

AROUND THE BUSH MUSIC SCENE

Sep 1	7pm	The Addison Rd Sessions
Sep 2	7:30pm	Becroft Bush Dance, <i>Sydney Coves</i>
Sep 3	7pm	Songlines Song Session
Sep 5	7:30pm	Playford Dancing at the Hut
Sep 8	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Sep 9	2pm	Poetry at the Hut
Sep 9	7:30pm	Gosford Bush Dance, Social Night, John Short calling.
Sep 10		Saplings Master Class
Sep 14	7:30pm	Sutherland Acoustic Night
Sep 15	7:30pm	Duke's Place, <i>Steve Wilson</i>
Sep 15	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club
Sep 17	2pm	Keith's Dance Workshop, <i>Contra - Jim Hemphill</i>
Sep 23	8pm	Loaded Dog Folk Club, <i>Ecopella</i>
Sep 23	7pm	Troubadour Folk Club, <i>Matthew Fagan</i>
Sep 29 - Oct 2		Bush Traditions Gathering
Oct 1	7pm	Songlines Song Session
Oct 3	7:30pm	Playford Dancing at the Hut
Oct 6	7pm	The Addison Rd Sessions
Oct 7	7:30pm	Becroft Bush Dance, <i>Barangaroo</i>
Oct 12	7:30pm	Sutherland Acoustic Night
Oct 13	7:30pm	Duke's Place, <i>Margaret Walters</i>
Oct 14	2pm	Poetry at the Hut
Oct 14	7:30pm	Gosford Bush Dance, Flannel Flower Spring Ball with <i>Bad Wallaby</i>
Oct 15	2pm	Keith's Dance Workshop, <i>English Country</i>
Oct 20	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club
Oct 21	7pm	Troubadour Folk Club
Oct 27	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Oct 28	8pm	Loaded Dog Folk Club, <i>Solidarity Choir</i>
Nov 3	7pm	The Addison Rd Sessions
Nov 4	7:30pm	Becroft Bush Dance, <i>Paddy's River</i>
Nov 5	7pm	Songlines Song Session
Nov 7	7:30pm	Playford Dancing at the Hut
Nov 9	7:30pm	Sutherland Acoustic Night
Nov 10	7:30pm	Duke's Place, <i>Pete & Sue McMahon</i>
Nov 10	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Nov 11	2pm	Poetry at the Hut
Nov 11	7:30pm	Gosford Bush Dance, Contra with <i>Pastrami on Ryebuck</i>
Nov 17	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club
Nov 17-19		Back to Binalong
Nov 18	7pm	Troubadour Folk Club
Nov 19	2pm	Keith's Dance Workshop, <i>Contra - Rerun</i>
Nov 24	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Nov 25	8pm	Loaded Dog Folk Club, <i>Martin Pearson</i>

See page 14 for more details of these events

MULGA WIRE

INCLUDING
SINGABOUT



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MULGA WIRE

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BUSH DANCES

September - December

BEECROFT Community Centre

Beecroft Road (opposite Fire Stn)

7:30pm—11:30pm

September 2 **Sydney Coves**

October 7 **Barangaroo**

November 4 **Paddy's River**

December 2 **BMC Concert Party**

Enquiries: Sigrid 9980 7077
Wilma 9489 5594

ERMINGTON Community Centre

10 River Road, Ermington

7pm—11pm

December 16 **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:

Our Saplings tutors presenting a bit of bush music to the scouts at a recent rally (report p10). Tony Romeo, Bec Richmond, Dave Johnson, Helen Romeo, Chris Poleson.

Photo supplied by Helen Romeo

Concert Party News

The BMC Concert Party has continued to meet each Monday evening in Hut 44 regardless of the cold weather. Attendances have exceeded 20 at most meetings and the quality of music continues to be at a high standard.

Four members of the Concert Party (viz. Sharyn Mattern, Doug Richardson, John Burch and Brian Freeman) appeared recently on the Australian Spectrum Radio Show 90.5 with Ross Fear at Baulkham Hills. This is the first time that the Bush Music Club has been represented on the program and it provided 3 hours on most pleasant listening regarding the history, public performances and music of the Club. Congratulations to all involved.

A total of 18 members of the Concert Party performed at the August 2017 Beecroft Bush Dance and from all accounts the music was well received with the pace being just right for bush dancing. We were led by Ralph Pride with Margaret Bolliger calling each dance. Approximately 60 persons were in attendance in the lovely old hall and most stayed until the close of play.

In addition to the above dance, the Concert Party has been requested to perform on Saturday 26 August 2017 in front of The Bower at ARCC Marrickville for the *Want on Waste* event being conducted by the Addison Road Community Centre.



Concert Party at Beecroft

Photo: Mike Young

Allen Davis

The Addison Rd Sessions (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

Contact: Glenys 4758 7497

Event Details

Back to Binalong, Binalong Sports Ground, Binalong

☎ Denis 0402 044 786 See p12

Beecroft Bush Dance, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft

☎ Sigrid 9980 7077 / Wilma 9489 5594

Bush Traditions Gathering, Goulburn

☎ Dave 4884 4214 <http://www.bushtraditions.org/>

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

☎ Sandra 9358 4886 See p8

Gosford Bush Dance, East Gosford Progress Hall

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

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

Playford Dancing at the Hut, Hut 44, Addison Rd Comm Centre, Marrickville

☎ Julie 9524 0247 See p12

Poetry at the Hut, Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville

☎ Karen 9716 9660

Saplings Master Class, Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville

☎ Helen 4297 5128

Songlines Song Session, Paragon Hotel, 1 Loftus St, Circular Quay

☎ Jenny 9576 2301

Sutherland Acoustic, Tradies, Gynea

☎ Jenny 9576 2301

The Addison Rd Sessions, Hut 44, Addison Rd Comm Centre, Marrickville

☎ Glenys 4758 7497 See p15

Toongabbie Music Club, 17 Whitehaven Rd, Northmead

☎ 9639 7494

Troubadour Folk Club, CWA Hall, The Boulevard, Woy Woy

☎ Michael 4342 6716



The club's activities have been well attended despite the cold weather.

The BMC was a guest, recently, on Ross Fear's Australian Spectrum 90.5fm radio program. Some BMC members were not only interviewed but also performed live, singing several songs accompanied by various instruments.

Thanks to Ross Fear and Radio 90.5fm for giving the BMC the opportunity to spread the "BMC" word. Thanks also to John Burch, Brian Freeman and Doug Richardson who joined me representing the club live on radio.

World Premier at the Beecroft Dance in October!!

There is a new bush band in town...Barangaroo Bush Band. The members are all very experienced and professional so don't miss their World Premier performance at the Beecroft Dance on Saturday, 7th October. There is an introductory article in this issue of MW so read all about them and come along and check them out.

There's a lot happening in the bush music scene so, to ensure that you're kept up to date with all the latest news, be on our e-mail list. Simply send an email to bmcmail1954@gmail.com and request your name be added to our e-list.

Sharyn Mattern

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Worth Noting

Mulga Wire is now 40 years old. The first issue was published in June 1977.

<http://bushmusicclub.blogspot.com.au/2017/06/another-anniversary-40-years-of-mulga.html>

Concert Party is turning 60 this year. It formed in 1957 after the Bushwhackers (as opposed to the Bushwackers without the extra H) split up.

<http://bushmusicclub.blogspot.com.au/2017/08/concert-party-will-be-celebrating-its.html>

Manns, Howard **'Plonk: a language lover's guide to Australian drinking'** The Conversation 21 July 2017.

<https://theconversation.com/plonk-a-language-lovers-guide-to-australian-drinking-78092>

The Shearers: Story Of Australia Told From The Woolsheds by Evan McHugh (Penguin, 2016) also available as an audiobook. Brilliant description of the 1891 shearers strike.

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: Brian 0414 565 805

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



★ Maria & Tim Beckett ★

★ Greg Adams ★ ★ Merran McLaren ★

★ Beck Richmond★ ★ Aisleen Evans ★

★ Rose & Albert Wong ★

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.

Recent posts on our Blog

Our blog can be found at www.bushmusicclub.blogspot.org.au

Click on the indicated month to find the article.

Recent activity of the club & it's members

June

Report on Music @ Morisset 2017

July

Report on Henry Lawson Festival at Como Public School, Sunday 9th July 2017

Reedy River @ the Henry Lawson Festival at Como, Sunday 9th July 2017

Dead Men Talking - Henry Lawson Festival, Como 9th July 2017

Andrew Gollan's photos Beecroft dance, July 2017

Report on Bundanoon DanceFest, 2017

Bawley Point AusSongs group - Singabout & Concert Sat 22nd July 2017

Articles using archival material

April

Report on Bob Bolton's Lifetime Achievement Award, NFF17

May

A selection of Bob Bolton's photos taken at Bush Music Club's 1983 Heritage Ball

A selection of Bob Bolton's dance photos taken at Festivals, 1993 to 2002.

Bush Music Club at the Waratah Spring Festivals

June

Another anniversary - 40 years of Mulga Wire, June 1977 to June 2017

Once upon a time BMC was part of a parade ...

July

Members' photos - Sharyn Mattern ball photos

August

BMC Anniversaries - An illustrated history of Concert Party 1957 to 2017

Bush Music Club participation in Fellowship of Australian Writers Henry Lawson celebrations, 1954 to at least 1969

Bob Bolton collection - the Post-Ball picnic, Observatory Hill August 1983

Bob Bolton collection - ball photos from the 80s

Archival photographs: The P-series of photos from the early days

Bush Music Club involvement in Henry Lawson Concerts at Como - 1955, 1956, 1958

Chris Woodland Collection - Photos of John Meredith

BMC Anniversaries - An illustrated history of Concert Party 1957 to 2017

Concert Party will be celebrating it's 60th birthday this year

Back to Binalong

Bush Traditions are organising a Back to Binalong weekend on 17th - 19th November 2017, celebrating the music and musicians of the area, particularly the Cotter family.

Programme includes:

- Friday night Bush Dance
- Saturday night Bush Ball
- Workshops and Sessions
- Blackboard at the pub.

There is plenty of camping available at the Binalong Sports Ground. A \$5 donation is requested to cover the cost of showers and other facilities. For those who prefer not to camp, there is also accommodation available at the Pub and the Tara Motel.

Enquiries (and offers of assistance) to Denis McKay 0402 044 786

Playford Dancing at the Hut

Next meeting: **Tues 5th September**, 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. Cost \$7.

For more information contact Julie Bishop 9524 0247

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.

Wongawilli Colonial Dance Club 30th Birthday Party

On 12 August, Wongawilli Colonial Dance Club held an afternoon social bush dance at Wongawilli Community Hall to celebrate 30 years of music, dance and fun.

Since 1989 the Club has held a dance every Wednesday night at the hall.

The afternoon occasion attracted about one hundred members/visitors to enjoy the significant occasion which included 4 hours of dancing, mulled wine and nibbles on arrival, an afternoon tea break plus soup and celebratory cake to complete the day. It was effectively a reunion of past and present revellers.

Music was happily provided by No Such Thing.

Included in the afternoon celebrations was the presentation of three Life Memberships: David de Santi (awarded in absentia), Pat Murray and Tania de Santi.

The cake was cut by Tania and Pat, plus Sylvia McMullen and Brenda Davis who were founding club members and still participating weekly.



No Such Thing playing for the dance.

Photo: Gwen Burke



Cutting the cake.

Photo: Mike Young

Monaro Folk Society – Thirty-Sixth Annual Colonial Ball

The Monaro Folk Society is inviting interstate dancers to its 36th Colonial Ball to be held at the historic Albert Hall on 2 September 2017. Music by Heritage Ensemble band led by Dave Johnson with Heather Clarke calling.

Doors open at 7.20pm with a welcome drink from 7.30pm and dancing from 8pm to midnight including a fully catered supper.

Tickets can be bought on-line, see http://mfs.org.au/wiki/index.php/Colonial_Ball for details. Ticket sales close on Wednesday 30 August.

Tickets for interstate dancers are the same price as for MFS members. Early bird sales (reduced prices) will be available until August 1.

If you would like us to request billeting for you, please email: Antonella <asalpietro(at)hotmail(dot)com>.

Poet's Corner

This will be a space where our new poetry group can showcase one of the poems presented at the hut. If you like poetry, why not join them?

Bush Music Club... thank you by Gordon Biok

I read about your Saturday poetry session
Here at the Addison Rd Bush Music Club
I was browsing through the latest "Mulga Wire"
Just finished some home made grub
.....the notice sort of caught my eye
So I thought: what sort of poem would fit
for a relaxing Saturday arvo?
Where maybe six or ten people sit
itching to shout out "bravo!!"
I thought: Blimey this Bush Music Club's a riddle
These geezahs are into everything
They dance, play the hey, diddle diddle,
Recite poems and boy-- can they sing !!

I'd been to a few Monday night sessions
With my ukulele... the place was packed
'Twas like having a free folk lore lesson
Down an amazing bush music track.
I also went to a Friday evening
Where they call it: "the love of folk"
A traditional circle gathering
Where everyone has a turn to sing, to tell a joke.
(Brian Jonathon's songs are still ringing in my ears.)

I also have Bush Music Club memories
Of many years ago coming here,
I reckon it was back in the late seventies
I lobbed with Paul....we had winewe had beer!
I knew just three chords on the banjo
While Paul played guitar with zest and with zing,
Bob Bolton's accordion started nice and slow
With that passion for songs he can always bring .

Barangaroo Bush Band

This newly formed bush band is comprised of an interesting mixture of both long term and relatively new Bush Music Club members, namely:

Ralph Pride (violin), Mariamma Mitchell (keyboard), Allen Davis (guitar and harmonica), Chris Poleson (banjo and guitar) and John Short (caller).

The Barangaroo Bush Band was formed as a consequence of the termination of another bush band (previously booked to perform at Beecroft in October) due to ill health.

The band has rehearsed several old faithful bush dances and will present these and some new and challenging ones at the October 2017 Beecroft Bush Dance.

The Barangaroo Bush Band has expressed its delight at being able to perform its World Premiere at Beecroft!

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 September 2 - *Sydney Coves*
Sat October 7 - *Barangaroo*
Sat November 4- *Paddy's River*
Sat December 2 - *BMC Concert Party*

Saplings and Scouts

A group from BMC Saplings recently visited the NSW Scout Rally held at Glenfield's Scout Camp. Dave, Chris, Beck, Tony and I spent all Saturday and half of Sunday giving scout patrols from all over the State an experience of bush music.

Each patrol that was assigned to our activity was told to go to the "bush band" so it was interesting to note that most groups when asked what they thought bush music was and where it came from thought it was American country!

We are pleased to report that the approximately 300+ scouts (and Leaders) who we worked with all now know that bush music is Australian.

We had each group for about an hour and we "performed" 9 times over the weekend. In that time they had a short history discussion, some singing, dancing and playing percussion.... lots of fun was had by us and most of the scouts. We didn't expect all to engage with the activity but they all participated and we did generate interest and smiles.... lots of "thank you"s and some publicity for the BMC Saplings programme. A good result!

As you may know, we worked with some Cubs and Scouts at Morisset and we would like to continue to do this with other groups to assist towards their badge work. I even think it would be good for them to strive for a bush music badge one day and not just an entertainment, music or performing arts badge.... but that could be something we could work on later!

A big thank you to everyone who was involved and especially to Doug (father of wonderful Saplings Hanna, Luke, Emma and Zac) for the introduction to the State Commissioner, suggestions and encouragement.

Helen Romeo



One of the scouts conducting the percussion.

Photo: Tony Romeo

(I was lucky to play a few tunes next to him recently !!)
So in a world full of the face-book cynical
This club makes waves – a healthy positive sign
Even raises issues deeply political
In a way that artists feel inclined.
Bush Music Culture is as vast
As the Australian countryside
With great musos like Alan Scott from the past
To Dave de Hugar -- now -- still sailing in with the tide.
Maybe it's a cliché to say variety is the spice of life but it's true
As it mixes into our society and spreads a fantastic brew.
At core lies a creative tradition that loves people, loves you and me
Acceptance in dance, humour, song and of coursein poetry.
**So Thank you Bush Music Club for being so exceptional
For a lifetime of variety ... a hub ...that is modern and multi-
dimensional**

POETRY anyone?

Enjoy reciting a poem? Sharing a poem with others?
Perhaps writing your own poems? Brushing up on performing some 'bush' poetry?
If so, you are very welcome to come along. A contribution to go with afternoon tea would be appreciated.

Where: The BMC Hut at Marrickville, Addison Rd.
When: Saturday 2pm to 4pm - **Sept 9, Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 9**
Cost: \$5 or gold coin donation
Contact: Karen (02) 9716 9660 OR fongs@bigpond.net.au

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

DUKE'S PLACE

**Australian Songs
in Concert & session**



Friday 8th September - Steve Wilson

Steve, "the Man with the Concertina" is passionate advocate of the English concertina which he uses to perform an eclectic swag of songs.

<http://www.concertinaman.net>

Friday 13th October - Margaret Walters

Margaret has been described as "a consummate singer of good songs of all pedigrees & persuasions". She has been involved in the Australian folk scene for over thirty years, as a soloist, a collaborator with songwriter John Warner, a member of the Roaring Forties and in a duo with Don Brian (Southern Cross Trawlers).

Friday 10th November - Pete & Sue McMahon

Old and New Bush Songs, Tunes and Poems. Pete is well known as a long-time stalwart of the Sydney bush and folk music scene. Full time minstrel, guitarist, entertainer and singer of songs, reciter and collector of obscure bush verse, Pete has performed at more than 100 pubs and clubs in Australia, England, Scotland and China.

He has performed with innumerable bands, notably Southern Cross, Snake Gully, Conway Bros and The Drifters, and is currently a member of Rosella, Bad Wallaby, McMahon Bros, Heartdust and Postcard.

Friday 8th December - Songs from Lola's Keg Night

Presented by the show's creators, PP Cranney and Christina Mimmocchi including songs that didn't make it into the show.

<http://christinapossum.wixsite.com/lola/about>

**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

Pennant Hills Dance Activities

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

During August the Pennant Hills Dance Workshop practiced the dances on the program of the "New Sydney Ball" which was held on 26th August. Many of the dances were new to the Pennant Hills dancers and it was a good opportunity to expand our knowledge. We even enjoyed live music at one workshop, thanks to Cathy and David Potter and their band.

In September and October we will practice for the Central Coast Social Dance (9th September), The Beecroft dance (7th October) and the Central Coast Ball (14th October).

In late October and November we will be teaching some well-known (Eightsome Reel) and not-so-well known dances (Snowy River Galop); Enjoying mixed dance programs and preparing for our December Christmas Party.

Plenty of dancing at Pennant Hills, See you there!

John Short

Programme September/October/November

MONDAY 7.30-10.30	THEME/DANCE STYLE
4 September	Practice for the September Central Coast Dance
11 September	Practice for October Beecroft Dance and Central Coast Ball
18 September	Practice for October Beecroft Dance and Central Coast Ball
25 September	Practice for October Beecroft Dance and Central Coast Ball
2 October	No Workshop - Long Weekend
9 October	Practice for the Central Coast Ball
16 October	Well-known and not-so-well-known dances
23 October	Well-known and not-so-well-known dances
30 October	Practice for November Beecroft Dance
6 November	The Waltz, Polka and all types of dancing
13 November	The Waltz, Polka and all types of dancing
20 November	Practice for Christmas Party
27 November	Practice for Christmas Party

Mulga Wire: 2017 Publishing Deadlines

Item Deadline	To Printers	Folding Session
10 November	16 November	21 November
12 January	18 January	23 January

select a few to share with you in order to examine the Australian traditions in folklore. I tried to show some of the transformations and examine the concept of 'folksong'.

Mark and I concluded that the Australian ballad was:

unashamedly written for oral transmission to be shared and often sung together with like minded folk.

Often they were industrial songs or work related as they actually sung while relaxing after work. They were not work rhythm songs as in sea shanties. The itinerant lifestyles help spread songs.

Subjects included were Union organisations with dire threats to 'scabs and black-legs', or songs about the bosses and government authorities who came in for a fair share of criticism. Food and cooks were important topic, but there was little female representation. This is an area that Mark Gregory and I plan to research and write about at some later stage.

The Shearer's Wife

Louis Essen from "Bells and Bees" (1910)

Before the glare o' dawn I rise
To milk the sleepy cows, an' shake
The droving dust from tired eyes.
I set the rabbit traps, then bake
The children's bread.

There's hay to stook, an' beans to hoe,
Ferns to cut i' th' scrub below;
Women must work, when men must go
Shearing from shed to shed.

I patch an' darn, now evening comes,
An' tired I am with labour sore,
Tired o' the bush, the cows, the gums,
Tired, but must dree for long months more
What no tongue tells.

The moon is lonely in the sky,
The bush is lonely, an' lonely
I Stare down the track no horse draws nigh
An' start ... at the cattle bells.

SINGABOUT

SEPTEMBER 2017

12TH NATIONAL FOLKLORE CONFERENCE

A Report from 12th National Folklore Conference 2017 (part 2)

From R.D. Dengate

Papers presented at the NFC give a sample of the wide range of research being done in this field. With little money or Government support many collectors and dedicated folklorists locate and preserve the folklore of various people.

The first session of the Conference with papers from Emma Dixon, and Sue and Don Brian [reported in last *Singabout*] was followed by Jeanette Mollenhauer. This was on folkdance and preservation. Jeanette titled her presentation :

Why is this relevant? Performing the Blato kumpanjija in Sydney. Accompanied by videos of the dancing and music, some filmed at the fiftieth anniversary on 25/4/2015 in Sydney, Jeannette was able to illustrate some of the unique dances from the island of Korcula off the coast of Croatia, known as kumpanjija. On the island of Korcula, Croatia each of the six towns has its own version of a chain sword dance. These performances can be traced back eight hundred years in celebration of St. Vincenza. Now there are more people in Terry Hills, Australia who migrated from Blato, who maintain the practice of this ritual dance than in the old communities.

Jeanette, who is completing her PhD at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music is interested in understanding the relevance of traditional practices in twenty first century Australia. Her presentation examined issues of authenticity, innovation and nostalgia.

In the third session on Australian folksong, the death in March of Danny Spooner, reminded us of the loss to the world of folk music. Danny would have presented the paper

with Ross Both on **New Chums and Diggers: the history of Australian mining fields through song**. Although born in London, Danny sang the songs from Britain and Australia and brought life to many a singing session with his wide knowledge and ability to lead others in joining the singing of historical and traditional verses.

Ross Both, a retired geologist maintains a wide interest in mining history and is active in the Australian Mining History Association. He has researched songs from the mining fields and the life of the gold digger. As well as songs that may have been sung round the campfire, he found evidence of the music performed by the professional entertainers. He feels that many mining historians overlooked songs recording the experience of miners. Many of the authors of the songs were lost over time as the songs were passed around the itinerant singers and workers

However, Charles Thatcher recorded the picture of life on the Victorian goldfields during 1850s and 1860s. Samples of the mining songs appear in the newspapers of the times and songs also refer to disasters on the mine fields, racial tensions and political unrest as well as the introduction of new technologies.

This was followed by Mark Gregory: **Shearing and what is a folk song?**

Mark asked me to assist his presentation and share his research and the editing of his copious amounts of material researched from Trove - the amazing resource from the National Library. Also, Mark recalled, because I was editor of the BMC publication Songs of the Shearer, 1970.

Mark wrote that like so many at this years National Folklore Conference I have tried to devise a clear understanding of what we mean by folklore and folk song over a century after Paterson's collection Australian Bush Songs. Paterson was convinced that the bush songs were in their dying days but he didn't and couldn't have reckoned with the 1950s folk song revival. Dozens of unpaid collectors spent their weekends and holidays rescuing and reviving what they could and that propelled this quest for a better understanding of the nature of and Australian-ness of the material they discovered, recorded material that today has pride of place in this National Library.

New approaches included an interest in oral history and the literary origins of so many of the collected songs, an interest in children's folklore, the seemingly universal lore of school playground rhymes, beliefs, games and songs.

My interest has long been the lore that bears U.S Shipwright and folklorist Archie Green's term "Labor Lore", or Industrial Folk Song as A.L.Lloyd proposed. Not that they were the first as anyone aware of Pete Seeger's Folkways 1962 LP "Industrial Ballads" would be aware. Before that Seeger and Woody Guthrie coined the title "Hard Hitting Songs for Hard Hit People" a collection whose publication was delayed by many years of McCarthyism and the inquisition known as the Red Scare. Perhaps because of my interest in this I have come to believe that Industrial song and poetry can be better named, and I have chosen Working Songs as an appropriate name, following the work of the great Roy Palmer in the UK.

Australia's interest in shearing songs, railway songs, navvy songs, bush songs, the songs of the bullock driver, the water side workers or lumpers, stockmen, bush rangers

and sailors, convict ballads and so on provide essential details of working life and the growth of workers organs of resistance, and solidarity in the face of hegemonic power. As much as anything these songs found in abundance in Australian newspapers, providing a colourful picture of the evolution of Australian political changes. The Shearers especially stand out in the number of songs alone, which is why Dale Dengate and I will be concentrating on those today.

Dale sang *Send her down a little bit harder, dear old Hughie do*, to give an example of a working song or more accurately a stop work song! Sometimes known as the Rouseabout's Hymn it started with a chorus sung by Dutchy, friend of Duke Tritton when he used a popular tune from 1910, 'Obadiah do!'

I had the opportunity to talk with Duke while driving him and John Dengate home after a night at BMC.

Duke told the story of how it came to be written:

During the morning tea break from shearing, rain began falling. Ten points were needed to stop the shearing, so Dutchy sang his chorus to general applause, especially from the rouseabouts, who were paid no matter what the weather conditions. Dutchy suggested Duke, who had shown a keenness to write, add verses.

So several verses were written by Duke Tritton to go with the chorus.

So with no other entertainment but what they could produce these work related songs were sung in the long hours the shearers and itinerant workers spent together at night or while it rained.

Another work related song was *Lachlan Tigers*.

I recall the Wild Colonial Boys singing a very up beat version on the Sydney Town Hall stage during an early folk concert in the early 1970s. This tune sounded very different the way the Bush Music Club sang it in the tradition of Sally Sloane. She used *Nickerbocker Line*.

It was printed in the Songs of the Shearer with pages straight out of Singabout Songsters. I had suggested a songster to go with Concert Party performance at Easter Show, 1970. Jamie Carlin secured some funding from the Premier's Office.

A popular BMC song about the separation of couples caused by work was *Banks of Condamine* or *Riverine*, 1894 It comes from a long line of traditional songs such as *Banks of the Nile* from early 1800s with the traditional story of separation between woman and man who is setting off for work or war. One might ask why so few songs were collected about women's work and experiences – this needs another paper – but often women sang or whistled while working to rollicking rhythms. Also as they were seldom itinerant workers so their songs were not carried by the oral tradition.

I concluded my few examples from Mark's many discoveries of industrial songs, published in Trove with *The Ballad of 1891* by Palmer and Jacobs; however, I will deal with this in the next report.

There are so many written and published words about shearers that it was difficult to

BUSH MUSIC CLUB inc

GPO Box 433, SYDNEY NSW 2001

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SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2017

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.

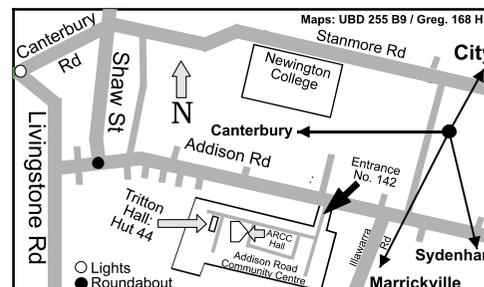


TRITTON HALL
 BUSH MUSIC CLUB HEADQUARTERS
 Hut 44, Addison Road Community Centre
 142 Addison Road, Marrickville

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



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 (02) 9642 7950

View our web site: www.bushmusic.org.au

ISSN 0157 3381

September 2017

- Fri 1 Addison Rd Sessions
- Sat 2 Beecroft Bush Dance,
Sydney Coves
- Sun 3 Irish Slow Session
- Mon 4 Song & Music Session
- Mon 4 PH Dance Workshop
- Tue 5 Playford at the Hut
- Fri 8 Dukes Place, *Steve Wilson*
- Sat 9 Poetry Session
- Sun 10 Irish Slow Session
- Mon 11 PH Dance Workshop
- Mon 11 Song & Music Session
- Sun 17 Irish Slow Session
- Mon 18 Song & Music Session
- Mon 18 PH Dance Workshop
- Sun 24 Irish Slow Session
- Mon 25 PH Dance Workshop
- Mon 25 Song & Music Session

October 2017

- Sun 1 Irish Slow Session
- Mon 2 No Workshops: Long weekend
- Tue 3 Playford at the Hut
- Fri 6 Addison Rd Sessions
- Sat 7 Beecroft Bush Dance,
Barangaroo
- Sun 8 Irish Slow Session
- Mon 9 PH Dance Workshop
- Mon 9 Song & Music Session
- Fri 13 Dukes Place,
Margaret Walters
- Sat 14 Poetry Session
- Sun 15 Irish Slow Session
- Mon 16 Song & Music Session
- Mon 16 PH Dance Workshop
- Sun 22 Irish Slow Session
- 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

November 2017

- Fri 3 Addison Rd Sessions
- Sat 4 Beecroft Bush Dance,
Paddy's River
- Sun 5 Irish Slow Session
- Mon 6 Song & Music Session
- Mon 6 PH Dance Workshop
- Tue 7 Playford at the Hut
- Fri 10 Dukes Place,
Pete & Sue McMahon
- Sat 11 Poetry Session
- Sun 12 Irish Slow Session
- Mon 13 PH Dance Workshop
- Mon 13 Song & Music Session
- Sun 19 Irish Slow Session
- Mon 20 Song & Music Session
- Mon 20 PH Dance Workshop
- Sun 26 Irish Slow Session
- Mon 27 PH Dance Workshop
- Mon 27 Song & Music Session

December 2017

- Fri 1 Addison Rd Sessions
- Sat 2 Beecroft Bush Dance,
BMC Concert Party
- Sun 3 Irish Slow Session
- Mon 4 Song & Music Session
- Mon 4 PH Dance Workshop
- Tue 5 Playford at the Hut
- Fri 8 Dukes Place,
Songs from Lola's Keg Night
- Sat 9 Poetry Session
- Sun 10 Irish Slow Session
- Mon 11 PH Dance Workshop
- Mon 11 Song & Music Session
- Sat 16 Ermington Bush Dance
Southern Cross
- Sun 17 Irish Slow Session
- Mon 18 Song & Music Session
- Mon 18 PH Dance Workshop

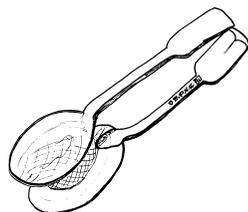


Pennant Hills (PH) Dance Workshop:

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

☎ Felicity: 9456 2860



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

Ermington Bush Dance:

3rd Saturday, December

Ermington Community Centre, 10 River Rd
7pm—11pm - Supper provided
\$19.00 / \$17 conc / \$14 BMC members

☎ Enquiries: 0412 145 262

Activities at Tritton Hall

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

Addison Rd Sessions (singing):

1st Friday, 7:30pm

☎ Glenys: 4758 7851

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

Song & Music Session:

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

Poetry:

2nd Saturday, 2pm-4pm \$5

☎ Karen: 9716 9660

Irish Slow Session:

Sundays, 6:30pm-9:30pm

☎ Brian: 0414 565 805