1									
H	AROUND THE BUSH MIUSIC SCENE								
Sep	1	7:30pm	Beecroft Bush Dance, BMC Concert Party						
Sep			Songlines Song Session						
0 Sep	4	7:30pm	Playford Dancing at the Hut						
0 Sep	7	7pm	The Addison Rd Sessions						
0 Sep	8	2pm	Poetry at the Hut						
Sep	8	7:30pm	Gosford Bush Dance, Social night						
Sep Sep			Sutherland Acoustic Night, Drizabone D & friends						
	14	7:30pm	Duke's Place, Russell Churcher						
Sep	14	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club						
Sep	16	2pm	Keith's Dance Workshop, Contra - Keith						
	21	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club						
Sep	22	2pm	Fundraising Concert for Cancer Research (see p10)						
Sep		8pm	Loaded Dog Folk Club, Traditional Graffiti + The Fossickers						
	22-23	3	Regency Weekend & Ball (see p10)						
Sep	28	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club						
Sep	29		Troubadour Folk Club, Alan Reid & Rob de Sante (Scotland)						
Sep	28 - 0	Oct 1	Bush Traditions Gathering						
Oct	2	7:30pm	Playford Dancing at the Hut						
Oct		7pm	The Addison Rd Sessions						
Oct	6	7:30pm	Beecroft Bush Dance, Stringfiddle						
Oct	7	7pm	Songlines Song Session						
Oct	11	7:30pm	Sutherland Acoustic Night, Geoffrey Graham + Mary Jane Field						
		7:30pm	Duke's Place, The Fossickers						
Oct		7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club						
Oct		2pm	Poetry at the Hut						
Oct	13	7:30pm	Gosford Bush Dance,						
			Flannel Flower Spring Ball with Short Dented Potts						
Oct		8pm	Hornsby Folk Club						
OCL	19 - 1		Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival						
		2pm	Keith's Dance Workshop, English Country						
Oct		7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club						
Oct Oct		8pm	Loaded Dog Folk Club, Andsome Friends + Nick Lock						
Oct		7pm	Troubadour Folk Club						
Nov		7pm	The Addison Rd Sessions						
Nov		7:30pm	Beecroft Bush Dance, Barangaroo						
Nov		7pm	Songlines Song Session						
Nov			Playford Dancing at the Hut						
Nov		7:30pm	Sutherland Acoustic Night						
Nov			Duke's Place, Ten Quid Poms						
Nov		7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club						
Nov		2pm	Poetry at the Hut						
Nov		7:30pm	Gosford Bush Dance, Social Night						
Nov	16	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club						
NT.	10	2	Joe & Harmony's Trippy Hippy Band + Jack Peck						
Nov		2pm	Keith's Dance Workshop, Contra - Rerun						
Nov		7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club						
Nov		8pm	Loaded Dog Folk Club,						
	24	7pm	Troubadour Folk Club						
See	page	14 for moi	re details of these events						
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MULGA WIRE INCLUDING SINGABOUT



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MULGA WIRE

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BUSH DANCES

September—December

BEECROFT Community Centre

Beecroft Road (opposite Fire Stn)

7:30pm—11:30pm

September 1 BMC Concert Party

October 6 Stringfiddle

November 3 Barangaroo

December 1 BMC Concert Party

Enquiries: Sigrid 9980 7077 Wilma 9489 5594

Dukes Place

September 14 Russell Churcher

October 12 The Fossickers

November 9 **Ten Quid Poms**

December 14 Songs of John Dengate

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:

Members of the Concert Party play at the Ball Picnic at Australiana Village, Wilberforce. Don Richmond, Ralph Pride and Bob Foggin.

Photo Mike Young

Concert Party News

The BMC Concert Party continues to maintain its enthusiasm and membership this year with performances at Kangaroo Valley, the Beecroft Dance and practices each Monday evening in Hut 44.

In July 2018, eight Concert Party musicians played for bush dances at the Sutherland Bush Dance group in Gymea with around 40 people in attendance. In addition, a number of members attended and performed at the Bush Dance gathering at Bundanoon in June's chilly winter weather.

With upcoming functions including fundraising events for Cancer Research in September and November 2018 along with the Beecroft Dance in both September and December, this must be regarded as a busy year once again for Concert Party members.

Allen Davis

CD REVIEW The Lies that Made Australia a CD by Keith McKenry

This review follows an earlier Bush Music Club appraisal of a book by Keith McKenry titled *More than a Life: John Meredith and the fight for Australian Tradition*. The CD moves on and, rather smoothly augments, Meredith's struggles to preserve the folk heritage. It is a combination of poetry, lies and yarns that linger and bind many of our traditions.

Using a clever methodology, McKenry recites and discusses Australian lies and myths with live audiences at both the National and Maldon Folk Festivals. His technique is to provide the people present with a named and numbered list of 27 "lies". He then requests any audience member to call out a number. At this point he announces the title of that "lie" and proceeds to recite a poem and/or provide his view of the lie. Very effective!

Examples of the lies include, inter alia, *Australia is a Classless Society*, *Asbestos, the Wonder Insulator* and *Captain Cook Discovered Australia*. The CD is redolent with pathos and humour. McKenry knows his subject well. He addresses all "lies" in a warm and comforting way, even the most confronting topics.

It is pleasing to note the inclusion of Duke Tritton's *The Sandy Hollow Line* and John O'Brien's *Said Hanrahan* along with 13 of Mc Henry's own compelling and enjoyable works.

This is a veritable cornucopia of ripping and revealing yarns. McKenry is to be congratulated for this work which should form part of Australia's literary heritage for generations yet unborn. *And that's no lie*.

Allen Davis

For Keith's CD contact him at fangedwombat@bigpond.com

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Event Details

Beecroft Bush Dance, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft
☐ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594

Bush Traditions Gathering, Hartigan Centre, Yass http://www.bushtraditions.org/

Duke's Place, Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville **☎** Sandra 9358 4886 See p8

Gosford Bush Dance, East Gosford Progress Hall

Anne Maree 0413 588 634 http://www.ccbdma.org/schedule.htm

Hornsby Folk Club, Beatrice Taylor Hall (in Willow Park), Edgeworth David Ave
■ Barry 9807 9497

Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival

http://www.kangaroovalleyfolkfestival.com.au/

Keith's Dance Workshop, Upper Hall, Pennant Hills Community Centre http://keith-wood.name/danceworkshops.html

Loaded Dog Folk Club, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre

■ Sandra 9358 4886

Playford Dancing at the Hut, Hut 44, Addison Rd Comm Centre, Marrickville

■ Julie 9524 0247 See p13

Poetry at the Hut, Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville **☎** Karen 9716 9660 See p7

Regency Weekend & Ball, Wentworth Falls See p10 http://regencyweekendandballwentworthfalls31.yolasite.com

Songlines Song Session, Australian Heritage Hotel, 100 Cumberland St, The Rocks **■** Jenny 9576 2301

Sutherland Acoustic, Tradies, Gymea

T Jenny 9576 2301



This has been another cold winter but it's good to see that numbers have been steady around the club's activities.

The club's Concert Party will be participating in a couple of Cancer Fund Raising activities in the coming months. Firstly, Saturday, 22nd September raising money for Cancer Research and Sunday 4th November in Lidcombe fund raiser for Bowel Cancer. I would encourage you all to support both activities

Here are a couple of dates for your calendar; Bush Traditions Gathering is on again, in Yass this year, on the October long weekend. This is always an enjoyable weekend and I'll be looking forward to seeing you all there. Also, Kangaroo Valley Festival, 19-21 October, is always enjoyable.

The club continues to have a full program, including our regular Beecroft Bush Dances, Poet's Corner, Addison Road Sessions (singing), the Irish Slow Sessions and Monday night dance and music workshops but to name a few so check out our calendar and come along.

Sharyn Mattern

Worth Noting	4	Playford / Regency Weekend & Ball	10
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Duke's Place	8	Event details	14
Singabout- "The Good Old Days"	S1-4	Concert Party News / CD Review	1.5
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Worth Noting

A chronicle of music in colonial Australia from 1542 to 1825 by **Dr Graeme Skinner**, Sydney University

These 4 pages are an open access work-in-progress to chronicle, in date order, all of the scarce documentary references to music and musicians in Australia, Indigenous and European, from earliest contacts until the end of 1825.

Entries are also included for some occasions in which music must certainly played a part, although there is no actual record of it, such as when it accompanied dancing, and civil, military, and religious ceremonies; and for some other important historical occasions when it is very likely to have done.

http://sydney.edu.au/paradisec/australharmony/chronicle1542-1800.php

http://sydney.edu.au/paradisec/australharmony/chronicle1801-1810.php

http://sydney.edu.au/paradisec/australharmony/chronicle1811-1820.php

http://sydney.edu.au/paradisec/australharmony/chronicle1821-1825.php

The chronology starts with a map of Australia that was published in 1542, & another interesting entry mentions 3 of the survivors from the wreck of the Batavia in 1629 were trumpeters.

Dancing keeps you young! A Melbourne couple who have been married for 66 years still hit the dancefloor every Saturday night. News item from the ABC:

http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-08-20/couple-married-for-66-years-say-cuckoodances-keeps-them-young/10119154

Heather Clarke's Exhibition: Dancing in fetters - the culture of convict dance at Redcliffe Museum, Brisbane

When we think of convicts, we don't tend to think of music and dance. But dance was an integral part of everyday life and one of the most popular forms of recreation in the early colony.

Exhibition developed by Moreton Bay Regional Council in partnership with dance historian, Heather Clarke.

https://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/subsite.aspx?id=173254

BMC's esteemed Life Member **Dave Johnson** will be Ross M Fear's studio guest on Tuesday 11 September 9-12pm on the Australian Spectrum Show at CCR, Hills Alive 90.5 FM or live-streamed.

http://alive905.com.au/ross-fear-australian-spectrum-show/

Mulga Wire: 2018 Publishing Deadlines

Item Deadline	To Printers	Folding Session
9 November	15 November	20 November
8 February	14 February	19 February

CANBERRA COLONIAL BALL and CONCERT SATURDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2018

by Antonella Salpietro

The Monaro Folk Society's annual Ball will be held in Canberra from 7:20pm on Saturday 1 September 2018 at the Albert Hall, Commonwealth Avenue, Yarralumla

Music by The Currawong Bush Band with John Short calling. The Currawong Bush Band has made regular appearances at various Monaro Folk Society (MFS) Dances over recent years. John Short is widely regarded as one of Australia's leading dance callers and composers.

This year we present a selection of dances from each of the States and Territories of Australia that highlight the vital role played by dance composers, dancers and choreographes in the development of social dancing in Australia.

Come and celebrate and dance back in time - and wear something funny, elegant, or unconventional and inspired by a State or Territory of Australia, maybe even just a pin with a floral emblem or the costume of a fauna emblem!

For all the details please see monarofolk.org.au

Photos taken by Canberra journalist Lyn Mills at the 2017 Colonial Ball are at: www.socialcapital.net.au/events/article/?id=monaro-folk-society-annual-colonial-ball-albert-hall

N.B. This year, as a joint initiative of the Monaro Folk Society and the Canberra Mandolin Orchestra (CMO) a grand concert will be held at the Albert Hall in the afternoon of the Colonial Ball (Saturday 1 September 2018.)

The concert will have an overall Australian flavour presenting a history of social dance in Australia from earliest colonial times until the new vogue era. It will involve the CMO playing a selection of dance tunes from that period together with demonstrations of various dances.

Concert discount tickets will be offered to Colonial Ball attendees More detailed information on the concert at CMO.org.au

Have you visited the **BMC Blog** recently? There are lots of new articles and photos of our activities over the past year. The address is:

http://bushmusicclub.blogspot.com.au or follow the link from the BMC website.

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Saturdays In The Casual Room - Megan Roweth

I first heard Megan recite about five years ago when she was lifted onto a chair so she could reach the microphone. It was Banjo Paterson's "Been There Before" and, at the time, I thought "what a wonderful rendition". Over the past five years it has been a delight to see and hear how much she has developed and become quite comfortable in her choice of material and its delivery. Five years of festivals, poet's breakfasts and concerts have given her the experience and aplomb to match, and quite often surpass, reciters of any age.

The CD itself is presented in a cardboard case with a well-designed cover (Megan's work) where most of the poems are represented as pictures on the wall in the "casual room". It literally invites you to pull up your favourite chair, make yourself comfortable and sit back and enjoy!!

From the selection of material on the album and Megan's ease of delivery, it seems fairly safe to assume that she has chosen the poems she wanted to record - the emotional connection to the poems in her delivery comes across as very natural and relaxed. You can tell that she has not only spent time learning the words but really thinking about the best way to deliver them to make the most of the listeners enjoyment. Well done Megan.

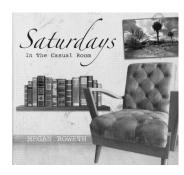
This CD is an absolute must for collectors of Australian poetry and for those who have never owned an album of poetry, a great opportunity to listen to a thoughtful mix of some well-known standards, some lesser known material and two of Megan's originals which are very powerful – belying her young age! It is a CD you will want to listen to often just to feel the different emotions of each track and listen to the tempo and warmth of Megan's voice.

It is very exciting to see new, young reciters enjoying and building on the resource that is Australian poetry. This is quite an exceptional album for someone so young and I am very much looking forward to her next offering!

Helen Romeo



Megan reciting from a chair at Kangaroo Valley Festival 2014. Photo: Sandra Nixon



https://www.rowethmusic.com.au/megan-roweth

Poet's Corner

The Woolshed Ball

They came from the stations near and far,

And they came from the fettlers' camps,

And the shed was bright with the flaring light

That shone from the swinging lamps;

The ladies nodded and wagged their heads

As they sat beside the wall

With the giggling girls, their hair in curls,

That came to the woolshed ball.

And the men stood round the door,

Or scraped candle on the floor,

While the fiddle quavered softly and the concertina crooned.

"Select yer partners for the first set! Prominaid. Prominaid!"

The men came up with a rolling gait;

But the younger ones were shy

In their slop-made suits and their heavy boots

And collars inches high;

And some wore spurs, and the Bathurst burrs

Had clung to their coloured tweeds;

But they pleased the girls, who'd their hair in curls

And their necks adorned with beads.

And the coloured tweeds were soiled

By the saddles newly oiled;

But they promenaded gaily till the fiddle found the note.

"Saloot partners! Double Hetty! An' half-right an' left."

There was swishing in and swishing out,

For the ladies' dresses trailed,

And a rustling sound as they whirled around

And the concertina wailed:

And iokes were flung as they swayed and swung

Or slipped on the greasy stands,

The nimble toe and the dull and slow,

Till the M.C. clapped his hands;

And the perspiration dripped

As the dancers gaily tripped

By the matrons gazing proudly on their daughters in the set.

"Places! An' order for Mister Mobbs's recitation. Ordah!"

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Then Mobbs recited a stirring tale,

'Twas of hunger, death and snow;

They said "Ongcore!" and shouted "More!"

But the boys velled "Let her go!"

Then the mothers crept where the babies slept

By the press or in the bin,

Where a sagging skirt or a misfit shirt

Was fixed with a safety-pin.

And the men went out to see

Were the horses getting free.

And some to take their socks off, for their boots began to pinch.

"Select partners for sirklir walse. An' Prominaid. Prominaid!"

The old and young got to their feet

And the tunes were sweet and new.

'Twas "After the Ball": then, best of all.

Came "Two Little Girls in Blue."

And the pace was fast as they circled past

The fiddler in his chair,

And some of the dancers sang the words

And some of them hummed the air.

Then the girls hung close and tight,

Goggling eyes with all their might,

While the older ones were winded and were trooping to their seats.

"Balance an' reverse. Prominaid to supper. Prominaid. Prominaid!"

The tables creaked with the loads they bore

Of beef and mutton and sweets,

Dry-salted ham and home-made jam,

And the wool-bales did for seats;

All round the shed and overhead

Were wattle and gum-tree leaves -

They laughed and joked, for the tea was smoked,

And the men rolled up their sleeves.

Then a veteran made a speech

Praising all and thanking each,

This disturbed a friendly 'possum that was camping up above.

"Miss Giles will oblige the company with a song. 'Sweet Maree' Ordah!"

..................................... *****************

Traditional Irish Music 'Slow Session'

The Sydney Slow Session is a place where musicians can learn a new Irish Folk tune each week at a pace that suits beginners and intermediate players.

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

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

Enquiries: Aisleen <aisleenevans@gmail.com> https://www.facebook.com/SydneySlowSession/

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

Bush Music Club **Beecroft Bush Dance**



7:30pm - 11:30pm *Note start time* **Beecroft Community Centre** Beecroft Road (cnr Copeland Rd) Cost: \$19 Adult, \$14 BMC Members Includes supper

Sat September 1 - BMC Concert Party

Sat October 6 - Stringfiddle

Sat November 3 - Barangaroo

Sat December 1 - BMC Concert Party

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:

> Woolworths Thornleigh AMS Hair Studio Thornleigh La Thai Restaurant Thornleigh Topiary Café Epping Westleigh Quality Meats Westleigh

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Playford Dancing at the Hut

Next meeting:

Tues 4th September 7:30pm to 9:30pm

The Bush Music Club is hosting Sydney Playford dancing in our headquarters:

Hut 44 (Tritton Hall)

Addison Road Community Centre, Marrickville

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month (except January). There will be live music as often as possible.

Cost \$7

For more information contact: Julie Bishop 9524 0247

REGENCY WEEKEND & BALL

Wentworth Falls September 22/23

INFO: Caroline 0439 314 948

http://regencyweekendandballwentworthfalls31.yolasite.com

FACEBOOK: Wentworth Falls Regency Weekends

Fundraising Concert for Cancer Research

There will be a concert to raise funds for Cancer Research. Cost is \$10 (and \$5 for accompanying booklet.) Tea and coffee provided. Please bring a small plate to share. Proceeds to Australian Cancer Research Foundation.

Where: Tritton Hall (Hut 44), Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville.

When: 2-4pm Saturday 22nd September.



★ Maria SALMON ★ ★ Don TRITTON★ ★ Christine MILLER★

Making Direct Deposit Payments (Membership/Shop/Ball)

Direct Deposit details:

BSB: 062-005

Acct: 0090 7524 (Commonwealth bank)

Ref: Member's Name

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, filled out online, or scanned and sent by email.

Polka, quadrille and circular waltz,

Till the dawn came up the shutes,

With measured beat the aching feet

Ragged round in the heavy boots;

Then "Ladies' Chain" to an old refrain

When the lamps were burning low,

And the sky was grey with the break of day

And the stars began to go.

Patient horses gnawed the rails,

Hunched their backs and jammed their tails;

For the break of day was chilly and their hair stood up on end.

"Should old erquaintence be forgot Hin the days uv old lang zyne."

Then the harness straps were buckled,

And the traps were turned around,

But a joke was played, and rugs mislaid

Then a search till they were found.

And the young ones wait, by rail or gate,

And some of the girls (with their hair in curls)

Hang back for a parting kiss

And when they get away

It is past the break of day,

And the horses need no urging when their heads are facing home.

"Whoa back, Blossom! Bail up, Rose! Bail up! Bail up!"

By **Jim Grahame** (from *Under Wide Skies*) reprinted with permission.

Note: 'slop-made suits' is a slang term for ready-made or off-the-shelf clothing.

POETRY anyone?

Enjoy reciting a poem? Sharing a poem with others?

Perhaps writing your own poems? Brushing up on performing some 'bush' poetry? If so, you are very welcome to come along. A contribution to go with afternoon tea would be appreciated.

Where: The BMC Hut at Marrickville, Addison Rd. When: Saturday 2pm to 4pm - Sep 8, Oct 13, Nov 10

Cost: \$5 or gold coin donation

Contact: Karen (02) 9716 9660 OR fongs@bigpond.net.au

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DUKE'S PLACE

Australian Songs in Concert & session



Usually 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 14th September - Russell Churcher

Russell's first festival performance was as a lead soloist in Peter Bellamy's folk opera 'The Transports' at the 1988 National Folk Festival. He has supported touring performers such as Foster and Allen, Jimmy Little and John Williamson and has performed in front of the Prince of Wales, The Duke Of York and many other well-known hotels. For a number of years he was resident entertainer, penny-farthing cyclist and shingle-splitter at Timbertown theme park Wauchope. In recent times he has performed with Dave de Santi in the duo 'Rusty and The Saint'.

http://www.russellchurcher.com.au/

Friday 12th October - The Fossickers

Five Sydney lasses who sing Australian and traditional folk, sea shanties, gospel, waulking, working and women's songs. They recently performed at the James Craig and will also be appearing at the Loaded Dog Folk Club.

https://www.facebook.com/thefossickers/

Friday 9th November - Ten Quid Poms

John Warner and Robin Connaughton have been performing together for many years as members of the *Roaring Forties*. As a duo they are the *Ten Quid Poms*, performing contemporary and traditional music including some of their own material. Witty incisive commentators on industrial, political and social issues.

 $\underline{https://www.facebook.com/The-Ten-Quid-Poms-975426715865311/}$

Friday 14th December - Songs of John Dengate

..with his friends Ralph Pride, Chris Maltby & Miguel Heatwole. Ralph learnt his songs from The Master starting in the early 60s, Chris & Miguel picked them up from hearing John in later years at singing sessions & concerts, and by reading his books. All have added verses to John's songs in true folk style, & Miguel has arranged some for choirs. Ralph is working on a John Dengate songbook for use by Concert Party and at future festivals.

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

The August workshops were busy as we practiced the dances for both the New Sydney Ball (25th August) and the Canberra Ball (1st September). For the Canberra Ball the challenging dances were "John McDouall Stuart" (a Scottish Strathspey) and "Double Sir Roger de Coverley". For the New Sydney Ball, David Potter taught for two of the workshops to ensure we were up to speed with the dances on that program. Thanks David!

In September we will be practicing the dances for the Gosford Flannel Flower Spring Ball, always a great event with a good selection of interesting dances. This year the featured "historic" dance will be the (original) "King's Waltz", named after King George V.

In October we will be learning the dances for both the Beecroft and Gosford November dances. The band playing for the BMC's Beecroft dance will be the Barangaroo Bush Band, playing again for only the second time after their successful world premiere last year.

In November we will be practicing for the Pennant Hills Dance Workshop Christmas Party.

Plenty of dancing at the Pennant Hills dance workshop! See you there!

John Short

Programme September/October/November

MONDAY 7.30–10.30	THEME/DANCE STYLE
3 September	Mixed Dance Workshop
10 September	Practice for the Gosford Flannel Flower Ball
17 September	Practice for the Gosford Flannel Flower Ball
24 September	Practice for the Gosford Flannel Flower Ball
1 October	No Workshop - October long weekend
8 October	Last Practice for the Gosford Flannel Flower Ball
15 October	Practice for the November Beecroft and Gosford Dances
22 October	Practice for the November Beecroft and Gosford Dances
29 October	Practice for the November Beecroft and Gosford Dances
5 November	Practice for the November Gosford Dance
12 November	Mixed Dance Workshops
19 November	Mixed Dance Workshops
26 November	Practice for the Pennant Hills dance workshop Christmas Party

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