

The Beat

May 2009

Issue 11

Macquarie Towns Music Club Inc Newsletter



Coming Club Events

Richmond Neighbourhood
Centre, West Market St,
Richmond
7.30 – 10.30

- May 16 will feature another 'Round Robin' session night.
- June 20 'My-T Fine String Band' will appear as guest artists. This well known Bluegrass band is a must see and will be supported by a 'Variety Concert' of talented local performers.
- July 18 will feature another 'Round robin' session night.
- On August 15 'Swoon' a duo from Queensland and 'Buck and Deanne' a local duo will perform as Guest Artists. They will be supported by a 'Blackboard Concert'.

Coming Festivals

(This page)

Anyone interested in contributing to 'The Beat' contact Dez by phone or email.

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Welcome

Hi everyone. Welcome to our winter edition of 'The Beat' and another 4 month look ahead for Macquarie Towns Music Club. I hope you, your families and your friends are all healthy, happy and preparing yourselves for another winter.

Our concerts are still receiving good attendance and feedback and our sessions are getting between 20 and 35 attendees and although we may only get to perform 3 tunes or poems per person they are well rewarded and the session nights have been fun and very entertaining. Don't miss our session this month and we also have a very good Bluegrass band as guest artist in June. Remember we now have a good heater at the venue as well.

On another note, one of my lyrical influences, Leonard Cohen was in Australia earlier this year and coincidentally I am hearing his song 'Hallelujah' (the first song I played at MTMC) wherever I go. Ami Williamson and Bill Bekric did their versions at St Albans and Rachel Dillon played the song with Marcus Sturrock at the recent 'On the Veranda' concert at Grose Vale. Apparently Mr Cohen agonised over this song filling up two notebooks with about 80 verses. It has now been covered by 181 artists and is only second to 'Suzanne' with 185 covers by other artists.

Members News

Club members Terry Regan, Kathie McMahon, Wendy Kilroy, Ian Henry, Tom Hamilton and Taia de Burca will be part of a concert at St. David's Church, Kurrajong Heights at 2pm Sunday 31st May. This concert will also feature a performance by local choir 'Chorella'. Tickets are \$20 and are available from Kathie McMahon. Enquiries: 4567 7105.

Catherine Delaney has submitted the following

extract; In 1683, Humphrey Salter published a book of selected tunes and method for Recorder. His intro to *The Genteel Companion* is addressed – "To all ingenious Lovers of Musick; I might as well endeavour to persuade, that the Sun is a glorious, and beneficial Planet; as take pains to Illustrate Musick with my imperfect praises; for every reasonable Man's own mind will be its Advocate. Musick, beloved of Heaven is the

business of Angels; Desired on Earth as the most charming pleasure of Men. The world contains nothing that is good, but what is full of Harmonious Concord, nor nothing that is evil, but it is opposite, as being the ill favour'd production of Discord and Disorder. I dare affirm; those that love not Musick (if there be any such) are Dissenters from Ingenuity, and Rebels to the Monarchy of Reason."

Festival Dates for your Diary

22nd to 24th May
Celtic Cultural Experience,
Teralba NSW
ph. 4943 3436
www.newcastlehuntermountainfolkclub.org.au

23rd May
Berry Celtic Festival
Berry NSW
Ph. 4243 1346
coldot@shoal.net.au

5th to 8th June
Snowy Mountains of Music
– festival on the snowfields
ph. 1300811324
belinda@snowymountainsofmusic.com.au

5th to 8th June
Sessionfest Swansea NSW
ph. 0421 412 358 or
sessionfest@gmail.com or
www.newcastlehuntermountainfolkclub.org.au

20th June.
Winter Magic Festival
Katoomba NSW
www.wintermagic.com.au or
bluemts@bigpond.net.au

18th to 19th July
Festival Mystique
Newcastle NSW
Ph. 4991 6716
www.festivalmystique.com

My-T Fine String Band – June 20th Special Guest Artist

Rod and Judy Jones have had the My T Fine String Band in various incarnations for almost 30 years, playing bluegrass and traditional country music. They have played at countless gigs in the form of dances and concerts at the Bluegrass and Traditional Country Music Society in Sydney which was established in June 1975.

More recent festival gigs include the Dorrigo Folk and Bluegrass Festival and Ausgrass. All band members are multi – instrumentalists with each having their specialty in playing instruments such as banjo, fiddle, mandolin, guitar or double bass.

In September 2008 the group was invited to perform at the home of traditional country music in the US - The Carter Family Fold, a weekly show in honour of the family who in 1927 became the first band to spread traditional country music styles around the world. This gig was in aid of the US Park Service on the Blue Ridge Parkway Summer Program and at the Blue Ridge Centre near Galax. The group has been regular performers at the Jackson's Mill Jubilee Festival in Weston, West Virginia since 1986. Over the years they have appeared on the ABC, The USA "Today" Show. Also in a special on the Galax

Old Time Fiddler's Convention, West Virginia Public Radio, Judy won the Galax Old Time Fiddler's Convention Clawhammer Banjo Championship. This is a great chance to hear some real old time music.



Swoon – August 15th Guest Artist

Swoon makes music that takes your heart, dances with it then puts it back beating stronger than ever". A dynamic folk duo comprised of Angela Smith on vocals and percussion and Josh Notting on guitar, vocals, stomp box and foot tambourine.

Forming in July 2006 their magical songwriting partnership and passionate onstage delivery has seen them go from strength to strength. Playing support gigs for Powderfinger and Silverchair (on the Across the Great Divide Tour) and also for Glen Shorrock, Deborah Conway, Andrew Morris, Dave Flower and the well known folk act Jigsaw.

Swoon's soul nourishing combination of potent vocals and inventive guitar and their diverse range of songs are full of epic crescendos and heart breaking melodies. In August 2008 Swoon recorded their debut album 'Kindred' at the Dog & Bear Studio in Melbourne and are currently touring up and down the East Coast making friends, writing songs and loving every minute of their experience in our beautiful country.

Palm Creek Folk Festival 2008 (North Queensland) was delighted to have Swoon, from Mackay, to perform as a main bill on Saturday night, a night for festival audiences to let their hair down. Josh and Angela captivated the crowd at

once. Strong, vibrant vocals coupled with energetic, resonant guitar make this duo sound amazingly powerful.

Don't miss this dynamic mix of upbeat and melodious songs that deliver a top performance.

www.myspace.com/swoonduo



Buck and Deanne – August 15th Support Guest Artist

Buck and Deanne are performing everywhere nowadays; I can't pick up a program without seeing them on the bill. Some of their recent acts have been at 'The Shack, St Albans, Fairlight Folk and now Macquarie Towns.

The story of Buck and Deanne began in the church at Majors Creek Festival 2006 when Buck was first impressed by Deanne's warm alto tones. Their undeniable chemistry

ensured that a friendship quickly blossomed into a romantic musical collaboration that has delighted and uplifted audiences from Perth to Sydney over the last few years. Together they collaborate on Buck's original material as well as placing their own special arrangements on favourites including traditional blues, pop and folk classics.

www.myspace.com/buckdeanne



Festival Reviews

National Folk Festival

By Richard Galluzzi

Well, I think that I'm over my usual "post - festival comedown" enough to write clearly about the National – the "comedown" for me involves a combination of accumulated fatigue, worn out ears and playing fingers, and the realisation that I can't afford to play banjo all day and have to go back to work !

I travelled down to Canberra with my wife Rebecca for the National, minus children, to stay in a little two man tent that we hadn't actually tried out before. Arriving on the Friday afternoon meant that most of the good spots were taken, but we managed to get a little corner that was near to amenities. Once we pitched the tent, we figured out a path to the main festival site and headed up to see some bands.

The bands that we saw over the course of the weekend included The Beenies (3 girls, fiddle, guitar, banjo, bouzouki, Irish flute), Eric Bogle and John Munro (who you should all

know, and who put on a great set ending with 'And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda'), The April Verch Band from Canada – with fiddle & step dancing – sometimes at the same time! (banjo, bass, guitar and bodhran and wooden spoons for percussion), Kate Burke and Ruth Hazelton, 'Old Man' Luedecke (with some great original songs and clawhammer banjo). Zumpa from Illawarra played a great set of Italian tunes that my Nonna would have loved and Andy Irvine did a great set with his 'Australian Friends' about Australian songs with Irish connections, including one that mentioned Toongabbie, Castle Hill and Emu Plains! Woohoo!

The other highlight was experiencing this great music at the Session Bar, with a sometimes inaudible mix of Australian, Irish, Blues, Scottish, Bluegrass, Old Timey, Contra Music, etc all happening at once, along with the bunch that were singing Beatles songs and the dreadlocked guys with the djembes. I was very proud of

myself having achieved a personal best of finishing up one morning at 5 am with the fiddler I was swapping tunes with and seeing no-one else left standing in the National Folk Festival Session Bar.

Highlights for me were Kate Burke and Ruth Hazelton (complete with clawhammer banjo, guitar and spine tingling harmonies), feeling the banjo neck heat up during rip - roaring sessions, the Hare Krishna feasts for tea, the-slightly more-expensive-but-so-worth-it Coffee stall, feeling the excitement as the cold sets in at sunset and the lights come on, and, of course, seeing everyone that you haven't seen since the last festival and all those you will see at the next.



St Albans Folk Festival

By Dez Williams

The 2009 St Albans Folk Festival was a musical blast just as usual. With a variety of well known performers at the Marquee that continually provided first class entertainment for an enthusiastic audience. These artists included past MTMC guest artists Karen Lynne, Pat Drummond, Marcus Sturrock, Acoustic Shock and Fergusson Elliott. Kaz and I particularly like The Beez who we got to see on Saturday night and also at their 59th and final Australian performance on Sunday prior to flying back to Europe. Endo Kenny, whom I had never heard of prior, blew me away with his perfect unison of voice, guitar and ballad and had us all enrapt with his down to earth repertoire combining his Australian and Irish roots.

On Anzac Day we were awakened to a bugle playing 'The Last Post' which then continued on with renditions of various jazz compositions. The sound drifted across the valley.

Further musical talents were exposed at the campfire site behind our tent where we were consistently entertained over the weekend.



Kaz, Lina and I performed 3 of my songs at the Fickle Wombat 'Blackboard Concert' along with many other entertaining acts.

The patrons of the Settlers Arms were continuously entertained by various sessions and the festivity of music and rhyme was non-stop over the weekend while the pub was open and afterwards.

I attended an alternative guitar tuning workshop held by Michael Azzopardi along with about 15 other guitarists. Michael's explanation of common alternate tunings was well understood and also outlined the

importance of practice and finding your own style.

The festival has come a long way since its origins at the back of the Settlers Arms in the mid 1980s when our little folk club were the organisers and facilitators.

The only downside this year was the lack of a sufficient amount of toilet facilities and the southerly winds that tore down the valley on Sunday and tore down a lot of awnings, tarps etc with it.

It was good to see many MTMC members there to enjoy the festival & these include Kath & Alex, Taia, Rachel, Phil, Chris & Ruth, Jan & Lee, James, Richard, Selina, Kaz & I.





Club Meetings

3rd Saturday every Month
Richmond Neighbourhood
Centre, West Market St.
Richmond
7.30 -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.

Please address correspondence to

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More club information can be found on the Web at:
jam.org.au



More Pictures



Other News and Venues

Our Club MySpace website –
<http://www.myspace.com/macquarietownsmusicclub>

Country Folk Sunday is on at Lynwood Country Club (Pitt Town Road) last Sunday of the month from 12 to 4pm. On 31st May hosts **Bowen & Clare** will be joined by **Denim Agents, Kathy Sunners** and **Fergusson Elliot**. The following Country Folk Sunday on 28th June will feature special guest duo **Pat Drummond & Karen Lynne**. Enquiries: Lydia 4576 0521

Yarramundi Music Club is on at the UWS Hawkesbury Campus Uni Bar in Stable Square last Wednesday of the month from 7 to 9pm. Some recent performances have been by **Burnt Creek Deviation Bluegrass Band, Bronnie Ware** and **Anne Ridgeway**. Enquiries: Julie 0402 066 578

Session Night of Music is on at Windsor RSL Club, Mileham St South Windsor 2nd Friday of the month 7.30 to 10.30 and features a 'Round Robin' session night. Enquiries: Tom 4578 4982



Sponsors



Ph. 4577 3355 Windsor
www.rivermusic.com.au

The friendly staff at River Music has agreed to a **10% discount** for club members. This applies when purchasing any of their vast range of **quality instruments and equipment**. This discount does not apply to products already discounted. Pop in and talk to Pater, David or Paul and co about any or all your musical needs.