



Bush Music Club – E-Newsletter for December 2025



President's Report

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of one of our members - John Burch. John was an active early member in the club (Reedy River Bushmen), before taking a break when the pressures of work took over. On his return John was a regular participant at all the Concert Party practices and events. John volunteered to handle the banking for Monday nights, which was a big help. He will be sorely missed by all.

From a slow start, the Beecroft Dances have continued to build in numbers. Thanks to Wayne Steele, with help from Brian Freeman, for a comprehensive advertising campaign.

The Pennant Hills Dance Workshop has flourished under the direction of John Short. A continuing highlight has been the Christmas in July celebrations, where the dancers get to meet with the Concert Party musicians.

Our resident poet, Ralph Scrivens, brought a fresh outlook to bush recitations with his enthusiastic performances throughout the year.

The Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival was a big success. The BMC had one session in the bar area each day, that was immediately followed by the Saplings session. On the Saturday we played tunes from "Session Book 1" and had a very large following. On Sunday we sang songs from "Song Book 1", which was also well received.

Looking back on the year, the picnic that was held in Parramatta Park stands out as a fantastic event. It was especially pleasing to gain a new member as a result of this event. The Goulburn Gathering in October was also a significant event for the club, together with hosting the Easter gathering at Dave Johnson's place.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe, happy and joyous Christmas. Thank you all for the contributions that you have all made to make the Club run so well this year. Our club reflects the input that you have all provided throughout the year to make it the success it is. I look forward to seeing everyone back in January 2026, when we will start off by providing sessions at Illawarra Folk Festival (16-18th January 2026).

Looking forward to more fun and exciting times with everyone in the New Year.

George Bolliger

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Pennant Hills Dance Workshop News

The Pennant Hills Dance Workshop Christmas Party, with the Concert Party playing, will be held on Monday 8th December from 7.30pm to 9.30pm followed by supper.

Please BYO mug and something small to share, if possible.

\$10 admission but your first time is free.

Also, we have two Request Nights this year, 15th and 22nd December.

Come along and request your favourite dance.

John Short

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CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS FOR YOUR CALENDAR !!

Playford Christmas Dance at BMC Hut

When Tuesday, 2nd December
7.30pm – 9.30pm
Where Tritton Hall - Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre
142 Addison Rd, Marrickville
Cost \$10
Contact Louise 0409 394 126
All dances are called and walked through, and live musicians make this a very enjoyable evening.



Marrickville Music Group Christmas Special

When: Wednesday, 3rd December
11am – 2pm
Where: Tritton Hall - Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre (now air conditioned)
142 Addison Rd, Marrickville
Cost \$10
Contact: Sharyn - 0459 146 845
What to Bring:
Music to share and your lunch for a lovely day of music and friendship



Beecroft Family Christmas Bush Dance

When: Saturday, 6th December
2.00 pm - 4.30 pm
Where: Beecroft Community Centre (now air conditioned)
Beecroft Road (Opposite Fire Station), Beecroft
Cost: \$20 non-member / \$15 concession / \$15 BMC Members / \$40 Family
Contact: BMC Phone: 0422 411 335

The band, for December, will be BMC Concert Party with Don Richmond calling the dances.



Pennant Hills Workshop Christmas Party Dance

When Monday, 8th December
7:30pm – 9:30pm
Where Pennant Hills Community Centre
Lower Hall, downstairs from the library
Cost \$10
Contact: Wilma - 0413 673 339
The dances are called and walked through.



**If it's Christmas, it must be time for the Central Coast
CHRISTMAS CONTRA with RYEBUCK**

When Saturday, 13th December
Where East Gosford Progress Hall
Cnr. Henry Parry Drive & Wells St.
7.30 - 11.00 p.m.

Cost
General: \$20.00 Affiliates: \$18.00
Members: \$15.00 Children 12-16: \$5.00

Please bring a plate of Christmas supper to share and your own mug
Christmas costume encouraged.

Contact: Robyn Northwood, Central Coast Bush Dance & Music Association.
Phone: 0410 446 485
Webpage: www.ccbdma.org



Monday Night Music Christmas Party

When: Monday, 15th December
5.00 pm - 10.00 pm
Where: Tritton Hall - Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre,
142 Addison Rd, Marrickville (the hut is now air conditioned)
Contact: BMC Club Secretary - 0422 411 335

Bring your instrument/s, music and a plate to share.
BBQ sausages and rolls/bread to be provided.



Zoom Christmas Singing Session

Wednesday, 17th December

You are invited to the BMC Christmas Singing Session via Zoom from 11am

Feeling cut off? Not this Christmas ... make yourself a cuppa, sit back and join in the singing online...

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77436849599?pwd=O2TI2dVY2cYd3B59wfkLWLbjVFTzR.1>

Meeting ID: 774 3684 9599

Passcode: K24Dd4



Wongawilli Colonial Dance Club Christmas Dance

Sunday 21st December
With Chord-eaux and Southern Cross and Friends
Times to be confirmed
Heininger Hall, Heininger Street, Dapto
Contact: Cris 0404 667 614



Regular Club Events

Beecroft Family Bush Dance in the Afternoon

When: On Saturday, 6th December 2025
2.00 pm - 4.30 pm
Where: Beecroft Community Centre (now air conditioned)
Beecroft Road (Opposite Fire Station), Beecroft
Cost: \$20 non-member / \$15 concession / \$15 BMC Members / \$40 Family
Contact: BMC Phone: 0422 411 335
Note: In 2026, dances will be held on 7 Feb, 2 May, 1 Aug and 5 Dec

The band, for December, will be BMC Concert Party with Don Richmond calling the dances.



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Monday Night Music Workshop & Session – Weekly

When: *Slow Session* - 5.00 pm - 7.00 pm
Concert Party Session - 7.15 pm to 9.00 pm
Where: Tritton Hall - Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre,
142 Addison Rd, Marrickville (the hut is now air conditioned)
Cost: \$10
Contact: BMC Club Secretary - 0422 411 335

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Marrickville Music Group – Monthly 1st Wednesday of month

When: *Wednesday, 3rd December*
11am – 2pm
Where: Tritton Hall - Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre (now air conditioned)
142 Addison Rd, Marrickville
Cost \$10
Contact: Sharyn - 0459 146 845
What to Bring: Music to share and your lunch for a lovely day of music and friendship

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Pennant Hills Dance Workshop – Weekly

When 7:30pm – 9:30pm - Most Mondays
Where Pennant Hills Community Centre
Lower Hall, downstairs from the library
Cost \$10
Contact: Wilma - 0413 673 339
The dances are called and walked through.

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Playford Dancing at BMC Hut – 1st Tuesday of month (February to December)

When 2nd December – 7.30pm – 9.30pm
Where Tritton Hall - Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre
142 Addison Rd, Marrickville
Cost \$10
Contact Louise 0409 394 126
All dances are called and walked through, and live musicians make this a very enjoyable evening.

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Just Tunes

When: Last Saturday of the month (Feb-Nov)
2pm - 5pm
Where: Tritton Hall - Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre (now air conditioned)
142 Addison Rd, Marrickville
Cost: \$10
Contact: 0422 411 335

'Just Tunes' is a new music session held on the last Saturday of the month from 2pm-5pm in the Hut at Marrickville. These sessions are great for anyone wanting some extra practice. Bring your instrument and BMC music books, which can be purchased on the day, if needed. There will be a break for afternoon tea so bring a plate to share and don't forget \$10 for the Hall. We look forward to welcoming you and playing music together.

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Saplings News

The next Sapling sessions will be at Illawarra Folk Festival in January 2026.
Bulli Showground January 16 – 18. Tickets available on line.

Saplings sessions will be held in the Session Tipi
Saturday 17 th Jan 1.00pm – 1.50pm
Sunday 18 th Jan 4.00pm – 4.50pm

Both sessions will be in the verandah area next to the bar
All young musicians are welcome to join in the fun!

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Wongawilli Colonial Dance Club

Wongawilli have three more dances for the year:

Saturday Evening Dance November 29th

With Chord-eaux and Southern Cross and Friends

Doors open at 7pm

Dancing from 7.30 – 10.00

\$10 includes supper (for groups of 8 or more the price is reduced to \$8 per head)

Heininger Hall, Heininger Street, Dapto

Contact: Cris 0404 667 614

St Andrew's Day bush dance - Sunday December 7 th

With Chord-eaux band ... and some pipers!

Arrive at 1.15 for a Scottish sing-a-long

Dancing from 2.00 – 4.00pm

\$5 includes afternoon tea

Heininger Hall, Heininger Street, Dapto

Contact: Cris 0404 667 614

Christmas Dance Sunday December 21 st

With Chord-eaux and Southern Cross and Friends

Times to be confirmed

Heininger Hall, Heininger Street, Dapto

Contact: Cris 0404 667 614

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Contra Dance Workshops at Pennant Hills Community Centre

When: Sunday (usually the third Sunday of the month, February to November)
2.15pm to 5.15 pm

Where: Main Hall, Pennant Hills Community Centre,
70 Yarrara Rd, Pennant Hills.

Contact: Keith Wood

Phone: 0420 913 934

Email: kbwood.au{at}gmail.com

Website: <http://www.keith-wood.name/danceworkshops.html>

Dance workshops in the following styles: Contra, English Country, and some Scottish and Australian. No partner necessary. All dances walked through and called.

A \$10 donation is suggested to cover costs. Please bring your own drinks and snacks. There will be hand sanitiser available for your use throughout the afternoon. Wear a mask if you feel more comfortable doing so.

Join us afterwards at the Hotel Pennant Hills for dinner.

Keith, Dance Kaleidoscope

My dances have finished for this year. I start again on February 15, 2026, with a Contra dance.

#

Zoom Singing Session – 2nd Wednesday of the Month from January 2026

***BUT ... the Zoom Singing Session for December
will be on Wednesday, 17th (1 week later than normal)***

You are invited to the BMC Monthly Singing Session via Zoom

...Feeling cut off? Then make yourself a cuppa, sit back and join in the singing online...

Topic: BMC Zoom Singing Session

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77436849599?pwd=O2TI2dVY2cYd3B59wfkLWLbjVFTzR.1>

Meeting ID: 774 3684 9599

Passcode: K24Dd4

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Calendar Dates for 2026



Beecroft Family Bush Dance in the Afternoon

Will be held on 7 Feb, 2 May, 1 Aug and 5 Dec

BMC New Year Gathering at Hut 44

1st January 2026 from 2pm to 6pm

(more information to come soon, all welcome, bring the family and friends)

Monday Night Music Workshop & Session

Recommences on Monday, 12th January 2026

Pennant Hills Dance Workshop

Recommences on Monday 19th January 2026

Marrickville Music Group

Recommences on Wednesday, 7th January 2026

Illawarra Folk Festival

16th – 18th January 2026

Contra Dance Workshops at Pennant Hills Community Centre

Recommences on 15th February 2026

Then: March 15 - My dances
 April 19 – Contra
 May 24 - English country
 June 21 – Contra
 July 19 – Contra

August 16 - My dances
September 20 - Contra
October 25 - English
November 15 - Contra

BMC AGM

Saturday, 28th February 2026 at 2 pm

BMC Easter Gathering at Penrose

3rd – 6th April 2026

Bundanoon DanceFest

5th – 8th June 2026

BMC Picnic in Parramatta Park

19th September 2026

Contact – 0422 411 335

BMC Goulburn Gathering

2nd – 5th October 2026

Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival

16th – 18th October 2026

Bundanoon Folk Festival

20th – 22nd November 2026

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Library and Archives Report

Our Library will soon be open for reference.

It has over 900 books & booklets (songs, tunes, dances, history & more), & our blog <https://blog.bushmusic.org.au/p/guide-to-blog.html> contains almost 1100 articles about our history, along with reports on our past & current activities - so many interesting articles, & here's a few of them

For the dancers

Chronology of Balls from 1978

<https://blog.bushmusic.org.au/2020/05/from-archives-chronology-of-balls-from.html>

For the Singers

- Early Song Sheets - 1950/60s

<https://blog.bushmusic.org.au/2020/06/compilation-early-song-sheets-1950s.html>

For musicians -

- From the Archives - Extracts from Mulga Wire no. 138 April 2000 - tune & song books

<https://blog.bushmusic.org.au/2024/06/from-archives-extracts-from-mulga-wire.html>

- From the Archives - Extracts from Mulga Wire no. 139 June 2000 - song & tune books

https://blog.bushmusic.org.au/2024/06/from-archives-extracts-from-mulga-wire_16.html

A large collection of Concert Party & Ball Tune books from the 70's to date are available in the Library.

For the poets and reciters

- Extracts from Singabout (1956-1976) - Recitations - Let's be Australians.

https://blog.bushmusic.org.au/2016/08/extracts-from-singabout-recitations_1.html

All the smaller poetry books in our Reference Library have been filed in Pamphlet Boxes. A number of weighty tomes including several books of Henry Lawson's works are with the other books in the Library.

We also have over 100 albums of photos, from the 80s to this century, most are from the Bob Bolton collection.

Sandra Nixon

Archivist, Librarian & Blogger

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There is a link to the activities of many folk associations on the Bush Music Club's page, see below.

https://bushmusic.org.au/bmc_links_clubs.shtml

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Membership

We have had issues with our membership database this year.

As a consequence, there are members who have not received their membership notification or renewals.

To make up for this we are re-starting memberships for just these affected people as of 1st January 2026 (membership numbers remain unchanged).

If contacted, please renew your membership within 4 weeks.

Also, don't forget that we have a new postal address and mobile phone number.

The club has decided that, due to the reduced amount of snail mail, we would bring the post closer to home. Our GPO Box 433, Sydney 2001 has been **discontinued**.

Our new address is:

Bush Music Club Inc
Hut 44, 142 Addison Road
Marrickville NSW 2204

Mobile: 0422 411 335

BUSH MUSIC CLUB inc

Hut 44 / 142 Addison Rd, MARRICKVILLE NSW 2204

Founded 1954

MEMBERSHIP

APPLICATION []

RENEWAL []

UPDATE []

Name:

Address:.....

.....

Phone: Home () Mobile

Email

Would you like to receive: Electronic Mulga Wire [] Yes. Regular electronic news updates [] Yes

YEARLY MEMBERSHIP

[] SINGLE \$30 [] FAMILY \$40 [] PENSIONER \$20

[] AFFILIATION (Clubs only) \$70 [] DONATION \$ _____

5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP

[] SINGLE \$120 [] FAMILY \$160

[] AFFILIATION \$280 [] PENSIONER \$80

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

Signature:Date:

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

Email this form or details of payment to treasurer, Allen Davis: allendavisguitar@gmail.com

Office Use Only

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

Name

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

THIS IS PROOF OF MEMBERSHIP FOR 3 MONTHS FROM THIS DATE

If membership card is not received within three months

please contact the Membership Secretary by email: bmcmail1954@gmail.com

Bush Music Club Inc, Founded 1954
Hut 44, 142 Addison Road, Marrickville NSW 2204

Phone 0422 411 335

Website <http://www.bushmusic.org.au/>

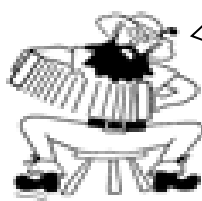
Blog <https://blog.bushmusic.org.au/>

Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/user/BushMusicClubInc>

Email bmcmail1954@gmail.com

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BushMusicClub/>

Meetup <http://www.meetup.com/Sydney-Bush-Music-Club-Meetup/>



Ho Ho Ho ...
Merry Christmas
everyone from the
Bush Music Club !!!