



Bush Music Club



e-Newsletter for September 2026

Summary of Activities in the next 2 months

1st Sep	7.30 – 9.30pm	Playford Dancing – 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 \$15 Contact Louise 0409 394 126
2nd Sep	11 – 2pm	Marrickville Music Group – Bring music to share (it can be any genre) and your lunch for a congenial day of music and friendship. Tea/coffee provided. Cost: \$15 (Hut 44) Contact Sharyn 0459 146 845
7th Sep	5 – 7pm	Slow Session – come along and improve your music skills at a speed that 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: \$15 (Hut 44)
	7 – 9pm	Concert Party – 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: \$15, free on first visit or if already paid for Slow Session (Hut 44)
	7.30 – 9.30pm	Pennant Hills Dance Workshop – Join in learning to dance various traditional bush dances. All dances are walked through and called. Cost: \$10 (Pennant Hills Community Centre)
14th Sep	5-7pm, 7-9pm	Slow Session & Concert Party (Hut 44)
14th Sep	7.30 -9.30pm	Pennant Hills Dance Workshop (Pennant Hills Community Centre)
21st Sep	5-7pm, 7-9pm	Slow Session & Concert Party (Hut 44)
21st Sep	7.30 -9.30pm	Pennant Hills Dance Workshop (Pennant Hills Community Centre)
28th Sep	5-7pm, 7-9pm	Slow Session & Concert Party (Hut 44)
28th Sep	7.30 -9.30pm	Pennant Hills Dance Workshop (Pennant Hills Community Centre)
5th Oct	5-7pm, 7-9pm	Hut 44 sessions Cancelled
5th Oct	7.30 -9.30pm	Pennant Hills Dance Workshop Cancelled
6th Oct	7.30 – 9.30pm	Playford Dancing
7th Oct	11 – 2pm	Marrickville Music Group –
12th Oct	5-7pm, 7-9pm	Slow Session & Concert Party (Hut 44)
12th Oct	7.30 -9.30pm	Pennant Hills Dance Workshop (Pennant Hills Community Centre)

19 th Oct	5-7pm, 7-9pm	Slow Session & Concert Party (Hut 44)
19 th Oct	7.30 -9.30pm	Pennant Hills Dance Workshop (Pennant Hills Community Centre)
26 th Oct	5-7pm, 7-9pm	Slow Session & Concert Party (Hut 44)
26 th Oct	7.30 -9.30pm	Pennant Hills Dance Workshop (Pennant Hills Community Centre)

Special events coming

12 th Sept 26		Flannel Flower Spring Ball East Gosford
19 th Sept 26		BMC Parramatta Park Garraway Shelter Picnic with music and singing
2 nd -5 th Oct 26		Goulburn Spring Gathering
16 th -19 th Oct 26		Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival, BMC Sessions & Saplings
5 th Dec 26	2-4:30pm	Beecroft Dance at the: <i>Beecroft Presbyterian Church 6a Welham St Beecroft</i>
14 th -17 th Jan 2027		Illawarra Folk Festival, BMC Sessions & Saplings
22 nd -26 th Jan 2027		Numeralla Folk Festival
	Feb 2027	Concertina Convergence Goulburn
6 th Mar 2027	2-4:30pm	Beecroft Dance at the Beecroft Community Hall:

President's Report

A number of members have been unable to attend some of our recent sessions for various reasons. This is sad, because they have missed out on some wonderful experiences. Brian's piano playing needs to be heard to be admired- he has infused a vibrant air into the collected tunes and songs we share of a Monday night. I'm really enjoying the enthusiasm that everyone brings to the sessions and just wish that more of our members might come along to experience the fun too. Looking ahead, we have the Goulburn Gathering coming up on the October long weekend. The program is currently being compiled and I think it is on track to be an exciting event with lots of interesting sessions.

Slow Session

I continue to be amazed at the progress everyone attending the slow session is making. Confidence and determination (and perhaps a little practice?) have shaped all those attending to achieve new heights. Our sight reading abilities have been put to the test with a range of interesting collected material; without being biased I can say that the results have been found musically pleasurable to all and sundry. Why not come along and join in?

Concert Party (CP)

The CP performed at the Beecroft dance at the start of the month, under the direction of Caller John Short and put on a highly polished act. A number of people told me how much they enjoyed the music and that the tempo was just right for all the dances. One attendee expressed a desire to join the CP, but living on the Central Coast made attending practice sessions somewhat of an issue. Perhaps some of our members who reside closer may like to come along and join in?

This month we have been revisiting some of the song books that the club has compiled over the past years. Many people have expressed their appreciation of the enthusiasm that Chris Poleson puts into his songs. It is always good to see some of our more distant members drop in for a visit. Doug Richardson, from the tiny town of Holbrook (great bakery there) called in and shared his wonderful mandolin efforts with us recently. We will soon be commencing practice for the upcoming October Goulburn Gathering, to be followed a couple of weeks later by the Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival.

George Bolliger

BMC Beecroft Community Hall Bush Dance 1st August 2026

The weather was wonderful for the Beecroft bush dance held in August. John Short did an excellent job of calling all the dances. There was an amazing interesting variety of dances to keep all the attendees on their toes. The Concert Party played for all the dances and did a superb job. The tempo was rock solid and Steve Lockwood did a magnificent effort with the PA. Thanks must also go to the ticket team and those that organised the refreshments.

Please remember that the next Beecroft dance will be held in December at the Beecroft Presbyterian Church hall - off Welham Street.

George Bolliger

Pennant Hills Dance Workshop July/August 2026 Report

We had four great dance workshops in the last month.

Monday 20th July was our "Christmas in July" party night featuring live music by The Concert Party. It was a very enjoyable night with a great "bring a plate" supper.

Dances taught in the month included: Blackwattle Reel, Tempest, Baker's Twist, CHOGM, Waterfall Waltz, Good Hearted Glasgow, Janet's Delight, Pine Forest, MacDonnell's Reel, Twelvesome Reel, Castle Schottische, Reel of the 51st, Whitehorse Waltz, Waverley Rag, Flirtation Reel, Circassian Circle Waltz, Cooee March, Shoalhaven Reel, Kur-Ring- Gui Chase, Highland Rambler, Rosemary Waltz, Banksia Quadrille, Triple Galop Quadrille, Love 'n' Kisses, Saturday Triad.

John Short

Sydney Playford English Country Dance August 2026 Report.

Sydney Playford English Dance Group met on Tuesday, 4th August with Margaret Bolliger co-ordinating in lieu of Louise Murray. There was a lovely turn out of dancers and we had 6 musicians. Sharyn Mattern occasionally stepped down from the band and joined with the dancers to help in 4 couple dances. Dances done on the night included: Epping Forest, The Black Nag, Wakefield Hunt, Fourpence Halfpenny Farthing "The Jockey" (latter 3 to celebrate the horse's birthday on 1 August), Trip to Paris, Gued Man of Ballangigh, Duke of Kent Waltz, Upon a Summer's Day, Lord Byron's Maggot. A bonus dance was Queen of Sheba. The callers were Margaret, Christine and Colin.

Colin Fong

Marrickville Music Group Report. August 2026

MMG is a group for musicians to play music from Bush to Bach. We meet once a month on the 1st Wednesday of the month, from 11am to 2pm, and stop for lunch, a chat and a cuppa. Tea, coffee and a snack is available on arrival.

You will need to bring your instrument, music to share (we have a photocopier) and your lunch for a gentle day music and friendship in an air-conditioned hall.

Cost: \$15

Contact: Sharyn on 0459 146 185

We had a small dedicated group attending the MMG in August together with 2 visitors and several apologies. They both enjoyed their stay we're looking forward to welcoming them next month.

Sharyn Mattern

Saplings News

The next Sapling sessions will be held at:

- Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival 16 – 18 Oct 2026
- Illawarra Folk Festival 14th -17th Jan 2027



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. Bring you musical instrument or borrow some percussion and join in the fun!!

Saplings Website: BMCSaplings.org.au

Helen Romeo

BMC Website

To access information on the BMC activities and other relevant and interesting information we invite members to visit the BMC at www.bushmusic.org.au.

At present the:

- Facebook group has 507 members,
- Facebook page has 872 followers
- Meetup has 368 members

The website layout is currently being redesigned. We welcome any comment from the members as to the features you would like to see on the website.

Mike Young

Cooking Segment

So you're gathered round the campfire in the afternoon.... Just finished singing the latest folk song about sheep and the urge for a nice cuppa tea grabs your attention. Hmm, what better than tea and scones?

The story behind this recipe is that it's a prize winning one! Whenever I made scones using my Mum's trusted recipe I ended up with rock cakes (sorry Mum). Pauline Cambourne shared her own Mum's recipe (that won first prize at the local show) to overcome my dilemma.

Before you go camping:

Combine the following dry ingredients:

- 4 cups self raising flour
- 3 heaped tablespoons milk powder
- 2 heaped teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 cup castor sugar

Shake together and store in an airtight container till needed.

Beside the campfire, combine 2 cups of warm water and 2 eggs (shelled and not cooked) - whisk together.

Use a few fingers (make sure they are clean) to rub a rounded tablespoon of butter (margarine) into the dry ingredients, and then combine with the liquids. At this stage it will look like a smooth version of concrete (without the lumps, unless you've added some dried fruit to make it interesting).

Tip it out onto a board (car bonnet) and pat to a thickness of about 1 inch (25mm). Cut the top and bottom out of a can of apple purée and use it to cut scone sized bits of dough.

Place into a camp oven that's had the inside of it floured to prevent the dough sticking, cover, and cook over coals till it's not too burnt (maybe 10 minutes).

Serve with butter (or apple purée?).

Our Bathurst BMC member will hopefully contribute the recipe for the next exciting dish.... Unless YOU do.

George Bolliger

A Ball for 2027?

CALLING ALL DANCERS

The BMC has successfully held colonial/heritage balls for a significant number of years. This regular event came to an end when Covid struck. With dancing and social interaction now back on the calendar, the BMC Management Committee is contemplating the viability of holding a ball towards the end of May next year.

Given the significantly reduced attendances at our regular monthly Beecroft dances following the pandemic, we were forced to decrease the frequency of these dances for them to remain financially viable. We are now seeking definite expressions of interest to assess whether there are enough people to make holding a ball next year a feasible proposal.

If you would definitely be prepared to attend a ball then please let us know by sending an email to: bmcmail1954@gmail.com before the end of September, 2026. Depending on the level of interest received, there could be a ball on next year's calendar!

The Committee

Wongawilli Colonial Dance Club Activities

The Romance of English Dance

There are still some tickets left for The Romance of English Dance

Sunday 30th August 2026

1.45pm to 4.15pm which includes *High Tea*

\$10 members & \$15 non-members

Dress in your favourite era for an afternoon of elegance & fun.

Heininger Hall, Heininger Street, Dapto

Contact: Cris 0404 667 614 wongawillibushdance@gmail.com

Beginner Bush Dance Lessons

WCDC will be running beginner lessons again during the month of September before the regular dances. 6th and 20th from 1.00pm – 1.45pm

The regular 1st Sunday Bush Dance on Sunday 6th September has a theme of Spring. All dances will have a flower theme so come along and enjoy the fun.

The band will be Chord-eaux. 1.45 – till 4pm

Regular 3rd Sunday Bush Dance

Sunday 20 September – 1.45 – till 4pm

with Southern Cross Bush Band and Friends

Both dances are only \$5 which includes afternoon tea

Heininger Hall, Heininger Street, Dapto

Contact: Cris 0404 667 614 - wongawillibushdance@gmail.com

Helen Romeo

Central Coast Bush Dance & Music Association's Flannel Flower Spring Ball 12th Sept 2026

Saturday 12th Sept at East Gosford Progress Hall cnr Henry Parry Drive & Wells St.

Time: 7:30pm – 11pm. Music: Live band, Barangaroo

Formal costume is required.

As this is a Ball (rather than one of our regular dances), the dances will be called but not taught.

It is strongly recommended that new dancers attend one of the practice sessions. See

www.ccbdma.org/ffsb26_booking for details of the Ball and the practice sessions.

Instructions for the dances are on the website, many with U-tube references.

Practice Session

The Practice Session will be conducted by John Short and be held on:

- Sunday 6th September at the East Gosford Progress Hall from 12pm to 5:30pm
- Monday 7th September at the Pennant Hills Community Centre from 7:30pm to 9:30pm

Cost for each practise session is \$10. Bring a snack and a mug.

Robyn Northwood

Parramatta Park Garraway Shelter Picnic Saturday 19th Sep 2026

You and your friends are warmly invited to join us for a September social.

When: Saturday 19 September, from 12 to 4pm

Where: The **Garraway Shelter** in Parramatta Park. If you are coming by public transport, the shelter is closer to Westmead Railway Station. If you are driving, the entrance is close to the intersection of Park Avenue and Railway Parade)



What: Bring your lunch. There is a BBQ nearby. Bring your voice and instrument and good cheer.

Who: BMC members and friends.

More info: Karen, BMC phone 0422 411 335 or bmcmail1954@gmail.com

Karen Fong

The Goulburn Spring Gathering 2-5th Oct 2026

Over the Labour Day long weekend in October, the BMC is hosting the annual Goulburn Gathering - to be held at the Goulburn Club located in the midst of the bustling Goulburn CBD at 19 Market St Goulburn. This is a wonderful weekend that draws participants from as far afield as Melbourne and Brisbane on occasion. It is an opportunity for 'folkies' to gather to share yarns, singing, poetry, dancing, and playing music. Why not come along and join in the activities.

The Lilac Festival is held in Goulburn over the same weekend, and this year the Saturday Bush Dance is included in the program of events. A cooperative program is in hand for a wool industry focus featuring shearing song (of course) and shearing and cuddly lambs and spinners and weavers to be featured after the Lilac Time Parade on the Sunday. Dave is negotiating for a flatbed truck so we can have a float in the parade as well! . Currently expressions of interest are being sought for possible sessions; if you have a burning desire to lead a session, or to suggest a potential topic, then please get in touch with either Dave Johnson or George Bolliger as soon as possible.

Although the program is not yet finalised tickets are already available from <https://events.humanitix.com/bmc-goulburn-gathering-2026>

I really enjoy attending this event, not just to meet some of our country members that can't make it to our headquarters at Marrickville, but to slow down and relax. There is nothing more soothing than to sit back and listen to some wonderful Aussie tunes/poetry/ songs, with a glass in hand from the Goulburn Club bar and a roaring fire to keep everyone warm.

The BMC blogsite has many pictures and article from previous gatherings. <https://blog.bushmusic.org.au/>

If you have never been, why not take the time this year to visit us at Goulburn. (I have it on good authority that the numerous op-shops in Goulburn are also a big drawcard for some of our members!). There are plenty of places to stay- ranging from caravan parks, motels and hotels.

The Goulburn Club is a music venue independently managed by volunteers and it boasts a great little bar and food outlets are quite close.



George Bolliger & David Johnson

Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival 16-18th Oct 2026



The Kangaroo Folk Festival is to be held from 16-18th October. The BMC are invited to perform two music sessions at the festival. The draft programme dates are: Saturday 17th Oct 10-11am & Sunday 18th Oct 10-11am at the "Bar & Verandah venue." 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 expected that one session will be mostly playing tunes and the other session will be tunes and singing.

Beecroft Presbyterian Church Hall Bush Dance 5th December 2026



The next Beecroft Bush dance is on Saturday 5th December 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. Note that this Beecroft Dance will be held at the Beecroft Presbyterian Church Hall... 6a Welham St Beecroft.

Illawarra Folk Festival 14-17th Jan 2027



The Illawarra Folk Festival is to be held from 14-17th January 2027. The BMC is participating in this festival as we have done in previous years. The BMC will perform in three music sessions. We would like any members who are intending to visit the IFF in 2027 to join in and support the BMC Concert Party group. The BMC session are;

- Friday 16th Jan 9am in the Folk School and will be a slow session workshop.
- Friday 16th Jan 4-4:50pm in the Session TiPi where we will present Aussie Tunes
- Saturday 17th Jan 9-9:50am in the Session TiPi where we will present Aussie Tunes accompanied by some singing
- Sunday 18th Jan 9-9:50am in the Session TiPi where we will present Aussie Tunes accompanied by some singing

The BMC Saplings will be providing Sessions on Saturday and Sunday.

Numeralla Folk Festival 22nd -26th Jan 2027

Note that the community run Numeralla folk festival is being held on the Australia day weekend. Depending on how many BMC members come along, we may hold a relaxing session or two at the campground.

It is a free festival with no tickets nor bookings required. Camping is free. The activities consist of live performances, bush dances, workshop, blackboard sessions, markets and food. For further details refer www.numeralla.org.au/folkfestival,

Contra and English Country dancing anyone?

Keith Wood organises a monthly workshop at Pennant Hills.

The workshops are held on Sunday afternoons between **2:15 and 5:15pm** in the **Main Hall at the Pennant Hills Community Centre, 70 Yarrara Rd, Pennant Hills, NSW**, usually on the third Sunday of the month. The dates coming up in 2026 are:

- Sunday 20 Sept (Contra)
- Sunday 25 Oct (English Country) - later in the month due to the Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival
- Sunday 15 Nov (Contra)

A \$10 donation is suggested to help cover costs. There is water, tea, and coffee available to drink. Afterwards dancers usually go across to the Hotel Pennant Hills for dinner together.

FOR THE MUSICIANS



Ebb Wren's Schottische

NSW, Forbes

C F Dm G C

6 C F Dm G C

10 Am Dm G Am Dm G

14 Am F D7 G

18 Am Dm G Am Am Dm G

22 Am F Fm G C

Notice of increase of the Hut 44 usage fees from 1st Aug 2026

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 commenced on 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 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.

The Direct deposit details are located on the renewal form OR
You can complete and return the following form to the Treasurer at (e) allendavisguitar@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

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 [] 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

Rev A 260624

BMC COMMITTEE 26-27

President	George Bolliger	gbolliger1@gmail.com	Secretary	Karen Fong	bmcmail1954@gmail.com
Past President	Sharyn Mattern	sharynmattern@gmail.com	Membership	Wayne Steele	bmc1954membership@gmail.com
Hut finances	Simon Farrugai	bmchut44@gmail.com	Treasurer	Allen Davis	allendavisguitar@gmail.com
Events	Brian Freeman	rodzport@optusnet.com.au			

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/>

