

MULGA WIRE

INCLUDING
SINGABOUT



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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 9642 7950 (h)

Secretary: Sandra Nixon 9358 4886 (h)

Treasurer: Allen Davis 9639 7494 (h)



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BUSH DANCES December-March

BEECROFT Community Centre

Beecroft Road (opposite Fire Stn)

7:30pm—11:30pm

December 5 **Paddy's River**

February 6 **Ryebuck**

March 5 **BMC Concert Party**

Enquiries: Sigrid 9980 7077
Wilma 9489 5594

ERMINGTON Community Centre

10 River Road, Ermington

7pm—11pm

December 19 **Southern Cross**

Enquiries: 0412 145 262

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:

BMC Concert Party on stage at Beecroft Community Centre for the November bush dance.

Photo: Colin Fong



President's
Message

We are nearly at the end of another wonderful year but it's not all over yet!

Our Monday night Pennant Hills Dance Workshop will be celebrating Christmas on 14th December with the BMC Concert Party providing the music. Come along and join us as we celebrate Christmas, the BMC way!

We also have the Christmas Beecroft and Ermington dances in the next few weeks which are always an enjoyable.

The Saplings have had a very successful year and I trust they all enjoyed the recent weekend at Dave and Anne's place at Penrose.

Duke's Place continues presenting a wide array of Australian songs.

Thank you to everyone 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 2016.

Sharyn Mattern

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Worth Noting

It is now 50 years since **Duke Tritton** passed away. Singabout remembers him.

Evans, Eamon **Great Australian urban legends**, Perth, Affirm Press, 2015, \$29.99

“Australia is stuffed full of stories that need to be taken with a big spoon of salt. Stories that we all know are silly, but that we also just can’t help sharing. In *Great Australian Urban Legends*, Eamon Evans presents you with myths, misconceptions and bare-faced lies about real people and real places down under. These pages libel Captain Cook and slander Phar Lap. They will annoy the Wiggles and David Boon. They will reveal whether Harold Holt really died, if the bunyip ever lived, and which famous Australian now gets by as a ghost.”

<http://www.affirmpress.com.au/great-australian-urban-legends>

Margaret Bradford and **Dave Johnson** entertained the guests at the dinner to commemorate the Eureka Stockade in Sydney in November. Report on pages 6-7.

Don and Sue Brian will be hosting a presentation of Norfolk Island folk history on the island next year. Details at:

<https://www.norfolkislandtravelcentre.com/events/norfolk-island-folk-history>

A teacher in Victoria, **Dennis Winbanks**, is taking his music skills to rural schools.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-11-25/travelling-teacher-takes-music-classes-to-rural-victoria/6972996>

Alex Hood has sent his unwanted instruments to Mossgreen auctions in Melbourne where they will be auctioned in December. Check out their website for details.

Mulga Wire: 2015 Publishing Deadlines

Item Deadline	To Printers	Folding Session
12 January	19 January	24 January
17 March	24 March	29 March

**Early Bird
Tickets**

4 DAY PASS \$135
UNTIL 18 DEC
ADVANCE PASS \$155
UNTIL 14 JAN



170 ACTS
13 VENUES
500 CONCERTS
ONSITE CAMPING
FOLK SCHOOL
MUSIC TRAIN

31st
**ILLAWARRA
FOLK FESTIVAL**

14 - 17 JANUARY 2016 • BULLI SHOWGROUND, NSW

**AMI WILLIAMSON • BETH PATTERSON USA • DAVID BRIDIE
DOUGIE MACLEAN SCOT • THE EAST POINTERS CAN
FRANK YAMMA • INKA MARKA • IRISH MYTHEN IRE
JAMES BLUNDELL • JAN PRESTON • LIZ STRINGER
KUTCHA EDWARDS • MICK THOMAS • NEIL MURRAY
PAUL MCKENNA BAND SCOT • THE POOZIES UK • REG MEUROSS UK
SANTA TARANTA ITALY • SHANE HOWARD TRIO**

**THE BUTTON COLLECTIVE • DANIEL CHAMPAGNE • DONNA DEAN & THE
TUI MELODY BOYS NZ • DUO AGOGO • ENVIRONMENTAL ENCROACHMENT USA
ETHNODELICA • JONATHAN BOB LYNN CAN • JUNKADELIC BRASS BAND
KEN FIELD USA • LAGOON HILL ZYDECO • MIA WRAY • RIOGH • SHANTY CLUB
TIM SCANLAN & TOSHI BODHRAN JAPAN • THE SETTLEMENT
UNGUS UNGUS UNGUS • WARD MACDONALD CAN**

**ALMA MATER • ANDALUS ARABIC CHOIR • BIG ERLE • BOB RUMMERY • CHLOE & JASON
ROWETH BAND • DEAD MAGGIES • FOLKAPHONIC YOUTH ORCHESTRA • GLOVER &
SORRENSEN • INNES • JOHN BROOMHALL • JORDAN M^cROBBIE • KAREN LYNNE BLUEGRASS
CIRCLE • LIZZIE FLYNN & THE RECKONING • MATT GLASS & THE LOOSE CANNONS • MICK
DALEY • MIKE MARTIN • OUT OF ABINGDON • THE ROARING FORTIES • SCARLET'S REVENGE
THE CON ARTISTS • THE WISH LIST • VIC JANKO ORKESTRA & many more! ^{subject to change}**



BOOKINGS 1300 887 034

www.illawarrafolkfestival.com.au



161st commemoration of Eureka Stockade

By Margaret Bradford

An Australia guided by the spirit of the Eureka tradition as symbolised by the diggers' flag and their oath...

"We swear by the Southern Cross to stand truly by each other and fight to defend our rights and liberties"

On Friday 13th November Bob Walshe and Sydney's Eureka Stockade Commemoration Committee organized a dinner to celebrate this historical event at the Bowlers Club in York Street.

Jack Munday spoke briefly on the importance of maintaining the tradition followed up by MC Phil Smith, a Sydney resident and constant campaigner for the rights of all.

Dr Patricia Randal Coordinator of the Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network and a research Associate at the University of Sydney and lecturer at UNSW spoke well sounding the alarm on the threats to Australian democracy of the hotly debated Trans Pacific Trade Agreement (TPP)

i.e. Between foreign corporations suing our governments over public health measures and environmental protection laws, higher prices for medicine, and surveillance of Australians' internet usage its attracting heavy debate.

Being such a significant part of our history I felt privileged along with Dave Johnson, long time Bush Music Cub advocate, to provide the entertainment on the night. In researching appropriate songs I was pleasantly surprised at the variety and number of songs that had been written about this event. They all told so much of the story and the volatile atmosphere at that time. Apart from including songs of Eureka we sang a few of the well known Australian singalongs which the audience loved and were encouraged to join in on.

Although attendance was reduced somewhat by the heavy rain and chronic disruption to city rail on the night response was wonderful and inspiring. As the other Eureka event planned for Gympie Tradies had to be cancelled, many Sutherland Shire residents attended this one in the city most of them coming by public transport.

Some historical facts on the event....

The Eureka Rebellion in 1854 was a rebellion of gold miners at Ballarat The Battle of the Eureka Stockade, by which the rebellion is popularly known, was fought between miners and the Colonial forces ('traps') of Australia on 3 De-

ember 1854 at Eureka Lead and named for the stockade structure erected by miners during the conflict. The rebellion lasted for less than half an hour and resulted in the deaths of at least 27 people, the majority of whom were rebels.

The event was the culmination of a period of civil disobedience in the Ballarat region during the Victorian gold rush with miners objecting to the expense of a Miner's Licence. The local rebellion grew from a Ballarat Reform League movement and culminated in the erection by the rebels of a crude battlement and a swift and deadly siege by colonial forces.

Mass public support for the captured rebels in the colony's capital of Melbourne when they were placed on trial resulted in the introduction of the Electoral Act 1856, which mandated full white male suffrage for elections for the lower house in the Victorian parliament, the second instituted political democracy in Australia.

As such, the Eureka Rebellion is controversially identified with the birth of democracy in Australia and interpreted by some as a political revolt.



The Eureka Flag. (Image from Wikimedia Commons)

DUKE'S PLACE

**Australian Songs
in Concert & session**



**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 11th December - Christine Wheeler

Malt whisky voiced singer Christine Wheeler and skilled guitarist/bouzouki player Leigh Birkett got together 3 years ago to produce an album of Henry Lawson poetry set to music, described as 'a landmark in the interpretation of Australian folk song' by Graham McDonald of the National Film and Sound Archive. Chris' classic folk-style singing evokes comparisons with Maddy Prior and Joan Baez. Leigh's exceptional musical imagination on guitar and bouzouki overlays jazz chords onto a Celtic sound.

Friday 12th February - Miguel Heatwole

Miguel Heatwole - man of a zillion songs, choir director, composer, songwriter, leader of singing sessions. Over many years his contagious enthusiasm for promoting community singing, whether live or recorded, has brought many people together to share and learn new skills and insights.

Friday 18th March - Evan Mathieson

<http://www.evanmathieson.net/>

Evan spent his first 20 years on the family farm which bordered the sheer cliffs of the magnificent, infamous "Ship Wreck Coast" of southern Australia. His great love of folk music and the history of the land and the sea comes from these early days where the experiences of ship wrecks and the oral transmission of the local history were a part of the web of everyday life. Evan spent some years in the Melbourne folk & jazz scene in the early 60s, then moving on, guitar in Mini Moke, travelled north to warmer climes. He soon settled into the young and enthusiastic folk scene of Brisbane as a solo performer. He added blues harp and autoharp to his performance repertoire. He went out of town on collecting trips meeting "grey beards" and swapping songs and stories. He met Harry Robertson & has in recent years recorded all his songs & helped set up the Harry Robertson website archive - <http://www.harryrobertson.net/index.html> .

Pennant Hills Dance Activities

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

The Bush Music Club dance workshops in October covered a wide range of dances. Our “Couples and Contras” workshop was great fun and covered both old and some very new dances.

Other workshops in October and November taught the dances featured at the Central Coast November dance where the JH Dance Band provided the music. These dances included Galopede Country Dance, the Veleta, Levi Jacksons and Mayfair Quickstep.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Party planned for Monday 14th December, with live music provided by the BMC Concert Party. This is always a great night and one not to be missed. We will be practicing the dances for the party at the previous workshops so join us on those nights also.

And remember, the Christmas Party is not the end of our year. We will be holding our annual “Dancers’ Request” night on Monday 21st December. Bring along a request for your favourite dance and we’ll feature it on the night (or do our best! If you ask for the Mongolian Double Progressive Yurt Dance we may not be able to help you....)

In 2016 we will be starting the workshops on Monday 11th January, so make it a new year resolution to join us. The Pennant Hills dance workshops are a great venue for learning dances at a relaxed pace with plenty of dancers to help and a very friendly atmosphere. We welcome singles, couples and groups.

See you at Pennant Hills.

John Short

Programme December/January

MONDAY 7.30–10.30	THEME/DANCE STYLE
7 December	Practice for the Christmas Party
14 December	Christmas Party with the BMC Concert Party
21 December	Dancers’ Request Night
11 January	Workshops start for 2016. Put it in your diary!
18 January	Workshops continue in 2016

Saplings In The Bush

The weather prediction was for thunderstorms Friday night and rain the rest of the weekend but this was not enough to cancel the Sapling's first Camping Weekend held at "The Laurels" in the Southern Highlands. The excitement of the twelve children and enthusiasm of their parents and tutors was encouraging when we arrived at Dave and Anne's property after a very wet drive. Dave had slashed the grass and prepared the "Sapling's Paddock" with wood for the campfire, a long drop and a sink with running water and tap.

There was only occasional light rain for the bush walk on Saturday but umbrellas were needed around the campfire during the song session. Archery was very popular although Claire seemed to be the only person to hit the target. The few who were brave enough to go swimming in the dam dried and warmed up by the campfire but the most popular activity was the sand hill – or, more specifically, jumping and tumbling off the sand hill. While it was raining, music sessions were held in the shed but Sunday was fine so music groups were spread out around the property before we all came together for a farewell concert in the afternoon. Even the parents practiced something for the concert to the delight of the Saplings! One of my highlights was listening to a new tune written by Declan, Hannah and Luke especially for "Her Majesty" (Anne and Dave's pig) and titled "Queen of Mud".

A fun weekend was had by all and everyone is looking forward to the next one!!

Many thanks once again to Dave and Anne.

Helen Romeo



Declan, Hannah and Luke playing their tune "Queen of Mud" (photo supplied by Helen Romeo)



Saplings gathered around the campfire.

Chris Poleson

At the Festivals - 2015

This year the Bush Music Club was booked by 4 festivals - Illawarra in January, The National in March, Turning Wave in September and Kangaroo Valley in October. Members had a presence at 2 more events, Bush Traditions Bundanoon DanceFest in June and Gathering in October.

We have a core of experienced and less-experienced members who present song & tunes workshops at the mere mention of a festival, and the Sapling program draws upon a similarly expert group of musicians. All members at a festival are welcome (expected, please!) to join us for Song & Tunes workshops, but the Saplings workshops are for tutors only as they are a specialised kids Festival event.

We will be appearing at Illawarra Festival (Australian Traditions concert Friday, Saplings Saturday & Sunday mornings and a Songs & Tunes workshop on Sunday afternoon. We have also applied for the National and will once again apply for Turning Wave, Kangaroo Valley and any other festivals that take our fancy!

Farewell to Australian Heritage Dancers

It is with great regret that I announce the closure of the Australian Heritage Dancers Inc. At the last AGM it was decided by majority vote to hang up our costumes for the last time. Our last meeting will be our Christmas party at 8pm on the 9th of December at the Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, 79 Johnson St, Annandale.

Most of the current members are also going to the Bush Music Club's bush dance at Ermington on the 19th December.

We would really love to see any past members and musicians at either event.

Thanks to all from the past to now who have helped make a fun 31 years.

Wendy Richmond, Dance Director

Everyone is invited to-

The Pennant Hills Dance Workshop Christmas Party

**Monday 14th December 2015
7.30pm to 9.30pm**

Everyone is welcome to our Christmas Party where we will dance to the music of 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.

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**.

BUSH MUSIC CLUB inc

GPO Box 433, SYDNEY NSW 2001

Founded 1954

MEMBERSHIP

APPLICATION []

RENEWAL []

UPDATE []

Name:

Address:

Phone: Home () Work ()

Email

Would you like to receive: Electronic MW [] Yes Regular electronic news updates [] Yes

YEARLY MEMBERSHIP

[] SINGLE \$22 [] FAMILY \$30 [] PENSIONER \$12

[] AFFILIATION (Clubs only) \$50 [] DONATION \$ _____

5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP

[] SINGLE \$100 [] FAMILY \$130 [] AFFILIATION \$250

CASH / CHEQUE Enclosed \$ (No cash through post please)

Signature: Date:

Direct deposit details: BSB: 062-005 Reference: Your Name & "Membership"
Account: 0090 7524 Bank: Commonwealth

Email this form or details of payment to treasurer: Allen Davis: allendavis@iprimus.com.au

Office Use Only

Feb	Apr	Jun	Aug	Oct	Dec	
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Fee received	Appl approved	Record updated	Member Number	New Card Posted
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INTERIM RECEIPT AND PROOF OF MEMBERSHIP

Name

Fee received by \$ Date / /
(Committee Member)

THIS IS PROOF OF MEMBERSHIP FOR 2 MONTHS FROM THIS DATE

If membership card is not received within 2 months

Please contact the Membership Secretary on 0412 145 262





Traditional Irish Music 'Slow Session'

One of our members runs a Traditional Irish Music 'Slow Session' for beginners/intermediate players of Irish Traditional Music (melody instruments only).

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: Brian 0414 565 805

Playford Dancing at the Hut

Next meeting: **Tues 1st December**, 7:30pm to 9:30pm

The Bush Music Club is hosting Sydney Playford dancing in our headquarters, Hut 44 Addison Road Community Centre, Marrickville.

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month (except January), and there will be live music as often as possible.

For more information contact Julie Bishop 9524 0247

Bring your friends along for an enjoyable night of dancing.

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:

Renaissance Hair Studio Westleigh

La Thai Restaurant Thornleigh

Topiary Café Epping

The Beauty Salon Westleigh

Wilma Lyon Music School Normanhurst

Westleigh Quality Meats Westleigh

Concert Party News

Beecroft Dance

The BMC Concert Party performed at the Saturday Beecroft Bush Dance in November. Twenty one very talented musicians played with gusto and enjoyment. Margaret Bolliger called the dances for an appreciative audience of around 70 people. Many were the compliments paid by the dancers to the band for a sterling and delightful performance. It is understood that the BMC Concert Party will be performing more than once at Beecroft in 2016.

Dalmar Homes “Alan Walker Village”

On the sound principle that it is better to wear out than rust out, the BMC Concert Party played for a bush dance on the Sunday immediately following the Beecroft Dance! Eleven musicians with Wilma Lyon calling and a large number of dancers (also from the Beecroft dance of the previous evening) turning up at the lovely retirement venue in Carlingford. The Concert Party performed songs and dance tunes from 2pm to 5pm to the delight of an appreciative audience from the Village. Several interesting features occurred during the afternoon, viz, two Scottish dances by our own Del, the Duke of Kent’s Waltz taught by Margaret Swait and the fact that the dances were held entirely on a carpeted floor! Ah the beautiful spontaneity of bush dances!

Many thanks to all the musicians and loyal bush dancers for their support given so freely to the Club.

Allen Davis

Making Direct Deposit Payments (Membership/Shop/Ball)

Direct Deposit details:

BSB: 062-005

Acct: 0090 7524 (Commonwealth bank)

Reference

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 or scanned and sent by email.

AROUND THE BUSH MUSIC SCENE

(A selection of interesting events - details as accurate as possible at the time of publishing)

- Dec 5 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, *Paddy's River***, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594
- Dec 11 **7:30pm Duke's Place, *Christine Wheeler***, Hut 44, Marrickville. (see p8)
- Dec 12 7:30pm Gosford Dance, Christmas Contra with *Pastrami-On-Ryebuck*, East Gosford Progress Hall. ☎ Robyn: 4344 6484
- Dec 19 **7pm Ermington Bush Dance, *Southern Cross***, Ermington Community Centre, 10 River Rd, Ermington, ☎ 0412 145 262
- Jan 14-17 Illawarra Folk Festival, Bulli. www.illawarrafolkfestival.com.au
- Feb 6 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, *Ryebuck***, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594
- Feb 12 **7:30pm Duke's Place, *Miguel Heatwole***, Hut 44, Marrickville. (p8)
- Feb 13 7:30pm Gosford Dance, East Gosford Progress Hall. ☎ Robyn: 4344 6484
- Feb 20 Loaded Dog Folk Club, ***George Mann (USA)***, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, ☎ Sandra, 9358 4886
- Mar 5 **7:30pm Beecroft Bush Dance, *BMC Concert Party***, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft, ☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594
- Mar 12 Loaded Dog Folk Club, ***Alistair Brown (UK)***, Annandale Neighbourhood Centre, ☎ Sandra, 9358 4886
- Mar 18 **7:30pm Duke's Place, *Evan Mathieson***, Hut 44, Marrickville. (p8)
- Mar 24-28 National Folk Festival, Canberra. www.folkfestival.asn.au

Regular Events

Singing Session - 7pm 1st Friday of each month (except Public Holidays)
Hut 44, Addison Rd Comm Centre, Marrickville. Margaret 0427 958 788

Songlines Song session - 7pm 1st Sunday of each month
Fitzroy Hotel, East Sydney/Woolloomooloo

Sydney Playford Dance Group - 7:30pm 1st Tuesday of each month
Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville (see p14)

Toongabbie Music Club - 7:30pm 2nd & 4th Friday of each month
17 Whitehaven Rd Northmead, ☎ 9639 7494

Kiama Bush Dance - 7pm 2nd Thursday of each month
Kiama Community Centre, ☎ Tony 0422 540 249

Campfire Session - 7pm 3rd Tuesday of each month
Kiama Community Centre, ☎ Tony 0422 540 249

Sutherland Acoustic - 7:30pm 2nd Thursday of each month
Tradies, Gynea

Southern Cross Fiddlers - 7pm Tuesday nights
1/103 Foveaux St. Surry Hills.

For the latest information on events see the BMC Website: www.bushmusic.org.au