

MULGA WIRE

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SINGABOUT



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MULGA WIRE

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BUSH DANCES

February - December

BEECROFT Community Centre

Beecroft Road (opposite Fire Stn)

2pm – 4:30pm

February 18 **TBA**

May 6 **Concert Party**

September 2 **Southern Cross**

December 2 **Concert Party**

Enquiries: Wilma 0413 673 339

Dukes Place

Duke's Place is currently suspended.

Bush Music Club enquiries:

0466 877 423 or

bmcm1954@gmail.com

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

www.bushmusic.org.au

Cover:

Historic photo of Bush Music Club musicians playing at Rocks Square in 1981. Ralph Pride, Walter Bolliger, Bob Cole and George Bolliger.

Photo: Bob Bolton.



The year, that seemed to have dragged on, is finally coming to an end with Christmas just days away. Activities with the club have slowly opened up but, sadly, with reduced numbers.

The folk festivals will also be opening up next year and the BMC Concert Party and Saplings are lined up ready to participate. First cab off the rank is the Illawarra Folk Festival and Folk School, Bulli (20-22 January 2023) followed by the Banjo Patterson Festival (17-19 February 2023) and the National Folk Festival, Canberra (6-10 April 2023).

The Beecroft Bush Dance will be having a makeover next year with the dance moving from the evening format to an afternoon dance from 2pm – 4.30pm and a short break between dance sets. At present we have programmed in 4 dances during the year (February, May, September and December) but the number of dances may increase, so stay posted and keep an eye on the BMC website. Also, if you're not receiving your emailed BMC e-newsletter please let us know your email address so that we can keep you well informed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee, all the Volunteers, Ross Fear from Alive 90.5, Cec Bucello from Trad&Now and all our loyal members who support and help make our club so successful.

All the very best for the Season and here's to an all music, all dancing 2023.

Sharyn Mattern

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Return to Yeoval

Members of the Bush Music Club Concert Party will be visiting Yeoval from the 17th to the 19th February 2023 for the Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun!

Activities will focus around the Museum and will include the Poet's Brunch at the Museum on Sunday 19th.

More details about the festival at:

<https://www.orange360.com.au/Events/Banjo-Paterson-Australian-Poetry-Festival>

The National Film and Sound Archive needs you!

The National Film and Sound Archive includes more than 300,000 audio items. Much of it is stored only on audio tapes, which degrade over time.

The tape collection will likely be unusable by 2025, and the archive has called for donations to help it digitise items before that deadline.

10 iconic pieces of audio have been added to the **Sounds of Australia** registry for 2022:

- Farewell address, Hallam Lord Tennyson, 1904
- Digger, Jack Lumsdaine, 1942
- Horrie Dargie Concert, The Horrie Dargie Harlequintet, 1952
- **The Drover's Dream; The Bullockies' Ball, The Bushwhackers, 1956**
- Out with the old and in with the new (decimal currency jingle), Ted Roberts (lyricist), 1965
- The Lord's Prayer, Sister Janet Mead, 1973
- Stayin' Alive, The Bee Gees, 1977
- Neighbours theme song, Barry Crocker (Tony Hatch and Jackie Trent), 1987
- Bicentenary protest coverage, Radio Redfern, 1988
- The misogyny speech, Julia Gillard, 2012

Details at (in particular the Deadline 2025 Campaign):

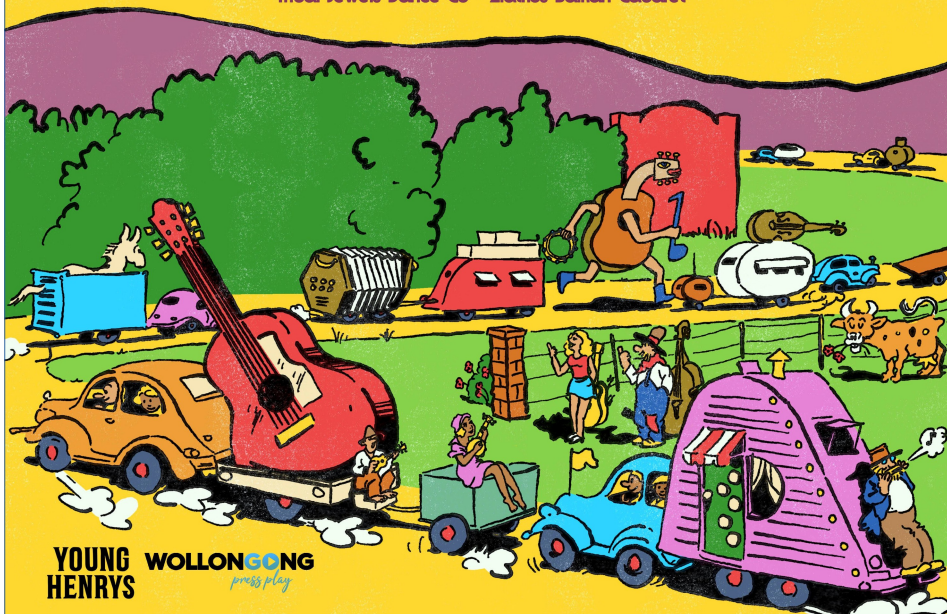
<https://www.nfsa.gov.au/support-us>

THE ILAWARRA FOLK CLUB PRESENTS THE 50TH
ILAWARRA 20-22 January 2023
FOLK FESTIVAL

Ajak Kwal (South Sudan) • Curtis Eller (USA) • Grace Petrie (UK)
Jellymans Daughter (UK) • Ken Field's Hoot Band (USA) • Paul McKenna Band (UK)

Bush Music Club • Concert Party • Gony Weaver • Den Hanrahan and The Rum Runners
Emily Lubitz Band • Glenn Skuthorpe • Good Tunes • Handsome Young Strangers
Kay Proudlove • Liv Cartledge • Luke Spook • Margaret & Bob Fagan • Munsterbucks
Rheinberger and Wilson • Shanty Club • Shining Bird • Suzette Herft • Swing Beans
The Go Set • The Morrisons • The Papercollar Pickers • The Morning Star • The Raglins
The Water Runners • Wallabu Track Bush Band • Zumpa

Az-A-M • Black Joak Morris • Carefree Road Band • Cinnamon Twist Belly Dance • Combined Union Choirs
Curious Rendition Orchestra • Dear Violet • Dru Yoga • Fiddlehead Bush Band • Friends of Steve
Gobsmaekedl • Kenny Bartley and the Midnight Feast • Mally Moo's Music • Maurie Mulheron & Pat Craigie
Maypole with Molly • Meridian • Mother Banshee • Nilkriann • Peter Mace • Peter Willey • Robyn Sylkes
Rusty & The Saint • Saplings Sessions Bush Music • Steampunk Vagabonds • Stonybroke • Storybeats
Super Kenny • The Con Artists • The Femme Fatales • The Other Noonans • The Swingalees
Tribal Jewels Dance Co • Zlatkas Zlatkas Cabaret



Worth Noting

Dr Phillip Grove passed away on the 10th August 2022 from terminal cancer. Our condolences to his wife Mariko and daughter Yurika.

Chris Poleson is out of action for a while with a broken ankle. We wish him a full recovery.

Peter Bonner passed away on the 21st September 2022. He will be missed in the dance scene.

On a happier note, **Andrew Richmond** has got married in Canada.

The **National Film and Sound Archive** needs urgent assistance to get its collection of analog tapes digitised. See page 4 for details.

Monaro Folk Club are holding a **New Year's Eve Dance** in Yarralumla Woolshed with Don Richmond calling and music by the Woolshed Hoppers.

<https://www.monarofolk.org.au/events/new-years-dance>

Beecroft Bush Dance is moving to the afternoon. The hall hire for Saturday evening has become unaffordable so we have moved to the afternoon from 2pm to 4:30pm.

Hopefully this will also make it more accessible for those who find night time travel difficult. The **February** dance is on the **third Saturday** because the hall was unavailable on the first Saturday (afternoon or evening).

Festivals in 2023

The first part of the year sees a number of festivals. Some are a little scaled back but should still be great experiences.

Gulgong Folk Festival

6-8 January

<https://www.gulgongfolkfestival.com>

Illawarra Folk Festival

20-22 January

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

Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival (Yeoval)

17-19 February

<https://www.orange360.com.au/Events/Banjo-Paterson-Australian-Poetry-Festival>

National Folk Festival

6-10 April

<https://www.folkfestival.org.au>

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 (first meeting in 2023 will be 11th Jan, 2nd Wed)
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**

★ Pamela DRYSDALE ★ ★ Wayne STEELE ★

Hi to all our Bush Music Club members,

Bush Music Club
70th

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. Beecroft Dance has returned but will be changing to Saturday afternoon from February next year.

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)

Contact: Wilma 0413 673 339

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 December/January/February

MONDAY 7.30pm–9.30pm	THEME/DANCE STYLE
5 December	Practice for Christmas Party
12 December	Christmas Party with music by the Concert Party
19 December	Request night
	- Christmas Break -
16 January	Dance workshop resumes
23 January	Practice for February Beecroft
30 January	Practice for February Beecroft
6 February	Practice for February Beecroft
13 February	Practice for February Beecroft
20 February	Dance practice
27 February	Dance practice
6 March	Dance practice
13 March	Dance practice

Mulga Wire: 2023 Publishing Deadlines

Item Deadline	To Printers	Folding Session
17 January	27 January	1 February
18 April	28 April	3 May

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:

7 Feb, 7 Mar, 4 Apr, 2 May, 6 Jun, 4 Jul.

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

2023 (2pm-4:30pm)

Sat 18 Feb – TBA

Sat 6 May – Concert Party

Sat 2 Sep – Southern Cross

Sat 2 Dec – Concert Party

 **New afternoon time: 2pm to 4:30pm**

Position Vacant – Beecroft (Filled)

We now have a new volunteer for the door at Beecroft. We would like to thank Fay for offering her services.

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

Phone: 0466 877 423

Email: bmcmail1954@gmail.com

Why belong to a club?

There are many reasons why people elect to belong to a club. Some do so to get cheap member admission to various events; others do so to identify with and support the aims of the club. In most clubs there are a large number of “silent” members – happy to belong, but for varying reasons not wanting to become further engaged in active membership.

All clubs have a small group of active members that promote and engage in the pursuits of that particular club. Very often, these people are recognised for their service to the club with life memberships. It is unfortunate that these life members often retire and move away to become part of the “silent” membership.

Any club is only as good as the members that participate in it. The small group of active members eventually get to a point where they suffer from burn-out; overloading the good horse because there is no-one willing to share the load will cause it to fail at some point.

I am often reminded of the words of a previous treasurer of the BMC. “Although the club is a non-profit organisation, if we make a profit it shows that we are doing something right to have got a significant number of our members to participate in it.” The past couple of years have placed an increased strain on our club.

Covid isolations and regulations have interrupted the way that we have been able to operate the club. Our regular monthly dances and weekly music/song/yarn sessions have all been impacted. Getting things back to “normal” appears to be a very slow process, with many members obviously wary of the risks involved with active participation. Attempts at using alternative technologies such as Zoom have been helpful, but they have their limitations; nothing beats face to face contact.

The attendance numbers at the last three dances run by the club have barely covered the hall hire costs, let alone those of any bands engaged; participation in the weekly meetings has not returned to pre-Covid levels. Discussions with members of other clubs indicate that this is an experience that is common to all.

Not everyone in the BMC lives in Sydney and is able to attend the functions put on for the benefit of members. For those people who do live in Sydney, there is a wide range of alternative entertainment options that are available to them. A review of our membership’s addresses shows that roughly half the members currently reside outside Sydney.

I made the conscious decision to become actively engaged in the BMC when I became a member over forty years ago. What I found was that the more I put in, the more I got out of it. Pressures of study and work eventually led me to take a back seat for a number of years before becoming more active once more. Nothing has changed. There is still a small number of active members, with the majority remaining silent and hidden.

What do we do?

Some time ago I heard someone speaking on this topic on ABC radio. They said that if each of us could do just one thing for the club(s) that we belong to, the impact would be significant. In this modern world there is a huge variety of activities and things available for us to do; each tries to compete for a share of the available free time that we have. Things were different in the past when we didn't have such pressures. There was time to stop and have a yarn, sing a song, or play a tune; the internet, television and electronic gizmos did not dictate what we did with our free time.

I realise that not everyone is able to come to Sydney and participate in club functions. The Mulga Wire is one way that everyone can participate in the club. We are always looking for ways to interact with you, our members. Write and tell us a yarn, poem, song or tune for inclusion in the next edition. If you've got some bit of trivia about the origins of something from our rich cultural heritage, then take the time to put it down in print and share it with the rest of us.

Why did you become a member? Write and tell us what brought about this happening. For me, the friends I've made and experiences I've shared have enriched my life immeasurably.

If you have any ideas of things that we could be doing (or do better), or that you would be willing to be involved in, please let us know. The management team are not mind readers, so telepathic communication doesn't work! (The thumb nail dipped in tar letter has proved effective in the past, but an email to bmcmail1954@gmail.com is probably a more reliable option.)

The BMC will be at Yeoval on 17th to the 19th February, 2023 to participate in the local Banjo Paterson Festival. If you are able to attend and participate, we would love to see you there. If there's another location that you think would make for a great weekend away for BMC members to gather and share poems, songs, tunes etc together, please let us know. It would be wonderful if we could arrange a few of these each year so that our "silent" members can become part of our active community. If you are willing to help organise such an event, so much the better.

George

Event Details

Addison Rd Singing Session, Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville
☎ Glenys 0419 862 005 - *sessions currently on hold*

Beecroft Bush Dance, Beecroft Community Hall, Beecroft
☎ Wilma 0413 673 339

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

Gulgong Folk Festival
<https://www.gulgongfolkfestival.com>

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

Illawarra Folk Festival, Bulli
<https://www.illawarrafolkfestival.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

National Folk Festival
<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, Heininger Hall, 22 Heininger St, Dapto.
<http://www.wongawillicolonialdance.org.au/>

Sydney English Country Dance
☎ Christine 0434 195 098

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

Troubadour Folk Club, Everglades Country Club, Dunban Rd, 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



A group of Concert Party members playing as the Marrickville Bush Band performing at the Addison Rd Sunday Markets

Photo: Wayne Steele

AROUND THE BUSH MUSIC SCENE See p14 for details

Dec	3	8pm	Beecroft Bush Dance, <i>Concert Party</i>
Dec	4	2pm	Sunday Afternoon Dances, Scottish Theme
Dec	6	7:30pm	Playford Dancing at the Hut
Dec	9	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Dec	10	2pm	Sydney English Country Dance
Dec	10	7:30pm	Central Coast Bushdance, <i>Ryebuck</i>
Dec	12	7:30pm	Pennant Hills Dance Workshop Christmas Party
Dec	16	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club, <i>Traditional Graffiti</i>
Dec	17	7pm	Troubadour Folk Club, Christmas Party
Dec	18	2pm	Sunday Afternoon Dances, Christmas Dance, <i>Chord-eaux & friends</i>
Jan	6-8		Gulgong Folk Festival
Jan	16	7:30pm	Pennant Hills Dance Workshop resumes
Jan	20-22		Illawarra Folk Festival
Feb	5	2pm	Sunday Afternoon Dances
Feb	7	7:30pm	Playford Dancing at the Hut
Feb	10	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Feb	11	2pm	Sydney English Country Dance
Feb	11	7:30pm	Central Coast Bush Dance
Feb	17	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club
Feb	17-19		Banjo Patterson Festival
Feb	18	2pm	Beecroft Bush Dance, <i>TBA</i>
Feb	19	2:15pm	Keith's Dance Workshop
Feb	19	2pm	Sunday Afternoon Dances
Feb	24	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Feb	25	1:30pm	Sydney English Country Dance
Feb	25	7:30pm	Loaded Dog Folk Club
Mar	5	2pm	Sunday Afternoon Dances, <i>Chord-eaux</i>
Mar	7	7:30pm	Playford Dancing at the Hut
Mar	10	11am	Toongabbie Music Club
Mar	11	2pm	Sydney English Country Dance
Mar	17	8pm	Hornsby Folk Club
Mar	19	2pm	Sunday Afternoon Dances
Mar	19	2:15pm	Keith's Dance Workshop
Mar	24	7:30pm	Toongabbie Music Club
Mar	25	7:30pm	Loaded Dog Folk Club
Mar	25	1:30pm	Sydney English Country Dance
Apr	6-10		National Folk Festival