

SINGABOUT

June 2013

SOME HISTORICAL PIX

Singabout

1960

Volume 4-Number 1



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Illustrations have always enhanced publications ... and that is especially true of interpreting folk music and lore. While we have been considering what we have to celebrate ... as we come up to our 60th 'birthday', we keep finding images that we must share with the rest of the Bush Music Club ... especially newer members.

To get to a light-hearted start, this is from the cover of a 1960 issue of *Singabout* – then our regular Club magazine and Club Journal. In the Volume 4 issues, we were allowed by *The Bulletin Magazine* to reproduce some of our favourite cartoons – such as this one by 'Unk' White.

More Bush Music Club historical material on the following pages...



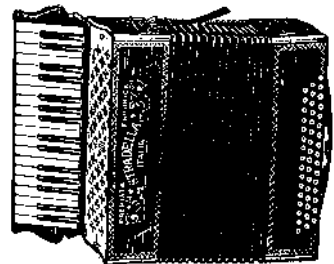
South Coast Bush Band 1955

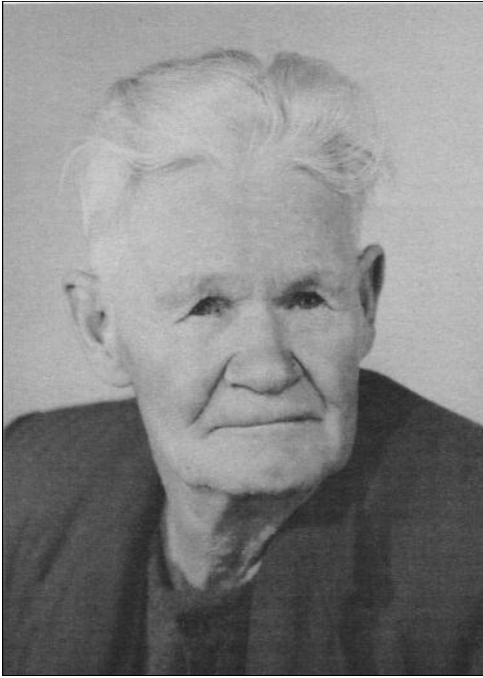
This band ... very much the work of Lola Wright (the one with the piano accordion), whose contribution to Australian tradition and Bush Music in the Illawarra region was inspired by a visit of the original Bushwhackers Band, down from Sydney. This means that her band was only the second one in Australia to use the band format and forces to present powerful interpretations of the songs now being collected in the field by pioneer folklorists in the mould of John Meredith, founder of the Bush Music Club.



As part of the Bush Music Club's celebration of their Diamond Jubilee, next year – sixty years of performing, promoting and developing Australian song, music, recitation and dance traditions – will be assisting and partly funding a theatrical presentation based on Lola's work and music in the Illawarra Region.

Theatrical development will be undertaken by Christina Mimmocchi and we hope our Bush Music Club members will get to see performances.



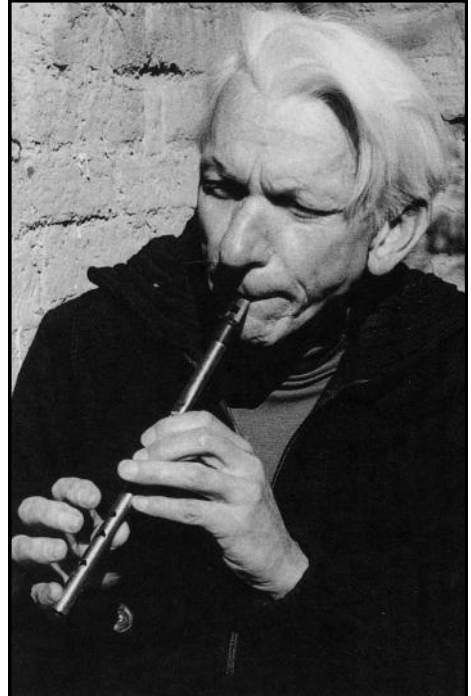


‘Duke’ (Harold Percival Croydon) Tritton, (1886 – 1965) was one of the most prolific sources of great Australian folksongs ... both from the oral tradition ... and his own compositions, drawn from a lifetime of hard bush work!

You might remember that we had his profile on the “pub-style” swinging sign hanging over the front door of the Bush Music Club’s Hut 44, at Addison Rd Community Centre ... and we will ... eventually have it back ... after a serious repaint!

Alan Scott (1930 – 1995) was an early addition to the ranks of the original Bushwhackers Band after he saw them performing in the first Sydney production of Dick Diamond’s Australian Bush Musical “*Reedy River*”.

Alan had to learn a traditional instrument ... and settled on the tin whistle (and, later, the English concertina). He went on to be one of the important song collectors, as well as a song author of strongly traditional style.





The Reedy River Bushmen was a bush Band that formed out of an early 1970s New Theatre production of the play Reedy River... the same play that has featured the original Bushwhackers Band in their 1953-55 productions. Several Bush Music Club members were in this new production ... and, after it finally closed, they decided to carry on as a new Bush Band.

Bush Music members are: Brian Loughlin on his original lagerphone, Barry Collerson on banjo, Mary Williams on autoharp and Tony McLachlan on mandolin. Quite a few other Bush Music Club members also played with this band over the next few years: Jamie Carlin on English concertina; Ralph Pride on fiddle, ... New Theatre players left fairly soon ... when new theatrical roles came up (one being star role in the New Theatre's production of *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*)!!

Bob Bolton