

## **Monaro Folk Society (MFS)**

### **Annual Report on Settlers Group Activities**

The Settlers Sessions have moved again. About a year ago Settlers Session was advised that the space available in the Campbell and George, Queanbeyan, was need for Christmas related events and activities. The Group now meets in the Irish Club, Weston on Thursdays between 2 & 4 pm. The club had been very welcoming. In the warmer months we meet out the back on the deck and during the colder months in the alcove at the entrance to the building. There is lots of free parking; meals and a bar are available.

With few exceptions (mostly to observe festivals) the session meets weekly throughout the year. It takes a recess over Christmas and January. Attendance varies a bit from week to week but typically we see between 10 and 14 participants. This is a little higher than previous years.

The activities of the Group occur without cost and do not require a payment by participants.

Settler music can be characterized as music brought to Australia by the many peoples who came here to settle over the past 230 years. The music derives from Europe, predominantly from Britain and Scandinavia, but it originates from wherever immigrants came from. Once here the music moved through communities, influencing other styles and changing in ways that reflect life in Australia. It has its own style; relaxed, laconic and pretty. The Settlers Sessions provide a way of accessing this music.

In recent months the Group has given particular attention to collating tunes into sets playable as session pieces and also into danceable sets.

#### **CONTACT**

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