

MULGA WIRE

INCLUDING
SINGABOUT



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MULGA WIRE

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BUSH DANCES

September—December

BEECROFT Community Centre

Becroft Road (opposite Fire Stn)

7:30pm—11:30pm

September 1 **BMC Concert Party**

October 6 **Stringfiddle**

November 3 **Barangaroo**

December 1 **BMC Concert Party**

Enquiries: Sigrid 9980 7077
Wilma 9489 5594

Dukes Place

September 14 **Russell Churcher**

October 12 **The Fossickers**

November 9 **Ten Quid Poms**

December 14 **Songs of John Dengate**

Bush Music Club enquiries:

0412 145 262 or

bmcmal1954@gmail.com

Also see our web site for Club doings, history, articles and blog:

www.bushmusic.org.au

Cover:

Members of the Concert Party play at the Ball Picnic at Australiana Village, Wilberforce. Don Richmond, Ralph Pride and Bob Foggin.

Photo Mike Young



President's Message

This has been another cold winter but it's good to see that numbers have been steady around the club's activities.

The club's Concert Party will be participating in a couple of Cancer Fund Raising activities in the coming months. Firstly, Saturday, 22nd September raising money for Cancer Research and Sunday 4th November in Lidcombe fund raiser for Bowel Cancer. I would encourage you all to support both activities.

Here are a couple of dates for your calendar; Bush Traditions Gathering is on again, in Yass this year, on the October long weekend. This is always an enjoyable weekend and I'll be looking forward to seeing you all there. Also, Kangaroo Valley Festival, 19-21 October, is always enjoyable.

The club continues to have a full program, including our regular Becroft Bush Dances, Poet's Corner, Addison Road Sessions (singing), the Irish Slow Sessions and Monday night dance and music workshops but to name a few so check out our calendar and come along.

Sharyn Mattern

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Worth Noting

A chronicle of music in colonial Australia from 1542 to 1825 by **Dr Graeme Skinner**, Sydney University

These 4 pages are an open access work-in-progress to chronicle, in date order, all of the scarce documentary references to music and musicians in Australia, Indigenous and European, from earliest contacts until the end of 1825.

Entries are also included for some occasions in which music must certainly played a part, although there is no actual record of it, such as when it accompanied dancing, and civil, military, and religious ceremonies; and for some other important historical occasions when it is very likely to have done.

<http://sydney.edu.au/paradisec/australharmony/chronicle1542-1800.php>

<http://sydney.edu.au/paradisec/australharmony/chronicle1801-1810.php>

<http://sydney.edu.au/paradisec/australharmony/chronicle1811-1820.php>

<http://sydney.edu.au/paradisec/australharmony/chronicle1821-1825.php>

The chronology starts with a map of Australia that was published in 1542, & another interesting entry mentions 3 of the survivors from the wreck of the Batavia in 1629 were trumpeters.

Dancing keeps you young! A Melbourne couple who have been married for 66 years still hit the dancefloor every Saturday night. News item from the ABC:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-08-20/couple-married-for-66-years-say-cuckoo-dances-keeps-them-young/10119154>

Heather Clarke's Exhibition: Dancing in fetters - the culture of convict dance at Redcliffe Museum, Brisbane

When we think of convicts, we don't tend to think of music and dance. But dance was an integral part of everyday life and one of the most popular forms of recreation in the early colony.

Exhibition developed by Moreton Bay Regional Council in partnership with dance historian, Heather Clarke.

<https://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/subsite.aspx?id=173254>

BMC's esteemed Life Member **Dave Johnson** will be Ross M Fear's studio guest on Tuesday 11 September 9-12pm on the Australian Spectrum Show at CCR, Hills Alive 90.5 FM or live-streamed.

<http://alive905.com.au/ross-fear-australian-spectrum-show/>

Mulga Wire: 2018 Publishing Deadlines

Item Deadline	To Printers	Folding Session
9 November	15 November	20 November
8 February	14 February	19 February

Poet's Corner

The Woolshed Ball

They came from the stations near and far,
 And they came from the fettlers' camps,
And the shed was bright with the flaring light
 That shone from the swinging lamps;
The ladies nodded and wagged their heads
 As they sat beside the wall
With the giggling girls, their hair in curls,
 That came to the woolshed ball.
And the men stood round the door,
Or scraped candle on the floor,
While the fiddle quavered softly and the concertina crooned.

**“Select yer partners for the first set!
 Prominaid. Prominaid!”**

The men came up with a rolling gait;
 But the younger ones were shy
In their slop-made suits and their heavy boots
 And collars inches high;
And some wore spurs, and the Bathurst burrs
 Had clung to their coloured tweeds;
But they pleased the girls, who'd their hair in curls
 And their necks adorned with beads.
And the coloured tweeds were soiled
By the saddles newly oiled;
But they promenaded gaily till the fiddle found the note.

**“Saloot partners! Double Hetty!
 An' half-right an' left.”**

There was swishing in and swishing out,
 For the ladies' dresses trailed,
And a rustling sound as they whirled around
 And the concertina wailed;
And jokes were flung as they swayed and swung
 Or slipped on the greasy stands,
The nimble toe and the dull and slow,
 Till the M.C. clapped his hands;
And the perspiration dripped
As the dancers gaily tripped
By the matrons gazing proudly on their daughters in the set.

**“Places! An' order for Mister Mobbs's
 recitation. Ordah!”**

Then Mobbs recited a stirring tale,
 'Twas of hunger, death and snow;
They said "Ongcore!" and shouted "More!"
 But the boys yelled "Let her go!"
Then the mothers crept where the babies slept
 By the press or in the bin,
Where a sagging skirt or a misfit shirt
 Was fixed with a safety-pin.
And the men went out to see
Were the horses getting free.
And some to take their socks off, for their boots began to pinch.

**"Select partners for sirlkir walse.
 An' Prominaid. Prominaid!"**

The old and young got to their feet
 And the tunes were sweet and new.
'Twas "After the Ball"; then, best of all,
 Came "Two Little Girls in Blue."|
And the pace was fast as they circled past
 The fiddler in his chair,
And some of the dancers sang the words
 And some of them hummed the air.
Then the girls hung close and tight,
Goggling eyes with all their might,
While the older ones were winded and were trooping to their seats.

**"Balance an' reverse. Prominaid to supper.
 Prominaid. Prominaid!"**

The tables creaked with the loads they bore
 Of beef and mutton and sweets,
Dry-salted ham and home-made jam,
 And the wool-bales did for seats;
All round the shed and overhead
 Were wattle and gum-tree leaves –
They laughed and joked, for the tea was smoked,
 And the men rolled up their sleeves.
Then a veteran made a speech
Praising all and thanking each,
This disturbed a friendly 'possum that was camping up above.

**"Miss Giles will oblige the company with a song.
 'Sweet Maree' Ordah!"**

Polka, quadrille and circular waltz,
Till the dawn came up the shutes,
With measured beat the aching feet
Ragged round in the heavy boots;
Then “Ladies’ Chain” to an old refrain
When the lamps were burning low,
And the sky was grey with the break of day
And the stars began to go.
Patient horses gnawed the rails,
Hunched their backs and jammed their tails;
For the break of day was chilly and their hair stood up on end.

**“Should old erquaintence be forgot
Hin the days uv old lang zyne.”**

Then the harness straps were buckled,
And the traps were turned around,
But a joke was played, and rugs mislaid
Then a search till they were found.
And the young ones wait, by rail or gate,
And some of the girls (with their hair in curls)
Hang back for a parting kiss
And when they get away
It is past the break of day,
And the horses need no urging when their heads are facing home.

**“Whoa back, Blossom! Bail up, Rose!
Bail up! Bail up!”**

By **Jim Grahame** (from *Under Wide Skies*)
reprinted with permission.

Note: ‘slop-made suits’ is a slang term for ready-made or off -the-shelf clothing.

POETRY anyone?

Enjoy reciting a poem? Sharing a poem with others?
Perhaps writing your own poems? Brushing up on performing some ‘bush’ poetry?
If so, you are very welcome to come along. A contribution to go with afternoon tea
would be appreciated.

Where: The BMC Hut at Marrickville, Addison Rd.
When: Saturday 2pm to 4pm - **Sep 8, Oct 13, Nov 10**
Cost: \$5 or gold coin donation
Contact: Karen (02) 9716 9660 OR fongs@bigpond.net.au

DUKE'S PLACE

**Australian Songs
in Concert & session**



**Usually 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 14th September - Russell Churcher

Russell's first festival performance was as a lead soloist in Peter Bellamy's folk opera 'The Transports' at the 1988 National Folk Festival. He has supported touring performers such as Foster and Allen, Jimmy Little and John Williamson and has performed in front of the Prince of Wales, The Duke Of York and many other well-known hotels. For a number of years he was resident entertainer, penny-farthing cyclist and shingle-splitter at Timbertown theme park Wauchope. In recent times he has performed with Dave de Santi in the duo 'Rusty and The Saint'.

<http://www.russellchurcher.com.au/>

Friday 12th October - The Fossickers

Five Sydney lasses who sing Australian and traditional folk, sea shanties, gospel, waulking, working and women's songs. They recently performed at the James Craig and will also be appearing at the Loaded Dog Folk Club.

<https://www.facebook.com/thefossickers/>

Friday 9th November - Ten Quid Poms

John Warner and Robin Connaughton have been performing together for many years as members of the *Roaring Forties*. As a duo they are the *Ten Quid Poms*, performing contemporary and traditional music including some of their own material. Witty incisive commentators on industrial, political and social issues.

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Ten-Quid-Poms-975426715865311/>

Friday 14th December - Songs of John Dengate

..with his friends Ralph Pride, Chris Maltby & Miguel Heatwole. Ralph learnt his songs from The Master starting in the early 60s, Chris & Miguel picked them up from hearing John in later years at singing sessions & concerts, and by reading his books. All have added verses to John's songs in true folk style, & Miguel has arranged some for choirs. Ralph is working on a John Dengate songbook for use by Concert Party and at future festivals.

Pennant Hills Dance Activities

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

The August workshops were busy as we practiced the dances for both the New Sydney Ball (25th August) and the Canberra Ball (1st September). For the Canberra Ball the challenging dances were “John McDouall Stuart” (a Scottish Strathspey) and “Double Sir Roger de Coverley”. For the New Sydney Ball, David Potter taught for two of the workshops to ensure we were up to speed with the dances on that program. Thanks David!

In September we will be practicing the dances for the Gosford Flannel Flower Spring Ball, always a great event with a good selection of interesting dances. This year the featured “historic” dance will be the (original) “King’s Waltz”, named after King George V.

In October we will be learning the dances for both the Beecroft and Gosford November dances. The band playing for the BMC’s Beecroft dance will be the Barangaroo Bush Band, playing again for only the second time after their successful world premiere last year.

In November we will be practicing for the Pennant Hills Dance Workshop Christmas Party.

Plenty of dancing at the Pennant Hills dance workshop! See you there!

John Short

Programme September/October/November

MONDAY 7.30–10.30	THEME/DANCE STYLE
3 September	Mixed Dance Workshop
10 September	Practice for the Gosford Flannel Flower Ball
17 September	Practice for the Gosford Flannel Flower Ball
24 September	Practice for the Gosford Flannel Flower Ball
1 October	No Workshop - October long weekend
8 October	Last Practice for the Gosford Flannel Flower Ball
15 October	Practice for the November Beecroft and Gosford Dances
22 October	Practice for the November Beecroft and Gosford Dances
29 October	Practice for the November Beecroft and Gosford Dances
5 November	Practice for the November Gosford Dance
12 November	Mixed Dance Workshops
19 November	Mixed Dance Workshops
26 November	Practice for the Pennant Hills dance workshop Christmas Party

Playford Dancing at the Hut

Next meeting:

Tues 4th September

7:30pm to 9:30pm

The Bush Music Club is hosting Sydney Playford dancing in our headquarters:

Hut 44 (Tritton Hall)

Addison Road Community Centre,
Marrickville.

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month (except January). There will be live music as often as possible.

Cost \$7.

For more information contact:
Julie Bishop 9524 0247

REGENCY WEEKEND

& BALL

Wentworth Falls
September 22/23

INFO: Caroline 0439 314 948

[http://regencyweekendandball
wentworthfalls31.yolasite.com](http://regencyweekendandballwentworthfalls31.yolasite.com)

FACEBOOK: Wentworth Falls
Regency Weekends

Fundraising Concert for Cancer Research

There will be a concert to raise funds for Cancer Research. Cost is \$10 (and \$5 for accompanying booklet.) Tea and coffee provided. Please bring a small plate to share. Proceeds to Australian Cancer Research Foundation.

Where: Tritton Hall (Hut 44), Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville.

When: 2-4pm Saturday 22nd September.

**New
Members**

**★ Maria SALMON ★ ★ Don TRITTON★
★ Christine MILLER★**

Making Direct Deposit Payments (Membership/Shop/Ball)

Direct Deposit details:

BSB: 062-005

Acct: 0090 7524 (Commonwealth bank)

Ref: Member's Name

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, filled out online, or scanned and sent by email.

Traditional Irish Music 'Slow Session'

The Sydney Slow Session is a place where musicians can learn a new Irish Folk tune each week at a pace that suits beginners and intermediate players.

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: Aisleen <aisleenevans@gmail.com>
<https://www.facebook.com/SydneySlowSession/>

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

Bush Music Club

Beecroft Bush Dance



7:30pm - 11:30pm *Note start time*

Beecroft Community Centre

Beecroft Road (cnr Copeland Rd)

Cost: \$19 Adult, \$14 BMC Members

Includes supper

Sat September 1 - *BMC Concert Party*

Sat October 6 - *Stringfiddle*

Sat November 3 - *Barangaroo*

Sat December 1 - *BMC Concert Party*

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:

Woolworths Thornleigh

AMS Hair Studio Thornleigh

La Thai Restaurant Thornleigh

Topiary Café Epping

Westleigh Quality Meats Westleigh

Saturdays In The Casual Room – Megan Roweth

I first heard Megan recite about five years ago when she was lifted onto a chair so she could reach the microphone. It was Banjo Paterson's "Been There Before" and, at the time, I thought "what a wonderful rendition". Over the past five years it has been a delight to see and hear how much she has developed and become quite comfortable in her choice of material and its delivery. Five years of festivals, poet's breakfasts and concerts have given her the experience and aplomb to match, and quite often surpass, reciters of any age.

The CD itself is presented in a cardboard case with a well-designed cover (Megan's work) where most of the poems are represented as pictures on the wall in the "casual room". It literally invites you to pull up your favourite chair, make yourself comfortable and sit back and enjoy!!

From the selection of material on the album and Megan's ease of delivery, it seems fairly safe to assume that she has chosen the poems she wanted to record - the emotional connection to the poems in her delivery comes across as very natural and relaxed. You can tell that she has not only spent time learning the words but really thinking about the best way to deliver them to make the most of the listeners enjoyment. Well done Megan.

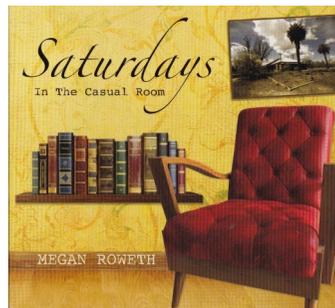
This CD is an absolute must for collectors of Australian poetry and for those who have never owned an album of poetry, a great opportunity to listen to a thoughtful mix of some well-known standards, some lesser known material and two of Megan's originals which are very powerful – belying her young age! It is a CD you will want to listen to often just to feel the different emotions of each track and listen to the tempo and warmth of Megan's voice.

It is very exciting to see new, young reciters enjoying and building on the resource that is Australian poetry. This is quite an exceptional album for someone so young and I am very much looking forward to her next offering!

Helen Romeo



Megan reciting from a chair at Kangaroo Valley Festival 2014.
Photo: Sandra Nixon



<https://www.rowethmusic.com.au/megan-roweth>

CANBERRA COLONIAL BALL and CONCERT SATURDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2018

by Antonella Salpietro

The Monaro Folk Society's annual Ball will be held in Canberra from 7:20pm on Saturday 1 September 2018 at the Albert Hall, Commonwealth Avenue, Yarralumla.

Music by The Currawong Bush Band with John Short calling. The Currawong Bush Band has made regular appearances at various Monaro Folk Society (MFS) Dances over recent years. John Short is widely regarded as one of Australia's leading dance callers and composers.

This year we present a selection of dances from each of the States and Territories of Australia that highlight the vital role played by dance composers, dancers and choreographers in the development of social dancing in Australia.

Come and celebrate and dance back in time - and wear something funny, elegant, or unconventional and inspired by a State or Territory of Australia, maybe even just a pin with a floral emblem or the costume of a fauna emblem!

For all the details please see monarofolk.org.au

Photos taken by Canberra journalist Lyn Mills at the 2017 Colonial Ball are at: www.socialcapital.net.au/events/article/?id=monaro-folk-society-annual-colonial-ball-albert-hall

N.B. This year, as a joint initiative of the Monaro Folk Society and the Canberra Mandolin Orchestra (CMO) a grand concert will be held at the Albert Hall in the afternoon of the Colonial Ball (Saturday 1 September 2018.)

The concert will have an overall Australian flavour presenting a history of social dance in Australia from earliest colonial times until the new vogue era. It will involve the CMO playing a selection of dance tunes from that period together with demonstrations of various dances.

Concert discount tickets will be offered to Colonial Ball attendees. More detailed information on the concert at CMO.org.au

Have you visited the **BMC Blog** recently? There are lots of new articles and photos of our activities over the past year. The address is:

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

or follow the link from the BMC website.

Event Details

Beecroft Bush Dance, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft

☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594

Bush Traditions Gathering, Hartigan Centre, Yass

<http://www.bushtraditions.org/>

Duke's Place, Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville

☎ Sandra 9358 4886 See p8

Gosford Bush Dance, East Gosford Progress Hall

☎ Anne Maree 0413 588 634 <http://www.ccbdma.org/schedule.htm>

Hornsby Folk Club, Beatrice Taylor Hall (in Willow Park), Edgeworth David Ave

☎ Barry 9807 9497

Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival

<http://www.kangaroovalleyfolkfestival.com.au/>

Keith's Dance Workshop, Upper Hall, Pennant Hills Community Centre

<http://keith-wood.name/danceworkshops.html>

Loaded Dog Folk Club, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre

☎ Sandra 9358 4886

Playford Dancing at the Hut, Hut 44, Addison Rd Comm Centre, Marrickville

☎ Julie 9524 0247 See p13

Poetry at the Hut, Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville

☎ Karen 9716 9660 See p7

Regency Weekend & Ball, Wentworth Falls See p10

<http://regencyweekendandballwentworthfalls31.yolasite.com>

Songlines Song Session, Australian Heritage Hotel, 100 Cumberland St, The Rocks

☎ Jenny 9576 2301

Sutherland Acoustic, Tradies, Gymea

☎ Jenny 9576 2301

The Addison Rd Sessions, Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville

☎ Glenys 4758 7497 See p15

Toongabbie Music Club, 17 Whitehaven Rd, Northmead

☎ 9639 7494

Troubadour Folk Club, CWA Hall, The Boulevard, Woy Woy

☎ Michael 4342 6716

Concert Party News

The BMC Concert Party continues to maintain its enthusiasm and membership this year with performances at Kangaroo Valley, the Beecroft Dance and practices each Monday evening in Hut 44.

In July 2018, eight Concert Party musicians played for bush dances at the Sutherland Bush Dance group in Gymea with around 40 people in attendance. In addition, a number of members attended and performed at the Bush Dance gathering at Bundanoon in June's chilly winter weather.

With upcoming functions including fundraising events for Cancer Research in September and November 2018 along with the Beecroft Dance in both September and December, this must be regarded as a busy year once again for Concert Party members.

Allen Davis

CD REVIEW

The Lies that Made Australia a CD by Keith McKenry

This review follows an earlier Bush Music Club appraisal of a book by Keith McKenry titled *More than a Life: John Meredith and the fight for Australian Tradition*. The CD moves on and, rather smoothly augments, Meredith's struggles to preserve the folk heritage. It is a combination of poetry, lies and yarns that linger and bind many of our traditions.

Using a clever methodology, McKenry recites and discusses Australian lies and myths with live audiences at both the National and Maldon Folk Festivals. His technique is to provide the people present with a named and numbered list of 27 "lies". He then requests any audience member to call out a number. At this point he announces the title of that "lie" and proceeds to recite a poem and/or provide his view of the lie. Very effective!

Examples of the lies include, inter alia, *Australia is a Classless Society*, *Asbestos*, *the Wonder Insulator* and *Captain Cook Discovered Australia*. The CD is redolent with pathos and humour. McKenry knows his subject well. He addresses all "lies" in a warm and comforting way, even the most confronting topics.

It is pleasing to note the inclusion of Duke Tritton's *The Sandy Hollow Line* and John O'Brien's *Said Hanrahan* along with 13 of McKenry's own compelling and enjoyable works.

This is a veritable cornucopia of ripping and revealing yarns. McKenry is to be congratulated for this work which should form part of Australia's literary heritage for generations yet unborn. *And that's no lie.*

Allen Davis

For Keith's CD contact him at fangedwombat@bigpond.com

AROUND THE BUSH MUSIC SCENE

Sep	1	7:30pm	Beecroft Bush Dance, BMC Concert Party
Sep	2	7pm	Songlines Song Session
Sep	4	7:30pm	Playford Dancing at the Hut
Sep	7	7pm	The Addison Rd Sessions
Sep	8	2pm	Poetry at the Hut
Sep	8	7:30pm	Gosford Bush Dance, Social night
Sep	13	7:30pm	Sutherland Acoustic Night, <i>Drizabone D & friends</i>
Sep	14	7:30pm	Duke's Place, Russell Churcher
Sep	14	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Sep	16	2pm	Keith's Dance Workshop, <i>Contra - Keith</i>
Sep	21	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club
Sep	22	2pm	Fundraising Concert for Cancer Research (see p10)
Sep	22	8pm	Loaded Dog Folk Club, <i>Traditional Graffiti + The Fossickers</i>
Sep	22-23		Regency Weekend & Ball (see p10)
Sep	28	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Sep	29	7pm	Troubadour Folk Club, <i>Alan Reid & Rob de Sante (Scotland)</i>
Sep	28 - Oct 1		Bush Traditions Gathering
Oct	2	7:30pm	Playford Dancing at the Hut
Oct	5	7pm	The Addison Rd Sessions
Oct	6	7:30pm	Beecroft Bush Dance, Stringfiddle
Oct	7	7pm	Songlines Song Session
Oct	11	7:30pm	Sutherland Acoustic Night, <i>Geoffrey Graham + Mary Jane Field</i>
Oct	12	7:30pm	Duke's Place, The Fossickers
Oct	12	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Oct	13	2pm	Poetry at the Hut
Oct	13	7:30pm	Gosford Bush Dance, Flannel Flower Spring Ball with <i>Short Dented Potts</i>
Oct	19	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club
Oct	19 - 21		Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival
Oct	21	2pm	Keith's Dance Workshop, <i>English Country</i>
Oct	26	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Oct	27	8pm	Loaded Dog Folk Club, <i>Andsome Friends + Nick Lock</i>
Oct	27	7pm	Troubadour Folk Club
Nov	2	7pm	The Addison Rd Sessions
Nov	3	7:30pm	Beecroft Bush Dance, Barangaroo
Nov	4	7pm	Songlines Song Session
Nov	6	7:30pm	Playford Dancing at the Hut
Nov	8	7:30pm	Sutherland Acoustic Night
Nov	9	7:30pm	Duke's Place, Ten Quid Poms
Nov	9	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Nov	10	2pm	Poetry at the Hut
Nov	10	7:30pm	Gosford Bush Dance, Social Night
Nov	16	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club <i>Joe & Harmony's Trippy Hippy Band + Jack Peck</i>
Nov	18	2pm	Keith's Dance Workshop, <i>Contra - Rerun</i>
Nov	23	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Nov	24	8pm	Loaded Dog Folk Club,
Nov	24	7pm	Troubadour Folk Club

See page 14 for more details of these events

SINGABOUT

SEPTEMBER 2018

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

***Under Wide Skies* by Jim Grahame (J W Gordon)**

Jim Grahame (pen name for Jim Gordon, 1874 - 1949) “has written for the world at large and especially for bush folk.... He writes of simple things and simple joys, themes that enter into the everyday life of the outback Australian” - so writes J K Moir, President of the Bread and Cheese Club in the Foreword to *Under Wide Skies* in 1947. Grahame’s poems (numbering about 200 in this volume) are organised under headings such as Bush Songs, People of the Bush, Bugle Calls, Tributes to Lawson and Other Tributes. When reading the selection of poems in the section ‘Bush Songs’, it doesn’t take long to realise we have a craftsman who can paint wonderful images in our minds:

We breakfast, then start on a rollicking jaunt
Through ti-tree and bracken that wallabies haunt,
By wheat fields a-waving and emerald green
Low hills in the distance, enhancing the scene.
A track leads us down to a broad billabong
Where sentinel gum trees have guarded it long. (from *Arcadia*)

In *The Call of the Bush*, Grahame urges city folk, especially “youths that are dole-faced”, to venture into the bush “Blazing new tracks through my forests, scaling my ruggedest peaks, carving out homes in the valleys, skirting my rivers and creeks” and although he acknowledges that the bush has its challenges, he seems to remain upbeat about the healing powers of nature “Bushfires here their toll have taken, but their work is partly hidden by a kurrajong that’s growing, green and glowing, at the gate”(taken

from *Vanished Homesteads*).

Grahame also writes of the many characters of the bush he met as he trekked through the outback or settled in various townships. We learn about *The Bushman's Wife* ("The children's clothes are all in rags, I'm sick an' tired of patchin'"), *Concertina Jack* ("He played while they danced till the sun went down and the west was arched with a golden glow) and *The Old Bush Hawker* ("The children stand and gaze and gaze and peep beneath the fly, and whisper of the treasures there that mother "oughter" buy").

As a travelling companion and friend of Henry Lawson, Grahame has a number of poems in *Under Wide Skies* dedicated to his mate. In *When Lawson Walked With Me*, we learn of their pleasure in each other's company ("As we passed by a little church we glimpsed within the door, where people sat with bowing heads and some knelt on the floor; but we heard not the preacher's voice nor listened to the bell; we were content to hear the tales each other had to tell."). Mary Gilmore was also a friend of both Lawson and Grahame and in *Mary Gilmore*, Grahame writes "The women of hut and tent and camp are in Mary Gilmore's ken; for she knows the lives of the bushmen's wives as our Lawson knew the men."

My only small beef with Jim Grahame's work is that in the first poem of the book *The Men that Understand*, he states that

Shed-hand, jackeroo, boss and teamster –
They are the men that can understand!
Self-taught scholars and baffled dreamers,
Bronzed barge-hands of the river steamers –
They are the men I love to heed me
(Let furious critics reprimand) –
They are the men that clothe and feed me;
And I'll sing the tune that their ears demand.

I would suggest that both women and men can enjoy Grahame's poetry. Towards the end of his life, Grahame was awarded a Commonwealth Literary Pension with Prime Minister Ben Chifley deciding "it was due recognition of his contribution to Australian literature as a poet and balladeer over 50 years" (from the book *Mates: The Friendship that Sustained Henry Lawson* by Gregory Bryan, New Holland Publishers 2016 p. 402). Jim Grahame deserves to be more widely read and *Under Wide Skies* is a great place to start.

Copies of the book can be purchased by contacting:
Phillipa Hollenkamp, 0409 564 100, cost \$30 + postage & packing \$12.50

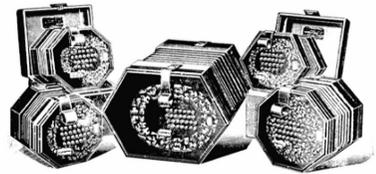
Karen Fong, 22 July 2018

The Good Old Concertina

Words: Henry Lawson
Tune: Bob Bolton

'Twas mer - ry when the hut was full of jol - ly girls and fel - lows,
We danced and sang un - til we burst the con - cert - i - na's bel - lows
From dis - tant Dar - ling to the sea, from the Downs to the Riv - er - in - a,
Has e'er a gum in all the West not heard the con - cer - tin - a.

'Twas merry when the hut was full
Of jolly girls and fellows,
We danced and sang until we burst
The concertina's bellows.
From distant Darling to the sea;
From the Downs to the Riverina,
Has e'er a gum in all the West
Not heard the concertina?



'Twas peaceful round the campfires blaze,
The long white branches o'er us;
We'd play the tunes of bygone days,
To some good old bush chorus.
Old Erin's harp may sweeter be,
The Scottish pipes blow keener;
But sing an old bush song for me
To the good old concertina.

'Twas cosy by the hut-fire bright
When the pint pot passed between us;
We drowned the voice of the stormy night
With the good old concertina's.
Though trouble drifts along the years,
And the pangs of care grow keener,
My heart is gladdened when I hear
That good old concertina.



Now for some more poetry, this time from Trove (trove.nla.gov.au). Papa's Poem was published in the Maitland Daily Mercury, Tuesday 16 October 1900. All about the joys of a new addition to the family that was easily satisfied in the Good Old Days with some simple fare.

Papa's Poem.

We need not the fiddle, we want not the drum,
Since the new little screecher to daddy has come;
When the morning is fresh, and the evening is stale,
We'll get music enough from it's infantile wail !

When the work of the city or toil of the farm
Is ended, that infant our leisure will charm ;
And peaceful and sweet will indeed be our rest
When 'tis lulled by the bagpipes which blow from its breast !

But, no! precious infant, we'll stay your sweet cries,
So that fresh from their slumbers your parents may rise ;
We'll get Arnott's Milk Arrowroot Biscuits, so sweet,
And your mummy shall give them to baby to eat !

She will roll them to powder and soak in hot milk,
They will make baby's skin just as glossy as silk ;
Or with water that's boiling poured over them whole,
She will comfort its stomach and gladden its soul !

Then the infant will chirrup and chuckle and crow,
And no longer its temper and fretfulness show ;
'Twill be restful and happy, and life will be sweet
When the baby has Arnott's nice biscuits to eat!

We need not the fiddle, we want not the drum,
The piano, or organ, since baby has come ;
Its voice is like music, so tender and sweet,
Now it Arnott's Milk Arrowroot Biscuits doth eat !

Welcome to **BUSH MUSIC CLUB** inc

Australia's Traditional Songs, Dances, Music & Folklore

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2018

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

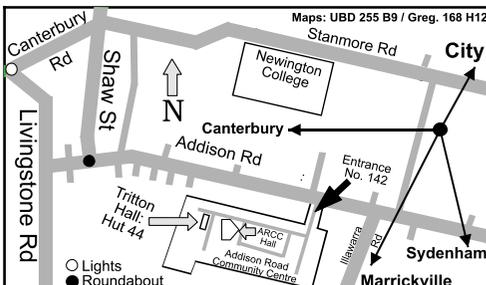
426 DULWICH HILL and

423 EARLWOOD

- Get off at Addison Road, walk
600m to Centre

TRAIN:

To Newtown, then catch bus



ISSN 0157 3381

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

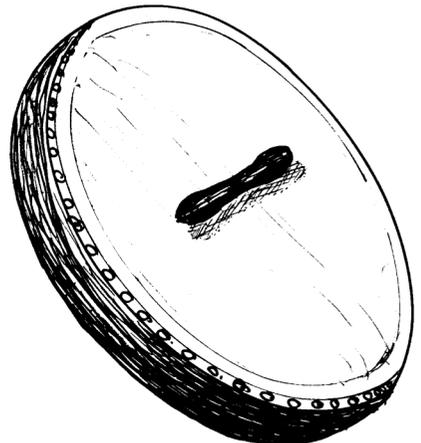
September 2018

- Sat 1 **Beecroft Bush Dance, BMC Concert Party**
- Sun 2 **Irish Slow Session**
- Mon 3 **Song & Music Session**
- Mon 3 **PH Dance Workshop**
- Tue 4 **Playford at the Hut**
- Fri 7 **Addison Rd Sessions**
- Sat 8 **Poetry Session**
- Sun 9 **Irish Slow Session**
- Mon 10 **PH Dance Workshop**
- Mon 10 **Song & Music Session**
- Fri 14 **Dukes Place, Russell Churcher**
- Sun 16 **Irish Slow Session**
- Mon 17 **Song & Music Session**
- Mon 17 **PH Dance Workshop**
- Mon 24 **PH Dance Workshop**
- Mon 24 **Song & Music Session**



October 2018

- Mon 1 **No Dance Workshop or Music Session - Long Weekend**
- Tue 2 **Playford at the Hut**
- Fri 5 **Addison Rd Sessions**
- Sat 6 **Beecroft Bush Dance, Stringfiddle**
- Sun 7 **Irish Slow Session**
- Mon 8 **Song & Music Session**
- Mon 8 **PH Dance Workshop**
- Fri 12 **Dukes Place, The Fossickers**
- Sat 13 **Poetry Session**
- Sun 14 **Irish Slow Session**
- Mon 15 **PH Dance Workshop**
- Mon 15 **Song & Music Session**
- Sun 21 **Irish Slow Session**
- Mon 22 **Song & Music Session**
- Mon 22 **PH Dance Workshop**
- Sun 28 **Irish Slow Session**
- Mon 29 **PH Dance Workshop**
- Mon 29 **Song & Music Session**



Pennant Hills (PH) Dance Workshop:

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

☎ Wilma: 9489 5594

Beecroft Bush 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

November 2018

- Fri 2 Addison Rd Sessions
Sat 3 Beecroft Bush Dance,
Barangaroo
Sun 4 Irish Slow Session
Mon 5 Song & Music Session
Mon 5 PH Dance Workshop
Tue 6 Playford at the Hut
Fri 9 Dukes Place, *Ten Quid Poms*
Sat 10 Poetry Session
Sun 11 Irish Slow Session
Mon 12 PH Dance Workshop
Mon 12 Song & Music Session
Sun 18 Irish Slow Session
Mon 19 Song & Music Session
Mon 19 PH Dance Workshop
Sun 25 Irish Slow Session
Mon 26 PH Dance Workshop
Mon 26 Song & Music Session

December 2018

- Sat 1 Beecroft Bush Dance,
BMC Concert Party
Sun 2 Irish Slow Session
Mon 3 Song & Music Session
Mon 3 PH Dance Workshop
Tue 4 Playford at the Hut
Fri 7 Addison Rd Sessions
Sun 9 Irish Slow Session
Mon 10 PH Dance Workshop
Christmas Party
Mon 10 Song & Music Session
Fri 14 Dukes Place
Sun 16 Irish Slow Session
Mon 17 Song & Music Session
Mon 17 PH Dance Workshop



Activities at Tritton Hall

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

Addison Rd Sessions (singing):

1st Friday, 7:30pm

☎ Glenys: 4758 7851

Duke's Place:

2nd Friday, 7:30pm-11:30pm
Concert and Session, \$10, bring a plate.

☎ Sandra: 9358 4886

Playford at the Hut:

English Country Dancing
1st Tuesday, 7:30pm-9:30pm \$7

☎ Julie: 9524 0247

Song & Music Session:

General session for all musicians and singers,
this session also trains and practises the
BMC's *Concert Party*
Mondays, 7:30pm \$7

☎ Allen: 9639 7494

Poetry:

2nd Saturday, 2pm-4pm \$5

☎ Karen: 9716 9660

Irish Slow Session:

Sundays, 6:30pm-9:30pm

☎ Aisleen <aisleenevans@gmail.com>

BUSH MUSIC CLUB inc

GPO Box 433, SYDNEY NSW 2001

Founded 1954

MEMBERSHIP

APPLICATION []

RENEWAL []

UPDATE []

Name:

Address:

.....

Phone: Home () Work ()

Email

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

YEARLY MEMBERSHIP

[] SINGLE \$30 [] FAMILY \$40 [] PENSIONER \$20

[] AFFILIATION (Clubs only) \$70 [] DONATION \$ _____

5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP

[] SINGLE \$120 [] FAMILY \$150

[] AFFILIATION \$250 [] PENSIONER \$70

CASH / CHEQUE Enclosed \$ (No cash through post please)

Signature: Date:

Direct deposit details: BSB 062-005 Reference: Your Name & "Membership"
Account 0090 7524 Bank: Commonwealth

Email this form or details of payment to treasurer, Allen Davis: allendavis@iprimus.com.au

Office Use Only

Feb	Apr	Jun	Aug	Oct	Dec	
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Fee received ---- / ---- / ----	Appl approved ---- / ---- / ----	Record updated ---- / ---- / ----	Member Number	New Card Posted ---- / ---- / ----
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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