

MULGA WIRE

INCLUDING
SINGABOUT



2020 - Centenary of John Meredith's birth

No. 253

Registered by Australia Post

March 2020

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

March-June

BEECROFT Community Centre

Becroft Road (opposite Fire Stn)

7:30pm—11:30pm

March 7

Kookaburra

April 4

Southern Cross

May 2

Rosella Bush Band

June 6

BMC Concert Party

Enquiries:

Wilma 9489 5594

Dukes Place

March 13

Enda Kenny

April 17

Polesons

May 8

Dingo's Breakfast

June 12

Pat Drummond

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:

Annette and Alex Hood, recipients of this year's National Folk Festival Lifetime Achievement Award, pictured at the 2014 launch of Keith McKenry's biography of John Meredith.

Photo Sandra Nixon

2020 has arrived and I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

At the Illawarra Folk Festival in January the club was well represented by both the Saplings and the BMC Concert Party. Congratulations and well done to everyone involved.

The Bush Music Club's Heritage Ball will be held on 16th May at the Ku-ring-gai Town Hall, Pymble with the doors opening at 6.30pm and Grand March commencing at 7pm. Please see the advertisement on page 12 for further information and refer to the enclosed flyer for payment details. I'm looking forward to seeing you all there.

Sigrid Marden, who has run the Beecroft Dance for 8 years, has finally hung up her apron and retired as dance coordinator and supper supervisor. We can't thank Sigrid enough for her tireless effort in providing a well-run evening with the dancers & bands being well fed at supper time. We have, therefore, decided to introduce "bring a plate to share" for supper at the Beecroft Dance from June 2020 dance replacing the traditional "supper provided". A lot of work goes into running the dance and this move helps ease the pressure on the night.

Sadly, we have bid a final farewell to Jan Boersma who passed away in February.

Also, Frank Povah sadly passed away on 6 March 2020 following a heart attack. Frank was a wonderful musician, story teller and friend to many. Vale Jan and Frank.

Congratulations to Cathy Richmond and Owen Grylls on their recent wedding.

Our friend and member, Eric Eisler, is still in hospital and we send him our love and hugs and wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

Keep up to date with the latest BMC news via Mulga Wire, the blog, Facebook, webpage or our e-list by sending an email to bmcmail1954@gmail.com.

Sharyn Mattern

Worth Noting	4	Playford	10
BMC at the National	5	Irish / Bush Dances	11
Verandah Music/Jan Boersma	6	BMC Heritage Ball	12
Poetry/Singing/Chat	7	BMC AGM	13
Duke's Place	8	Event details	14
Singabout- "Into the Silence"	S1-4	Concert Party News	15
Pennant Hills Dance Workshop	9	Around the Bush Music Scene	16
March 2020	3	Mulga Wire	

Worth Noting

Annette and Alex Hood have been announced as this year's recipients of the National Folk Festival Lifetime Achievement Award. Congratulations on well deserved recognition!

<https://www.folkfestival.org.au/lifetime-achievement-award-2020/>

Col Wright, who ran the *Merry Muse* from 1993 to 2001, passed away in January.

We have bid a final farewell to **Jan Boersma** who passed away in February.

And in March we have lost Frank Povah who, among many other things, provided the music John Dengate used for *Melanoma Blues*. Vale to all.

James Hardy Vaux's 1819 *Dictionary of Criminal Slang and Other Impolite Terms as Used by the Convicts of the British Colonies of Australia with Additional True Stories, Remarkable Facts and Illustrations* - by Simon Barnard, Text Publishing, 2019. Convict slang: Australia's first dictionary On Sunday Extra with Julian Morrow

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/sundayextra/convict-slang-australias-first-dictionary/12011770>

Congratulations to **Cathy Richmond and Owen Grylls** on their recent wedding.

Early Australian Colonial Dance has a page on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/earlycolonialdance/>

BMC members will be performing at the Summer Hill Folk Festival on 14th March:

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

The Archaeology of Music at Hyde Park Barracks is a summary of findings about music in the early days at the barracks.

<https://sydneylivingmuseums.com.au/stories/archaeology-music-hyde-park-barracks>

Dance historian, **Dr Heather Blasdale-Clarke** recently gave a presentation on Australian step dancing at the *Stepping On* Conference at Cecil Sharp House in London.

<https://www.vwml.org/events/upcoming-events/5446-stepping-on-a-conference-on-stepping-in-dance-across-the-british-isles-and-beyond>

Heather has also produced a related video which has now been uploaded to YouTube.

But wait, there's more! Heather has a post about eighteenth-century dance in London, complete with music and instructions, and a link with Captain Cook, on the wonderful Spitalfields Life blog.

<https://spitalfieldslife.com/2019/11/16/the-mile-end-assembly/>

Upcoming Festivals

National	9-13 April	www.folkfestival.org.au
St Albans	23-26 April	www.stalbansfolkfestival.com.au
Bundanoon	5-8 June	www.bushtraditions.org/dancefest

Bush Music Club at the National Folk Festival

Bush Music Club Youth Bush Band- Family Bush Dance Saturday 11 April, 16:30 to 18:00 Piazza

One and a half hours of fun, easy to do bush dances, contemporary and trad in style, selected from the Australian tradition. Young musicians mentored through the Bush Music Club's Concert Party and Saplings make up the BMC Youth Band with Cathy Richmond calling. No experience is necessary to enjoy these dances



Saplings Sessions Bush Music Club

Workshops: Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon – 13:30 to 14:30 Billy Moran Tent

Performance: Mon 15:30 to 16:00 Carnival Stage

The Saplings programme is for young musicians aged approx 8-18 giving them the experience & enjoyment of playing Australian collected music and song in a relaxed atmosphere with expert musicians from the Bush Music Club as tutors. Bring your own acoustic instruments or borrow percussion.

Folk Songs of Australia and the men and women who sang them Sunday 12 April, 10:00 to 11:00 Trocadero

This concert is a tribute to John Meredith, (1920-2001) who was a founder of the Bush Music Club. He was an innovative collector beginning his search for bush songs and traditional music of Australia in the 1950s; John continued collecting and writing until his death. John's friends Dale Dengate & Chris Woodland with Ralph Pride, Kerith Power and Molly Jane Ellis will present unheard stories and songs collected from Duke Tritton, Sally Sloane and John Dengate. Be prepared to join a chorus or two.

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

Australian & Colonial Folk Dancers

Chloe & Jason Roweth with Matt Nightingale

Dividing Range Dancers

Graham Seal and Rob Willis

The Heritage Ensemble

Keith Wood and Pastrami on Ryebuck

Margaret & Bill Winnett

Megan Roweth

Songs from the Australian Tradition

Verandah Music at the National Folk Festival

That's Alright, Mama – Elvis, Folksinger **Trocadero, Fri 10 Apr, 18.20-19.20**

This year's extravaganza will channel the legend himself. Rob Willis will be joined by the usual large cast of helpers to present another interesting and entertaining show.

Stop Laughing, This is Serious! Australian Folk Humour **Trocadero, Mon 13 Apr, 12.40-13.40**

Graham Seal and Rob Willis will draw on their extensive researches and the National Library collection to delve into this fascinating subject. Plenty of opportunities to join in.

15th Australian Folklore Conference **National Library of Australia, Thu Apr 9, 9.15-4.30**

A program of talks on a variety of topics and a lunchtime concert.

Vale Jan Boersma

Jan Boersma passed away in February. He was a member of Australian Heritage Dancers and the Bush Music Club, attending many dances over a period of more than 30 years.



Jan and Niamh at the Flannel
Flower Ball - Colin Fong



Jan dancing with Australian Heritage
Dancers at Burwood
Photo: Burwood Scene

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 dates for **2020:** 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

Venue: Tritton Hall (Hut 44),

Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville

Cost: Gold coin donation (or note)

Contact: Glenys 0419 862 005

Have you got time for a bit of a chat?

We are now in the 66th 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 or 0409 600 949.

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 13th March - Enda Kenny

Friday 17th April - Polesons

Friday 8th May - Dingo's Breakfast

Friday 12th June - Pat Drummond

Friday 10th July - Dallas de Brabander

August - No Dukes - Sydney Festival

Friday 11th September - The Thompsons

Friday 9th October - Alistair Hulett night

Friday 13th November - Martin Wyndham-Read

Friday 11th December - Shortis & Simpson

Mulga Wire: 2020 Publishing Deadlines

Item Deadline	To Printers	Folding Session
8 May	14 May	19 May
14 August	20 August	25 August

Pennant Hills Dance Activities

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

Our 2019 Christmas Party with music by the BMC Concert Party was a great night with plenty of happy dancers and musicians.

Our final workshop of 2019 was our annual request night where the dances are requested by those present. We enjoyed a wide range of dances, being Queen of Sheba, Festival Glide, Maxina, Newcastle, Postie's Jig, Virginia Reel and Federation Waltz.

The new year kicked off with some practice for the February dances and learning some different figures, such as double figures of eight and Inveran reels.

In coming months we will be learning some more new figures, practicing for the Gosford May dance and the BMC Heritage Ball. Keep in touch for more information.

See you at Pennant Hills!

John Short

Programme March/April/May

MONDAY 7.30–10.30	THEME/DANCE STYLE
2 March	Mixed dancing, new and old
9 March	Mixed dancing, new and old
16 March	Mixed dancing, new and old
23 March	Mixed dancing, practicing new movements
30 March	Mixed dancing, practicing new movements
6 April	Mixed dancing, practicing new movements
13 April	Public Holiday. No workshop
20 April	Practice for Gosford May Dance
27 April	Practice for Gosford May Dance
4 May	Practice for BMC Heritage Ball
11 May	Practice for BMC Heritage Ball
18 May	Practice for Beecroft May Dance
25 May	Practice for Beecroft May Dance

Playford Dancing at the Hut

Next meetings:

Tues 7th Apr, 5th May, 2nd Jun, 7th Jul 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://blog.bushmusic.org.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 March 7 - *Kookaburra*

Sat April 4 - *Southern Cross*

Sat May 2 - *Rosella*

Sat June 6 - *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

Dan Murphys

La Thai Restaurant Thornleigh

Topiary Café Epping

Westleigh Quality Meats Westleigh

Bush Music Club Inc. presents
2020 Heritage Ball

Saturday 16th May 2020
Ku-ring-gai Town Hall
1186 Pacific Hwy
Pymble

Doors open 6:30pm
Grand March at 7:00pm and dance 'til 11:30pm

A grand occasion for your enjoyment with music provided by our Renowned Heritage Ensemble. Dress up in your favourite fashion from Colonial times and be ready to dance the night away.

To help keep ticket prices down this year we are asking you to bring a plate to share for supper.



Tickets

BMC Members	\$30	(before 11 May)
Non-members	\$35	(before 11 May)
Students	\$30	(before 11 May)

After 11 May ALL tickets \$40

A discount of \$5 per person is available for sets of 4 couples **paid for at the same time before 11 May**

Pay with cash at a BMC function or by direct deposit.
See booking form for details.

Practice Sessions

Pennant Hills Dance Workshop

4th and 11th May

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

☎ Wilma 9489 5594

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

☎ Sandra 9358 4886 See p8

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>

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

☎ Barry 9807 9497

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

National Folk Festival, Exhibition Park, Canberra

<https://www.folkfestival.org.au/>

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 Music Festival

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

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

☎ Jenny 9576 2301

St Albans Folk Festival

<http://www.stalbansfolkfestival.com.au/>

Sutherland Acoustic, Tradies, Gymea

☎ 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 Boulevard, Woy Woy

☎ Michael 4342 6716

Concert Party News

The Monday Night concert party meets regularly at Hut 44 in the Addison Road Community Centre and has been well attended lately with the members playing many good dance tunes and songs from our large repertoire. There are a few song writers regularly performing their own songs with yarns and jokes often thrown in for good measure.

For quite some time now the Concert Party has been appearing at some of the well known folk festivals such as the Illawarra & Kangaroo Valley folk festivals. We have been running song & tune workshops there and we played for the dance at this year's Illawarra Folk festival. Our group has also played at our clubs Beecroft Dance and the Gymea Dance run by Sutherland Shire Folk Club. On February 19th six members played to an enthusiastic audience at the Addison Rd Community Centre for Seniors Week run by the Inner West Council. This was well received.

Unfortunately we've had a few of our well loved & talented members out of action due to illness with Eric Eisler and Ralph Pride both being in the wars recently. This has slowed but not stopped us and one of our recent projects has been to put together a *Concert for Eric* CD to help Eric with his rehabilitation in hospital. We continue to soldier on and will be appearing at Beecroft, Gymea and many other places including festivals this year.

We hope to see you at some of them.

Chris Poleson

This might be of interest to concertina players. During the last year I've had to retune some anglo concertinas back to the old pitch. The reason being that the normal A440 pitch supposedly gave problems with elderly residents in retirement villages. During the performances Concertina players noted that a 440 pitch made the elderly uneasy and that they were fidgeting about. When changed back to the old pitch it appeared to be a more relaxed atmosphere and more enjoyable for the elderly audience. So if you find a concertina playing 'out of tune' this is the reason the tuning was changed. Other instruments like a guitar, mandolin or flute etc will then also have to tune to the changed pitch of the concertina when playing together. So we now might have to own two concertinas which are in different tuning to each other.

Christiaan Dolislager

**New
Members**

★ Mark HUNGERFORD ★

★ Christine DANIELS ★

★ Zebathe NORGRASS ★ ★ Heather BOYD ★

AROUND THE BUSH MUSIC SCENE - See p14 for details

Mar	1	6pm	Songlines Song Session
Mar	3	7:30pm	Playford Dancing at the Hut
Mar	7	7:30pm	Beecroft Bush Dance, <i>Sydney Coves</i>
Mar	6-8		Sandford Bush Music Festival (Vic)
Mar	12	7:30pm	Sutherland Acoustic Night
Mar	13	7:30pm	Duke's Place, <i>Enda Kenny</i>
Mar	13	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Mar	14	2:30pm	Sydney English Country Dance
Mar	14	7:30pm	Gosford Bush Dance, Social Dance
Mar	17	7:30pm	English Country Dancing at the Hut
Mar	20	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club
Mar	27	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Mar	28	7pm	Troubadour Folk Club, <i>Hallett-Flood + Pepercorns</i>
Apr	4	2pm	Bush Music Club AGM (see p13)
Apr	4	7:30pm	Beecroft Bush Dance, <i>Southern Cross</i>
Apr	4	7pm	Troubadour Folk Club, <i>Colum Sands</i>
Apr	5	6pm	Songlines Song Session
Apr	7	7:30pm	Playford Dancing at the Hut
Apr	9	7:30pm	Sutherland Acoustic Night
Apr	9-13		National Folk Festival
Apr	10	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Apr	17	7:30pm	Duke's Place, <i>Polesons</i>
Apr	17	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club
Apr	18	2:30pm	Sydney English Country Dance
Apr	18	7:30pm	Loaded Dog Folk Club, <i>Three Audacities + CJ Shaw</i>
Apr	21	7:30pm	English Country Dancing at the Hut
Apr	23-26		St Albans Folk Festival
Apr	24	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
May	1	7pm	Addison Rd Singing Session
May	2	7:30pm	Beecroft Bush Dance, <i>Ryebuck Bush Band</i>
May	3	6pm	Songlines Song Session
May	5	7:30pm	Playford Dancing at the Hut
May	8	7:30pm	Duke's Place, <i>Dingo's Breakfast</i>
May	8	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
May	9	2pm	Poetry at the Hut
May	9	7:30pm	Gosford Bush Dance - Evening Tea Dance with <i>JH Dance Band</i>
May	14	7:30pm	Sutherland Acoustic Night
May	15	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club
May	16	2:30pm	Sydney English Country Dance
May	16	7:30pm	BMC Heritage Ball (see p12)
May	17	2pm	Keith's Dance Workshop
May	19	7:30pm	English Country Dancing at the Hut
May	22	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
May	23	7:30pm	Loaded Dog Folk Club, <i>Solidarity Choir + Derek Dowding</i>
May	23	7pm	Troubadour Folk Club, <i>Dingo's Breakfast</i>