



# AROUND THE TRAPS

Just realised it is almost Christmas and I haven't put out a Newsletter since July.

It has been a fairly busy period, with our Committee endeavouring to get the bushdances up and running again after COVID, obviously with mixed results.

## Colonial Theme Night

Following on from our successful Jane Austen Night in July, our Colonial Theme in August, with Southern Cross, proved also to be a good night.



Numbers could have been better but our new dancers made up for the shortfall with youthful enthusiasm and wouldn't let the band go home! Thank you Southern Cross for the extra time. Fantastic to hear the dancers calling for more!

## FFSB23

Our Flannel Flower Spring Ball was held in October this year and attended by approx. 50 people – many of them being our new, young dancers, who turned up in their best bib and tucker, looking fantastic.



Once again, our MC was the meticulous John Short with wonderful music supplied by Barangaroo.



*Barangaroo taking a little break*

While we didn't get through quite as many dances as we expected, the enthusiasm for those we did more than made up for it. We managed to include our iconic Flannel Flower Schottische, though.



*Gwenanne and Joan looking gorgeous.*



Three lovely ladies, Olivia (Canberra) Monica (Newcastle) and Sarah (Canberra) all dressed to kill!

An enjoyable supper prepared by Susie and Doug, with assistance from Colin, certainly hit the spot.



The hall was decorated beautifully, too, thanks to Heather & John and Noel. It really was a top night.

### Rosella Bush Band

We featured a “new” band in Rozella. The familiar faces of Sue and Pete McMahon and .Kim Short, with Don Richmond Calling. It had been many years since Don last Called for us at Gosford and it was lovely to welcome him back.

As a devotee of the old Colonial dances, I was thrilled to see Don teach the Varsovienna to our group of new, young dancers. Of course, they picked it up in no time at all and did it credit. We really must not let those old dances die.

We have revived the concept of the “Dancers’ Dance”, which we will carry forward into 2024. A set or two lined up for Posties Jig, which they acquitted well.

### The Frohlich Bros.

Another new-to-us band, The Frohlich Brothers, made their debut (less one brother) in November, for our Armistice Day Bushdance. The band made quite a hit, with John Short calling many of the dances, such as Marching Through Georgia and Dashing White Sergeant.



It was an outstanding night, but sadly, particularly for the band, not well attended. It was good to welcome back Trish & John Alexander and Lynette Rich, dancers we hadn’t seen for a while. Our best wishes to Phil Rich who is not well. And our wishes for a speedy recovery to Ian Gowlett following his surgery.

### Christmas Contra Themed Bushdance

Yes, it is on again on **December 9**. Ryebuck will provide the music and Margaret Bolliger will be Calling. It just wouldn’t be Christmas without a Contra, so please make sure you put it in your diary now. Dances will be a mix of Bush, Contra, and, I wouldn’t mind betting, a Jane Austen dance of two. Wear your Christmas Clobber and bring a plate of Christmas Supper to share, please – or your own supper if you prefer. And don’t forget your mug. Tea, coffee, etc, supplied. Feel free to wear a mask and or gloves if you choose.

### The Future

Planning for 2024 is underway. We have a full programme of ten dances scheduled, with dances each month except for January and June. Our Jane Austen Night will be in July and our FFSB will revert to October. All we need now, to sail into 2024 with confidence, is for you to support us. Stay safe and have a wonderful Christmas.

