

The Beat

May 2007

Issue 5

Macquarie Towns Music Club Inc Newsletter



Coming Club Events

Richmond
Neighbourhood Centre,
West Market St,
Richmond.

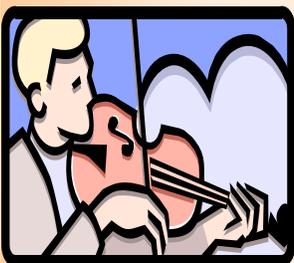
- May 19th will be a 'Round Robin' format and don't forget we start at 7.30 pm and finish at 10.30pm.
- June 16th. 'Karen Lynne & Acoustic Shock' will feature as a Main Act following a line up of club members as support artists. This will be a 'Concert Format'. 7.30 - 11.00pm. \$10 entry.
- 21st July. Will feature a 'Round Robin' format. Please try and bring along an easy song to play so we can all join in. 7.30-10.30pm.
- August 18th. I haven't decided whether a 'Round Robin' format or 'Blackboard Concert'. Starting time is 7.30pm.

Coming Festivals

(See page 3)

Anyone interested in contributing an advert, poem, story, lyrics etc to 'The Beat' contact Dez.

Phone. 4578 5215
Email. dwilliams@tpg.com.au



Welcome

Here we are again for another 4 month update on club events. I hope you and your family and friends are well and you are also keeping yourselves and your instruments in tune and active. I've got lots of news for you and I hope you can find time in the coming weeks to read this copy of 'The Beat' that will cover the time from May to August 2007. Don't forget that you are all welcome to contribute to this newsletter. Send your news to me...

Get Well Soon – Lee Tame

Lee Tame, one of our very versatile members has just undergone surgery and we are wishing him the best in a speedy recovery. His jovial personality has

been missed in the short time he has been away and we hope he can be up, up and away very soon. **Best Wishes Lee.**



Committee Meeting – March 26 2007

The committee meeting held on March 26 raised some good ideas and discussion. 7 from 9 committee members were present and topics raised and discussed were:

- Exchange visits in 2007

- Nursing home visits
- Acoustic Shock concert
- Meeting formats

The minutes of the meeting were circulated by Email and copies can also be obtained from me if desired.

All members are invited to contribute ideas or correspondence to be tabled at these meetings that can be discussed by the committee.

Nursing Home Visits- Volunteers Needed

The Club is looking for musicians and singers to entertain at the Nursing Homes in or close to the Hawkesbury district. This is especially if members have a relative in residence.

Life can be without stimulation for some of these older folk and they

usually appreciate music, particularly if it is from their own era.

If you are interested and can give up a few hours for three or four times a year, contact **Ellen Manning** on **45782975** or at ellenm@tpg.com.au and she will organise a group visit. If you

have any old songs, music hall, traditional Australian, World War I or II, please let Ellen know and she will copy them and return them to you.

Because the residents love to participate, Ellen plans to make some song sheets to hand out during any planned visits.

Freshwater Concert Review



What a roll up we had for this wonderful concert in February. Freshwater were supported by club members Ken Stretton, Terry Regan, Latitude, Jim Rush & Richard, Highly Strung (David, Kaz & Dez), Jan & Lee and visiting poet Milton Taylor. All these performers must be complimented on their great support acts while keeping to a tight schedule. Freshwater played an excellent set of various tunes and ballads that included many

beautiful harp solos from Cliona Molins and vocals from Chris Wheeler. A surprise addition to the act was Tinker Duffy on accordion. There was so much positive feedback from the large audience I went home very pleased with myself and all the members that helped organise the night. Well done all you wonderful people who contributed your talents and assistance to a successful night of music and entertainment.

Guest Artists – June 16 Concert

Karen Lynne & Acoustic Shock – June 16. 7.30 – 11.00



Acoustic Shock is a traditional Bluegrass Band consisting of multi award winning musicians Jim Rush (Guitar), Martin Louis (banjo, 5

string Dobro), Nigel Lever (Mandolin) & Quentin Fraser (Dobro & Bass).

Their music is clean 3 part harmony singing traditional bluegrass. Influences include Flat & Scruggs, the Osborne Bros and the Louvin Bros. Acoustic Shock will be joined by Multi Award winning artist Karen Lynne whose bluegrass album 'Changes' has been hailed 'an international album in the class of Alison Krauss & Rhonda Vincent', with 3 singles charting on the Australian Charts, with one reaching No.2. Karen adds a dynamic and contemporary touch to the group with her vocals conjuring up a mixture of influences that

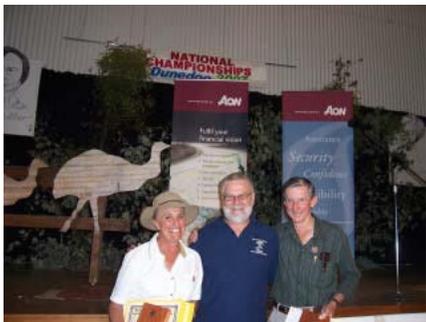
include Alison Krauss, Claire Lynch and Judith Durham.

Playing together also led to the recording of the collaborative Bluegrass album 'Blue Mountain Rain', which most notably placed Karen as the first Australian female Artist to release a complete Bluegrass Album. In 2005 the band completed a UK & Europe tour which included support to top US Bluegrass act "Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder".

The concert performance will be broken into 2 parts with Karen & Acoustic Shock performing in the 2nd half supported by a variety of Club Members in the 1st half. See you there.

Member's News

Terry Regan



Club member, Terry Regan was crowned the 'Australian National Bush Poetry Champion 2007' at the 2007 Australian National

Championships held at Dunedoo between the 1st and 4th of March this year. Terry won first prize in the Classical category with Father Riley's Horse by AB Paterson, first prize in the Modern Traditional category with 'Where the Eagle's Shadow falls' by Veronica Weal, second prize in the Original Serious category with Bullfrog Creek and second in the Original Humorous section with Roadside Signs.

Because there were so many entrants the Open section kicked off at 9am Thursday morning at the Golf Club and finished off in the

School Hall at 10pm Sunday where Terry was awarded the National Championship. Well done mate.

Patrick Smith & Richard Galluzzi

Patrick and Richard have had a tune published in the '5th string' column in the April edition of 'Trad and Now' for a song called 'Oh Me, Oh My', written by Patrick on the way to a set at the Dorrigo Folk and Bluegrass festival last year, with a banjo part added by Richard. You just can't stop the talent of these guys. Well done.

Festival Reviews

2007 Illawarra Folk Festival

By Richard Galluzzi

It was a while ago, but here goes.... 2007 was the second year for the festival at the Bulli site and there were a few changes made to the various stages on the site to make the most of it. It was also my first time camping at the festival, which was a great way to relax and enjoy the weekend. Highlights for me included performances by David Essig (from Canada), Andrew Winton, Crazy Creek, and the Sydney Balalaika Orchestra. I found the bluegrass sessions not as much fun as last year (i.e. they didn't go all night) but there certainly were a lot of musos putting in the hours in the session bar. Latitude played three sets over the weekend, my own favourite being the all acoustic performance in the tiny Chapel at the top of the hill, with views out over the ocean. Apparently the festival was a success, so I do hope to see you there next year!

Blue Mountains Music Festival

By Ellen Manning

Barbara Clout and I set off on a sunny St. Patrick's Day morning and attended the Festival at Katoomba.

First off, we attended *'The Spooky Men's Chorale'* a popular group who often performs at the National Folk Festival. An all-male choir, dressed in black, give their unique slant on pop songs (*Am I Not Pretty enough* - complete with beard-combing) and also original funny compositions. This group plasters their venues with posters such as "Spooky Man Elected Unopposed". Sitting in the sun outside the marquee, I ended up sunburnt. We then were off to a crowded, hot indoor venue to see Vin Garbutt, a traditional English Folk Singer, very highly regarded and talented, but I felt a touch of boredom with all the songs sounding the same. We then somehow managed to squeeze in for a look at the National Junk Band, led by Mick Conway, with the

fabulous Jim Conway on harmonica. This band has been described as 'a cross between the Sex Pistols and Monty Python'.

Off then to the Star performer (my thoughts, as I gave him his first job in Australia many years ago). Rory McLeod, busker extraordinaire and one-man-band. He plays a host of instruments, using mostly harmonica, taps on shoes, vocal acrobatics and wonderful original material. Kerrie-Anne Cox was a new name to me. She has been elected as Chairperson for the Aboriginal people at Beagle Bay and her songs are about her people-looking forward and not back. She has won many awards in the last year, plays guitar and sings with a glorious voice, and has a very good stage presence.

By this time it was raining the proverbial *'cats and dogs'* and people flocked into the tent, rain ran down the floor and it became very uncomfortable. But the next act was the Star performer and had also been interviewed on ABC twice in the previous fortnight. Luka Bloom is the younger brother of Christie Moore. He has been performing his low-key melodic compositions around the world for 36 years. The gentle Irish brogue doesn't help either. His guitar playing and voice are both gentle on the ear and the songs were mostly about Ireland, the beautiful landscape and the Irish people. By this time, the mist had come down, and all was wet and miserable- so home we went to the motel, warm pyjamas and our food and drink stash.

Excitement on Sunday morning; I burnt the toast and set the smoke alarm off in our motel room. We then found the Festival car park was all mud so we had to find a parking spot in the street. We struggled through the mud to see Alistair Hulett and Dave Swarbrick. Their set comprised of duets and solos from each artist. Dave was not well, but still showed some of his virtuoso fiddle playing. I don't know what to say about

Mikangelo and the Black Sea - their sound check went overtime and we all know what that does to our Festival schedules. I don't think I have laughed so much for years. Mikangelo has a very powerful baritone voice and kept the very off-beat songs and jokes coming at a pace.

The venues; school, RSL and Clarendon Guest House are all close together with the car park in one block. There is no camping, but plenty of cheap accommodation nearby. The Festival seems to be outgrowing the venue; while chairs placed outside each venue is all right in good weather but the main tent blew down and ripped during the night. Nevertheless, a new tent was up and running by 1pm on Saturday. There were also plenty of volunteers cleaning up, plenty of porta-loos.... plenty of them meant no waiting in the rain. All in all it was a great Festival.

St Albans Folk Festival

By Dez Williams

Kaz and I enjoyed an excellent weekend in the beautiful and tranquil St Albans Valley for the short 2 day 2007 festival. Again there were numerous acts, workshops and sessions to mosey on to. We were joined by lots of other club members and had a great weekend in the camping grounds. Our first act to attend was our own *'Latitude'* in the Church at 10am Saturday and again we were entertained by a fun and energetic performance. I sat in on a Guitar Finger picking workshop held by young guitar teacher from Kellyville, Chris Gillespie and then off to learn a little Harmonica from the very talented Jim Stubbs.

Saturday night I lit a fire outside our tent and commenced a jam session with a few of our club members, Kath, Alex, David, Dianne, Richard, Kaz & I and by midnight we had a session of almost 30 musos, singers and poets enjoying the firelight and great night of fun and good company. It's a 4 day Festival next year. See you there.



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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E-MAIL:
dwilliams@tpg.com.au

We are on the Web.
jam.org.au
(Sorry, our website probably needs updating)



Festival dates for your Diary

8th to 11th June
Sessionfest. Walcha
Water Works, Maitland
Phone Bilbo: 4958 4033
www.newcastlehuntenvalleyfolkclub.org.au

16th to 12th September
Turning Wave Festival
An Irish/Australian/Celtic
music celebration.
Performer applications
are now open.
www.turningwave.org.au or
Email Pam Merrigan at
turningwave@optusnet.com

26th to 28th October.
Dorrigo Folk & Bluegrass
Festival at Dorrigo. Ph:
6657 1229 or Email
festival@dorrigo.com

16th to 18th November
Music at the Creek. Ph:
Alison 4842 2889 or visit
www.musicatthecreek.com



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'34th Parallel' Mt Tomah Gardens 11am - 2 pm Saturday 5th May.
Markets all day with products available for sale from various places including wines from Mudgee & food stalls etc. Entry is free after the garden entrance fee is paid. Ph: **Garry Ragen - 4572 1863**

'The Bushrangers' Bushdance. 30th June, Hawkesbury Masonic Centre 731 George St South Windsor. 7pm to 11pm. Cost \$20.00 per adult, Children 6-17 \$10.00, 5 or under \$5.00 includes barbeque with salad and dessert. BYO. Fancy Dress 1940s style. The function is a charity event to raise money for local charities. Tickets must be pre-purchased. Ph: **Garry Ragen - 4572 1863**



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14 Bridge Street, Windsor
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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.



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Kevin Roby offers **lifestyle financial services** to our club members and will waive the brokerage fee of the contract thus saving the client up to 0.6% of the financial package. Kevin's service includes **Loans and Financial services**.