

The Beat

July 2010

Macquarie Towns Music Club Newsletter



What's On

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

- **July 17** Our **AGM** will be held at **6.30 pm**. Pizza and drinks provided
- **July 17** will feature a fun 'Round robin' session night. This is great for beginners or for anyone who likes to play along or sing-along
- **August 21** '**The Lurkers**' will appear as guest artists. This band is a must see and will be supported by a 'Variety Concert' of talented local performers.
- **September 18** will feature another laugh out loud 'Round robin' session night.
- On **October 16** the members and friends of '**Macquarie Towns Music Club**' will perform a variety concert for the locals of the Hawkesbury.
- **November 20** will see another bashing out 'Round robin' session
- On **December 11 or 18** (to be confirmed) our '**Macquarie Towns Music Club**' **Christmas Party** will be catered for by club funds at 7 Katrina Close Richmond and will include a 'Round robin' jam session and stand-up performers.

Phone: 02 - 4578 5215
Email dwilliams@tpg.com.au



Welcome

The Macquarie Towns Music Club is becoming a thriving social network across the **Greater Western Sydney** communities for not only our musicians, singers and poets who love to perform but also the many people who like to come along to see and hear our club's varying genres of music, song and poetry.

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 also hope you, your families and your friends are all healthy and happy and finding time to play, jam, listen to and always enjoy the beautiful music that is widespread nowadays.

Our concerts are still getting good attendance and feedback and our more relaxed, informal 'Round Robin' jam sessions are regularly getting 20 attendees. These meetings/sessions are a lot of fun and are always entertaining so try and get along to one of our sessions in the future. We actually have a session this month of July after our **AGM** and then in August a brand new band for our club called '**The Lurkers**' who will perform as guest artists at our concert. These guys are getting great reviews and feedback wherever they perform and should not be missed on 21 August.

In October there's another **Club Variety Concert** being staged as a fundraiser and hopefully it will be similar to our successful concert last year. Our members and regulars will be the guest artists on the night and all your support is needed.

On December 11 or 18 (TBA) the club will finance the catering costs for our Annual Club **Christmas Party**. This will allow our members, friends and families to turn up for a fun afternoon of music, singing, swimming, floor spots and general socializing without the worry of food preparation. We will need to RSVP so we know how many to cater for. Make sure you are there as you won't regret a fun summer's day.

Members News

Firstly, our fondest wishes go out to club members **Alex Nolf** and **Dulcie Regan**. Both are undertaking medical treatment at the moment and we can only ask that your hopes and prayers are speedily sent their way.

Our **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** will be held on **July 17 at 6.30pm**. The meeting will be held before our Round Robin session and MTMC will provide dinner (pizza & drinks) for attendees. The AGM will report on all annual affairs including financial reports and also provide the forum for the election of the club

Executive and Committee members.

Club Committee meeting discussions over the past six months have included such topics as:

- ❖ Purchase of Club T-shirts
- ❖ Bus trip to Wisemans Ferry Hotel for free lunch & session on the lawn
- ❖ Day out on Riverboat for paid picnic and session on the water
- ❖ Catering of Christmas Party and AGM
- ❖ Tri-fold Brochure to be developed and printed for circulation outlining regular club activities and events.

Regular club performer, Celtic singer and Uilleann Piper, **Ian Henry** asks us to Celebrate Celtic Style and don't miss John MacDonald, Scotland's International Accordion player and the Highland Dancers on Sun 18 July 1.30pm. John is supported by Ian & the Hawkesbury Nepean Valley Pipe Band at Windsor RSL Email: jhenry@summit.net.au or Ph. 0405 182 314

Earlier this year at the 2010 Tamworth Country Music Festival, **James Norton** won Audience Choice for his poetry performance. Put your hands together for another champion MTMC poet.

The Lurkers – Special Guest Artist - August 21



Here are some things you may not already know about The Lurkers;
1. The Lurkers raised nearly all the money to make their CD 'Shoot to the Moon' by busking, "The good people of Marrickville were the most generous, with a

\$50 note landing in our case, and lots of 2 year olds having their first experience of giving to buskers. The stingiest crowds were from the 'boulevard of broken dreams' in Tamworth, and the advertising executives from Bondi," said Mithra Cox, banjo player.

2. Musically, The Lurkers have taken the conventions of Bluegrass and Hillbilly music and married this with the Folk tradition of the protest song. Some of their inspirations are Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie amongst many others.

3. By day, Martin Cubby puts his skinny white shoulder to the union organisers' wheel. By night, he lets loose by singing and playing blues on his 'fascist-killing' guitar

and his soulful harmonica.

4. By day, Mithra Cox fights the consumerist juggernaut and teaches the joys and nuances of composting. By night, she sings, picks and strums her banjo, telling stories of woe, humour and the world.

5. By day, Nicholas Mueller works as a community support worker in the North West hills of Sydney, and at Uni he convenes a student mental health group. At night, he sings away his wild oats while playing a thumping double-bass.

6. The Lurkers have a combined age of 85. Check out their website- www.lurkers.com.au

Macquarie Towns Music Club - Fundraising Variety Concert - October 16



On 16 October Macquarie Towns Music Club will present its second annual fundraising variety concert put on by members of the club. It is a special concert where we do not have a Guest Artist. The concert will be advertised in the local papers with the final list of performers being members or regular attendees to the Club.

There will be raffles on the night and lucky door prizes.

All funds raised at the concert will go to subsidising a day out and also the catering costs for our Christmas Party to be held on 18th or 11th December. Check out our pictures from past concerts at this link-

<http://www.myspace.com/macquarietownsmusicclub>

Blokes Day 2010 – Hospital grounds Windsor



By Richard Galluzzi

Macquarie Towns again heeded the call to get out to the Hawkesbury Hospital 'Blokes Day',

coordinated by the Men's Health worker Stephen of the Hawkesbury District Health Service. That is Windsor hospital, in the old money. The aim of the day is to provide all manner of 'blokey' things for blokes to see such as motorbikes, cars, antique machinery, woodwork etc and also provide information on 'blokes' health issues and local health services. For the past few years there has been representation for the Club through having a stall and / or a

performance to entertain the crowds and promote our musical activities. This year, Phil Upton came to the rescue with his songbook and with the help of banjo players David Wilson, Chris Anderson and me; we knocked out an hour or so of songs, handed out flyers to some interested punters and generally had a fine time. We'll be sure to be back next year, and if you're interested in coming along to Blokes Day 2011 then let me know and I will let you know what day it's on in 2011.

For Sale

Mandolin

Jethro Burns Washburn Mandolin 1984 vintage, Japanese made 'F' style or scroll type
Fishman pick-up & Monteleone Tail piece
Hard shell mando case
new strings with spares
\$1800 ono [includes lessons]
Ph: Phil on
0420 968 786 or email:
uptons@tpg.com.au



Acoustic Bass Guitar

Hohner cutaway body style Acoustic/Electric Bass with solid Sitka Spruce top, Ovangkol back & sides, Rosewood fingerboard & Shadow P7 Pick-up.
Hard Case & New Strings included.
\$650 ono Ph: Kaz on
0414 631 482 or Email
kaz1412@gmail.com



Yamaha RBX 250 Electric Bass Guitar

Late 1990's model, in great condition, rarely played. Gloss metallic purple with Bolt on Maple neck - 22 fret rosewood fingerboard, Split coil pickup, volume & tone control. Chrome hardware & Includes hard case - \$195 ono Ph: Selina 0407 431 530 or email
rowe.selina@gmail.com



Caroler Chromaharp

27 Chord
Easy to play
9 major keys & 6 minor keys
Books, plectrums & tuning key included.
Could do with a new set of strings
\$80 ono
Ph: Selina on
0407 431 530 or email
rowe.selina@gmail.com



'Round Robin' sessions

By Taia de Burca

Are you new to the music world or are you one of those people who enjoy playing an instrument or singing in the privacy of your home, singing in the shower or in your car and feel you would like to venture out and enjoy music with others?



Then why not use our Music Club's "Round Robin" session evenings to have a practice run? These evenings are held every two months and are casual, fun events. They provide an ideal, non-scary forum for you to take the first steps into the world of performing in front of others.

As well as that, there'll be lots of good acoustic music and maybe a few poems or a yarn or two to sit back and enjoy in good company.



Bring along a friend to relax and enjoy listening to a fun jam session or bring an instrument and join in.

Photos June 19 Concert 2010



Review - National Folk Festival 2010

By Richard Galluzzi

I've just retrieved my 2010 National Folk festival program from the recycling bin this evening in order to write this review, so now after returning from the cold outside, I'm trying to remember which bands I got to see out of the extensive list of performers, both local and from overseas. It seems like it was yesterday..... (Cue dreamy flashback music). I arrived with my wife Rebecca at Exhibition Park this year again on Good Friday, which is always too late to get a decent camping spot. But, armed with a strictly two man tent; we managed to find a spot near the back fence, past the stables. Set up camp and headed towards the music - it's funny how after coming to three previous Nationals (not many

compared with some I know) I can still feel my feet moving faster in excitement as we got closer to the music.

The 'must see' performers for me were the **Whitetop Mountaineers**



(who I managed to catch on a couple of occasions) but apart from that I didn't have a very set agenda for seeing many other acts, so we agreed that we would see a wider variety of music than we had seen before. This led us into the medieval tunes of Harlequin, the Greek and Eastern Mediterranean music of the Habibis, the

Cajun music of the **Le Blanc Brothers Band**,



the Italian songs of I Viaggiatori, the indigenous **Stiff Gins**, and so many more.



I also checked out the Saturday night Old Timey Square Dance led by fiddler Charlie Walden and mandolin player Dave Bing, but, WELL!!! You know dancing never came natural to me and that's why I play

music...

In between acts we sustained ourselves on Jerry's veggie burgers, the Hare Krishna feasts, and the coffee stall located near the dance stage so you could sway in time with the music while you waited. We got to see hordes of Morris Dancers, Belly Dancers, South American dancers, and other dancers from I don't know where!

The session bar was a lively place in the evenings and the Old Timey jams divided their time between there and the 'Stock Camp', complete with a non-motorised mechanical horse. It was a great place to meet again with interstate friends and even some from overseas. Always difficult to leave, and I hope I'll be back next year. See you there.

Tom's Irish Session Night & more...

By Tom Hamilton

Due to the appearance of bands on the 2nd and 4th Fridays at Windsor RSL we have reverted to the 3rd Friday of the month for our Irish night. Next night will be 16 July.



I have had a very busy June. I have been attempting to get more coverage for my poetry and originals. Over

the Queen's Birthday weekend I travelled to Gulgong to take part in the Henry Lawson Festival. I entered a competition for the first time and made the final ten (out of over 300 entries). I received a highly commended (which meant I came fourth). What really thrilled me was that my poem only had five verses, but what an impact it had. In July 2010 I will be recording my first poetry CD. This has been fast tracked but I have gained great support for this especially from the media. I am also hoping to get Navan Road together

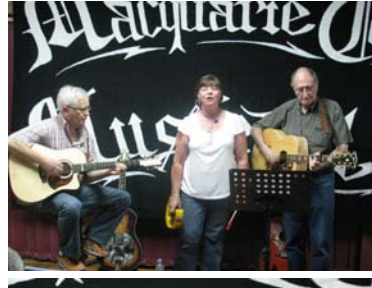
around the end of the year for another music CD. The songs have already been chosen and a CD was always planned for late this year.

I am still in full time employment which detracts from me being able to attend a lot of the local function. In June I did a spot at the Troubadour Folk Club in Woy Woy - a great venue not unlike MTMC but they tend to have a main act every month. The next day it was up to Newcastle to do an Irish ballad session at the Lambton Park Hotel.

I get to do both gigs again in August. I am going down to Gundagai for the poetry at Turning Wave then October it is a festival every weekend. I AM LOVING IT



Pictures from Concerts - 2010



An amusing look at the difference between Bluegrass, Old Time and Celtic Bands – Part 1

by Toby and Moby Adobe

The Music:

Old Time songs are about whiskey and food. Bluegrass songs are about God, mother and the girl who did me wrong. If the girlfriend isn't murdered by the third verse, it can't be Bluegrass, if everyone dies it's Celtic. Old Time bands have nonsense names like 'Horse Hair Pullers', 'Fruit Jar Drinkers' and 'Skillet Lickers'. Bluegrass bands have serious gender-specific name like 'Foggy Mountain Boys', 'Bluegrass Boys', and 'Burnt Creek Brats'. Celtic bands have names that let everyone know their heritage like 'Celtic Fire' or 'Irish Rovers' etc. The most common Old Time keys are major and modal e.g. minor. Bluegrass uses major, mixolydian, Dorian and minor keys. A Bluegrass band has between 1 and 3 singers who are singing about an octave above their natural vocal range. Some Old Time and Celtic bands have

no singers at all.

A Bluegrass band has a vocal orchestrator who arranges duet, trio and quartet harmonies. In an Old Time band, anyone who feels like it can sing or make comments during the performance. In a Celtic band anyone who speaks is given 'the look' and songs are preceded by a call for silence and a detailed explanation of the song. All Bluegrass tunes last 3 minutes. Old Time and Celtic tunes & songs sometimes last all night.

Personalities & Stage Presence:

Bluegrass band members wear uniforms, such as blue polyester suits and gray Stetson hats. Old Time bands wear jeans, sandals, work shirts and caps from seed companies. Celtic bands wear tour T-Shirts with plaid caps. The headwear is worn to cover bald spots. Women in Bluegrass bands have big hair and Kevlar

undergarments. Women in Old Time bands jiggle nicely under their overalls. There are no women in Celtic bands only lassies with long skirts and high, lacey collars or wenchies in bodices and 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.

Bluegrass musicians have mild high frequency hearing loss from standing near the banjo player. Old Time musicians have moderate high frequency hearing loss from standing near the fiddler.

Celtic musicians have advanced hearing loss from playing in small pubs surrounded by fiddles, banjos, accordions, tin whistles and bodhrans.



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:
jam.org.au



Festival Dates for your Diary

15 - 19 September
 The Turning Wave, Gundagai NSW
 Ph. 9489 5786 www.turningwave.org.au
info@turningwave.org.au

1 - 4 October
 Uranquinty Folk Festival
 Uranquinty NSW
 Ph. 6029 2156 www.uranquintyfolk.com
ajhunter@hotmail.net.au

1 - 4 October
 Bush Traditions Gathering Goulburn
 Ph. 6247 4725 or 488
www.bushtraditions.org
dave@bushtraditions.org

22 - 24 October 9th
 Dorrigo Folk and Bluegrass Festival
 NSW Ph. 6657 1229
info@dorrigofolkbluegrass.com.au
www.dorrigofolkbluegrass.com.au

22 - 24 October

Kangaroo Valley Folk Festival NSW
 Ph. 4421 5887
mail@kangaroovalleyfolkfestival.com.au
www.kangaroovalleyfolkfestival.com.au

5 - 7 November.
 Folk in Broke NSW
 Ph. 6579 1259
www.myspace.com/folkinbrokefestival

18 - 21 November
 Harrietville Bluegrass & Traditional
 Country Convention Ph. 03- 5368 1212
www.harrietvillebluegrass.com.au

31 Dec - 3 January 2011
 Gulgong Festival NSW
 Ph.6373 4600 bob@fiddlerbob.com.au

13 - 16 January 2011
 27th Illawarra Folk Festival
 Bulli NSW Ph: 1300 887 034
www.illawarrafolkfestival.com.au
info@illawarrafolkclub.org.au

Other News and Venues

Yarramundi Music Club is on at the UWS
 Hawkesbury Campus Uni Bar in Stable Square on
 the last Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9pm.
 Enquiries: Julie 0402 066 578

Session Night of Music is on at Windsor RSL
 Club, Mileham St South Windsor 3rd Friday of the
 month 7.30 to 10.30 and features a session night.
 Enquiries: Tom 4578 4982

Tamworth Songwriters Association (TSA)
 Notice to all songwriters – the TSA Songwriting
 competition is open for entry on the 1 August 2010
 and closes on 30 September 2010. Entry Forms
 available from TSA website www.tsaonline.com.au
 Enquires Ph: 6382 3035 or Email: tsa@tpgi.com.au

Fiona Joy Hawkins - See attached Flyer

Railway Songs/Poetry Weekend Workshop
 This event is on 23rd – 25th July and is another Bush
 Music Club concert Party series of workshops. Phone:
 Bob Bolton - 9569 7244 or Brian Dunnett - 9668 905
<http://jam.org.au/moxie/events/bluemountains/railway-song-poetry-weeke.shtml>

Mac Towns MySpace website –
<http://www.myspace.com/macquarietownsmusicclub>



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