

MULGA WIRE

INCLUDING
SINGABOUT



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MULGA WIRE

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← **MULGA WIRE** appears each even month. →

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BUSH DANCES

October—December

BEECROFT Community Centre

Beecroft Road, Beecroft (opposite Fire Stn)

Note new time: 7:30pm—11:30pm

October 5 **No Dance**

November 2 **Ryebuck**

December 7 **Urban Scrub**

Enquiries: Sigrid **9980 7077** /

Wilma / 9489 5594 / Peter 9477 5848

ERMINGTON Community Centre

10 River Road, Ermington

7pm—11pm

December 21 **Southern Cross**

Enquiries: Don or Wendy 9642 7950

Bush Music Club enquiries:

9642 7950 or

0412 145 262 or

bmcmail1954@gmail.com

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

www.bushmusic.org.au

Cover:

Dancers enjoying the ambience of the magnificent Maitland Town Hall on the occasion of our 33rd Subscription Ball.

Photo: Mike Young

President's Message

The Annual Subscription Ball was held recently in the resplendent Maitland Town Hall. It was a night of wonderful music, fine dancing, excellent suppers and exceptional dance callers. Congratulations and thanks to Wendy Richmond and the magnificent creative catering collective, especially those who were unable to attend due to illness, but still contributed. Thanks also to the Newcastle Team for organising such a successful “recovery picnic”, to Coalbrook Band for the delightful music, to everyone involved behind the scene and on the night and to the dancers for making the night such a success.

John Dengate was farewelled on 8th August with an emotional service followed by afternoon tea and a wake attended by family, and friends from his wide variety of interests and activities.

Some dates for your calendar – Bush Traditions at Goulburn on 4-7 October, John Dengate Memorial concert at the BMC Hut on 24 November and Ermington Dance on 21 December.

As spring has finally arrived it’s a great time to get back to the dance floor either at the Pennant Hills workshop or the Beecroft dance in November..

Sharyn Mattem

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Worth Noting

Congratulations to **Daryl Powell** on being awarded an **OAM** in the General Division, for service to the community through the teaching, promotion and preservation of Australian folk music and dance.

Eggert, Paul (ed) *While the billy boils: the original newspaper versions*, Sydney University Press, 2013, \$30. Fifty-two of Henry Lawson's stories and sketches that he had first published in newspapers and magazines from 1888 onwards were gathered in his collection *While the billy boils* (Angus & Robertson, 1896). The present edition dismantles the fait accompli of 1896 by presenting the individual items in the chronological order of their first publication and with their original newspaper texts.

ABC Landline recently featured a show on Dennis O'Keefe's book and musical play based on the story behind *Waltzing Matilda*. This can be found at:

<http://www.abc.net.au/landline/content/2013/s3827983.htm>

Ingpen, Robert *Looking for Clancy*, illustrated by Robert Ingpen, \$34.99

To mark the 150th birthday of Banjo Paterson, award-winning illustrator Robert Ingpen has journeyed into the Australian outback, exploring the myth of Clancy through words and illustrations, to find what it is that has made Clancy such an enduring figure in Australian folklore.

Concert Party at Pioneer Village Wilberforce

Sunday 20th October, Concert Party and the Australian Heritage Dancers will be performing at Pioneer Village, Wilberforce, starting at 11am.

Bring family and friends for a great day of music and dancing in a colonial setting.

Contact Allen Davis 9639 7494

Playford Dancing at the Hut

Next meeting: 1st October, 7:30pm to 9:30pm

The Bush Music Club has a new dance activity at Hut 44. Sydney Playford dancing has been in recess, because of Patricia Early's prolonged ill health and then her death. But now, thanks to the BMC, it will be taught 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

8 dancers and 3 musicians attended the inaugural Playford session in the Hut in September and are eagerly looking forward to the next session.

John Dengate Memorial Concerts/Sessions

Join John's family and friends as they reminisce and remember him.

Bring a song, a poem, a yarn, one of John's or one of your own written in his memory. Bring a story about John!

Sat 19th October, 8pm (doors open 7,40pm)

The Loaded Dog Folk Club

Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, upstairs,

79 Johnston St, Annandale.

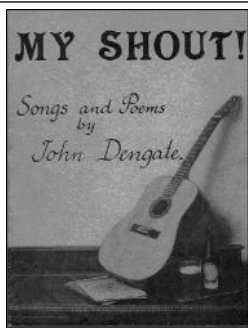
\$20/18, www.theloadeddog.org.au

Sun 24th November, Bush Music Club

Tritton Hall, Hut 44, Addison Road Centre. 4pm to 10pm,

Bring a plate, BYO, \$5

enquiries - Sandra <bmcmail1954@gmail.com> or 9358 4886



John Dengate Song Books:

My Shout!

(A5) \$ 6.00

Members \$5.00

Reduced size
reprint Copy of 1982
BMC Publication..

Shouts All the Way!

(A4) \$20.00

Members \$15.00

2012 BMC Publication



From BMC functions, or by mail

Frank & Ann Maher, George & Barbara Gibbons, Jamie & Ronda Carlin, friends of the Dengates since the 60's taken after the funeral.

Photo: Sandra Nixon



Kit and son John at her 99th birthday shortly before his death.

Dengate family photo

BMC 60TH ANNIVERSARY NEWS

2 articles on John Dengate added to our blog and one album added to the photo website.

I'm still adding other articles to our blog & photos to our photo-website & contributions are always welcome. I'm especially looking for member's reminiscences (with photographs) of their time in BMC, whether it started 50 years ago, or 'only' 5 years ago.

Reminder: Don't forget your entries for our 60th Anniversary competitions. For details see our blog (address below) and the April and June editions of Mulga Wire.

Sandra Nixon
Hon. Secretary
Bush Music Club Inc

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

photo website - <http://my.opera.com/BushMusicClub/about/>

email - bmcmail1954@gmail.com

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

youtube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/user/BushMusicClubInc>



Sharyn and Sandra with Stuart
McCarthy from Undercover Music.

Gary Shearston Tribute Concert and the BMC Session

On a glorious Sunday afternoon in late winter we joined others, at the Petersham Bowling Club, to pay our respects and remember the life and music of Gary Shearston. We were treated to over 3 hours of music, interviews, photos, TV footage and family home movies. Thank you to Undercover Music for organising such an enjoyable, reflective afternoon. Thanks, also, to the Shearston family for sharing their memories.

A few weeks later a small group of members and friends met at the BMC hut to celebrate Gary's songs and his musical influence.

Sharyn & Sandra

60th Anniversary Competitions Dance/Song/Tune/Verse

The deadlines for submissions to our 60th Anniversary Competitions have been extended to 31 December 2013.

Beecroft Bush Dance

Starting in November, the times for the Beecroft Bush Dance have been brought forward by half an hour.

The dances will now be from 7:30pm to 11:30pm

Book Review

Kel Richards' Dictionary of Australian Phrase and Fable

A NewSouth Publishing book (University of NSW), 2013

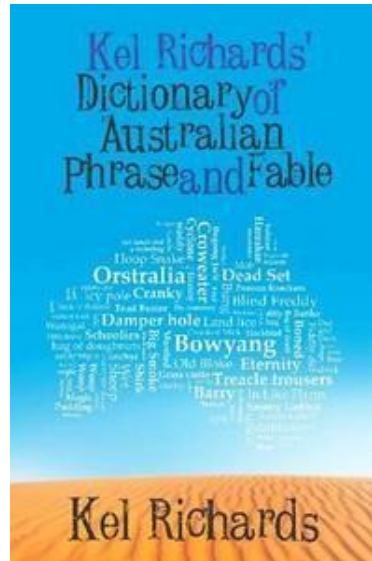
\$20.21 Amazon / \$18.50 booktopia.com.au

If, indeed, this is the same Kelvin Richards who sat one aisle left of me and two rows back in my High School English classes ... Kel has approached Aussie language ... publishing and broadcasting, over the intervening 50 years, or so... in an informing and entertaining way!

I see from various web sites that he has written in: Children & Teenagers / Young Adults books, Comedy & Humour, Dictionaries, Fiction, Language & Linguistics categories ... as well as journalism, radio broadcasting, crime novels, ABC Radio Wordwatch segments and 2CH Word of the Day ... but this book is, for me the gem!

As most of the "Australian Language / Slang / Idiom etcetera books I've seen have either come from University language pedants ... or else someone with a 'bee in their bonnet' ... it's a relief and pleasure to read through the work of someone who loves Australian English for its humour, character and what it says about all of us!

Bob Bolton



Bush Traditions Gathering 2013

Labour Day Long Weekend October 4th—7th

The programme features include:

Friday Night: Bush poets concert and welcome session

Saturday: Concerts, singalongs, dance workshop, and in the evening the Lilac Time Family Bush Dance.

Sunday: More concerts, singalongs, workshops, sessions, poetry and dance. Dinner Dance and Concert in the evening.

Monday: Even more sessions, concerts and workshops

Bush Music Club is presenting sessions from the Pink Book, Poems set to music, and Songs from Lawson.

www.bushtraditions.org

Enquiries: Ray Mulligan 02 6247 4725



A typical session at the Bush Traditions Gathering.

Pennant Hills Dance Activities at Pennant Hills Community Centre: (lower, air conditioned hall)

Our new members are progressing in leaps and bounds.

Since the last report we have enjoyed many dances including **Midnight Schottische, Salty Dog Rag, Whitehorse Waltz, Aberdaugleddau, Cornish Six Hand Reel, Newcastle, Antrim Square Set, and Ballinascarty Half Set.**

Thanks to Wendy, Catherine and Don Richmond for teaching the Maitland Ball dances and to **JH Dance Band** (with new members) for providing lively music for our more recent dances.

Join us to learn something new in October and beyond. It is worth practising for the **CCBDMA Colonial Themed Dance** which is always popular, with a varied program. Leading up to our Christmas season and party time, we will be featuring a selection of **Special Occasion & Christmas Party Dances**. More information can be obtained at our Monday dances. There is free parking behind the Community Centre and easy entry to the building from there.

Felicity Hattingh

MONDAY 7.30–10.30	THEME/DANCE STYLE
7 October	Holiday
14 October	“You learn something new every day”
21 October	“You learn something new every day”
28 October	Practice for CCBDMA Colonial Themed Dance
4 November	Practice for CCBDMA Colonial Themed Dance
11 November	Special occasion & Christmas Party Dances
18 November	Special occasion & Christmas Party Dances
25 November	Special occasion & Christmas Party Dances

The 33rd Maitland Ball – Saturday 31st August 2013

First-timer's accounts

Not having been part of the Bush dance scene for very long I was in two minds about going to the 2013 Maitland Ball. I was worried that I didn't know anyone, where would I stay, what if no-one asks me to dance, what could I possibly wear? I concluded that it was probably going to be safer to just stay home! But once I voiced these concerns to a fellow dancer at the monthly Beecroft dance, I was reassured that all would be well. I was provided with the name of the pub that some stayed at and encouraged to come along and Have Fun.

So, armed with this reassurance, I bravely booked a ticket, reserved a room and started the preparation. Which, as most of us realise when anticipating an event - is half the fun. Looking up dresses to hire, going along to the practices (an essential element) and perusing photos on the BMC website from previous balls for inspiration. I also found out about the conventions of the dance card. Ah – I wouldn't be left like a wallflower, languishing forlornly without a partner – what a relief. I was definitely now looking forward to this event.

And then in the early evening, the dancers stunningly attired, made their way to the Maitland Town Hall. On entering I overheard someone say that we can leave the present behind and enter into another time period, one imbued with grace and enhanced by the beautifully colourful dresses and costumes.

And that for me was part of the magic. From the stately Grand March through to the last waltz we conversed with cordiality, appreciated the beauty of a well-executed set of dances, listened to a group of very fine musicians and dined on the sumptuous suppers. The programme might be from a previous time but it held a contemporary resonance. I think we all benefit from observing and participating in the rituals and the pleasures of the dance, it was important in the 1800s and still has a role to play.

And I am aware that this doesn't happen without many hours of time, organisation and preparation from all involved – a big thank you for their hard work and dedication to creating such a special event.

And so, the evening ended in the still after midnight with a quiet stroll back to the hotel along the banks of the meandering Hunter River, flickering with the lights from the houses across the way. I think I'll be back next year.....

Nancy Nicholls

The 33rd Maitland Ball – Saturday 31st August 2013

Last weekend I drove myself to a hotel in Maitland. There, I paid for my room and tucked myself away inside. Once the sun had set I emerged. Now donned in formal attire, complete with tailcoat, bowtie and glossy black shoes, I was ready for the Maitland Ball.

I'd never been to a Ball before. In truth I hadn't even started dancing until a few short months ago. Upon arrival I was given a little card filled with these little names of dances I didn't quite recognize. And alongside these little names were little dotted lines to fill in the name of your partner. There were a lot of little things that night that made me a little nervous.

In the end however, the big things blew my little worries away. The first being the effort everyone put into their dress and I'm not just talking about the ladies. There were floral headbands, lace gloves, pocket watches, top hats, richly coloured waistcoats and ruffles. All decked out in our finery we made quite a sight and that was before the 'Grand March'.

The hall was this huge open space with a sprung floor; we could practically feel the energy of everyone in the room as we all bounced along to the music, played for us by a live band made up of a whole family of musicians I was told. Throughout the night whenever I glanced up I'd see a little boy, who couldn't have been any older than five, playing a violin!

And so we danced! The hours passed, we danced our final step, the band played its final note, we said our goodbyes, and it was all over. But the buzz I felt stayed with me all the way back to my hotel and it told me that the Maitland Ball had left its mark. It's no surprise to me that I can't help longing for the next one.

Mark Hungerford



AROUND THE BUSH MUSIC SCENE

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

Oct 1 Sydney Playford Dance Group, 7:30pm, Hut 44, Marrickville. (see page 4)

Oct 4-7 Bush Traditions Gathering, Old Goulburn Brewery. (see page 10)

Oct 5 **Beecroft Bush Dance, Cancelled—long weekend**

Oct 12 Gosford Dance, *Snake Gully*, East Gosford Progress Hall.

Oct 19 Loaded Dog Folk Club, **John Dengate tribute concert**,
Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, Sandra, 9358 4886

Oct 20 **Concert Party at Pioneer Village**, Wilberforce. (see page 4)

Nov 2 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, Ryebuck**, Beecroft Community Hall,
Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594/ Peter 9477 5848

Nov 5 Sydney Playford Dance Group, 7:30pm, Hut 44, Marrickville. (see page 4)

Nov 9 Gosford Dance, Colonial Theme, *Currawong*, East Gosford Progress Hall.

Nov 23 Loaded Dog Folk Club, **Danny Spooner (Vic) + Ecopella**, Annandale
Neighbourhood Centre, Sandra, 9358 4886

Nov 24 **John Dengate Memorial Concert/Session**. (see page 6)

Dec 3 Sydney Playford Dance Group, 7:30pm, Hut 44, Marrickville. (see page 4)

Dec 7 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, Urban Scrub**, Beecroft Community Hall,
Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594/ Peter 9477 5848

Dec 14 Gosford Dance, *Pastrami on Ryebuck*, East Gosford Progress Hall.

Dec 21 **7pm** Ermington Bush Dance Ermington Community Hall, **Southern Cross**,
☎ Don/Wendy, 9642 7950 or 0412 145 262

BLU-FM, 89.1: on Bush Music Show - 6⁰⁰ - 8⁰⁰ pm Sundays www.blufm.org.au/bushmusic.htm

**New
Members**

★Maureen McGregor ★
★Mark Hungerford ★ ★ Bruna Paraskevas ★

Mulga Wire: 2013 Publishing Deadlines

Item Deadline	To Printers	Folding Session
15 November	28 November	1 December
10 January	22 January	27 January

Concert Party News

A most delightful afternoon was spent by the BMC Concert Party at the **Rydalmere Centre** on Friday 30 August 2013. Our musicians and poets entertained an appreciative audience of more than 60 residents and staff for well over an hour with dance, music and Australian poetry.

The Concert Party members played violins, guitars, mandolins, banjos, accordions of various types, chord harps, harmonicas and a lagerphone. Members also taught and called the dances joining in the dancing with the residents and staff.

A good time was had by all with afternoon tea to follow and round off the day. It was the farewell performance with the BMC from our Ron Hicks as he heads off around Australia... but we suspect and hope he will be back. Many thanks to all who freely gave up their time to perform at the worthy function.

The Bush Music Club Concert Party band performed at the Hornsby Shire Council **Bushland Festival** in Fagan Park, Galston on Sunday 15 September 2013 before a small but appreciative crowd.

As usual, the musicians were most professional and the day involved singing old bush songs, playing Australian colonial tunes.

Many of the folk attending the festival were being introduced to bush music for the first time and by all the reaction and feedback were thoroughly enjoying the new experience. A good time was had by all.

We will be playing at **Pioneer Village Wilberforce** on Sunday 20th October. Numbers at practices have been good and the music delightful.

Check us out on YouTube! (search for bushmusicclubinc)

Making Direct Deposit Payments to BMC

Direct Deposit details:

BSB: 062-005

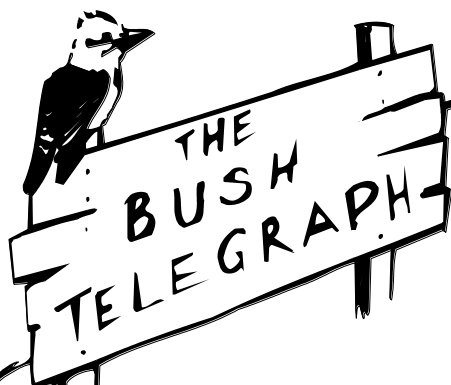
Acct: 0090 7524 (Commonwealth bank)

Reference

Email with details of payment to **Treasurer Allen Davis**

<allendavis@iprimus.com.au>

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



BUSH MUSIC CLUB
BOOKING AGENCY

Patricia Bolton

AGENT

9569 7244



BUSH DANCE

Ermington Community Centre
10 River Road, Ermington



Southern Cross Bush Band

21 December

7.⁰⁰ pm - 11.⁰⁰ pm

\$19/\$17 (conc)/\$14 (BMC)