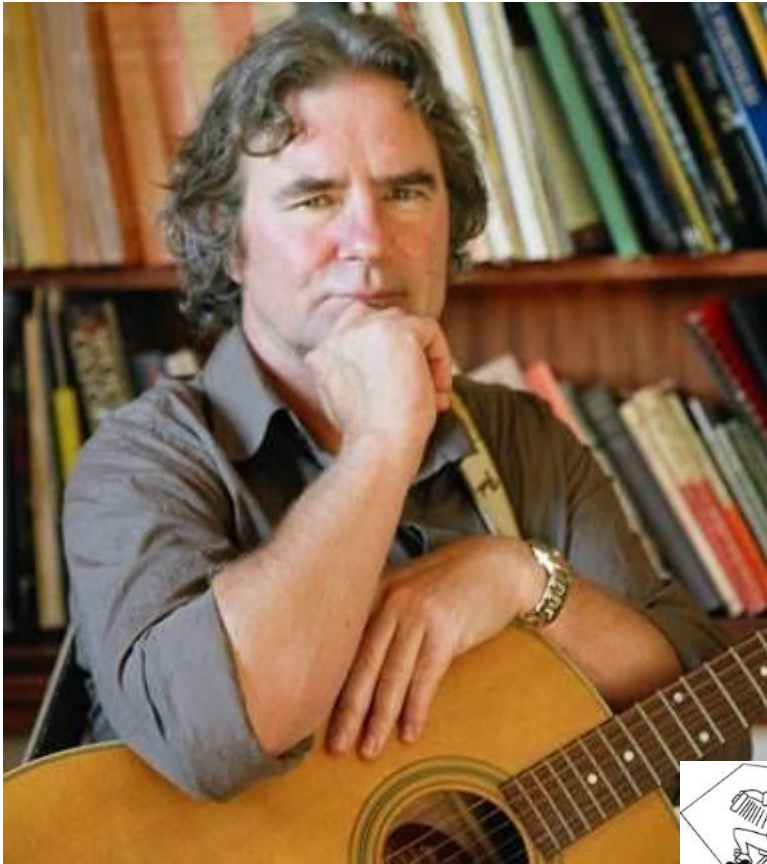


# MULGA WIRE

INCLUDING  
SINGABOUT



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# MULGA WIRE

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**MULGA WIRE** is sent free to members of the Bush Music Club Inc and costs \$2.00 or \$2.50 (posted) per issue to others. Subscription is \$15 per annum, including postage, for six issues.

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Views expressed herein are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Club or Editorial staff. Your **MULGA WIRE** is not possible without the support of those members who prepare the magazine for posting. This normally occurs on the Sunday afternoon before the first Saturday in the month of issue.

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# BUSH DANCES

April—June

## BEECROFT Community Centre

Beecroft Road, Beecroft (opposite Fire Stn)

**Note new time: 7:30pm—11:30pm**

April 5

**No Such Thing**

May 3

**Southern Cross**

June 7

**\* No Dance \***

Enquiries: Sigrid **9980 7077 /**

Wilma / 9489 5594 / Peter 9477 5848

## ERMINGTON Community Centre

10 River Road, Ermington

7pm—11pm

June 21

**Urban Scrub**

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:

Dennis O'Keefe, who passed away recently after a long battle with cancer. His contributions to the Folk scene will be sorely missed.

Official Photo



## President's Message

We are well into our 60th year and the first event on our birthday calendar was our successful appearance at the Illawarra Folk Festival. This was followed by the February Beecroft Bush Dance complete with balloons, banners and birthday cake. Our next extravaganza is the 60th Anniversary Dinner to be held Saturday, 29th March. If you are coming along I would encourage you all to take photos or write a report; this will be added to the club's history and, you never know, may even be published in Mulga Wire! Please forward your literary and photographic donations to our email – [bmcmail1954@gmail.com](mailto:bmcmail1954@gmail.com).

The National Folk Festival is, also, very close and we have an exciting new project being launched – the Saplings Sessions. These sessions, being held daily, are designed to introduce bush music to young musicians and budding musicians. So, if you know any young people please encourage them to check out the sessions.

Also in the not too distant future are the Masked Ball held in May at Parramatta Town Hall, Bush Traditions Bundanoon in June and Ermington Bush Dance also in June. Be sure and check out the year of celebrations calendar on the back page!!

Vale Dennis O'Keefe. We recently said a sad farewell to a very talented and well-loved Australian singer/song writer. While the song sessions at the National, founded by Dennis, will continue in his honour they won't be the same without him. He will be sorely missed in all aspects of folk.

I look forward to seeing you all somewhere in the folk scene!

*Sharyn Mattern*

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## Worth Noting

Lovers of Australian Bush Music will be saddened to learn of the death of **Dennis O'Keeffe** from Warrnambool, Vic. He died on 9th March after a long battle with cancer. You can read about Dennis and his legacy at this website:

<http://www.standard.net.au/story/2140937/dennis-okeeffe-leaves-rich-musical-legacy/>

**Jason & Chloe Roweth** have released a new CD of bush poetry and tunes called *That's Not How I Heard It...* Details on their website:  
[http://www.rowethmusic.com.au/Site/Thats\\_Not\\_How\\_I\\_Heard\\_It.html](http://www.rowethmusic.com.au/Site/Thats_Not_How_I_Heard_It.html)

They were also featured on ABC Landline performing the earliest known version of *Click Go the Shears* found by Dr Mark Gregory in NLA Trove.

Mark has found early versions of at least 50 songs and poems in Trove. We will be publishing details of these in a forthcoming blog article.

## Playford Dancing at the Hut

Next meeting: **Tues 1st April**, 7:30pm to 9:30pm

The Bush Music Club is hosting Sydney Playford dancing in our headquarters, Hut 44 Addison Road Community Centre, Marrickville.

It is being 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

Bring your friends along for an enjoyable night of dancing.

## Mulga Wire: 2014 Publishing Deadlines

Item Deadline	To Printers	Folding Session
9 May	22 May	25 May
11 July	24 July	27 July



## THE OLD BLACK PIANO

*by Ralph Pride*

I've plunked on keyboards 'cross all the states.  
 But I've never managed to sound that great.  
 For years I've clanged and thumped and banged.  
 But it only sounded so - so  
 Till my fingers were tickling the ivories and plinking  
 THE OLD BLACK PIANO.  
 THE OLD BLACK PIANO,  
 THE OLD BLACK PIANO,  
 Whether the notes were sharp or mellow  
 It could beat them all and it stood so tall  
 Yes, the old black piano, the best in the hall.

*Dedicated to the Old Black Piano that has lived for years in Hut 44.*



*Photos: Bob Bolton*

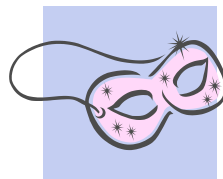
**New  
Members**

★ Li & Gwen DONG ★  
 ★ Vicky & Chirag GANDHI ★

**Bush Music Club Inc. presents**

# *2014 Heritage Masked Ball*

Saturday 17th May 2014  
Parramatta Town Hall  
182 Church St, Parramatta



Grand March 7:30pm dance till 12:30am

BMC Members \$50 (before April 14th)  
Non Members \$60 (before April 14th)  
Students \$40 (before April 14th)

**After April 14th ALL tickets \$70**

**NO tickets will be available after May 10 2014.**

**A discount of \$3 per person is available for sets of 4 couples, paid for at the same time before April 14th.**

Enquiries: 0412 145 262 or email [wendy\\_richmond@yahoo.com](mailto:wendy_richmond@yahoo.com)

A booking form is available on the BMC Website <http://www.bushmusic.org.au>

## **Post-Ball Picnic**

On Sunday 18th May, we will be holding a post-ball picnic at Australiana Pioneer Village, Wilberforce starting at 11am. Please come dressed in your colonial costumes to add to the historic atmosphere. Details will be available at the Ball and will be on the website and our eList.



*Photos: Mike Young*



## **BMC 60th (Diamond) Anniversary 274 beer-top boutique lagerphone**

Created by Brian Freeman over a 7 day period.

Dedicated to all past & present persons who have been/are instrumental in the Bush Music Club's existence and its ongoing survival.

The lagerphone's design is several diamond-based lacquered shapes; blue beer-top '60' numerals with gold and red beer top diamond in-fill areas. Logo and pictures are from February 2014 Mulga Wire and are encased in lacquer.

The head has 65 pairs of beer tops (130) while the leg has another 144 beer tops of various Australian brands grouped in four repeating groups of six.

Brian can be seen at right with the 60th Lagerphone.

*Photo: Bob Bolton.*



### **Quotable Quote**

“Of books on folklore, there are even fewer. There is of course a fair amount of ephemeral material in the popular press, notably the series of outback stories in the *Australasian Post* by Bill Wannan, but the bound books could be carried under one arm-and of these, the only worth-while ones are the works of Bill Beatty.

The few people in Australia who support the publication of these books and records have two nominally national societies: The Bush Music Club (headquarters in Sydney, branches elsewhere) and The Australian Folklore Society. The Bush Music Club publishes a small monthly journal, *Singabout*, patterned closely upon its overseas matrices (the British *Sing* and the American *Sing Out!*) in political philosophy, format, selection of material, and personality of contributors. The Australian Folklore Society sporadically issues a mimeographed journal, *Speewa*.”

Source: Greenway, John Folklore Scholarship in Australia - The Journal of American Folklore, Vol. 74, No. 294, (Oct. - Dec., 1961), pp. 440-448 at 446

Two of our members, Colin Fong and Dale Dengate, will be presenting papers at the **2014 National Folklore Conference** to be held at the National Library of Australia on 17th April.

The conference is free, though a small charge is made for a provided lunch option. To register please contact Graham Seal at [g.seal@curtin.edu.au](mailto:g.seal@curtin.edu.au). Registration is essential for catering purposes and also to ensure that you have a seat.



A Great Night  
of Australian Songs

# Dukes Place



**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

## **Australian Songs in Concert & session with Chloe & Jason Roweth Friday 11th April 2014**

### **Fund Raiser Bush Dance**



Funds are being raised through St Andrews Cathedral School to build a school in Zimbabwe in memory of Kundayi Chiundiza, who had been a pupil of St Andrews.

**Date:** Saturday 31 May 2014

**Time:** 7:30 pm to 11 pm

**Place:** Dulwich Hill Baptist Church Hall (behind Church)  
3 Macarthur Parade, Dulwich Hill

**Callers:** Karen Fong, Allen Davis, Mike Waters and Gail Copley

**Band:** Urban Scrub

**Entry:** \$15



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

Over 30 people have attended our workshops this year, including some first-timers. Unfortunately they did not all attend on the same night.

Dances on Mon 3rd February included Canadian Three Step, Dinki One Step, Barn Dance (Prog and Non-prog), Whitehorse Waltz, Progressive Gordons, Cranky Ingenuity, a figure from the Caledonians and the Circle Waltz.

The workshop on Mon 10th February saw dancers (including one first timer) enjoy Pride of Erin, La Russe Quadrille, Oxford Waltz, Margaret's Waltz, Kings Waltz and Chain Double Reel.

On 17th February there was reel of three practice, then Dashing White Sergeant, Marine Four Step, Eightsome Reel, Circassian Circle Galop, Lamb Shanks and Janet's Delight.

On 24th February, dancers enjoyed Four Star Reel, The Veleta, Dance of the Kites, Pride of Dingle, Duke of Kent's Waltz and Janet's Delight.

Easter is a public holiday and there will be no workshop.

April will begin with a practice night for the Central Coast Dance and we are planning some practices for the ball.

*Felicity Hattingh*

<b>MONDAY 7.30–10.30</b>	<b>THEME/DANCE STYLE</b>
<b>7 April</b>	Practice for Central Coast Dance
<b>14 April</b>	Dances you may see at the NFF
<b>21 April</b>	<b>Easter. No Classes.</b>
<b>28 April</b>	Ball Practice
<b>5 May</b>	Ball Practice
<b>12 May</b>	Ball Practice
<b>19 May</b>	From Near and Far
<b>26 May</b>	From Near and Far

## President's Report 2014 AGM

This year the Bush Music Club celebrates its 60th anniversary. We have already had our first function of the year, the Beecroft bush dance, complete with birthday cake, balloons and a "happy birthday" banner, but there is more to come!

The BMC cannot function without the support of members and friends and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for their hard work and support during the year.

There are so many people to thank for their assistance over the past 12 months. The workload is not always obvious and many of the regular activities rely on the dedication of 'the regulars' for their ongoing success. These include weekly dance workshops and song and music sessions, regular bush dances, the new monthly folk club, Duke's Place, production of the bimonthly magazine, 2 annual balls, participation in a number of festivals, upkeep of Tritton Hall and the regular committee meetings.

Firstly, I would like to thank the committee members, Bob Bolton, Ros Young, Mike Young, Sandra Nixon, Allen Davis and Don Richmond, for their ongoing support and hard work during the year.

To our Secretary, Sandra Nixon, thank you for all your hard work over the past 12 months. Sandra has done an excellent job, not only with dealing with usual correspondence and the other secretarial duties, but also being the energy and coordinator behind the BMCs participation various festivals such as the Illawarra Folk Festival, the National Folk Festival, Cobargo, Kangaroo Valley, Bush Traditions Bundanoon and Goulburn and Turning Wave Yass.

I would like to thank Allen Davis, Honorary Treasurer, for his professionalism, hard work and energy, as well as liaising with both our auditor, Fiona Perry, and the ARCC administration plus all the other jobs with which he has been landed. The BMC hut has been rented to outside groups to assist with the rent and Allen has been liaising with the ARCC to ensure that the system runs smoothly.

To Don Richmond, thank you for managing the membership, not only last year, but for many years now.

The Beecroft Dance continues to be successfully organised by the amazing team of Sigrid Marden, Wilma Lyon and, until recently, Peter Quinn. Congratulations on a job well done and thank you for all the hard work that goes into running the regular dances.

Thanks to Wilma Lyon, our Publicity Officer for all her work in publicising the Beecroft dance and Pennant Hills dance workshop and to Colin Fong for his efforts to publicise our Balmain dance and the Heritage Ball.

Thanks, also, to Mike Young, who maintains the Club web-site, an increasingly important part of our visibility in the wider community.

The Monday night Song and Music Session continues to draw in new players and it is heartening to see the growth in this group. Thanks to Eric Eisler, Ralph Pride and Bob Bolton, as well as all the regulars for their support and enthusiasm. The Concert Party

has also provided music for our regular dances as well as hosting workshops and events during the year.

The Pennant Hills dance workshop has continued with a steady attendance during the year. Thanks to John Short and Felicity Hattingh and to everyone who has helped with organising Monday nights. Thank you, also, to the teachers for their support of our workshop.

Our annual Heritage Ball was another great night at Parramatta Town Hall. Thanks once again to Dave Johnson and the Ensemble members for their part in making the Heritage Ball a wonderful night. Thank you to Wendy Richmond and Michelle Bolliger for the coordinating and catering at the Ball. Thank you also to all the helpers, both before and on the night, and to the Blacktown Boys Brigade who served the refreshments, you all helped to make it a night to remember.

The annual Subscription Ball in Maitland is always a wonderful night and owes its success to team lead by Wendy Richmond and Michelle Bolliger. Thank you to all the helpers and supporters, both before and on the night, for such an enchanting evening.

Our latest, exciting project is the Saplings Sessions, introducing bush music to young musicians. All the best with this new project and we'll be looking forward to the Saplings report later.

The club magazine, Mulga Wire, appears every two months due to the ongoing efforts of the editorial team made up of Mike Young, Bob Bolton and Colin Fong with assistance from Sandra Nixon and myself. Thank you also to the wrapping team Don Richmond, Ros and Mike Young, Fay Lau, Colin and Karen Fong. Thank you to everyone involved in getting the word out.

For our 60th anniversary the club decided to hold competitions for dance, tune, song and poem. Thank you to everyone who entered and the judges; this must surely have had a difficult job. For the Dance Competition we had 17 entries, 18 song entries, 5 Tunes, 13 Verse entries.

Thank you also to the 60th Anniversary committee, including Helen Romeo, Tony Romeo, Sandra Nixon, Wendy Richmond, Michelle Bolliger and many others who are helping organise the Members' Dinner, appearances at various festivals and the Diamond Jubilee Concert later in the year.

Finally, I would like to thank you, the members, for being part of a long standing Australian tradition, the Bush Music Club.

*Sharyn Mattern*

## **New Life Members**

Four new life members were appointed at the AGM. They are:

Wendy Richmond, Sandra Nixon, Chris Woodland and Mike Young

## **TREASURER'S REPORT 2013**

### *Profit and Loss*

The Bush Music Club operated with a surplus of \$5518.63 which included Interest from Investments of \$4686.52.

A number of factors that contributed to the surplus included rental of Hut 44 to private organizations such as the Autism Association and a Meditation group together with and several groups using the Hut for music practice.

In addition, membership fees collected rose by over \$400 from 2012 and the Club did not run the loss- making Balmain dance in 2013.

The Heritage Ball at Parramatta, the Maitland Ball and the Beecroft Dance all proved profitable once again although a new dance at Ermington has yet to come into this category.

Expenses were similar to 2012 with the exception of a donation of \$1000 to a play which is being funded and supported by the National Library concerning the creation of a bush band in the South Coast of NSW in the 1950s.

### *Balance Sheet*

Club assets total \$121,149.97 including investments in ANZ and Westpac Term Deposits of \$115,019.74 and a small stock of books for sale. The Club had no liabilities as at 31 December 2013.

*Allen Davis*

BA, M.Litt, CPA, ACIS, JP  
Treasurer

### **New Committee**

At the AGM, a new committee was voted in, comprising Sharyn Mattern (President), Bob Bolton (Vice President), Sandra Nixon (Secretary), Allen Davis (Treasurer), Brian Freeman, Matthew Black, Mike Young, Don Richmond.

The committee wishes to thank Ros Young, who decided to retire from the committee, for her service both on the committee and at many BMC functions.

# BMC at the National Folk Festival

## **KIDS FEST Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday - 1-1.40pm Kids Tent**

Plus 30 min spot in Saturday's Showcase concert

### **Sapling Sessions**

Sessions are not just for adults! Four daily sessions of collected tunes, fun songs and an opportunity to handle a wide variety of instruments.

Bring an instrument or just yourself and find out about the dog that doesn't bark, the phone that doesn't ring and the cutlery not for eating. At the Sapling Sessions you will enjoy playing collected tunes with experienced Bush Music Club performers.

High energy and lots of fun! Music provided 16years and under

All levels welcome from beginners to advanced and those who do not play ... yet!

### **Dance Tunes Workshop - Sat 5.30 to 7pm Acoustic Lounge**

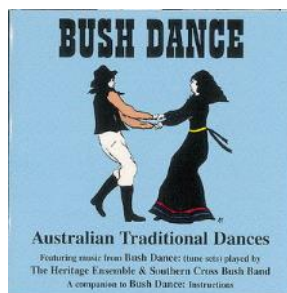
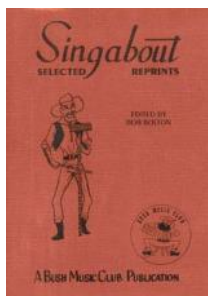
As part of our Diamond Jubilee celebrations the Bush Music Club presents a Dance Tune workshop based on dance tunes in the classic "Bush Dance" folio, known universally as "The Blue Book", first published in 1984. Participants will receive a complimentary CD & tune booklet.

### **Diamond Jubilee Singing Workshop, 12.30 to 2.00, Session Bar**

Join in singing the songs collected and published in "Singabout", the Journal of Australian Folk Song, published between 1955 and 1967. Musicians and singers will workshop a selection of songs from complimentary copies of the "Singabout Selected Reprints".

### **Australian Songs Sessions, 12.30 - 2.30 Saturday & Monday**

Join BMC members Chloe & Jason Roweth, Margaret Walters & Rob Willis & others as we continue the tradition established by the late & sorely missed Dennis O'Keefe.



## AROUND THE BUSH MUSIC SCENE

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

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

Apr 5 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, *No Such Thing***, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594/ Peter 9477 5848

Apr 6 7pm Songlines Song session, Fitzroy Hotel, East Sydney/Woolloomooloo

Apr 10 7:30pm Sutherland Acoustic. *Cap in Hand* Tradies, Gynea.

Apr 11 **7:30pm Duke's Place**, *Jason & Chloe Roweth*, Hut 44, Marrickville, Sandra, 9358 4886

Apr 12 Gosford Dance, *JH Dance Band*, East Gosford Progress Hall.

Apr 12 Loaded Dog Folk Club, **Tom Lewis (Canada & UK)**, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, Sandra, 9358 4886

Apr 17-21 National Folk Festival, Exhibition Park, Canberra

May 3 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, *Southern Cross***, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594/ Peter 9477 5848

May 4 7pm Songlines Song session, Fitzroy Hotel, East Sydney/Woolloomooloo

May 6 **7:30pm Sydney Playford Dance Group**, Hut 44, Marrickville. (see page 4)

May 8 7:30pm Sutherland Acoustic. Tradies, Gynea.

May 9 **7:30pm Duke's Place**, Hut 44, Marrickville, Sandra, 9358 4886

May 10 Gosford Dance, *Bon Accord*, East Gosford Progress Hall.

May 17 **BMC Heritage Masked Ball**, Parramatta Town Hall.

May 18 **Ball Recovery Picnic**, Australiana Pioneer Village, Wilberforce.

May 24 Loaded Dog Folk Club, **Miles To Go Trio**, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, Sandra, 9358 4886

Jun 1 7pm Songlines Song session, Fitzroy Hotel, East Sydney/Woolloomooloo

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

Jun 7 **No Beecroft Bush Dance - June Long Weekend**

Jun 6-9 Bundanoon Dancefest.

Jun 12 7:30pm Sutherland Acoustic. Tradies, Gynea.

Jun 13 **7:30pm Duke's Place**, *Dave Johnson*, Hut 44, Marrickville, Sandra, 9358 4886

Jun 14 Gosford Dance, *Southern Cross*, East Gosford Progress Hall.

Jun 28 Loaded Dog Folk Club, **Robin Connaughton + Fox Hat Trio**, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, Sandra, 9358 4886

**Toongabbie Music Club - 2nd & 4th Friday of each month 7:30pm**  
17 Whitehaven Rd Northmead, ☎ 9639 7494

## Concert Party News

The Concert Party goes from strength to strength with the arrival of several new members and performances for various public bodies and organizations.

### Hornsby Council

Six members of the Concert Party ventured forth to Fagan Park in Galston to perform for the Hornsby Council. The gig was conducted in extreme heat after the shade from a tent belonging to a Ukulele group was withdrawn preceding the Concert Party. However our intrepid musos carried on regardless and the audience seemed to enjoy both the music and our discomfort!. All inspiring stuff.

### Fairfield West Cubs

The Concert Party taught, called and played for a Cubs Troop at Fairfield West. The children and parents joined in Australian Bush dancing with gusto. Many of the cubs had never seen or heard of bush dancing and music... they have now and hopefully will again soon.

### ARCC Marrickville

The Concert Party have been invited once more to perform; this time for a Community Fair. It will be held in the Addison Road Community Centre grounds on Wednesday 2 April 2014 with the Marrickville mayor to be present. Our group have previously performed for the ARCC at the Seniors week and a Heart Research Foundation function.

All musos are more than welcome to attend our Monday night practices in Hut 44 at 142 Addison Rd Marrickville. A good time is always had by all.

## 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.

## 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**.

## 60th Anniversary Celebrations

### **March 29 - Members' Dinner**

Celebrating the effort all members have contributed to the Club over the past 60 years - all welcome - **bookings essential**

### **April 17 - 21 - National Folk Festival - Canberra**

BMC will be presenting Sapling Sessions for children, a Song Workshop and a Tune Workshop

### **May 17 - Heritage Masked Ball**

Parramatta Town Hall - purchase tickets early for the best price. Music provided by Heritage Ensemble with post ball "dress up" picnic at Pioneer Village, Wilberforce from 11.00am on May 18

### **May 18 - Post-Ball Picnic**

Costume picnic at Australiana Pioneer Village, Wilberforce

### **June 6 - 9 - Bundanoon DanceFest**

A weekend of social dancing focussing on participation and sharing

### **August 23 - Subscription Ball**

Maitland Town Hall with its sprung floor. The post ball picnic will be held at Lake Macquarie in Speers Point Park

### **October 4 - 6 - The Goulburn Gathering**

The Gathering is always a special event on anyone's Bush Music Calendar. In 2014 BMC will have a greater presence

### **November 15 - Diamond Jubilee Concert & Reunion**

The Big Concert will be held in the big hall at Addison Road Community Centre with a reunion in Tritton Hall

### **December 20 - Christmas Dance - 7.00 - 11.00**

The final event for the year will be the Christmas Dance at Ermington with Southern Cross Bush Band

