

MULGA WIRE

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SINGABOUT



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MULGA WIRE

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BUSH DANCES

February - May

BEECROFT Community Centre

Beecroft Road (opposite Fire Stn)

7:30pm—11:30pm

Beecroft Dance will resume in July.

Dukes Place

Duke's Place is currently suspended.

Bush Music Club enquiries:

0466 877 423 or

bmcmail1954@gmail.com

Also see our web site for Club doings, history, articles and blog:

www.bushmusic.org.au

Cover:

Mike Waters (on right) and his friend Ron Lyons at a Beecroft Dance in 2006. Mike used to bring Ron to the dances as Ron was unable to drive.

Photo: Mike Young



The Beecroft Bush Dances will recommence, at last, on 2nd July with the BMCs Concert Party providing the music and Margaret Bolliger calling the dances.

The Pennant Hills Dance Workshops will also recommence in June and John Short is ready to start teaching again, including the dances for the July dance. Singabout Sessions remains online due its popularity with regional members and friends of Bush Music Club so please keep an eye on the club's website and FaceBook page for updates.

Our February Beecroft Dance was replaced with a Musical Evening playing tunes from the Bush Dance program to Ashokan Farewell. We had about 25 musicians and dancers attend a very enjoyable evening. Thanks to everyone for making the night such a success.

The Marrickville Markets, located at the Addison Road Community Centre, are on every Sunday and Elaine, one of our members, has arranged for Bush Music Club musicians to perform from 11am on Sunday 27th March. Come along and listen to some bush music and join us for a cup of tea afterwards.

Sadly, we've said farewell to several club members during the year Fay Haig, Cliff Grant, Leo Bailey and Mike Waters. Sincere sympathy to their families and friends. Fay, Cliff, Leo and Mike will certainly be missed. Also past member Bryden Allen.

The club will be represented at the National Folk Festival over Easter, so if you're there, please call in to one of the club's sessions/workshops.

All the very best for 2022 and here's looking forward to a good year.

Sharyn Mattern

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Mike Waters

Mike Waters was a long time Bush Music Club member and a passionate dancer. Over the years he attended many dances and balls, always looking very dapper, ran dance workshops at Marrickville and attended poetry sessions where he recited some of his own poems. He was also a member of the Sutherland Shire Bush Dance Group where he taught and called dances and joined in the fun.

He was an accomplished musician and composer, writing many popular dances and tunes which he had published in at least two books. He also called for the Sydney Coves bush band for a number of years.

One of his poems featured in the Singabout section of our special 60th Anniversary edition of Mulga Wire. It is reproduced opposite as it appeared in that issue.

We have had many tributes to Mike and a selection of these have been included below.

“Weep with those who weep”.

Mike was much more accomplished than I ever knew. Mike was warm and engaging personality. A real good bloke. I knew him only as a dance and song writer. I have his hand written commendation in the front of one of the books I purchased from him. He was indeed a great contributor to our bush dance and music scene.

Ian Crook

Very sad, but a life lived & danced to the maximum. Mike was always a gentleman, respectful, an inspiration, knowledgeable, humble and always fun. One of a kind.

Sue McMahon

The very first time I went to learn bush dancing was in Marrickville. Mike & Jenny were teaching. He tried to teach so many dances in that night - all new to me. He was just so enthusiastic.

Fay Lau

He was such a great dancer and was friendly to all. I use to attend the Sutherland Shire Bush Dance from all the way from Eastwood and always found the group dance great to attend on the 2nd Saturday night in the month.

Stephen McCann

I have fond memories of his Monday night dance sessions at Addison Road and the many balls and dances he attended.

Judy Casey

Mike called for Sydney Coves for a number of years. So many times Mike said to me...”Steve...you have to smile while playing....” His words often ring in my ears, when I am on stage.

Steve Lockwood

We’ve all lost a bloody good mate this week.

Ralph Pride



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



Worth Noting

The **Covideo Folk Club** has been established as a private group on Facebook. Lots of good items if you are on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/142692067094518/>

The **Marrickville Music Group** has been launched and is meeting in the Bush Music Club hut from 11am to 2pm on the first Wednesday of each month.

Bush Traditions are planning an Autumn get-together in Goulburn on 4th-6th March.

Bruce Watson is about to record a new album and he is crowdfunding it. Details at:

<https://www.pozible.com/profile/bruce-watson-4>

Festivals in 2022

Some festivals have had to be cancelled, but the following ones are going ahead at this stage.

National Folk Festival

14-18 April

<http://www.folkfestival.asn.au/>

Sydney Folk Festival

19-21 August

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

Folk by the Sea

23-25 September

<https://www.folkbythesea.com.au/>

Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival

14-16 October

<https://www.kangaroovalleyfolkfestival.com.au/>

Music, dance and poetry in the picturesque Kangaroo Valley.



★ Nora DUANE ★ ★ Gemma GARNER ★
★ Sandra MACKAY ★

Dancing Returns to the BMC (again)!

Now that restrictions on dancing are being lifted we are bringing back our dancing activities. First to start will be Pennant Hill Dance Workshop and Playford (English Country) dancing in our Hut at Addison Road. Playford will restart in May, and Pennant Hills will follow in June in preparation for the Beecroft Dance in July.

The first Beecroft dance will be held in July.

Participants will notice a few changes:

- Participants will be required to write their name and contact phone number on an attendance list.
- Hand sanitiser will be available
- Dancers may like to wear gloves
- A communal supper will not be provided. There will be hot water available but you need to bring everything else including your own cup.
- Numbers may need to be limited. We are not anticipating a problem at Beecroft or Pennant Hills, but it would be best to pre-book if attending Playford. (Contact Julie Bishop 9524 0247 to confirm)

Position Vacant - Beecroft

Wilma has, after many years dedicated service, decided to retire from minding the door at Beecroft so we need a new volunteer to take her place, or even a few that can take turns.

To take on this role you will need to be a member of the Bush Music Club who is honest and happy to greet attendees as they arrive and collect the entry fees. Once most of the people have arrived you are free to join in the dancing.

If you feel you may be able to assist, please contact the club:

Phone: 0466 877 423

Email: bmcmail1954@gmail.com

Bryden Allen 1940-2022

Bryden became actively involved in folk music and dancing in the seventies up until the nineties. After his accident in 1999 he no longer was able to participate fully in Bush Music Club events, but devoted most of his time to writing his books on sustainable living and continued his association with the Climbing Club. He also still enjoyed playing folk music on a regular basis.

The instruments that he played were the button accordion, tin whistle and recorder. His involvement in the folk scene was extensive, participating enthusiastically in all forms of dance, including Playford, Bush Dancing, Morris Dancing and International Dancing at Sydney University Sports Union with Sedenka.

Some of us first encountered Bryden at the first major bush dance held in Sydney in 1978, started by Frank Canty. It was at the Balmain Town Hall. It began with only one or two sets but by the end of that year it became so popular that the Hall reached maximum capacity! It was during that year that Frank Canty started the Sydney Colonial Dance Group which later evolved into 2 groups, The Australian Heritage Dancers and The Colonial Dancers.

Bryden originally belonged to the Sydney Morris Men but later set up his own group The Blackwattle Morris.

He was also the instigator of Sunday afternoon dances, held upstairs in a building near St John's Church, Glebe. The Bangarra Aboriginal Dance Group used to practise downstairs. These dances brought together an array of musicians and a variety of dancers from the many dance groups operating at the time. It was essentially a dancers' dance. It was a unique function which has not been repeated in the same way since.

In those days the National Folk Festival was staged in a different capital city each year and in 1982 at the Sydney Folk Festival he researched and performed the Running Set, with a group of dancers, which was a marathon one hour continuous set dance. The instructions for this dance are contained on his website along with many of his other writings. Amongst his prized possessions were books of Folk Songs which formed the basis of "1000 Folk Song" weekends with his Bushwalking Club. Some of his favourite folk songs were played at the function following the funeral service.

Bryden was a pioneer for rock climbing in NSW/Australia. He was the first to climb and document many of the climbing challenges (some illegal, some are now off-limits).

Judy Casey first encountered Bryden when she joined BMC in the early 1990s. They both attended the dance sessions in the Hut on Monday nights and the Annual Balls, as well as Bill and Margaret's Irish nights. After his accident Judy was most impressed with his stoicism. He said "Well, I must've done all the dancing and climbing I was meant to do in this life so I must concentrate on what I can do now, playing my instruments, singing and writing." Judy became his proofreader for a while until his writing became too voluminous and then Judy just kept up the contact on a social basis, meeting him for lunch at his favourite Lebanese restaurant every few weeks. He was indeed a unique character and will be missed.

Colin Fong knew Bryden through the BMC and his family's attendance at St Stephens Church, Newtown. After Bryden's accident, Colin regularly saw Bryden in or around Ashfield Mall playing his musical instruments and promoting his latest publication.

Bryden enjoyed the physical exuberance of dancing and was good at motivating and organising people to participate. There were many performances organised on stage, at the Opera House, The Sydney Town Hall, National Folk Festivals, on TV for SBS and The Mike Walsh Show, as well as more spontaneous performances at the Rocks, Circular Quay and Watson's Bay. His drive gave others confidence to fully explore their abilities to perform in both dance and in playing musical instruments. In this way, Bryden spread the joy that folk music brings to us all.

For more information go to <https://www.brydenallen.com/>

Colin Fong, Judy Casey, Don Richmond and an anonymous source

Pennant Hills Dance Activities

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

The dance workshop is currently suspended due to Covid restrictions.

We will restart the workshop once the current outbreak subsides. At this stage we are planning to resume the workshop in June

See you at Pennant Hills!

Programme June/July

MONDAY 7.30–10.30	THEME/DANCE STYLE
6 June	Practice for Beecroft
13 June	Public Holiday. No workshop
20 June	Practice for Beecroft
27 June	Practice for Beecroft
4 July	More dancing
11 July	More dancing
18 July	More dancing
25 July	More dancing

Mulga Wire: 2022 Publishing Deadlines

Item Deadline	To Printers	Folding Session
15 April	21 April	26 April
15 July	21 July	26 July

Playford Dancing at the Hut

Playford English Country Dancing in the hut is currently suspended due to Covid related health restrictions. Restrictions are now easing so dancing will resume in May.

Due to limited space in the hut, numbers are limited so please advise Julie if you plan to attend.

Next meetings:

3 May, 7 Jun, 5 Jul, 2 Aug, 6 Sep, 4 Oct, 1 Nov, 6 Dec.

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 \$10.

For more information contact:
Julie Bishop 9524 0247

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 <allendavisguitar@gmail.com>

Membership forms or ball ticket forms still need to be sent, either by mail, filled out online, or scanned and sent by email.

Membership forms are available on the club website on our contacts page, both as PDF and as a web form you can fill in online.

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



Beecroft Community Centre
Beecroft Road (cnr Copeland Rd)
Cost: \$19 Adult, \$14 BMC Members
Includes tea/coffee

Sat 2 Jul – Concert Party
Sat 6 Aug - Folklines

Beecroft Spot Prizes

At 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 Annual General Meeting

Location: Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre,
142 Addison Rd, Marrickville
Time: 3pm, Sun 20th March 2022

Agenda

Annual reports
Election of Office Bearers

N.B. Proxies need to be submitted by 11th March.



Marrickville Music Group



There is a new music happening coming to Hut 44 ... MMG or the Marrickville Music Group.

MMG will be a Monthly get together,

on the ... 1st Wednesday of the month

Time ... 11am to 2pm...bring music to share and BYO lunch

Cost ... \$10 and tea and coffee will be provided

Where ... Hut 44, Addison Road Community Centre, 142 Addison Road Marrickville

Contact ..Sharyn on 0459 146 185

All genres and styles of music welcome, including bush music.

So, bring your favourite music along to share ... we'll give anything a go!!

Please, do not attend if you have any symptoms or are unwell or you are considered a close contact of a COVID-19 positive case.

I hope that you can join us and don't forget your instrument!!

Bush Music Club Inc.
2022 Annual General Meeting

Where: Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville

When: 3pm, Sunday 20th March 2022

FORM OF APPOINTMENT OF PROXY

I, _____
(full name)

of _____
(address)

being a current financial member or life member of the Bush Music Club Incorporated

hereby appoint _____
(full name of proxy)

of _____
(address)

being a member of that incorporated association, as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the annual general meeting of the association to be held on the 20th day of March 2022 and at any adjournment of that meeting.

My proxy is authorised to vote in favour of/against (delete as appropriate) the resolution (insert details).

Signature of member appointing proxy: _____

Date: _____

NOTE: A proxy vote may not be given to a person who is not a member of the association.

NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE

I, _____
being a current financial member of the Bush Music Club Incorporated,

hereby nominate _____

for the position of _____
(President/Vice President/Treasurer/Secretary/Committee Member)

Signed (nominee) _____ Date _____

Signed (proposer) _____ Date _____

Signed (seconder) _____ Date _____

Return completed form(s) to Secretary Bush Music Club GPO Box 433 Sydney 2001 or
<bmcmail1954@gmail.com> no later than 11th March 2022

Event Details

Addison Rd Singing Session, Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville
☎ Glenys 0419 862 005

Becroft Bush Dance, Becroft Community Hall, Becroft
☎ Wilma 9489 5594

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 p10

Sunday Afternoon Dances, Wongawilli Community Centre, Wongawilli.
<http://www.wongawillicolonialdance.org.au/>

Sydney English Country Dance
<https://englishcountrydancesydney.com>

Toongabbie Music Club, 17 Whitehaven Rd, Northmead
☎ 0439 831 531

Troubadour Folk Club, Everglades Country Club, Woy Woy
☎ Michael 4342 6716 <http://www.troubadour.org.au>

Concert Party News

The BMC Concert Party group is meeting every Monday night again. There is also a Slow Session earlier on Monday Night coordinated by George Bolliger.

We have a core group of about 8 regulars and on most nights that has increased to 12 - 14. Everyone has improved playing as it's a concentrated effort with no singing and fewer numbers than before Covid-19. There is no slacking and we get stuck into it... Numbers in the hut are limited so make sure you book if wanting to attend!

We miss sorely Ralph and Eric who in previous times were our musical leaders so fortunately George Bolliger has stepped up to the mark as stand in musical director. We have started selecting a dance tune set each week, which maybe was not played much in the past, and spend about 15 minutes practicing, playing and learning that set. Everyone agrees that this extra practice has been very beneficial.

Thanks to all attendees and especially to the "Core" group of regulars who have been along every week.

It's also been really nice to have met some new "Old BMC members" who have come along for an occasional musical fix, that has also added to the enjoyment.

From my perspective it's been great running the sessions and learning new music and dance tunes, I can now actually play the Jacaranda set without totally stuffing it up...

John Burch



Concert Party will be playing for the Beecroft Dance in July.

Photo: Allen Davis

AROUND THE BUSH MUSIC SCENE - See p14 for details

Mar 5	7pm	Troubadour Folk Club, <i>Highly Strung Rock and Roll Orchestra</i>
Mar 6	2pm	Sunday Afternoon Dances
Mar 11	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Mar 12	2:30pm	Sydney English Country Dance
Mar 18	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club, <i>Ami Williamson</i>
Mar 20	3pm	Bush Music Club AGM (see p12)
Mar 20	2:15pm	Keith's Dance Workshop, <i>My Dances</i>
Mar 20	2pm	Sunday Afternoon Dances
Mar 25	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Mar 26	7:30pm	Loaded Dog Folk Club
Mar 26	2:30pm	Sydney English Country Dance
Apr 3	2pm	Sunday Afternoon Dances
Apr 8	11am	Toongabbie Music Club
Apr 9	2:30pm	Sydney English Country Dance
Apr 14-18		National Folk Festival
Apr 22	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Apr 23	2:30pm	Sydney English Country Dance
Apr 23	7pm	Troubadour Folk Club
Apr 23	7:30pm	Loaded Dog Folk Club
Apr 24	2:15pm	Keith's Dance Workshop, <i>Contra</i>
May 3	7:30pm	Playford Dancing at the Hut
May 7	7pm	Addison Rd Singing Session
May 13	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
May 14	2:30pm	Sydney English Country Dance
May 15	2:15pm	Keith's Dance Workshop, <i>English Country</i>
May 20	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club
May 27	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
May 28	2:30pm	Sydney English Country Dance
May 28	7:30pm	Loaded Dog Folk Club
May 28	7pm	Troubadour Folk Club