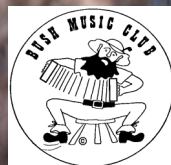


# MULGA WIRE

INCLUDING  
SINGABOUT



No. 252  
Registered by Australia Post

December 2019  
Publication PP 100001235

ISSN 2207-7413 (online)  
ISSN 0157 - 3381

# MULGA WIRE

**EDITORS of MULGA WIRE are:**

Mike Young 0428 223 033 - mike55young@tpg.com.au

Colin Fong 9716 9660(h) - c.fong@unsw.edu.au

**President:** Sharyn Mattern 9799 7439 (h)

**Vice President:** Don Richmond 0409 126 754

**Secretary:** Sandra Nixon 9358 4886 (h)

**Treasurer:** Allen Davis 9639 7494 (h)



**MULGA WIRE** appears quarterly. Unsolicited articles should be submitted four weeks prior to publication. Email articles to the editors or mail to GPO Box 433, Sydney 2001.

**MULGA WIRE** is sent free to members of the Bush Music Club Inc and costs \$2.00 or \$3.00 (posted) per issue to others. Subscription is \$15 per annum, including postage.

Except where it is indicated that copyright is reserved, all articles in **MULGA WIRE** may be freely reprinted, provided that source and author are clearly acknowledged.

Views expressed herein are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Club or Editorial staff.

**MULGA WIRE** is not possible without the support of those members who prepare the magazine for posting.

**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 prior to publication, or by prior arrangement with the Editors.

**MULGA WIRE** is printed by Unique Print, 154 Broadway, Chippendale.

## BUSH DANCES December-March

### BEECROFT Community Centre

Becroft Road (opposite Fire Stn)

7:30pm—11:30pm

December 7 **BMC Concert Party**

-

February 1 **Ryebuck Bush Band**

March 7 **Sydney Coves**

Enquiries: Sigrid 9980 7077  
Wilma 9489 5594

### Dukes Place

December 21 **Shortis & Simpson**

-

February 14 TBC

March 13 TBC

---

### 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](http://www.bushmusic.org.au)**

### Cover:

Joanna Roweth's contribution to the Junior Reciter of the Year competition at Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival.

Photo Sandra Nixon



Another year is coming to an end but the club still has a busy time in the lead up to Christmas.

The Beecroft Christmas Dance will be held on Saturday, 7th December and the Monday night Pennant Hills Dance Workshop Christmas Party is on 9th December with the BMC Concert Party is providing the music for both celebrations, so come along and join us as we celebrate Christmas the BMC way!

The Sutherland Shire Bush Dance Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday 4th December and the night is always enjoyable.

Also, don't forget the Gulgong Folk Festival which is held over the New Year.

Thank you to all members and volunteers who helped make this year such a success and have a wonderful Christmas and New Year and looking to catch up with you all in 2020.

*Sharyn Mattern*

Worth Noting	4	Playford	10
Youth Bush Band	5	Irish / Bush Dances	11
Poets Corner	6	Pennant Hills Christmas Party	12
Concert Party at Gymea	7	Gulgong Folk Festival	13
Duke's Place	8	Event details	14
Singabout- "The Other Bush Music Club"	S1-4	Concert Party News	15
Pennant Hills Dance Workshop	9	Around the Bush Music Scene	16

## Worth Noting

**Harp Therapists** are employed at a number of hospitals and in many aged care facilities, and now have been used to calm horses in bushfire areas:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-11-16/doctor-plays-harp-to-calm-horses-at-bushfire-evacuation-centre/11703944>

**Festival of Small Halls** - 'You can feel the history': the music festival reviving old community halls

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2019/nov/05/you-can-feel-the-history-the-music-festival-reviving-old-community-halls>

**Rob and Olya Willis** have just been awarded the Australasian Sound Recording Association (ASRA) award for 2019 for 'Their Outstanding Contribution to Oral History Collecting and Recording'. The Association is made up of private record collectors, professional sound archivists, radio broadcasters and social historians, consisting of individuals and institutions with a strong interest in sound recording history, its development and all related activities.

Previous winners include academics, June Bronhill, Slim Dusty and John Meredith. This is a great recognition of the dedicated work Rob and Ollie have done over many years in documenting and preserving oral history, folklore and the culture of everyday life.

Congratulations Rob and Ollie and watch out for more of their work on the Verandah Music blog and Youtube channel.

**Gulgong Folk Festival** (see p13) will have two songwriting competitions: one is a political parody competition; and the other is a new one for a general song written in 2019.

We have bid a final farewell to **Donna McLaren** who passed away in October.

YouTube has an episode of an early folk music TV program **Just Folk**, hosted by Gary Shearston, featuring Danny Spooner and Colin Dryden.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HHVCaKqhPBc>

## Upcoming Festivals

Woodford	27 Dec - 1 Jan	<a href="http://www.woodfordfolkfestival.com">www.woodfordfolkfestival.com</a>
Gulgong	29-31 Dec	<a href="http://www.gulgongfolkfestival.net.au">www.gulgongfolkfestival.net.au</a>
Illawarra	16-19 Jan	<a href="http://www.illawarrafolkfestival.com.au">www.illawarrafolkfestival.com.au</a>
Cobargo	28 Feb - 1 Mar	<a href="http://www.cobargofolkfestival.com">www.cobargofolkfestival.com</a>
Sandford	6-8 Mar	<a href="http://www.sandfordfestival.com">www.sandfordfestival.com</a>



Our **Bush Music Club Youth Bush Band** will be playing at the 2020 National Folk Festival in Canberra.

Other Bush Music Club members are involved in the following acts at the National:

Australian & Colonial Folk Dancers

Chloe & Jason Roweth with Matt Nightingale

Dividing Range Dancers

The Heritage Ensemble

Keith Wood and Pastrami on Ryebuck

Margaret & Bill Winnett

## **Have you got time for a bit of a chat?**

We have nearly passed the 65th Year of the Bush Music Club and our 70th is just around the corner. The Club has decided it is time to collect all those special memories of people and events. It would just be a friendly chat to talk about old times (and new times). Hopefully from this the Club will be able to publish these reminiscences for the 70th Birthday Celebrations. You don't need to have been President of the Club (but that would be good), everyone has stories to tell and we would love to hear them. We need to hear from dancers, reciters and the musicians.

If you are interested in contributing to this project and would like more information contact Kerry: [mandokerry@gmail.com](mailto:mandokerry@gmail.com) or 0409 600 949.

## *Poet's Corner*

### **Famous or Infamous Aussie Expats**

By Dot Newland

Aussies come in many forms  
Some become expatriates,  
The way of life is never smooth  
Ambition is a cannon loose.

Famous Aussie exports,  
Expats from this land,  
Some of them are famous stars  
And others bad or mad.

Hoges, an Aussie battler  
Once hung from the Harbour Bridge  
Then he slid to US stardom,  
A hero in Hollywood.

Nicole, Keith and Hugh, stars  
And others come to mind,  
In sport there was Shane,  
And in newspapers, Rupert too.

But politics and warfare paint  
A world with extremes,  
Prakash recruited fighters  
Bound for Syria with Isis,

And he in a Christchurch mosque  
Whose acts of terror, shame  
So heinous- not one of us  
Will dare to speak his name.

Expat Aussies on the rampage  
Hiding around the world  
Should we bring them back here  
Or protect our Aussie herd?

George Pell had Cardinal virtues  
Devotion, holy esteem.  
He lived & worked in Rome  
But then the cracks appeared

He was extradited, returned  
Home to Aussie land  
Facing charges, victims voices  
Childhood traumas, angst.

But spare a thought for Aussies  
Who might have gone astray  
Assange exposing injustice  
Exposing military games

Whistle blowers for justice,  
Heroes for victims maimed  
Bravely standing for human rights  
But persecuted in jails

Famous Aussie exports,  
Expats from this land,  
Some of them are famous stars  
And others bad or sad.



★ Evan & Lyn MATHIESON★  
★ Maggie TARANAYAN★  
★ Richard & Charmaine GARRETT★  
★ Peter GEELAN-SMALL & Sandra ROGERS★

## POETRY anyone?

Enjoy reciting a poem or sharing one with others? Perhaps writing your own poems? Performing some 'bush' poetry? If so, you are most welcome to come along. A contribution to go with afternoon tea would be appreciated.

**When:** Usually **second** Saturday of the month, 2pm to 4pm

Remaining date for **2019:** Dec 14. Dates for **2020:** (No poetry in Jan), Feb 8, Mar 14, (no poetry in Apr - Easter), May 9, Jun 13, Jul 11, Aug 8, Sep 12, Oct 10, Nov 14, Dec 12.

**Cost:** \$5

**Where:** Tritton Hall, Hut 44, Addison Road Centre, 142 Addison Rd, Marrickville.

**Contact:** Karen 0432 527 737 (text messages ONLY) OR fongs@bigpond.net.au

## The Addison Rd Singing Session

We're a hotchpotch group of folk singers who meet once a month to share songs and we welcome newcomers.

Songs with choruses are popular; unaccompanied is fine, but bring an accompanying instrument if you wish.

**Time:** 7pm, First Friday of the month (October cancelled - long weekend)

**Venue:** Tritton Hall (Hut 44),

Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville

**Cost:** Gold coin donation (or note)

**Contact:** Glenys 0419 862 005



Concert Party playing for the Gynea Bush Dance. L-R Di Clifford, Allen Davis, Mark Poleson, Ralph Pride, Nancy Nicholls, Eric Eisler and John Burch.

Photo supplied by Allen Davis.

# 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

## Saturday 21st December - Shortis & Simpson

Dates for 2020:

Friday 14th February

Friday 13th March

Friday 17th April

Friday 8th May

Friday 12th June

Friday 10th July

Friday 8th August

Friday 11th September

Friday 9th October

Friday 13th November

Friday 11th December

Canberra's leading musical satirists  
**Shortis and Simpson**  
proudly present  
**How good is 2019!**  
A satirical look at the events and characters  
of the year we've almost survived  
**Saturday December 21**  
8pm show - Tickets at the door \$10  
BYO drinks and shared supper  
Bush Music Club, Tritton Hall  
Hut 44, Addison Road Centre  
142 Addison Road, Marrickville

## Mulga Wire: 2020 Publishing Deadlines

Item Deadline	To Printers	Folding Session
7 February	13 February	18 February
8 May	14 May	19 May



## Pennant Hills Dance Activities

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

The dance workshop has been busy over the past few months, practicing for the New Sydney Ball, the Central Coast Ball and the Beecroft dances.

Our next event is the Pennant Hills workshop Christmas party planned for Monday 9th December. We will have the BMC Concert Party providing the music and a great night is guaranteed. Please bring a small plate of food or a drink to share. As usual, if this is your first night at Pennant Hills, entry is free. If you haven't been to the workshop for a while, come and join us on this special night.

The Christmas Party is not our last gettogether for the year. On Monday 16th December we will be holding our annual request night. Come along and request your favourite dance.

Our first workshops for 2020 will be held on Monday 13th and Monday 20th January. However these will not be held in the Pennant Hills Community Centre, as the building is closed for maintenance during January. We are trying to hire the Pennant Hills Learning and Leisure Centre (6 Warne Street, walking distance from the Community Centre) for these two workshops but unfortunately this hasn't been confirmed at this time. Please check the BMC website in mid-December for the latest update.

From Monday 3rd February we will be back in the Pennant Hills Community Centre and looking forward to a new year of dancing.

*John Short*

### Programme December/January/February

MONDAY 7.30–10.30	THEME/DANCE STYLE
<b>2 December</b>	Practice for the Christmas Party
<b>9 December</b>	Christmas Party with the <i>BMC Concert Party</i>
<b>16 December</b>	Request Night. Last workshop of the year.
<b>13 January</b>	Welcome Back Workshop (check BMC website for location)
<b>20 January</b>	Back into the Swing Workshop (check website for location)
<b>27 January</b>	<b>Public Holiday. No workshop</b>
<b>3 February</b>	Back in the Pennant Hills Community Centre
<b>10 February</b>	More dancing
<b>17 February</b>	More dancing
<b>24 February</b>	More dancing

## Playford Dancing at the Hut

Next meetings:

**Tues 3rd Dec** 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

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.

## 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**

### **Making Direct Deposit Payments (Membership/Shop/Ball)**

**Direct Deposit details:**

**BSB: 062-005**

**Acct: 0090 7524 (Commonwealth bank)**

**Ref: Member's Name & payment purpose**

**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.

## 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 Centre, 142 Addison Rd, Marrickville.

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

**Enquiries:** Colum <colum.hickey@gmail.com>  
<https://www.facebook.com/SydneySlowSession/>

## 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 December 7 - *BMC Concert Party*

**2020**

Sat February 1 - *Ryebuck Bush Band*

Sat March 7 - *Sydney Coves*

## 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

**Dan Murphys**

**La Thai Restaurant** Thornleigh

**Topiary Café** Epping

**Westleigh Quality Meats** Westleigh



*Everyone is invited to-*

**The Pennant Hills Dance Workshop  
Christmas Party**

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019  
7.30pm to 9.30pm**

**Music by the BMC  
Concert Party.**

An enjoyable evening of Bush Dancing and traditional music is guaranteed. Our hall is air conditioned.

If you were previously a regular at Pennant Hills but have not danced with us lately, why not come along for this special night.

Tea and Coffee supplied.  
Please bring your own mug and  
a small plate to share.

Entry is only \$7 (Free for first timers).

To be held at:  
The Pennant Hills Community Centre & Library,  
Yarrara Road, Pennant Hills.  
(Opposite the railway station.)

We are in the downstairs hall, enter through the  
doors in the car park.



# GULGONG FOLK FESTIVAL

29-31 DECEMBER 2019

## THE BUSHWACKERS

ably supported by **Gleny Rae**

**OTHER ACTS ARE ...**

**Mountain Dew Band LINDA MIZZI**

**ALPHA STOMP Snez**

**Stu Tyrrell THE THOMSONS**

**PETER VADIVELOO Luke Robinson**

**Annie Cee VIRAGO**

**DEAN DEE Ron van der Swaag**

*and other wonderful musical performers!*

**HISTORIC GULGONG TOWN IN CENTRAL NSW**

**Come along and enjoy ...**


workshops markets open mic sessions busking Steinway piano recital songwriting competitions

choices in accommodation (BOOK IN EARLY) Red Hill bookings Di Clifford 0458 032 150

*Volunteer opportunities to earn a free Festival ticket!*

**TryBooking** is the Festival ticket on-line seller of choice

[www.gulgongfolkfestival.com.au](http://www.gulgongfolkfestival.com.au)

 Like us on Facebook!

Contact Di Clifford for further Festival information: [di.clifford@gmail.com](mailto:di.clifford@gmail.com)

## Event Details

**Addison Rd Singing Session**, Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville

☎ Glenys 0419 862 005 See p5

**Beecroft Bush Dance**, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft

☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594

**Cobargo Folk Festival**

<http://www.cobargofolkfestival.com/>

**Duke's Place**, Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville

☎ Sandra 9358 4886 See p8

**End of Year Folk Bash**, Gaelic Club (upstairs), 1/64 Devonshire St, Surry Hills

<https://folkfednsw.org.au/event/end-of-year-folk-bash-3/>

**English Country Dancing at the Hut**, Hut 44, Addi Rd Com Centre, Marrickville

☎ David 0413 210 789

**Gosford Bush Dance**, East Gosford Progress Hall

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

**Gulgong Folk Festival**

<https://www.gulgongfolkfestival.net.au/>

**Hornsby Folk Club**, Beatrice Taylor Hall (in Willow Park), Edgeworth David Ave

☎ Barry 9807 9497

**Illawarra Folk Festival**

<http://illawarrafolkfestival.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

**Sandford Bush Festival**

<https://www.sandfordfestival.com/>

**Songlines Song Session**, Australian Heritage Hotel, 100 Cumberland St, The Rocks

☎ Jenny 9576 2301

**Sutherland Acoustic**, Tradies, Gynea

☎ Jenny 9576 2301

**Sydney English Country Dance**

<https://englishcountrydancesydney.com>

**Toongabbie Music Club**, 17 Whitehaven Rd, Northmead

☎ 9639 7494

**Troubadour Folk Club**, CWA Hall, The Boulevarde, Woy Woy

☎ Michael 4342 6716

**Woodford Folk Festival**

<https://woodfordfolkfestival.com/>

## Concert Party News

The Concert Party has not performed in public since the previous report, however the remainder of 2019 contains a packed program (refer details below ).

Individual Concert Party members continue to promote BUSH MUSIC through performances in various folk clubs and at retirement village and nursing homes (among other venues).

### Upcoming Events:

Sat 7th Dec - HoboGro in the Great Hall, Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville

Wed 4th Dec - Sutherland Shire Dance Group Christmas Party at Gymea.

Sat 7th Dec - BMC dance at Beecroft Community Hall.

Mon 9th Dec - our annual outing to play for the dance workshop Christmas Party at Pennant Hills.

*Allen Davis & Eric Eisler*



Concert Party members playing for Polio Australia. Photo supplied by Allen Davis

## AROUND THE BUSH MUSIC SCENE - See p14 for details

Dec	1	6pm	Songlines Song Session
Dec	3	7:30pm	<b>Playford Dancing at the Hut</b>
Dec	7	7:30pm	<b>Beecroft Bush Dance, BMC Concert Party</b>
Dec	8	1.30pm	End of Year Folk Bash - Folk Federation of NSW
Dec	12	7:30pm	Sutherland Acoustic Night
Dec	13	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Dec	14	2:30pm	Sydney English Country Dance
Dec	14	7:30pm	Gosford Bush Dance, Christmas Contra with <i>Pastrami on Ryebuck</i>
Dec	14	7pm	Troubadour Folk Club, <i>A Hawaiian Christmas</i>
Dec	17	7:30pm	English Country Dancing at the Hut
Dec	20	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club, <i>Shortis &amp; Simpson</i>
Dec	21	7:30pm	<b>Duke's Place, Shortis &amp; Simpson</b>
Dec	29-31		Gulgong Folk Festival (see p13)
Dec	27 - Jan 1		Woodford Folk Festival
Jan	16-19		Illawarra Folk Festival
Jan	17	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club
Jan	24	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Feb	1	7:30pm	<b>Beecroft Bush Dance, Ryebuck Bush Band</b>
Feb	1	7pm	Troubadour Folk Club, <i>Steve Turner (UK)</i>
Feb	2	6pm	Songlines Song Session
Feb	4	7:30pm	<b>Playford Dancing at the Hut</b>
Feb	7	7pm	<b>Addison Rd Singing Session</b>
Feb	7	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Feb	8	2pm	<b>Poetry at the Hut</b>
Feb	8	7:30pm	Gosford Bush Dance
Feb	13	7:30pm	Sutherland Acoustic Night
Feb	14	7:30pm	<b>Duke's Place</b>
Feb	16	2:30pm	Sydney English Country Dance
Feb	17	2pm	Keith's Dance Workshop
Feb	19	7:30pm	English Country Dancing at the Hut
Feb	21	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club
Feb	21	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Feb	22	7:30pm	Loaded Dog Folk Club
Feb	29	7pm	Troubadour Folk Club, <i>Mic Conway with Robbie Long</i>
Feb	28 - Mar 1		Cobargo Folk Festival
Mar	7	7:30pm	<b>Beecroft Bush Dance, Sydney Coves</b>
Mar	6-8		Sandford Bush Music Festival (Vic)



# SINGABOUT

## DECEMBER 2019

### THE OTHER BUSH MUSIC CLUB

#### 60 years of the Victorian Folk Music Club

The Victorian Bush Music Club was established in 1959, 6 years after the success of Dick Diamond's play *Reedy River* introduced traditional songs to the public, and 4 years after transplanted Sydney member Joy Durst, along with Frank Nickels, started Victoria's first bush band, the Billabong Band.

In 1963 the Club changed it's name to Victorian Folk Music Club, and the Club & Band are still going strong!

Report from President Steve Bullock - *We had great success with the VFMC 60th anniversary celebrations - the Woolshed Ball was widely praised, and the birthday cake was scrumptious. Then last week we had a special Tuesday music session with a big supper (and more cake), and invited the Newport fiddle club to join us (something we had intended to do for a considerable time). It was also a great success. The Billabong Band has been busy with the Ball, and numerous community events, with plenty more gigs before Christmas.*

BMC & VBMC worked closely for many years with BMC giving their younger sibling space in *Singabout* until 1964 when VBMC & the Folklore Society of Victoria established their own magazine, *Gumsuckers' Gazette*, later *Australian Tradition*.

After *Singabout* ceased in 1967, John Meredith & other BMC members published articles in *Australian Tradition*.

The book *Against the Stream*, a history of the Melbourne New Theatre notes that the Melbourne production of *Reedy River* premiered in March 1953, featuring the Unity Singers, Unity Dance Group and a small orchestra. The play was based upon a selection of actor John Gray's collection of traditional bush songs.

The bush band was introduced in the Sydney production later that year and became a part of all subsequent productions. The Melbourne production, like the Sydney one, was a roaring success and played to packed houses, running for a number of years.

In 1955 Melbourne formed its own Bushwackers Band following the band of that name appearing in the Sydney production of *Reedy River*.

In the Summer 1956 edition of *Singabout* Frank Nickels reports that *The Billabong Band* is the name chosen for Melbourne's folk ensemble, which was originally the Melbourne Bushwackers. Frank was their mouth-organist and reported that they were "privileged to have a concertina player in the band".

By 1958 the *Billabong Band* were advertising for new members who could "manage one of the following instruments - guitar, button-accordion, concertina, mouth-organ, flageolet, recorder and similar". They were also looking for some "reasonable voices".

At the same time there was an announcement of the first Singabout Night in Melbourne that was "such a success that a member of the audience offered her home for the second". It also notes that "it won't be long before a Bush Music Club is flourishing down south".

The Winter/Spring 1959 edition of *Singabout* announced that "Inspired by the Billabong Band, a Bush Music Club has been formed in Melbourne". The club was formed primarily to run the Singabout nights. They reported having 40 members and about twice that many attending the Singabout Nights. The club's secretary was Keith Watson, the only member of the band to be on the committee. The band decided to limit their presence on the committee so that they could concentrate on their own work.

At the time of the formation of the Victorian Bush Music Club the Billa-bong Band were involved in the latest production of New Theatre's *Reedy River*, and were "somewhat exhausted" after a six week season of four shows a week and several matinees.

In August 1959 the Melbourne club accepted an offer to take a ten per cent share of *Singabout* magazine. They then contributed articles and songs to the publication.

1960 saw the club's activities expanding and dances were being introduced at Singabout sessions, including the Barn Dance, Virginia Reel and Quaker's Wife. Singabouts were also arranged for other organisations and they had even got an article about the club in the Melbourne Herald. In August of that year a new publication *The Victorian Bush Music Club Monthly* was started. Not totally happy with the name, the club changed it to *Gumsuckers' Gazette* from issue 3.

A meeting was also held with the Folk Lore Society of Victoria to see if they could benefit from sharing of ideas and activities. This was successful and resulted in mutual sharing for many years and the eventual amalgamation of the organisations. The two organisations also combined to Jointly produce the *Gumsuckers' Gazette*.

In 1961, the club started running a Club Dance in addition to the Singabout nights. By 1962 folk was making it into the mainstream press, and in December they made an initial contact with the Nariel musicians and dancers, holding their New Year's Eve Dance in the Nariel Hall.

1963 saw the club, along with the Folk Lore Society and the Council of Adult Education, organise a week long Australian Folk Festival which concluded with a special Singabout in the Lower Melbourne Town Hall.

Towards the end of 1963 the club decided to change its name to the Victorian Folk Music Club to better reflect their interests in contemporary as well as traditional Australian music. In early 1964 *Gumsuckers' Gazette* was also renamed and became *Australian Tradition*, its current title.

November 1964, during the Sydney Bush Music Club's 10th anniver-

sary, Alan Scott journeyed south from Sydney to give an illustrated talk in the Ringwood Town Hall.

In July 1967 the VFMC and the Folk Lore Society of Victoria formally amalgamated, with the Folk Lore Society operating as a sub-committee of the VFMC with specific delegated duties. This was done so that the combined group could continue the collecting work of the Folk Lore Society and preserve their valuable archives. The Folk Lore Society continued in this form until it was finally wound up in 1994, the 35th anniversary year of the VFMC.

**Further reading:**

<http://www.vfmc.org.au/historyvfmc.php>

<http://www.vfmc.org.au/VFMCHistory.pdf>

<https://bushmusicclub.blogspot.com/2019/09/60-years-of-victorian-folk-music-club.html>

<http://www.reasoninrevolt.net.au/bib/PR0001947.htm>



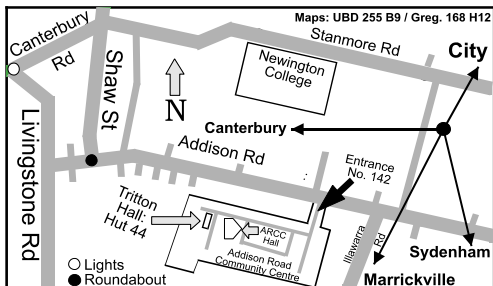
The *Billablong Band* as featured on the cover of *Singabout* Vol 3 No 4 in 1959.

# Welcome to **BUSH MUSIC CLUB** inc

Australia's Traditional Songs, Dances, Music & Folklore

## DECEMBER 2019 - MARCH 2020

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, Marrickville

### 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

ISSN 0157 3381

View our web site: [www.bushmusic.org.au](http://www.bushmusic.org.au)

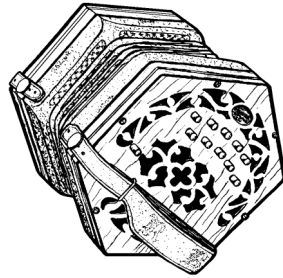
## December 2019

- Sun 1 Irish Slow Session  
Mon 2 Song & Music Sessions  
Mon 2 PH Dance Workshop  
Tue 3 Playford at the Hut  
Fri 6 Addison Rd Singing Session  
Sat 7 Beecroft Bush Dance,  
*BMC Concert Party*  
Sun 8 Irish Slow Session  
Mon 9 PH Dance Workshop  
Mon 9 Song & Music Sessions  
Sat 14 Poetry Session  
Sun 15 Irish Slow Session  
Mon 16 Song & Music Sessions  
Mon 16 PH Dance Workshop  
Sat 21 Dukes Place,  
*Shortis & Simpson*



## January 2020

- Mon 13 PH Dance Workshop  
Mon 13 Song & Music Session  
Mon 20 Song & Music Session  
Mon 20 PH Dance Workshop  
Mon 27 PH Dance Workshop  
Mon 27 Song & Music Session



### Pennant Hills (PH) Dance Workshop:

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

☎ Wilma: 9489 5594



### Beecroft Bush 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

## February 2020

- Sat 1 **Beecroft Bush Dance,  
Ryebuck Bush Band**
- Sun 2 **Irish Slow Session**
- Mon 3 **Song & Music Session**
- Mon 3 **PH Dance Workshop**
- Tue 4 **Playford at the Hut**
- Fri 7 **Addison Rd Singing Session**
- Sat 8 **Poetry Session**
- Sun 9 **Irish Slow Session**
- Mon 10 **PH Dance Workshop**
- Mon 10 **Song & Music Session**
- Fri 14 **Dukes Place**
- Sun 16 **Irish Slow Session**
- Mon 17 **Song & Music Session**
- Mon 17 **PH Dance Workshop**
- Sun 23 **Irish Slow Session**
- Mon 24 **PH Dance Workshop**
- Mon 24 **Song & Music Session**

## March 2020

- Sun 1 **Irish Slow Session**
- Mon 2 **Song & Music Session**
- Mon 2 **PH Dance Workshop**
- Tue 3 **Playford at the Hut**
- Fri 6 **Addison Rd Singing Session**
- Sat 7 **Beecroft Bush Dance,  
Sydney Coves**
- Sun 8 **Irish Slow Session**
- Mon 9 **PH Dance Workshop**
- Mon 9 **Song & Music Session**
- Fri 13 **Dukes Place**
- Sat 14 **Poetry Session**
- Sun 15 **Irish Slow Session**
- Mon 16 **Song & Music Session**
- Mon 16 **PH Dance Workshop**
- Mon 23 **PH Dance Workshop**
- Mon 23 **Song & Music Session**
- Sun 29 **Irish Slow Session**
- Mon 30 **Song & Music Session**
- Mon 30 **PH Dance Workshop**

### Activities at Tritton Hall

Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, 142 Addison Rd, Marrickville

#### Addison Rd Singing Session:

1st Friday, 7:30pm  
☎ Glenys: 0419 862 005

#### Duke's Place:

2nd Friday, 7:30pm-11:30pm  
Concert and Session, \$10, bring a plate.  
☎ Sandra: 9358 4886

#### Playford at the Hut:

English Country Dancing  
1st Tuesday, 7:30pm-9:30pm \$7  
☎ Julie: 9524 0247

#### Poetry:

2nd Saturday, 2pm-4pm \$5  
☎ Karen: 9716 9660

#### Song & Music Sessions:

Slow session for beginners and those just wanting a slower pace.  
Mondays 5:30pm to 7pm  
☎ Kerry: 0409 600 949

General session for all musicians and singers, this session also trains and practises the BMC's *Concert Party*  
Mondays, 7:30pm \$7  
☎ Allen: 9639 7494

#### Irish Slow Session:

Sundays, 6:30pm-9:30pm  
☎ Colum <colum.hickey@gmail.com>

