

# MULGA WIRE

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SINGABOUT



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# MULGA WIRE

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## BUSH DANCES October-December

### BEECROFT Community Centre

Becroft Road (opposite Fire Stn)

7:30pm—11:30pm

October 3 **Snake Gully**

November 7 **BMC Concert Party**

December 5 **Paddy's River**

Enquiries: Sigrid 9980 7077  
Wilma 9489 5594

### ERMINGTON Community Centre

10 River Road, Ermington

7pm—11pm

December 19 **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:

Coalbrook Band celebrates their 40th anniversary at the 2015 BMC Subscription Ball in the Therry Centre, East Maitland. A couple of members weren't around at the start...

Photo: Mike Young



## President's Message

This is a busy time for the Bush Music Club. The numbers were down at our Maitland Ball but those who did attend had a wonderful night. Hopefully we'll be back at the Maitland Town Hall next year.

The club was well represented last weekend at the Turning Wave Festival in Yass. The Concert Party hosted 3 song and tune sessions and a concert of songs from Reedy River in the Liberty Theatre.

The first weekend in October will also be busy as not only do we have our regular Beecroft family bush dance, but we are also presenting music sessions at Bush Traditions, Goulburn and also at Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival later in the month.

Have a wonderful spring and stay active.

*Sharyn Mattern*

Worth Noting	4	Blue Mountains 1815 Ball	10
Festivals	5	Subscription Ball Report	11
Dames & Daredevils DVD	6	RIP Jack Barrie	12
David de Santi	7	Membership Form	13
Duke's Place	8	Slow Session/Playford	14
Singabout - "Updating Patterson"	S1-4	Concert Party News	15
Pennant Hills Dance Workshop	9	Around the Bush Music Scene	16

## Worth Noting

**Jack Barrie**, (John McNeilage Barrie) Bushwhacker, founding member & Life Member died on 28/8/2015. (*see also* p 12)

Those who knew **Frank Moore** will greatly regret his passing, on Wednesday 9th September, after a long illness. Frank was a longtime member of the dance community, in Melbourne and then in Sydney. Our condolences to Annette and his family.

McHugh, Evan *The shearers: the story of Australia*, told from the woolsheds, Melbourne, Viking Penguin, 2015. "Presents the definitive history of these men, bringing to life the toil, tumults and toughness of the shearing life, and the effect it has had on Australia's national character."

*And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda*, with lyrics by Eric Bogle, illustrated by Bruce Whatley, Crows Nest, NSW, Allen & Unwin, 2015, \$24.99. Some have suggested this children's book would be best read to children over 10 and it would be best for them to also hear the song sung. The latter is easily done via Youtube.

The August **Saplings Masterclass** was attended by 22 eager students, twice the number we had for the first masterclass last year. Members donated money to give each student a whistle, & Darri Adamson & Caroline Barrell taught beginner & experienced musicians to play these whistles! Thanks to our generous members we even have a stash of whistles to use in future masterclasses. Check out our blog for a full report on the class.

**Berrima Gaolbreak** is on 2-5 October and includes a performance of *Dead Men Talking*. For details see: [www.gaolbreak.org.au](http://www.gaolbreak.org.au)

## Mulga Wire: 2015 Publishing Deadlines

Item Deadline	To Printers	Folding Session
14 November	19 November	24 November
14 January	19 January	26 January

## At the Festivals

### Turning Wave Festival, Yass

We had a concert appearance where we performed the *Songs of Reedy River*, and 3 workshops of songs & tunes. Two were in the back yard of the Yazzbar, and the third in the pool room of the Royal Hotel where we introduced an enthusiastic young Irish fiddler to bush music (she will be back!) & listened to a uilleann piper play bush music! Ann & Frank Maher, members of Concert Party in the 60s provided percussion with their 50 year old lagerphone, bones and Ralph's bush bass.



In the early days Reedy River was always sung standing and finished with a Salute to the men of 1891.

Photo: Sandra Nixon

### Bush Traditions Gathering, Goulburn

**2 - 5 October**

Members will be participating in this annual gathering for a weekend of music, yarns, dancing and poetry at the Old Goulburn Brewery.

### Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival

**16-18 October**

We will be presenting 2 Saplings sessions, a Songs workshop and a Tunes workshop.



### More Beecroft Dances in 2015!

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

## DVD of DAMES AND DAREDEVILS FOR DEMOCRACY

available on the website [damesanddaredevils.com](http://damesanddaredevils.com) under VIDEO

DAMES & DAREDEVILS FOR DEMOCRACY is a presentation that charts the development of Women's Suffrage in Australia through ten strategies & featuring ten prominent Australian suffragists.

The progress is marked by their lives, their actions, their artistic products and by songs.

Created by Phyl Lobl the production shows just what 'grand dames and daredevils' they were. They took us from the Hat Box to the Ballot Box and then helped women in England and America get there too. They were daring, resilient, intelligent and compassionate yet very few Australians know their names.

They are:

Henrietta Dugdale, Louisa Lawson, Edith Cowan,  
Vida Goldstein, Mayebanke Anderson, Rose Scott,  
Margaret Ogg, Dora Montefiore, Muriel Matters, Emma Millar.

They, and the 'good blokes' who helped are shown, and the 'others' who opposed are exposed through images and through quotes so ironic that in hindsight they are funny.

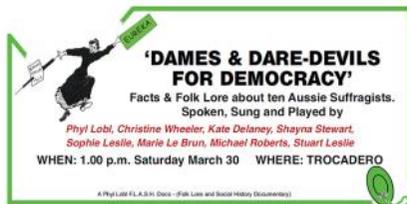
The production DAMES AND DAREDEVILS FOR DEMOCRACY combines Music Theatre with Documentary material. The result is a performance that entertains and informs. Talented performers reveal the time-line of the strategies used to gain emancipation for women in Australia.

Some of these women went on to assist British and American women to gain their voting rights ... not the other way round as is often assumed.

The production uses monologues, songs, poems, quotes, cartoons and images of women and men who were engaged in a struggle that took decades.

It is important, almost forgotten, Australian history, made easy to digest.

It was first performed at the NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL in Canberra at Easter 2013.



The second performance was in Kiama Pavilion 10th November 2013.

*Phyl Lobl*

# Thank You to David De Santi

## *Secretary of Wongawilli Colonial Dance Club*

At our Annual General Meeting David De Santi resigned from his position as Club Secretary, holding that position for 28 years since the club's inception.

David has been the prime mover in establishing this club and its ideals of promoting, performing and preserving the Australian music and dance tradition.

He has been the hall manager, involving administration required by council, including maintenance, compliance reports and dealing with the hiring of the hall.

On top of this he was our Publicity Officer and Public Officer.

His other duties included, publisher of music and dance books and CDs, entertainment and travel director, ideas man, Director of the Australian Folk Festival at Kiama and special event organiser. He is still our Music Director and organises guest artists and bands to perform at our dances.

David has rarely missed a Wednesday night dance at Wongawilli since its inception. He even came along when not feeling well or overwhelmed with other demands on his time and expertise.

The Wongawilli Colonial Dance Club wish to offer a vote of thanks to David for his dedicated and tireless years of service. It has been greatly appreciated.

Thank you David.

Wongawilli Colonial Dance Club Committee and members.



*Photos: Mike Young*



*Photo: Ros Young*

# 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 9th October - Chloe & Jason Roweth**

### **Gallipoli – “5 acres of pretty poor grazing country”**

2015 Marks the 100th anniversary of what is known in Australia simply as "Gallipoli". Though the campaign has been discussed endlessly, no one knows more than those who were there. Strip away the legends, these are the songs, poems, stories and closest thoughts of those who took part. This presentation is in the style of a radio play - a continuous collage of contrasting points of view.

## **Friday 13th November - Mike Martin**

Mike Martin has travelled the world as a musician singer/songwriter. He is a respected collector of Australian traditional dance music which he has spent many years recording, preserving, promoting and performing.

## **Friday 11th December - Christine Wheeler**

Malt whisky voiced singer Christine Wheeler and skilled guitarist/bouzouki player Leigh Birkett got together 3 years ago to produce an album of Henry Lawson poetry set to music, described as 'a landmark in the interpretation of Australian folk song' by Graham McDonald of the National Film and Sound Archive. Chris' classic folk-style singing evokes comparisons with Maddy Prior and Joan Baez. Leigh's exceptional musical imagination on guitar and bouzouki overlays jazz chords onto a Celtic sound.

## **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**.

## Pennant Hills Dance Activities

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

The Bush Music Club dance workshops in August focussed on the Maitland Ball dances. We were ably taught by Wendy Richmond who covered all the ball dances over four workshops. Our thanks go to Wendy for her time and expertise.

The last workshop in August taught a few of the dances from the Canberra Colonial Ball and the Central Coast September monthly dance. These included a Circassian Circle Medley (3 figures) and a Double Sir Roger de Coverley which was danced very well, the double strip-the-willow flowing beautifully.

In September we practiced the dances for the Central Coast Flannel Flower Ball, including the Alberts, Swing Waltz, Casuarina Waltz Quadrille, Maxwell's Rant, Marine Four Step, Queen of Sheba, Arkansas Traveller, Reel of the 51st Div., Coo-ee March and many others.

In October we will be practicing the dances for the November Central Coast dance and in November we will be practicing the dances for the Christmas Party. (Where has the year gone?) And remember, even if you are not attending these events, the practice sessions are good fun and give you a chance to learn the dances at a relaxed pace with plenty of dancers to help and a very friendly atmosphere. We welcome singles, couples and groups.

See you at Pennant Hills.

*John Short*

### Programme October/November

<b>MONDAY 7.30–10.30</b>	<b>THEME/DANCE STYLE</b>
<b>5 October</b>	<b>No Workshop</b> - Long Weekend
<b>12 October</b>	Couples and Contras
<b>19 October</b>	Ragtime Dances, New and Old
<b>26 October</b>	Practice for November Central Coast Dance
<b>2 November</b>	Practice for November Central Coast Dance
<b>9 November</b>	Practice for November Central Coast Dance
<b>16 November</b>	Waltzes, Polkas and Schottisches
<b>23 November</b>	Practice for the Christmas Party
<b>30 November</b>	Practice for the Christmas Party

## **Blue Mountains Bushdancing** goes back in time with 1815 Ball.

For just over 6 years now, dancers have been meeting at the Wentworth Falls school of Arts, on a Wednesday evening 7.30-9.30 for some friendly social dancing and a bit of shared supper. During that time we have learnt Old Time dances, Bush Dance standards, branched into Contra after being introduced to it by visitors from the Central Coast Bush dance and Music association, tried a few of Heather Clarke's Dances of the Colony, and done our best to get up on the dances needed to attend and enjoy the annual BMC Heritage Ball, and the very inspiring Bush Traditions Bundanoon dance weekend, where we have often mustered a good dozen or more.

Members regularly journey to the Beecroft and Ermington Bushdances, and the Pennant Hills Contra workshops, and some go further afield to the Irish festivals, the National Folk Festival, Kangaroo Valley, the Jane Austen Festival Australia, and more. At the end of each term we are usually able to have some of the Ganggangs Bushband play some live music for us, but as yet, we do not have a set of regular musicians.

Our regular numbers vary and visitors are always welcome, as are beginners.

We enjoyed celebrating 100 years of the historic Wentworth Falls School of Arts with a Bushdance earlier this year, and now we are celebrating 200 years of Wentworth Falls (although for some of that time it was a depot of road building materials, or known as "Weatherboard" after the first pub, where Charles Darwin stayed.) We are celebrating with a back to 1815 theme with dance, costume, ball supper, and talks. We hope other dancers will come and join us for:

**Saturday 31st October 2015**-Visit historic sites in the morning, walk the Darwin track, or attend a talk at the hall on Regency Fashion in the period of Revolution; take lunch in the village, then enjoy a pre-ball dance workshop; dine at local establishments leaving time to dress for the Regency Assembly Ball with Dance Caller, Regency games room & supper. Stay overnight at one of the many charming local accommodations.

**Sunday 1st November 2015** don your elegant costume for an outing to historic Tarella cottage, including a talk on Australia's first native born returned serviceman, and Tarella's famous scones, then a costumed BYO picnic and promenade at the park at Wentworth Falls Lake.

Be prepared for Blue Mountain's weather in Springtime- balmy, sultry, arctic or wet, you will find beautiful scenery. Bring camera, and coat!

Costume from Colonial times to Regency appreciated. Military uniforms always admired.

Further details and Registration form available from:

Caroline, 0439 314948, [dba23266@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dba23266@bigpond.net.au)

or on the website <http://regencyweekendandballwentworthfalls31.yolasite.com/>

## 35th Subscription Ball Maitland 2015

What a fantastic night of dancing, not that I expected anything less. Although this may have been my first time at to the Maitland Ball it is not my first Ball. After returning to dancing almost two years ago, I have been to several Balls now. Although I went to the Pennant Hill workshop practices last year, I did not feel confident to attend the Maitland Ball.

So what has changed to boost my confidence? Foremost, I am lucky to have an exceptional and very encouraging dance partner. Also, since then I have been to two Parramatta Balls, the National in Canberra, Bundanoon, Flannel Flower Ball and lots of workshops plus the Gosford and Concord rehearsals.

On the night the dancing was, as expected, of high standard. Not sure if I meet the standard for all the dances but I did enjoy myself. The catering was excellent and I also loved the punch and the scones with jam and cream a little too much.



Photos supplied by the author

Coalbrook were celebrating their 40th anniversary and must be one of the best bands I've heard. Their musicianship was outstanding, their timing superb and the explanation sheet of the Music performed will be a treasure to keep!

Big thanks to my host Richard Fox for overnight stay .....

Then, the dancing and company of what I now consider friends, continued at the 'recovery picnic'! The weather was beautiful it was another great experience. Thanks to Angus and team for the lovely lunch and Arthur for calling the dancing.

I must congratulate all the organisers, especially Julia, for a job well done.

Guess I have the bug as I'm off to Canberra this weekend, have tickets for Kangaroo Valley and plan to go the Flannel Flower Ball in Gosford again this year!

**Stuart Hunt**

## Jack Barrie (1917-2015)

In 1952 John Meredith, Jack Barrie and Brian Loughlin, formed the Heathcote Bushwhackers. When the Heathcote Bushwhackers were invited to be part of the first Sydney production of Dick Diamond's Reedy River, they gathered a few more members from the cast and emerged as the Bushwhackers, Australia's first Bush Band, founding the Bush Music Club shortly after to train up all the aspiring Bushwhackers who wanted to sing the Australian songs that they sang.

Frank Maher writes:

I first met Jack Barrie in the mid 1950 's at the Bush Music Club. We sang together when the Concert Party was performing at the Banjo Paterson Festival in Orange in 1960. Jack was one of the original Heathcote Bushwhackers along with John Meredith and Brian Loughlin.

These three auditioned in 1952 for the New Theatre production of "Reedy River" and were accepted, picking up along the way other (later) Bush Music Club members Alan Scott, Harry Kay Jnr., Chris Kempster, Alex Hood and Cec Grivas. Jack played the tea chest bass and sang "Widgeegowera Joe" as a solo in the production.

The last time that I saw Jack was at Alan Scott's wake in 1995 at Balmoral Village. I had arranged with him to leave my car at his place and proceed down to the Scott's in his utility. He always had big cars.

I had a lot of time for Jack and was sorry not to have been in contact with his family when he passed on.



Jack Barrie, Bushwhackers Band member, plays the bush bass, an empty box with a stick and a cord.



Jack Barry, Frank Maher and John Meredith at the wake for Alan Scott. *Maher Collection*

# BUSH MUSIC CLUB inc

GPO Box 433, SYDNEY NSW 2001

Founded 1954

MEMBERSHIP

APPLICATION [ ]

RENEWAL [ ]

UPDATE [ ]

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Phone: Home ( ) ..... Work ( ) .....

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

Email .....

## YEARLY MEMBERSHIP

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

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

## 5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP

[ ] SINGLE \$100 [ ] FAMILY \$130 [ ] AFFILIATION \$250

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## 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 (02) 9642 7950

Electronic Payment: BSB 062-005 Acct 0090 7524 (Commonwealth Bank) Email details to treasurer Allen Davis (allendavis@iprimus.com.au)
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## Traditional Irish Music 'Slow Session'

One of our members runs a 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 6th October**, 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**

\* Suzanne KINGSTON \* \* Rita XU \* \* Darren PALMER \*  
\* Alan BLAKELOCK & Ann O'DONOVAN \* \* Xin WU \*  
\* Maria BRAVO \* \* Wendy COSIER \* \* Susan HINDS \*  
\* Patricia GILES \* \* Judy ARCHER \* \* Kim HENG \*  
\* Deborah OWEN \* \* Anita SAURINE \* \* Don LUONG \*  
\* Josephine NEWNHAM \* \* Bronwyn UNDERWOOD \*  
\* Thomas GRYLLES \* \* Jason SANK \* \* Max ANNETT \*

## 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

## Concert Party News

*Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, nor hail* has kept them from coming to the Monday night Concert Party practice. They laughed at cold weather, they scoffed at the darkness and they parried for parking spots all through the Winter and into early Spring. A sturdy lot of yeomen and yeowomen is our band of brothers and sisters at the Bush Music Club. Either that or they are stark raving mad ... but there it is.

The musicians are preparing for several events including the Turning Wave Festival at Yass and the Hotel Blue afternoon at Katoomba proving that the “bush” remains forever in the Bush Music Club genre and *raison d’etre* (he said slipping into his slipshod schoolboy French.)

One recent evening proved to be interesting at Hut 44 when several of our leaders, viz. Ralph Pride and Eric Eisler were not present and we batted on in a fashion not dissimilar from the Australian Cricket Team at the Ashes (although it was agreed that by those present in Hut 44 that night the Concert Party Eleven could have got more than 60 against the Poms!) The BMC President and Treasurer attempted, valiantly, to lead the bold array and somehow we muddled through, thanks to the goodwill and camaraderie of all persons present.

Members of the BMC who are interested in joining the Concert Party are more than welcome ... a good time is had by all.

*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** <alldavis@iprimus.com.au>

Membership forms or ball ticket forms still need to be sent, either by mail or scanned and sent by email.

## AROUND THE BUSH MUSIC SCENE

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

- Oct 2-5 Bush Traditions Gathering, Goulburn. [www.bushtraditions.org](http://www.bushtraditions.org)
- Oct 3 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, *Snake Gully***, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594
- Oct 9 **7:30pm Duke's Place, *Chloe & Jason Roweth***, Hut 44, Marrickville. (p8)
- Oct 10 7:30pm Gosford Dance, Flannel Flower Spring Ball with *Snake Gully*, East Gosford Progress Hall. ☎ Robyn: 4344 6484
- Oct 16-18 Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival. [www.kangaroovalleyfolkfestival.com.au](http://www.kangaroovalleyfolkfestival.com.au)
- Oct 24 Loaded Dog Folk Club, ***Martin Pearson***, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, ☎ Sandra, 9358 4886
- Nov 7 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, *BMC Concert Party***, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594
- Nov 13 **7:30pm Duke's Place, *Mike Martin***, Hut 44, Marrickville. (p8)
- Nov 14 7:30pm Gosford Dance, Ragtime with *JH Dance Band*, East Gosford Progress Hall. ☎ Robyn: 4344 6484
- Nov 28 Loaded Dog Folk Club, ***Danny Spooner + Tom Bridges***, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, ☎ Sandra, 9358 4886
- Dec 5 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, *Paddy's River***, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594
- Dec 11 **7:30pm Duke's Place, *Christine Wheeler***, Hut 44, Marrickville. (see p8)
- Dec 12 7:30pm Gosford Dance, Christmas Contra with *Pastrami-On-Ryebuck*, East Gosford Progress Hall. ☎ Robyn: 4344 6484
- Dec 19 **7pm Ermington Bush Dance, *Southern Cross***, Ermington Community Centre, 10 River Rd, Ermington, ☎ 0412 145 262

### Regular Events

- Singing Session - 7pm** 1st Friday of each month (except Public Holidays)  
Hut 44, Addison Rd Comm Centre, Marrickville. Margaret 0427 958 788
- 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
- Kiama Bush Dance - 7pm** 2nd Thursday of each month  
Kiama Community Centre, ☎ Tony 0422 540 249
- Campfire Session - 7pm** 3rd Tuesday of each month  
Kiama Community Centre, ☎ Tony 0422 540 249
- Sutherland Acoustic - 7:30pm** 2nd Thursday of each month  
Tradies, Gymea