

MULGA WIRE

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SINGABOUT



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MULGA WIRE

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BUSH DANCES

February - May

BEECROFT Community Centre

Becroft Road (opposite Fire Stn)

7:30pm—11:30pm

September 3 **Short Dented Potts**

October 1 **Kookaburra**

November 5 **Paddys River**

December 3 **BMC Concert Party**

Enquiries: Wilma 9489 5594

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:

Bush Music Club Youth Bush Band playing for a dance at the National Folk Festival.

See report on page 5.

Photo: Tony Romeo.



Welcome to the Winter edition of Mulga Wire. Hopefully, life is starting to get back to some sort of normality with dancing and singing.

The Pennant Hills Dance Workshops returned on 6th June and the Beecroft Family Dance recommenced on 2nd July with the BMCs Concert Party Ensemble providing the music and Margaret Bolliger calling the dances. The August dance welcomed the band FolkLines to Beecroft for the first time.

Playford Dancing, in the Hut, has recommenced with workshops taking place on the first Tuesday of the month. Live music is provided by the Playford Players.

Folk festivals are starting up again, with Sydney Folk Festival, Folk by the Sea and Kangaroo Valley Folk Festivals all happening. Check out their dates and website details in this edition of MW.

Bush Traditions held a weekend of music in the Southern Highlands on the June long weekend with the Bundanoon Sessions and a wonderful time was had by all.

Congratulations to Cathy and Owen Grylls on the arrival of their daughter, Alexandra Anne, born 30 May.

Finally, the very sad news that Moira Cowie, BMC member, gifted musician and friend, passed away recently after a long battle with cancer. Moira enjoyed music, festivals and airs and faced her battle with elegance and grace. RIP Moira

Stay warm and safe.

Sharyn Mattern

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Musical Instruments

Have you ever stopped to ponder why some instruments are more popular than others? Why do some styles of music get played on particular instruments and not others? This is a fascinating topic to delve into, and I don't by any means claim to know all the answers. Hopefully we might get some members writing in to the editor to contribute to this topic...

George Bolliger

Piano:

I was recently trying to verify a comment that someone had made to me that Australia at one stage had more pianos per head of population than any other country. I wasn't able to prove this, but did find out some interesting trivia.

Australia currently has about one million pianos. At present there are about 250 qualified piano tuners, of which 95% are male and at least 65% are over 50 years old. This will create a problem at some point, if no-one decides to continue with this profession.

The first piano travelled by ship (the Sirius) to Australia in 1788. In 1834 the first locally made piano was produced by John Benham. Pianos were most popular as an instrument in the late 1800's up until around 1930. Around the start of WW1 importation of German pianos was stopped – I wonder why?

There were a number of local manufacturers (Beale is probably the most famous of these), but apparently most of them got bought out by piano importers. W. H. Paling and Co. and others sought to reduce their local competition by buying up and closing down the local piano industry; they could make more profit from imported instruments. (This appears to be all too familiar in the Australian manufacturing industry.)

There are many stories of how pianos would be transported by horse and cart from a farm house to the local hall and back again after the dance was over. Obviously the tuning would be affected by this rough treatment, but the dancers were generally oblivious to this and just happy to have music to dance to.

In time, many communities were able to afford to install a piano in the local hall. The Steinway piano at the Prince of Wales Opera House in Gulgong is perhaps the best example.

With the advent of electronic keyboards, that are vastly more portable and convenient to tune/play, the death rattle appears to have been sounded for many old pianos. The cost of restoring and maintaining them is considered no longer viable in many instances. It is interesting that in many community halls the unrestored piano still remains in place, but the community has not thought to install a replacement keyboard.....

Next edition... we'll take a look at free reed instruments

Bush Music Club's Young Musicians go to the National

After two years of anticipation and then disappointment, the National Folk Festival finally emerged from the enforced hibernation that was Covid.

Youth Bush Band

For the BMC Saplings this festival was an important step forward with the Youth Bush Band coming together and playing for their first bush dance as a group. This was a great opportunity for the young players to take their music to the next level - the group was actually accepted on the 2020 NFF programme but had to cool their heels for two years before they got their chance!

With members that were scattered across NSW, it was difficult for the group to get together on a regular basis but Zoom meetings and a couple of practices together in Canberra meant that the sound was nice and tight.

Saplings Sessions

The Saplings were scheduled for one hour sessions on the Sat, Sun and Monday of the festival in the outdoor "Session tent". This turned out to be a much better venue than in previous years since it allowed us more space to work in with our break-out groups each day.

We had between 20 - 30 participants each day and the sessions would typically start with the whole group together singing a song to get everyone involved. Smaller groups were then made up depending on the instruments and the proficiency level of the players. This gave the young musicians the opportunity to play at their own pace, hone their playing abilities and learn some new tunes along the way. The groups would then all come back together to play through what they had learnt and the session finished with another song.

Unfortunately, we were not allocated a concert spot on the last day as we had been in previous years but the BMC concert party gave them half an hour at the start of their Monday session so that they could perform the songs and tunes they had been learning over the weekend - a BIG thank you to the Concert Party!!

It's exciting to see how the Saplings have progressed over the years and to have some of the original members now becoming tutors. Thank you to all the tutors and to the parents who bring their kids to our sessions.

The survival of bush music is in good hands.

Helen Romeo



Photo: Sandra Nixon



Photo: Tony Romeo

Worth Noting

Well known member **Frank O'Gallagher** passed away on May at the age of 86. He called dances at Balmain Town Hall in the early days and at various folk festivals. Later he took up concertina restoration and began making harps. Condolences to his wife Peggy and their children.

One of the stalwarts of the Wongawilli Band, **Reg Murray**, passed away at the age of 89. Condolences to his wife Pat and their family. He will be missed in the Illawarra folk scene.

Wongawilli Colonial Dance Club are trialling a new venue for their **Sunday Afternoon Dances** – Heininger Hall, 22 Heininger St, Dapto. On the first Sunday they are having live music by their local “Chord-eaux” band. Schedule in Around the Scene.

Trad & Now Issue 148 May 2022:

- Fong, C: A dancer's view of the 2022 National Folk Festival
- Salpietro, A: Dance display draws on Australia's multicultural experience

Canberra Shanty Club returned to Smiths Alternative from 13 July.
<https://www.facebook.com/canberrashantyclub/events>

Congratulations to **Cathy and Owen Grylls**, on the birth of their daughter, Alexandra Anne. Congratulations also to proud grandparents Don and Wendy Richmond.

Festivals in 2022

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

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.

Hut for Hire

The Bush Music Clubs' Hut 44 in Marrickville is available for members to rent for just \$10 per hour. That's the cheapest space rental in Sydney. There is ample parking and kitchen facilities, stage and seating. Book it for your next performance, meeting or rehearsals.

Contact Elaine hut44bmc@yahoo.com

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!!

**New
Members**

★ **WEBB Catherine** ★

Hi to all our Bush Music Club members,

The BMC will be turning **70 in 2024!** We are planning lots of exciting events and get-togethers.

As part of the celebrations, we will be publishing a **special Platinum Jubilee journal** and would like your contribution. It could be a piece of music, a poem or a bush dance you have written. Or it could be a piece of music that you really enjoy playing at bush dances or at sessions. Maybe there is a dance that brings you great joy. Perhaps a poem that captures something special or a photo from a BMC event that makes you smile.

We will print the special magazine in January 2024 ready for our year of celebration. When sending in your contribution, please include a photo of yourself, or with others from the club if you wish.

You can send your contribution to bmcmail1954@gmail.com. Please send in only ONE contribution (plus photo).

Cheers,
Your 70th BMC celebration committee

Dancing Returns to the BMC (again)!

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

The first Beecroft dance was held in July.

Participants will notice a few changes:

- Hand sanitiser will be available
- Dancers may like to wear gloves and even masks
- 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)

Pennant Hills Dance Activities

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

The dance workshop is now back after a long Covid break and we are practising dances for the Next Beecroft Dance!

See you at Pennant Hills!

Programme August/September/October

MONDAY 7.30pm–9.30pm	THEME/DANCE STYLE
1 August	Practice for August Beecroft
8 August	Practice for September Beecroft
15 August	Practice for September Beecroft
22 August	Practice for September Beecroft
29 August	Practice for September Beecroft
5 September	Practice for October Beecroft
12 September	Dance practice
19 September	Dance practice
26 September	Dance practice
3 October	Dance practice
10 October	Dance practice
17 October	Dance practice
24 October	Dance practice

Mulga Wire: 2022/23 Publishing Deadlines

Item Deadline	To Printers	Folding Session
18 October	21 October	25 October
17 January	20 January	24 January

Playford Dancing at the Hut

Playford English Country Dancing in the hut has now resumed..

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

Next meetings:

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



The Sydney
Playford Players

Photo: Alex Bishop

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 3 Sep – Short Dented Potts

Sat 1 Oct – Kookaburra

Sat 5 Nov – Paddys River

Sat 3 Dec – Concert Party

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

2022 AGM President's Report

2021 was another challenging year with the continued Covid 19 pandemic putting paid to most of the club's activities. While we were looking forward to activities recommencing during the year, unfortunately this didn't eventuate, with only limited numbers being able to attend the Monday night music sessions and one Beecroft Bush Dance being held.

I would like to thank members, friends, supporters and, especially, the committee for their patience and understanding during this time. Committee meetings were called at quick notice to discuss the latest Covid rules and regulations and to plan safest and most efficient road forward for the club and it's members. I realise that this was tiresome for committee members but it was essential that we kept abreast of official regulations and procedures.

I would like to thank everyone involved in making the club's activities, listed below, such a success:

- BMC Committee
- Elaine Elmers for her professional approach and management skills in overseeing the Hut Hiring Service
- Pennant Hills Dance Workshops volunteers & callers
- Beecroft Family Bush Dance, volunteers, bands and dancers
- Playford Dancing
- Saplings Sessions
- Monday Music Night Sessions
- Performance Practice Playing Session
- Singabout Sessions
- Irish Slow Sessions
- Australian Spectrum Show on Alive 90.5 FM for their ongoing support
- Mulga Wire editors

Thank you all once again and stay safe.

**Sharyn Mattern
President**

BUSH MUSIC CLUB Inc

Summary of Income and Expenditure for Year Ended 31 December 2021

<i>Income</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>\$</i>
Dances and Workshops	528.05	Dance Venues	1463.00
<i>Gross 829.00 Bands & Food (300.95)</i>		<i>Rent and Expenses</i>	
Hut 44	6922.40	Hut 44 Rent and Repairs	8857.19
Ball		Ball	
Membership	2305.00	Insurance	825.00
Other	20.00	Mulga Wire and Postage	763.50
		Other	938.00
NET OPERATING INCOME	9775.45	NET OPERATING EXPENDITURE	12,846.72
Interest	764.40	Net Loss	(2306.87)
TOTAL	10,539.85	TOTAL	10,539.85

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021

<i>Liabilities</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>Assets</i>	<i>\$</i>
MEMBERS' EQUITY	120,506.41	FIXED ASSETS	Nil
<i>Represented By:</i>		CURRENT ASSETS	120,506.41
Balance 31/12/2020	122813.28	Cash at Bank	4705.03
Net Loss	<u>(2306.87)</u>	Stock on Hand	915.00
CURRENT LIABILITIES	Nil	Archives	701.81
		Cash Float	200.00
		Investments	<u>113,984.57</u>
TOTAL	120,506.41	TOTAL	120,506.41

Allen Davis

BA, M.Litt DipEd, CPA ACIS JP

Treasurer

Event Details

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

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

Bush Traditions Spring Gathering, Goulburn Club, Goulburn
☎ Dave 02 4884 4214 <http://www.bushtraditions.org>

Folk By The Sea, Kiama
<https://www.folkbythesea.com.au>

Hornsby Folk Club, Beatrice Taylor Hall (in Willow Park), Edgeworth David Ave
☎ Barry 9807 9497

Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival
<https://www.kangaroovalleyfolkfestival.com.au>

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 p10

Sunday Afternoon Dances, Heining Hall, 22 Heining St, Dapto.
<http://www.wongawillicolonialdance.org.au/>

Sydney English Country Dance
☎ Christine 0434 195 098

Sydney Folk Festival
<https://www.sydneyfolkfestival.com.au/>

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 December. Photo: Allen Davis

AROUND THE BUSH MUSIC SCENE See p14 for details

Aug 19	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club
Aug 19-21		Sydney Folk Festival
Aug 21	2:15pm	Keith's Dance Workshop, <i>My Dances</i>
Aug 21	2pm	Sunday Afternoon Dances
Aug 27	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Aug 27	7:30pm	Loaded Dog Folk Club, <i>Margaret & Bob Fagan + Russell Churcher</i>
Aug 27	7pm	Troubadour Folk Club, <i>Trippy Hippy Band</i>
Aug 28	12:00pm	Sydney English Country Dance
Sep 3	7:30pm	Beecroft Bush Dance, <i>Short Dented Potts</i>
Sep 4	2pm	Sunday Afternoon Dances, <i>Chord-eaux</i>
Sep 6	7:30pm	Playford Dancing at the Hut
Sep 9	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Sep 10	2pm	Sydney English Country Dance
Sep 10	7:30pm	Jane Austen Ball at Berowra, <i>Short Dented Potts</i>
Sep 16	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club
Sep 17	5:30pm	Troubadour at the Central Coast Music Festival
Sep 18	2:15pm	Keith's Dance Workshop, <i>Contra – John Coffman</i>
Sep 18	2pm	Sunday Afternoon Dances
Sep 23	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Sep 23-24		Folk By The Sea
Sep 24	12:00pm	Sydney English Country Dance
Sep 24	7:30pm	Loaded Dog Folk Club, <i>The Thompsons + The Last Aurochs</i>
Sep 30 – Oct 3		Bush Traditions Spring Gathering
Oct 1	7:30pm	Beecroft Bush Dance, <i>Kookaburra</i>
Oct 2	2pm	Sunday Afternoon Dances, <i>Chord-eaux</i>
Oct 4	7:30pm	Playford Dancing at the Hut
Oct 8	2pm	Sydney English Country Dance
Oct 14	11am	Toongabbie Music Club
Oct 14-16		Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival
Oct 16	2pm	Sunday Afternoon Dances
Oct 22	12:00pm	Sydney English Country Dance
Oct 22	7:30pm	Loaded Dog Folk Club, <i>Dan McKinnon + Persisters</i>
Oct 23	2:15pm	Keith's Dance Workshop, <i>English Country</i>
Oct 28	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Nov 1	7:30pm	Playford Dancing at the Hut
Nov 5	7:30pm	Beecroft Bush Dance, <i>Paddys River</i>
Nov 11	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club