will be attending this annual gathering for a weekend of music, yarns and poetry at the Old Goulburn Brewery.



John Dengate Memorial Concert at Yass 2014 Photo: Sandra Nixon

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.



More Beecroft Dances in 2015!

Beecroft Dance will be held *every* month from February to December in 2015 - apart from Easter!

Subscription Ball 2015

a date for your diary 

This year the BMC's Subscription Ball will be held on **Saturday 29th August** at the Therry Centre, King Street, East Maitland.

Maitland Town Hall is unavailable due to renovations. This new venue has a large hall with a good wooden floor for dancing and the Coalbrook band will again be playing for us. We also have a good new venue for the BBQ/Picnic/Dance on **Sunday 30th August** at Marmong Point Community Hall, in Marmong Park, 31B George Street, Marmong Point; this is on the west side of beautiful Lake Macquarie, north of Toronto.

For further details please see the BMC website:

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

and the ball website:

<http://users.tpg.com.au/juliasm/BMC-Ball/>

Hope you can join us!



Practice Sessions - all start at 10am

Central Coast

Sunday August 2 East Gosford Progress Hall

Newcastle

Sunday August 9 Teralba

Saturday August 22 Hamilton

Sydney

Sunday August 16 Concord

The Pennant Hills dance workshop has continued with a steady attendance during the year. Thanks to John Short and Felicity Hattingh and to everyone who has helped with organising Monday nights. Thank you, also, to the teachers for their support of our workshop.

Our annual Heritage Ball was another great night at Parramatta Town Hall. Thanks once again to Dave Johnson and the Ensemble members for their part in making the Heritage Ball a wonderful night. Thank you to Wendy Richmond and Michelle Bolliger for the coordinating and catering at the Ball. Thank you also to all the helpers, both before and on the night, you all helped to make it a night to remember.

The annual Subscription Ball in Maitland is always a wonderful night and owes its success to team lead by Wendy Richmond and Michelle Bolliger. Thank you to all the helpers and supporters, both before and on the night, for such an enchanting evening.

Our latest project, the Saplings Sessions, continues to introduce bush music to young musicians. Saplings had very successful attendances at folk festivals last year as well as sessions at the hut in Marrickville. Thanks to all the teachers, parents and helpers.

Mulga Wire continues to appear every two months due to the ongoing efforts of the editorial team made up of Mike Young and Colin Fong with assistance from Sandra Nixon and myself. Thank you also to the wrapping team Don Richmond, Ros and Mike Young, Fay Lau, Brian Freeman, Colin and Karen Fong.

Finally thanks to the members, for being part of a long standing Australian tradition, the Bush Music Club.

Sharyn Mattern

AGM - Treasurer's Report

Profit and Loss

The Bush Music Club operated with a surplus of \$4849.00 for the year which included Interest from Investments of \$3733.91.

The diminution in operating surplus during 2014 was mainly due to expenditure on activities related to the 60th Anniversary of the club. Income from 60th functions totalled \$2978.05 whilst expenditure was \$6682.40.

The Heritage Ball at Parramatta, the Maitland Ball, Beecroft, Ermington dances and the Pennant Hills Workshop all contributed surplus funds to the club.

Balance Sheet

Club assets total \$125,998.07 which include investments in ANZ, Westpac and Commonwealth Bank Term Deposits of \$119,753.65, a small stock of books and other items for sale together with cash at bank and cash floats for dances. The club had no liabilities as at 31 December 2014.

Allen Davis

BA, M.Litt, Dip Ed, CPA, ACIS, JP

AGM - President's Report

Last year we had celebrated our 60th anniversary and what a year of celebration, complete with an anniversary edition of MW. Thanks to all the organisers and members who helped make last year such a success.

I know I say the same thing each year, but there are so many people to thank for keeping the club running. The workload is not always obvious and many of the regular activities rely on the dedication of 'the regulars' for the ongoing success. These include weekly dance workshops and song and music sessions, regular bush dances, Duke's Place folk club, Saplings Sessions, production of MW, 2 annual balls, participation in festivals, upkeep of Tritton Hall and the regular committee meetings.

The club wouldn't run without the committee – Allen Davis, Bob Bolton, Mike Young, Sandra Nixon, Don Richmond, Brian Freeman, Matt Black and our new recruit Max Gregory. Thank you for your ongoing support and hard work during the year.

Our secretary, Sandra Nixon, had a busy year last year as, apart from her normal duties, she was also holding the fort for me while I was laid up. Sandra has done an excellent job, not only with dealing with usual correspondence and the other secretarial duties, but also being the energy and coordinator behind the BMCs participation in various festivals. Thanks Sandra.

Allen Davis, is our Honorary Treasurer, and we thank him for his professionalism, hard work and energy, as well as liaising with both our auditor, Fiona Perry, and the ARCC administration. The BMC hut continues to be rented to outside groups and Allen has been liaising with both the groups and the ARCC to ensure that the system runs smoothly.

Don Richmond has been responsible for managing the memberships for many years now and we thank you for this.

The Beecroft Dance continues to be successfully organised by Sigrid Marden and Wilma Lyon with help from the team. Thanks everyone on a job well done and for all the hard work that goes into running the regular dances.

To Wilma Lyon, our Publicity Officer, thanks for all her work in publicising various club events and regular activities.

Thanks, also, to Mike Young, who maintains the Club web-site, an increasingly important part of our visibility in the wider community. Thanks, also, for your help getting BMC onto the social networking site, Meetup. We have only recently joined and our membership is growing.

The Monday night Song and Music Session continues to be strong with thanks to Ralph Pride, Eric Eisler and Bob Bolton, as well as all the regulars for their support and enthusiasm. The Concert Party has also provided music for our regular dances as well as hosting workshops and events during the year.

Booking Form

- * Numbers for the ball are limited to 90, so please book early.
- * Early Bird Ball Ticket Prices are available up to and including **Sunday 2nd August**.
- * For catering purposes all Ball tickets must be pre-booked, payments made and details confirmed via the booking form or via email by **Friday 14th August**.
- * Bookings and payments for the BBQ/ Picnic must be received by **Sunday 23rd August**.

Name/s or attach a list _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Price (until 2 nd August 2015)	Number	Cost
BMC Members \$50*		
Non-BMC Members \$55*		
Full time students \$35*		
Non-dancers \$45*		
BBQ Picnic \$10		
Total Cost		

* Prices from 3rd to 14th August: add \$5 to each ticket price.

Payment can be made:

1. By cash, at any BMC dance or ball practice/workshop.
2. By Cheque. Cheques payable to "Bush Music Club" & send to Bush Music Club Inc. PO Box 433 SYDNEY NSW 2001.
3. Direct Deposit to Bush Music Club, BSB 062-005 Acct No. 0090 7524. Please identify your payment by using the booking name as the remitter, & send payment & dancer details via email to: julia.smith@tpg.com.au

DUKE'S PLACE

Australian Songs
in Concert & session



Friday 12th June - Margaret Bradford

Margaret has been a name in the Australian folk scene for over 30 years, and a member of the Bush Music Club for most, if not all of that time!

Her songs of conscience, humour and compassion reflect contemporary, environmental and social issues. She is able to bring out the heartfelt essence of a song.

She sings in duo Merryweather with Margaret Essex who will join her at Duke's.

Friday 10th July - Chris Maltby

Chris is another long time member of the club. He went to concerts, festivals and sessions for years, quietly enjoying the music, and helping pack up the chairs!

After coming out as a singer, he joined the Ecopella Choir and the Roaring Forties, and also sang a couple of numbers at the John Dengate Memorial Concert - *The Terrorist Song* and *Song of Childhood*.

Friday 14th August - Margaret & Bob Fagan

Bob & Margaret, former members of the *Tempe Tipsters*, are brilliant performers, their names synonymous with excellence. Their repertoire is firmly rooted in the folk tradition, their choice of songs is always uplifting, and their arrangements – with tasty guitar and fine harmonies – linger on in heart and mind.

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

Songwriting Workshop

Phyl Lobl will be holding her second annual Songwriting Workshop over two days.

Dates: Saturday 1st and 8th August 2015.

Time: 9:30am to 4pm

Cost: \$50 (includes morning/afternoon tea and lunch)

Location: Tritton Hall, Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre,
142 Addison Rd, Marrickville

Enquiries & Bookings: Sandra 9358 4886

10 places only!

Pennant Hills Dance Activities

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

In March a variety of interesting dances were taught to around 20 dancers, including: Circassian Circle, Pride of Erin, Cambewarra Waltz, Borrowdale Exchange, Cascades Contra, Margaret's Waltz, Lord Lamington's Lament, Indian Queen, Black Nag, Marine Four Step, Good Hearted Glasgow, Dashing White Sergeant, Quaker's Meeting, Festival Glide, Whitehorse Waltz and Eightsome Reel.

In April dancers enjoyed dances from the "Dancers' Dance" held at the recent National Folk Festival at Canberra. These included Waterfall Waltz, Northern Irish Pride of Erin, Swing Waltz and Fig 4 of the Moycullen Set. We then ran a series of practise workshops for the BMC Parramatta Ball, taught by Don and Wendy Richmond.

Why not join us for a night of fun social dancing?

Felicity Hattingh

Programme April/May

MONDAY 7.30-10.30	THEME/DANCE STYLE
1 June	Bundanoon preview
8 June	No Workshop - Public Holiday
15 June	Practice for July Beecroft Bush Dance
22 June	Practice for July Beecroft Bush Dance
29 June	Practice for July Beecroft Bush Dance
6 July	New and Old Dances
13 July	Practice for August Central Coast Dance
20 July	Practice for August Central Coast Dance
27 July	Practice for August Central Coast Dance
3 Aug	Practice for Maitland Ball

Review: Too Many Bloody Songs About Shearers By Far! (Vol 1)

Chloë & Jason Roweth

With this new recording of songs, poems and prose about the shearing game, Chloë and Jason Roweth once again show their dedication to getting at the truth of material that has been extensively "folk processed". And they have done it brilliantly, supported by the work of Mark Gregory, Rob Willis and the people working on the National Library's *Trove* project.

It's hard to imagine in 2015 the scale of the wool industry in the hundred years spanning the turn of the twentieth century - the enormous wealth generated, the many thousands of shearers and others employed in extremely hard work in mostly very unpleasant conditions, the ups and downs of the industry and the emergence of unionism and labour politics. Shearers had plenty to sing about and plenty of time in the off season to write and share so there is a rich vein here to plunder.

The title of the CD is a quote from John Dengate, from his father Norm. It was Norm's reaction to John's discovery of Australian bush music through the BMC in the 1960s and his attempts to work them out on his guitar at home. While there are a lot of songs about shearers in the tradition, this recording proves that there is lots more to discover about them and those who wrote and sang them.

The Trove gets a credit for four of the songs on the recording including a discovery by Mark Gregory in the *Bacchus Marsh Express* of 1891 of *The Bare Belled Ewe* complete with attribution to a C. C. Eynesbury. This is the song that *Click Go The Shears* descended from - and that was previously believed to have emerged in the 1920s or 30s. Others come from the work of collectors with some interesting variants of songs better known in different versions. A fine example is *Wooyeo Ball*, the song that Bert Lloyd supposedly borrowed as the basis of the more well known *Euabalong Ball*.

All this is meticulously described in the booklet which is full of background on the project and the songs with some terrific photos as well. The only omission from it is the actual lyrics, but then it would have needed to be twice its 20 pages. The CD is worth getting just for that - even without the music!

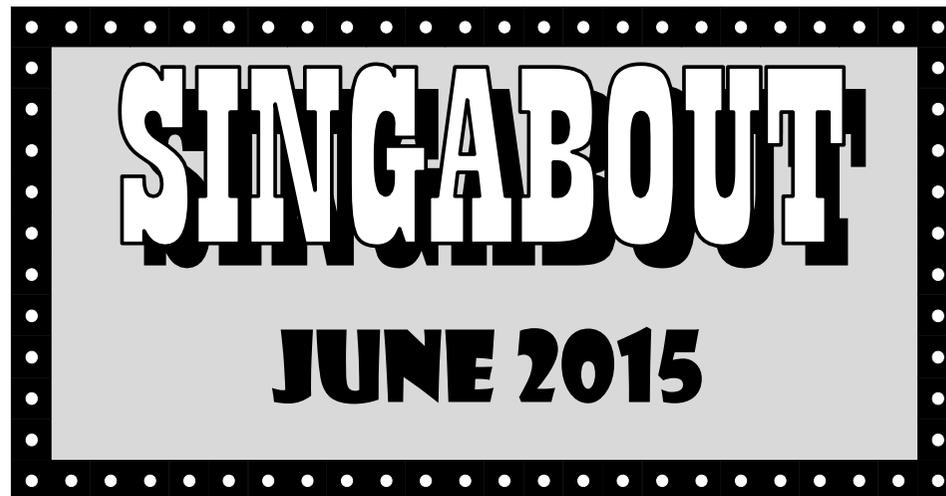
There's so much to like about the performances and the production of the CD. Both Jason and Chloë's vocals are excellent as is their playing of over 10 different instruments. Bill Browne on the drums is an excellent accompanist, and there is support from John Harpley and Rob and Olya Willis. A fine selection of appropriate tunes adds to the songs and poems, again showing the Roweth's careful curation of a wealth of collected material.

It's worth singling out Chloë's beautiful voice in *Shearing, Shearing Shearing (Sweet Belle Mahone)* and *The Shearer's Lament*, while Jason's reading and accompaniment of Henry Lawson's *The Greenhand Rouseabout* is also a highlight. His recitation award at the 2015 National Folk Festival is well deserved. His delivery of *The Mad Shed Rep* gives me shudders - though it's not the performance but the thought of getting a death adder in your swag for insisting on an eight hour day. The final track blends *Springtime it Brings On The Shearing* with another Lawson poem, *The Shearers*, to find a depth of melancholy in a song I'd always felt to be on the happy side - especially as it was the first song I performed - for my granny at about age 9 or 10.

All in all there's plenty to enjoy in this "Vol 1". In fact the title amounts to outrageous false advertising; I could use a whole lot more bloody songs about shearers than just these measly 70 minutes and 16 tracks. Let's hope that we don't have to wait too long for the next ones to come along.

Order from: <http://www.rowethmusic.com.au/>

Chris Maltby



TAILS FROM THE PAST



The BMC Concert Party performed to an unusual audience at the Addison Road Community Centre "Tails from the Past" event.

Photo: Sharyn Mattern

A Poem From the Past

Recited by Ian Hamilton in *The Ballad of the Heathcote Bushwhackers*

Phantom Horseman of Cricket Pitch Ridge by John Meredith

The fire burnt up near the edge of the township,
But down in the gully we held it at bay -
'If the wind gets round to the west,' said Jack Barrie
'We must warn all the folk to get out of the way!'

So on Cricket Pitch Ridge six good watchers were posted,
(The fire crept on in the gully below
And the six men, they sat and watched and shivered
As a freezing south-easterly started to blow.

It was close on to midnight, the wind had grown colder,
When hoofbeats were heard on the chill mountain air,
And a queer ghostly voice set the echoes a-flying:
'Hollo-o-o! Hollo-o-o! Hollo-o-o! Are you there?'

'Over here!' yelled Jack Barrie; the horseman drew near
And a bundle of blankets he threw on the ground.
Then he wheeled his black mount and rode into the darkness,
Over the rocks without ever a sound.

'Who was it Jack?' asked Billy Fitzgerald.
'Don't know him,' says Barrie, 'D'you know him, Blue?'
Blue didn't know, nor did Locko, nor Loveday,
It seems he was someone that nobody knew.

But one thing we did know, his blankets were warm ones,
We wrapped them around us and watched through the night;
Then shouldered our knapsack-sprays, climbed down the gully
And battled the fire in the morning's pale light.

It was under control, just a few stumps to spray now,
The westerly wind was no more to be feared.
We left two men on duty, returned to the blankets,
But when we got back they had all disappeared!

If that horseman was real, then he carries my blessing;
I won't wish him wealth, or good fortune, or gold,
(For all my mates think he must have been ghostly)
Wherever he is, may he never go cold.

On 1 February 1999 folklorist John Meredith received a phone call from Pat Kennedy, who was writing a history of Heathcote. Pat wanted permission to include a poem that John had written back in 1961 about a big bushfire that had threatened the district. John had lost his copy and, when Pat was asked where he had found the poem he wished to include in his history, he told John, 'It's pasted on the back of the door of the Brigade's hut in Heathcote.'

Pat Kennedy quickly supplied John with a copy and in his introduction to the poem, titled *The Phantom Horseman of Cricket Pitch Ridge*, Pat wrote: 'This particular fire was burning on a freezing cold night, somewhere between the Heathcote Oval and the old railway weir in 1952.'



The Sandy Hollow Line

The sun was blazing in the sky and waves of shimmering heat
Glared down on the railway cutting, we were half dead on our feet,
And the ganger stood on the bank of the cut and he snarled at the men below,
"You'd better keep them shovels full or all you cows 'll go.
I never saw such a useless mob, you'd make a feller sick,
As shovel men you're hopeless, and you're no good with the pick."
There were men in the gang who could belt him with a hand tied at the back
But he had power behind him and we dare not risk the sack.
So we took it all in silence, for this was the period when
We lived in the great depression and nothing was cheaper than men.

And we drove the shovels and swung the picks and cursed the choking dust;
We'd wives and hungry kids to feed so toil in the heat we must.
But still the ganger drove us on, we couldn't take much more;
We prayed for the day we'd get the chance to even up the score.
A man collapsed in the heat and dust, he was carried away to the side.
It didn't seem to matter if the poor chap lived or died.
But one of the government horses fell and died there in the dray,
They hitched two horses to him and they dragged the corpse away.

The ganger was a worried man and he said with a heavy sigh:
"It is a bloody terrible thing to see a good horse die.
There much too valuable to lose, they cost us quite a lot
And I think it is a wicked shame to work them while it's hot.
So we will take them to the creek and spell them in the shade,
You men must all knock off at once. Of course you won't be paid."

And so we plodded to our camps and it seemed to our weary brains,
We were no better than convicts, though we didn't wear the chains,
And in those drear depression days, we were unwanted men,
But we knew that when a war broke out, we'd all be heroes then.
And we'd be handed a rifle and forced to fight for the swine,
Who tortured us and starved us, on the Sandy Hollow Line.

Duke Tritton, 1937.

(Originally published in *Singabout* Vol 6 No 1, 1966)

August 2015

- Sat 1 **Beecroft Bush Dance, Ryebuck**
Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft Rd
- Sat 1+8 **Songwriting Workshop** Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville
- Mon 3 **Pennant Hills Dance Workshop**
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd
- Mon 3 **Song & Music Session** Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville
- Tue 4 **Playford at the Hut**
Hut 44, Addison Rd Centre Marrickville
- Mon 10 **Song & Music Session** Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville
- Mon 10 **Pennant Hills Dance Workshop**
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd
- Fri 14 **Duke's Place, Margaret & Bob Fagan**
Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville
- Sun 16 **Saplings Masterclass** Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville
- Mon 17 **Pennant Hills Dance Workshop**
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd
- Mon 17 **Song & Music Session** Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville
- Mon 24 **Song & Music Session** Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville
- Mon 24 **Pennant Hills Dance Workshop**
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd
- Sat 29 **Subscription Ball**
Therry Centre, East Maitland
- Sun 30 **Recovery Picnic**
Marmong Point Community Centre
- Mon 31 **Pennant Hills Dance Workshop**
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd
- Mon 31 **Song & Music Session** Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville

MONDAY NIGHT SONG & MUSIC SESSION - CONCERT PARTY

General session for all musicians and singers - Mondays 7.30 pm, \$5.00

Held in Tritton Hall

This session also trains and practices the Bush Music Club's *Concert Party*, to perform as a working Bush Band.

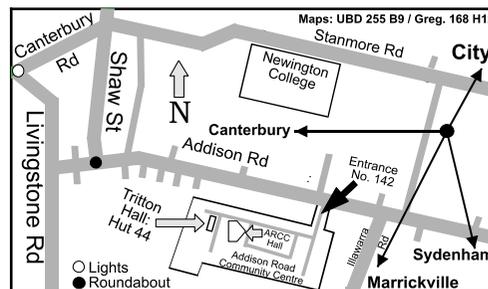
☎ Allen: 9639 7494

View our web site: < www.bushmusic.org.au >



JUNE — AUGUST 2015

The Bush Music Club was formed in 1954 to promote awareness of Australian folk traditions. The Club does this by collecting, publishing and popularising our traditional songs, dances, music and folklore. Contemporary compositions in the traditional style are also encouraged.



TRITTON HALL

BUSH MUSIC CLUB HEADQUARTERS

Hut 44, Addison Road Community Centre
142 Addison Road, Marrickville

PUBLIC TRANSPORT :

- BUS:** 428 CANTERBURY
- Stops outside Centre
426 DULWICH HILL and
423 EARLWOOD
- Get off at Addison Road, walk
600m to Centre

TRAIN: To Newtown, then catch bus

June 2015

- Mon 1 **Pennant Hills Dance Workshop**
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd
- Mon 1 **Song & Music Session**
Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville
- Tue 2 **Playford at the Hut**
Hut 44, Addison Rd Centre Marrickville
- Sat 6 **Beecroft Bush Dance, *Bad Wallaby***
Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft Rd
- Mon 8 **No Song & Music Session**
- Mon 8 **No Pennant Hills Dance Workshop**
- Fri 12 **Duke's Place, *Margaret Bradford***
Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville
- Mon 15 **Pennant Hills Dance Workshop**
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd
- Mon 15 **Song & Music Session**
Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville
- Sat 20 **Ermington Bush Dance, *BMC Concert Party***
Ermington Community Centre, River Rd, Ermington
- Mon 22 **Song & Music Session**
Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville
- Mon 22 **Pennant Hills Dance Workshop**
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd
- Mon 29 **Pennant Hills Dance Workshop**
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd
- Mon 29 **Song & Music Session**
Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville

BEECROFT DANCE:

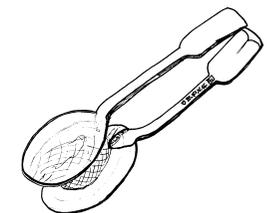
1st Saturday (February to December)
Beecroft Community Centre
Beecroft Road, Beecroft (Opp. Fire Station)
7:30 pm to 11:30pm - Supper provided
\$19.00 / \$17 conc / \$14 BMC members
☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594

ERMINGTON DANCE:

June/December
Ermington Community Centre, 10 River Rd
7pm—11pm
\$19.00 / \$17 conc / \$14 BMC members
☎ Enquiries: 0412 145 262

July 2015

- Sat 4 **Beecroft Bush Dance, *JH Dance Band***
Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft Rd
- Mon 6 **Pennant Hills Dance Workshop**
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd
- Mon 6 **Song & Music Session**
Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville
- Tue 7 **Playford at the Hut**
Hut 44, Addison Rd Centre Marrickville
- Fri 10 **Duke's Place, *Chris Maltby***
Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville
- Mon 13 **Song & Music Session**
Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville
- Mon 13 **Pennant Hills Dance Workshop**
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd
- Mon 20 **Pennant Hills Dance Workshop**
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd
- Mon 20 **Song & Music Session**
Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville
- Mon 27 **Song & Music Session**
Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville
- Mon 27 **Pennant Hills Dance Workshop**
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd



DANCE WORKSHOPS:

7.30pm Monday nights
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd.
Both easy and more complicated bush dances.
A great social evening for beginners and experienced. \$7
☎ Felicity: 9456 2860

DUKE'S PLACE:

2nd Friday (February to December)
Held in Tritton Hall
7.30 pm to 11:30pm.
Concert and Session
\$10, bring a plate.
☎ Sandra: 9358 4886