

MULGA WIRE

INCLUDING
SINGABOUT



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MULGA WIRE

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Comments extracted from the 60th Anniversary guest book.

Cover:

Chris Poleson showing dashing Bush Music style at the National Folk Festival, Easter 2014.

Photo: Sharyn Mattern
Diamond Anniversary Logo: Les Love



Welcome to the Bush Music Club's 60th Anniversary edition of Mulga Wire.

2014 was such an amazingly busy year that we decided to revisit it just one more time!

I would like to send a special "Thank You" to everyone who volunteered last year and helped make 2014 such a special year. I would also like to thank everyone who came along to the various events throughout the year and added to the atmosphere.

To the BMC Founders we cannot thank you enough for enriching our lives with music, song, dance and verse; both collected and newly written!

Sharyn Mattern



Committee 2014

Celebrations



Sharyn and Don cut the cake at the February Beecroft dance.



Anniversary Dinner - March



Anniversary cake made by Michelle Bolliger



Presidents blowing out the candles.



*Glad to be here for another one / remember the 10th like yesterday. - Dale
Aussie deep and true music to soothe the mind - Moira
Thanks for the memories - Margaret
You Beauty! - Sue*



Heritage Ball





Recovery Picnic

The day after the Ball, we gathered at the Australiana Pioneer Village, Wilberforce for a relaxing picnic.



B.M.C. Forever - Chris

Roll on the 70th - Bob

Congratulations BMC on 60 fabulous years of celebrating music, dance, storytelling and most of all, people doing all this together. Best of luck for the next 60 years - Bruce

Duke's Place



Duke's Place, our new folk club that was launched in February.



Peter Cahill, Jason Roweth and Ralph Pride



Coolfinn Mac



Alex Hood



Helen and Tony Romeo



HP 'Duke' Tritton



*Just like old times - Yvonne
Greetings from the Victorian Folk Music Club to our big sister. Keep growing
because we are too. - Harry*

Good to see old friends - Anthony



*Thank you for the BMC community and all the music! - Darri
Lovely to look back at so many old photos!! - Cathy
Whacko - You beauty bottler Sport mate - Ralph*



Saplings *Afternoon Session*





The inaugural song-writing workshop run by Phyl Lobl

Songwriting Workshop and Great Aussie Tune Swap

BMC and *No Such Thing* got together to teach each other their music.





Yeoval Concert & Molong Bush Dance



BMC Concert Party gave a concert at the Banjo Paterson Museum at Yeoval, and played for a bush dance at Molong.





Festivals

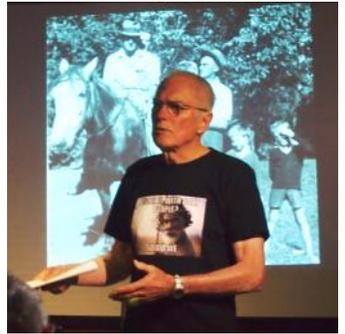


Illawarra



National



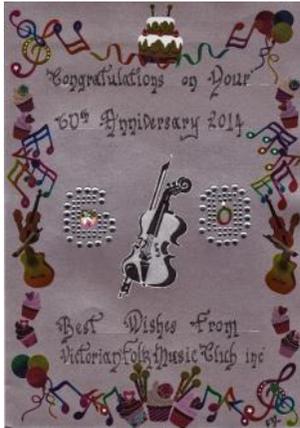


Turning Wave
and
Bush Traditions



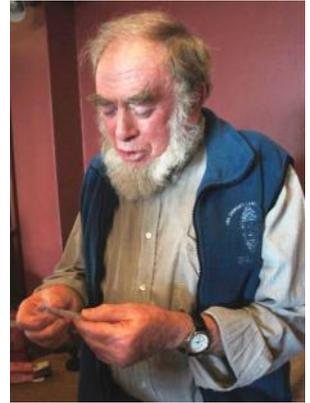


Reunion Concert





Life Members



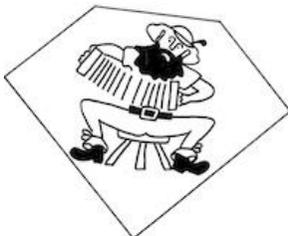
NLA wax cylinder recording at the NFF



Frivility in the Saplings Session at the National Folk Festival

60th Anniversary Celebrations

January 16-19	Illawarra Folk Festival - Bulli
February 1	Beecroft Birthday Dance
February 14	Inaugural Duke's Place Folk Club
February 21-23	Cobargo Folk Festival
March 29	Members' Dinner
April 18-21	National Folk Festival - Canberra
May 17	Heritage Masked Ball - Parramatta
June 6-9	Bundanoon DanceFest
July 19	Great Aussie Tune Swap
August 10	Saplings Masterclass
August 23	Subscription Ball - Maitland
September 6 & 27	Songwriting Workshop
September 12	John Meredith biography launch
September 13-14	Molong Show and Yeoval Museum
September 19-21	Turning Wave Festival - Yass
October 4-6	The Goulburn Gathering
October 9	Lola's Keg Night premiere
October 17-19	Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival
November 15	Diamond Jubilee Concert & Reunion
November 30	Saplings Session
December 20	Christmas Dance - Ermington



SINGABOUT

60TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

TRIBUTES TO JOHN DENGATE

Vale John Dengate

Gone is the seannachie, the satire that raised the blister.
Gone the sharp, intellectual, the schoolmaster we all feared,
The gales of laughter over the pint,
And the tears for the bronze smith's acid scarred hands.
He's gone like Declan before,
And like Declan will his voice and face stay with us.
But more of the man lives in his songs,
That agile scalpel wit, barbed ambiguities,
Precision of rhyme and metre.
Grieve for this bard, but mourn with pride,
For we have known him.

Vale John Dengate.

John Warner & Jenni Cole Warner
© August 2013

We Won't See His Like?

John Dengate's dead, that grand old man,
With a wit like a welder's torch,
Who rhymes as only the Dengate can,
With wicked invective to scorch -
The pompous, the liar, the political boss,
The cheat, the vindictive and vain,
And some have said as they mourned for his loss,
"We will never see his like again."

John Dengate learned, John Dengate read
He mastered the writer's craft,
He listened till language rang in his head,
Told stories and people laughed.
Lawson, Paterson, Judith Wright,
Behan, Ogilvy too,
Shaped his wisdom and shed their light,
Till his writing was forceful and true.

We stand on the shoulders of giants they say,
John Dengate chose his giants well,
But who dares to say that we won't see his like?
Only the future can tell,
For Dengate's a giant, with giants he stands,
His writing's out there to be heard,
And someone will treasure the works of his hands,
And learn of his skills with the word.

The world will again hear the true Dengate rhymes,
John's heritage makes that quite sure,
The ideas may differ in these changing times,
But his wit and his wisdom endure.
Someone will be there to take up the blade,
Who's learned well from that incisive pen,
Who's made of the flame of which Dengate was made,
Then we'll hear from John Dengate again.

John Warner © 14/09/13

Paeon for John Dengate

Tune *Carrickfergus*

He was a poet of wit and laughter,
Precise in metre, and verse and rhyme,
He spoke for drunkards and broken warriors,
Of Sydney's streets in the Rare Old Times.
We sang his songs in joyful chorus,
And wildly laughed and laughed again,
No bloated, pompous party leader
Was safe from his incisive pen.

And proud to be a son of Erin,
He used her music and told her tales,
Of Ireland's exiles, her sons and daughters,
Who shaped the stories of New South Wales.
He sang of squatters at Parramatta,
Of murdered convicts at Castle Hill,
Of Carlingford's sweet creeks and orchards,
Of poverty at Erskineville

Hail and farewell you dread school master,
Whose twinkling eyes belied your frown,
They'll miss your whistle down there by Central,
Old busking Bard of Sydney Town.
While there's a pint upon the table,
While friends are singing bold and strong,
While horses race and bat meets leather,
Someone will sing a Dengate song. (repeat last 2 lines)

John Warner © September 2013

Author's note:

Carrifergus is strongly associated with Declan Affley, one of John's close friends.

After Declan's death, I noted frequently that if I or any other sang that song when John was present, he'd sketch a quiet toast in Declan's memory.

I use this tune to celebrate that historical continuity and place both men firmly in the ancient tradition of the bards of Ireland.

Sixty Years “Bush Music Club”



Let's all get together
To celebrate this day
With bells and whistles
Flutes and drums,
Bush Music all the way

Eric's on the fiddle,
Ralph and Dave as well
George on the accordion
Now that should ring a bell!

Let's program all the dances
Now Don is good at that
Then Bob select some music
He doesn't mind a chat!



Tony, bring your lager phone
I know it weighs a ton
And Helen, your accordion
To show us how it's done.

Why all the fuss and “Do dar”
The dances, songs and all
You'd think the club turned 60
In fact: now I recall



Congratulations to us all
A milestone now we've met
Looking forward together
The best to come is yet

Presidents and members,
Committee and all here
We'll take a bow together
To this our special year



Mike Waters 2014

