

SINGABOUT

MARCH 2019

THE BANNER

Our secretary, Sandra Nixon has been spending many hours going through the club archives to piece together more of the early history of the Bush Music Club. The banner, which appears on the front cover of *Mulga Wire*, has been framed and is now back in Tritton Hall.

The Story of the Banner

Dale Dengate made the banner when Concert Party was heading to the Easter 1968 Tuena Gold Rush Festival, as the Club didn't have a banner. She was pregnant with Lachlan, who was born on the 3rd April - 9 days before the Festival. She had taken it to hospital with her, but didn't quite finish it with a baby and a toddler to fill her time - one letter is still tacked!

The banner was made of materials available in most households of the day - headcloth (used for children's clothes & sewing projects at school), bias binding and felt, and hung using an old gym cord.

The Club was awarded a sash, and another one on their return trip in 1969, and these sashes were attached to the banner. A pennant from another visit, to the 4th Grabben Gullen Sapphire Safari in 1971 was also attached to the banner.

A photo from the 1969 parade with Dale sitting on the tail of the truck featured in *Woman's Day*, October 1969, and on the cover of the Dept. of Health's *Health in New South Wales* magazine, Summer 1972. The lagerphonist, Elaine Wood (nee) Thornhill is wearing one of the Tuena sashes.

Information about the visits to Tuena is found in our 1968 & 1969 newsletters.

April 1968 - Concert Party will be at Tuena Gold Rush Celebrations Easter weekend. Celebrations include a beard growing competition.

May 1968 - Concert Party participated in Tuena Gold Rush procession & won a sash for best float. Flute player almost fell off the float on a steep embankment!

Aug 1968 - Concert Party has been booked for Tuena again so cannot attend Morton Bay Folk Festival Easter 1969. Incidentally there are some excellent photos of the group at Tuena taken last Easter by Morris.

May 1969 - Report on Tuena which was a great success & the Club won another ribbon for our banner in the procession. Banner will probably be used twice again this year - Argyle Centenary celebrations on May 10th, & Waratah Festival. Club members met new members Bill Woolard, Mr & Mrs Leadbeater at Tuena - Charlie Leadbeater played at Lyndhurst country balls & provided his calls for The Lancers.

In between visits to Festivals & other events, the banner lived at the Dengate house until it moved to Tritton Hall where it gathered dust between outings, and eventually moved to the Bolton household.

It surfaced again in the run up to our 60th Anniversary and I cleaned and repaired it and mounted it on a strong old linen sheet for use again. It was stored rolled up in acid free tissue until it was recently framed and is now back in the Hut.

Further detail is available on our blog.

Sandra Nixon



Detail showing the letter still tacked in place (now part of history) *Photo: Sandra Nixon*



Banner at a Rouseabouts performance.



Health Dept. coverage of the Bush Music Club at Tuena in 1969 - banner can be seen top left with a glimpse of the 1968 sash. Dale Dengate is seated on the left playing the bones with Jamie Carlin in the middle and Elaine Wood on lagerphone behind him wearing the 1969 sash.

Alec Bowker performing at a Singabout night in the BWIU building with the banner proudly displayed on the wall.



Enthusiasts go “bush” to revive our culture

By MARY FALLOON



Wearing simple colonial-style dress, members of the Bush Music Club took part in the annual gold rush celebrations last Easter at Tuena, N.S.W.

The Woman’s Day headline and picture of the Tuena visit.

On the subject of banners, the following piece was published in the Nambucca and Bellinger News, 14 Sep 1934, page 4.

It is an Election Poem and can be found on Trove - <https://trove.nla.gov.au>

Quite a different way of spruiking your party's merits than those we see today! For those who might not remember, C.P. here stood for the Country Party, in the days before they became the Nationals.

LIFT YOUR LEADER'S BANNER HIGH !

Countrymen of Cowper ! lift your Leader's banner high,
Rally to your Party's cause now the Federal fight is nigh.
Give him what a Chieftain needs who leads a loyal clan.
The chorus of your battle song: "We're C.P. to a man."

From your rugged northern border your chosen Leader came
Where the mighty Clarence River swept him on the crest of fame,
Till his name became the symbol of Australia's greatest cause—
Now's the time to do him honour with the thunder of applause.

He lit your hard won homesteads with Nymboida's magic light —
Still worries out your problems from dawn of day till night.
in his love for our Australia and the Man upon the Land
He plans his life for service, and he offers all his hand.

Despite the lies and libels of a biased City Press
His gifts as Federal Treasurer still remain to bless;
And Australia's gallant victory over chaos and despair
Is due to Page's sound finance when times were free from care.

Oh ye Countrymen of Cowper — Now's the time to vote him thanks,
Let loud and long the cheer go up out of Cowper's ranks.
And with your record figures fling down a fearless gage —
Tell Australia that you're proud of her great statesman, Doctor Page !

—STUART GARDINER,
Bobbin Head Road, Pymble.