



# AROUND THE TRAPS

Here we are, entering a brand New Year. Hope it is happier and more fulfilling for you than the last couple. And hope that we all get to do a lot more dancing.

## Twenty Fifth Birthday Dance

Our first dance for this brand new year, on February 11, is to celebrate our 25 years of "Providing a bushdance on the Central Coast". I know many of our members were present for that very first dance way back then. You will remember that Ryebuck played for us and we had 100 or so people bouncing around in the hall on a typically "warm" February night.



*Inaugural Committee Celebrating 20 Years.*

No surprise then that Ryebuck will again play for us on this significant anniversary – as they did for our 20<sup>th</sup> Year back in 2018. Do come and catch up with the people you probably haven't seen for a couple of years, help us celebrate the 25 Year Milestone and above all, enjoy it. We know the music will be terrific. It's Ryebuck!



*Ryebuck Bush Band*

## Christmas Contra Themed Bush Dance

Our Christmas Party dance was a resounding success. We were thrilled. It was Ryebuck at their Contra best, the weather was reasonably friendly



and everyone seemed to love being back on the dance floor.

## Street Dance in Morpeth

Some Central Coast and Newcastle dancers made their way to Morpeth for the Street Dance on a hot and extremely windy day. Music from The Waterbombers was great. Some local people seemed to be leaving as the dance started, but those that stayed on had a fun afternoon with the band.

## Website Updated

Our website has been updated with events for 2023. We have opted for only six dances this year. If these dances prove to be successful, then others could be added. All will be Bush Dances except our Jane Austen Night and our Flannel Flower Spring Ball. Old favourite bands will reappear and a new one, Frohlich Brothers, which was unfortunately cancelled three times by us over the COVID pandemic. We expect they will eventually make their debut in November.

## Coming Events

DATE	BAND	THEME
February 11	Ryebuck	AGM Twenty Fifth Birthday Dance
March 11	Waterbombers	Bush dance
July 2	Short Dented Potts	CC Practice for Jane Austen Night
July 8	Short Dented Potts	Jane Austen Night
August 12	Southern Cross	Bushdance
September 3	John Short	CC Practice for FFSB
September 9	Barangaroo	FFSB23
November 11	Frohlich Bros.	Bush Dance

See our website for more detail: [www.ccbdma.org](http://www.ccbdma.org)

## AGM

Our AGM is scheduled for February 11, to be held at 6.00pm, in the Meeting Room, beneath the hall, immediately prior to the Birthday Dance. It would be lovely to see a good turnout of members.

It doesn't take long and then we can head straight upstairs to the dance.

We are always seeking new Committee Members, and would particularly welcome someone willing to become our Publicity Officer. One could really get one's teeth into a role like that, particularly as we now have an Advertising Budget. Anyone???? The pay isn't much of an attraction, there isn't any. We don't even have free entry to the dances, but our Committee Meetings, when we could still hold them, were pretty good.

## Membership Subscriptions

Are now due. We had waived them over the pandemic – just allowing the Membership period to extend until there was light at the end of the tunnel. That light is now big and bright and beckoning and CCBDMA is back in business!

Memberships can be renewed on line. Just follow the prompts, then direct deposit the \$20 fee into our bank account, using your surname as a reference. We will be notified automatically so no need to send an email. Easy Peasy.

## Bush Music Club Dances

Have been moved to 2.00pm Saturday timeslot but still at the Beecroft Hall. You will need to keep an eye on their website for details but the next one is on February 18 (third Saturday) and the band is Short Dented Potts. Others, when decided, will be on the first Saturday.



*Short Dented Potts*

## Pennant Hills Workshops

Are continuing this year at the PH Community Centre. Most of the current crop of dancers learnt to dance with BMC. There is no better place to learn. John Short is the instructor and it is always

an interesting, enjoyable night – even for experienced dancers. Only \$7.00 and your first attendance is free.

## New Supper Arrangement

Following Covid, it has been necessary to review our supper arrangements. While everyone enjoyed the sumptuous suppers of the past, there was an extremely limited number of people willing to produce them. So we have bitten the bullet and said, **BYO Everything**. Cup included. Hot water, milk, tea, coffee and sugar will be available in the kitchen. Bring your own supper and if you choose to share it – so much the better. But bring a plate to put it on, too.

Our Christmas Contra Themed Bushdance was also our Christmas Party, so people did bring a plate to share and it worked pretty well.

## Why Belong to a Club

The following article, written by George Bolliger from Ryebuck, was published in the last issue of Mulga Wire, the BMC magazine. Obviously, BMC members already have seen it, but I thought it was spot on, so wanted to reproduce it here for our own members, Thanks, George for your permission. You can tell him what you thought of it at the next dance.

“There are many reasons why people elect to belong to a club. Some do so to get cheap member admission to various events; others do so to identify with and support the aims of the club. In most clubs there are a large number of “silent” members – happy to belong, but for varying reasons not wanting to become further engaged in active membership.

All clubs have a small group of active members that promote and engage in the pursuits of that particular club. Very often, these people are recognised for their service to the club with life memberships. It is unfortunate that these life members often retire and move away to become part of the “silent” membership

Any club is only as good as the members that participate in it. The small group of active members eventually get to a point where they suffer from burn-out; overloading the good horse because there is no-one willing to share the load will cause it to fail at some point.

I am often reminded of the words of a previous treasurer of the BMC. “Although the club is a non-profit organisation, if we make a profit it shows that we are doing something right to have got a significant number of our members to participate

in it.” The past couple of years have placed an increased strain on our club.

Covid isolations and regulations have interrupted the way that we have been able to operate the club. Our regular monthly dances and weekly music/song/ yarn sessions have all been impacted. Getting things back to “normal” appears to be a very slow process, with many members obviously wary of the risks involved with active participation. Attempts at using alternative technologies such as Zoom have been helpful, but they have their limitations; nothing beats face to face contact.

The attendance numbers at the last three dances run by the club have barely covered the hall hire costs, let alone those of any bands engaged; participation in the weekly meetings has not returned to pre-Covid levels. Discussions with members of other clubs indicate that this is an experience that is common to all.

Not everyone in the BMC lives in Sydney and is able to attend the functions put on for the benefit of members. For those people who do live in Sydney, there is a wide range of alternative entertainment options that are available to them. A review of our membership’s addresses shows that roughly half the members currently reside outside Sydney.

I made the conscious decision to become actively engaged in the BMC when I became a member over forty years ago. What I found was that the more I put in, the more I got out of it. Pressures of study and work eventually led me to take a back seat for a number of years before becoming more active once more. Nothing has changed. There is still a small number of active members, with the majority remaining silent and hidden.

### **What do we do?**

Some time ago I heard someone speaking on this topic on ABC radio. They said that if each of us could do just one thing for the club(s) that we belong to, the impact would be significant. In this modern world there is a huge variety of activities and things available for us to do; each tries to compete for a share of the available free time that we have. Things were different in the past when we didn’t have such pressures. There was time to stop and have a yarn, sing a song, or play a tune; the internet, television and electronic gizmos did not dictate what we did with our free time.

I realise that not everyone is able to come to Sydney and participate in club functions. The Mulga Wire is one way that everyone can participate in the club. We are always looking for

ways to interact with you, our members. Write and tell us a yarn, poem, song or tune for inclusion in the next edition. If you’ve got some bit of trivia about the origins of something from our rich cultural heritage, then take the time to put it down in print and share it with the rest of us.

Why did you become a member? Write and tell us what brought about this happening. For me, the friends I’ve made and experiences I’ve shared have enriched my life immeasurably.

If you have any ideas of things that we could be doing (or do better), or that you would be willing to be involved in, please let us know. The management team are not mind readers, so telepathic communication doesn’t work! (The thumb nail dipped in tar letter has proved effective in the past, but an email to [bmcmail1954@gmail.com](mailto:bmcmail1954@gmail.com) is probably a more reliable option.)

The BMC will be at Yeoval on 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 to participate in the local Banjo Paterson Festival. If you are able to attend and participate, we would love to see you there. If there’s another location that you think would make for a great weekend away for BMC members to gather and share poems, songs, tunes etc together, please let us know. It would be wonderful if we could arrange a few of these each year so that our “silent” members can become part of our active community. If you are willing to help organise such an event, so much the better.”

*George Bolliger, 2021*

### **Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners**

“We like to acknowledge the Darkinjung people as Traditional Custodians of the land on which our gatherings are held.

We pay our respects to the Elders, past, present and future, and recognise the continuing connection and contribution to this land and waters.

We extend this respect to any Aboriginal people who are here today”.

### **Some useful links:**

<http://www.bushmusic.org.au>:  
[newcastlehuntervalleyfolkclub.org.au](http://newcastlehuntervalleyfolkclub.org.au)  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BushdanceWentworthFalls/>  
<http://keith-wood.name/danceworkshops.html>.

Looking forward to a top year.  
Happy dancing, everyone .

REN