

February  
2012

# The Beat

## Macquarie Towns Music Club Newsletter



### What's On - 2012

#### NEW CANDLELIT VENUE

St Peter's  
Educational Centre,  
384 Windsor St, Richmond

**7.30 - 10.30**

BYO drinks & nibbles,  
cuppa & suppa supplied!

From April 14 Concert entry will  
increase to \$12 for non-  
members \$10 for members  
also a new start time of 7pm  
with music session to complete  
the evening

- **February 18** will see '*Tara Mist*' and **Jacob Philpott** performing as guest artists supported by floor spots
- **March 17** another fun *night of the 'Round Table'* music session
- **April 14** (brought forward 2nd Saturday of month due to St Albans Folk Festival)

A big night of entertainment  
featuring **Doherty & Birkett**,  
**'Lime & Steel'** plus **Rose Harvey & David O'Connor**

- **May 19** another bash out and sing a song *night of the Round Table* music session
- **May 27** 1pm Music session at the Oxboro Inn Australiana Pioneer Village, Wilberforce \$5 entry
- **June 16** will see '**Fred Smith**' as our guest artist. Don't miss this performance by one of Australia's best contemporary balladeer.
- **July 21** Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) kicks off at 7pm followed by 'Round Table' music session
- **A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**  
**15th Dec** Club Christmas Party & Concert
- Watch out for the next issue of the BEAT!

### Welcome

Dear Members & Friends

Here is to a fantastic 2012 for us all, the last one went by way too quick!

Thanks to all of our special guests, walk up artists, members, friends and our dedicated committee for contributing to the success of our Music club during 2011.

As most of you will be aware we had a change in the committee at the last AGM and I became Club President and my husband Darryl Bowen became a committee member.

Firstly I'd like to make a very special mention to the amazing job that Dez and Karen Williams have done with the club since they volunteered to take over almost 6 years ago.

They took chances as they made changes to the formats the club had previously known, which is a big deal for a club that has been running for as long as we have! Increased membership and attendance was the result when they introduced regular concert nights, a Club performance at St Albans in 2009 and the most recent and significant change, a move to a super new venue in 2011! Without their innovation the club would not have the same reputation it has today.

I cannot guarantee that I will be President in 6 years time but what I can guarantee is that I will do my best to continue to promote and enhance the clubs profile, under the guidance of Dez 'n Kaz and the committee and combined with my many years of community and music industry experience. Which includes Event Management, Entertainment Agency, Festival Director, Singer/Songwriter and I am also currently a Committee member of the Tamworth Songwriters Association (TSA) and all this keeps me well anchored in the music industry and also very busy.

Thanks to those members who managed to make it along to our Christmas Party Picnic at the Pioneer Village, the rain tried to put a damper on things but in true music fashion the show went on and we had a lovely music session under shelter of the old Kurrajong train station in the village. It was also nice to meet and put names to faces we've seen regularly at recent club meetings and concert nights!

We'd like to do more things at the village starting with a **music session** at the Oxboro Inn at 1pm on the 27<sup>th</sup> May, please consider joining Darryl & myself and email or phone me to confirm closer to the date. [doozi-do-z@hotmail.com](mailto:doozi-do-z@hotmail.com) or 4576 0521

We do hope that you enjoy the line-up of artists we have planned for the year. We will be trialling some new formats and always look forward to your input and ideas!

Let me introduce you to the **Macquarie Towns Music Club 2011-12 Committee**

**President:** Lydia Bowen Clare

**Vice President & Membership Secretary:** Taia de Burca

**Secretary:** Richard Galluzzi

**Treasurer:** Hugh Worrall

**Committee:** Kathy Mc Mahon, Darryl Bowen

**Public Officer:** Dez Williams

**NOTE: CONCERT NIGHTS WILL INCREASE TO \$12 FOR NON-MEMBERS AS OF APRIL, WHEN WE WILL ALSO KICK OFF THE NIGHT AT 7pm**

### Out and About

**James Norton** has taken out the People's Choice Award in the Hohner Golden Harmonica Competition in Tamworth for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row. Well done James on your hat trick. James did not enter any poetry competitions this year.

**The Acoustic Thing** is an open mic event held every Monday night at *Macquarie Arms Hotel* in Windsor and **The Listening Room** is another that is held every Tuesday night at *The Vault* in Windsor. Both these events start at 7.30pm.

**The Mixed Leaf Café** in Windsor St Richmond is now a live music venue on Friday and Saturday evening. Why not pop in for a cuppa or a meal and check out some local talent while there.

**Richard Galluzzi** has a claw hammer banjo course at Penrith Community College throughout the relevant school semesters.

**Bowen & Clare** were over the moon when it was announced at the Canberra Country Music Festival in Nov that they had won the Mountain/Bluegrass

award for Hillbilly Hippy, title track from their debut album of the same name.

**Songwriters Workshop** 25<sup>th</sup> March at Hornsby please contact Lydia for more info [doozi-do-z@hotmail.com](mailto:doozi-do-z@hotmail.com)

**Changes:** Over the next 12mths the club will be trying out some new ideas. Your feedback is welcomed, please share!

MTMC now have a Facebook page so request to be our friend if you are a FB social networker.

## *Tara Mist plus Jacob Philpott - February 18 2012*

**Tara Mist** is a Celtic Duo formed in 2008 with Eric Eisler on vocals, guitar and/or mandolin. He has many years of experience in the music industry playing bush music, folk and Irish music with many different and diverse ensembles and bands throughout his career. Linda McConville is also on vocals singing a lit of Irish contemporary songs and easy listening classics from 1960 to 1990. Linda is a member of the Rock & Soul Choir over the last 2 years and has performed in many different groups, singing in gospel,

folk and church choirs in Ireland, Perth and Sydney.



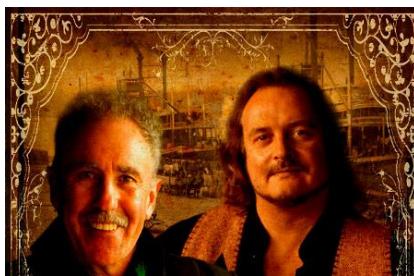
Tara Mist

**Jacob Philpott** – is a local Richmond singer/songwriter and also lead vocalist from Blues & Roots trio ‘Broken Lines’. Jacob has performed in various line-ups during his musical career playing a variety of genres but receives the most satisfaction from performing his own material where he will evoke the heart & soul of the listener.

Jacob is passionate about the local environment and spends his days teaching Conservation and Land Management at Richmond TAFE.

## *Doherty & Burkett plus Lime & Steel plus Rose Harvey & David O'Connor – 7pm April 14 2012*

**Note - this Concert has been brought forward a week because of St Albans Festival!!**



Doherty & Burkett

Reminiscent of the Dublin Mountains, Martin Doherty now calls the rolling plains of Wallerawang his home. He may be remembered for his band ‘Raglan Rd’ and his tours with Christy Moore, The Fureys, The Dubliners, The Chieftains, The Pogues and more.

Leigh Birkett is a very fine and moving accompanist of the ballads for which Martin is renowned. He can also rock with the energy necessary to really entertain. Leigh’s passion for diverse musical forms helps the duo explore the Celtic traditional forms with a new and innovative ear. The use of the altered tunings of the modern folk style and choice of instruments aid in the richness of sound created, but also add unique textures to a wider set of styles drawn from Western Swing, bluegrass and Rock and Roll to more experimental areas. Martin has always composed memorable music, as has Leigh, and the prodigious output of this writing team is being critically received

wherever Martin and Leigh play. These new songs are full of character sketches and stories both funny and poignant, powerful and haunting that bring a new edge to Martin’s phenomenal repertoire of songs. [www.martindoherty.com.au](http://www.martindoherty.com.au)



**Lime and Steel's** well-crafted original tales range from goldfields murder ballads to bouncy songs about drinking on public transport. Imagine an escaped Irish convict and a hillbilly banjo picker sitting down at the local, to sing loving harmonies about the darker side of the Australian soul. A Lime and Steel set can move from bogan bluegrass to foot-stomping penny-whistle

polkas or jigs on the uillean pipes, all laid over rich lounge grooves on the double bass and a pared back percussion kit.

[www.facebook.com/lime and steel](http://www.facebook.com/lime and steel)

### Rose Harvey & David O'Connor

Rose came from Peebles, Scotland, as did another Aussie folk icon. She has been delighting Tasmanian audiences ever since, and has been a mainstay of the Tasmanian folk scene since its earliest days. She has also played many mainland folk festivals, clubs, restaurants, hostels and even Qld caravan parks! She is loved by audiences for her warm personality and red-hot mandolin playing, on which she has been specialising recently, though she is also adept on guitar and keyboards.

Once a Pom, David is one of Tassie's leading songwriters and satirists, with originals covered by notables such as Bernard Carney, Jackie Luke and Faye White. His first festival as a performer was Longford in 1977 and he has since featured at Nationals, Port Fairy and Maleny/Woodford as well as numerous smaller festivals, leaving laughing audiences in his wake. As both a kids and adult entertainer, he has issued ten CDs, writes a monthly column for Trad & Now magazine and has just published a songbook, O'Connor Bodies.

## Fred Smith – Guest Artist – 7pm June 16 2012



Over the last 15 years **Fred Smith** has emerged as one of Australia's most respected songwriters. He is a lyrical and inventive lyricist, with an ear for a melodic hook. He has a perceptive eye for modern life, its foibles and joys, and an ability to express this in song. Fred presents his material with an engaging humour and a wry smile that has won hearts at festivals in Australia

and North America. He is the subject of the film Bougainville Sky about his work on peace keeping operations in the war-torn islands of the South Pacific where his work as a musician and radio broadcaster contributed to the success of the world's first ever unarmed peace keeping force. He was the first Australian diplomat to be posted to Uruzgan in July of 2009. Whilst in Afghanistan, Fred wrote a collection of powerful songs about his experiences and the realities of life for soldiers in this difficult war, released in 2011 on an album called '*Dust of Uruzgan*'.

Fred Smith is one of Australia's most remarkable artists. He has spent the last 15 years all over the globe: doing peace work in the war torn islands of

the South Pacific and the Forward Operating Bases of Afghanistan, touring in America and travelling the Australian festival circuit where he has earned a reputation as a prolific and dynamic songwriter.

Fred is Australia's answer to Billy Bragg - a brilliant wit and pure entertainment.

**Tracy Heffernan, BMA Magazine**

His songs range from the deeply affecting, to the astringently observant, to the rousing singalong. He has a perceptive eye for modern life, its foibles and joys, and an ability to express this in song.

**Philip O'Brien, producer, ArtSound FM 103.1**

[www.fredsmith.com.au/](http://www.fredsmith.com.au/)

## Man in the Green Hat - News from Tom Hamilton

After a quiet few months leading up to Christmas; the Gulgong Folk Festival got things off to a great start for 2012.

This year's festival was run on totally different lines to previous festivals .With a huge list of top artists and five major venues it became a case of deciding how much you could see in such a short time. (OK it ran for three days but there were well over 100 acts). It pretty well covered the whole genre of folk/country and blues.

Arch Bishop and I ran the Poet's breakfasts at the Commercial Hotel and at \$4-50 for an egg and bacon roll and \$1 for a coffee it was an entertaining and economical way to start the day. A week before the festival the Irish Dancers pulled out which left the RSL with a venue but no function. I suggested we put on an Anzac theme walk up poem/song/yarn theme and it proved a great success and looks like it will be included in next year's festival. The

function had a Hawkesbury input with Jan Tame performing a number I am familiar with. It was here that I learned that the infamous poem I performed some time ago at MTMC got an uncensored run on the ABC! Next week the Green Hat show goes on the road with gigs in Narrandera, Forbes, Canowindra, Gulgong and Scone. Then in March it is off to Narrandera again for the John O'Brien Festival a function well worth the journey.

Some time after that I hope to do another CD before heading off to Dublin where I have been offered a week's gig.

Oh! It's a hectic life but I'm lovin' it...



Can anyone recognise the performers in this photo on left?

Hint – The male is a current local performer at our club.



## An amusing look at the difference between Bluegrass, Old Time and Celtic Bands – Final Part by Toby & Moby Adobe

### Instrumentation:

Except for the guitar, all the instruments in a Celtic band play the melody all the time. In an Old Time band, anyone can play either melody or accompaniment at any time. In Bluegrass bands one instrument at a time solos, and every else plays accompaniment. Bluegrass bands have carefully mapped-out choreography due to the need for solo breaks. If Old Time and Celtic band members move around, they tend to run into each other. Because of this problem, Old Time and Celtic bands often sit down when performing, while a Bluegrass band always stands up. Because they're sitting, Old Time and Celtic bands have the stamina to play for a square or contra dance. The audience claps after each Bluegrass solo break. If anyone talks or claps near an Old Time or Celtic band, it confuses them, even after the tune is over.

### Personalities and Stage Presence:

Bluegrass band members wear uniforms, such as blue polyester suits with gray Stetson hats. Old Time bands wear jeans, sandals, work shirts and caps from farming companies. Celtic

bands wear tour t-shirts with plaid touring caps. All this headwear covers bald spots. Chicks in Bluegrass bands have big hair and Kevlar undergarments. Chicks in Old Time bands jiggle nicely under their overalls. There are no Chicks in Celtic bands, only Lassies with long skirts and lacey, high collars and Wenches in apple-dumplings-on-a-shelf bodices and leather mini-skirts. A Bluegrass band tells terrible jokes while tuning. An Old Time band tells terrible jokes without bothering to tune. Bluegrass band members never smile. Old Time band members will smile if you give them a drink. A Celtic band is too busy drinking to smile, tune or tell jokes. Celtic musicians eat fish and chips, Bluegrass musicians eat barbecue ribs, and Old Time musicians eat tofu. Bluegrass musicians have mild high frequency hearing loss from standing near the banjo player. Old Time musicians have moderate high frequency hearing loss from sitting near the fiddler. Celtic musicians have advanced hearing loss from playing in small pubs with all those fiddles, banjos, tin whistles and bodhrans.

### Festivals:

A Celtic band travels in an actual Greyhound bus with marginal air conditioning and then catches a ride from the bus stop to the festival anyway they can. A Bluegrass band travels in an old converted Greyhound bus that idles in the parking lot all weekend with the air conditioner running full blast, fumigating the county with diesel exhaust. The Celtic Band has their name on their instrument cases. The bluegrass band's name and Inspirational Statement are painted on both the side and front of the bus in script lettering. An Old Time band travels in a rusted-out 1965 VW microbus and it's pretty evident that their vehicles don't have air conditioning. Bluegrass bumper stickers are in red, white and blue and have stars and/or stripes on them. Celtic bumper stickers display banners and slogans from the old country. Old Time bumper stickers don't make any sense (e.g. 'Gid is My Co-Pilot?') Bluegrass players stay on the bus and Celtic musicians at the nearest cheap motel while Old Time musicians camp in the parking lot.

## Harrietville Bluegrass and Traditional Country Music Convention 2011 – Review by Richard Galluzzi

The good thing about writing reviews in retrospect is that you can provide an overall impression about an event once it has seeped into your consciousness a bit, rather than some frenetic rambling that are jotted down while the dust is still settling.

For those that don't know; the Harrietville Bluegrass and Traditional Country Music Convention is an annual event organised by the Bluegrass and Traditional Country Music Association Australia. It is a unique event in some ways; it has managed to stay true to its generic origins and not require artists of outside genres or commercial renown to attract audiences. Artists also do not get paid; even overseas performers are provided with accommodation and airfare only (from a generous donation), yet it remains a 'must do' event on the calendar for performers of Bluegrass, Old Timey, Cajun and Traditional Country Music.

My overall impression of the 2011 Convention was that personally, it meant a greater maturing for me around attending festivals, and the festival itself seemed to be maturing at the site that it has occupied

for the last few years. In fact, the convention was controversially almost moved to Beechworth until a change of ownership of the facilities there prevented it.

As usual, the Convention featured a massive line-up of Australian and US performers, so much so that most bands didn't perform more than once over the weekend. The quality of the music was fantastic, and I overheard a couple of long time attendees commenting on how old time and bluegrass music in Australia has also matured over the years.

There was plenty of jamming throughout the day and night in various locations around town - the hotels, caravan parks, and various weekenders that had been occupied by festival goers for the duration of the convention. The more organised jams on the festival site were also a hit, particularly the old timey session facilitated in the Community Hall. The Thursday night Square Dance (that I have never actually attended) was also reportedly a big hit. Workshops were well attended, and

covered all aspects of bluegrass and old time music, from fiddle, mandolin, guitar, banjo, bass to song arranging and harmony singing.

I was fortunate enough to perform with two bands over the weekend in a variety of venues (the Hub or restaurant stage, the local Pub, and the Big Top - main Marquee) which was a highlight for me and a personal achievement, as I had never played on 'the big stage'. I also took a different approach to the festival that made it much more enjoyable; I decided that I wasn't missing out on too much by using absolutely every opportunity to jam all night, and spent some time skimming rocks, wading in the river, and enjoying the alpine air and scenery. Getting in some outside activities and spending time catching up with friends just made the music more enjoyable when it was time to 'get it done' - a fact that had been a bit lost on me in previous years when I was absolutely determined to make the most out of every minute jamming. Like I said, I'm maturing!

<http://www.harrietvillebluegrass.com.au/index.html>



**Club Meetings**  
3rd Saturday every Month  
**Concerts** Feb, April, June,  
Aug, Oct, Dec  
**Round Table Music Session's**  
March, May, July, Sept, Nov  
**St Peter's Educational  
Centre,**  
**384 Windsor Street**  
**Richmond**  
New time from April  
7.00 -10.30pm

#### Newsletter Contributions

We invite all members of the Macquarie Towns Music Club to contribute information, news or articles relevant to our club's interests.  
New club PO Box address to be notified of soon.

More club information can be found on the Web

<http://iam.org.au/>  
&  
<http://www.myspace.com/macquarietownsmusicclub>

Or Join the Macquarie Towns Music Club Group on Facebook



New club email & website coming soon

Enquiries: Lydia

Phone: 02 - 45760521  
[doozi-do-z@hotmail.com](mailto:doozi-do-z@hotmail.com)

Please remember to forward through any updated email, address, phone or any other changes to your contact information!

## Jan's Story - News from Jan Tame



'Main Street - Gulgong'

I took my motor home and a friend up to Gulgong for the festival. It was later than usual, normally on New Years Eve with dancing in the street, which had become a kid's playtime, so I must admit I didn't miss the dancing. I stayed at Red Hill in a top spot overlooking the school & all of Gulgong with beautiful breezes. It was the sports ground & three grounds have been improved with beautiful gardens which I have watched evolve each year we went up there. The amenities are great, clean & plenty of them.

There were also plenty of sessions so I had many opportunities to play. James Norton was there & his poetry was heard at the poet's breakfast, also I played in the pub with him where we plus Phil entertained the patrons. Tom Hamilton put on a gig at the RSL & the theme was Australia & war songs. I did one of Toms & also a poem by my uncle who was a veteran, very moving. I had a great time saw top artists. One to watch is the Brothers

Three - young kids loaded with talent. Make Gulgong a must for next year.



Town on the Ten Dollar Note

## Photos



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