

The Beat



January 2008

Issue 7

Macquarie Towns Music Club Inc Newsletter

Coming Club Events

Richmond
Neighbourhood Centre,
West Market St,
Richmond

- January 19th will be a 'Round Robin' jam session format. Don't miss a fun and entertaining night.
- February 16th. 'Duffy the Dancer' will be the Guest Artists in a Major Concert and will be supported by a selection of talented club members.
- 15th March. Will feature another 'Round Robin' session night.
- April 19th. 'Yuri the Storyteller' will feature as a Main Act following a 'Blackboard Concert' and will entertain us in the final hour from 9.30-10.30pm.

Coming Festivals

(This page)

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

Phone. 4578 5215 or
0414 509 975
Email. dwilliams@tpg.com.au



Welcome

Happy New Year 2008 The MTMC Committee and I take this opportunity to wish you a joyful, prosperous, fun and a **musical new year** and we hope that you and your family and friends are all well and you are also keeping yourselves and your instruments (including vocal instruments) in tune and active. I have a lot of news for you and I hope you can find time in the coming weeks to read this copy of 'The Beat' that is intended to communicate coming events of interest from January to April 2008 and also review some past events from last year. Richard has contributed this time to the new section on reviews of new music or poetry *you* have been listening to lately. Our annual Christmas Party was held on December 15 in Richmond and ended up a great day of food & drink, family, swimming, laughter, singing & music.

Last year saw some wonderful new acts emerging from the crowd and we always encourage learners and new performers to participate in our sessions and concerts. We are now averaging 25+ attendees at each meeting and that is only on quiet nights. Don't forget that you are all welcome to contribute to all future issues of 'The Beat'. Just send your news to me...

Committee Meeting – November 5 2007

The first Committee meeting of 2007/08 financial year was held on November 5 and it was attended by all executive club members.

The Executive Committee for the next 12 months is Dez Williams, President; Taia de Burca, Vice President; Selina Rowe, Secretary; Richard Galluzzi, Treasurer. Club

committee members are Patrick Smith, Kathie McMahon & Karen Williams. Items discussed at this meeting included:

- A new payment structure to be developed and adopted to standardise the payments for all groups hired as Guest Artists.
- Kathie McMahon to contact Alison Boyd and

request a concert spot for our club at St Albans Folk Festival.

- Confirmed *Guest Artists* include Duffy the Dancer (Feb), Yuri the Storyteller (Apr), John Hospodaryk (June).

The minutes were circulated to all on email list and further copies can be obtained from me if desired.

Festival Dates for your Diary

17th to 20th January The 23rd Illawarra Folk Festival Slacky Flat; Bulli ph. 1300 887 034
www.illawarrafestival.org.au

26th to 28th January Numerella Folk Festival ph. Fran 6453 3282

7th to 10th February Australian Blues Music Festival Goulburn ph. 1800 353 646
www.australianbluesfestival.com

22nd to 24th February. Cobargo Folk Festival, ph. 6493 6758
www.cobargofestival.com

13th to 16th March John O'Brien Bush Festival Narranderra (NSW Riverina) ph. 6959 1766 or 1800 672 392

14th to 16th March Blue Mountains Music Festival
www.bmf.org.au

20th to 24th March National Folk Festival. Exhibition Park Canberra ph. 6249 7755
www.folkfestival.asn.au

24th to 27th April St Albans Folk Festival St Albans ph. 0418 264 709
www.snalbans.iwarp.com

'Selalu' Concert Review



A great crowd ventured into town for this wonderful concert held in October. Although most of us had never had the pleasure of hearing 'Selalu' perform prior to this night, the anticipation was duly repaid, with a wonderful, relaxing and powerful performance of original songs. These songs were all written by Trevor I believe and were

supported by Kathleen's beautiful vocals and multiple instrumentals and Tully with his extraordinary bass playing and vocal. Everyone walked out wishing we could have played on for another hour or more. We hope to engage this trio for another gig in the future. Make sure you don't miss the next 'Selalu' gig. www.theswadlings.com.au

Guest Artist 'Duffy the Dancer' – February 16



Duffy the Dancer - Feb 16 9.30 – 10.45

Tinker & Johnnie Duffy live and breathe traditional music. Johnnie has found his way in life through his music. For him, music has become a concentration of life. It is a philosophy, a mythology, a melancholy, a pyramid, a spirit-raising living through a single melodic rhythm. When Tinker plays

her squeezebox it can spit out heat & fire or it can soothe you with a gentle cascade of notes like a waterfall. Their music is joyous and urges you to dance or sing along.

The Duffy's may also be accompanied by Mick Reid on chromatic harmonica, guitar, vocals and Simon Watts on violin and bodhran.

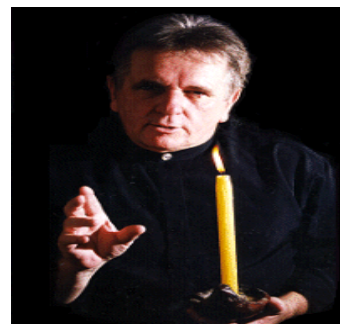
Guest Artist 'Yuri the Storyteller' – April 19

Yuri – Storyteller 9.30 – 10.45

In the familiar, ageless glow of candlelight, Russian born master storyteller Yuri captivates his audiences by creating word images that bind the listener to the magic of a folktale told around an open fire. Yuri, the archetypal village storyteller is renowned throughout Australia. Yuri captivates the

audience, by the light of an ageless candlelight glow, and succeeds in drawing them into the spell of the classic folk story. Typical of the village storyteller, Yuri has performed at all the major folk festivals, plus World Expo and on National TV and radio. This is poetry that has to be experienced.

www.folkclub.com/huldrefolk



Member's News

What music are *you* listening to?

Richard Galuzzi

'June Apple' - Old Time Fiddle and Clawhammer Banjo - with Tommy Jarrell and Kyle Creed. Tommy rips it up on fiddle and vocals (usually hollered) while Kyle backs up with some very tasteful clawhammer banjo on their takes on traditional American tunes. Great late 60s / early 70s release by two of the originators of the influential 'Round Peak' regional style that has inspired a lot of old time music internationally.

'King Hokum' - by CW Stoneking, 2005. Great original Delta blues from Footscray, as recently featured on 'Spicks and Specks'. I saw C.W. live (supporting Paul Kelly) recently, looking and sounding the part of a 1930s era bluesman. Field hollers, bawdy blues and raunchy rags played on a steel bodied guitar and tenor banjo, with a horn section. I'd love to hear how the songs sound in an Australian accent, though.

'The Letting Go' - by Bonnie 'Prince' Billy, 2006. Another in a great series of beautiful, weird and flawed albums by singer / songwriter Will Oldham from Kentucky, USA who helped to get me interested in old-time music some years ago. The production, instrumentation and his voice have become more sophisticated but he still manages not to sound too slick. These are great original songs about love, loneliness and also crafted in a very individual way.

Taia's Ireland Adventure

Taia de Burca

Hi, I'm back from my travels to the Emerald Isle and happily settling down at home again.

It was a very interesting and an enjoyable journey. The first half of the six weeks was with my cousin Kevin and his wife Pauline who live on the Isle of Man and we got to meet four of our mothers' cousins in the town where my mother was born, Westport in Co. Mayo. It was a great experience for me.

Unfortunately, outside the main tourist season, the pubs no longer had music or it was in a very limited form. However, we did find a very enjoyable session in the *Tig Coilli* in Galway city at five thirty one Thursday evening. All young people and most seemed to be on their

way home from work. There was a harp, three fiddles, a banjo-mandolin, another Celtic stringed instrument and a bodhran. They played for a good couple of hours. The bodhran player was the main vocalist and a few of the songs sung were Caledonia, She moved Thru the Fair, Peggy Gordon, Ennis Bay and The Girl I Left behind Me. We were staying at Ardmore, a B&B run by Vera Feeny in Spiddal overlooking Galway Bay. On the way back we stopped at Hughes Bar in Spiddal just before 10pm and the place seemed deserted but within half an hour people came from nowhere and the place was full. A lively session soon got going with three accordions, two flutes and a set of pipes.

Although I found bits of music around, that day in Galway was the best by far. What the whole trip did show me was just how great it is to have what we have here with our music in the Hawkesbury. I've always enjoyed it, but value it so much more now. We are so lucky...

Here's a pic I took at a pub...



Festival Reviews

Richard Galuzzi

Harrietville Bluegrass and Traditional Country Music Convention 2007

Every banjo player / fiddler / flatpicker I have met has asked me "Have you been to Harrietville?", so I figured it was time to go this time 'round. (I was once told that it would "change my life"...); I took the long drive down to the alpine country of Victoria and was rewarded when meeting some nice, friendly, country folk and mighty fine pickers! It was great to meet players from different states, countries, hear fantastic music and drool over new instruments in the Luthier's displays.

Two overseas acts, Dan Paisley and

the Southern Grass (bluegrass), and Jim McCown and Tim Bing (old-timey) were fantastic; the Southern Grass were full on, in your face, slick, professional and very energetic (the banjo player busted a string during the intro to one performance, and had it replaced, tuned and playing before the song was done – now that I admire). The old timey guys won me over with their humour, laid-back approach and fantastic playing on five string and six string banjo and fiddle. There was a bit of clogging in there as well.

The Australian performers reminded me of what a wealth of talent and experience we have here (our own Jim

Rush included), and showed we have developed our own way of playing this style of music in this country. This was commented on a number of times by our overseas visitors.

The festival was probably a bit more quiet and relaxed than I expected, with a lot going on in the surrounds of Harrietville as well as the main convention site – long sessions and late nights in the pubs, hotels and camping grounds.

All in all – a great experience and highly recommended. Was it life changing? Well if I end up going hungry to buy the banjo I was drooling over, then yes it could be...

Richard Galuzzi

Dorrigo Folk and Bluegrass Festival October '07.

This great little festival again provided a wide variety of acts and workshops in the intimate settings around Dorrigo Showground. There was noticeably less straight out bluegrass this year, with more of a focus on old timey and folk performances. To be honest, I didn't sit through the entire set of

most performances I attended but I did get to see *'Black Train'* – a ramshackle group of 1930s style dressed guys from Lismore, playing a mix of Woody Guthrie, Leadbelly, fiddle tunes, blues and spirituals with abandon that had the little Lunch Pavilion venue going on Saturday night. There was good representation from Macquarie Towns with *'Latitude'* and Kathy McMahon's workshop on the

presentation of local history through music. This went down well and has since been taken up by the Dorrigo locals. The sessions in and around the venues went late echoing with music until the early hours. To my delight there was an abundance of clawhammer banjo players and fiddlers to jam with and many a tune was shared. I didn't appreciate losing an hour of jamming with the onset of daylight saving, though...

Weekend Workshop

Cath Delaney: Fife and Ud - weekend workshop at Bundanoon 19th+20th April organised by the Canberra Recorder and Early Music Society with the Sydney Recorder Society, for guitarists interested in early music. Guitar component

conducted by Bill Grose, guitarist and music educator, director of *Tarantella* guitar ensemble at Ainslie Arts Centre (in Canberra), guitarist for jazz group, *Annie and the Armadillos*, and who has toured NZ Hong Kong and UK with

Eilean Scottish/Gaelic group. The weekend will also feature several internationally respected Recorder Tutors from Australia and the US. For the brochure, please contact me on cdelaney1@vtown.com.au and I will forward it on to you.



Club Meetings
3rd Saturday every Month
Richmond Neighbourhood
Centre, West Market St.
Richmond.
 7.30 -10.30pm

Newsletter Contributions

We invite all members and friends of the Macquarie Towns Music Club to contribute information, news or articles relevant to our club's interests.

Please address correspondence to

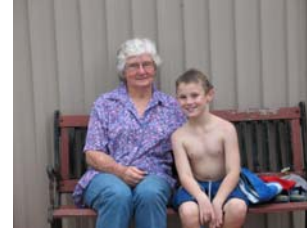
Dez Williams
 7 Katrina Close
 RICHMOND NSW 2753
 (02) 4578 5215

E-MAIL:
dwilliams@tpg.com.au

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



Pictures from MTMC Christmas party 2007



Blow your Trumpet



'H' and Jane Monardo: 'H' & Jane are currently in Narrandera finalising their new Double CD called *'Ticket of Leave'* The CD is an Australian journey from Transportation to Federation in poem, song and narration. They send their wishes for a happy New Year and their regards to the club.

Taia de Burca: Celtic night of Music; 2nd Friday each month **Kurrajong Heights Bowling & Recreation Club, Bell's Line of Rd.** Even though it's known as an Irish night, this is not so. It is basically Celtic style but we do play other music as well. Contact Taia: taia@bloodhorsereview.com.au

Tom Hamilton: Celtic night of Music; 3rd Friday each month. (Not January this year) **Windsor RSL Club, Mileham St Sth Windsor.** It is basically Celtic style, but we do play other things as well. Contact Tom: tomnbetty@msn.com

Sponsors



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

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.