



# Bush Music Club

## eNewsletter for July 2026

### Summary of Activities in the next 2 months

- |                       |               |   |
|-----------------------|---------------|---|
| 29 <sup>th</sup> June | 5 – 7pm       | <b>Slow Session</b> – come along and improve your music skills at a speed suits virtually everyone. We aim to remove the mysteries of how to “read the dots”, to enhance your awareness of timing and abilities to listen and play along with other fellow musicians. Cost: \$10 (Hut 44)   |
|                       | 7 – 9pm       | <b>Concert Party</b> – Join in with other club members in singing, recitation, yarn spinning or playing traditional Aussie collected tunes. Imagine that you’re sitting round a campfire and taking turns to entertain the rest of the mob. Music notation and song sheets are available, and everyone is welcome to share their experiences. As with any party, participation is strongly encouraged. Cost: \$10, free on first visit or if already paid for Slow Session (Hut 44) |
|                       | 7.30 – 9.30pm | <b>Pennant Hills Dance Workshop</b> – Join in learning to dance various traditional bush dances. All dances are walked through and called. Cost: \$10 (Pennant Hills Community Centre)  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> July  | 11 – 2pm      | <b>Marrickville Music Group</b> – Bring music to share (it can be any genre) and your lunch for a congenial day of music and friendship. Tea/coffee provided. Cost: \$10 (Hut 44) Contact Sharyn 0459 146 845   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> July  | 5-7pm, 7-9pm  | <b>Slow Session &amp; Concert Party</b> (Hut 44)<br><b>Pennant Hills Dance Workshop</b> (Pennant Hills Community Centre)  |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> July  | 7.30 – 9.30pm | <b>Playford Dancing</b> – Come along and dance in a stately manner, reminiscent of Jane Austen times, to live music provided by BMC members. All dances walked through and called. The dances are elegant and restrained, unlike the exuberant exhibitions to be found at a bush dance! (Hut 44) Cost \$10 Contact Louise 0409 394 126  |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> July | 5-7pm, 7-9pm  | <b>Slow Session &amp; Concert Party</b> (Hut 44)<br><b>Pennant Hills Dance Workshop</b> (Pennant Hills Community Centre)  |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> July | 11am          | <b>Zoom Singing Session</b> – If you live outside Sydney, there’s no excuse for not joining in with other country members and participating in this singing session. Along with songs, there’s also the odd yarn or recipe thrown into the melting pot to liven things up. (Sharyn to advise contact details, Contact 0459 146 845) <b>NOTE Unless we get an increase in numbers this will be the last Zoom Singing Session. Many thanks for all those who have participated.</b>   |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> July | 6pm           | <b>XMAS in July @ Pennant Hills Community Centre</b>  |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> July | 5-7pm, 7-9pm  | <b>Slow Session &amp; Concert Party</b> (Hut 44)<br><b>Pennant Hills Dance Workshop</b> (Pennant Hills Community Centre)  |

1 <sup>st</sup> August	2-4:30pm	Beecroft Dance @ Beecroft Community Centre
3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug	5-7pm, 7-9pm	Slow Session & Concert Party (Hut 44)
4 <sup>th</sup> Aug	7.30 – 9.30pm	Playford Dancing
5 <sup>th</sup> Aug	11 – 2pm	Marrickville Music Group –
10 <sup>th</sup> Aug	5-7pm, 7-9pm	Slow Session & Concert Party (Hut 44)
17 <sup>th</sup> Aug	5-7pm, 7-9pm	Slow Session & Concert Party (Hut 44)
24 <sup>th</sup> Aug	5-7pm, 7-9pm	Slow Session & Concert Party (Hut 44)
31 <sup>st</sup> Aug	5-7pm, 7-9pm	Slow Session & Concert Party (Hut 44)

**Special events this year (to be confirmed)**

5 <sup>th</sup> Sept		Berowra wood chopping event (this is under review to be confirmed)
19 <sup>th</sup> Sept		Parramatta Park Garraway Shelter Picnic with music and singing
2-5 <sup>th</sup> Oct		Goulburn gathering
16-19 <sup>th</sup> Oct		Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival, BMC Sessions & Saplings
5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	2-4:30pm	Beecroft Dance at the Beecroft Community Centre

**President’s Report**

It’s been a relaxing month. We’ve celebrated the winter solstice with a picnic at Henry Lawson Cave. Wonderful to see some of our long term members turn up and join in. The air conditioning in the hut makes it cosy and warm; why not come along one Monday and join in the fun?

**Slow Session**

We have expanded the selection of music we are playing to include highlights from the Wednesday Marrickville Music group. The intent is to get everyone familiar with playing them so that when they are presented at the October Gathering in Goulburn, they will all join in confidently.

**Concert Party**

We have had some great nights, with lots of interesting songs presented- thank you Steve Lockwood. With a lull in preparation for the next dance everyone has been free to choose their favourite pieces from the yellow and “other” book ( blue/ white book; book 2). Numbers have been pretty constant, however it would be nice to see a few new faces.

*George Bolliger*

**Vale MULGA WIRE.... Welcome eNewsletter**

We are sad to announce that Ralph Pride will no longer be producing and publishing MULGA WIRE document. We thank Ralph for the many years of effort he has spent in producing the detailed, witty and informative MULGA WIRE.

In its place the BMC committee will produce a monthly eNewsletter which will be emailed to all financial members.

We invite members to submit any articles, comments or announcements that may be of interest to other members to: [bmc1954membership@gmail.com](mailto:bmc1954membership@gmail.com) Att Wayne Steele

*The Committee*

## Saplings News & Report

We had two very successful sessions at SessionFest at Morisset on the June long weekend. 8x participants on sat and 7 on Sunday. Many thanks to the families and tutors who came ...we had lots of fun!!

A big thank you to Newcastle & Hunter Valley Folk Club for having us again.

We also spoke with a young contact we met at the Gosford dance for a possible Regional Saplings session/workshop in Gosford. The difficulty won't be a venue nor the number of kids advertise to but when he has a weekend free and we can access the venue. But it is very positive.



The next Sapling sessions will be held at:

**Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival 16 – 18 October**

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.

*Helen Romeo*

## Marrickville Music Group and Zoom Singing Report. Jun 26

**MMG.** There were the small number of the regulars in attendance to explore and play tunes that may not normally be played in the BMC. We would like more attendees. Why not try something different and have a pleasant lunch with company. Bring along any style of music to share

**ZOOM Singing.** There were only a couple of members wanting to connect and sing via Zoom. We would like to have more involved at July Zoom Singing. Contact Sharyn to obtain the ZOOM contact details. **NOTE Unless we get an increase in numbers there will be no more Zoom Singing Sessions after July. Many thanks for all those who have participated.**

*Sharyn Mattern*

## Pennant Hills Dance Workshop June 2026 Report

There were 11, 15, 17 and 11 dancers at the four dance workshops held in the May-June period (18May, 25May, 1Jun and 15Jun). Note that Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June was a public holiday and no workshop was held.

Dances taught included: Lancers (F2 and F4), Dance of the Kites, Highland Rambler, Loop and Twist, Kicking Horse, Reel of the 51<sup>st</sup> Division, Six Ribbons, Circle Waltz, Come Under My Plaidie, The Loop, Margaret's Waltz, Love and Kisses, Buttons and Bows, Duke of Kent's Waltz, Posties Jig, Banksia Quadrille Fig 3, Trip to Bavaria, Swedish Progressive Circle, Happy Returns, Baker's Twist, In the Loop.

*John Short*

## Henry Lawson Birthday Picnic/Concert Report 21<sup>st</sup> June



To celebrate the anniversary of Henry Lawson's birthday about 20x BMC members arrived at the Henry Lawson Willoughby cave to play some music, sing some songs and recite some poetry based on Henry Lawson poems. Excellent music performances were carried out by Dave, Peter, Sue, George and Steve with the others providing musical accompaniment. Karen gave a wonderful and energetic recital of one of Henry's poems.

A number of walkers and cyclers passing by did stop to listen to the music, the singing and the poetry.



*Wayne Steele*

## Sydney Playford English Country Dance June Report.



Sydney Playford met on Tuesday, 2nd June at the BMC Hut, Marrickville from 7:30-9:30pm. We had 9 band members & 12 dancers in attendance. In all we danced 11 dances during the night & a good time was had by all.

We welcomed Patricia George to Playford along with some of the dancers who will be dancing at an 80th birthday Jane Austen themed party. Pat called three dances for us. Many thanks to Colin Fong, Margaret Bolliger & Christine Miller for calling dances during the night.

Sydney Playford will next meet on Tuesday, 7th June.



*Louise Murray*

## Bundanoon DanceFest AUSDAM 5-8<sup>th</sup> Jun Report.

About 10 or so BMC members attended the AUSDAM DanceFest at Bundanoon. The BMC members had varied roles such as: lead musicians, callers, accompanying musicians and dancers. Sandra Nixon was at the door collecting entrance money. The Community Hall dances had a large number of attendees and both dancers and musicians thoroughly enjoyed the event.

## BMC Membership Report

We welcome two new BMC members, Marie Duric (violin) & Laurie Hopkins (violin). We also have had a number of membership renewals, many thanks.

*Wayne Steele*

## Woodlands Retirement Village

Towards the end of last year the BMC was approached to provide a talk to the residents of Woodlands Retirement Village.

On 20th June I visited the village and met with Kathy Rod, who had organised the event. (In a previous life Kathy had worked for Colin Fong at a legal firm.) There was about 20 people and one excited grandchild present.

I gave them a brief talk of the origins of folk music in Australia- how the convicts, gold miners and later migrants had influenced the folk music we enjoy performing. From there I talked about the history of the BMC in both collecting , preserving and sharing this wealth of folk traditions we have.

To make the talk more interesting, I brought along an English and Anglo concertina, a button accordion and a piano accordion. They were happy to hear the Mudgee Waltz on a concertina and “Cunnamulla Stocking Jig” on a melodeon Bob Bolton used to play.

I then got them to sing along to barn dance tunes - Click go the Shears, Waltzing Matilda, Long way to Tipperary etc. Everyone seemed to get a lot of enjoyment from it and reminisced over dances they had been to in the past. One lady talked of her childhood growing up in Glouster (NSW), and the joys of going to a bush dance there.

It was great to share time with this group of people and show them what the BMC has been doing for over 70 years. Unfortunately time (and the Yoga teacher’s arrival) put paid to extending the session to permit more questions to be answered. But there’s always another time....

*George Bolliger*

## Bush Music Club – Australia’s First & Oldest Folk Club

The Club was formed in 1954 as part of the post-war search for the kind of music people remembered their families & their friends singing, playing & listening to in earlier years, to counter the increasing Americanisation of our culture.

Our founders formed the first bush band, The Bushwhackers (1952-57) & many of their collections are in the National Library.

In 2014 I took over responsibility for BMC Archives & Library from Bob Bolton. Bob joined BMC in the early 60s following his father & older brother. He travelled to Tasmania in 1965, returning to Sydney Easter 1970 & then took photos of BMC events, folk events & festivals, including The National until he retired.

Bob was a professional photographer. The collection includes over 100 photo albums, most of them of Bob's photos dating from 1982 to c.2007 when he got a digital camera - I remember him lining up a shot at his local folk club, then moving aside & flipping through the camera's booklet trying to work out what to do next! His negative collection, in Rob Willis's custody, dates from 1969, but we don't have any early albums, all we have is some colour photocopies of some 1970s events.

He also gathered together all archival material he could find, and much of this is on BMC's blog which I started in 2012 at

<https://blog.bushmusic.org.au/p/guide-to-blog.html>

& still have much more to blog.

Our Library includes around 1000 items, published books, BMC song & tune books, & many small self-published poetry books.

The Archives include original material gathered from many sources, & copies of items owned by our founders & other early members.

We also have a small sound collection - LPs & CDs, & a few cassettes!

*Sandra Nixon*

## Xmas in July Dance at Pennant Hills 20<sup>th</sup> July Notice

Come along to the Xmas in July dance at the Pennant Hills Community Hall at 6pm. Bring along a plate of food to share. Live music provided by the BMC Concert Party band. Dances walked through and called by John Short. This is a chance for the dancers to meet the musicians.

## Beecroft Community Centre Bush Dance 1<sup>st</sup> Aug Notice



The next Beecroft Bush dance is on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Aug with the live music provided by the BMC Concert Party band. This is a good opportunity to enjoy each other's company and get a bit of exercise. We would like to fill the hall with dancers. We ask you to support the BMC and attend this dance for a pleasant afternoon. At the end of this newsletter is an A4 advert for the dance that can be cut out and distributed to any persons who may be interested in attending the dance.

## Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival 16-18<sup>th</sup> Oct 2026



The Kangaroo Folk Festival is to be held from 16-18th October. It appears that the BMC are invited to perform two music sessions during the festival. The actual dates and times are to be finalised. We would like any members who are intending to visit the KVFF to join in and support the BMC Concert Party group at these sessions. It is expected that one session will be mostly playing tunes and the other session will be tunes and singing.

## Illawarra Folk Festival 14-17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2027



The Illawarra Folk Festival is to be held from 14-17th January 2027. The BMC has applied to participate in this festival as we have done in previous years. If successful, we hope to perform in possibly three music sessions during the festival and we would like any members who are intending to visit the IFF in 2027 to join in and support the BMC Concert Party group. In past years the IFF committee have allowed the BMC three sessions, such as: one session may be a workshop, another session may be mostly playing tunes and another session will be tunes and singing. The actual dates and times will be advised.

## Wongawilli Colonial Dance Club Notice

### Regular Bush Dances

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month (July 5<sup>th</sup>) with Chord-eaux Bush Band

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month (July 19<sup>th</sup>) with Southern Cross Bush Band and Friends

Doors open at 1.45 – dancing till 4pm

\$5 includes afternoon tea

Heininger Hall, Heininger Street, Dapto

Contact: Cris 0404 667 614

## 39<sup>th</sup> Birthday Ball

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August

Doors open at 1.15 for drinks & nibbles

Dancing begins with the Grand March at 2pm.

Dance (with afternoon tea) till 5.30pm followed by soups & crusty bread.

Music by Chord-eaux and Southern Cross & Friends

\$15 members and \$25 non-members

Bookings essential (by July 27<sup>th</sup> please)

Heininger Hall, Heininger Street, Dapto

Contact: Cris 0404 667 614 [wongawillibushdance@gmail.com](mailto:wongawillibushdance@gmail.com)

## Notice of increase of hut usage fees from 1<sup>st</sup> Aug

Following a number of increases to the cost of hiring Hut 44 from the Addison Road Community Centre (ARCC), the club has been forced to increase costs for all BMC members events held at the hall. This increase will occur from 1st August 2026.

The small increase from \$10 to \$15 still means that we will not be fully covering the hire costs, but the rate of draw down on our reserves has been slightly lessened.

In practical terms, if you attend for a two hour slow session, or concert party session, instead of each hour spent in the enjoyable company of others at \$5/hour, it will now cost \$7.50/hour. On the other hand, if you stay for both sessions, the cost will rise from \$2.50/ hour to \$3.75/hour - a mere pittance considering all the fun you get from four hours of action-packed entertainment.

*George Bolliger*

## FOR THE MUSICIANS

A pleasant  $\frac{3}{4}$  tune, but with a couple of tricky bits to keep you awake..

### Bill Case's (modified) Dream

Bill Case, Australia, SA, Mt Gambier

$\text{♩} = 140$

D D D D D A G G

10 G A D A E7 D A7 A7

18 D D D D A D E7 G

26 D G D D A7 A7 D D

34 D D D A7 A7 A7 A7 D

42 D D D G D A7 D D

For those wishing to join the BMC or renew their membership you can fill in the electronic membership form and pay online electronically to our bank account using our website [www.bushmusic.org.au](http://www.bushmusic.org.au) .  
 The Direct deposit details are located on the renewal form OR  
 You can complete and return the following form to the Treasurer at (e) [alldavisguitar@gmail.com](mailto:alldavisguitar@gmail.com)  
 or by mail to Hut 44 142 Addison Rd Marrickville NSW 2206. Cheques to be made out to "THE BUSH MUSIC CLUB."  
 Any questions w/r/t membership contact Wayne Steele at [bmc1954membership@gmail.com](mailto:bmc1954membership@gmail.com)

# 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: Regular electronic news updates [ ] Yes

**YEARLY MEMBERSHIP**

- [ ] SINGLE \$30
- [ ] AFFILIATION (Clubs only) \$70
- [ ] FAMILY \$40
- [ ] DONATION \$\_\_\_\_\_
- [ ] PENSIONER \$20

**5 YEAR MEMBERSHIP**

- [ ] SINGLE \$120
- [ ] AFFILIATION \$280
- [ ] FAMILY \$160
- [ ] 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: [alldavisguitar@gmail.com](mailto:alldavisguitar@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](mailto:bmc1954membership@gmail.com)

**THE BUSH MUSIC CLUB (BMC) BEECROFT BUSH DANCE**

The Bush Music Club (BMC) was formed in 1954 to collect and promote Australian folk music, songs, and dance. We are Australia's oldest continuously operating folk club. The musicians are all members of the BMC and take pleasure in playing for an audience and in providing enjoyment for the dancers. It is all voluntary and the musicians are not paid. We welcome everyone, both young and old, to come along to this dance. It is not required that you know these dances. All dances are taught on the day, and then called during the actual dance, so beginners can quickly get involved. It is all about doing having a fun time and doing something different. Even if you don't wish to dance why not come along anyway to watch and the dancers and listen to live Australian folk music being played.

**BUSH MUSIC CLUB**

**BEECROFT**

**AFTERNOON BUSH DANCE**

**Saturday 1st August**

**2pm - 4:30pm**



**Beecroft Community Centre**  
**111 Beecroft Rd**

**LIVE MUSIC - NO DANCE EXPERIENCE NECESSARY**  
**ALL DANCES WALKED THROUGH & CALLED**  
**ALL WELCOME, Air Conditioned Hall**

**adults \$25, children <12yrs free, family \$45**  
**concessions: groups of 10 & BMC members \$20**

The Bush Music Club [www.bushmusic.org.au](http://www.bushmusic.org.au) email: [bmcmail1954@gmail.com](mailto:bmcmail1954@gmail.com)

**BMC COMMITTEE 26-27**

<b>President</b>	George Bolliger	<a href="mailto:gbolliger1@gmail.com">gbolliger1@gmail.com</a>	<b>Secretary</b>	Karen Fong	<a href="mailto:bmcmail1954@gmail.com">bmcmail1954@gmail.com</a>
<b>Past President</b>	Sharyn Mattern	<a href="mailto:sharynmattern@gmail.com">sharynmattern@gmail.com</a>	<b>Membership</b>	Wayne Steele	<a href="mailto:bmc1954membership@gmail.com">bmc1954membership@gmail.com</a>
<b>Hut finances</b>	Simon Farrugai	<a href="mailto:farrsimon78@gmail.com">farrsimon78@gmail.com</a>	<b>Treasurer</b>	Allen Davis	<a href="mailto:allendavisguitar@gmail.com">allendavisguitar@gmail.com</a>
<b>Events</b>	Brian Freeman	<a href="mailto:rodzport@optusnet.com.au">rodzport@optusnet.com.au</a>			

# 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](mailto:bmcmail1954@gmail.com)

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

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

