

MULGA WIRE

INCLUDING
SINGABOUT



MULGA WIRE

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MULGA WIRE appears each even month.

Unsolicited articles should be submitted four weeks before publication. Address articles to: The Mulga Wire Editor, Bush Music Club Inc, Box 433, Sydney 2001 or e-mail the editors.

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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ADVERTISING (Copy size in mm)

Full Page (vert) \$45.00(185h x 127w)

Half Page (horiz) \$25.00 (92h x 127w)

Quarter Page (vert) \$15.00 (92h x 63w)

Business Cards \$ 7.00 (< 30 x 47)

Classifieds \$ 1.50 Per line

Inserts \$30.00 (Minimum)

Copy for advertisements should be at 100%, no larger than 123 mm high by 83 mm wide (full page), camera ready and submitted three weeks before publication, or by prior arrangement with the Editors.

MULGA WIRE is printed by Unique Print, 185 Broadway, Shop 17.

BUSH DANCES

August—October

BEECROFT Community Centre

Beecroft Road, Beecroft (opposite Fire Stn)

Note new time: 7:30pm—11:30pm

August 2 **Snake Gully**

September 6 **Sydney Coves**

October 4 *** No Dance ***

Enquiries: Sigrid **9980 7077**

Wilma 9489 5594

ERMINGTON Community Centre

10 River Road, Ermington

7pm—11pm

December 20 **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:

Claire busking at the Addison Rd Markets to promote the Bush Music Club's upcoming Saplings Master Class.

Photo: Sandra Nixon
Diamond Anniversary Logo: Les Love



President's Message

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Noreen Grunseit, and George Hofsteters better known as Yuri the Story Teller. Noreen was an early member of the BMC introducing dancing to the club and one the founders of the Sydney Playford dance group. Yuri brought delight to children, both old and young, with his animated story telling style.

The Subscription Ball in the Maitland Town Hall will be held on 23 August and the recovery picnic the following day. Also, don't forget the Goulburn's Bush Traditions weekend, 3-6 October, this year featuring the BMC celebrating 60 years.

We're half way through the year and now winter is well and truly upon us. It's a great time to grab your dancing shoes and come along to the Beecroft dance. You'll also be able to get the blood moving by coming along to the Monday Music workshop, the monthly Duke's Place folk club and joining the Pennant Hills bush dance workshop.

Sharyn Mattern

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Worth Noting

Keith Wood has compiled a book of locally written Contra Dances called *Down Under Contra*.

George Hofsteters, better known as **Yuri the Storyteller** passed away recently. You can find some of his performances on You Tube.

There will be a **John Dengate** memorial get together on Sunday 24th August at 2pm in the Gaelic Club (upstairs), 64 Devonshire St, Surry Hills. You can also find video from John's wake and Loaded Dog Memorial concert online at: <http://johndengatecollection.wordpress.com/>

Monaro Folk Society are holding their 33rd Annual Colonial Ball on Saturday 6th September in the Albert Hall, Canberra.

Details at: http://mfs.org.au/wiki/index.php/Colonial_Ball

**New
Members**

★ **Ramon Rivas** ★

Playford Dancing at the Hut

Next meeting: **Tues 2nd September**, 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.

Mulga Wire: 2014 Publishing Deadlines

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

Saplings Master Class

There are still some places left for the Saplings Master Class on Sunday August 10th. Head Tutors are Dave Johnson, Jason Roweth with Tony Romeo on percussion.



A day not to be missed by any budding musician at any level – as long as they are approximately between the ages of 8 and 16 we would love to see them there.

Bookings essential

so please contact Kerry or Helen for a registration form:



Helen: 02 4297 5128

Kerry: 0409 600 949

bushmusicclubsaplings@gmail.com

A day of music – fun and pizza!

Only \$25



Song Writing Workshop with Phyl Lobl

Dates: 9:30am, 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

7pm, Friday 12th Sep - Baptist Church, 4 Macarthur Pde, Dulwich Hill

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.

Vale Noreen Grunseit

I first met Noreen after I'd moved from Bathurst to Sydney in the mid 1980's and Jonathan took me to the Sydney Playford English Dance group. It was love at first step, but I had a lot of learning to do. On about the third occasion I was taxing my grey cells over a dance, but as I headed diagonally down the set a lady going the other way said, sotto voce into my left ear, 'And where do you think you're going?' Succinct, focussed, making as little fuss as possible and not drawing attention to herself or the dimwit newcomer.

I soon learned that Noreen, along with Lynette Hicks, had travelled to the UK and spent time soaking up her English cultural heritage of song and dance, and learning a treasure trove of dances which she brought back and was teaching in Australia. If for nothing other than the joy of dance I would be grateful to Noreen, but as time went on I discovered we had much else in common. There were the years of sole parenting of our children (her husband passed away prematurely) as well as gardening, cats and a similar sense of humour. We would laugh till tears ran down our faces when recounting some of the stories about our felines -- things that might not strike other people as funny at all.

Noreen also composed many folk dances that are perennially popular because of their originality and 'flow' - they are a pleasure to dance. Among these are The Flying Pie-man, Love 'em and Leave 'em, Lynette's Frolic, Pam Gainsford's Delight. Some of them won prizes for the best new dance at a festival.

Apart from her considerable contribution to dance, Noreen was a wonderful mother and a secure rock for her two sons and her daughter. She was a devoted and loving grandmother who will be sadly missed by her two granddaughters. Loving and well-beloved sums up her family life.

She was a writer of well crafted, humorously effective letters to corporations that were not fulfilling their obligations. She was a generous friend to many and a supporter of animal welfare groups. So much more could be recounted about her 90 years, but perhaps it could best be summed up as a well-spent life that we celebrate and honour.

Alita Tanswell

Monday Too Far Away?

For many BMC members the Monday night Concert party is just a little bit too far to travel. Those in the Illawarra have No Such Thing and the Bush Traditions Session is available for those in the Goulburn area. I'm looking for those interested in playing Australian Collected music in or near the Blue Mountains. Another BMC member Les Love and I have been meeting once a week for some time playing collected tunes but would like to meet others with a similar need. We meet at **Wentworth Falls** every Thursday at 1:00 pm.

If you are interested contact Kerry Doherty on 0409 600 949.



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 8th August with Coolfin Mac

Friday 12th September - Book Launch, Dulwich Hill

Friday 10th October

At the Festivals

Molong and Yeoval

13-14th September

The Bush Music Club will be performing at the Molong Community Hall on the evening of Saturday 13th September as part of the **Banjo Paterson 150th Anniversary Festival**.

The Club will also be appearing and playing music at the Banjo Paterson Museum in Yeoval on Sunday 14th September.

Turning Wave Festival, Yass

19-21st September

The Bush Music Club is presenting an opening **Concert** from 5:30pm to 6:30pm on Friday 19th Sep and a **Session** on Sat 20th Sep from 4pm to 6pm.

Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival

17-19th October

The Bush Music Club will have a large presence at the Kangaroo Valley Festival this year.

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

On Monday 2nd June 2014 dancers (including one first timer) enjoyed the West Australian Pride of Erin, Happy Returns, Lord Lamington's Lament, Red Socks Reel, and Cranky Ingenuity. We had a visitor from Alaska join us for the evening. She is a university lecturer in mathematics and also teaches knitting.

Monday 9th June was a public holiday and there was no workshop.

On Monday 16th June dancers enjoyed Canadian Three Step, Circassian Circle (two figures), Lord Lamington's Lament, Ainslie Square, Borrowdale Exchange, Jambaroo Rag and Flirtation Reel.

On Monday 23rd June dancers (including two first timers) danced Pride of Erin (non-progressive and progressive), Victoria Cross, Marine Four Step, Jambaroo Rag, La Russe Quadrille, Lamp Posts and Circle Waltz.

On Monday 30th June dancers danced Pride of Erin, Twelvesome Reel, Cranky Ingenuity, Dashing White Sergeant, Circle Waltz and Jambaroo Rag.

Felicity Hattingh

Programme August/September

MONDAY 7.30–10.30	THEME/DANCE STYLE
4 August	Maitland Ball Practice
11 August	Maitland Ball Practice
18 August	Maitland Ball Practice
25 August	Optional Extras
1 September	Optional Extras
8 September	Ball Practice for Central Coast
15 September	Ball Practice for Central Coast
22 September	Ball Practice for Central Coast
29 September	Ball Practice for Central Coast

Bush Traditions Gathering

Every year, over the October long weekend, a group of people gather at the Old Goulburn Brewery to experience a full weekend of bush music with song, dance and poetry. It is called the Goulburn Gathering and is organised by Bush Traditions.

You might find the Gathering included on a list of annual Australian folk festivals but it's not a festival. It's a small gathering of people who unashamedly enjoy immersing themselves in bush music and all the bush traditions our country has to offer.

Because it's not a festival and not very big there is no need for PA, there are no free tickets, no signing up to volunteer because everyone including "performers", pay their \$30 for the weekend and everyone helps when it's needed. Not that it's needed very often because Dave and Ray have it all sorted. You would think as organisers they would be busy and they are....they are busy playing music! There is no sense of performer and audience as everyone joins in (even if only to sing a chorus) to share their music.

I must take this opportunity to mention our hosts Michael and Dan who run the Brewery and thank them for letting us take over their property and for filling our tummies when we were hungry or thirsty.

Last October was the 8th Annual Gathering, all the Eastern States were well represented and old friendships were renewed. The Gatherers start to arrive on the Friday and as tents are erected you can hear the music wafting around the site. Some camp, some stay in the basic accommodation in the old stables and some stay in town. The weekend gets underway with a session on Friday night and a separate poetry gathering.

Saturday, Sunday and Monday have sing-a-longs, workshops on dance, music, poetry and folklore and of course there are always sessions. There is always a new tune or two to learn at Goulburn. On Saturday night just about everyone goes into town for the dance but some choose to stay back at the brewery for another session.

Sunday night is very special, starting with a dinner of roast and vegies then a "singabout" of solo & group performances broken up with the occasional dance or two. A very informal and friendly evening!

Helen Romeo

This year's Gathering will be held on October 3-6. www.bushtraditions.org

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

Saturday 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

Lola's Keg Night

Lola Wright's life story has now been turned into a musical play, *Lola's Keg Night*, by PP Cranney & Christina Mimmocchi.

As a reading only, with music, it was a big hit at the Illawarra & the National Folk Festivals.

The full production will be presented at:

Merrigong Theatre, Wollongong

9th, 10th and 11th October.

NSW Teachers Federation auditorium, Sydney

17th, 18th October and 25th October (TBC)



South Coast Bush Band:

L-R: Norm Mitchell, Merv Haberly, Jack Wright, Jeanette Caine, Wally Watt, Lola, Jack Chalmers

Sunday Dancing at Pennant Hills

Keith Wood is running a series of social dances in the upper hall at Pennant Hills Community Centre, from 2pm to 5pm. Dates and themes are as follows:

17th Aug	Keith's Dances
21st Sep	Contra - Tony Parkes
12th Oct	English Country
16th Nov	Contra Rerun

AROUND THE BUSH MUSIC SCENE

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

- 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
- Aug 24 2pm John Dengate Memorial Get Together, Gaelic Club, 64 Devonshire St, Surry Hills.
- Sep 2 **7:30pm Sydney Playford Dance Group**, Hut 44, Marrickville. (see page 4)
- Sep 6 **9:30am Songwriting Workshop** with Phyl Lobl, Hut 44, Marrickville.
- Sep 6 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, *Sydney Coves***, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594
- Sep 7 7pm Songlines Song session, Fitzroy Hotel, East Sydney/Woolloomooloo
- Sep 11 7:30pm Sutherland Acoustic. Tradies, Gymea.
- Sep 12 **7:30pm Keith McKenry Book Launch**, Dulwich Hill. (see page 8)
- Sep 13 7:30pm Gosford Dance, *Sydney Coves*, East Gosford Progress Hall.
- Sep 27 **9:30am Songwriting Workshop** with Phyl Lobl, Hut 44, Marrickville.
- Sep 27 Loaded Dog Folk Club, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, Sandra, 9358 4886
- Oct 4 **No Beecroft Bush Dance - October Long Weekend**
- Oct 3-6 Bush Traditions Gathering, Goulburn. (see page 8)
- Oct 5 7pm Songlines Song session, Fitzroy Hotel, East Sydney/Woolloomooloo
- Oct 7 **7:30pm Sydney Playford Dance Group**, Hut 44, Marrickville. (see page 4)
- Oct 9 7:30pm Sutherland Acoustic. Tradies, Gymea.
- Oct 10 **7:30pm Duke's Place**, Hut 44, Marrickville. (see page 8)
- Oct 11 7:30pm Flannel Flower Spring Ball, *Snake Gully*, East Gosford Progress Hall
- Oct 25 Loaded Dog Folk Club, ***Danny Spooner***, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, Sandra, 9358 4886
- Toongabbie Music Club - 2nd & 4th Friday of each month 7:30pm**
17 Whitehaven Rd Northmead, ☎ 9639 7494
- Bush Music at Cliff's *Fountain* restaurant - 2nd Tuesday of each month 7pm**
77 Glebe Point Rd, Glebe, ☎ 9692 9215

Concert Party News

Great Aussie Tune Swap

Members of the Bush Music Club Concert Party attended the Great Aussie Tune Swap at Kiama on Saturday 19 July 2014. The good folk from the South Coast of NSW were kind enough to organize the event which, it is hoped, may become an annual event.

There were around 40 musicians present and the day consisted of playing tunes alternatively from the Bush Music Club booklet and those provided by the No Such Thing Band and other musicians from the South Coast and Southern Tablelands areas.

Our hosts provided us with a most sumptuous luncheon and at the close of play we repaired to a local Chinese restaurant where we performed for our supper!

All those present advised that they thoroughly enjoyed the day which was both educational and fruitful. Our thanks go to all those talented, generous and kind people on the South Coast who organized and helped make the outing such a success.

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

August 10 - Saplings Master Class

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 12 - Keith McKenry Book Launch

Instead of the usual Duke's, we are having a book launch for Keith McKenry's biography of John Meredith. Music by Wongawilli - *page 6*

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 3 - 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

