

January

2011

The Beat

Macquarie Towns Music Club Newsletter



What's On

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

- **February 19 'StompKats'** will appear as guest artists. This band packed the house in October 2010 and is a must see act supported by a 'Variety Concert' of local performers.
- **March 19** will feature another laugh out loud 'Round robin' session night.
- **April 16** will have Australia's Songwriter of the year '**Kate Rowe + Ryan Morrison**' performing as guest artist at our concert supported by a variety concert.
- **May 21** will see another bash out and sing a song 'Round robin' jam session.
- **June 18** has '**Jim Low + Jason and Chloe Roweth**' performing as our guest artists and supported by a 'Blackboard' variety concert.

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Welcome

Happy New Year 2011 and we are hoping all our musicians, singers, poets, visitors and friends enjoyed a relaxing and fun Christmas and New Year holiday break.

Welcome to another issue of 'The Beat', the MTMC newsletter about our growing acoustic music club. This is where you will get the news of what's happening at our club over the coming months.

We apologise for not holding a January club meeting but past evidence has proven the attendance is considerably low because of summer holidays and it is not worthy of holding a meeting during this month.

We have some excellent guest performers booked for our concerts this year so do yourselves a favour and look at getting a good seat at these future concert events.

Our first concert of 2011 in February will feature '*StompKats*' as guest artists. These guys are getting great reviews and feedback wherever they perform and should not be missed on 19 February.

In April we have '*Kate Rowe*' and '*Ryan Morrison*' as Guest Performers. In 2010 Kate was named the Australian Songwriters Association (ASA) "Songwriter of the Year" in the final of the ASA Songwriting Competition and she also won three other categories in the competition.

The June concert will feature '*Jim Low*' with '*Jason and Chloe Roweth*' and will certainly be another excellent evening of music. See articles on all the above guest artist performers on pp 2&3.

Member's News

Firstly, our deepest sympathy go out to club member **Terry Regan** and family who lost their beloved **Dulcie Regan** to illness just prior to Christmas. Dulcie will be sadly missed by all and me personally as I was so fond of her regular contributions of home made biscuits and cakes.

Club member **Tom Hamilton**'s self penned debut album of poetry '**Dust**' was nominated for best Bush Poetry Album of the Year and will be judged in the final at Tamworth 2011. See more news from the Man in the Green Hat on p 3.

Our Club **Christmas Party** held on 11 December 2010 was a great success with 42 people attending. Family Affair BBQ & Spits catered

the event and the food was excellent. The kids loved the pool and the adults jammed the session room. All in all it was an enjoyable social day out for members. See some photos on p 6.

Former club member **Rachel Dillon**, now based in WA is on the bill at a private function with **Tex Perkins** (former lead singer of The Cruel Sea) at The Vanguard in 2011 and is also performing at Tamworth. Check out Rachel's website www.racheldillon.com.au

The **Muso Mates** have also been performing at many different concert venues around the Hawkesbury to great accolade. Get over to hear this group of Celtic musicians and singers if you can.

Club member **James Norton** has produced a CD of music and Poetry called '**Bush Bards, Bars & Bivouacs**' and copies can be obtained off James for \$10. James is a bloke who knows how to entertain and in 2010 he won the following tributes:

- Tamworth Festival: Golden Harmonica Championships - Winner People's Choice Award
- The Man from Snowy River Bush Festival Poetry Comp - Standout novice
- Gundagai Turning Wave Festival Poetry Reciters' Award - Winner
- Canberra Regional Country Music Awards Festival - People's Choice Country busker.

MTMC Annual Members' Concert – October 2010

Ladies and Gentlemen...step right up! Our annual members' concert was another great success surpassing the 2009 concert with the hall overflowing with cheerful faces. There was a super line up of member's bands such as the Muso Mates, Burnt Creek Deviation and Shiney Top Strings. Another great solo harmonica and poetry

performance from James Norton rocked the crowd. Club friends StompKats and Rod and Judy Jones gave us some great songs and special thanks must go to StompKats for bringing along their large support of family and friends. For a little hall that can only seat 60 comfortably we had a total of 78 attendees without a single complaint voiced.



StompKats – February 19 - 2011



Reminiscent of the sounds of rural America sometime between the 19th and early 20th century, **StompKats**, with their hard'n fast Bluegrass gutbucket rhythms and high

lonesome harmonies, will take you on a journey when life was a little simpler. With their old school harmonies, raw acoustic interplay and driving rhythms reminiscent of twangin' country and Delta blues just like the good ol' days, **StompKats** will make you want to get up and stomp.

Together Holstein and Bo'Weavil are **StompKats**. Holstein has musical roots in the country and folk scene where acoustic guitar, harmonica & strong vocal harmonies were the order of the day. This path led to several original independent solo albums with local & international airplay & several song writing awards. Of note were the 2002 Tamworth TIARA for heritage song of the year &

several 2007 independent nominations with TV airplay for a country rock video clip release.

Bo'Weavil's musical roots go back a way and in his previous incarnation worked as a bass player for artists as diverse as Alison Durban to Rolf Harris. In the 80's Bo performed with top 40 hit bands of the time and appeared on programs such as Hey Hey It's Saturday, Sounds Unlimited, Countdown and Oz for Africa global concerts.

Come on a journey with **StompKats** and get back to traditional roots where vocals, harmony and instruments are unadulterated by technology, and where songs come from the heart. Check out www.facebook.com/stompkats

Kate Rowe + Ryan Morrison – April 16 - 2011



Kate Rowe is an award-winning Australian singer-songwriter. A former French scholar and English teacher at the Sorbonne University in Paris, her songs and performances are characterised by powerful stories,

catchy melodies, a quirky sense of humour and a "magical stage presence". In 2010 **Kate Rowe** was named the Australian Songwriters Association "Songwriter of the Year", and won three other categories in the competition. She won a Lennon Award in the Children's Category of the 2009 John Lennon Songwriting Contest for her song "Space Rabbits of Brocklevoons". Kate's second album "Nature's Little Game" was released in July 2010. Showcasing Kate's talent for writing, it ranges from "Coffee My Lover", a cheeky love song for coffee, to "Dusty Room", a rich, symbolic song about the power of friendship in healing grief.

Kate performs with **Ryan Morrison**, with whom she has completed two tours of Australia.

Ryan Morrison is an up-and-coming songwriter from Perth, probably best known as "the Lightpole guy" in the infamous Spooky Men's Chorale. With a voice like melting chocolate, and hauntingly beautiful songs, Ryan is young, romantic and passionate. His debut album will be released in 2011 and features the gorgeous choral arrangements for which he is known as a choir leader and arranger.

Together, Kate and Ryan make audiences laugh, cry, sigh, think deeply, and go home happy. Check out www.katerowe.com

Jim Low + Jason & Chloe Roweth – June 18 - 2011



Jim Low is a Blue Mountains singer/songwriter. He has been writing and performing songs about Australia, its history and its people for many years. It is said that he creates and sings songs that get to the heart of the story, entertain and beg to be listened to again. "Jim's songs deserve to be heard," says respected folklorist and performer Warren Fahey. "They are genuine story songs that have a direct link to

this land and this precious culture of ours. In many ways the songs link us to our history in the same way traditional songs served us in allowing us to record our emotional history".

The very talented **Chloe and Jason Roweth** are known for their performances of traditional and contemporary Australian bush styled music in dynamic and fresh arrangements. Featuring vocals, guitar and mandolin. Chloe and Jason gain great pleasure from bringing forgotten songs back to the stage along with creating new material which is grounded strongly in the tradition of bush culture and music. Their latest CD '*A Voice that was Still*' was awarded the National Film and Sound Archive's "Best Folk Recording 2009" at the National Folk Festival.

Last year Chloe, Jason and Jim began a collaboration that has been thoroughly enjoyable and very productive. Jim recorded some of his songs with **Chloe and Jason Roweth** at their home recording studio at Millthorpe in country New South Wales. The result was the CD '*Above the Creek Bed*' which features 13 of Jim's original songs.

"Working with Chloe and Jason has been a wonderful experience," said **Jim Low** recently. "I have long been an admirer of their music and talent. The opportunity to work with them has been very special and the musical magic they have brought to my songs has been thrilling."

Jim, Chloe and Jason are all looking forward to performing some of the songs live at our music venue in June. Check out <http://jimlow.net/>

BLOW YOUR OWN TRUMPET

Man in the Green Hat - News from Tom Hamilton

Well 2010 was a defining year for the "Man in the Green Hat". It was the year I decided to get my music and poetry out of the Hawkesbury. The downside to this is that I have been unable to sustain attendance in the west of the river Friday night group plus the regular monthly nights at the Windsor RSL which sadly after 15 years has been abandoned.

The New Year started with Gulgong Festival which sadly has been a victim of it's own success, hence no 2011 Festival. For me it was a four day non-stop gig. If I wasn't reciting my poems I was singing in one of the pubs. During the festival it was suggested that I enter the Henry Lawson Festival

over the June long weekend and ended up one of the finalists in the open performance section. I scored a highly commended for a poem that only had five verses and over 300 people had entered.

I had planned to try and make four festivals and made eight and have been invited back to them all this year. So it is all out there if you make the effort.

I tried to attend festivals that catered for bush poetry and music but I had to play with the big kids in some of the poetry comps. I didn't go too bad either taking out the Yarn-spinning at the Hunter Valley Bush poets' festival and 3rd in something else at the same venue. Turning Wave saw the Gundagai

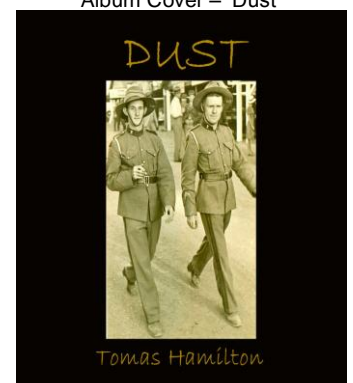
competition come my way. After Gundagai it was six weeks before we had a weekend at home. My wife Betty visited the Grandkids in July for a month in Cairns and so I linked up with Aaron Stone of Speaker Slave Studios in Windsor to do an album of my poetry. I cannot recommend Aaron highly enough. We have already pencilled in another music album for this year. The only problem is the previous album we recorded is still selling well and in fact I had to do another run.

Everyone who has heard the poetry album says it is up there with the best. It is selling well outside the Hawkesbury music scene and I am just about to do another run of them as well.

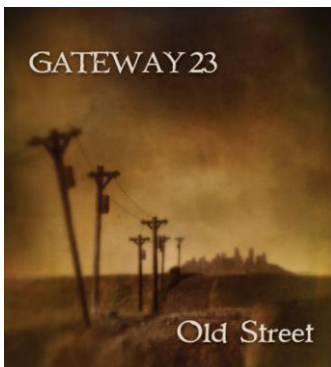
It is ironic that it was Kathy McMahon who suggested that I do a poetry album and she is the only one in the local music scene who has a copy.

My poetry album '**Dust**' has been nominated for best Australian Bush Poetry Album of the year at Tamworth in 2011. Yup it's been a good year.

Album Cover – 'Dust'



Gateway 23 – Debut Album Release



Gateway 23, regular club performers, is a trio based in Richmond and consists of Dez Williams on acoustic guitar and lead vocals, Selina Rowe on mandolin, bodhran and backing vocals and Karen Williams on

acoustic bass guitar and backing vocals. Recently completing the recording of their debut album 'Old Street' the Singer Songwriter/Folk Rock group performs original songs written by Dez whose primary songwriting influences are Bob Dylan, Rodriguez, Van Morrison, Neil Young and Leonard Cohen. Two of the group's songs were shortlisted in the 2010 ASA Songwriting competition in different categories.

Tone Ranley of the Songwriting Society of Australia wrote in its

magazine 'Connections'; *"Dez Williams sends me, I can't put it plainer than that, his songs are as good as you can possibly get, people like Dez can stop you in your tracks with a wise observation about life and its foibles".*

G23 are receiving positive feedback on their music and the album is currently being reviewed for national publication with 'Trad&Now' and 'Rhythms' magazines.

The album can be purchased on-line at www.gateway23.com.au or at Macquarie Towns Music Club meetings.

Enter Gateway 23 into rhythmic guitar, melodic lead mandolin and driving bass backing a lyrical collage of tales woven around kaleidoscopic eyes, governed, bludgeoned streets, dreamtime deserts, timeless mountains, lines of crazy, lonely men and the need for sweet, sweet love.



A Poem - by Hugh Worrall

Have a Bet - An ode to constant betting...

When all else is falling down
And as bad as it can get,
Remember life's a gamble
So I'm off to have a bet

You can bet on almost anything
You can bet almost anywhere
There's never a time where there's
no good odds
To win a golden share

The cricket's on in Brisbane
The gallops are on at Randwick
The tennis is on in Melbourne
There's way too much to pick!

I was meant to take the kids to school
But I had to have a bet
The fights are on in Vegas
And they haven't finished yet.

I was meant to go to work at nine
But the dogs are on in Dapto
Races are on at funny times
To the club, I had to go.

I had to meet the wife for lunch
The arrangement it was simple
But a sure-fire thing made me 3
hours late
So odds-on now I'm single

Odds for the man to score a ton
Or for the man who's never scored
Or for the time the man scratched
his ear
Everything's on the board

I was supposed to do the shopping
It's Thursday night you see
But the trots are on in Penrith
And admission there is free.

I know betting on my kids is bad
But I had to have a burst
The odds are really amazing
That my youngest gets old first

Remember what the Chaser* said
Where pokies are the king
"Go home to your families"
You know that you can't win.

But when all else is falling down
And as bad as it can get,
Remember life's a gamble
So I'm off to have a bet.

(*The Chaser's War On Everything - ABC TV)

By Hugh Worrall



Dorrigo Folk & Bluegrass Festival – by Richard Galluzzi

It was with the whole family that I headed up to camp for the first time to the 2010 Dorrigo Folk and Bluegrass Festival. We arrived there just in time for the daily afternoon downpour, although one of the locals assured me that it was merely some mist that had settled over the town... This ended up being a daily occurrence, but there was plenty of fine weather and sunshine in between. If you haven't been to the festival before, it is often described as being intimate, relaxed, friendly, and there is a lot of reference to its beautiful location. All these things are true. The camping facilities were great, and there were a few options for food around the festival site as well as in town, which is a short distance away.

The 2010 festival had a huge variety of fantastic folk and bluegrass / old timey acts,

including Bluestone Junction, the Junes, The Stiff Gins, Innes Campbell and Present Company, the My T Fine Stringband, and the Gypsy Jazz guitar of Ewan Mackenzie and friends, which proved to be a real hit. I didn't even mind hearing them jamming next to my tent until 3:30am! There was also the festival debut by the Shiny Top Strings, who is a familiar-faced trio to the Macquarie Towns Music Club...

Workshops included autoharp, flatpicking guitar, gypsy jazz guitar, bluegrass banjo, clawhammer banjo, singing, Bollywood dancing, fiddle, double bass, ukulele, harmonica and songwriting. In theory, you could have taken along a bunch of mates and had the makings of a band if you each chose a workshop to attend! It was great to see such a high level of musicianship being

taught and passed around for all to share. Sessions at the Festival were plentiful, with a number of spontaneous jams breaking out around the festival site during the night and day.

There were interstate visitors who made the trip just to catch up with others and have a session in the showground, which I think is a really healthy sign for a festival. Word is that the organisers have received a grant for the 2011 Festival, so it will be interesting to see how Dorrigo 2011 shapes up - I'll certainly be looking forward to it. This is a great festival for those who like smaller, quality, family friendly events (great for kids) in a beautiful location. Just bring your wet weather gear in case there's some "Dorrigo mist" around!

Check out the festival website <http://dorrigofolkbluegrass.com.au/>

An amusing look at the difference between Bluegrass, Old Time and Celtic Bands – Part 2

by Toby & Moby Adobe

The Instruments -

Banjo:

A Celtic banjo is small and quiet. An Old Time banjo is open-backed, with an old towel (probably never washed) stuffed in the back to dampen sound. A Bluegrass banjo has a resonator to make it louder. A Celtic banjo weighs 2kg, an Old Time banjo weighs 2½kg, towel included and a Bluegrass banjo weighs 20kg. A Bluegrass banjo player has had spinal fusion surgery on all his vertebrae, and therefore stands very straight. If an Old Time banjo player stands, he slouches. A Celtic banjo player remains seated to maintain stability while cross-picking as fast as possible. An Old Time banjo player can lose 3 right-hand fingers and 2 left-hand fingers in an industrial accident without affecting his performance. A Celtic banjo player has a brace to relieve his carpal tunnel syndrome. A Celtic banjo has only 4 strings. A

Bluegrass banjo has five strings and needs 24 frets. An Old Time banjo needs no more than 5 frets, and some don't need any. A Celtic banjo player flat picks everything. A Bluegrass banjo player puts jewelry on his fingertips to play. An Old Time banjo player puts super glue on his fingernails to strengthen them. Never shake hands with an Old Time banjo player while he's fussing with his nails.

Guitar:

An Old Time guitarist knows all the chords in G and C, and owns a capo for A and D. A Bluegrass guitarist can play in E-flat without a capo. The fanciest chord an Old Time guitarist needs is an A to insert between the G and the D7 chord. A Bluegrass or Celtic guitarist needs to know C#aug+7-4. A Celtic guitarist keeps his picks in his pocket. Old Time guitarists stash extra picks under a rubber band around the top of the peg head. Bluegrass guitarists would never

cover any part of the peg head that might obscure the gilded label of their \$3,000 guitar.

Fiddle:

Celtic and Bluegrass fiddles are tuned GDAE. An Old Time fiddle can be in a hundred different tunings. Old Time fiddlers seldom use more than two fingers of their left hand, and uses tunings that maximize the number of open strings played. Celtic and Bluegrass fiddlers study 7th position fingering patterns with Isaac Stern, and take pride in never playing an open string. An Old Time fiddle player can make dogs howl & incapacitate people suffering from sciatic nerve damage. An Old Time fiddle player only uses a quarter of his bow. The rest is just wasted. The Bluegrass fiddler paid \$10,000 for his fiddle at the Violin Shop in Nashville. The Celtic fiddler inherited his fiddle from his mother's 2nd cousin in County Clare. The Old Time fiddler got his for \$15 at a garage sale.



Club Meetings
 3rd Saturday every Month
 Richmond
 Neighbourhood Centre,
 20 West Market Street
 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

Macquarie Towns Music Club
 7 Katrina Close
 RICHMOND NSW 2753
 (02) 4578 5215
 or
 E-mail:
dwilliams@tpg.com.au

More club information can be found on the Web at:

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



Festivals – dates for your diary...

11- 14 February
Australian Blues Music Festival- NSW
 Ph. 1800 353 646
www.bluesmusicfestival.com.au

25- 27 February
Cobargo Folk Festival- NSW
 Ph. 6493 6758
www.cobargofolkfestival.com
cobargofolkfestival@bigpond.com

18- 20 March
Blue Mountains Music Festival- NSW
www.bmmf.org.au
info@bmmf.org.au

8- 10 April
St Albans Folk Festival- NSW
 Ph. 9873 3378
www.snalbans.iwarp.com
stalbandsfolffestival@gmail.com

21- 25 April
National Folk Festival - ACT
 Ph. 6249 7755
www.folkfestival.asn.au
info@folkfestival.asn.au

28 April- 1 May
Australian Celtic Festival - NSW
www.australiantcelticfestival.com

14- 15 May
Ironfest – Lithgow - NSW
 Ph. 1300 760 276
www.ironfest.com.au
ironfest@lisp.com.au

June (date to be decided)
Sessionfest – Swansea - NSW
 Ph. 0421 412 358
www.newcastlehuntevalleyfolkclub.org.au
sessionfest@gmail.com

Photos



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