

SINGABOUT

DECEMBER 2018

BMC EARLY LEADERSHIP

Our secretary, Sandra Nixon has been spending many hours going through the club archives to piece together more of the early history of the Bush Music Club. Of particular interest is the people who led the club in the early days, setting the foundations for the organisation we have today. Here is some of what she has found.

Inaugural meeting of the Bush Music Club, 14th October 1954

First meeting convened by the *Heathcote Bushwhacker's Band* and Mr B. Loughlin in the chair. He explained the reasons for forming a Bush Music Club. The bush music and traditional Australian songs as presented by the Bushwhackers have proved very popular and that band does not find it possible to perform as often as they are asked. Many people have asked to be allowed to join their band, but they find the most effective number in their ensemble is six.

It was proposed and accepted that election of an executive be held over until members become better acquainted. The meeting ended with singing and playing of instruments. (*Minutes 14th October, 1954*)

3rd meeting - 28th October, 1954

It was proposed that an executive of four be elected with the positions of Chairman, Secretary-Treasurer, Publicity Officer and Master of Ceremonies. The following people were unanimously elected to the respective positions. Mr. B. Loughlin, Mr. A. Scott, Mr. J. Meredith and Mr. H. Kay. (*Minutes 28th October, 1954*)

1955 - Alan Scott Secretary & probably editor *Newsletters 1(1) Oct & 1(2) Dec 55*

1956 - Secretary Karen Winter (source - [In The Beginning ... The formation and early history of the Bush Music Club](#), by John Meredith - Karen Winter was Secretary & invented the name *Singabout* for the proposed magazine) (*no newsletters from period Dec 55 to June 57 have been found - so far!*)

1957 - President Brian Loughlin (*Minutes 3rd July 1957*)
Duke Tritton Vice President, Secretary Lorna Lovell (*Newsletter, (1) June 57*)
Assistant MC John Meredith, Publications Assistant Fran Shaw (*Minutes 3rd July 1957*)

1958 - President Brian Loughlin, Vice President Duke Tritton, Treasurer Harry Kay, Secretary Lorna Lovell, Ass Sec Joan Lisyak, MC - none, Ass M.C. Alan Scott, Editor John Meredith, Business Manager Gay Scott, Proof reader Joan Small, Records Salesman Brian Loughlin. Librarian & host - Jamie Carlin, Librarian Frank Maher, Art Editor - Gil Small, Concert Party leader Alan Scott (*Minutes of AGM 1958*)

1959 - President Peter Francis, Vice President Fran Shaw, Secretary Stan Wakefield, Ass. Secretary Frank Maher, Treasurer Margot Davies, Editor John Meredith, Ass Editor Alan Scott, Concert Party Organiser Jamie Carlin, Master of Ceremonies John Meredith (*Minutes of AGM, 1959*)

1960 - editors Frank Maher & Alan Scott (*Nov 60 newsletter*)
President John Meredith, Vice President Fran Shaw, Secretary Stan Wakefield, Treasurer Margot Davies, Editor John Meredith, Asst Editor Alan Scott, Business Mgr N Jorgenson, Special Committee to help out at Singabouts & club nights - Frank Maher, Jan Jones, Herb Gimbert, Chas. Bennett (*Minutes of 1960 AGM*)

1961 - Alan Scott Editor, *Oct 61, no. 4 newsletter*
President John Meredith, Vice President Gay Scott, Secretary Alan Scott, Ass. Secretary Frank Maher, Treasurer Jan Jones, Editor John Meredith, Ass editor Alan Scott, MC Jamie Carlin, Singabout Circulation Manager Frank Maher, Bush Band Organiser Jamie Carlin (*1961 AGM minutes*)

1962 - *First female President & the first committee where women outnumbered men!*
President Pam Loughlin, Vice President Marietta Stratton, Secretary Alan Scott, Assistant Secretary Barbara Strain, Editor Gay Scott, Treasurer Jan Jones, MC Jamie Carlin, Circulation Manager Ann Banks, Concert Party Organiser Frank Maher. (*Newsletter April 1962 & Minutes 1962 AGM*)

1963 - President Jamie Carlin, Vice President Duke Tritton, Secretary- *no one willing to stand*, Ass Secretary Pam Loughlin, Treasurer Jan Jones, Editor Gay Scott, MC T Vaughan, MC Committee Rex Whalan, John Meredith, A Dearn, Circulation Mgr Ann Banks (*AGM minutes 26th February, 1963*)

Alan Scott elected as Secretary & Sam Ramsey elected as Concert Party Organiser for 3 months (*Continuation of Annual Meeting 1963 - 5th March, 1963*)

1964 - President Frank Maher (elected April), Vice President Duke Tritton, Secretary Janet Wakefield, Treasurer Forbes Guckel (removed Sept) Jan James (Sept), Other committee members Ronda Carlin Asst Sec, John Dengate MC, Editor Rex Whalan (Newsletter), Circulation Manager Ann Banks, Concert Party Leader Jamie Carlin, (*Minutes, AGM 3rd March, 1964*)

1965 - *Second female President*

President Ann Maher, Secretary Janet Wakefield, Treasurer Pam Loughlin, Asst Treasurer John Dengate, Asst Secretary Kevin Davis, Vice President Bill Tovey, Publications Manager Frank Maher, Concert Party organiser Jamie Carlin, Editor Alan Scott, Asst Editor Brian Loughlin, Folk Lore Study Group organiser Ken Faaney, MC John Dengate (*Minutes 1965 AGM*)

Exerpt from *History of the Bush Music Club - The Committee, the first 25 years*
<http://bushmusicclub.blogspot.com/2018/10/history-of-bush-music-club-committee.html>



Some members of early committees at John Dengate's Funeral in 2013.

L-R: Frank & Ann Maher (Ann Banks), George & Barbara Gibbon (Barbara Strain), Jamie & Ronda Carlin.

Photo: Wayne Richmond

We're Not Old Yet

They say I'm old ; because I'm grey.
The aged bard, they now call me !
But grey or green, I boldly say,
We're not old yet, but mean to be.

Though sixty years and ten may doom
Tir'd men to rest with worms and me ;
With sixty gone, and ten to come,
We're not old yet, but mean to be.

My eyes flash flame, my heart is glad,
When poor men shake their sides with glee ;
And though they cry, "Come on, Old Lad !"
We're not old yet, but mean to be.

While soars the skylark high and higher,
And bid the mountains wake, to see
How morn can fill my veins with fire,
We're not old yet, but mean to be.

Thou brightening cloud, that sail'st afar
Where screams the falcon, wheeling free !
Tell yonder fading, winking star,
We're not old yet, but mean to be.

Published in the Melbourne Daily News, Friday 14 June 1850, P4.
Author not given, and originally just titled "song".

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/226321651/22396534>