

MULGA WIRE

INCLUDING
SINGABOUT



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MULGA WIRE

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BUSH DANCES

June—August

BEECROFT Community Centre

Beecroft Road, Beecroft (opposite Fire Stn)

Note new time: 7:30pm—11:30pm

June 7 * **No Dance** *

July 5 **Currawong**

August 2 **Snake Gully**

Enquiries: Sigrid **9980 7077**

Wilma 9489 5594

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:

Suzanne Kingston, Trecialee Murphy and Keith Wood enjoying the 2014 Heritage Masked Ball held in Parramatta Town Hall.

Photo: Sharyn Mattern



President's Message

A wonderful night of dancing was enjoyed by all at the club's recent Heritage Masked Ball held at Parramatta. Add the magical music by the Heritage Ensemble, the wonderfully delicious suppers prepared by Wendy Richmond and her amazing catering team and the exotic masks worn by the dancers and you have a night to remember! Congratulations to everyone involved in making this night such a success.

At the recent National Folk Festival, the BMC had a high profile this year. As well as presenting the inaugural Saplings Sessions, introducing bush music to younger musicians and non-musicians, we held a Singing Session, Tunes Session and carried on the tradition of Australian Songs Session introduced by the late Dennis O'Keeffe.

An exciting weekend of dance is coming up on the June long weekend with the Bundanoon DanceFest. For more information see inside this issue.

Another event to mark in your diary is The Gathering held in Goulburn on the October long weekend. This will be a fantastic weekend not to be missed

Sharyn Mattern

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Worth Noting

Nunn, Gary 'Is Aussie slang dying out?' *The Guardian* 26 May 2014
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/may/26/is-aussie-slang-dying-out>

BMC is helping the Molong Show celebrate it's 150th year with a concert on Sat 13th Sept - <http://www.molongshow.com/150th-show.html>

New daytime music & poetry session at Cronulla - 1st Wed each month. All music genres & poetry styles are welcome but no loud drums. At Cronulla RSL, in the café (downstairs) - South Cronulla beach, a short walk from the station. 2pm (for 2.30 start) or come earlier for lunch - café closes 2pm. Brian Dunnett 9668 9051/ Jenny 9576 2301

Bush Traditions Youtube site - includes 3 songs from the Cobargo Den-gate tribute <http://www.youtube.com/user/BushTraditions/feed>

Holden, Robert *And the band played on*, Melbourne, Hardie Grant, 2014. "How music lifted the Anzac spirit in the battlefields of the First World War."

<http://www.hardiegrant.com.au/books/books/book?isbn=9781742705620>
<https://shop.abc.net.au/products/and-the-band-played-on-2cd>

Tin Whistle Player Wanted

Sydney Folk Band, *The Bottlers*, seek energetic tin whistle player for gigging, festival slots and recording.

www.facebook.com/thebottlers

www.youtube.com/thebottlersaustralia
management@thebottlers.net

Matthew: 0400 467 043

Playford Dancing at the Hut

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

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

We meet 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.

Sapling Master Class

Sunday August 10th 2014

Marrickville, NSW



Pass the word around to the young musicians you know....

On Sunday August 10th 2014 the Bush Music Club will be organising a full day Master Class devoted to giving young musicians the experience and enjoyment of playing Australian collected music in a relaxed atmosphere with expert bush musicians as tutors.

This session is suitable for musicians of all levels, including those who do not play (yet), from 8 – 16 years. Bookings are essential and you will need to contact us for venue, times and cost.

Guaranteed fun and pizza!

For a prospectus or general enquiries please contact:

Helen: 02 4297 5128

Kerry: 0409 600 949

email: bushmusicclubsaplings@gmail.com

**New
Members**

★ Mariamma Mitchell ★ ★ Graeme Barry ★
★ Tony and Gene Smith ★
★ Julia Attar ★ ★ Catherine McLean ★

Mulga Wire: 2014 Publishing Deadlines

Item Deadline	To Printers	Folding Session
11 July	24 July	27 July
12 September	25 September	28 September

Advance notice of Song Writing workshop with Phyl Lobl

Dates: Sat 6th & Sat 27th September 2014

Venue: Tritton Hall

Hut 44 Addison Road Centre, 142 Addison Rd, Marrickville

Cost: \$50

Phyl Lobl is a singer/songwriter/teacher who has been active as a performer at Folk Festivals, mainly in Australia, since just before the first National Folk Festival 1967. She thinks of herself as a **Cultural Maintenance Worker** who documents the **Australian Experience through folklore**. As is said in the folklore world, some of her songs have 'entered the tradition', some have been recorded here and overseas, some have been used by authors to illustrate their work which makes them useful.

<http://phyllobl.net/>

Book and DVD Launch

Friday 12th Sep - Launch of **More Than a Life: John Meredith and the Fight for Australian Tradition** (book & DVD) by Keith McKenry with music from Wongawilli

John Meredith (1920–2001) was for decades the leading warrior in the fight to preserve and celebrate Australia's unique folk heritage. Between 1953 and 1994 he recorded from ordinary Australians thousands of songs, tunes, recitations, folk medicines, superstitions, sayings and yarns, documenting a rich canon of traditional lore which at the time few believed—and many denied—existed. He was also a key pioneer in folk song performance, establishing in 1952 the original Bushwhackers Band and performing in the landmark Australian musical Reedy River.

A political radical throughout the Cold War years, he fought all his life against poverty, cultural toadyism and official indifference. Writing or co-authoring many books on Australian tradition and history including the classic *Folk Songs of Australia and the Men and Women Who Sang Them*, still easily the most important single volume in the field, he achieved official recognition late in life, his original field recordings becoming an acknowledged national treasure. Unlike however the great song collectors in other English-speaking countries he did not have the benefit of a good education let alone formal musical training for he was forced by poverty to leave school at age fourteen at the height of the Great Depression.

In 1944, having neither qualifications nor prospects, he mounted his pushbike and left the New South Wales township of Holbrook where he was born and rode into the sunrise, determined to make his fortune. This is his story.

BMC 60th Anniversary Dinner

R. Dale Dengate recollects...

Out along Victoria Road on a Saturday night to Ermington on the bus from town is an interesting ride. As I lived in Ryde in the 1950s, I prepare for a trip back in time, so it is fascinating to see the changes along the way. Especially the demographics of the fellow travellers which have changed so that I find myself surrounded by people who would have been living in Asia and especially the subcontinent of India, in the fifties and sixties.

When I enter the brightly decorated hall, most of the people look as if their ancestors may have come from Europe at any time in the past 200 years. I sit at a table with some of the earlier BMC members - Ann and Frank Maher and Jamie Carlin whose ancestors would include English, Scottish and Irish. We are joined by Pat and Bob Bolton, then a number of people join us for a chat about previous BMC anniversaries.

It really doesn't seem that fifty years have flown since we were celebrating the tenth anniversary upstairs at the Tai Yuen in Chinatown. In 1964, the BMC Concert Party brought out a record with the impossible title *Dinki Di! We do love singing fair dinkum Aussi songs the best.*

I don't know who at Festival records would claim responsibility for that title, but it did acknowledge it was the 10th Anniversary Album of the Bush Music Club and that the singers on the record work as 'librarian, telephone technician, clerk, school teacher and mail sorter'. The last track was a polka tune printed as *Cruck 'o the Ark or Give a fair go.* Later it was realised that the Polish tune was called *Craco viac.* Indeed a number of things have changed over those years.

David Johnson gave us a fine talk about BMC activities in the 1980s. I found this especially interesting as neither John nor I were involved in the club activities during that period. Ann Pidcock had assisted with slides and accurate details, so together they presented an interesting piece of the Club history. It was delightful to see so many musicians and dancers enjoying themselves after the formalities.



Cake made by Michelle Bolliger



BMC Presidents cutting the cake



DUKE'S PLACE

**Australian Songs in
Concert & session**

**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 June with Dave Johnson

Friday 11th July with Helen & Tony Romeo



Bundanoon DanceFest

6th - 9th June, 2014

The Sixth Bundanoon DanceFest will be held on the Queen's birthday long weekend, Friday 6th to Monday 9th June. All the dance venues are booked for the weekend and there are no problems with availability.

It is a weekend of social dancing. Workshops are run through the day and partially reprised at an evening dance. This format provides for intermingling of the various streams of social dance types in a community setting.

The callers for 2014 include some new faces: Fran Robertson, Bill Propert, and Cameron Ritchard, as well as many familiar friends from the past: Anthony Simon, Don Richmond, John Short, Arthur Kingsland, Norm Ellis, Peter Ellis, Paul Carr, Roger Gifford and Christine Ridgway, Colin Towns, Margaret and Bill Winnett, Jim and Ingrid Williams, Bruce Lemin, Madis and Tiina Alvre, Jeanette Mill, Sally Leslie, Cathy Richmond, and Keith Wood.

The program is on the website, www.bushtraditions.org. At this stage, tickets will need to be paid for in cash on arrival.

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

We have recently revised some of our competition winning dances and plan to ensure that the more challenging ones are danced again in the near future.

We will be preparing for many social dance events in the next 2 months. If you are planning to attend the balls later in the year, now would be a good time to start brushing up your skills and learning some of the required figures and sequences.

We hope to have a social dance party soon.

Felicity Hattingh

Programme June/July

MONDAY 7.30–10.30	THEME/DANCE STYLE
2 June	Preview of Bundanoon dances
9 June	Long Weekend. No Classes.
16 June	Practice for Beecroft
23 June	Practice for Beecroft
30 June	Practice for Beecroft
7 July	Winners and favourites
14 July	Winners and favourites
21 July	Practice for Gosford
28 July	Practice for Gosford

The Old Black Piano



I'd like to share part of the Old Black Piano's history.

From 1979 I was working for the Adult Migrant English Service (AMES), at the Endeavour Hostel in South Coogee. Migrants and refugees were housed in the hostel on their arrival in Sydney, or in similar hostels at Villawood or East Hills. AMES provided English language tuition, job skills and general welcome to Australia.

In 1980 at Endeavour we began to receive many refugees from Eastern Europe. Among these interesting people were 2 whose needs led to the acquisition of the Old Black Piano.

One was from Poland, a classical pianist, the other from Czechoslovakia, an opera singer. They needed a piano, to enable them to practice.

My brother had contacts in the Sydney office of the Department of Foreign Affairs, which had an unwanted piano (yes, our piano), in what I recall was their staff common room. This was in the days of tea ladies, so why not a piano. For the cost of transporting it, we could have it.

We raised the fee, and the OBP was installed in our largest classroom. We had hours of enjoyment, and our talented refugees were blissed out.

Fast forward to about 1987, the students at the hostel had changed, the piano was no longer needed. The hostel was to be closed. It was time to find a new home for OBP.

Hut 44 did not have a piano, I enjoyed playing (am not sure others enjoyed listening!), so once again the OBP journeyed across town, to be enjoyed by many. Dave Johnston, I recall, used to tune it.

So that's its story.

Susan Ackroyd (Jackson)

Bush Music Club

34th Colonial Subscription Ball

Saturday 23rd August 2014

Maitland Town Hall

6.30 pm for 7pm start

The Ball

A Colonial-style Subscription Ball held each year at Maitland Town Hall, a venue boasting one of the best sprung dance floors in the country. The ball is a dancer's delight with the dance programme selected from diverse styles of dances, including Colonial, Traditional, Celtic, Regency, European and Bush. Preferred dress is formal and in keeping with Australia's Colonial period.

Recovery Picnic

Held on Sunday, 24th August from 11 am at Speers Point Park, the BBQ/picnic is a time to recover, relax and socialise, with the opportunity for more dancing if desired. The site boasts views over the beautiful Lake Macquarie and the Heritage Hall provides plenty of undercover space for dancing and for shelter in inclement weather. You can partake of the BBQ lunch provided (pre-booked and prepaid) or BYO. Please BYO chairs and drinks. Musicians, bring your instruments.

Practice Sessions

Newcastle

Sunday August 10. 10am-5pm.

Masonic Hall, Metcalfe St, Wallsend (near intersection with Cowper St).

Contact Arthur or Julia - Ph 49555701

Central Coast

Sunday August 2. 10:30am-4:30pm. East Gosford Progress Hall, Wells St and Henry Parry Dr. East Gosford.

Contact Arthur or Julia - Ph 49555701

Sydney

Sunday August 10. 10am-4pm. Scout Hall, Park Ave, Concord.

Contact Wendy - Ph 0412 145262.

All practice sessions cost \$8 for the day.

Tea, coffee and cold drinks provided.

**** Attendance at practices is highly recommended****

There will also be practice nights at the Pennant Hills Dance Workshop, see page 9 for details.

Enquiries: Wendy - Ph 0412 145262 or Email: wendy_richmond@yahoo.com



Subscription Ball Booking Form

- * Numbers for the ball are limited so book early. The early bird price applies to bookings/payment received by **10th August**.
- * For catering purposes all tickets should be pre-booked and payments made by **18th August**.
- * The student price applies only to full time students aged 13 years and over. Children aged 12 and under are free.

Name/s or attach a list _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Price	Number	Sub-total Cost
BMC Members \$50		
Non-members \$60		
Full-time Student \$40		
After 10th Aug \$70		
Picnic \$10		
	Total cost	

Subtract \$3pp for groups of 8 booked together. **No tickets after 18th Aug.**

Payment can be made:

1. By cash, at any BMC dance or ball practice/workshop.
2. By Cheque. Cheques payable to "Bush Music Club" & send to Bush Music Club Inc. PO Box 433 SYDNEY NSW 2001.
3. Direct Deposit to Bush Music Club, BSB 062-005 Acct No. 0090 7524.

Please identify your payment by using the booking name as the remitter, & send payment & dancer details via email to: wendy_richmond@yahoo.com

Dancers' Foot Problems - Part 2

As a Podiatrist and dancer of 30 years plus I feel compelled to write a bit about dancer's lower leg complaints. I see a lot of similar aged folk succumbing to painful feet, etc. and losing the joy of dancing.

Let's start with the womenfolk who may be wearing a heel and overloading the ball of the foot. This feels like there are marbles under the ball of the foot. We only get one lot of fatty padding under the ball of the foot and heel. If you overload it this natural cushioning disappears. This is more likely to happen if you have a bunion because the big toe is crooked and hence less functional, so the lesser toes have to help out and they are much more slender. This causes the ball of the foot to collapse - what used to be called a fallen metatarsal arch or metatarsalgia.

What can be done? Well the simple approach is to replace the cushioning with a foam or silicon metatarsal pad. These may loop over the second toe, stick inside the shoe or stick to the foot itself. A second approach is to support the metatarsal shafts and hence indirectly raise the fallen metatarsal heads with a metatarsal dome. Again these can be glued in the shoe or sometimes held onto the foot with a broad elastic band. Some health shoes have a met dome built in such as Homy Peds and Birkenstocks. A third approach is a full arch support (orthotic) that takes some of the "load" on those non-weight bearing parts of the feet such as the longitudinal arch of the foot. These can also have a met dome built in and forefoot cushioning, but then you need a shoe that can accommodate them. Such a shoe would have a removable innersole such as Zieras, Naots, many joggers and more and more shoes these days. There is a readymade orthotic for high heel dress shoes that is inexpensive, adjustable and flexible made by Orthaheel that I used to help my Ballroom teacher in a dress sandal.

We were not meant to dance on concrete slabs or floors attached to such-like. Dancing pumps traditionally are thin, leather-soled footwear that allow maximum flexibility through the forefoot. They were designed before concrete floors and before the array of synthetic sole materials were around. There is a "dancer's jogger" available from shops catering for us folk. It does not have any midfoot sole or shank so there is great flexibility but also cushioning. If you look up Crocs and Orthaheel websites you can find court shoes and other slip-ons that don't look too gross and have lots of support and cushioning.

Knees are the next big joint up the body and they can get pretty cranky too. Most of us either go knock-kneed (women more commonly with the wider hips than men) or bow-legged (yee-ha cowboys). This puts excessive load on one side or another of the semi-lunar knee cartilages which can then wear out. Again shoe cushioning and support can help these joints and sometimes orthotic alignment can affect knee alignment. Up the kinetic chain the knee bone's connected to the hip bone and so on. So our feet are our foundations and as you know you can't build a good house on weak footings, so spoil those "plates of meat" (feet).



Richard Fox

(Part 1 appeared in Mulga Wire - August 2011)

AROUND THE BUSH MUSIC SCENE

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

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. (see page 8)

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

Jun 13 **7:30pm Duke's Place**, *Dave Johnson*, Hut 44, Marrickville. (see page 8)

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

Jun 21 **7pm Ermington Bush Dance**, *Urban Scrub*,

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

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

Jul 5 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance**, *Currawong*, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594/ Peter 9477 5848

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

Jul 10 7:30pm Sutherland Acoustic. Tradies, Gymea.

Jul 11 **7:30pm Duke's Place**, *Helen & Tony Romeo*, Hut 44, Marrickville. (see page 8)

Jul 12 Gosford Dance, *Regency Ryebuck*, East Gosford Progress Hall.

Jul 26 Loaded Dog Folk Club, **Peter Hicks + Chippo Days**, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, Sandra, 9358 4886

Aug 2 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance**, *Snake Gully*, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594

Aug 3 7pm Songlines Song session, Fitzroy Hotel, East Sydney/Woolloomooloo

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

Aug 8 **7:30pm Duke's Place**, *Coolfinn Mac*, Hut 44, Marrickville. (see page 8)

Aug 9 Gosford Dance, *Currawong*, East Gosford Progress Hall.

Aug 14 7:30pm Sutherland Acoustic. Tradies, Gymea.

Aug 23 Loaded Dog Folk Club, **Martin Pearson + Barbara Sanders**, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, Sandra, 9358 4886

Aug 23 **BMC Colonial Subscription Ball**, Maitland Town Hall. (see Page 11)

Aug 24 **Ball Recovery Picnic**, Speers Point Park, Lake Macquarie

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

Bush Music at Cliff's Fountain 77 restaurant - 2nd Tuesday of each month 7pm
77 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe, ☎ 9692 9215

Concert Party News

Playford Dancing

Several Concert Party members joined in the band playing for the Playford Dancers in Hut 44 on Tuesday 6 May 2104, viz Ralph Pride, Darri Adamson, Rick Hull, Anish Carmyn and Allen Davis. A good time was had by all with about 9 dancers showing their skills with complex dances.

Heritage Ball Picnic

Concert Party Members performed at the Picnic at Wilberforce on Sunday 18 May playing for both the dancers and on verandahs at the Australiana Village.

Monday Nights

There have been in excess of 20 musicians turning up at Hut 44 on Monday nights and thoroughly enjoying the music

Dulwich Hill gig

Concert Party members will be playing at a Bush Dance in the Dulwich Hill Baptist Church on Saturday 31 May 2104.

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

June 6 - 9 - Bundanoon DanceFest

A weekend of social dancing focussing on participation and sharing-
page 8

August 10 - Saplings Masterclass

We will be organising a full day Master Class devoted to giving young musicians the experience and enjoyment of playing Australian collected music in a relaxed environment - *page 5*

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

September 6 & 27 - Songwriting Workshop

We are holding a Songwriting Workshop with Phyl Lobl in Tritton Hall (Hut 44, Addison Road Community Centre, Marrickville) - *page 6*

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 and Bush Dance will be held in the big hall at Addison Road Community Centre followed by 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

