

AROUND THE BUSH MUSIC SCENE

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

- Oct 2-5 Bush Traditions Gathering, Goulburn. www.bushtraditions.org
- Oct 3 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, Snake Gully**, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594
- Oct 9 **7:30pm Duke's Place, Chloe & Jason Roweth**, Hut 44, Marrickville. (p8)
- Oct 10 7:30pm Gosford Dance, Flannel Flower Spring Ball with *Snake Gully*, East Gosford Progress Hall. ☎ Robyn: 4344 6484
- Oct 16-18 Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival. www.kangaroovalleyfolkfestival.com.au
- Oct 24 Loaded Dog Folk Club, **Martin Pearson**, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, ☎ Sandra, 9358 4886
- Nov 7 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, BMC Concert Party**, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594
- Nov 13 **7:30pm Duke's Place, Mike Martin**, Hut 44, Marrickville. (p8)
- Nov 14 7:30pm Gosford Dance, Ragtime with *JH Dance Band*, East Gosford Progress Hall. ☎ Robyn: 4344 6484
- Nov 28 Loaded Dog Folk Club, **Danny Spooner + Tom Bridges**, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, ☎ Sandra, 9358 4886
- Dec 5 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, Paddy's River**, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594
- Dec 11 **7:30pm Duke's Place, Christine Wheeler**, Hut 44, Marrickville. (see p8)
- Dec 12 7:30pm Gosford Dance, Christmas Contra with *Pastrami-On-Ryebuck*, East Gosford Progress Hall. ☎ Robyn: 4344 6484
- Dec 19 **7pm Ermington Bush Dance, Southern Cross**, Ermington Community Centre, 10 River Rd, Ermington, ☎ 0412 145 262

Regular Events

- Singing Session - 7pm** 1st Friday of each month (except Public Holidays)
Hut 44, Addison Rd Comm Centre, Marrickville. Margaret 0427 958 788
- Songlines Song session - 7pm** 1st Sunday of each month
Fitzroy Hotel, East Sydney/Woolloomooloo
- Sydney Playford Dance Group - 7:30pm** 1st Tuesday of each month
Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville (see p14)
- Toongabbie Music Club - 7:30pm** 2nd & 4th Friday of each month
17 Whitehaven Rd Northmead, ☎ 9639 7494
- Kiama Bush Dance - 7pm** 2nd Thursday of each month
Kiama Community Centre, ☎ Tony 0422 540 249
- Campfire Session - 7pm** 3rd Tuesday of each month
Kiama Community Centre, ☎ Tony 0422 540 249
- Sutherland Acoustic - 7:30pm** 2nd Thursday of each month
Tradies, Gynea

MULGA WIRE

INCLUDING
SINGABOUT



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MULGA WIRE

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BUSH DANCES

October-December

BEECROFT Community Centre

Beecroft Road (opposite Fire Stn)

7:30pm—11:30pm

October 3 **Snake Gully**

November 7 **BMC Concert Party**

December 5 **Paddy's River**

Enquiries: Sigrid 9980 7077
Wilma 9489 5594

ERMINGTON Community Centre

10 River Road, Ermington

7pm—11pm

December 19 **Southern Cross**

Enquiries: 0412 145 262

Bush Music Club enquiries:

0412 145 262 or
bmcmail1954@gmail.com

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

www.bushmusic.org.au

Cover:

Coalbrook Band celebrates their 40th anniversary at the 2015 BMC Subscription Ball in the Therry Centre, East Maitland. A couple of members weren't around at the start...

Photo: Mike Young

Concert Party News

Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, nor hail has kept them from coming to the Monday night Concert Party practice. They laughed at cold weather, they scoffed at the darkness and they parried for parking spots all through the Winter and into early Spring. A sturdy lot of yeomen and yeowomen is our band of brothers and sisters at the Bush Music Club. Either that or they are stark raving mad ... but there it is.

The musicians are preparing for several events including the Turning Wave Festival at Yass and the Hotel Blue afternoon at Katoomba proving that the "bush" remains forever in the Bush Music Club genre and *raison d'être* (he said slipping into his slipshod schoolboy French.)

One recent evening proved to be interesting at Hut 44 when several of our leaders, viz. Ralph Pride and Eric Eisler were not present and we batted on in a fashion not dissimilar from the Australian Cricket Team at the Ashes (although it was agreed that by those present in Hut 44 that night the Concert Party Eleven could have got more than 60 against the Poms!) The BMC President and Treasurer attempted, valiantly, to lead the bold array and somehow we muddled through, thanks to the goodwill and camaraderie of all persons present.

Members of the BMC who are interested in joining the Concert Party are more than welcome ... a good time is had by all.

Allen Davis

Making Direct Deposit Payments (Membership/Shop/Ball)

Direct Deposit details:

BSB: 062-005

Acct: 0090 7524 (Commonwealth bank)

Reference

Email 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.

Traditional Irish Music 'Slow Session'

One of our members runs a Traditional Irish Music 'Slow Session' for beginners/intermediate players of Irish Traditional Music (melody instruments only).

Every Sunday 6:30pm at Tritton Hall, Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, 142 Addison Rd, Marrickville.

Cost \$10 (concession \$5), includes tea and bikkies.

Enquiries: Brian 0414 565 805

Playford Dancing at the Hut

Next meeting: **Tues 6th October**, 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.



- * Suzanne KINGSTON * * Rita XU * * Darren PALMER *
- * Alan BLAKELOCK & Ann O'DONOVAN * * Xin WU *
- * Maria BRAVO * * Wendy COSIER * * Susan HINDS *
- * Patricia GILES * * Judy ARCHER * * Kim HENG *
- * Deborah OWEN * * Anita SAURINE * * Don LUONG *
- * Josephine NEWNHAM * * Bronwyn UNDERWOOD *
- * Thomas GRYLLES * * Jason SANK * * Max ANNETT *

Beecroft Spot Prizes

At recent Beecroft dances we have been handing out special prizes to dancers at certain points during the night. The prizes are donated by the following local businesses:

- Renaissance Hair Studio** Westleigh
- La Thai Restaurant** Thornleigh
- Topiary Café** Epping
- The Beauty Salon** Westleigh
- Wilma Lyon Music School** Normanhurst
- Westleigh Quality Meats** Westleigh



This is a busy time for the Bush Music Club. The numbers were down at our Maitland Ball but those who did attend had a wonderful night. Hopefully we'll be back at the Maitland Town Hall next year.

The club was well represented last weekend at the Turning Wave Festival in Yass. The Concert Party hosted 3 song and tune sessions and a concert of songs from Reedy River in the Liberty Theatre.

The first weekend in October will also be busy as not only do we have our regular Beecroft family bush dance, but we are also presenting music sessions at Bush Traditions, Goulburn and also at Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival later in the month.

Have a wonderful spring and stay active.

Sharyn Mattern

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Worth Noting

Jack Barrie, (John McNeilage Barrie) Bushwhacker, founding member & Life Member died on 28/8/2015. (*see also* p 12)

Those who knew **Frank Moore** will greatly regret his passing, on Wednesday 9th September, after a long illness. Frank was a longtime member of the dance community, in Melbourne and then in Sydney. Our condolences to Annette and his family.

McHugh, Evan *The shearers: the story of Australia*, told from the woolsheds, Melbourne, Viking Penguin, 2015. "Presents the definitive history of these men, bringing to life the toil, tumults and toughness of the shearing life, and the effect it has had on Australia's national character."

And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda, with lyrics by Eric Bogle, illustrated by Bruce Whatley, Crows Nest, NSW, Allen & Unwin, 2015, \$24.99. Some have suggested this children's book would be best read to children over 10 and it would be best for them to also hear the song sung. The latter is easily done via Youtube.

The August **Saplings Masterclass** was attended by 22 eager students, twice the number we had for the first masterclass last year. Members donated money to give each student a whistle, & Darri Adamson & Caroline Barrell taught beginner & experienced musicians to play these whistles! Thanks to our generous members we even have a stash of whistles to use in future masterclasses. Check out our blog for a full report on the class.

Berrima Gaolbreak is on 2-5 October and includes a performance of *Dead Men Talking*. For details see: www.gaolbreak.org.au

Mulga Wire: 2015 Publishing Deadlines

Item Deadline	To Printers	Folding Session
14 November	19 November	24 November
14 January	19 January	26 January

BUSH MUSIC CLUB inc

GPO Box 433, SYDNEY NSW 2001

Founded 1954

MEMBERSHIP

APPLICATION []

RENEWAL []

UPDATE []

Name:

Address:

Phone: Home () Work ()

Would you like to receive: Electronic MW [] Yes Regular electronic news updates [] Yes

Email

YEARLY MEMBERSHIP

[] SINGLE \$22 [] FAMILY \$30 [] PENSIONER \$12

[] AFFILIATION (Clubs only) \$50 [] DONATION \$ _____

5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP

[] SINGLE \$100 [] FAMILY \$130 [] AFFILIATION \$250

CASH / CHEQUE Enclosed \$..... (No cash through post please)

Signature: Date:

Office Use Only

Feb	Apr	Jun	Aug	Oct	Dec	
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Fee received	Appl approved	Record updated	Member Number	New Card Posted
---- / ---- / ----	---- / ---- / ----	---- / ---- / ----	-----	---- / ---- / ----

INTERIM RECEIPT AND PROOF OF MEMBERSHIP Name

Fee received by \$..... Date / /
(Committee Member)

THIS IS PROOF OF MEMBERSHIP FOR 2 MONTHS FROM THIS DATE
If membership card is not received within 2 months
Please contact the Membership Secretary on (02) 9642 7950

Electronic Payment: BSB 062-005 Acct 0090 7524 (Commonwealth Bank) Email details to treasurer Allen Davis (allendavis@iprimus.com.au)

Jack Barrie (1917-2015)

In 1952 John Meredith, Jack Barrie and Brian Loughlin, formed the Heathcote Bushwhackers. When the Heathcote Bushwhackers were invited to be part of the first Sydney production of Dick Diamond's Reedy River, they gathered a few more members from the cast and emerged as the Bushwhackers, Australia's first Bush Band, founding the Bush Music Club shortly after to train up all the aspiring Bushwhackers who wanted to sing the Australian songs that they sang.

Frank Maher writes:

I first met Jack Barrie in the mid 1950 's at the Bush Music Club. We sang together when the Concert Party was performing at the Banjo Paterson Festival in Orange in 1960. Jack was one of the original Heathcote Bushwhackers along with John Meredith and Brian Loughlin.

These three auditioned in 1952 for the New Theatre production of "Reedy River" and were accepted, picking up along the way other (later) Bush Music Club members Alan Scott, Harry Kay Jnr., Chris Kempster, Alex Hood and Cec Grivas. Jack played the tea chest bass and sang "Widgeewera Joe" as a solo in the production.

The last time that I saw Jack was at Alan Scott's wake in 1995 at Balmoral Village. I had arranged with him to leave my car at his place and proceed down to the Scott's in his utility. He always had big cars.

I had a lot of time for Jack and was sorry not to have been in contact with his family when he passed on.



Jack Barrie, Bushwhackers Band member, plays the bush bass, an empty box with a stick and a cord.



Jack Barrie, Frank Maher and John Meredith at the wake for Alan Scott. *Maier Collection*

At the Festivals

Turning Wave Festival, Yass

We had a concert appearance where we performed the *Songs of Reedy River*, and 3 workshops of songs & tunes. Two were in the back yard of the Yazzbar, and the third in the pool room of the Royal Hotel where we introduced an enthusiastic young Irish fiddler to bush music (she will be back!) & listened to a uilleann piper play bush music! Ann & Frank Maher, members of Concert Party in the 60s provided percussion with their 50 year old lagerphone, bones and Ralph's bush bass.



In the early days Reedy River was always sung standing and finished with a Salute to the men of 1891.

Photo: Sandra Nixon

Bush Traditions Gathering, Goulburn

2 - 5 October

Members will be participating in this annual gathering for a weekend of music, yarns, dancing and poetry at the Old Goulburn Brewery.

Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival

16-18 October

We will be presenting 2 Saplings sessions, a Songs workshop and a Tunes workshop.



More Beecroft Dances in 2015!

Beecroft Dance will be held *every* month from February to December in 2015 - apart from Easter!

DVD of DAMES AND DAREDEVILS FOR DEMOCRACY

available on the website damesanddaredevils.com under VIDEO

DAMES & DAREDEVILS FOR DEMOCRACY is a presentation that charts the development of Women's Suffrage in Australia through ten strategies & featuring ten prominent Australian suffragists.

The progress is marked by their lives, their actions, their artistic products and by songs.

Created by Phyl Lobl the production shows just what 'grand dames and daredevils' they were. They took us from the Hat Box to the Ballot Box and then helped women in England and America get there too. They were daring, resilient, intelligent and compassionate yet very few Australians know their names.

They are:

Henrietta Dugdale, Louisa Lawson, Edith Cowan,
Vida Goldstein, Mayebanke Anderson, Rose Scott,
Margaret Ogg, Dora Montefiore, Muriel Matters, Emma Millar.

They, and the 'good blokes' who helped are shown, and the 'others' who opposed are exposed through images and through quotes so ironic that in hindsight they are funny.

The production DAMES AND DAREDEVILS FOR DEMOCRACY combines Music Theatre with Documentary material. The result is a performance that entertains and informs. Talented performers reveal the time-line of the strategies used to gain emancipation for women in Australia.

Some of these women went on to assist British and American women to gain their voting rights ... not the other way round as is often assumed.

The production uses monologues, songs, poems, quotes, cartoons and images of women and men who were engaged in a struggle that took decades.

It is important, almost forgotten, Australian history, made easy to digest.

It was first performed at the NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL in Canberra at Easter 2013.



The second performance was in Kiama Pavilion 10th November 2013.

Phyl Lobl

35th Subscription Ball Maitland 2015

What a fantastic night of dancing, not that I expected anything less. Although this may have been my first time at to the Maitland Ball it is not my first Ball. After returning to dancing almost two years ago, I have been to several Balls now. Although I went to the Pennant Hill workshop practices last year, I did not feel confident to attend the Maitland Ball.

So what has changed to boost my confidence? Foremost, I am lucky to have an exceptional and very encouraging dance partner. Also, since then I have been to two Parramatta Balls, the National in Canberra, Bundanoon, Flannel Flower Ball and lots of workshops plus the Gosford and Concord rehearsals.

On the night the dancing was, as expected, of high standard. Not sure if I meet the standard for all the dances but I did enjoy myself. The catering was excellent and I also loved the punch and the scones with jam and cream a little too much.



Photos supplied by the author



Coalbrook were celebrating their 40th anniversary and must be one of the best bands I've heard. Their musicianship was outstanding, their timing superb and the explanation sheet of the Music performed will be a treasure to keep!

Big thanks to my host Richard Fox for overnight stay

Then, the dancing and company of what I now consider friends, continued at the 'recovery picnic'! The weather was beautiful it was another great experience. Thanks to Angus and team for the lovely lunch and Arthur for calling the dancing.

I must congratulate all the organisers, especially Julia, for a job well done.

Guess I have the bug as I'm off to Canberra this weekend, have tickets for Kangaroo Valley and plan to go the Flannel Flower Ball in Gosford again this year!

Stuart Hunt

Blue Mountains Bushdancing goes back in time with 1815 Ball.

For just over 6 years now, dancers have been meeting at the Wentworth Falls school of Arts, on a Wednesday evening 7.30-9.30 for some friendly social dancing and a bit of shared supper. During that time we have learnt Old Time dances, Bush Dance standards, branched into Contra after being introduced to it by visitors from the Central Coast Bush dance and Music association, tried a few of Heather Clarke's Dances of the Colony, and done our best to get up on the dances needed to attend and enjoy the annual BMC Heritage Ball, and the very inspiring Bush Traditions Bundanoon dance weekend, where we have often mustered a good dozen or more.

Members regularly journey to the Beecroft and Ermington Bushdances, and the Pennant Hills Contra workshops, and some go further afield to the Irish festivals, the National Folk Festival, Kangaroo Valley, the Jane Austen Festival Australia, and more. At the end of each term we are usually able to have some of the Ganggangs Bushband play some live music for us, but as yet, we do not have a set of regular musicians.

Our regular numbers vary and visitors are always welcome, as are beginners.

We enjoyed celebrating 100 years of the historic Wentworth Falls School of Arts with a Bushdance earlier this year, and now we are celebrating 200 years of Wentworth Falls (although for some of that time it was a depot of road building materials, or known as "Weatherboard" after the first pub, where Charles Darwin stayed.) We are celebrating with a back to 1815 theme with dance, costume, ball supper, and talks. We hope other dancers will come and join us for:

Saturday 31st October 2015-Visit historic sites in the morning, walk the Darwin track, or attend a talk at the hall on Regency Fashion in the period of Revolution; take lunch in the village, then enjoy a pre-ball dance workshop; dine at local establishments leaving time to dress for the Regency Assembly Ball with Dance Caller, Regency games room & supper. Stay overnight at one of the many charming local accommodations.

Sunday 1st November 2015 don your elegant costume for an outing to historic Tarella cottage, including a talk on Australia's first native born returned serviceman, and Tarella's famous scones, then a costumed BYO picnic and promenade at the park at Wentworth Falls Lake.

Be prepared for Blue Mountain's weather in Springtime- balmy, sultry, arctic or wet, you will find beautiful scenery. Bring camera, and coat!

Costume from Colonial times to Regency appreciated. Military uniforms always admired.

Further details and Registration form available from:

Caroline, 0439 314948, dba23266@bigpond.net.au

or on the website <http://regencyweekendandballwentworthfalls31.yolasite.com/>

Thank You to David De Santi

Secretary of Wongawilli Colonial Dance Club

At our Annual General Meeting David De Santi resigned from his position as Club Secretary, holding that position for 28 years since the club's inception.

David has been the prime mover in establishing this club and its ideals of promoting, performing and preserving the Australian music and dance tradition.

He has been the hall manager, involving administration required by council, including maintenance, compliance reports and dealing with the hiring of the hall.

On top of this he was our Publicity Officer and Public Officer.

His other duties included, publisher of music and dance books and CDs, entertainment and travel director, ideas man, Director of the Australian Folk Festival at Kiama and special event organiser. He is still our Music Director and organises guest artists and bands to perform at our dances.

David has rarely missed a Wednesday night dance at Wongawilli since its inception. He even came along when not feeling well or overwhelmed with other demands on his time and expertise.

The Wongawilli Colonial Dance Club wish to offer a vote of thanks to David for his dedicated and tireless years of service. It has been greatly appreciated.

Thank you David.

Wongawilli Colonial Dance Club Committee and members.



Photos: Mike Young

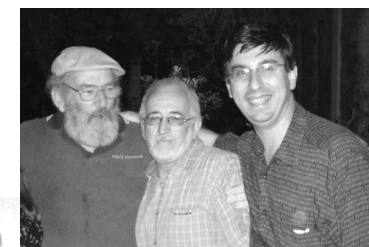


Photo: Ros Young



DUKE'S PLACE

**Australian Songs
in Concert & session**



Friday 9th October - Chloe & Jason Roweth

Gallipoli – “5 acres of pretty poor grazing country”

2015 Marks the 100th anniversary of what is known in Australia simply as "Gallipoli". Though the campaign has been discussed endlessly, no one knows more than those who were there. Strip away the legends, these are the songs, poems, stories and closest thoughts of those who took part. This presentation is in the style of a radio play - a continuous collage of contrasting points of view.

Friday 13th November - Mike Martin

Mike Martin has travelled the world as a musician singer/songwriter. He is a respected collector of Australian traditional dance music which he has spent many years recording, preserving, promoting and performing.

Friday 11th December - Christine Wheeler

Malt whisky voiced singer Christine Wheeler and skilled guitarist/bouzouki player Leigh Birkett got together 3 years ago to produce an album of Henry Lawson poetry set to music, described as 'a landmark in the interpretation of Australian folk song' by Graham McDonald of the National Film and Sound Archive. Chris' classic folk-style singing evokes comparisons with Maddy Prior and Joan Baez. Leigh's exceptional musical imagination on guitar and bouzouki overlays jazz chords onto a Celtic sound.

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.

**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

Pennant Hills Dance Activities

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

The Bush Music Club dance workshops in August focussed on the Maitland Ball dances. We were ably taught by Wendy Richmond who covered all the ball dances over four workshops. Our thanks go to Wendy for her time and expertise.

The last workshop in August taught a few of the dances from the Canberra Colonial Ball and the Central Coast September monthly dance. These included a Circassian Circle Medley (3 figures) and a Double Sir Roger de Coverley which was danced very well, the double strip-the-willow flowing beautifully.

In September we practiced the dances for the Central Coast Flannel Flower Ball, including the Alberts, Swing Waltz, Casuarina Waltz Quadrille, Maxwell's Rant, Marine Four Step, Queen of Sheba, Arkansas Traveller, Reel of the 51st Div., Coo-ee March and many others.

In October we will be practicing the dances for the November Central Coast dance and in November we will be practicing the dances for the Christmas Party. (Where has the year gone?) And remember, even if you are not attending these events, the practice sessions are good fun and give you a chance to learn the dances at a relaxed pace with plenty of dancers to help and a very friendly atmosphere. We welcome singles, couples and groups.

See you at Pennant Hills.

John Short

Programme October/November

MONDAY 7.30-10.30	THEME/DANCE STYLE
5 October	No Workshop - Long Weekend
12 October	Couples and Contras
19 October	Ragtime Dances, New and Old
26 October	Practice for November Central Coast Dance
2 November	Practice for November Central Coast Dance
9 November	Practice for November Central Coast Dance
16 November	Waltzes, Polkas and Schottisches
23 November	Practice for the Christmas Party
30 November	Practice for the Christmas Party

And, Clancy, you must catch them, and catch them early on.
Ride boldly, lad, and never fear the spills,
For never yet was rider that could pass the peloton,
If they're in front when they come down the hills.'
So Clancy rode to catch them – he was bent over the bars
And his feet flew round the cranks like bloody hell,
As he led the group of chasers – overtaking several cars
With the jolly sounds of tinkling from his bell.

But fast the town boys pedalled up the Coogee Bay Road slope
Where the eager watchers gathered on each side
And the old man muttered fiercely 'We haven't got a hope:
No man can catch them down the other side.'
On the Carrington Road summit, even Clancy took a pull,
It well might make the boldest whisper 'Jeez',
The slope was one in four and the bitumen was full
Of pot holes: you could slip and skin your knees.

But the man from Snowy River let the one-speed just freewheel,
And he turned his head around and gave a cheer,
And he passed some of the town boys as their brakes began to squeal,
While the bystanders looked on in very fear.
He sent the gravel flying, but the bicycle was sweet,
The potholes hardly bounced his rapid glide,
And The Man from Snowy River never shifted in his seat –
It was grand to see that mountain biker ride.

Through the red lights and the stop signs and the parked cars all around
Down the hillside at a tearing pace he went;
And he never pedaled backwards till he landed safe and sound,
At the bottom of that terrible descent.
He was right among the townies as they climbed Clovelly Hill,
And the watchers back in Coogee standing mute,
Saw his pedals turning madly, he was right among them still,
As he raced along up Brook Street in pursuit.

Then they lost him for a moment, where two Coogee gullies met
Up in Randwick, but a final glimpse reveals
On a dim and distant hillside the town boys racing yet,
With The Man from Snowy River at their wheels.
And as the shadows lengthened, he passed the thinning pack
Just taking on one rider at a time
Till he pedaled down the bay road, with the sunset at his back
And with daylight second, crossed the finish line.

But his trusty ladies' step-through looked a bit the worse for wear
With a sagging saddle and a twisted chain,
With crooked rims and ruptured tires and bearings glowing hot
It looked as though she'd never ride again.
So among the cappuccinos in the café by the Bay,
Where the men in lycra tell their stories tall
The Man from Snowy River is a household word today –
And that's his bike, there, hanging on the wall.

SINGABOUT

OCTOBER 2015

UPDATING PATTERSON

Professor Joe Wolf from the University of New South Wales researches the physics of the voice and musical instruments. In his spare time he also composes music and has penned a couple of modern versions of Banjo Patterson's most famous poems.

The inspiration for the first of these came from hand-made signs seen near Wyee, NSW simply saying 'shearer' and giving a mobile phone number...

clancy@theoverflow

I had written him a text
Which I'd sent, hoping the next
Time he came in mobile coverage
He'd have time to say hello.
But I'd heard he'd lost his iPhone,
So I emailed him from my phone,
Just addressed, on spec, as follows:
clancy@theoverflow

And the answer – redirected –
Wasn't quite what I'd expected
And it wasn't from the shearing mate
Who'd answered once before.
His ISP provider wrote it
And verbatim I will quote it:
'This account has been suspended:
You won't hear from him no more.'

In my wild erratic fancy
Visions come to me of Clancy:
Out of reach of mobile coverage
Where the Western rivers flow.
Instead of tapping on the small screen,
He'd be camping by the tall green
River gums – a pleasure
That the town folk never know.

Well, the bush has friends to meet him
But the rest of us can't greet him:
Out there, even Telstra's network
Doesn't give you any bars.
He can't blog the vision splendid
Of the sunlit plains extended
Or tweet the wondrous glory
Of the everlasting stars.

I am sitting at the keyboard
And I'm too stressed out to be bored
As I answer all the emails
By the deadlines they contain
While my screen fills with promotions
For 'Vlaggra' and strange potions
And announcements of the million-dollar
Prizes I can claim.

But the looming deadlines haunt me
And their harrying senders taunt me
That they need response this evening
For tomorrow is too late!
But their texts, too quickly ended,
Often can't be comprehended
For their writers have no time to think –
They have no time to wait.

And I sometimes rather fancy
That I'd like to trade with Clancy:
Just set up an email bouncer
Saying 'Sorry, had to go.'
While he faced in an inbox jamming
Up with deadlines and with spamming
As he signed off every message:
clancy@theoverflow

Joe Wolf with apologies to Banjo Patterson.
Poems subject to [Creative Commons License](#)

The Mountain Biker from Snowy River

Joe Wolf with apologies to Banjo Patterson

There were ripples on the lattes for the rumour had been spread
That a cash prize had been offered for the ride
That they did each Sunday morning – a thousand dollars, it was said –
And a row of fancy bikes was parked outside.
All the tried and noted riders from the city and the East
Had gathered there for brunch at ten a.m.
For the locals like hard riding – if it's followed by a feast –
And the Coogee slopes are made for such as them.

There was Henderson who made his name when racing Malvern Stars
The old man with his lycra faded white
Yet few could ride beside him when he took the handlebars
He could go wherever you could take a bike.
And Clancy of the Overflow came down to try his luck
No finer rider 'ere put foot on pedal
He still finished up the time trial on the day his brakes got stuck
And he crossed the finish line on smoking metal.

And one was there, a stripling, on a step-through ladies' frame
A one-speed with a springy leather seat
With a brake that you backpedalled when the time for stopping came
And rubber pedals underneath the feet.
But the man looked tough and wiry – just the sort that won't say die –
As the fastest road race riders often are
And his bike was built to take whatever came down from on high
– In the wicker basket on the handlebar.

But the frame was old and rusty, one would doubt its power to stay,
And the old man said, 'That bike will never do
For a long and tiring road race – lad, you'd better stop away,
These hills are far too rough for such as you.'
So he waited sad and wistful – only Clancy stood his friend –
'I think we ought to let him come,' he said;
'I warrant he'll be with us when he's wanted at the end,
For both his bike and he are mountain bred.'

'He hails from Snowy River, up by Kosciusko's side,
Where the hills are twice as steep and twice as rough,
Where a mountain bike would fall apart on every second ride,
And the man that holds his own is good enough.'
So he went, but on the first ascent, the town boys formed a clump
They cranked away, and shifted down to low
And the old man gave his orders, 'Boys, go at them from the jump,
No use to try for fancy riding now.'

December 2015

- Tue 1 **Playford at the Hut**
Hut 44, Addison Rd Centre Murrickville
- Sat 5 **Beecroft Bush Dance, Paddy's River**
Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft Rd
- Mon 7 **Pennant Hills Dance Workshop**
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd
- Mon 7 **Song & Music Session** Hut 44, ARCC, Murrickville
- Fri 11 **Duke's Place, Christine Wheeler**
Hut 44, ARCC, Murrickville
- Mon 14 **Song & Music Session** Hut 44, ARCC, Murrickville
- Mon 14 **Pennant Hills Dance Workshop**
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd
- Sat 19 **Ermington Bush Dance, Southern Cross**
Ermington Community Centre, 10 River Rd, Ermington
- Mon 21 **Song & Music Session** Hut 44, ARCC, Murrickville



MONDAY NIGHT SONG & MUSIC SESSION - CONCERT PARTY

General session for all musicians and singers - Mondays 7.30 pm, \$5.00
Held in Tritton Hall

This session also trains and practices the Bush Music Club's *Concert Party*, to perform as a working Bush Band.

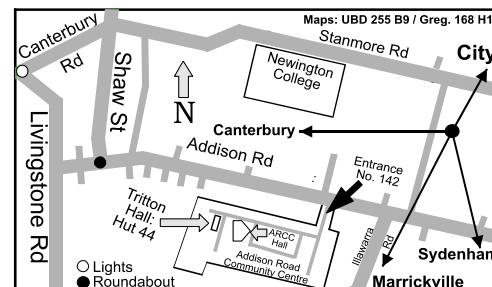
☎ Allen: 9639 7494

View our web site: < www.bushmusic.org.au >



OCTOBER — DECEMBER 2015

The Bush Music Club was formed in 1954 to promote awareness of Australian folk traditions. The Club does this by collecting, publishing and popularising our traditional songs, dances, music and folklore. Contemporary compositions in the traditional style are also encouraged.



TRITTON HALL

BUSH MUSIC CLUB HEADQUARTERS

Hut 44, Addison Road Community Centre
142 Addison Road, Murrickville

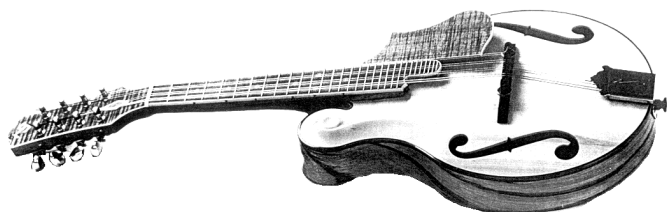
PUBLIC TRANSPORT :

- BUS:** 428 CANTERBURY
- Stops outside Centre
- 426 DULWICH HILL and
- 423 EARLWOOD
- Get off at Addison Road, walk
600m to Centre

TRAIN: To Newtown, then catch bus

October 2015

- Sat 3 **Beecroft Bush Dance, Snake Gully**
Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft Rd
- Mon 5 **No Song & Music Session**
- Mon 5 **No Pennant Hills Dance Workshop**
- Tue 6 **Playford at the Hut**
Hut 44, Addison Rd Centre Marrickville
- Fri 9 **Duke's Place, Chloe & Jason Roweth**
Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville
- Mon 12 **Pennant Hills Dance Workshop**
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd
- Mon 12 **Song & Music Session**
Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville
- Mon 19 **Song & Music Session**
Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville
- Mon 19 **Pennant Hills Dance Workshop**
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd
- Mon 26 **Pennant Hills Dance Workshop**
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd
- Mon 26 **Song & Music Session**
Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville



BEECROFT DANCE:

1st Saturday (February to December)
Beecroft Community Centre
Beecroft Road, Beecroft (Opp. Fire Station)
7:30 pm to 11:30pm - Supper provided
\$19.00 / \$17 conc / \$14 BMC members
☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594

ERMINGTON DANCE:

June/December
Ermington Community Centre, 10 River Rd
7pm—11pm
\$19.00 / \$17 conc / \$14 BMC members
☎ Enquiries: 0412 145 262

November 2015

- Mon 2 **Pennant Hills Dance Workshop**
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd
- Mon 2 **Song & Music Session**
Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville
- Tue 3 **Playford at the Hut**
Hut 44, Addison Rd Centre Marrickville
- Sat 7 **Beecroft Bush Dance, BMC Concert Party**
Beecroft Community Centre, Beecroft Rd
- Mon 9 **Song & Music Session**
Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville
- Mon 9 **Pennant Hills Dance Workshop**
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd
- Fri 13 **Duke's Place, Mike Martin**
Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville
- Mon 16 **Pennant Hills Dance Workshop**
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd
- Mon 16 **Song & Music Session**
Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville
- Mon 23 **Song & Music Session**
Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville
- Mon 23 **Pennant Hills Dance Workshop**
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd
- Mon 30 **Pennant Hills Dance Workshop**
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd
- Mon 30 **Song & Music Session**
Hut 44, ARCC, Marrickville

DANCE WORKSHOPS:

7.30pm Monday nights
Pennant Hills Community Centre, Yarrara Rd.
Both easy and more complicated bush dances.
A great social evening for beginners and
experienced. \$7
☎ Felicity: 9456 2860

DUKE'S PLACE:

2nd Friday (February to December)
Held in Tritton Hall
7.30 pm to 11:30pm.
Concert and Session
\$10, bring a plate.
☎ Sandra: 9358 4886