

# MULGA WIRE

INCLUDING  
SINGABOUT



*2020 - Centenary of John Meredith's birth*

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# MULGA WIRE

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# BUSH DANCES

March-June

## BEECROFT Community Centre

Becroft Road (opposite Fire Stn)

7:30pm—11:30pm

March 7

**Kookaburra**

April 4

**Southern Cross**

May 2

**Rosella Bush Band**

June 6

**BMC Concert Party**

Enquiries:

Wilma 9489 5594

## Dukes Place

March 13

**Enda Kenny**

April 17

**Polesons**

May 8

**Dingo's Breakfast**

June 12

**Pat Drummond**

**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:

Annette and Alex Hood, recipients of this year's National Folk Festival Lifetime Achievement Award, pictured at the 2014 launch of Keith McKenry's biography of John Meredith.

Photo Sandra Nixon

2020 has arrived and I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

At the Illawarra Folk Festival in January the club was well represented by both the Saplings and the BMC Concert Party. Congratulations and well done to everyone involved.

The Bush Music Club's Heritage Ball will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> May at the Ku-ring-gai Town Hall, Pymble with the doors opening at 6.30pm and Grand March commencing at 7pm. Please see the advertisement on page 12 for further information and refer to the enclosed flyer for payment details. I'm looking forward to seeing you all there.

Sigrid Marden, who has run the Beecroft Dance for 8 years, has finally hung up her apron and retired as dance coordinator and supper supervisor. We can't thank Sigrid enough for her tireless effort in providing a well-run evening with the dancers & bands being well fed at supper time. We have, therefore, decided to introduce "bring a plate to share" for supper at the Beecroft Dance from June 2020 dance replacing the traditional "supper provided". A lot of work goes into running the dance and this move helps ease the pressure on the night.

Sadly, we have bid a final farewell to Jan Boersma who passed away in February.

Also, Frank Povah sadly passed away on 6 March 2020 following a heart attack. Frank was a wonderful musician, story teller and friend to many. Vale Jan and Frank.

Congratulations to Cathy Richmond and Owen Grylls on their recent wedding.

Our friend and member, Eric Eisler, is still in hospital and we send him our love and hugs and wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

Keep up to date with the latest BMC news via Mulga Wire, the blog, Facebook, webpage or our e-list by sending an email to [bmcmail1954@gmail.com](mailto:bmcmail1954@gmail.com).

*Sharyn Mattern*

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## Worth Noting

**Annette and Alex Hood** have been announced as this year's recipients of the National Folk Festival Lifetime Achievement Award. Congratulations on well deserved recognition!

<https://www.folkfestival.org.au/lifetime-achievement-award-2020/>

**Col Wright**, who ran the *Merry Muse* from 1993 to 2001, passed away in January.

We have bid a final farewell to **Jan Boersma** who passed away in February.

And in March we have lost Frank Povah who, among many other things, provided the music John Dengate used for *Melanoma Blues*. Vale to all.

James Hardy Vaux's 1819 *Dictionary of Criminal Slang and Other Impolite Terms as Used by the Convicts of the British Colonies of Australia with Additional True Stories, Remarkable Facts and Illustrations* - by Simon Barnard, Text Publishing, 2019. Convict slang: Australia's first dictionary On Sunday Extra with Julian Morrow

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/sundayextra/convict-slang-australias-first-dictionary/12011770>

Congratulations to **Cathy Richmond and Owen Grylls** on their recent wedding.

**Early Australian Colonial Dance** has a page on Facebook:

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

BMC members will be performing at the Summer Hill Folk Festival on 14<sup>th</sup> March:

<http://www.summerhillfolkfestival.com/>

The Archaeology of Music at Hyde Park Barracks is a summary of findings about music in the early days at the barracks.

<https://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/stories/archaeology-music-hyde-park-barracks>

Dance historian, **Dr Heather Blasdale-Clarke** recently gave a presentation on Australian step dancing at the *Stepping On* Conference at Cecil Sharp House in London.

<https://www.vwml.org/events/upcoming-events/5446-stepping-on-a-conference-on-stepping-in-dance-across-the-british-isles-and-beyond>

Heather has also produced a related video which has now been uploaded to YouTube.

But wait, there's more! Heather has a post about eighteenth-century dance in London, complete with music and instructions, and a link with Captain Cook, on the wonderful Spitalfields Life blog.

<https://spitalfieldslife.com/2019/11/16/the-mile-end-assembly/>

## Upcoming Festivals

National	9-13 April	<a href="http://www.folkfestival.org.au">www.folkfestival.org.au</a>
St Albans	23-26 April	<a href="http://www.stalbansfolkfestival.com.au">www.stalbansfolkfestival.com.au</a>
Bundanoon	5-8 June	<a href="http://www.bushtraditions.org/dancefest">www.bushtraditions.org/dancefest</a>

## **Bush Music Club at the National Folk Festival**

### **Bush Music Club Youth Bush Band- Family Bush Dance Saturday 11 April, 16:30 to 18:00 Piazza**

One and a half hours of fun, easy to do bush dances, contemporary and trad in style, selected from the Australian tradition. Young musicians mentored through the Bush Music Club's Concert Party and Saplings make up the BMC Youth Band with Cathy Richmond calling. No experience is necessary to enjoy these dances



### **Saplings Sessions Bush Music Club**

**Workshops: Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon – 13:30 to 14:30 Billy Moran Tent**

**Performance: Mon 15:30 to 16:00 Carnival Stage**

The Saplings programme is for young musicians aged approx 8-18 giving them the experience & enjoyment of playing Australian collected music and song in a relaxed atmosphere with expert musicians from the Bush Music Club as tutors. Bring your own acoustic instruments or borrow percussion.

### **Folk Songs of Australia and the men and women who sang them Sunday 12 April, 10:00 to 11:00 Trocadero**

This concert is a tribute to John Meredith, (1920-2001) who was a founder of the Bush Music Club. He was an innovative collector beginning his search for bush songs and traditional music of Australia in the 1950s; John continued collecting and writing until his death. John's friends Dale Dengate & Chris Woodland with Ralph Pride, Kerith Power and Molly Jane Ellis will present unheard stories and songs collected from Duke Tritton, Sally Sloane and John Dengate. Be prepared to join a chorus or two.

Other Bush Music Club members are involved in the following acts:

Australian & Colonial Folk Dancers

Chloe & Jason Roweth with Matt Nightingale

Dividing Range Dancers

Graham Seal and Rob Willis

The Heritage Ensemble

Keith Wood and Pastrami on Ryebuck

Margaret & Bill Winnett

Megan Roweth

Songs from the Australian Tradition

## Verandah Music at the National Folk Festival

### **That's Alright, Mama – Elvis, Folksinger** **Trocadero, Fri 10 Apr, 18.20-19.20**

This year's extravaganza will channel the legend himself. Rob Willis will be joined by the usual large cast of helpers to present another interesting and entertaining show.

### **Stop Laughing, This is Serious! Australian Folk Humour** **Trocadero, Mon 13 Apr, 12.40-13.40**

Graham Seal and Rob Willis will draw on their extensive researches and the National Library collection to delve into this fascinating subject. Plenty of opportunities to join in.

### **15th Australian Folklore Conference** **National Library of Australia, Thu Apr 9, 9.15-4.30**

A program of talks on a variety of topics and a lunchtime concert.

## Vale Jan Boersma

Jan Boersma passed away in February. He was a member of Australian Heritage Dancers and the Bush Music Club, attending many dances over a period of more than 30 years.



Jan and Niamh at the Flannel  
Flower Ball - Colin Fong



Jan dancing with Australian Heritage  
Dancers at Burwood  
Photo: Burwood Scene

## POETRY anyone?

Enjoy reciting a poem or sharing one with others? Perhaps writing your own poems? Performing some 'bush' poetry? If so, you are most welcome to come along. A contribution to go with afternoon tea would be appreciated.

**When:** Usually **second** Saturday of the month, 2pm to 4pm

Remaining dates for **2020:** Mar 14, (no poetry in Apr - Easter), May 9, Jun 13, Jul 11, Aug 8, Sep 12, Oct 10, Nov 14, Dec 12.

**Cost:** \$5

**Where:** Tritton Hall, Hut 44, Addison Road Centre, 142 Addison Rd, Marrickville.

**Contact:** Karen 0432 527 737 (text messages ONLY) OR fongs@bigpond.net.au

## The Addison Rd Singing Session

We're a hotchpotch group of folk singers who meet once a month to share songs and we welcome newcomers.

Songs with choruses are popular; unaccompanied is fine, but bring an accompanying instrument if you wish.

**Time:** 7pm, First Friday of the month

**Venue:** Tritton Hall (Hut 44),

Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville

**Cost:** Gold coin donation (or note)

**Contact:** Glenys 0419 862 005

## Have you got time for a bit of a chat?

We are now in the 66th Year of the Bush Music Club and our 70th is just around the corner. The Club has decided it is time to collect all those special memories of people and events. It would just be a friendly chat to talk about old times (and new times). Hopefully from this the Club will be able to publish these reminiscences for the 70th Birthday Celebrations. You don't need to have been President of the Club (but that would be good), everyone has stories to tell and we would love to hear them. We need to hear from dancers, reciters and the musicians.

If you are interested in contributing to this project and would like more information contact Kerry: mandokerry@gmail.com or 0409 600 949.

# 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 13th March - Enda Kenny**

**Friday 17th April - Polesons**

**Friday 8th May - Dingo's Breakfast**

**Friday 12th June - Pat Drummond**

**Friday 10th July - Dallas de Brabander**

**August - No Dukes - Sydney Festival**

**Friday 11th September - The Thompsons**

**Friday 9th October - Alistair Hulett night**

**Friday 13th November - Martin Wyndham-Read**

**Friday 11th December - Shortis & Simpson**

## **Mulga Wire: 2020 Publishing Deadlines**

<b>Item Deadline</b>	<b>To Printers</b>	<b>Folding Session</b>
<b>8 May</b>	<b>14 May</b>	<b>19 May</b>
<b>14 August</b>	<b>20 August</b>	<b>25 August</b>

## Pennant Hills Dance Activities

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

Our 2019 Christmas Party with music by the BMC Concert Party was a great night with plenty of happy dancers and musicians.

Our final workshop of 2019 was our annual request night where the dances are requested by those present. We enjoyed a wide range of dances, being Queen of Sheba, Festival Glide, Maxina, Newcastle, Postie's Jig, Virginia Reel and Federation Waltz.

The new year kicked off with some practice for the February dances and learning some different figures, such as double figures of eight and Inveran reels.

In coming months we will be learning some more new figures, practicing for the Gosford May dance and the BMC Heritage Ball. Keep in touch for more information.

See you at Pennant Hills!

*John Short*

### Programme March/April/May

<b>MONDAY 7.30–10.30</b>	<b>THEME/DANCE STYLE</b>
<b>2 March</b>	Mixed dancing, new and old
<b>9 March</b>	Mixed dancing, new and old
<b>16 March</b>	Mixed dancing, new and old
<b>23 March</b>	Mixed dancing, practicing new movements
<b>30 March</b>	Mixed dancing, practicing new movements
<b>6 April</b>	Mixed dancing, practicing new movements
<b>13 April</b>	<b>Public Holiday. No workshop</b>
<b>20 April</b>	Practice for Gosford May Dance
<b>27 April</b>	Practice for Gosford May Dance
<b>4 May</b>	Practice for BMC Heritage Ball
<b>11 May</b>	Practice for BMC Heritage Ball
<b>18 May</b>	Practice for Beecroft May Dance
<b>25 May</b>	Practice for Beecroft May Dance

## Playford Dancing at the Hut

Next meetings:

**Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Apr, 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jun, 7<sup>th</sup> Jul** 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

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://blog.bushmusic.org.au>

or follow the link from the BMC website.

## 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 **[bmcm1954@gmail.com](mailto:bmcm1954@gmail.com)**

### Making Direct Deposit Payments (Membership/Shop/Ball)

Direct Deposit details:

**BSB: 062-005**

**Acct: 0090 7524 (Commonwealth bank)**

**Ref: Member's Name & payment purpose**

Email details of payment to treasurer:

**Allen Davis** <[allendavis@iprimus.com.au](mailto: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:** Colum <colum.hickey@gmail.com>

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

## 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 March 7 - *Kookaburra*

Sat April 4 - *Southern Cross*

Sat May 2 - *Rosella*

Sat June 6 - *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

**Dan Murphys**

**La Thai Restaurant** Thornleigh

**Topiary Café** Epping

**Westleigh Quality Meats** Westleigh

Bush Music Club Inc. presents  
**2020 Heritage Ball**

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2020  
Ku-ring-gai Town Hall  
1186 Pacific Hwy  
Pymble

Doors open 6:30pm  
Grand March at 7:00pm and dance 'til 11:30pm

A grand occasion for your enjoyment with music provided by our Renowned Heritage Ensemble. Dress up in your favourite fashion from Colonial times and be ready to dance the night away.

**To help keep ticket prices down this year we are asking you to bring a plate to share for supper.**



**Tickets**

BMC Members	\$30	(before 11 May)
Non-members	\$35	(before 11 May)
Students	\$30	(before 11 May)

After 11 May ALL tickets \$40

A discount of \$5 per person is available for sets of 4 couples **paid for at the same time before 11 May**

Pay with cash at a BMC function or by direct deposit.  
See booking form for details.

**Practice Sessions**

Pennant Hills Dance Workshop

4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May



## Event Details

**Addison Rd Singing Session**, Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville

☎ Glenys 0419 862 005 See p5

**Beecroft Bush Dance**, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft

☎ Wilma 9489 5594

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

☎ Sandra 9358 4886 See p8

**English Country Dancing at the Hut**, Hut 44, Addi Rd Com Centre, Marrickville

☎ David 0413 210 789

**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

**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

**National Folk Festival, Exhibition Park, Canberra**

<https://www.folkfestival.org.au/>

**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

**Sandford Bush Music Festival**

<https://www.sandfordfestival.com/>

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

☎ Jenny 9576 2301

**St Albans Folk Festival**

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

**Sutherland Acoustic**, Tradies, Gymea

☎ Jenny 9576 2301

**Sydney English Country Dance**

<https://englishcountrydancesydney.com>

**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 Monday Night concert party meets regularly at Hut 44 in the Addison Road Community Centre and has been well attended lately with the members playing many good dance tunes and songs from our large repertoire. There are a few song writers regularly performing their own songs with yarns and jokes often thrown in for good measure.

For quite some time now the Concert Party has been appearing at some of the well known folk festivals such as the Illawarra & Kangaroo Valley folk festivals. We have been running song & tune workshops there and we played for the dance at this year's Illawarra Folk festival. Our group has also played at our clubs Beecroft Dance and the Gymea Dance run by Sutherland Shire Folk Club. On February 19<sup>th</sup> six members played to an enthusiastic audience at the Addison Rd Community Centre for Seniors Week run by the Inner West Council. This was well received.

Unfortunately we've had a few of our well loved & talented members out of action due to illness with Eric Eisler and Ralph Pride both being in the wars recently. This has slowed but not stopped us and one of our recent projects has been to put together a *Concert for Eric* CD to help Eric with his rehabilitation in hospital. We continue to soldier on and will be appearing at Beecroft, Gymea and many other places including festivals this year.

We hope to see you at some of them.

*Chris Poleson*

**This might be of interest to concertina players.** During the last year I've had to retune some anglo concertinas back to the old pitch. The reason being that the normal A440 pitch supposedly gave problems with elderly residents in retirement villages. During the performances Concertina players noted that a 440 pitch made the elderly uneasy and that they were fidgeting about. When changed back to the old pitch it appeared to be a more relaxed atmosphere and more enjoyable for the elderly audience. So if you find a concertina playing 'out of tune' this is the reason the tuning was changed. Other instruments like a guitar, mandolin or flute etc will then also have to tune to the changed pitch of the concertina when playing together. So we now might have to own two concertinas which are in different tuning to each other.

*Christiaan Dolislager*

**New  
Members**

★ Mark HUNGERFORD ★

★ Christine DANIELS ★

★ Zebathe NORGRASS ★ ★ Heather BOYD ★

## AROUND THE BUSH MUSIC SCENE - See p14 for details

Mar	1	6pm	Songlines Song Session
Mar	3	7:30pm	<b>Playford Dancing at the Hut</b>
Mar	7	7:30pm	<b>Beecroft Bush Dance, <i>Sydney Coves</i></b>
Mar	6-8		Sandford Bush Music Festival (Vic)
Mar	12	7:30pm	Sutherland Acoustic Night
Mar	13	7:30pm	<b>Duke's Place, <i>Enda Kenny</i></b>
Mar	13	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Mar	14	2:30pm	Sydney English Country Dance
Mar	14	7:30pm	Gosford Bush Dance, Social Dance
Mar	17	7:30pm	English Country Dancing at the Hut
Mar	20	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club
Mar	27	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Mar	28	7pm	Troubadour Folk Club, <i>Hallett-Flood + Pepercorns</i>
Apr	4	2pm	<b>Bush Music Club AGM</b> (see p13)
Apr	4	7:30pm	<b>Beecroft Bush Dance, <i>Southern Cross</i></b>
Apr	4	7pm	Troubadour Folk Club, <i>Colum Sands</i>
Apr	5	6pm	Songlines Song Session
Apr	7	7:30pm	<b>Playford Dancing at the Hut</b>
Apr	9	7:30pm	Sutherland Acoustic Night
Apr	9-13		National Folk Festival
Apr	10	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Apr	17	7:30pm	<b>Duke's Place, <i>Polesons</i></b>
Apr	17	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club
Apr	18	2:30pm	Sydney English Country Dance
Apr	18	7:30pm	Loaded Dog Folk Club, <i>Three Audacities + CJ Shaw</i>
Apr	21	7:30pm	English Country Dancing at the Hut
Apr	23-26		St Albans Folk Festival
Apr	24	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
May	1	7pm	<b>Addison Rd Singing Session</b>
May	2	7:30pm	<b>Beecroft Bush Dance, <i>Ryebuck Bush Band</i></b>
May	3	6pm	Songlines Song Session
May	5	7:30pm	<b>Playford Dancing at the Hut</b>
May	8	7:30pm	<b>Duke's Place, <i>Dingo's Breakfast</i></b>
May	8	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
May	9	2pm	<b>Poetry at the Hut</b>
May	9	7:30pm	Gosford Bush Dance - Evening Tea Dance with <i>JH Dance Band</i>
May	14	7:30pm	Sutherland Acoustic Night
May	15	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club
May	16	2:30pm	Sydney English Country Dance
May	16	7:30pm	<b>BMC Heritage Ball</b> (see p12)
May	17	2pm	Keith's Dance Workshop
May	19	7:30pm	English Country Dancing at the Hut
May	22	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
May	23	7:30pm	Loaded Dog Folk Club, <i>Solidarity Choir + Derek Dowding</i>
May	23	7pm	Troubadour Folk Club, <i>Dingo's Breakfast</i>

# SINGABOUT

## MARCH 2020

### INTO THE SILENCE

#### Into the Silence

John Meredith

One by one they go  
Through the doorway of death  
And down the long corridor of fame -  
Or fond memory.  
The real ones. The true ones.  
The ones with strength to think, to act,  
To cut a track through life.  
And in my time:  
Jack Moses. Jim Kelly.  
Mary Gilmore. Stan Wakefield.  
Jack Lang. Pam & Brian.  
Grace O’Clerken. Duke Tritton.  
Johnnie Marshall. Les Greenleaf.  
Monte Miller. Dymphna Cussack.  
Mollie Collins. Walter Stone.  
And all the others  
Who sang a song, or shared a quiet yarn -  
("Music I heard with you was more than music,  
Bread I broke with you was more than bread ...")  
One by one they go  
Into the Silence.

Chris Woodland, in 2001, wrote of *Into the Silence*:

“Sent to me not long after Mollie Collins died in 1981, if I recall correctly. Pam & Brian refer to Pam and Brian Loughlin. Johnny (sic) Marshall and Mollie Collins were Araluen identities. Original was signed JM.”

Since John penned this piece we have lost many more to the Silence including John Dengate and John Meredith himself.

The poem *The Phantom Horseman of Cricket Ridge* on the opposite page was written in 1961 about the 1952 bushfire that had threatened the Heathcote district where John was living. Jack Barrie and Brian Loughlin (Locko) were friends and neighbours of John’s and members of both the local bush fire brigade and the *Heathcote Bushwhackers*.

More on the blog:

<https://blog.bushmusic.org.au/2020/01/poem-from-past-phantom-horse-man-of.html>



The Heathcote Bush Fire Engine parked up the top of Dillwynnia Grove. Photo: Ron Nixon

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A somewhat more romantic view of silence is provided by **Mrs. E. Eddy** of Bendigo who received first prize in a Ballarat competition in 1907 with the poem on the back page.

It was published in the Bendigo Advertiser on 14 Nov 1907, p4 and in The Australasian (Melbourne) on 5 Dec 1908, p51 retrieved from Trove: <https://trove.nla.gov.au>

# The 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.

## Silence

E. Eddy.

I found her on a lonely hill  
Above the little town—  
A presence felt and yet unseen,  
With cloud-mists for her gown.  
I knew her eyes beneath pent brows  
Were dark with mystery;  
Those wond'rous eyes, that saw the light,  
First warm a tideless sea.

That saw the first day born from night,  
The first bird on the wing,  
The first stars light their way through space,  
And dance round Saturn's ring.  
That saw the tender growing things,  
Pierce through the virgin sod,  
When Spring came laughing green and glad,  
Fresh from the hand of God.

A new world dawn'd and Silence fled,  
A stricken, hunted thing,  
Far from the busy haunts of men  
Or their remembering.  
She found a home in in spaces wide,  
As limitless as sea;  
The eaves and misty hinterlands  
Are her own seigniory.

But in that dark and mystic hour,  
Deep in the nether night,  
She comes from out her hiding place  
Before dawn breaks or light.  
The sleeping birds they feel her near,  
And lower droops each wing.  
The wind is hush'd in tree tops high,  
The leaves stop whispering.

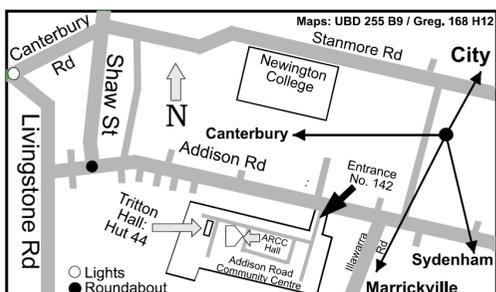
White lily buds they faint and swoon,  
The quiet is so deep;  
The surge of forces rests awhile,  
Sunk in the arms of sleep.  
While Silence steals with noiseless feet  
Up through the little town,  
A presence felt and yet unseen,  
With cloud-mists for her gown.

# Welcome to **BUSH MUSIC CLUB** inc

Australia's Traditional Songs, Dances, Music & Folklore

## MARCH - JUNE 2020

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](http://www.bushmusic.org.au)

## ***March 2020***

- Sun 1 Irish Slow Session  
Mon 2 Song & Music Session  
Mon 2 PH Dance Workshop  
Tue 3 Playford at the Hut  
Fri 6 Addison Rd Singing Session  
Sat 7 Beecroft Bush Dance,  
*Kookaburra Bush Band*  
Sun 8 Irish Slow Session  
Mon 9 PH Dance Workshop  
Mon 9 Song & Music Session  
Fri 13 Dukes Place, *Enda Kenny*  
Sat 14 Poetry Session  
Sun 15 Irish Slow Session  
Mon 16 Song & Music Session  
Mon 16 PH Dance Workshop  
Mon 23 PH Dance Workshop  
Mon 23 Song & Music Session  
Sun 29 Irish Slow Session  
Mon 30 Song & Music Session  
Mon 30 PH Dance Workshop

## ***April 2020***

- Fri 3 Addison Rd Singing Session  
Sat 4 BMC AGM, 2pm Hut 44  
Sat 4 Beecroft Bush Dance,  
*Southern Cross*  
Sun 5 Irish Slow Session  
Mon 6 Song & Music Session  
Mon 6 PH Dance Workshop  
Tue 7 Playford at the Hut  
Sat 11 Poetry Session  
Sun 12 Irish Slow Session  
Mon 13 PH Dance Workshop  
Mon 13 Song & Music Session  
Fri 17 Dukes Place, *Polesons*  
Sun 19 Irish Slow Session  
Mon 20 Song & Music Session  
Mon 20 PH Dance Workshop  
Sun 26 Irish Slow Session  
Mon 27 PH Dance Workshop  
Mon 27 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

☎ Wilma 9489 5594

## May 2020

- Fri 1 Addison Rd Singing Session  
Sat 2 Beecroft Bush Dance,  
*Rosella Bush Band*  
Sun 3 Irish Slow Session  
Mon 4 Song & Music Session  
Mon 4 PH Dance Workshop  
Tue 5 Playford at the Hut  
Sat 9 Poetry Session  
Sun 10 Irish Slow Session  
Mon 11 PH Dance Workshop  
Mon 11 Song & Music Session  
Fri 15 Dukes Place,  
*Dingo's Breakfast*  
Sat 16 BMC Heritage Ball  
Sun 17 Irish Slow Session  
Mon 18 Song & Music Session  
Mon 18 PH Dance Workshop  
Sun 24 Irish Slow Session  
Mon 25 PH Dance Workshop  
Mon 25 Song & Music Session

## June 2019

- Mon 1 Song & Music Sessions  
Mon 1 PH Dance Workshop  
Tue 2 Playford at the Hut  
Fri 5 Addison Rd Singing Session  
Sat 6 Beecroft Bush Dance,  
*BMC Concert Party*  
Sun 7 Irish Slow Session  
Mon 8 PH Dance Workshop  
Mon 8 Song & Music Sessions  
Fri 12 Dukes Place,  
*Pat Drummond*  
Sat 13 Poetry Session  
Sun 14 Irish Slow Session  
Mon 15 Song & Music Sessions  
Mon 15 PH Dance Workshop  
Sun 21 Irish Slow Session  
Mon 22 Song & Music Sessions  
Mon 22 PH Dance Workshop  
Sun 28 Irish Slow Session  
Mon 29 Song & Music Sessions  
Mon 29 PH Dance Workshop

### Activities at Tritton Hall

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

#### Addison Rd Singing Session:

1st Friday, 7:30pm  
☎ Glenys: 0419 862 005

#### 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

#### Poetry:

2nd Saturday, 2pm-4pm \$5  
☎ Karen: 9716 9660

#### Song & Music Sessions:

Slow session for beginners and those just wanting a slower pace.  
Mondays 5:30pm to 7pm  
☎ Kerry: 0409 600 949

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

#### Irish Slow Session:

Sundays, 6:30pm-9:30pm  
☎ Colum <colum.hickey@gmail.com>

