



Bush Music Club

E-Newsletter for January 2026

President's Report

We had a good turnout to the end of year Christmas celebrations at Hut 44. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and there was plenty of food available. John Short thanked the Concert Party for providing the music at the Pennant Hills dance workshop Christmas gathering held the previous week. Thanks must be said to everyone that has participated in making this a great year for the club. We gained a number of new members and created some wonderful memories.

This year started on New Year's Day for the club with what was planned to be a low key event for those recovering from a late night the previous day. We had 19 hardy souls arrive to sing, dance and play tunes and enjoy each other's company.

If the attendance at our first regular meeting night is anything to go by, this year promises to be an exciting one for the club. I look forward to seeing everyone at one or more of the activities we have planned.

Sadly, we lost several members of the club and folk scene at the end of last year.

Alex Hood (27/11/2025), Frank Maher (10/12/2025), Bill Hauritz (8/12/25),

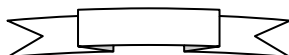
Bob Bellini (12/25), Ted Egan (4/12/25), Nigel Lever (3/12/25)

Vale and thank you for the music.

Check out Sandra's Blog on the BMC website for obits

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George Bolliger



Bush Music Club Annual General Meeting

When Saturday, 28th February 2026 at 2pm

Where Tritton Hall, Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre
142 Addison Rd, Marrickville

Please, ensure that your membership is up to date and, if you are not able to attend, complete the Proxy Form attached.

Remember, this is your club, so a Nomination Form is also attached.

Please complete both forms, if appropriate, and forward before 21st February 2026 to the email below:

BMC Secretary

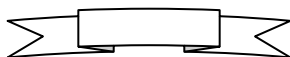
bmcmail1954@gmail.com

HAPPENINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2026 FOR YOUR CALENDAR!!

BMC AGM

When Saturday, 28th February 2026
Time 2 pm
Where Tritton Hall - Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre
142 Addison Rd, Marrickville

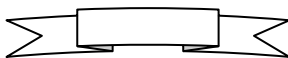
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Playford Dancing at Tritton Hall

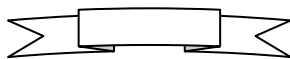
When Tuesday, 3rd February 7.30pm – 9.30pm
Where Tritton Hall - Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre (now air conditioned)
142 Addison Rd, Marrickville
Cost \$10
Contact Louise 0409 394 126

All dances are called and walked through, and live musicians make this a very enjoyable evening.



Marrickville Music Group

When: Wednesday, 4th February 11am – 2pm
Where: Tritton Hall - Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre
142 Addison Rd, Marrickville
Cost \$10
Contact: Sharyn - 0459 146 845
Bring: Music to share and your lunch for a lovely day of music and friendship.
Tea, coffee and some morning tea provided.



Beecroft Family Bush Dance

Will be held at the Pennant Hills Community Centre
– THIS MONTH ONLY DUE TO BEECROFT HALL REFURBISHMENT –

When: Saturday, 7th February 2.00 pm - 4.30 pm
Where: Pennant Hills Community Centre (upper hall)
cnr Ramsay Rd and Yarrara Rd, Pennant Hills
Cost: \$20 non-member / \$15 concession / \$15 BMC Members / \$40 Family
Contact: BMC Phone: 0422 411 335

The band, for February, will be **Ryebuck Bush Band** with **Margaret Bolliger** calling.

Pennant Hills Dance Workshop

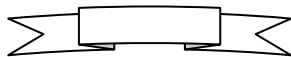
When Most Mondays 7:30pm – 9:30pm
Where Pennant Hills Community Centre
Lower Hall, downstairs from the library
Cost \$10
Contact: Wilma - 0413 673 339
The dances are called and walked through.



Dancing at Beecroft Community Centre

Monday Night Weekly Music Workshop & Session

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
Cost: \$10
Contact: BMC Club Secretary - 0422 411 335



Zoom Singing Session

When Wednesday, 2nd Wednesday of the month.
You are invited to the BMC Singing Session via Zoom from 11am
Feeling cut off? Not this February ... 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

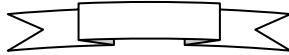
Saplings News

The next Sapling sessions will be held at Cobargo Folk Festival
27th February – 1st March 2026.

Tickets are available online



Saplings is a session or workshop specifically for young musicians to learn about and play our rich heritage of Australian dance music and songs. Sessions are usually held at NSW folk festivals.



Wongawilli Colonial Dance Club

Australia Day Concert and Bush Dance

Sunday 25th January

with Southern Cross & Friends and Chord-eaux

1.45pm - 4.30pm

Sing-a-long with favourite Aussie songs then bush dancing

\$5 includes afternoon tea

Heining Hall, Heining Street, Dapto

Contact: Cris 0404 667 614

Regular Bush Dances

1st Sunday of the month with Chord-eaux Bush Band

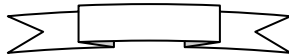
3rd Sunday of the month with Southern Cross Bush Band and Friends

Doors open at 1.45 – dancing till 4pm

\$5 includes afternoon tea

Heining Hall, Heining Street, Dapto

Contact: Cris 0404 667 614



Contra Dance Workshops

Pennant Hills Community Centre

When: RESTARTS ON - Sunday, 15th February 2026 2.15pm to 5.15 pm
(usually the third Sunday of the month, February to November)

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

Contact: Keith Wood, Dance Kaleidoscope

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.

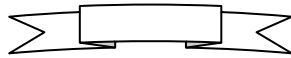
A \$10 donation is suggested to cover costs. Please bring your own drinks and snacks. There will be hand sanitiser available for your use throughout the afternoon. Wear a mask if you feel more comfortable doing so. Join us afterwards at the Hotel Pennant Hills for dinner.

CENTRAL COAST BUSH DANCE

St Valentine's Day

When: Saturday 14th February
Where: East Gosford Progress Hall
cnr Henry Parry Drive & Wells Street
East Gosford.
Contact: Robyn 0410 446 465 or John 0427 286 436

Music by the not yet world famous **Barangaroo Bush Band**
dances expertly called by **John Short**



More Happenings in 2026 from the desk of Dave Johnson

Heritage Bush Orchestra

The first assembly of the HBO will be at Kiama on Saturday 31st January 2026 1-4pm at The Catholic Parish Hall, 92 - 96 Manning Street, Kiama. Music provided based on the arrangements of Dave Johnson for the NFF Festival *Bush Orchestra*.

Register with Wayne Millar artalley@live.com.au

Heritage Ensemble players are very welcome.

Bundanoon DanceFest

Planning is under way and call for workshops will be open soon.

Dates are 5th to 8th June. Looking forward to seeing a strong contingent of musicians from the BMC.

An extra day on the Friday is in planning stages as a meet-up and expertise sharing for dance callers/ teachers.

Australia Day Show

Dave Johnson is performing a solo show at Doyle's Fisherman's Wharf on the morning of Australia Day from 8.30am.

Come along for a complimentary breakfast and punch out some choruses.

Goulburn Gathering

2nd-5th October

The Goulburn Club committee has approved the Gathering on the Labour Day Weekend in October. So George and Hannah and I will be looking for contributions soon.

The Great Shanty Off 2

This is mark 2 of the successful fun held at the National Maritime Museum last year. It is on Saturday 21 February 2026 from 6.30 – 9:00. All welcome. Maybe the Bundanoon Shanty group will put in an appearance...

Calendar Dates for 2026

Beecroft Family Bush Dance in the Afternoon

(Note – February dance will be held in the Pennant Hills Community Hall)
Will be held on 7 Feb, 2 May, 1 Aug and 5 Dec

Monday Night Music Workshop & Session

Has recommenced. Most Monday nights from 5pm & 7pm

Pennant Hills Dance Workshop

Has recommenced. Most Monday nights 7.30pm

Marrickville Music Group

Has recommenced. 1st Wednesday 11am

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 Dance Fest

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



Camping at Illawarra Folk Festival photo by Wendy

Library and Archives

Our Library will soon be open for reference.

Recent Blogs

OBIT - Death of Frank Maher, one of our earliest members

https://blog.bushmusic.org.au/2025/12/obit-death-of-frank-maher-one-of-our_20.html

Concert Party's Christmas Party, 2025

<https://blog.bushmusic.org.au/2025/12/concert-partys-christmas-party-2025.html>

Publications of the Bush Music Club - Part 2

<https://blog.bushmusic.org.au/2025/12/publications-of-bush-music-club-part-2.html>

Folklore collectors and singers. by Dale Dengate

<https://blog.bushmusic.org.au/2025/12/folklore-collectors-and-singers-by-dale.html>

Reedy River Bushmen Reunion, 2023

<https://blog.bushmusic.org.au/2025/12/reedy-river-bushmen-reunion-2023.html>

New Year's Day session @ The Hut - practice for 2026 Illawarra Folk Festival

<https://blog.bushmusic.org.au/2026/01/new-years-day-session-hut-practice-for.html>

Piano Tuning over the years

<https://blog.bushmusic.org.au/2026/01/piano-tuning-over-years.html>

Launch of John Dengate's 3rd book - Songs, Poems, Satires & Shouts all the Way - 2012

<https://blog.bushmusic.org.au/2026/01/launch-of-john-dengates-3rd-book-songs.html>

Sandra Nixon

Archivist, Librarian & Blogger

***Find links to the activities of many folk associations on the
Bush Music Club's web page,
https://bushmusic.org.au/bmc_links_clubs.shtml***

Illawarra Folk Festival Review

The BMC was accepted to participate in the Illawarra FF held over 16-18th January 2026. We had three programmed sessions, plus an additional session as part of the folk school conducted by the IFF.

Folk School

With our folk school session scheduled to commence at 9am on Friday, a number of BMC members elected to set up tent/ van/ etc the previous afternoon at the Bulli showground. At that point in time I have to say that there had been a light sprinkle of rain, but nothing to indicate things might change.

Attendance at the folk school was a little down on that of the previous year (in fact attendances in general at the festival proved to be down on those of the past year), but there was a high level of participation from all. After starting with an obligatory scale, we launched into a few waltzes, before migrating on to polkas and jigs.

We used the same instruction booklet that Ralph Pride had put together for use the previous year, as this had proved to be a great success. The booklet includes a variety of different tune tempos, songs and even has dance instructions; the aim of the booklet was to show how all the different aspects of folk are pulled together. Perhaps next time, we might even include a poem...

At the end of our time, all participants came away hopefully a bit wiser as to how everything fits together in the scheme of things.

Festival

On our return to the festival grounds from the folk school, the weather was still fine, however Hanrahan (Wayne Steele) was predicting gloom ahead. We held our first session for the IFF at the session tent tipi (all our sessions were held here). It was lucky that a recce had been done earlier, as the lighting was atrocious and no seating was to be found; that was partially corrected by the time our session commenced. It was pleasing to see a high level of participation by BMC members.

By prior agreement amongst ourselves we elected to make this a singing session - using Blue Song Book 1 as our reference. Collectively we managed to raise enough volume to attract a few other inquisitive people to come and join us. Overall, we did well, with the exception of one song randomly chosen without thought by one of our members. We had a few hiccoughs but eventually got through it - I knew there was a reason for not

practicing that song the previous Monday!

No sooner were we back at camp celebrating our successes than the rain came that night - and continued to come. We elected to have an early night, after an impromptu jam session under Wayne and Wendy's gazebo, hoping that tomorrow would be a new day. Friday dawned, but the rain didn't stop - if anything it grew heavier. At least one gazebo beside us succumbed to the weather.

Wayne Steele was proud of his gazebo erection - "still standing after a night of strong winds", he told everyone! Last year he had not been so lucky and as a consequence didn't bother to take his gazebo home with him.

In spite, or should I say despite the rain, the remaining two sessions (playing tunes from Session Book 1) went off without any problems. We had good attendances at both sessions. Wayne said to me afterwards that the only let down for him was getting a puncture on the way home.

Now to work out what to do to make our shelters more wind/rainproof for next year....

George Bolliger



Demonstrating correct rhythm for the polka. A music workshop at Bulli – photo by Wendy

SING ABOUT

Moby Dork The Great Orange Whale

Lyrics: Hølie Tannensdøttir

Tune: The Greenland Whale Fisheries, traditional Scottish whaling song

I.

In the year two thousand twenty-six
On a freezing January day
Thirteen dog sleds from Denmark did arrive
To save Greenland from the USA, brave boys,
To save Greenland from the USA.

Our Captain stood on his snowmobile
With an iGlass and a flagpole
“There's a whale, there's a whale, there's a bloody orange whale,”
“And he leaks at every hole, brave boys
And he leaks at every hole.”

'Twas Moby Dork, the great orange whale
Spewing garbage from his spout
“If I can't buy you, I'll tariff you to death
And laugh as I wipe you out, commie boys,
I will laugh as I wipe you out.”

Norway's prime minister stood on a sleigh
Guzzling narwhal grease
“You attack your own citizens and sovereign states
And expect a prize for peace?” he guffawed,
“Will wonders never cease?”

II.

“Oh I need an island,” blubbered Moby Dork
“Where my friends can sport and play
With those sweet young teens, and those younger in-betweens
Who massage us night and day(wink wink)
Who massage us night and day.

“Oh to lose this green island I love so well
‘Twould grieve my heart full sore
But for folks to read them dadgum pedo-files
‘Twould grieve me ten times more, naughty boys,
‘Twould grieve me ten times more,

“Call me Fishmeal,” said J D Vance
With his face in a frozen smile
“Play along, play along, play along with him,” he cried
“He'll be dead in a very little while, me boys,
He'll be dead in a little while.”

III.

We assailed that whale with our iHarpoons
Till the whale gave a flunder with his tail
And the Dow Jones crashed, four senators resigned,
And we nuked that bloody whale, brave boys
And we nuked that orange whale.

"Moby Dork doth sink," our Captain cried,
"To the darkest pits of hell!
To garner support for Greenland sovereignty
Delights my heart full well, brave boys
Delights my heart full well."

Oh, Greenland is cheerful again today
Though it's white instead of green
Where there's ice cream and snow and the whale fishes blow
And the Yanks are no more seen, brave boys
And the Yanks are nevermore seen.

iGlass: an Apple spyglass



***And for the musicians, just to remind ourselves that
tunes in $\frac{3}{4}$ are not always waltzes.***

Moonwinks

Harry McQueen, Castlemaine, Vic - Peter Ellis Collection

Mary Curtis' Polka Mazurka

Mary Curtis, Lake Charm, Vic - Willis & Harpley Collection

Sally Sloane's Mazurka

Sally Sloane, Lithgow, NSW - Meredith Collection

Bush Music Club Inc.

2026 Annual General Meeting

Where: Hut 44, Addison Rd Community Centre, Marrickville

When: 2pm, Saturday 28th February 2026

FORM OF APPOINTMENT OF PROXY

I,
(full name)

of
(address)

being a current financial 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 28th day of February 2026 and at any adjournment of that meeting.

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

.....Date:

Signature of member appointing proxy,

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_

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: bmc1954membership@gmail.com

Membership Update

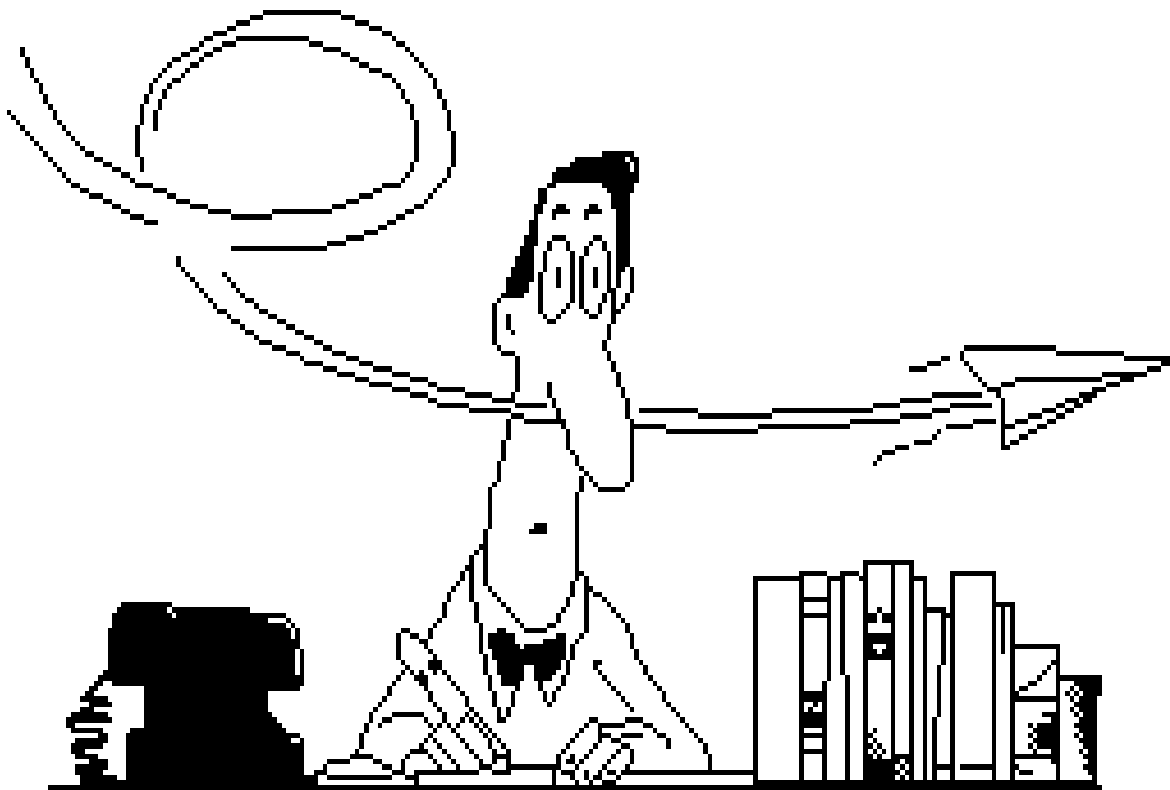
Last year we unfortunately had some corruption of our BMC membership files. In December 2025 we attempted to contact all apparent non-financial members to advise them of their membership status.

We ask any member who wishes to confirm their membership status or have changed any of their contact details to contact **Wayne Steele** (acting membership secretary) at the email address of:

BMC1954membership@gmail.com

Our new address is:

Bush Music Club Inc
Hut 44, 142 Addison Road
Marrickville NSW 2204
Mobile: 0422 411 335



Our well-organised acting membership secretary can hardly wait to hear from you.

BUSH MUSIC CLUB



Australia's Traditional Songs, Dances, Music & Folklore

**Bush Music Club Inc,
Founded 1954**

Tritton Hall, 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-tup/>

